

# Woi wurrung preamble to the Wilip gin Birrarung Murrong Act, 2017 (Yarra River Protection Act, 2017)

## STATEMENT BY THE WURUNDJERI COUNCIL, INCLUDED IN THE YARRA RIVER PROTECTION (WILIP-GIN BIRRARUNG MURRON) ACT 2017

*Woiwurrungbaluk ba Birrarung wanganyinu biikpil  
Yarrayrapil, manyi biik ba Birrarung, ganbu marram-nganyinu  
Manyi Birrarung murrondjak, durrung ba murrup warrongguny, ngargunin twarnpil  
Birrarungwa nhanbu wilamnganyinu  
Nhanbu ngarn.ganhanganyinu manyi Birrarung  
Bunjil munggay biik, wurru-wurru, warriny ba yaluk, ba ngargunin twarn  
Biiku kuliny munggay Bunjil  
Waa marrnakith-nganyin  
Balliyang, barnumbinyu Bundjilal, banyu bagurrk munggay  
Ngarn.gunganyinu nhanbu  
nyilam biik, nyilam kuliny – balit biik, balit kuliny: balitmanhanganyin manyi biik ba Birrarung.  
Balitmanhanganyin durrungu ba murrupu,  
ba nhanbu murrondjak!*

We, the Woi-wurrung, the First People, and the Birrarung, belong to this Country.  
This Country, and the Birrarung are part of us.

The Birrarung is alive, has a heart, a spirit and is part of our Dreaming. We have lived with  
and known the Birrarung since the beginning. We will always know the Birrarung.

Bunjil, the great Eagle, the creator spirit, made the land, the sky, the sea, the rivers, flora and  
fauna, the lore. He made Kulin from the earth. Bunjil gave Waa, the crow, the responsibility of  
Protector. Bunjil's brother, Palliyang, the Bat, created Bagarook, women, from the water.

Since our beginning, it has been known that we have an obligation to keep the Birrarung alive  
and healthy—for all generations to come.