



For immediate release  
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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **WA's Restoring Connections Project (South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.)) teams cultural heritage and Natural Resource Management (NRM) with great success.**

Presented by Girringun Aboriginal Corporation, the second National **CARING FOR COUNTRY NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE** (9-12 October) and **FESTIVAL** (13-14 October) is being held in **Cardwell, North Queensland**.

The Conference case study topic, '**Restoring Connections between people and land in South Western Australia**', will be presented by David Guilfoyle on Thursday 11 October between 11am-12pm. **The Noongar groups from WA have been working to develop and implement management plans that integrate cultural heritage places and values into Natural Resource Management (NRM).**

The Restoring Connections Project focuses on a number of valuable heritage areas, including rock art engravings, natural wetlands and other historical structures in the South West and South Coast regions of Western Australia.

"Restoring Connections has delivered a number of community-driven projects with significant cultural heritage and environmental outcomes, and has also developed a process that embeds the protection and control of heritage management with the Traditional Owners," says David Guilfoyle.

"Caring for Country is intrinsic to Noongar culture and such culturally-inspired enthusiasm is naturally, passionately and enduringly channelled into NRM. The Restoring Connections Project has demonstrated that by integrating cultural heritage management into NRM, a number of positive outcomes for Traditional Owners and future generations can be achieved."

The Conference's program contains Panel Discussions, Case Studies and Group Expeditions to the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage rainforests, featuring many more of Australia's pre-eminent Indigenous and non-Indigenous speakers, scientists, anthropologists, land managers and traditional owners.

Other Conference themes include Natural Resource Management and Well Being, Sustainable Economic Development, Employment, Education and Training, Governance and Partnerships, Heritage (where this study is placed) and Traditional Knowledge. **The Conference points to the future and is one of the most relevant and important environmental and cultural events held in Australia this year.**

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