

Funding for Rottnest Foundation



THE Rottnest Foundation has received \$500,440 to further the restoration of the Wadjemup Aboriginal Burial Ground on the island off Perth.

Western Australian Aboriginal Affairs Minister Peter Collier said the funds would help pay for planting and conservation works at the site, and for the development and installation of interpretative signs at the main entry points to the burial ground.

"This is an important step in the healing process for many Aboriginal West Australians, and an important step in our state's journey towards reconciliation," he said.

The restoration of the burial ground, which was once a camping area, will provide a place of healing for the ancestors of Aboriginal people who died on the island and have laid in unmarked graves ever since.

About 3700 Aboriginal males from across the state were sent to Rottnest Island between 1838 and 1931. More than 370 of them died while in custody on the island, often as a result of introduced diseases.

The restoration project will include the development of a public space where people can meet, share stories and pay their respects to those who are buried at the site.

"It is important we acknowledge the history of the island, and share this history with the many local and international visitors that come to Rottnest Island," Mr Collier said.

Koori

ABN: 19 053 9