

# YAMATJI WATER NEWSLETTER



## Integrated Water Study – Phase Two Underway

Over the past five months, Yamatji Water has been progressing Phase Two of the Yamatji Nation Integrated Water Study, an important project that documents the key water sites across Yamatji country being led by the respective Cultural Authority representatives in the Yamatji Southern, Hutt River, Mullewa Wadjari and Widi language group areas.

Yamatji Water's team met with each Cultural Authority group in 2-3 day sessions involving, initially, an explanation of the work that Yamatji Water does and the key findings of Phase 1 of the Integrated Water Study, followed by valuable time on country visiting the priority water sites.

The site visits were an excellent opportunity for Cultural Authority members to share their knowledge and stories associated with each site and, with permission, Yamatji Water recorded their stories, photographed and drone videoed sites to ensure documentation was appropriately captured.

With the site visits conducted, Yamatji Water has been focused on completing the initial draft of these Reports, which will be distributed to the Cultural Authority members who participated in the site visits for their review over the next few months.

Work is also underway to prepare action lists for specific site works for each language group, which will be progressed together with YSRC and the Cultural Committee. To help share this important work more widely, a local media company has been engaged to produce a series of videos capturing the sites from the on-Country visits, including one overall summary video and four language group-specific videos. These are expected to be completed in mid-December.

This next stage continues to bring cultural knowledge and water science together to support strong, informed decision-making about water for future generations of Yamatji people.



*Pictured above: Hutt River Cultural Engagement Group Photo  
L-R: Sarah Mallard, Breanna Mead, Vilma Hodder, Sharon Oxenham, Kirrili Weightman, Paul Eley, Mike Hollett, Daniel Shiosaki, Barbara Stoeckel Clayton, Selva Marimuthu.*



*Pictured above: Widi Mob Cultural Engagement Group Photo  
L-R: Breanna Mead, Kirrili Weightman, Donna Atkins, Darryl Fogarty, Kimberley Lewis, Julie Lewis, Daniel Shiosaki and Mike Hollet.*



*Pictured above: Southern Yamatji Cultural Engagement Group Photo  
L-R: Kirrili Weightman, Sharon Oxenham (DWER), Barry Dodd, Mike Hollett, Melanie Alone, Norman Little, Deborah Robinson, Garry Ronan, Daniel Shiosaki, Lee-Anne Taylor, Selva Marimuthu and Laurie Barlow.*



*Pictured above: Mullewa Wadjari Cultural Engagement Group Photo  
L-R: Leedham Papertalk Senior, Jonathan Cotterill, Mike Hollett, Selva Marimuthu, Sharon Oxenham (DWER), Vilma Hodder, Lenelle Papertalk, Breanna Mead, Patrick Papertalk, Daniel Shiosaki, Glenda Jackamarra, Kirrili Weightman and Michael Flanagan.*

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## Groundwater Investigations Begin in Twin Hills and Eneabba

Yamatji Water has begun new groundwater investigations in the Twin Hills and Eneabba areas to better understand future water supply options for the region. Our team has been on site assessing suitable locations and early technical work, led by our Principal Hydrogeologist.

These investigations in conjunction with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation will involve drilling deep bores to more accurately define the quality and sustainable amount of groundwater available for use. This important work will be foundational in supporting regional economic development whilst balancing the need to care for country as guided by the Yamatji Nation.



*Pictured above: Site assessment/drill location targets at Twin Hills / Eneabba, marking the commencement of groundwater investigations.*

## Ongoing Water Monitoring and Sales

Our Water Monitoring team has had another busy six months, carrying out routine monitoring programs and supporting clients across Yamatji Country.

Yamatji Water has also continued to support regional projects through commercial water sales. These agreements allow proponents to access part of Yamatji's allocated water in a responsible way, ensuring that any use of these resources aligns with the long-term interests of the Yamatji Nation.



*Pictured above, images captures whilst our water monitoring team completed routines checks at Utcha well.*



*Pictured above: Vilma Hodder, carrying out water monitoring on client sites.*

## Recruiting Two Yamatji Trainee Roles

We are continuing to recruit for two Yamatji trainee positions as part of our Training & Development Program. These roles offer hands-on experience in water monitoring, hydrogeology, and environmental fieldwork, supported by experienced mentors.

The trainee program is an important part of Yamatji Water's commitment to creating strong career pathways for Yamatji people in the water and environmental sectors. We look forward to welcoming new team members into these roles soon.

## Website Development

Work has also started on building a new Yamatji Water website. Once launched, the site will make it easier for community, partners, and clients to learn about our services, see project updates, and find opportunities to get involved with Yamatji Water.