



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	WATER OFFICER
LOCATION:	Warrnambool, Victoria
TERM:	1.0 FTE 2 years full time
SALARY:	\$70 000 - \$80 000
REPORTS TO:	Healthy Country Manager

## THE ORGANISATION

Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) was determined by the Federal Court as a Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) under the Native Title Act 1993 (*Cth*) in 2011, holding native title for an area of land shared with the Gunditjmara people in what is now known as South West Victoria.

In 2012, the Eastern Maar filed a native title claim over the remaining portion of their traditional land and waters. EMAC has been accorded Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) status (under Victorian Aboriginal heritage legislation) for the shared native title area and the area covered by the 2012 native title claim in February 2020.

The Corporation is governed by a Board of Directors, each representing a family group of the Eastern Maar People. Its role is to protect and advance the aspirations of Eastern Maar citizens by managing their native title and cultural heritage rights and interests and implementing aspects of the Eastern Maar Settlement Agreements to be negotiated with the State of Victoria under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*. EMAC is also responsible for providing high quality policy advice, leadership in developing key initiatives, and strengthening the capacity and independence of Eastern Maar citizens.

## PURPOSE OF THIS POSITION

The EMAC Country Plan called Meerreengeeye Ngakeepoorryeeyt, which means 'Our Country' in our Maar language articulates our plan for management of and caring for water and sea country within our Ancestral Estate.

The position will be the key contact for EMAC on water related policy and planning matters ensuring partnerships and strong working relationships are formed and nurtured. The Water Officer will oversee liaison roles with Catchment Management Authorities and Water Corporations across the Maar Nation.

The Water Officer will play a significant role in leading local projects and programs contributing to environmental and economic outcomes for Eastern Maar citizens. The role supports implementation of relevant actions from Water for Victoria including better incorporation of Aboriginal values, traditional ecological knowledge and participation in water planning and management.

## KEY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Specifically the position duties will include.

- Being the main point of contact for EMAC on all water related policy and planning matters. partnerships and strong working relationships are formed and nurtured.
- Increasing Traditional Owner Catchment Management Authorities (CMA), Water Corporations and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) understanding of Aboriginal water values, requirements and use.
- Promoting inclusion of Eastern Maar values in water planning and management and supporting and hosting events to promote involvement from Traditional Owners on Country.



- Researching and contributing to relevant agencies key strategies, goals, and objectives to maximise opportunity for EMAC specific to water.
- Providing advice on opportunities, challenges and issues related to the management of waterways within the EMAC ancestral estate
- Developing, with community, board and staff input, agreed and prioritised water-based priority focus areas for EMAC to pursue and include in EMAC's Country Plan refresh.
- Work closely with other members of the Biocultural Landscapes Division and consultants to seek out and document information on the cultural significance of key waterways and the associated environment from an EMAC perspective for inclusion in EMAC's Biocultural Landscape database and Strategy.
- Prepare relevant funding submissions and assisting with related projects and events
- Participating in the Aboriginal Water Officer Network facilitated by DELWP's Aboriginal Water Unit.

#### **GENERAL**

- Being aware and adhere to The Privacy Act, OH & S Legislation and other relevant legislations.
- Being aware and adhere to EMAC Policy and Procedure manuals.
- Being aware and participate in staff performance reviews.
- Attending all mandatory training as required.
- Performing other duties as may be directed or implied from time to time.

### **KEY SELECTION CRITERIA**

#### **ESSENTIAL**

- Excellent written and oral communication skills including the ability to effectively engage and maintain relationships with a range of stakeholders including management, government bodies and community members.
- An ability to articulate the way in which EMAC values and assertions might be brought to bear upon government policy and practice in relation to water
- A genuine commitment to capacity building and 'water literacy' amongst EMAC its Board and community
- Proven ability to show initiative, supervise others, work collaboratively, prioritise work requirements, consult appropriately and respond to direction.
- Good time management skills with the ability to manage multiple relationships and projects simultaneously.

#### **DESIRABLE**

- Proven planning, problem solving and analytical skills with the ability to work through issues with moderate complexity and guide and/or coach others in the resolution of problems.
- Demonstrated understanding of the regulatory framework in which EMAC operates.
- Knowledge of Eastern Maar people, Country, culture, values, aspirations and customs and experience working with the Eastern Maar people, community and key organisations and stakeholder groups
- Experience working with Aboriginal people, including a demonstrated ability to communicate and engage sensitively and effectively with Traditional Owner led communities and organisations.



## **OTHER POSITION REQUIREMENTS**

- The incumbent requires the ability to travel regularly for work related purposes. A current Victorian driver's licence is essential.
- Proficiency in the use of computer and telecommunications technology.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

To apply please include in your application a CV/resume and cover letter that addresses why you are the best candidate for this position and how your background, experience and skills align with the Key Selection Criteria.

Please ensure your full name is on all attachments and email your application to [bansri.dave@easternmaar.com.au](mailto:bansri.dave@easternmaar.com.au)

**Closing date for applications: COB 12 August 2022**

If you have any queries about the role, please email [bansri.dave@easternmaar.com.au](mailto:bansri.dave@easternmaar.com.au)

Appointment of the successful applicant will be made subject to a satisfactory national police history check.

*Applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged, but this is not a designated/identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander appointment.*