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Darwin International Airport announces community partnership with Larrakia Rangers

An exciting new partnership will see the Larrakia Rangers working with Darwin International Airport to maintain the health of the Rapid Creek Reserve within the Airport lease area.

Rapid Creek Reserve is situated on Darwin International Airport land and has received intensive management and ongoing improvements for over two decades since the privatisation of airports in Australia. Darwin International Airport works closely with Veg North and in consultation with the Rapid Creek Water Advisory Committee in the environmental management of Rapid Creek Reserve.

Rapid Creek has a very high conservation significance, as the only freshwater creek system in Darwin. Both the freshwater flows and downstream estuarine reaches of Rapid Creek support unique aquatic eco systems. Rapid Creek is also highly valued by the community for recreation and has significant cultural values particularly for the Larrakia people, the traditional owners of the area.

The new community partnership with Larrakia Nation will see the Larrakia Rangers undertaking future management activities at the Reserve including track and trail maintenance, revegetation, weed management and environmental monitoring. The project also provides a platform for cultural knowledge transfer between the Larrakia people, Darwin International Airport and the local community.

Environment and Sustainability Manager for NT Airports, Nick Fewster, said "This new partnership is an ideal opportunity to engage with the traditional owners of the land, the Larrakia people. We are looking forward to working alongside the Larrakia Rangers team to protect the unique flora and fauna at Rapid Creek Reserve and to ensure this area of environmental significance can be maintained for future generations".

“Larrakia Rangers are excited to be part of the management and upkeep of the Rapid Creek catchment area. This site holds cultural and ecological significance for the Larrakia People. We look forward to the collaboration with IFM Investors, Veg North, and Darwin International Airport” said Ben Smith Ranger Manager Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation.

This community partnership initiative was made possible through funding provided by IFM Investors with support from Veg North, the current contractors who specialise in bushland rehabilitation.

IFM Investors is the major shareholder of Airport Development Group, owner of Darwin International Airport. IFM Investors recently launched a program to support its investments to strengthen community partnerships. The program funds projects that create positive environmental and or social outcomes in the investments’ local community.

“We believe it’s important for our infrastructure investments to actively contribute to the sustainability of the communities they operate in,” said Chris Newton, Executive Director of Responsible Investment at IFM Investors.” This collaboration between Darwin International Airport and the Larrakia Rangers is a great example of creating shared benefits for business and community.”

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