Learn how to speak Noongar

Noongar Vowel Sounds

a as in up
aa as in car
e as in ten
i as in bin
o as in pot or sometimes for
oo as in book or sometimes boot.
(Note: if oo is followed by a r the sound
is oo r and in born) example moort-
family

Let’s try our first words

ka ya a – welcome, hello and yes
ma ar – hand
ma n – lips
bi di t – ant
yo k – girl
koomb a – big

RECOGNISE: Traditional knowledge, language, custodians, customary laws and identity.
Noongar consonants Sounds

- **b** as in *bin* or *spin*
- **bw** as in *bwana* (Swahili name for boss)
- **d** as in *dark* or *string*
- **dj** as in *judge*
- **dw** as in *twitch*
- **k** as in *skill* (between English *g* and *k*)
- **kw** as in *quiet*
- **-l, -l-** as in *lamp* or *nil*
- **-ly** as in *million*
- **m** as in *man*
- **n** as in *nil*
- **ng** as in *sing*
- **ny** as in *onion*, *nuisance*
- **-p** as in *cob*, *spin*
- **-r** as in *carol*
- **-rd-** as in *card* (like an American would say it)
- **-rt** as in *cart* (like an American would say it)
- **-rl** as in *whirl* (like an American would say it)
- **-rn** as in *torn* (like an American would say it)
- **-t** as in *sting* (between English *d* and *t*)
- **-tj** as in *chair*
- **w** as in *wet*
- **y** as in *yell*
Here are some examples of words using the Noongar consonants:

bamba - stingray
bwoka - kangaroo cloak
darp - knife
djen - foot
dwert - dog
kar - spider
kwila - shark
dilbi,- fresh leaf, kwilena- dolphin
bilya- river
maaman- father
noort - fly
ngany - I/myself
nyingarn
nop - boy
maar - hand
ward - find
moort - family
worl -sky
yoorn - bobtail
kaat - head
wetj - emu
waabiny - playing
yongka - kangaroo