

NT

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS TIMES

Breath of life

STYLE UP
STARTS
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'SYSTEMIC RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ON FULL DISPLAY'



Jake Danby Picture: Jason Walls/NT News

Anger grows after fatal hit-and-run driver avoids jail

DECLAN BRENNAN

Pressure has continued to build across the Northern Territory over a hit-and-run case in which an Indigenous man was killed, sparking outrage over the sentence, questions over government transparency, and accusations of selective justice.

In June 2024, Jake Danby, 24, struck two Aboriginal men near a Darwin shopping centre. One victim, a 39-year-old man referred to as Mr Whitehurst for cultural reasons, was thrown seven metres, suffered a traumatic brain injury and died in Royal Darwin Hospital.

The other man, aged 37, survived with non-life-threatening injuries. Mr Danby, allegedly driving unlicensed and in an uninsured vehicle, fled.

In the NT Supreme Court, he pleaded guilty to hit-and-run driving causing death. Justice Sonia Brownhill on September 15 sentenced him to a 12-month community corrections order, which included five months of home detention.

The NT's Director of Public Prosecutions has appealed against the sentence, arguing it was "manifestly inadequate". Mr Danby also faces other charges, including speeding, driving unlicensed and driving an uninsured motor vehicle; he is expected to plead guilty to those in October.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Katie Kiss argued the



Marie-Claire Boothby

sentence shows "systemic racial discrimination on full display".

"Aboriginal lives are not protected by the State," she wrote. "There is no justice in this outcome."

The case has ignited additional controversy because of the connection between Mr Danby and the Attorney-General, Marie-Claire Boothby, who is the sister of his stepmother. This relationship was not publicly disclosed when Ms Boothby spoke out about whether the sentence was adequate.

Ms Boothby says she told CLP leader Lia Finocchiaro "immediately" after the incident last year, and she has "never attempted to hide the fact that the driver was an extended family member". "At no time have I or my office been involved in the matter, either in opposition or upon change of

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New laws allow hotel to bypass consultation

Artist's impression of the proposed new hotel for the Darwin Waterfront.



GIOVANNI TORRE

Indigenous leaders have raised concerns over a decision regarding the Darwin Waterfront effectively forced on the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority under new Northern Territory legislation.

On Thursday it was announced AAPA board member Rachel Perkins had resigned in protest at the NT Government adding SH Darwin Hotel and the Darwin Waterfront Corporation as recorded parties to the 2004 Authority Certificate issued for the waterfront redevelopment. New legislation compels AAPA to process such applications without further consultation.

AAPA noted that authority certificates are based on "consultation with Aboriginal custodians" and set out the conditions for carrying out works on an area of land or water near sacred sites. The certificate for the Waterfront redevelopment was issued by AAPA to the NT Government more than 20 years ago.

However, the waterfront application marks the first use of the NT Government's recent amendment to the Sacred Sites Act which allows extra parties to be added to an existing authority certificate and compels the authority to process such applications without further consultation.

AAPA Board chair Bobby Nunggumajbarr said the authority supports responsible development across the Territory, but has "very serious concerns" about the waterfront.

"Sacred sites and development often co-exist and the Darwin waterfront precinct is proof of that. The precinct demonstrates that with proper consultation and respect, development can proceed in a way that benefits all Territorians, whilst also protecting the cultural heritage of the Larrakia people," he said.

"However, the board has very serious concerns about the use of a 20-year-old certificate to progress the SH Darwin Hotel proposed hotel project. The old Waterfront Certificate does not detail a high-rise hotel next to the convention centre or alongside the registered sacred site. Plans for a tower in that location were not part of the original Larrakia consultation."

Mr Nunggumajbarr said more recent certificates for development around Stokes Hill, including for the Larrakia Cultural Centre, set strict height limits to protect the sacred site.

"Larrakia custodians have been very clear that the current SH Darwin Hotel design will impact the site," he said. "This application has put the board in a difficult position but under the amended Act we must add the recorded parties."

The AAPA Board said it will write to the Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy and the Federal Minister for Environment and Water, Senator Murray Watt, in support of Larrakia custodians and their objections to this development.

The Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation also expressed concern over the decision forced on the authority. "The recent legislative amendments

trative endorsement rather than cultural site protection."

The corporation's chief executive Michael Rotumah said the decision exposed the structural failings of the new legislative regime.

"This decision demonstrates how the voices of Larrakia custodians are being systematically sidelined in matters affecting their sacred sites," he said.

"Legislative and ministerial interference has eroded AAPA's independence, reducing its statutory authority to a hollow process. Larrakia cultural authority is not negotiable, and this development risks irreversible damage to places of profound significance. The Northern Territory Government must engage with custodians, not legislate around them."

Larrakia Nation noted Larrakia custodians have "consistently objected" to the current hotel design, warning of significant cultural and spiritual impacts on the site.

The Central Land Council urged the Federal Government to intervene, noting it would be the first time the Commonwealth acted to protect Aboriginal heritage in the Territory "since Robert Tickner saved a sacred Arrente women's site from a CLP government in the 1980s".

"This is the first test of the controversial changes and it

fails the Traditional Owners, just as we predicted," Land Council chair Warren Williams said. "We will stand with them in their fight for their right to protect their sacred site."

Central Land Council chief executive Les Turner said the CLP Government has "demonstrated why it can never be trusted to protect our sacred sites".

"The Federal Government should clarify the power of the NT Government to make laws to protect our sacred sites and work with our land councils and traditional owners to strengthen heritage protections," he said.

Mr Williams said NT Minister Josh Burgoyne wrote to the CLC in May that certificates could be transferred or have additional parties added, "as long as the proposed work and use of the land are the same", but noted the current waterfront hotel project is "very different" from what Larrakia were consulted on for the 2004 certificate "and they have consistently said it will impact their sacred site".

NT Indigenous Business Network CEO Naomi Anstess said the network "strongly believes industry and development can coexist with cultural custodianship, and that this can only occur only when Traditional Owners are properly consulted and respected".

“
The Northern Territory Government must engage with custodians, not legislate around them.”

Michael Rotumah

require the AAPA Board to process such applications without meaningful consultation with custodians, undermining both procedural fairness and the integrity of the Authority's decision-making," it said.

"Legislative and ministerial overreach has stripped AAPA of its role as an independent statutory authority, reducing its functions to that of adminis-

National Gathering ends with key steps for delegates

GIOVANNI TORRE

More than 300 delegates representing 150 Traditional Owner bodies from across the continent and the Torres Strait met at the National Gathering in Port Douglas, Queensland, from September 15-17.

On the final day, the Gathering issued a short formal statement on the progress of the meeting.

They said delegates explored the need for a national Indigenous representative body, considered different governance models, and learnt from inter-

national speakers who attended the event as guests from First Nations in other countries.

The National Gathering agreed on three key resolutions: delegates will take the discussions had at the National Gathering back to their communities and Peoples; Delegates support

in principle the establishment of a new national body; and the Council of First Nations team will develop a toolkit for delegates to take home to share the discussions of the gathering and "carry this forward with the regions".

A spokesperson for the

National Gathering said delegates "will now engage their communities about the scope and representative structure of the national organisation".

"The approach will respect the independence of each nation while building unified purpose and strength," they said.

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A-G failed to declare family tie to driver in fatal hit

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government," she said. Ms Finocchiaro has expressed "full confidence" in her attorney-general. "She has always acted, and will continue to act, with the utmost integrity, as do all members of our disciplined and diverse team," the CLP leader said. "She declared the matter immediately and has had no involvement."

Shadow attorney-general Chansey Paech described Ms Boothby's non-disclosure as "disgraceful and appalling".

"For a government that talks tough on crime, their silence is deafening. They cannot claim to be tough on crime while turning a blind eye to such serious integrity issues."

During the trial, text messages from Mr Danby came to light in which he called the victims "n.....s" and "dogs", described the collision as a "two-for-one combo", and wrote: "They learnt their lesson now, maybe next time they will use the crossing instead of walking out in front of cars, expecting me to stop like they own the place."

"They were rolling all over the road like bitches when I looked in my ... mirror," he said, adding the world needs "c...s like me to take a hit to teach these c...s a lifelong lesson".

He also reportedly told a friend: "I do have to hand myself in, but I ain't getting jail time. I'm a Danby, we don't go to jail."

Justice Brownhill acknowledged the texts showed Mr Danby had "demonstrated a shockingly callous disregard for the welfare of the victims", but accepted he had shown remorse, and cited his age, lack of criminal history, and employment record as reasons for the sentence.

The decision not to impose a jail term has been fiercely criticised. Members of the Aboriginal community, advocacy organisations, and legal experts say it reflects deep inequality in the justice system. For many, it highlights how First Nations people are treated differently.

Mr Whitehurst's sister said: "Why is (Jake Danby) out? If an Aboriginal man hit a white man, he would be locked up."

"Mr Whitehurst was my one and only brother; now I have no brothers. We loved him so much. This is not fair," she said.

Critics have compared Mr Danby's case with that of Stephen Rioli, an Indigenous man who, in August, was jailed for 18 months for a hit-and-run causing death last year. He had no relevant criminal history and was deemed of good character but was three times the legal alcohol limit when he hit and killed a woman.

Theresa Roe, chair of the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency, says Mr Danby's case underscores "the stark inequality between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Territorians".



First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria. Pictures: Leroy Miller

Milestone moment as State Treaty bill enters Parliament

DECHLAN BRENNAN

Victoria has introduced landmark treaty legislation, hailed as a once-in-a-century milestone that will reset the relationship between First Peoples and government.

The Treaty Bill, negotiated between the Victorian Government and the First Peoples' Assembly, embeds truth-telling, accountability, and new powers for Aboriginal representation. It is the first such Treaty negotiated between First Peoples and the Commonwealth.

Premier Jacinta Allan said the reforms were designed to deliver lasting change. "We know we need to make change. We know the current practices and systems . . . simply aren't working," Ms Allan said.

She stressed the reforms were "about improving service delivery and lives for Aboriginal Victorians, not about taking anything away from anyone".

Key measures in the Bill

The legislation calls for truth-telling about colonisation to be taught from prep to Year 10 in all schools, government and non-government.

It also includes a formal apology to First Peoples, recognition of the "enduring harm" of colonisation, and expanded use of traditional names for parks and waterways.

The First Peoples' Assembly will be made permanent with powers to: have decision-making authority over policies directly affecting First Peoples; create an independent accountability mechanism to monitor closing the gap commitments; and be consulted on all laws impacting Aboriginal communities.

A 'turning point' for Victoria

The Bill's introduction was



First Peoples' Assembly co-chairs Ngarra Murray and Rueben Berg.

described as a "once in a century" event by leaders in the First Peoples' Assembly, who emphasised its significance not just for Aboriginal people, but for all Victorians.

"This is about building stronger communities, creating accountability, and ensuring that the mistakes of the past are never repeated," said Assembly co-chair Ngarra Murray.

"We are at a turning point in this nation's history. Treaty offers us the chance to reshape the story of this country."

"This is a chance for all Victorians to acknowledge our past, heal and move forward together," she said.

Fellow co-chair Rueben Berg argued Treaty will deliver practical improvements in areas such as health, education and housing. "This will reset the relationship between First Peoples and government. This will create a body that will enact real, practical change for

First Peoples in our state . . . everyone wants to see First Peoples thrive, and we are ready to get to work," he said.

A step towards accountability

Indigenous leaders also welcomed the move. Uluru Dialogue co-chairs Pat Anderson AO and Professor Megan Davis AC said it marked "a profound moment in our nation's history", while former Treaty Commissioner Aunty Jill Gallagher said Treaty will provide an "important mechanism for democratic participation and accountability".

"I have long dreamt of being part of a society where all Victorians, both Aboriginal and non-Indigenous, can celebrate and enjoy the many benefits that come with being part of one of the world's oldest living cultures. I believe Treaty can make that dream a reality," Ms Gallagher said.

Zoe Upton, a reserved seat holder for the Bunurong Land

Council Aboriginal Corporation described the Bill's introduction as "very emotional".

"Children [will] be rich in culture . . . a better trajectory in life," she said, adding that treaty would give Aboriginal people "a voice at the table".

Political division

While Labor, the Greens, and the Assembly hailed the reforms as historic, the Opposition has vowed to block the Bill. However, with crossbench support guaranteed, it is expected to pass before the end of 2025.

The Liberals and Nationals argued alternative approaches could achieve outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians "without creating division or race-based distinctions".

In response, Mr Berg told reporters: "To anyone who's suggesting ideas about what we need to do to improve conditions for First Peoples, I'd say the best people you should talk to about that are First Peoples."

DECHLAN BRENNAN

Aboriginal leaders from across the country have issued a joint statement to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese urging the Federal Government to act on long-standing commitments to First Peoples.

Timed for the 18th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples being adopted by the UN General Assembly, the leaders called for urgent rights-based reforms and action on Closing the Gap targets.

Australia was one of four countries to oppose UNDRIP in 2007 before adopting it in 2009. Yet, Social Justice Commissioner Katie Kiss said that 16 years later, the Commonwealth has failed to embed the declaration in policy and law.

The Kaanju and Birri/Widi woman pointed to the Government's silence on the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs inquiry into UNDRIP.

After a 12-month process, the inquiry recommended the Commonwealth ensure all legislation and policy "be consistent with the Articles outlined" in the declaration, and establish an independent process of truth-telling and agreement-making "to support healing and assist implementation".

She says truth-telling and agreement-making are inseparable, noting: "Having the opportunity to be involved in

Leaders call for action on rights target

agreement-making requires an understanding of the truth of what's happened in the country to know what the justification is for the need for that agreement-making." But without a mechanism for collective dialogue — the Voice — progress is limited.

"The three pillars are actually critical to this being successful — articles 18 and 19 of the declaration talk about our right to participate in decisions that affect us," Ms Kiss said.

"The voice is critical to that ... not just truth-telling and treaty. We can't do those things without having a voice."

Labor has not ruled out truth-telling and Treaty implementation in its second term of Government. In May, Minister for Indigenous Australians, Malarndirri McCarthy, said she is "very much open to lis-

tening to what people have to say". In a statement to National Indigenous Times, the minister said the Government was a "proud" signatory of UNDRIP.

"The National Agreement on Closing the Gap is a prime example of how we are supporting the principles of self-determination that underpin UNDRIP."

Senator McCarthy said the Government was "considering the findings of the report", but also noted: "At the same time, the Government is giving practical effect to UNDRIP through policies, programs and our approach to engagement and collaboration."

Two years have gone by

Ms Kiss, along with former Social Justice commissioners Mick Dodson, Tom Calma, Mick

Gooda and June Oscar, and former MPs Ken Wyatt, Linda Burney and Patrick Dodson, have called on the Government to respond to the committee's report by November 22, two years after it was tabled.

"All the recommendations are critical to the implementation of the declaration," Commissioner Kiss said.

"Every target ... within the Closing the Gap agreement is a human right, and the fact that we have to have targets in place to try to force governments into addressing these human rights issues shows that we've had a breach or a non-realisation of those rights."

The leaders said the six recommendations from the report in 2023 "provide a roadmap to improving the recognition of rights", emphasising UNDRIP

as "the most powerful tool to guide change in law, policy, and outcomes for Indigenous Peoples around the world".

"Yet, here in Australia, we are still waiting for meaningful action to close the gap between rhetoric and reality," they said.

"While progress is being made on some targets, only four are currently on track."

Earlier this year, Senator Lidia Thorpe introduced a private member's Bill to bring Australian law in line with UNDRIP, and cited Mick Dodson's leadership at the inquiry.

The Bill was voted down, with Senator Thorpe calling the result a "continuation of the colonial and genocidal legacy".

The gap isn't closing

Meanwhile, the Productivity Commission's July report showed outcomes worsening in four areas: adult imprisonment; children in out-of-home care; suicide; and child development. "Until governments are held accountable for upholding our rights, the gaps will not close," the leaders said. "The cost of delay is devastating: loss of lives, families, culture, languages and opportunities."

They highlighted failures in the justice systems, and urged the incorporation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into law, including national standards for children in detention, raising the age of criminal responsibility, and an independent body to investigate Indigenous deaths in custody.

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Rallies unite against hate

DECHLAN BRENNAN
& JARRED CROSS

Tens of thousands rallied across Australia on September 13 for the Sovereignty Never Ceded National Day of Action.

Rallies organised by The Blak Caucus were held in major cities nationwide in solidarity with Camp Sovereignty. The actions stood in defiance of the violent attack the camp faced from neo-nazis, and firmly against fascism and racism.

In Naarm/Melbourne, Ky-ya Nicholson Ward told the crowd of several thousand people that “culture is resistance”.

“All immigrants are welcome on my Country. Not racists and not fascists,” she said.

“Hate never was and never will have a place on this land.”

She expressed support for peoples around the face facing violent repression and colonialism, including in Palestine and West Papua.

Uncle Claude Douglas stressed the importance of our common humanity.

“We’re from everywhere; we’re one,” he said.

“We’re all in our home.”

Uncle Claude noted that the wars around the world “are bringing up our wounds here”.

The nationwide rallies came days after Victorian Police admitted they were unprepared for the August 31 attack on Camp Sovereignty. Camp Sovereignty, established in 2006 by Krautungalung Elder Robbie Thorpe, is described as a place of peace where community members can gather, yarn and reflect. Inside Melbourne’s Botanic Gardens, it is also the resting place for the repatriated remains of 38 Aboriginal Victorians.

The attack followed a series of anti-immigration rallies across the country in late August.

Around 40 men dressed in black — many linked to the National Socialist Network, some carrying flagpoles and sticks — stormed the Indigenous camp.

NSN leader Thomas Sewell



Picture: Jarred Cross

faces 25 charges, including violent disorder, affray, assault by kicking, and discharge of a missile. Six other men have also been charged.

On September 10, Victorian Police Superintendent Troy Papworth admitted the force “didn’t have intelligence to suggest that there was going to be any issues with Camp Sovereignty” before the anti-immigration rallies.

He declined to detail what protections were in place, but said the site was now a police priority.

“I won’t go into our operational considerations on how we’re structuring up our people, but Camp Sovereignty is absolutely front of mind for us in making

sure that people are safe,” he said.

“We don’t condone violence against any particular groups, and we don’t want to see that happen again in the city. So, it will be front of mind for us in making sure that we are well-resourced and well-deployed across the CBD to address any sort of violence.”

Many, including Mr Thorpe and his niece, independent senator Lidia Thorpe, have questioned why police failed to monitor the far-right group after the rally.

Senator Thorpe told National Indigenous Times the attack should be treated as a hate crime, as similar incidents at

other places of worship have been.

“When other places of worship have been attacked in the past, the condemnation in the media is widespread,” she said.

“Now this is our place of worship. People were assaulted. Flags were stomped on the ground. Fires were put out. Sacred fires were put out.

“Just because we don’t have bricks and mortar. We have our land, and this is how we worship our land and our water and our people and our animals in the sky, and the air that we breathe. We have a spirituality that you can’t always see, and that’s certainly what you find at Camp Sovereignty.”

In the Senate, Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy described the attack as “hateful violence”.

“We’ve seen the chilling footage; dozens of men wearing black storming Camp Sovereignty in Melbourne — a culturally significant site seen as sacred by many, where First Nations people have held a vigil to care for the remains of ancestors,” she said. “We saw footage of men armed with sticks and rods. We saw brutal beatings of people at the camp. We saw the Aboriginal flag — an official flag — stomped into the mud.

“But they came to do more than that. They came to stoke fear and they came to silence.”

Family despair at delays in death investigation

DECHLAN BRENNAN

The family of an Indigenous man who died in police custody say they remain deeply distressed by delays and poor communication from investigators.

On September 22, the Northern Territory Director of Public Prosecutions confirmed it had officially received a brief of evidence from NT Police into the May death of 24-year-old Kumanjayi White.

Mr White, a disabled Warlpiri man with strong ties to Yuendumu, died after being restrained by two plain-clothed NT Police officers at a Coles supermarket in Mparntwe/Alice Springs. He was under state guardianship and living in supported accommodation at the time.

Acting NT Police Commissioner Martin Dole told reporters the force had “compiled a full and comprehensive brief

of evidence, which has now been provided to the DPP”.

“It is the Director of Public Prosecutions that will now determine whether criminal charges will be laid against any officer or officers involved,” he said.

Despite this, the officers involved have not been stood down, a decision the family says has left them further distressed in the absence of independent oversight.

Kumanjayi White’s grandfather and Warlpiri Elder, Ned Jampijinpa Hargraves, said the family and community are still seeking parumpurru (justice).

“We want parumpurru. It is sacred. Kardiya — white people — don’t respect it, but we respect it, because parumpurru is the truth. We’re not getting any truth from the colonial system,” he said. Mr Hargraves added the family was “still

fighting a bunch of rlinjirpa (aggressive bullies)” and vowed they would travel to Darwin in October to “stand against the racist CLP government”. He added the “colonial system” is unfair for First Nations people and perpetuates “suffering”.

“It doesn’t recognise our rights. We want the Government to listen to us, but they don’t,” he said.

“So, we want justice, we want independent oversight and we need a change of government in the NT. We can only hope that justice prevails.”

NT Police’s executive director of cultural reform, Leanne Liddle, who visited Yuendumu following Mr White’s funeral, defended the length of the investigation. “People have said that this process has taken too long,” she said. “But we’ve had to wait this period of time to get

the brief together and the information together before we move forward. And it’s difficult for people to understand the depth of the briefs that need to be provided.”

George Newhouse, chief executive of the Sydney-based National Justice Project, which is supporting the family, said delays only erode “what little faith the family has in our legal system”.

“The family continues to demand that the officers be stood down immediately now that a brief has been sent to the DPP,” he said.

“How the police have handled this situation is another example of how the colonial justice system fails First Nations people. An independent investigation is still urgently needed.”

NT Police have argued an external probe could compromise future prosecutions; how-

ever, support for an independent inquiry has been widespread. Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy, Senator Lidia Thorpe, and member for Lingiari and Special Envoy for Remote Communities, Marion Scrymgour, have all previously voiced support for one.

Mr Dole said there was currently no body in Australia that “can just be called upon” to independently investigate deaths in custody. “So, we’ve not shied away from those conversations nationally,” he said.

“If people are still calling for that to occur — and we’re happy to be involved in those conversations nationally with other police commissioners and with politicians — if something like that was to be set up across Australia.”

NT Police have not named the officers involved.

Cindy's Law shuts loophole

DECLAN BRENNAN

Nearly 40 years after the deaths of two Indigenous cousins, a legal loophole in the NSW Crimes Act was closed in September, ensuring offenders who commit acts of sexual violence or indecently interfere with a body, when the time of death is uncertain, cannot escape prosecution.

In December 1987, 16-year-old Murrawarri and Kunja girl Mona Lisa Smith and Wangkumara girl Jacinta Rose "Cindy" Smith, 15, were found beside the wreckage of a ute between Bourke and Engonnia.

Non-Indigenous man Ian Alexander Grant, then 40, was discovered by witnesses with his arm draped across the body of a partially naked Cindy.

He was acquitted of driving-related offences, while a further charge of interfering with a corpse was dropped on the eve of trial.

At a 2023 inquest, then-Det-Insp. Paul Quigg told the court Mr Grant should have been charged with manslaughter.

In mid-September, amendments to the NSW Crimes Act 1900 passed the Upper House.

Known as Cindy's Law, the reforms came directly from the inquest into Mona and Cindy's deaths and the tireless advocacy of their families.

Cindy's mother, Dawn Smith, said the family had "waited too long for justice for our girls".

"I hope no one ever has to go through what my Cindy went through, but if they do, I am comforted that these changes might help them find justice. We will always love and remember our girls," she said.

Cindy's Law ensures if someone sexually assaults or interferes with a body after death, they cannot avoid prosecution because the time of death is uncertain. If it is proven beyond reasonable doubt one of the crimes occurred, but it's unclear which due to uncertainty around timing, the offender will face sentencing under the lesser maximum penalty.

Speaking in June when the amendment was introduced, Auntie Dawn said she had spent decades imagining the future her daughter never had.

"I've always wondered what she would have been like today, whether she would have married and had kids," she said.

"You think of all of these things. I miss her very much."

The National Justice Project, which represented the families during the inquest, noted until now, uncertainty around which specific crime occurred often meant people went unpunished.

NJP chief executive Adjunct Professor George Newhouse said Cindy's Law was a hard-won legacy of family courage.

"For 37 long years, the families of Mona and Cindy Smith have carried the unbearable weight of grief and injustice, and their tireless pursuit of truth has been vindicated," he said.

"The coronial inquest confirmed what the family has always known: that the legal system and police failed their daughters and failed them."

The inquest revealed major failures in the original investigation: police failed to preserve evidence, did not contact Mona's mother after her death, and ran what State Coroner Teresa O'Sullivan called an "inexplicably" deficient inquiry, influenced by racial bias.

"The uncomfortable truth, to my mind, is that had two white teenage girls died in the same circumstances, I cannot



Jacinta Rose 'Cindy' Smith and Mona Lisa Smith.

conceive of there being such a manifestly deficient police investigation into the circumstances of their deaths," Ms O'Sullivan said.

In 2023, then-NSW Police Commissioner Karen Webb rejected a recommendation to create formal guidelines for reviewing past investigations.

Mr Newhouse said it was "hard to believe that charges were dropped because it could not be determined whether the assault occurred before or after Cindy's death".

He added the "failure" to prosecute Mr Grant, when Ms O'Sullivan noted sufficient evidence existed at the time, "understandably caused Cindy's family unimaginable hurt".

"The courage of Mona and Cindy's families, along with their unwavering demand for accountability, has led to this important law reform," he said.

When tabling the Bill, NSW

Attorney-General Michael Daley acknowledged the families' presence in the chamber.

"Law reform cannot erase the tragedy of the loss of those two little girls but I'm grateful to have the opportunity to improve the law and make sure that no other offenders avoid justice," he said. Barrister Julie Buxton, who represented the family at the inquest, said the reform was "vital to ensure sexual offending does not go unpunished in the future — particularly given the disproportionate rate such crimes impact First Nations girls and women".

"I pay my enormous respect to Mona and Cindy's family — the bravery and grace with which they conducted themselves throughout the harrowing evidence at the inquest, and their fierce determination to seek legislative change to prevent other families enduring such horror and injustice," she said.

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Homes in disrepair as red tape holds up costly maintenance

Community's housing in a poor condition

NATASHA CLARK

Walmajarri man Robert Lee lifts the iron mat from his bathroom floor, revealing a gaping hole that drops to the earth below.

In Ngurtuwarda, a small Aboriginal community 12km east of Fitzroy Crossing in WA's Kimberley region, Mr Lee rents one of eight houses owned by the State's Department of Housing and Works.

When his toddler grandson wanders into the room, he scoops him up to stop him falling through the opening.

"I just worry about the kids, you know," he says.

Mr Lee says he reported the damage to the Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation after the December 2022-January 2023 Kimberley floods.

MWWAC's head of housing, Brenton Makisi, said the request went to the Department of Communities, which managed housing maintenance at the time, but no tradies came. The case is not unusual.

A recent review by the WA Auditor-General found the State's housing maintenance system plagued by delays, high costs and weak oversight.

Since 2015, maintenance in the Kimberley has been outsourced under a single contract to privately owned housing maintenance company Lake Maintenance.

Instead of calling a local tradie, tenants — or their community organisations — must report problems to Housing Direct, a government hotline.

Staff then log the fault, give it a priority rating, and issue a work order which sets the repair time frame, the Auditor-General

said. Urgent repairs should be completed within a day or two, but the review found "performance is below targets against priority 2 (urgent) at 74 per cent, priority 3 (priority) at 77 per cent and priority 4 (routine) at 72 per cent".

That can mean leaks, broken fittings and cracked floors often are not fixed by deadlines.

Mr Makisi also said a tenant in Aboriginal housing in Fitzroy Crossing was recently charged \$480 to change one lock — a job he said a local tradie could have done for \$50.

The Auditor-General said the system was dominated by one-off call-outs, with "up to 85 per cent of the cost of housing maintenance unplanned".

It warned "reactive maintenance is more expensive and less timely than planned maintenance".

In Halls Creek, Mr Makisi said Lakes Maintenance had brought workers in from Broome, with travel costs charged to tenants.

The audit found contractors were paid "from \$1.50 to nearly \$8 per kilometre" in regional travel rates. That means the 685km journey from Broome to Halls Creek could cost around \$5480 just in travel. Nearly a third of jobs checked were also billed above the agreed rates.

The review also found "only 51 per cent of vacant work orders" met the 14-day target, and it now took about two weeks just to issue the first job after a tenant left.

Mr Makisi said poor work compounded the problem. "Massive issue across the whole region — you'll find taps still leaking because they just

weren't tightened properly," he said.

The WA Government says the challenges are broader than just the contract model. Housing Minister John Carey said it was hard to source skilled trades for remote areas, and rising construction costs since 2019 had hit public and private rentals.

But in Ngurtuwarda, Walmajarri Elder Josephine Forrest says it is tenants who pay the price.

In August, she was forced to leave the house she had lived in since 1992 because of its condition. "It was a beautiful house," she said. "But an outside leak caused mould." She is now staying with relatives.

Bunuba leader Patrick Green says the problems stem from the one-contractor model itself.

"The one-contractor model took away our livelihood, ability to maintain our homes, and devalued Fitzroy Crossing's housing stock," he said.

"We used to have the power to create our own maintenance companies, with local people training to be workers," he said. "That power is gone, and we are made to feel like welfare recipients again."

A Department of Housing and Works spokesperson said it provides property and tenancy management services to seven properties in Ngurtuwarda community, and maintenance is scheduled by urgency.

The spokesperson said there have been 34 works orders issued to house three and 27 to house one since November 2019, and 66 to house eight since September 2019, and said "no works orders currently show as outstanding" for the homes.



Robert Lee and his grandson in his bathroom. Picture: Natasha Clark

Students' day in court draws near after 2021 action

NATASHA CLARK

In 2021, four Indigenous Cairns State High School students spoke up about racism.

Today, the issue rolls on in Queensland's Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The students say they were discriminated against, victimised, and left unsafe at school after speaking out against racial slurs and treatment from peers and teachers.

Their lawyer, from Mills Oakley, has confirmed the matter is ongoing, with further cross-examination set for October 28. "Unfortunately, decisions can

take anywhere from a few weeks to a number of months to be handed down," the lawyer told National Indigenous Times.

"It could be that we do not have a decision in this case for up to 12 months."

The applicants are asking QCAT to make formal declarations the school breached Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 and its Human Rights Act 2019.

They are also seeking \$20,000 in damages each "for hurt and humiliation, plus interest", an apology — private or public — and orders requiring the school to implement programs to eliminate unlawful discrimination.

The case stems from a protest in March 2021, organised on the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence, according to the ABC.

The four students took to the stage in the school quadrangle to speak about racism, with the permission of the principal.

They did not organise or lead the protest, but used the opportunity to share their experiences. Soon afterwards, they were told to stay home, and then-principal Christopher Zilm took personal leave.

The applicants allege they were later followed by teachers, denied culturally safe mediation, and left

without effective protection even after a "safety plan" was drawn up months later.

That plan included time-out cards, access to safe places, and a nominated support person, but the students say the measures were implemented, then removed.

"When the applicants were unable to obtain cultural support at school, they left school with their parents' consent, and were punished with a detention," their legal team said. The detention was later rescinded.

One of the students, Talea Villaflor, also claims she was suspended for five days in February 2022 after refusing to

sign a statement about a racial incident without legal advice.

"She alleges that the suspension came after she had already filed an anti-discrimination complaint, and had legal representation at that time," the lawyers said.

The students told the tribunal the experience left them feeling unsafe and unwelcome at school.

Beyond financial compensation, the applicants want change.

"The applicants hope that this case will mean that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in Queensland schools are no longer unlawfully discriminated against," their lawyer said.

The hearing resumes in October.

**PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF
THE FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA**

Corrective Notice

Following proceedings instituted by the ACCC, the Federal Court has declared, by consent, that Optus Mobile Pty Ltd (**Optus**) contravened the Australian Consumer Law (**ACL**) by engaging in unconscionable conduct in relation to many consumers who were vulnerable or experiencing disadvantage, including First Nations Australians from regional, remote and very remote parts of Australia.

The unconscionable conduct included instances where Optus sales staff:

- subjected vulnerable consumers to undue pressure or influence to purchase products or services,
- failed to explain terms and conditions of contracts,
- sold consumers goods and services they did not want or could not use, including not having regard to whether the consumer had Optus coverage where they lived,
- sold consumers goods and services Optus knew or ought reasonably to have known they could not afford, and
- made false or misleading representations to four consumers that certain products were free when, in fact, that was not the case.

In some cases, despite knowing about the sales misconduct and that the conduct was subject to ongoing internal and external investigations, Optus pursued debt collection activities against vulnerable consumers, including by referring and selling their debts to third party debt collection agencies. Optus also referred or sold debts in circumstances where Optus (including its senior management) knew, or ought to have known, that contracts had been, or may have been, created by Optus staff without the knowledge of consumers.

The conduct took place in circumstances in which Optus's senior management became increasingly aware, or ought to have become increasingly aware, that Optus sales staff were engaging in the inappropriate sales conduct.

Optus recognises that the nature and impact of the conduct on consumers was extremely serious. Optus has taken steps to remediate affected consumers and has in place a remediation program for consumers who have been impacted by similar improper sales practices. Further information about that remediation program is available at www.optus.com.au/support/sales-misconduct-update

Optus has also taken steps, and is committing to further steps, to reduce the risk of similar conduct occurring in the future. The 87B Undertaking is available at www.accc.gov.au/public-registers/undertakings-registers/optus-mobile-pty-ltd

The Federal Court has ordered that Optus:

- pay to the Commonwealth of Australia a pecuniary penalty in the amount of \$100 million
- publish this corrective notice
- pay the ACCC's costs of and incidental to the proceeding, fixed in the amount of \$1.5 million.

OPTUS

STYLEUP

FASHION, BEAUTY & LIFESTYLE

Force of nature

Sydney Dance Company's Continuum brings together leading First Nations artists



Ngaere Jenkins,
Continuum.
Picture: Daniel Boud

ALSO INSIDE
Mystery Road back on
the trail **Page 10**
Baker Boy seeks his truth
on new track **Page 11**

TV star guided by his community

NATASHA CLARK

“Everything I do as an artist, as a First Nations person, doesn’t happen in isolation,” says Nyikina actor Mark Coles Smith.

“It is qualified by my community and my family.”

It’s a world view which stands in contrast to Detective Jay Swan, the loner cop he plays in *Mystery Road: Origin*.

Adapted from Ivan Sen’s films, *Mystery Road* arrived on the ABC in 2018 with Aaron Pedersen as Jay. Set against remote landscapes, it fused crime drama with stories of race, justice and the harmful legacy of colonisation on First Nations peoples.

After two acclaimed seasons, the franchise shifted to a prequel, *Mystery Road: Origin*, tracing Swan’s early years at the turn of the millennium.

Its second season premiered Sunday, September 21 on ABC TV, with all episodes available to stream on ABC iview.

We meet Jay again in 2000, newly arrived in Loch Iris, a fading timber town surrounded by karri forests.

Jay and partner Mary (Tuuli



Mark Coles Smith as Jay Swan and Tuuli Narkle as Mary in *Mystery Road: Origin*.

Narkle) are starting over, caring for her niece and expecting a child, while he joins the small local police force.

But his first roadside encounter — a frightened Indigenous boy on the run — hints at deeper troubles.

Soon, a missing girl, buried hospital records, and old wounds in the town resurface, pulling him into conflicts which stretch far beyond his badge.

For Coles Smith, the turn-of-the-century setting matters as much as the plot.

“You don’t enter into a new

century without considering what kind of nation you’ve been,” he says.

This season forces Jay to confront the fraught tension of straddling two worlds; his duty to the police force and his ties to community.

Beneath the karri canopy, the show digs into one of Australia’s darkest chapters — the Stolen Generations.

“Jay is tested in this season in a way he wasn’t before, he’s brought to breaking point,” Coles Smith says.

But the burden Jay places on himself — trying to fix everything — only deepens his isolation. “Individualism and self-isolation are by-products of modernity, of Western culture; and Jay is a victim of it,” he says.

“The reality is that we need each other. Our First Nations culture prescribed a sense of we, not me; working together.”

It’s a foundation Coles Smith carries into his own life.

“As an artist and as an Aboriginal person, I know I’m always guided, my choices are not just mine alone,” he says.

That collective approach also shaped the series itself.



Mark Coles Smith as Detective Jay Swan. Pictures: David Dare Parker

“We had an entire First Nations writing team on this, and the moment when I read the script, I could see the amount of care and consideration that had gone into telling a story that hadn’t been told before on television,” Coles Smith says.

Season two was co-directed by Wayne Blair (*The Sapphires*) and Jub Clerc, a Nyul Nyul and Yawuru filmmaker. Their

combined vision, alongside the all-First Nations writing team, grounds the new season in cultural authority and continuity.

For Coles Smith, embodying Jay isn’t just about playing a detective; it’s about carrying story, culture and responsibility together.

“No story happens in isolation,” he says. “And neither do I.”

HANCOCK IRON ORE

We are proud to be actively involved with our local communities to build a better future.

Hancock Iron Ore’s Community Grants offer up to \$10,000 in funding for eligible groups to deliver community activations and outreach initiatives. Applications are open from 1 October to 30 November 2025. Together, we create the best.



HancockIronOre.com.au



Ambitious art enters spotlight

PHOEBE BLOGG

Opening in Canberra on December 6, the 5th National Indigenous Art Triennial: After the Rain, will see the vision of artistic director, Tony Albert, of the Girramay/Yidinji/Kuku-Yalanji peoples, come to life through 10 multidisciplinary installations by contemporary artists from across Australia.

Albert has brought together artists from as far as Erub in the far north-east of Zenadh Kes/Torres Strait to Ntaria/Hermannsburg in Central Australia and Naarm/Melbourne to create ambitious projects responding to the theme of After the Rain.

From large-scale murals and video works to intimate painting and soft sculpture, After the Rain includes projects by Alair Pambegan, Aretha Brown, Blaklash, Dylan Mooney, Hermannsburg Potters, Itja Ntjarra (Many Hands) Art Centre, Vincent Namatjira, Jimmy John Thaiday, Naminapu Maymuru-White, Thea Anamara Perkins, Yarrenytlartere Artists, Grace Kemarre Robinya, and Warraba Weatherall.

Albert has been working with the artists to challenge them to produce their most ambitious works to date. These projects celebrate inter-generational legacies and cultural warriors of the past, present and future — representing rebirth, cycles of cleansing and new beginnings.

The art will stay on display until April 26.



Kutcha Edwards.
Main picture:
Suzanne Phoenix

'Our Song' to flow in Sydney landmark



PHOEBE BLOGG

For one night only, multi-award-winning songwriter Kutcha Edwards and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will transform the Sydney Opera House into a river of sound and ceremony with Ngarli-Wangu (Our Song).

Coinciding with the second anniversary of the Voice to Parliament referendum, the event celebrates truth-telling, cultural stewardship, and voices too often unheard.

A respected Elder and Songman, Edwards has curated this special event and will host and perform throughout the evening alongside leading First Nations artists, including vocalists Dr Shellie Morris AO, Emily Wurrarama, Kankawa Nagarra, Ray Dimakarri Dixon,

and dancers. He will also premiere My Favourite Drop, a poem he wrote at age 13 inspired by the river that carries his people's story.

With conductor-in-residence Benjamin Northey at the podium, Edwards, guest artists and the orchestra will bring to life anthems spanning four decades of Blak artistry.

"Imagine an 18-month-old Aboriginal boy born on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River being wrenched from his mother and father in 1967 and denied his rightful journey in life. The course of the river in him was redirected," he said.

"Imagine now the river in that little boy has made its way to the famous concert hall at the iconic Sydney Opera House in a collaboration with the renowned Sydney Symphony

Orchestra. And ironically two years on from the day of the failed Voice Referendum on 14 October 2023, we present Ngarli Wangu (Our Voice). He now has his own voice." Since 1991, Edwards has woven activism and songwriting together.

He has performed with Black Arm Band and Blackfire, and cultivated a solo journey that blends his "Bidgee" blues with the traditional songs of his people.

His proud Mutti Mutti heritage and his experiences as a survivor of the Stolen Generations have shaped his diverse creative output, which has seen him collaborate with Australian music luminaries including Paul Kelly, the late Archie Roach AC, Judith Durham, and Emma Donovan.

Edwards has also pioneered

projects such as Beyond The Bars — a live prison radio series that earned a Human Rights Award.

The concert promises a multi-sensory journey through Country. A soundscape recording will greet audiences as they take their seats while the orchestra surges through the concert hall, transforming the stage into Lake Mungo. Interpretive dancers will perform ceremony around a side-stage bush fire, and projections of Edwards' Country will illuminate his storytelling.

Edwards and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra will perform on Tuesday, October 14 at 7pm in the concert hall at Sydney Opera House.

Tickets are available at tinyurl.com/2xllalmo

Baker Boy channels the rage

PHOEBE BLOGG

With the release of Baker Boy's new album Djangjay fast approaching, the multi-award-winning Yolngu star unveiled new single Thick Skin this month.

The song, from the star's highly anticipated second album — out on October 10 — is an anthem of survival and solidarity.

Thick Skin features a powerhouse Blak choir that includes Thelma Plum, Emma Donovan, Kee'ahn, and Jada Weazel.

Born from the pain and frustration after the 2023 Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum, the track confronts the ongoing presence of racism in Australia.

"It wasn't anger at the result as much, I think it was the way mob became a topic of conversation and mottos like 'if you don't know, vote no' encouraging ignorance. It

highlighted the everyday experience of being Yolngu, being Indigenous in this country and that hit me hard," Baker Boy said.

The track features rapping in the Yolngu language while leaning into punk. "I had been wanting to explore the punk sound for a while and this felt like the perfect track for me to let loose in that space," Baker Boy said.

"It's not natural for me to express anger through my music. I have this reputation for positivity, but I think the punk-inspired production allowed me to really say what I wanted to say.

"It has let me express these feelings, express the anger, the chaos and frustration in a way that's new and experimental for me but also in a way that was really authentic. It just came out of me."

The video for Thick Skin features strobe-heavy visuals, building to an unexpected, gospel-like moment of

release. The final minute of the video is a powerful moment when the choir comes together, delivering with unflinching honesty and solidarity: "I won't be broken, you can't tear my thick skin, we'll always sing our song."

Directed by Aurie Indianna and Jordan Ruyi Blanch, the video is the fourth in a five-part visual series filmed within the historic Werribee Mansion. Once a grand symbol of colonial wealth and power built on dispossession, the mansion now becomes Baker Boy's stage for reclamation, its walls reverberating with voices and stories they were never built to hold.

As seen in previously released videos, each one occupies a different space in the mansion, progressively reclaiming and recontextualising the colonial estate. Together, they channel the album's emotional, thematic, and sonic range.



Artwork for Baker Boy's Thick Skin.



Above:
Naiara De Matos and Ryan Pearson.
Below:
Naiara De Matos.
Pictures:
Daniel Boud



Weaving connection of land, sea, sky and spirit

PHOEBE BLOGG

Sydney Dance Company's *Continuum*, a triple bill bringing together two of Australia's most renowned First Nations artists, alongside two exciting voices in contemporary choreography, opens on October 22.

Continuum explores the spectrum of human experience — from the ephemeral beauty of twilight to the elemental force of breath.

In a highly anticipated return to Sydney Dance Company, Stephen Page AO, descendant of the Nunukul people and the Munaldjali clan of the Yugambah Nation, premieres *Unungkati Yantatja* (one with the other), created in collaboration with acclaimed Kalkadunga composer and leading Yidaki player William Barton.

The partnership brings together two groundbreaking First Nations artists to share a story rooted in Barton's dedication to his father. Page's choreography embodies Barton's composition, calling out to land, sea, sky and creature, weaving a profound connection to the spirit of creation breath. Barton will be joined live on stage by the award-winning Omega Ensemble, who commissioned the powerful score.

Blown gently across the stage, *Unungkati Yantatja* is a tribute to the force of earthly breaths, intrinsically connecting audiences to Country, each other, and the continual rhythm of life.

Page said he is looking forward to returning to Sydney Dance Company this October, where his career began.

"Returning to Sydney Dance Company is deeply personal, it's where my career began and walking back into the studio feels like coming full circle. I

love telling stories and creating, especially in the world of dance and caring for William's story is a gift," he said.

"I don't think there is a contemporary clan in the world as strong as Sydney Dance Company and to work with these dancers as they embody this story with William weaving his energy through the whole experience, carrying it forward to be felt by audiences is going to be really special."

Continuum also includes Sydney Dance Company artistic director and celebrated choreographer Rafael Bonachela presenting *Spell*, a bold world premiere in part developed during the company's residency at Italy's prestigious Orsolina28 Art Foundation this year.

Bonachela's signature style reaches new heights of precision and passion with five distinctive worlds, each a vivid "spell" that together create dance alchemy. Set to an evocative score featuring Olafur Arnalds, Bryce Dessner, Screamin' Jay Hawkins, and Alice Smith, *Spell* is an exhilarating fusion of movement, light and sound, inviting audiences to experience dance as a potent and primal force.

"It is a privilege to share the stage with Stephen Page, whose extraordinary work has shaped Australian dance for decades, and to welcome back Tra Mi Dinh, whose bold voice presents an exciting new perspective. *Continuum* is about connection — across generations, creative expression, and lived experience — and I can't wait for audiences to experience the beauty and power of these three works together," Bonachela said.

The triple bill also features a reimaged work by rising choreographer Tra Mi Dinh



Left: Sam Winkler. Below: William Barton and Dancers

called *Somewhere Between Ten and Fourteen*. The work's hypnotic rhythm captures the transience of life's continual fluctuations and the beauty found in change.

"I'm thrilled to be returning to Sydney Dance Company to expand my 2023 *New Breed* work," she said. "The invitation to dive back into this world and reimagine it for a larger cast of dancers is a rare gift — one that affords me the opportunity to enrich and develop its choreographic language.

"I'm stoked to be presenting my work in this season alongside two heavyweight Australian choreographers."

Sydney Dance Company is Australia's leading contemporary dance company, presenting new works in Sydney, around Australia and internationally, with studios on Gadigal Land.

Continuum will run from the October 22 until November 1.



Winning art has a distinct voice

ALEXANDRA GIORGIANNI

Gamilaraay artist Juanita McLauchlan has won the MA Art Prize at the Sydney Contemporary art fair, with her work *Mandaymanday / String of Stars* praised for its innovative use of materials and distinct Australian voice.

Sponsored by MA Financial, the prize recognises and supports emerging and early-career artists in Australia. It returned this month for its third year with a record-breaking number of entries and an increased prize of \$15,000.

McLauchlan is a proud Gamilaraay artist based on Wiradjuri Country in Wagga Wagga. Primarily involved in printmaking, she has been recognised for her talent across a variety of awards and programs. She previously received the National Regional Arts Fellowship in 2024 and participated in the McCahon House x Bundanon Exchange earlier this year.

Speaking at Sydney Contemporary's opening day,

she expressed surprise at her win. "Thank you so much. I appreciate it, and I'd just like to thank MA Financial Group, Sydney Contemporary and Carriageworks for holding this space, but also, I'd like to thank and congratulate the other finalists," said McLauchlan. "I had no idea I was going to win, and I'm still in shock. I thought I was a winner just being a finalist."

Mandaymanday / String of Stars explores the balance between chaos and control in printmaking — using complex textures and layered processes to embrace the qualities of the medium. Using domestic fabrics such as vintage blankets as a base, she incorporates organic materials such as leaves and animal pelts to print, eco-dye, and encourage active interaction with her audience.

This experimental approach to both materials and ideas is deeply informed by her Indigenous heritage, which McLauchlan uses to shape and guide her practice.

Andrew Martin, managing

director and head of asset management at MA Financial Group, said the company was proud to support emerging artists through the MA Art Prize, and praised McLauchlan's work.

"It is extraordinary. In person, you can see the passion and love that's gone into the work," he said.

"(Her work) stood out for its originality and distinctly Australian voice. Intertwining native and colonial materials to create an impression of Wiradjuri Country, Wagga Wagga, NSW... and symbolising connections of bloodlines across generations is unique and inspiring."

Mr Martin said the prize was not only a recognition of rising artistic talent, but also an opportunity to support a professional career.

Fair director Zoe Paulsen commented that the breadth of works displayed at this year's showcase is the product of 116 galleries and over 500 artists from all over Australia, Aotearoa, other Asia countries and beyond.



Mandaymanday / String of Stars

"As we all know, at the heart of Sydney Contemporary are our artists and gallerists ... These programs reflect the ambition, diversity and vitality of Sydney Contemporary — not just an exhibition, but a cultural

destination and a celebration of art in all its forms," she said.

McLauchlan is currently presenting an exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales which will run until October 19.

environment plan

seeking relevant persons' input



Chevron has been operating in Australia for more than 70 years – creating enduring benefits and delivering reliable, affordable energy. We welcome feedback to enhance our environmental management measures as we progress offshore activities to support the ongoing supply of natural gas to Western Australia and the Asia Pacific region.

our activities

Chevron Australia, on behalf of the Wheatstone Project joint venture participants, operates the Wheatstone Project in Western Australia. Wheatstone is Australia's first natural gas 'hub' – with capability for third parties to process gas through its facilities.

To date, Wheatstone's two LNG trains have been supplied with gas from the Chevron Australia-operated Wheatstone and Iago fields, as well as gas from the Woodside-owned Julimar and Brunello fields. At the completion of an asset swap between Chevron Australia and Woodside, Woodside will transfer all of its interest in the Julimar-Brunello Project (65%) to Chevron Australia. We are now revising our Wheatstone Start-Up and Operations Environment Plan (the revised EP) to incorporate the Julimar-Brunello field production system.

The feedback we receive during consultation will inform and enhance the revised EP, which will be assessed by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA).

environment that may be affected (EMBA)

As part of our environmental assessment and consultation process, Chevron Australia creates an EMBA map to provide geographical context for stakeholders to determine if their functions, interests or activities may be affected by an offshore activity during operations or in an emergency scenario.

The map shows the operational area (OA) and the EMBA, which is based on a worst-case environmental scenario, which in this case is an unplanned release (oil spill) resulting from a major defect in a flowline or trunkline.

The EMBA has been defined through combining multiple simulations for the unplanned release scenario under different weather and ocean conditions.



This means that in the highly unlikely event an unplanned release does occur, a geographical area much smaller than the EMBA would be affected.

The majority of the impacts or risks directly arising from planned activities would occur within close proximity of the OA. Chevron Australia has systematic control measures to prevent and mitigate emergencies and to reduce the impact of planned activities on the environment, including ecological, social and cultural sensitivities.

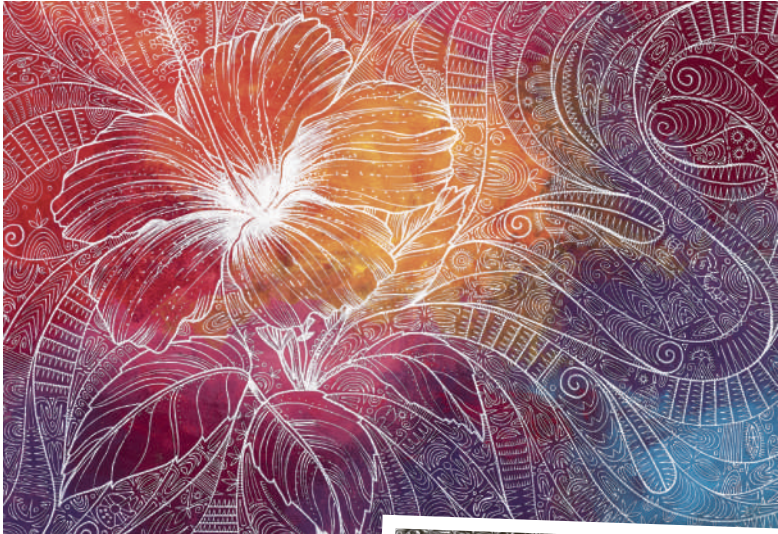
we want to hear from you

We are now seeking feedback and input if you consider your functions, interests, or activities may be affected. This may include Traditional Owners and Custodians with a spiritual and cultural connection to land and sea Country, local community members, and those involved in commercial or recreational fishing and tourism.

Please contact us by **16 October 2025** to be included in consultations. Visit australia.chevron.com/feedback, call tollfree on **1800 225 195** or scan the **QR code** for more information.



Blend of ancestry and sci-fi



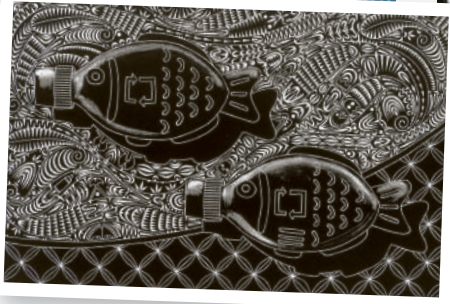
PHOEBE BLOGG

Acclaimed artist Brian Robinson unveiled his new exhibition *Ur Wayii (Incoming Tide)* recently at the Australian National Maritime Museum.

A Waiben (Thursday Island) artist who also has Maluylgal and Wuthathi heritage, Robinson's work explores imagery drawn from ancestral iconography of the Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait).

He uniquely interweaves this with images from popular culture and science fiction.

Robinson uses these references as metaphors for colonisation, juxtaposing the ancient and modern to create powerful allegories which examine the moral and psychological impacts of how empire has reshaped ideas about Australia's future.



Robinson is of the Kala Lagaw Ya and Wuthathi language groups of the Torres Strait. Now Cairns-based, he is known for printmaking and public sculptures, using a variety of techniques to make bold, innovative works.

His work has contributed significantly to Cairns through major public art installations, including his monumental stainless steel woven sculptures installed on the Cairns Esplanade in 2003.



Brian Robinson's new exhibition *Ur Wayii (Incoming Tide)* is at the Australian National Maritime Museum. Left: Robinson's *Efflorescence Hibiscus* and *One Fish Two*. Picture: Saul Steed

"I work in a diverse range of media, including painting, printmaking, sculpture, design and public art to produce works of art that echo my Indigenous heritage," Robinson said.

"My creations are seemingly incongruous concoctions where many motifs and characters are co-opted into the spirit world of the Islander imagination, which are then intertwined with historical narrative, personal history

and humour." Australian National Maritime Museum manager of Indigenous programs Matt Poll said Robinson's work was a living document of resilience.

"Brian's art shows the living, evolving, maritime worlds of Zenadth Kes. It is not just aesthetically compelling; it is a living document of resilience," he said.

"It celebrates the survival of ancient traditions, demonstrates the power of

adaptation, reclaims historical narratives, and asserts a confident, contemporary Zenadth Kes identity."

Ur Wayii (Incoming Tide) is a multi-disciplinary exhibition spanning printmaking, sculpture, video and graphic design. It is a complex tapestry woven from traditional knowledge, historical narratives, and a keen engagement with the contemporary globalised world.

Dance group marks its 30th year of theatre

PHOEBE BLOGG

In celebration of 30 years since the premiere of its inaugural work, *Marrugeku* recently returned to Gunbalanya – the community in West Arnhem Land where the company began with its first-ever production, *Mimi*.

To mark the occasion and remember the *Kunwinjku* Elders who guided the work, there was a screening of *Mimi* in conjunction with the Stone Country Festival, Gunbalanya. Now Australia's leading intercultural and trans-Indigenous dance theatre company, *Marrugeku* is globally recognised for work of extraordinary quality incorporating theatre, and multimedia installations.

With its first tour of *Mimi* in 1996 across Arnhem Land and its second tour in 1997 to Europe, the company captured national and international attention. The need to communicate in different ways to diverse audiences defines its practices and production values, and it has toured works around the world.

Marrugeku plays a vital role in raising global awareness of the diversity of Indigenous experience, confronting the complex social realities of contemporary Indigenous life

while meeting the urgent need for truth-telling about Australia's past. Founded in 1994 to create *Mimi*, *Marrugeku* began with an ambitious collaboration based on an idea by Gamilaroi and Mandandanji choreographer Michael Leslie and directed by co-artistic director of *Stalker Theatre* Rachael Swain. Commissioned for the 1996 Perth Festival, *Mimi* was developed in Gunbalanya with *Kunwinjku* storytellers, musicians and dancers, West Australian Indigenous performers, and physical artists from *Stalker Theatre*.

"After discussions with Michael Leslie and Rachael Swain, the Festival commissioned the new company to develop its first work, *Mimi*, for ground-breaking performances at the 1996 Festival," Henry Boston, former general manager, Festival of Perth, said. "It was the first time that the stories of the *Kunwinjku* people of Western Arnhem Land had been presented in Perth and the audiences loved the show."

"Since then, *Marrugeku* has gone from strength to strength, under the leadership of Rachael and Dalisa Pigram, to become a very special intercultural company and a great ambassador for Australia across the globe."

First Nations designers' work to go on show in Fashion Week

PHOEBE BLOGG

Melbourne Fashion Week will return soon with showstopping runways, fashion moments, industry talks, exhibitions and more.

First Nations designers including Clair Helen, Grace Lillian Lee, Ngali, and banbu will showcase their garments.

Running from October 20-26 with the theme *Come As You Are*, the event invites guests to be part of a citywide celebration of self-expression.

This year the program features six premium runways across Naarm (Melbourne), including the new sustainable 1 Hotel Melbourne, the dining hub *il Mercato Centrale*, the Melbourne Recital Centre, 101 Collins Street, Kensington's *Younghusband*, and a return to Little Bourke Street with *Emporium Melbourne*.

Showcasing a mix of emerging and established designers, MFW continues its focus on sustainability and inclusivity while celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island cultures and Australia's diverse fashion community.

This year's program will feature the largest number of independent events to date, with more than 40 experiences including pop-up regenerative stores, vintage runways, retail events, fashion markets, talks, open studios, and projections.

Five Fashion Capsule exhibitions will bring colour and style to city streets and centres, showcasing the works of more than 30 designers, stylists and artisans.

The MFW Conversations series will return with sessions led by industry experts.

Acting Lord Mayor of Melbourne Roshena Campbell said Naarm would "cement its place as Australia's fashion and retail capital, with bold new runway locations and a spotlight on local designers, artisans and creatives", noting more than 100,000 people were expected to flock to the city.



Sene Maluwapi wears *Mumred* on the 2024 MFW *ganbu marra* runway. Pic: Naomi Rahim



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Bringing proof for action on climate

JARRED CROSS

Fiji's Minister for Environment and Climate Change says the permanent impacts of climate change are a reality, not projections, faced by Pacific communities as a symposium attempts at strengthening evidence bases to turn advocacy into action. Minister Mosese Bulitavu opened the inaugural Research Symposium on Loss and Damage in Pacific Small Island Developing States in Savusavu on September 16, making the case that Pacific-led research and data is crucial to planning for the future.

The event brought together more than 150 researchers, policymakers and community leaders.

Central to discussion, debate and negotiations, with focus on small island developing states, is loss and damage — described as “the adverse effects of climate change that cannot be prevented or mitigated” by international member-based development organisation Pacific Community (SPC), formerly South Pacific Commission.

The Loss and Damage Fund, a global financial mechanism to assist developing nations with funding to recover from unavoidable impacts, was established across COP27 and COP28 summits between 2022-24.

“Strong policy depends on strong evidence. By bringing

governments, researchers and regional organisations together, this symposium builds the case for finance that flows directly to Pacific communities,” Monash University's Professor Paul Dargusch told the symposium.

Professor Dargusch, the director of Monash's Pacific Action for Climate Transitions Research Centre, noted that

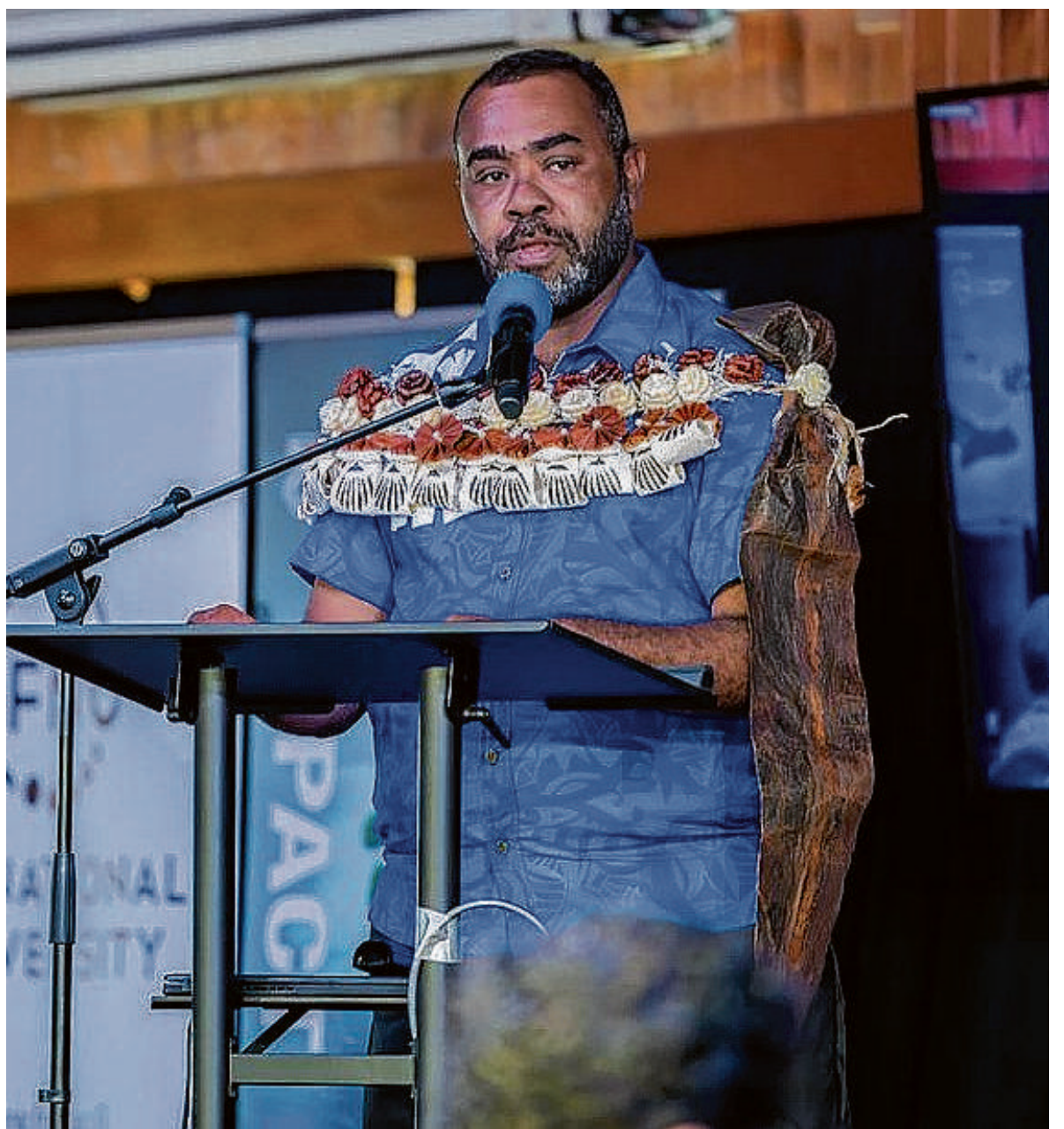
“

By bringing together lived experience, traditional knowledge and scientific data, we can shape responses that are regionally led and globally credible.

Maria Fuata

credible research is key to accessing the Loss and Damage Fund. Monash co-hosted the symposium with Fiji National University and SPC.

The gathering had been described by SPC as an opportunity for communities, policymakers, climate negotiators and organisations to build their



Fiji Minister for Environment and Climate Change Mosese Bulitavu at the inaugural symposium.

evidence-base of data “to support loss and damage planning processes and requests for access to financing under multilateral climate mechanisms”.

“This is about knowledge that governments can use for relocation planning, for water security, for accessing finance,” SPC deputy director-general for operations and integration Maria Fuata said.

“By bringing together lived experience, traditional knowledge and scientific data, we can shape responses that are regionally led and globally credible.”

National governments, universities, regional organisa-

tions, representatives from the private sector and multilateral development banks are on the agenda to deliver presentations. Sessions also included looks at water security and impacts of climate change away from economics.

This includes the impact on identity and culture.

“Our islands resist their future under water, and our people persist to survive the impacts of climate change,” Fiji National University's Professor Unaisi Nabobo-Baba said.

“At FNU, we are committed to strengthening partnerships on loss and damage, and to finding solutions together.

“This symposium must be more than words; it is in our communities that our thinking must show impact. With powerhouses from across the Pacific gathered here, I believe this symposium will spark real change.”

In 2016, cyclone Winston devastated Fiji. Mr Bulitavu said in 36 hours, the deadly and destructive severe cyclone, “wiped out” one third of the country's economy. “These are not projections, this is our reality,” Mr Bulitavu said.

“This symposium strengthens our negotiating position and helps design systems that truly serve those most at risk.”

BC chiefs' anger as Canada pushes LNG expansion

GIOVANNI TORRE

The Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs says Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's push to double LNG Canada as a “nation-building” project ignores the right of Indigenous peoples to free, prior and informed consent, and asks taxpayers to underwrite a project with no clear business case.

Despite billions in subsidies spent, the union said on September 15 that LNG Canada's foreign-owned partners have yet to commit to financing Phase 2, while low cost global competitors “dominate the market”.

The British Columbia chiefs say the project violates Canada's commitments under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples because authorities “failed

to consult or get the consent from impacted First Nations title holders before advancing LNG Canada's expansion”.

UBCIC said the project locks in high emissions and is “draining public funds for little return”. Union president Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, said they were “gravely concerned the Government of Canada continues to deliberately sidestep its duty to consult and co-operate with First Nations”.

“Rather than being met with partnership, we (get) an ultimatum: accept fossil fuel expansion or be pushed aside,” he said. “LNG Canada is not only a massive source of greenhouse gas emissions but also drives destructive fracking, further threatening our lands, waters and communities. Emissions do not recognise territorial

boundaries. Through resolution, the UBCIC Chiefs Council has recognised the health and environmental hazards of the fracking/LNG industry.

“We reject any process that tramples our inherent and constitutionally protected title and rights, ignores free, prior and informed consent, and sacrifices the climate for foreign corporate profits. True nation-building requires working with us, not against us.”

According to analysis by Clean Energy Canada, LNG Canada Phase 1 will cause \$400 billion Canadian (\$A435 million) in climate harm over the full course of the project lifecycle. Combined with Phase 2, the cost of its climate harm rises to almost \$1 trillion CAD. “As millions of hectares burn and as thousands of Canadians are

forced to evacuate from their homes, we need not look far to see the climate harm all around us; of course, caused by burning fossil fuels,” the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs said in a joint statement.

Hagwilget Village Council deputy chief, Gwii Lok'im Gibuu / Jesse Stoepler, said Canada is “asking its taxpayers to bankroll foreign corporations while turning its back on Indigenous rights”.

“The Government is propping up an industry private investors won't even back themselves, and in doing so, it is ignoring its legal and moral obligations to Indigenous Peoples,” he said.

Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chief, Chief Na'Moks, said “Canada cannot claim reconciliation while forcing LNG projects

through without our consent. Free, prior and informed consent is not optional, it's a right. Calling this project ‘nation-building’ is an insult, because you cannot build a country by trampling the very nations whose lands you exploit.

“By choosing foreign corporations over Indigenous rights, over our lands, and over our future, Mark Carney is showing that reconciliation is nothing more than a slogan.”

Gidimt'en Checkpoint Wet'suwet'en Nation spokesperson Sleydo' / Molly Wickham said by financially backing phase 2 of a project that has “caused intense conflict for the Wet'suwet'en over the past six years”, the Government is “sending a clear message ... Indigenous people don't matter”.

Crossroads we are facing

HANNAH MCGLADE

Aboriginal Australia is at a crossroads.

Traditionally Federal Labor governments have offered more on Indigenous policy than the Coalition. There is a dawning realisation among many of us that those days have passed.

Although we have always known constitutionally the Commonwealth can assume responsibility for the rights of the child, the recent release of a legal opinion from two senior barristers by the National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Legal Service is a helpful elucidation of this fact.

The Constitution allows Federal implementation of United Nations treaties under the external affairs power and where there is inconsistency between Federal and State law, the former prevails.

The constitutional law opinion from NATSILS states the Commonwealth can pass laws to protect the rights of children consistently with the UN Convention On The Rights of the Child. For example, a law that the minimum age of criminal responsibility is 14 years, in line with international best practice and the jurisprudence of the UN committee overseeing the convention.

The Prime Minister and

Minister for Indigenous Australians maintain that responsibility for the shocking situation impacting Aboriginal children in justice systems lies with States and Territories. They know the laws being passed violate UN laws and put Aboriginal children's lives at risk.

There is no question about legal authority; the question is the government's political will—there is none. Labor is relying on the defeat of the Voice referendum as a mandate to do nothing.

As I wrote years ago in my Stanner Award-winning book *Our Greatest Challenge*, Aboriginal children and human rights, power relations formed in the violence of colonisation see Aboriginal children as powerless and without rights.

Today, Aboriginal children are increasingly at risk of removal and incarceration notwithstanding the government's promise of Closing The Gap. I refer to it as a promise because the closing the gap agreement is non-binding.

This situation has never been addressed, with the Uluru Statement From The Heart's call for Voice rejected at referendum following an appalling campaign marked by lies and misinformation and funded by billionaires.

Aboriginal children remain an easy target for State governments wanting to be elected on "tough on crime" campaigns, fuelling laws that violate binding UN conventions on the rights of the child and the prohibition of race discrimination.

These laws are before the UN Committee On The Elimination Of Race Discrimination under the Early Warning Urgent Action procedure in a complaint I authored with Professor Megan Davis, calling on the committee to find Australia is in breach of its international legal obligations. The constitutional opinion affirms the Federal Government has the power to address this, but chooses not to.

While the ALP has supported Aboriginal politicians into Federal Parliament, these politicians are not showing the leadership needed in the current crisis. What's the use of being an Aboriginal politician in a likely three-term government, with a substantial majority, if you cannot stand up for Aboriginal children? In South Australia the Attorney-General Kyam Maher, who identifies as Aboriginal, has even passed laws which will drive an escalation of Indigenous youth incarceration.

We recently saw Aboriginal leaders acting with the Australian Human Rights

Commission issuing a statement on the anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Pat Dodson and Ken Wyatt along with Katie Kiss and former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioners called for recognition of Indigenous rights and the implementation of the Senate inquiry into UNDRIP, which recommended a national action plan to implement the declaration. The Senate inquiry remains neglected by the government—who claim to respect international human rights law but fail to act while Aboriginal children's rights are violated.

The Coalition of Peaks, working in partnership with the Federal Government, seems unable to demand the change urgently needed for children and youth. The lack of an independent Voice to Parliament has left a vacuum when national leadership and advocacy is required.

Having been a member of the UN Permanent Forum On Indigenous Issues for six years I repeatedly highlighted the issue of violence and discrimination Aboriginal children experience in the justice system, and how dangerous this is, and calling for Australia to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention On The Rights Of The Child which

allows for individual children to make complaints to the UN.

If Australia removes its reservation to Article 37—an article that prohibits children in adult prison facilities—we could see real change. Instead, they claim to support Closing The Gap while maintaining policies that keep the gap and even increase it.

The forum has recognised discrimination and violence against children and named Australia in its reports—but is ignored by the Federal Government.

Meanwhile it appoints a First Nations Ambassador to promote its policies of Aboriginal economic empowerment at the UN. This shows a failure to understand that Aboriginal people, women especially, will always stand with and protect our children—who mean more to us than any economic policies ever could.

Many years after the acclaimed, late Aboriginal artist Juluma Rover Thomas painted the "Crossroads" in his work, I wonder; was he painting his Country—or a picture of the place that we find ourselves in today?

Dr Hannah McGlade is a Kurin Minang human rights expert, law academic and member of the United Nations Permanent Forum On Indigenous Issues

Sentence tells our community that our lives do not matter

JADE APPO RITCHIE

Warning: some readers may find the language used in this article distressing.

The first time I remember experiencing racism, I was five years old. In Grade 1, we were paired with Grade 7 buddies, the eldest, meant to settle us and protect us. Mine bullied me for being Aboriginal. She called me a "n...r." I still remember going home crying.

My mum picked me up on her pushbike, my little brother in the baby seat behind her. When I told her what happened, she rode straight to see that girl's parents. They knew our family for years, ran the servo near my Nan's, and claimed she must have learnt it at school.

By Grade 4, the pattern was already familiar. After years of taunts, a group of girls were finally forced to apologise. The principal forced them to give me a gift, a tiny piece of driftwood with seagulls glued to the top. I cherished it, not because I wanted it, but because it was one of the few times someone was made to make amends.

And even with a lifetime of this, I was still shocked by the words Jake Danby used after fatally running over Mr Whitehurst in Darwin in 2024. He killed a man, injured another, then fled. He drove off and boasted about it in a

stream of text messages to his friend.

In those messages, he called the victims "dogs" and "n...s." He wrote that they "rolled all over the road like bitches" and said, "the world needs c...s like me to teach these c...s a lesson". He even joked that maybe he could claim his victim's Centrelink "for taking out another oxygen thief".

While Mr Whitehurst's family mourned their sudden, violent loss, they were forced to read those words in court. Double the trauma: first the death, then knowing their loved one was mocked and devalued.

And what did the court do with this? For killing a man, injuring another, leaving the victims to suffer and one to die, Danby was sentenced to a 12-month community order, five months home detention. Justice Brownhill said she accepted Danby was now remorseful. How did she come to that conclusion?

What has he done to show change? Where is the psychiatric assessment? No sane person responds to killing with messages like that. And if nothing has changed, then what safety can Aboriginal people expect when he is back in the community?

The Director of Public Prosecutions called Danby's sentence "manifestly

inadequate". Mr Whitehurst's family, the community, all of us deserved better. But harsher jail time alone does not fix racism.

Home detention certainly will not. What it does do though is send a clear message: Aboriginal lives do not matter.

My teenagers read the coverage. They see his words and the leniency he received.

They wonder if their lives are worth less. That is the violence of this sentence: it harms every Aboriginal child who learns of it.

This is not an isolated case. In 2024, Kumanjaya Dixon was killed by Joshua Mason in another hit-and-run. Instead of calling for help, Mason and his mother moved and abandoned her body as though she were rubbish on the road. He served two years. Imagine treating someone's daughter, someone's loved one, with such callous disdain. Imagine the court saying two years was enough.

These cases prove the justice system is stacked against us. Yet in Darwin I still hear the lie that Aboriginal kids "get a slap on the wrist". Our children fill the prisons. We are incarcerated at the highest rates in the world. The truth is this: when white people kill us, they get mercy. When police kill us, they get impunity.

Danby's words were a



Nichols St Local Court building in Darwin. Picture: AAP

continuation of a long history. Aboriginal people were dehumanised to justify massacres, and stolen land, wages and children. Strip us of humanity and no one feels remorse. Danby's language is the modern face of that same old logic.

Words matter. They tell my children their lives are worth less and teach others we are fair game.

We cannot allow this to be the norm. Australians must stop pretending racism is an aberration. Racism is baked into our institutions, courtrooms, daily conversations. When we hear racist language, stop it. When we see racist memes, shut them down. If we witness

injustice, speak out. Silence is complicity.

We should all be disgusted. Every one of us: the judge who accepted Danby's apology, his family and friends who excused him, and readers too.

Such racism cannot be normalised or brushed aside as another case or headline. When a man kills and then mocks an Aboriginal person and then walks free to serve his time in comfort, that is a stain on all of us. Justice will only come when Australians stop tolerating this. When we reject the excuses. When we demand better. When we refuse to look away.

Jade Appo Ritchie is a Gooreng Gooreng woman living on Larrakia Country



Chief Abram Benedict.
Picture: Chiefs of Ontario

Directory to tackle business ID fraud

GIOVANNI TORRE

Canadian First Nations-owned businesses are being invited to register for what officials are calling the first Indigenous-led and certified commercial directory in Ontario, as part of a drive to end identity fraud.

The Chiefs of Ontario, which represents 133 First Nations in the Canadian province, announced this month it is building a directory which aims to showcase Indigenous-owned businesses, give them better access to public procurement and contracting opportunities, and help cut down on what Ontario Regional Chief Abram Benedict called "the growing issue of First Nation identity fraud in business".

"We've seen lots of controversy in the last little while around businesses taking opportunities . . . or contracts that are designed for First Nation businesses when, at the end of the day, some of these businesses aren't even owned by our people," Chief Benedict said in Timmins, Ontario.

"We're going to continue to make sure that we're verifying, working with leadership, that these are businesses that the community supports and are not people taking advantage of those opportunities."

The Chiefs of Ontario told Northwest Ontario News verification and certification was a multi-step process.

Formal verification will require business owners to submit "proof of their Indigeneity as a First Nation person and relevant business documents about their equity and control in the business".

"This process is designed to confirm that each business is a legitimate First Nation-owned enterprise," the organisation said.

The Chiefs of Ontario said the process culminated with certification by the organisation.

The directory's creation is being supported by Ontario's Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation.

"The purpose of this table was to address barriers to financial self-sufficiency for First Nations and to advance economic reconciliation," the Chiefs of Ontario's statement said.

World expertise on its way to Australia

BRENDAN FOSTER

Indigenous businesses from around the world will soon gather in Naarm/Melbourne for a leading international forum focused on promoting Indigenous economic empowerment and entrepreneurship.

Kinaway Chamber of Commerce will host the World Indigenous Business Forum at Hyatt Place from October 28 to 30, which will showcase delegates from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

Representatives will be arriving from around the world for the conference, delivering both an economic boost and future prospects for Victoria.

Kinaway Chamber acting chief executive, Alex Martins,

said the WIBF provided an invaluable platform for leaders from business, government, academia, and industry to come together, share insights, and develop strategies that foster economic empowerment for Indigenous communities worldwide.

"We have representatives from at least 14 different countries coming so far, which is amazing," he said.

"We have two delegates coming over from WA as well as 17 businesses and people coming from New South Wales, Queensland, the Northern Territory and the rest of the country.

"Obviously, we're going to do our best to get as many as we can to make it the best WIBF they've held."

Kinaway board member Trent

Brickle said the forum was a celebration of First Nations businesses.

He said the event would also put the Victoria-based chamber on the map.

"We've been spending a lot of time with the Indigenous Canadian delegations that have been coming across to Australia over the last two years," he said.

"There is a great deal of shared understanding, values, and experiences that have grown through all the networking events and relationship-building we've undertaken, especially with Canada, which has been truly excellent.

"It's also helped enhance the Kinaway profile by hosting events and organising a successful occasion, while also continu-

ing to strengthen our reputation with the State Government and being a leader in this space."

Aboriginal media and TV personality and proud Yankanjatjara and Wirangu woman, Shelley Ware, and leading consultant and Wurundjeri and Dja Dja Wurrung woman, Liz Allen, will be the MCs of the event.

Now in its 16th year, WIBF is a leading global platform for First Nations business leaders, entrepreneurs and advocates to convene and promote Indigenous-led economic development. Originating in New York in 2010, the forum has travelled to multiple countries, consistently celebrating and strengthening Indigenous entrepreneurship and economic self-determination.



Jasmine Kadic, Kim Collard and Sharna Collard. Picture: Reece Harley

Leaders provide business insights

REECE HARLEY

Four Noongar entrepreneurs shared advice for emerging business owners at the Blak Angels Investor Network event in Boorloo (Perth) this month.

The forum brought together Aboriginal investors, business leaders and startups to exchange insights and strengthen support for Indigenous enterprise.

Whadjuk and Ballardong Noongar businesswoman Jasmine Kadic told the audience clarity of purpose was central to building resilience.

"Understand why you're doing what you're doing. What that will do will ground you," she said.

Ms Kadic is the managing director of Benang, a contracting firm servicing the water,

power, gas and mining industries. Established in 2018, it now has more than 50 staff, and won the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business excellence award in WA in 2023.

Ms Kadic also chairs Noongar Mia Mia, a housing provider.

She said a strong sense of purpose was essential when balancing corporate growth with community responsibility.

Gordon Cole, co-founder of Cole Supplies and chair of the Noongar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, stressed the importance of preparation.

"Do all the research and reading and talk to everyone you can. Just arm yourself up with all the knowledge," he said.

Cole Supplies is a wholesaler

of workwear and industrial goods, and the chamber now represents hundreds of Indigenous businesses across WA.

Mr Cole said the sector's continued expansion relied on entrepreneurs being willing to learn, ask questions and draw on the experience of others.

Ballardong and Whadjuk Noongar Elder Kim Collard, founder of Kulbardi and Kooya Australia Fleet Solutions, spoke about the value of acting quickly on opportunities.

"Don't hesitate. Try and create a business where there's very few competitors," he said.

Mr Collard has built two of the largest Indigenous-owned businesses in the country by entering markets where Aboriginal enterprises were largely absent. He was recognised as male Elder of the year at the

2024 National NAIDOC Awards.

He also established the Bibbulmun Fund, which directs a portion of company profits to community programs.

Sharna Collard, chief executive of Kooya Australia Fleet Solutions, said passion and ethics should underpin all business decisions. "Follow your heart, find something that you're passionate about. Act with integrity," she said.

The Blak Angels Investor Network was established in 2023 to connect Aboriginal entrepreneurs with capital and mentorship, and to build stronger ties between Indigenous investors and start-ups. The initiative has also explored international collaboration, including with Native American investors and First Nations enterprises in North America.

Fears over sale of resort

GIOVANNI TORRE

The Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network has raised concerns over the likely sale of Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia — owner-operator of Ayers Rock Resort and Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre — by the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation to US-owned Journey Beyond for approximately \$300 million.

Journey Beyond is owned by New York-based private equity giant Crestview Partners.

NTIBN chief executive Naomi Anstess told National Indigenous Times she “100 per cent” would rather see the properties in Indigenous hands.

“NTIBN recognises that the ILSC’s statutory purpose is to assist our people with the acquisition and management of land, saltwater and freshwater so they can achieve economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits,” she said.

“From our perspective, a sale to an international entity feels at odds with that purpose.

“While we do not have full visibility of the ILSC’s considerations, we hope this decision was taken only after exhausting all other options.

“We would have welcomed opportunities for strategic partnerships, collaborations with ourselves and other Aboriginal-owned entities, or even innovative models where ownership remained with the ILSC while operations were outsourced.”



Desert Gardens Hotel at Voyages Ayers Rock Resort. Picture: Berwyn Lewis/AAP

An ILSC spokesperson told National Indigenous Times that Journey Beyond has “grown to now be Australia’s leading and largest experiential tourism group”.

“We believe they are the ideal potential partner, that presents us with the best opportunity to deliver on our primary objective — to fulfil our statutory obligations of returning land to Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander peoples, and in doing so, create benefit for Traditional Owners at both Yulara (site of Ayers Rock Resort) and Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre (in far north Queensland), as well as Indigenous people at a local, regional, and national level,” they said.

“These discussions are ongoing and at this stage there is no final binding agreement,” they said.

It is understood that while the sale of Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia is subject to discussion, the land on which the two key venues sit is not for sale.

“Without the detail behind the ILSC’s decision, we can’t pass judgment, but we remain confident that solutions could have been found to maintain Aboriginal ownership and control,” Ms Anstess said. “Blak-

fullas have the capability, the smarts, the innovation and the will; where we dare to look.”

Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, Malardirri McCarthy, told National Indigenous Times the sale “is a commercial decision for the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation and its board, and while the sale is still under negotiation it is not appropriate to comment”.

A chance to step in unison along tourism path

CALLAN MORSE

The New South Wales Aboriginal Business Roundtable is set to be held in October in support of the State’s Indigenous tourism sector.

Rescheduled from July due to severe weather, the eighth roundtable, to be held under the theme Walking Together To Create Cultural Tourism Experiences, focuses on Aboriginal cultural tourism and the visitor economy.

The free event is designed for

Aboriginal business owners and operators, or those with an interest in the industry.

Held in partnership with Destination NSW, the round table aims to give business owners opportunities to collaborate, gain insights from other Aboriginal tourism business operators, and discuss procurement with representatives from the public and private sectors.

The roundtable will focus on four key themes: creating new pathways, boosting Aboriginal cultural tourism in NSW, collab-

orating for a NSW more attractive to tourists, and empowering regional Aboriginal businesses.

NSW Aboriginal Tourism Operators Council chair and Yuin-Ngarrug man, Dwayne Bannon-Harrison, will deliver the keynote address.

Mr Bannon-Harrison said the council is proud to be a longtime supporter of the Roundtable.

“For over 15 years, we’ve worked to empower Aboriginal communities across NSW to build strong pathways into tourism,” he said.

Tourism Australia head of Indigenous affairs, Phil Lockyer, and Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council and Sand Dune Adventures CEO, Andrew Smith, will also take part in a panel discussion.

The event will be attended by NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, David Harris, who will share insights from the NSW Aboriginal Business Taskforce and NSW Roadmap for Aboriginal Business Growth.

The round table will be held to coincide with Indigenous

Business Month, which is being held under the 2025 theme of strength through collaboration.

The event will run from 10am to 3pm on Thursday October 9 at Williamstown’s Murrook Culture Centre.

Participants can attend in-person or online via livestream, with registrations open at www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/aboriginal-affairs-nsw/national-agreement-on-closing-gap/aboriginal-business-growth/nsw-aboriginal-business-roundtable.

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Bright bid aiming to empower

NATASHA CLARK

For years Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation, which serves an Aboriginal community in WA's Kimberley region, has relied on Horizon Power's diesel generators.

Now it wants to flip the model by building and owning a solar farm which would supply most of the community's electricity while selling power back into the grid.

The Aalga Goolil "Sun Turtle" project is designed to meet about 80 per cent of the energy needs of Djarindjin and neighbouring Aboriginal community Lombadina.

The rest would come from Horizon Power's upgraded diesel plant, which sits beside the land earmarked for the new solar station.

What makes the project unusual is ownership. The community plans to build, run and maintain the facility, selling wholesale power into the grid under a purchase agreement.

Chief executive Nathan McIvor told National Indigenous Times the principle was simple: the community wanted to be treated like any other generator.

"We want to be the seller of renewable energy, and for Hori-

zon Power to put it through their infrastructure," he said.

"Our assets will be the solar farm itself."

Profits would be reinvested into housing, jobs and services for local families.

Leaders describe it as a way to build generational wealth and reduce dependence on government funding.

Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation, already the largest Aboriginal employer on the Dampier Peninsula, has committed \$1 million of its own funds and secured a conditional \$5m government grant.

It has also hired engineering, legal and financial advisers, arguing the project shows the community has the capacity and the appetite to manage a renewable energy power station.

"We're taking all the risk, putting up the front-end costs, and showing real community buy-in," Mr McIvor said.

"We're taking the lead here, not being told or to accept second or third best."

Negotiations with State-owned Horizon Power are continuing.

A Horizon Power spokesperson said the enterprise is committed to working collaboratively with Aboriginal Commu-



DAC director Andrew Sampi and DAC CEO Nathan McIvor. Picture: Natasha Clark

ity Corporations to support sustainable and community-driven energy projects.

"Horizon Power routinely engages with proponents in relation to these opportunities," the spokesperson said.

This engagement occurs on a confidential basis for commercial reasons.

For Djarindjin leaders, Horizon Power's approach underscores the complexity of breaking new ground in community-led power generation.

"Nothing was ever achieved without doing the hard thing," Mr McIvor said.

"For Horizon Power, doing this with us has also been challenging but they have remained

willing to do the hard thing." The project is being framed as more than a clean energy investment.

DAC director Andrew Sampi said it offers a tangible way to tackle entrenched inequality.

"We hear all the time on the news about governments not meeting their Closing The Gap targets," Mr Sampi said.

"This is a project that could actually close the gap."

Chairman Brian Lee said it was about putting words into action.

"We believe in self-determination, we are practising that, we are doing that, and we believe we are in the best position to demonstrate self-determination for

our community and our people," Mr Lee said.

Community leaders say the model could be replicated in other remote towns, showing Aboriginal corporations can generate their own power, cut diesel use and channel profits back into local priorities.

"It's the first of its kind for a remote Aboriginal community in WA," Mr McIvor said.

"It will support the economic independence of the community... and is an example of self-determination at work."

The project is central to DAC's goal of sourcing 82 per cent of its power from renewables by 2030. Mr McIvor said: "We don't want a hand-out, we want a hand-up."

Businesses on global stage

CALLAN MORSE

A delegation of First Nations Victorians recently showcased their strengths and talents on the international stage at the World Expo 2025.

The five-yearly expo, running since 1851, acts as a global platform for achievement, innovation, collaboration, and co-operation.

The Victorian delegates travelled to Osaka in Japan in late August, bringing their knowledge and products to an international audience.

Ten representatives attended, from agri-food businesses Bidja Wines, Blak Brews, and Jala Jala Treats, as well as Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation's Budj Bim Cultural Landscape Tours, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, and Barenji Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation's Dal-ki Garringa.

Attendees visited the six-month long expo during Te Aratini Indigenous Peoples Week, which showcases Indigenous cultures, perspectives and contributions to international relationships.

Delegates said they found



Delegates participated in panel discussions, networking opportunities and cultural exchange.

the program valuable and successful.

"The program was one of the best we have been involved with as we gained deep market insight and key connections to take our next steps in exporting our wines to Japan," a delegation spokesperson said.

Expo highlights included a showcase of Indigenous products and services.

Delegates participated in panel discussions, networking opportunities and cultural exchange, with three organisations attending a masterclass with distributors from Japan and Korea.

"I strongly believe the program was highly valuable in

showcasing Victorian First Nations businesses globally," a spokesperson said.

The delegation also hosted the Victorian Entrepreneurship Panel in the Expo's Australian Pavilion, where Blak Brews, Budj Bim Cultural Landscape Tours and Wadawurrung Enterprises were panellists.

"The immersion program was a huge success," one delegate said.

The delegates' participation in the expo helped boost Australia's global profile ahead of the World Indigenous Business Forum, set to be held in Naarm (Melbourne) in October.

Program helps girls walk proudly in two worlds

First Nations girls across regional Western Australia will continue to access life-changing opportunities, with Fortescue renewing its partnership with Shooting Stars and the Port Hedland Academy.

Shooting Stars began in Halls Creek as a Netball WA pilot program. Now 10 years on, it supports more than 1,000 First Nations girls and young women across 21 sites in WA and South Australia.

While the program began with a netball focus, and is still part of Netball WA, Shooting Stars has evolved into a holistic social and emotional wellbeing program. By partnering with host schools and providing participants with advocacy, support, opportunities and weekly health and wellbeing sessions, the program focuses on building confidence, engagement at school, celebrating culture, and creating pathways for the future.

Largely run by First Nations women, Shooting Stars offers safe spaces for participants to connect, learn and grow. The program is place-based and guided by each community it operates within, ensuring it is responsive to local cultures, needs and preferences.

Through enrichment programs such as Deadly Minds Matter for wellbeing and Art with the Stars for cultural connection and expression, young women are supported to

honour their identity while pursuing their goals in education and beyond.

Recently, the Shooting Stars girls at Hedland Senior High School learnt from West Coast Fever players Jhaniele Fowler-Nembhard, Shanice Beckford and Sunday Aryang who visited Port Hedland to run clinics and activities.

The girls engaged with the elite netball players on skill development and heard what it takes to be a star netballer. Shooting Stars Executive Officer Helen Ockerby said the renewed partnership with Fortescue would help strengthen this important program.

"Every day we see the impact this program has – not just on the young women, but within their families and communities too. Having Fortescue walk with us means we can keep providing opportunities, pathways and safe spaces for young women to shine," Ms Ockerby said.

Fortescue director approvals, communities & environment, Warren Fish, said the company was proud to support the Shooting Stars and see its success.

"Programs like Shooting Stars show what's possible when young women are given the chance to thrive. The support they receive not only builds confidence and opportunity but also celebrates culture and identity," he said.



NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	16/643	DYNAMIC METALS LIMITED	9BL	30.9km W'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 22' S Long: 120° 44' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	36/1121	METAL HAWK LIMITED	20BL	68.8km S'ly of Leinster	Lat: 28° 32' S Long: 120° 37' E	LEONORA SHIRE, MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	47/4929	RICHARDSON, Brian Dudley	8BL	15.2km SE'ly of Whim Creek	Lat: 20° 54' S Long: 117° 58' E	KARRATHA CITY
Exploration Licence	57/1479	MORELLA CORPORATION LIMITED	20BL	47km W'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 8' S Long: 118° 51' E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3302	ALLEN, Dianne	1BL	145.1km W'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 37' S Long: 119° 32' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3303	ALLEN, Dianne	1BL	146.6km W'ly of Menzies	Lat: 29° 38' S Long: 119° 31' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3314	RELIANCE MINERALS PTY LTD	25BL	89.5km NE'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 37' S Long: 119° 57' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6998	BRANCH, Ian Robert COOLGARDIE GOLD PTY LTD	199.60HA	10.7km NE'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 52' S Long: 121° 13' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6999	BRANCH, Ian Robert COOLGARDIE GOLD PTY LTD	197.51HA	11.3km NE'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 51' S Long: 121° 13' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/7000	BRANCH, Ian Robert COOLGARDIE GOLD PTY LTD	109.48HA	11.9km N'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 51' S Long: 121° 12' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/7001	BRANCH, Ian Robert COOLGARDIE GOLD PTY LTD	176.95HA	12km NE'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 30° 51' S Long: 121° 13' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	26/4848	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	60.58HA	20.1km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 55' S Long: 121° 29' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY

Nature of the act: Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant. **Notification day: 24 September 2025.** **Native title parties:** Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The 3 month period closes on **24 December 2025**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100. **Expedited procedure:** The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each licence may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (**i.e. 24 January 2026**), a native title party lodges an objection with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of the licence is an act attracting the expedited procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, or GPO Box 9973, Perth, WA 6848, telephone (08) 9425 1000. For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518. *Please note – Not all Intention to Grant notifications are published in the National Indigenous Times. For more information, please contact the Department above.*

* – 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km²



NOTICE TO GRANT MINING TENEMENTS NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following tenement applications under the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area*	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Exploration Licence	36/1043	WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOLD RESOURCES LIMITED	49BL	2.1km SE'ly of Leinster	Lat: 27° 56' S Long: 120° 42' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	47/5309	FMG PILBARA PTY LTD	20BL	52.5km S'ly of Whim Creek	Lat: 21° 17' S Long: 117° 59' E	KARRATHA CITY, PORT HEDLAND TOWN
Mining Lease	77/1328	AURENNE PARKER RANGE PTY LTD	3.80HA	23.2km S'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 39' S Long: 119° 34' E	YILGARN SHIRE

Nature of the act: Grant of mining leases, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of 21 years from notification of grant and a right of renewal for 21 years. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant. **Notification day: 24 September 2025.** **Native title parties:** Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The 3 month period closes on **24 December 2025**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100. The mining tenements may be granted if, by the end of the period of 4 months after the notification day (**i.e. 24 January 2026**), there is no native title party under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* in relation to the area of the mining tenements. For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518. *Please note – Not all Intention to Grant notifications are published in the National Indigenous Times. For more information, please contact the Department above.*

* – 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km²



NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO RENEW MINING LEASE NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, C/- Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may renew the following mining lease under section 78(2) of the *Mining Act 1978*:

Tenement No.	Renewal of Term No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
M 15/11	733170	MAIN, George Alexander	9.71HA	13.9km S'ly of Coolgardie	Lat: 31° 4' 5" S Long: 121° 6' 27" E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
M 26/41	742374	BLACK MOUNTAIN GOLD LIMITED	32.12HA	21.8km SE'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 50' 55" S Long: 121° 39' 58" E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
M 57/10	737226	ROX (MURCHISON) PTY LTD	634.04HA	84.1km SW'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 37' 52" S Long: 118° 50' 25" E	SANDSTONE SHIRE
M 80/20	742431	KIMBERLEY QUARRY PTY LTD	1.84HA	6.8km W'ly of Kununurra	Lat: 15° 46' 11" S Long: 128° 40' 34" E	WYNDHAM-EAST KIMBERLEY SHIRE

Nature of the act: The renewal of mining lease, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of up to 21 years. **Notification day: 24 September 2025.** **Native title parties:** Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until three months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to the notice. The three month period closes on **24 December 2025**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100. The mining lease may be renewed if, by the end of the period of four months after the notification day (**i.e. 24 January 2026**), there is no native title party under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* in relation to the area of the application for renewal. For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the application for renewal), contact the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518. *Please note – Not all Intention to Grant notifications are published in the National Indigenous Times. For more information, please contact the Department above.*



NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO GRANT PETROLEUM SPECIAL PROSPECTING AUTHORITY NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

The State of Western Australia HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum C/- Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004 may grant the following Petroleum Special Prospecting Authority application/s applied for under section 105 of the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967 (WA)*:

Title Type	Application Number**	Applicant	Area*	Co-Ordinates	Shire
Special Prospecting Authority	STP-SPA-0134	KIDSON ENERGY PTY LTD	21623.68 km ²	NE Corner: Lat: 19° 59' 55.02" S Long: 124° 5' 4.65" E SW Corner: Lat: 21° 9' 55.04" S Long: 122° 30' 4.67" E	EAST PILBARA SHIRE
Special Prospecting Authority	STP-SPA-0139	GEHYRA CLEAN ENERGY PTY LTD	15292.98 km ²	NE Corner: Lat: 16° 4' 54.92" S Long: 128° 35' 4.40" E SW Corner: Lat: 17° 49' 54.90" S Long: 126° 20' 4.51" E	BROOME SHIRE, DERBY-WEST KIMBERLEY SHIRE, WYNDHAM-EAST KIMBERLEY SHIRE, HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Special Prospecting Authority	STP-SPA-0140	GEHYRA CLEAN ENERGY PTY LTD	20206.64 km ²	NE Corner: Lat: 15° 19' 54.95" S Long: 127° 15' 4.44" E SW Corner: Lat: 17° 9' 54.95" S Long: 126° 15' 4.49" E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE, DERBY-WEST KIMBERLEY SHIRE, WYNDHAM-EAST KIMBERLEY SHIRE
Special Prospecting Authority	STP-SPA-0141	GEHYRA CLEAN ENERGY PTY LTD	18924.98 km ²	NE Corner: Lat: 15° 19' 54.97" S Long: 126° 40' 4.44" E SW Corner: Lat: 17° 9' 54.95" S Long: 125° 55' 4.50" E	WYNDHAM-EAST KIMBERLEY SHIRE, DERBY-WEST KIMBERLEY SHIRE
Special Prospecting Authority	STP-SPA-0142	GEHYRA CLEAN ENERGY PTY LTD	12350.15 km ²	NE Corner: Lat: 14° 49' 54.92" S Long: 129° 0' 4.37" E SW Corner: Lat: 16° 39' 54.92" S Long: 128° 35' 4.42" E	WYNDHAM-EAST KIMBERLEY SHIRE

Nature of the act: The grant of a petroleum special prospecting authority will authorise the holder to explore for petroleum and to carry on such operations and execute such works as are necessary in accordance with the conditions to which the special prospecting authority is subject too, for a term of 6 months from the date of the grant. **Notification day: 24 September 2025.** **Native title parties:** Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until three months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The three month period closes on **24 December 2025**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100. **Expedited procedure:** The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each authority may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (**i.e. 24 January 2026**), a native title party lodges an objection with the National Native Title Tribunal against the inclusion of the statement that the State considers the grant of the authority is an act attracting the expedited procedure. Enquiries in relation to lodging an objection should be directed to the National Native Title Tribunal, Level 5, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth, or GPO Box 9973, Perth, WA 6848, telephone (08) 9425 1000. For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the applications), contact the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518. *Please note – Not all Intention to Grant notifications are published in the National Indigenous Times. For more information, please contact the Department above.*

** - A technical description of the boundaries of the proposed petroleum special prospecting authority area can be provided on request.

Tussle over stadium site



The site of the proposed Tasmanian AFL stadium at Macquarie Point.
Picture: AAP

CALLAN MORSE

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre has welcomed the Tasmanian Planning Commission's recommendation to not proceed with Hobart's Macquarie Point stadium.

The commission cited size and location, poor urban planning and the cost — with limited returns — in its advice against the \$1.13 billion project.

Following the final report's release, the TAC said the advice creates "a once-in-a-generation opportunity for truth, justice, and Aboriginal land return" in the heart of Hobart.

In a statement, TAC campaign manager Nala Mansell said the

Country of Macquarie Point has deep cultural ties to the Mumirina people of the Oyster Bay nation.

"It was here that the British first invaded lutruwita/Tasmania in 1804," Ms Mansell said.

"It was here our ancestors were driven from their homelands, massacred at Risdon Cove, and forced into exile. And it is here that we continue to fight for justice today."

The TAC labelled the rejection of the stadium not just a planning decision in isolation, "but a chance to correct more than two centuries of injustice".

"For too long, governments have spoken of reconciliation while denying land return,

spoken of truth-telling while erasing our voices, and spoken of culture while excluding our people from decision-making," Ms Mansell said. "This decision provides the opportunity for Macquarie Point to become a landmark of Aboriginal justice; a turning point toward real Treaty and truth-telling in Tasmania. But that can only happen if the land is returned to its rightful owners."

Tasmanian senator and Palawa woman Jacqui Lambie criticised the State Government's deal with the AFL needing a stadium at Macquarie Point.

"My message to the cross-bench (Upper House independents) is to find the courage the

Premier can't," Senator Lambie told the ABC.

"They need to block this stadium and pressure the government to go back to the AFL and renegotiate this shocking deal.

"Tasmania deserves an AFL team — we should have had one years ago — but we don't deserve to be bankrupted by a stadium that we don't actually need. According to the TPC (Tasmanian Planning Commission) report, the government will have to raise taxes by \$50 million a year to pay for it."

Following the report's release, Premier Jeremy Rockliff doubled down on the Government's intention to go against the commission's advice and build the

roofed, 38,000-seat stadium at Macquarie Point.

He said many issues raised in the report, such as noise and access, could be overcome.

The report's release prompted the Greens, who remain against the stadium, to warn of future budget blowouts which they say will significantly impact the state's bottom line.

In an alternative proposal, the TAC called for the full return of Macquarie Point to Aboriginal ownership, an end to all major developments at the site until Aboriginal land return is negotiated, and the opportunity for the Aboriginal community to shape a vision for the site which could include a cultural centre.

Pluto 4D M3 Marine Seismic Survey Environment Plan

Woodside has led the development of the LNG industry in Australia and today aims to thrive through the global energy transition.

Woodside consults with relevant persons to gather feedback to inform its Commonwealth Environment Plans.

Pluto 4D M3 (Monitor 3) Marine Seismic Survey Environment Plan

Woodside plans to undertake a 4D (time lapse) monitor marine seismic survey as part of a reservoir management and surveillance program of the Pluto reservoir, approximately 150 km north-west of Dampier. The EP covers seismic data acquisition using a survey vessel towing an acoustic source array and hydrophone cables (streamers), with operations assisted by a support vessel and chase vessel. Previous Pluto monitor surveys were undertaken in 2016 and 2020.

Environment that May Be Affected (EMBA)

The EMBA is the largest geographic area where unplanned activities could potentially have an environmental consequence. The whole EMBA will not be affected.

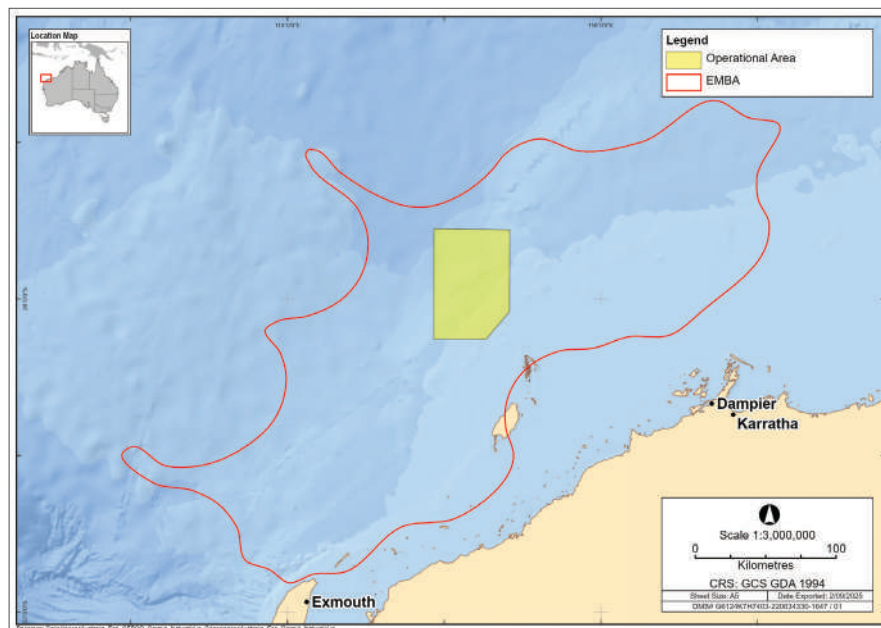
We would like to hear from you

If you are an individual, organisation or community group and believe your functions, interests or activities may be impacted by the activities under this Environment Plan, we want to hear from you by **24 October 2025**.

To find out more go to:

www.woodside.com/what-we-do/consultation-activities

You can also subscribe via our website to receive future information on upcoming activities.



consultation@feedback.woodside.com

Toll free: 1800 442 977

woodside.com

SPORT

Cameron to the fore

Forward saves best for grand final stage

JARRED CROSS

An electric second-half display from Charlie Cameron lifted Brisbane to back-to-back flags in Saturday's AFL grand final.

Indigenous stars Cameron and Callum Ah Chee were among Brisbane's best in their 18.14 (122) to 11.9 (75) win over Geelong in front of a crowd of 100,022.

After nothing separated the two sides at the main break, Cameron lifted after a modest first half to give the Lions the advantage in the "premiership quarter". Back-to-back majors set up their 19-point advantage at the final break.

The two sides were locked square 5.6 (36) apiece at half-time after a quarter of two halves and swinging momentum. It was the first time in more than a century that scores were level at the main break of a grand final. A 13-to-six goal second half handed the defending premiers another cup.

After a year where he struggled to string together form, it was a strong showing and season-best performance for Cameron.

The game looked destined to be an arm-wrestle earlier on and Ah Chee was among the best on ground early in the contest, finishing with 17 touches.

Cats half-back Lawson Hum-



Charlie Cameron Picture: Joel Carrett/AAP

phries was the architect behind a share of Geelong's movement in response to Brisbane's field advantage early on.

The 22-year-old's influence trailed off late — as did that of the bulk of his teammates.

Geelong looked their best for a patch from mid-way through the second term with their best ball movement of the afternoon. Tyson Stengle had shown glimpses, while Cameron already had his best goal of the day by the major break.

The veteran's biggest impact came late in the third quarter with neither side proving able to edge in front.

Cameron's second goal of the game came from bodying strong to mark 25 metres out, with another moments later after being handed the footy running into open goal for a 13-point buffer shortly before three-quarter-time. The Papua New Guinean Lion, Bruce Reville, looked very good when he got his opportunities.

Cameron got his fourth straight out of the gates coming from well behind the contest to mark straight out in front.

The Lions hadn't lost a game in 2025 when the 31-year-old kicked three — which he did on seven occasions without reaching four.

It started a stretch of play where Brisbane kicked nine goals to two to run away with the match, before three consolation goals from the Cats.

Jack Martin, restricted to one

quarter of football as Geelong's sub, helped the Cats with one of their earlier goals in the fourth term.

After a strong contested mark surrounded by bodies, Martin gave a sharp delivery to Mark Blicavs — who was aided with a 50m penalty and promoted to the goal square.

Humphries finished with an impressive 23 touches in Geelong's back line, while Stengle had 12 disposals including four inside 50s and two behinds.

Story shared to help others cope

JOSEPH GUENZLER

WayAhead mental health ambassador Kennedy Cherrington has been using her platform to break stigma and have open conversations about mental health.

Cherrington is an NRLW player for the Parramatta Eels and a proud Ngapuhi-Ngati Hine, Ngati Tuwharetoa-Ngati Ruapani woman.

"I've always wanted to use my platform to be in amongst the community because I feel that community is so important from a cultural perspective," Ms Cherrington said.

"I was once a young little girl who had big dreams and now, I'm ticking off those big dreams."

Her dedication to mental health advocacy stems from lived experience, beginning

as a child when she had heart surgery caused by coronary heart disease.

"I was basically told that if I didn't have surgery, I would potentially pass away from cardiac arrest," she said.

"I've always had this grit and determination and a way to get through things . . . that's kind of the foundation of who I am."

Living away from her family as a teenager while chasing her rugby dreams tested her strength.

"Coming back to Sydney by myself was very scary as the oldest because you want to be the best role model for your young siblings," she said. "My parents were the best in saying that they were very supportive of me moving. "They pushed me to be better and I'm very grateful that they did."

The COVID-19 pandemic

left her isolated and struggling with her mental health. "During that tough time, I just kind of lost myself a bit. I struggled very, very bad," she said.

"But I came out the other end, brighter than ever, just really lent on my support system. I needed a hug from Mum."

That same year she made her NRLW debut and went on to win Dally M Rookie of the Year in 2020.

"At the start of the year, I was thinking really bad thoughts about myself and whether I wanted to be on this planet," she said.

"By the end of the year, I'm a breakthrough player of the year. Life is crazy."

Cherrington now shares the tools that help her stay balanced, including journaling, staying connected with family and

teammates, and reaching out to professional supports.

"I like to get my thoughts and feelings out via paper or just in my notes on my phone," she said. "You've got to have your 100 per cent person . . . those people that are there at 3am, not going, 'I'll answer this later'."

For her, the message is simple: "Ask questions, ask for help. You're so loved and this world is better with you in it," she said. "There's strength and power, or mana, in asking for help."

If you or anyone you know is struggling with mental health, please reach out to your support systems or ones provided.

13 YARN (13 92 76)

WayAhead 9339 6000

Lifeline 13 11 14

Men's Referral Service 1300 766 491

Beyondblue 1300 22 4636



NRLW player Kennedy Cherrington helps others by being a mental health ambassador. Picture: Monique Harmer