



At Government House, we are almost on the banks of the **Derbarl Yerrigan** – also known as the Swan River.

The site on which Government House is situated, and beyond, is called **Kooraree**. Fittingly, **Kooraree** was a place where visitors to the area we now know as Perth would gather and celebrate the coming together of different people from all around our State.

In days gone by, before the land was built up, the banks of the river were in the grounds of Government House. The lake at the bottom of the Government House Gardens represents the old river shore-line.

Late in the day we are almost in the shadow of **Kaata Gurrup** – one of the many Noongar names for Kings Park. 'Kaata' meaning head, signifying the high ground. And 'Gurrup' indicating fresh water. In this case, the fresh water spring at the foot of the Mount Eliza escarpment.

Noongar country encompasses the south west corner of this State, it goes north almost to Geraldton, through the Wheatbelt to the start of the Goldfields, east to around Esperance and everything around that line to the coast and beyond.

To learn more:

- Visit the [South-West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council](#) website
- Read “A Noongar Wordlist from the South-West of Western Australia” – Bindon, P. and Chadwick, R. (editors), published in 2011 by the WA Museum

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