

# News Release **Minister Ian Hunter**

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation  
Minister for Water and the River Murray  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

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## New name for the Coongie Lakes National Park

Coongie Lakes National Park in the far north-east has a new name from today, with a new dual name coming into effect.

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Ian Hunter said that from today, the National Park is known as the Malkumba-Coongie Lakes National Park.

“The lakes area is listed as a Ramsar Wetland of international importance area and is one of the state’s most spectacular natural attractions with pristine waterways hosting a diversity of wildlife – and I’m pleased its new name acknowledges the land’s traditional owners,” he said.

“The National Park is part of the traditional country of the Yandruwandha Yawarrawarrka people and is of special significance as it contains important cultural features and evidence of past occupation.

“In June, the Yandruwandha Yawarrawarrka Traditional Land Owners Association was consulted on a suitable name for co-naming the area.

“The traditional owners advised that the correct name for the area is ‘Malkumba’ which identifies the bodies of water ‘where the serpent rests’.”

Minister Hunter said the National Park was proclaimed in 2005 to conserve the iconic Coongie Lakes wetlands.

In 2009, the State of South Australia and the Yandruwandha Yawarrawarrka Traditional Lands Owners entered into a Co-management Agreement (CMA) and Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) for the park.

Yandruwandha Yawarrawarrka Parks Advisory Committee chair Rob Singleton said the announcement of the new dual name for Malkumba Coongie Lakes is highly significant for the Traditional Owners.

“Our traditional lands and waterways are sacred and form part of the very fabric of our community,” he said.

“Sharing the stories and the importance of caring for our land with the wider community will help us all sustain and protect this beautiful part of our state.”

Minister Hunter said new directional and interpretive signs reflecting the name change will be installed in the park, and a new park management plan is expected to be adopted shortly which will also reflect the new name.