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Thursday 20th March 2025

**POSITIONING STATEMENT:
BANNOCKBURN REWILDING SANCTUARY AND PROPOSED WORKSHOP**

We are aware of a notice being circulated for a workshop at the end of the month being held at the Bannockburn Rewilding Sanctuary by the Jerrinja Tribe. This workshop is being promoted as a collaboration for rewilding locally extinct species and creating Healthy Country.

The Jerrinja Local Aboriginal Land Council wishes to put it on the public record that we have no association with this workshop.

Further, we would like it known that we have raised several serious cultural and ethical concerns about the Bannockburn Rewilding Sanctuary and their benefactors Sealark and the Halloran Trust with the Federal and State Governments, the University of Wollongong (UoW), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and others. While more will be said on this in the future, it is worth noting that WWF have officially withdrawn from the project and UoW were never officially a project partner despite Bannockburn's promotions to the contrary.

Our track record in holistically Caring for Country speaks for itself, in a model which puts cultural knowledge first. Our work has always included strong partnerships with experts in various fields, multiple research and government agencies, saving threatened species both flora and fauna, across land and sea country. So let us be very clear. Rewilding and species reintroduction are important goals and consistent with work we do ourselves. But these must be done appropriately, not where there have already been serious issues identified with cultural permissions, common decency and respect.

Not engaging with this workshop, or with a privately owned and funded rewilding sanctuary that operates outside of public accountability or public scrutiny, does not equate to a lack of support for rewilding or species reintroduction.

Conversely, support for the reintroduction of locally extinct species should not be able to be used as a proxy for support for a privately owned rewilding sanctuary, or the greenwashing of their benefactors Sealark and the Halloran Trust. This venue could not be less appropriate or less biased.

The time for collaboration would have been at the point of asking for input into codesign, not seeking endorsement after the fact. This looks like damage control, and we will not participate in an event hosted by anyone who has violated cultural protocols without apology.

Alfred Wellington, Chief Executive Officer