



MEDIA RELEASE

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TOUCHING FILM HIGHLIGHTS NEED TO PRESERVE CULTURAL PRECINCT

The Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation (RRKAC) has chosen the [United Nations: World Environment Day](#) to launch a short film 'Bungaroo' featuring Robe River Kuruma Elders calling on government, industry, and the Australian community to save Bungaroo.

Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation CEO Anthony Galante said the Bungaroo waterway and aquifer is located about 35 km southeast of Pannawonica in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The area includes the Buckland hills, the Bungaroo, Jimmawurrada and Piwangkurr creeks and the hills to the north of them.

"The seven-minute film tells the story of the cultural, spiritual and environmental significance of Bungaroo which is part of Robe River Kuruma Peoples' Country, and the Elders explain how the delicate ecosystem in the Bungaroo Valley, and surroundings areas is under threat," Mr Galante said.

"The Bungaroo film was produced by [Periscope Pictures](#) and shot on location at Bungaroo with 13 Elders and community members sharing their connection to Country, its meaning for the Robe River Kuruma People and the environmental impacts of water being siphoned from the aquifer by the State for coastal towns and industrial purposes such as Rio Tinto's port facilities.

"The Bungaroo short film is a powerful allegory about the need to protect our natural environment, not just for the sake of the plants and animals, but also the cultural heritage of our First Nations peoples represented by the lands, air and waterways," he said.

Robe River Kuruma Elder Tuesday Lockyer appears in the short-film and shares her truth-telling about the detrimental impacts overuse of the water supply is having on the native plants and animals in the area.

"Our responsibility as Robe River Kuruma people is to look after Country and at the end of the day, the Country looks after us, it sustains us and our way of life," Ms Lockyer said.

"We walk this Country, and we can see that there are fewer animals that come to the watering holes and can see what happens to the land if too much water is taken away.

Protecting our land is not just for us, it is for everyone, we all need to protect our Country for our future generations and if we do not act now, it will be too late," Ms Lockyer said.



Mr Galante said that the Bungaroo short-film was made to shine some much needed light on a significant environmental issue that for many people is out of sight and out of mind, and the important issue of water rights for First Nations peoples.

“There are currently several mining proponents interested in exploration and mining in the Bungaroo area and this would involve further extraction of water from the valley.

“Water from the Bungaroo aquifer and creek is already being extracted by Rio Tinto at the request of the State to supply nearby townships and it is already stretching our most precious resource.

“In the short film the Elders explain why there needs to be a more conservative and measured approach to allowing industry to access to the Bungaroo waterways,” Mr Galante said.

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