

Media release

Cooper Basin Rangers begin work

Sunday, 15 March 2026

The first cohort of Cooper Basin Traditional Owners trained to care for their country through a Beach and Santos supported program have begun their new roles.

Through our involvement in the Cooper Basin Joint Venture, Beach Energy and Santos are investing up to \$12 million in the program over five years that will see more than 15 Indigenous rangers care for more than 130,000 km² of land that spans the top of South Australia and into Queensland's southwest.

Beach Energy First Nations Engagement Manager Candice Nayda said: "The program provides a valuable opportunity for young Indigenous people to connect with their culture while protecting the environmental heritage of lands their Elders have walked for tens of thousands of years."

Santos Chief Operating Officer Australia, Brett Darley, said the partnership with five Traditional Owner groups will enhance environmental protection of the area and help conserve cultural heritage.

"We've been working in the Cooper Basin for more than 70 years and have a deep respect for the Boonthamurra, Dieri, Kullilli, Wongkumara and Yandruwandha Yawarrawarrka groups," Mr Darley said.

"We acknowledge their rich and diverse histories and want to help them strengthen their connection to country," he said.

"Our investment is creating local employment pathways for all five Traditional Owner groups in the Cooper Basin. Purposeful work can make a real difference, with potential flow-on effects that can span generations," he said.

The rangers were trained at Camooweal Ranger Camp on Indjalandji-Dhidhanu Country, near Mt Isa.

Chair of the Cooper Basin Ranger Support Services Company, Ron Saltner (Kullilli), said recruits learned about soil conservation, biodiversity monitoring programs and how to manage feral animals and weeds.

"This partnership marks a significant step in building stronger relationships, mutual respect and reconnecting with our Country to preserve it for future generations," Mr Saltner said.

"Through ongoing engagement and collaboration, the ranger program will protect the environment and cultural heritage of the world's oldest continuous living culture, while creating meaningful employment for our people.

"We are proud of our commitment to this historic partnership to safeguard our land for generations to come."

About Beach Energy

Beach Energy is an ASX listed, oil and gas exploration and production company headquartered in Adelaide, South Australia. Founded in 1961, Beach today has oil and gas production in five basins across Australia and New Zealand and is a key supplier of gas into the Australian East Coast gas market.

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