

NIT

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS TIMES



DANCING ON THEIR COUNTRY

Celebrations as bold native title push nears completion

GIOVANNI TORRE

Hundreds of Traditional Owners have gathered at two celebrations in northern Queensland as the Cape York United #1 claim reached 91 per cent completion through consent determinations.

At Wujal Wujal on August 12, Eastern Kuku Yalanji Traditional Owners celebrated the recognition of their native title rights and interests across about 217,884ha of Country along the south-east of Cape York Peninsula.

The determination area extends from the Annan River in the north to the Daintree River in the south, east of the Great

Dividing Range. It takes in Black Mountain, Wujal Wujal, Cape Tribulation, Thornton Beach and Cow Bay, along with parts of the Annan, Bloomfield, Daintree, East Normanby, West Normanby and Granite Normanby river systems. It includes areas within Annan River (Yuku Baja-Muliku) National Park, Daintree National Park (CYPAL), Kalkajaka National Park (CYPAL), Ngalba Bulal National Park (CYPAL), and Mount Windsor National Park.

At the meeting point of the Wet Tropics and Great Barrier Reef World Heritage areas, the determination covers Country where internationally recog-

nised rainforest and reef values form part of the living cultural landscape of Eastern Kuku Yalanji people.

The area will recognise a mix of exclusive and non-exclusive native title rights and interests, with exclusive native title applying across about 35 per cent of the area.

It was the 33rd determination under the Cape York United #1 Claim — a major regional effort to resolve native title across Cape York Peninsula.

For Eastern Kuku Yalanji people, the day marked the realisation of their Elders' vision and persistence, that their people would have their rights recognised, protect their culture

and Country, build strong institutions, and have a genuine say in decisions about their future.

Cape York Land Council acting CEO Richie Ah Mat said the day belonged to the people who began the work decades ago.

"The Elders wanted the generations coming behind them to have their rights recognised, to be back on country, and to have the opportunity to build an economic future in their place," Mr Ah Mat said.

The Eastern Kuku Yalanji are the largest native title group in Cape York, with 108 apical ancestors and descendants extending across a large and growing number of families.

Eastern Kuku Yalanji Elder

William "Billy" Harrigan said the determination completed work begun by earlier generations. "Our grandparents and parents began this and now we are finishing it. We are so proud of this," Mr Harrigan said.

"The wisdom of our Elders who have passed will be carried on forever."

Elder Frances Walker said the determination honoured the hard work while opening a new chapter. "Native Title means the hard labour of our people and our journey throughout is finally complete," she said.

Eastern Kuku Yalanji Elder



TOP: The crowd gathered for the Eastern Kuku Yalanji determination ceremony. **ABOVE:** Traditional dancers at the Western Yalanji determination ceremony. Pictures: Gregg Maxwell

CONTINUED PAGE 3

FURY AT RACIST COMMENTS OVER INNOCENT TEENS PAGE 3

Night Space works wonders for youth

GIOVANNI TORRE

An Aboriginal-led and run youth program is delivering extraordinary results in Fitzroy Crossing and could serve as a model for communities across the country.

The Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation's Night Space offers activities, games, support, conversations and a cooked meal.

MWWAC notes before the Night Space opened in September 2024, there was "a large number of street-present, disengaged young people, high number of stolen vehicles, widespread antisocial behaviour by youth, (and) fear in community".

In the two years since there has been a decrease in crime in the town, with WA Police data

showing a 50 per cent drop.

MWWAC said the change was particularly evident in the decrease in stolen cars.

The Night Space came from young people telling the MWWAC Night Patrol staff they wanted somewhere to go at night where they could be safe and engage with their friends.

MWWAC created the model which is community-led and driven, trauma-informed and not punitive, and a consistent seven-nights-a-week service.

"We opened our doors on the second September, 2024 and the kids have come in droves," organisers told National Indigenous Times.

"At the 31st July 2026 we have engaged with 952 young people, had 30,312 individual interactions and served over 55,000

meals. On our busiest nights 100 young people come through the service."

MWWAC said the Night Space's strengths were that it met basic needs, provided a calm and relaxing environment, promoted connection, belonging and respectful relationships, provided recreational activities, and had a 50 per cent local Indigenous workforce.

The service is funded by MWWAC and the WA Justice Department's Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy, and is also supported by the Leedal Group, an Indigenous business which provides \$2000 worth of food every week.

MWWAC head of community programs Nicola Angell said the Night Space "has become the heart of our community

and a model of best practice in youth connection and engagement across Australia".

"I think every town should have one," she said.

"The Night Space has become much more than an immediate response service and a safe place for kids to go at night.

"We are changing children's lives, one child at a time."

Marra Worra Worra is building for the future, with a \$3 million upgrade to facilities funded by the WA Government and set to completed next month in time for the Night Space's second anniversary celebrations, "creating partnerships and collaborations in health, the arts and fashion to build the capacity and capability of our young people", the organisation said.



At the very popular Night Space kitchen. Picture: Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation

Dr Turner honoured as person of the year

DECLAN BRENNAN

The winners of the 2026 National NAIDOC Awards were announced this month, with Pat Turner AM crowned NAIDOC person of the year.

At a ceremony on August 15 in Mparntwe/Alice Springs, 10 awards were handed out in a range of fields recognising the leadership, dedication and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This year's recipients were selected by the National NAIDOC Committee from hundreds of nominations and Dr Turner, pictured, an Arrernte and Gurdanji woman who this year stood down from her role as lead convenor of the Coalition of Peaks, won the main award. In her acceptance speech on Dr Turner's behalf, Dr Josie Douglas described the champion of Indigenous health as "a truly extraordinary Aboriginal woman

... A woman whose life has been grounded in culture, family and an unwavering commitment to our people".

National NAIDOC Committee co-chair Aunty Lynette Riley said the finalists and winners demonstrated the diversity and strength of First Nations communities.

"All of tonight's finalists and winners show the depth of strength, diversity and excellence in First Nations people right across the country," Professor Riley said.

The 2026 theme, 50 Years of Deadly, celebrates five decades of recognising the strength, resilience, cultures and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people while elevating First Nations voices across Australia.

Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy said this year's winners "embody the spirit of NAIDOC".

"They are leaders, advocates, artists, educators, innovators and community champions whose work is creating positive change and inspires others," she said.

Full list of 2026 NAIDOC Award winners

Person of the year: Aunty Pat Turner AO

Lifetime achievement: Aunty Rhoda Roberts AO, posthumously honoured for her outstanding work.

Female Elder of the year: Christine Corby AM

Male Elder of the year: Dr Stephen Hagan

Sportsperson of the year: Caitlyn Costello

Youth of the year: Tyson Neal-Edwards

Creative talent award: Kaylene Whiskey

Caring for Country and Culture award: Southern Aboriginal Corporation Ltd

Education award: The Aboriginal & Islander Independent Community School (The Murri School)

Innovation award: Young Indigenous Women's STEM Academy

Racist slurs still prevalent, Ipsos survey finds

GIOVANNI TORRE

Seven in 10 Australians report hearing racist slurs or "jokes" about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in public settings or on social media, according to the new Ipsos Indigenous Issues 2026 report released last week.

The survey also found people

remain divided on acknowledgements of Country or Welcomes to Country at major events, with 39 per cent opposing them, but most (88 per cent) who opposed it did not support booing or disrupting such ceremonies.

The general population's interest in Indigenous issues has continued to decline in the past year to their lowest levels since

2020, as issues such as the cost of living, the housing crisis and other economic concerns compete for public attention.

The report measures Australians' perceptions of First Nations issues, reconciliation initiatives and the role of government in Indigenous affairs.

It was conducted via Ipsos'

online research panel, from May 13-19, with 1000 people. Younger Australians continued to demonstrate stronger engagement with Indigenous issues than older generations, showing greater support for Treaty (18-29: 73 per cent, 50-plus: 49 per cent) and stronger knowledge of Traditional Owners (18-29: 62 per cent, 50-plus: 42 per cent).

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Traditional Owners gathered to celebrate the Western Yalanji determination.

Wins in native title push

FROM PAGE 1

Carol Pierce said: "Native Title means that our people can go back on Country, live on Country and continue to teach our younger generations how important our country and culture are."

Elder Kathleen Walker said the determination was for everyone in the community.

"I remember the people before me and the people who come after me," Ms Walker said. "This is for everyone and so that our stories are never forgotten."

Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, the prescribed body corporate for the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people's 2007 Native Title determination, has been nominated to carry the responsibilities of the new determination.

Cape York Land Council chair Clara Day said the determination marked the beginning of a new chapter.

"Jabalbina is achieving great things already. With its people, knowledge and big plans for the future, Eastern Kuku Yalanji Country is in good hands."

The determination was made with the support of the National Indigenous Australians Agency and by consent of the State of Queensland, Cook Shire Council, Douglas Shire Council, Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council, Ergon



Traditional Owners speak at the Eastern Kuku Yalanji ceremony.

Pictures:
Gregg
Maxwell

Energy Corporation Ltd, Telstra Corporation Ltd, Amplitel Pty Ltd, RTA Weipa Pty Ltd, Graham Edward Elmes, Gavin Dear, and Kim Kerwin.

On Friday August 14, the Western Yalanji People secured Native Title recognition over 170,827ha of their traditional Country.

The Federal Court determination was delivered by Chief Justice Debra Mortimer at the Cairns Convention Centre.

It is the 34th determination made under the Cape York United #1 claim.

Together, the Eastern Kuku Yalanji determination and the Western Yalanji determination cover more than 388,712ha.

Mr Ah Mat said the August 14 determination recognised that, despite dispossession and gen-

erations of exclusion from their lands, Western Yalanji people had maintained their connection, rights and responsibilities to Country under their traditional laws and customs.

After 23 successful determinations over 20 years (and dating back to 1997) had resolved about 45 per cent of Cape York, the Cape York United #1 Claim was filed in 2014 to resolve the remaining land capable of receiving Native Title recognition. Ms Day said the Cape York United #1 Claim "aimed to achieve in five years what had taken 20".

"It has taken more than 10 years, but we are now at the finish line," she said.

"The families of Cape York have fulfilled the vision of Cape York Elders and family leaders

who came together at Lockhart River in 1990 to establish the Cape York Land Council and begin the long work of securing the return and recognition of their lands.

"Today's determination is a tribute to those Elders. They wanted their children and grandchildren to have the security of knowing where they belong, the authority to speak for their Country, and the opportunity to protect it and build a future on it."

The Western Yalanji determination was reached by agreement with the State and Federal governments, Cook Shire Council, pastoralists, mining interests and telecommunications providers.

The determination recognises exclusive Native Title over

some areas and non-exclusive native title across most of the determination area. These non-exclusive rights include access to Country, camping, hunting, fishing, gathering natural resources, protecting significant places and conducting ceremony, alongside existing pastoral, mining and other legal interests.

The Western Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC will continue as the prescribed body corporate for the determination area.

For Western Yalanji Elder Cedric Gore, the determination means certainty that Western Yalanji families will always have a place on their Country.

"Now that we have Native Title recognition, we know that wherever we go, there will always be a place for us," Mr Gore said. "When I go out on Country, I feel good. I'm excited for the celebration and the dancing. It's a big celebration after a long time."

Western Yalanji Elder Rose Snider said the determination was about returning to Country with family and passing knowledge to children.

"It means having ownership of where we belong," she said.

"The good part is it's time to go back to Country with family and give my knowledge to the kids, how to hunt and fish, and sharing those things with our neighbours; to go back home."

Racist commentary blasted after 'vigilante attack'

DECHLAN BRENNAN

Two 12-year-old Aboriginal boys who were seriously injured in an alleged ute attack in Mildura this month were subjected to racist abuse online, prompting condemnation from First Nations leaders and calls for greater action against misinformation and racism.

Police said neither boy had done anything wrong.

The two children were hospitalised after a man allegedly chased and struck them with a ute while they were riding a motorised pushbike in Mildura.

One child was flown to the

Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne in a serious condition, with Mildura Magistrates' Court told he had a broken arm and leg, broken ribs and sternum, and a collapsed lung. The other child had concussion.

Andrew Brien, 57, from Gol Gol in NSW, has been charged with four counts of reckless conduct endangering life, dangerous driving causing serious injury, driving in a dangerous manner and/or speed.

Police allege Mr Brien crossed the border into Mildura after hearing a business owned by his partner had been burgled and began patrolling the area.

Det-Sen. Const. Mitchell Carew told the court: "I can categorically say these two boys, on this night, are not involved in any offence with the business or elsewhere."

Magistrate Patrick Southey also condemned the online response to the incident, telling the court: "It's outrageous — some of the commentary about the boys — who are completely blameless."

Social media commentary has included racist abuse, claims attempting to blame the children, and celebrations of the alleged attack; including calls for further violence.

A family member of one of the boys told the ABC the children and their families had been left dealing with the emotional consequences of the incident.

"I sat beside my young cousin at Mildura Base Hospital while he was in pain and frightened," they said.

"My cousin told us that he did not understand why the man was allegedly chasing them."

They said the online racism had added further hurt, arguing: "As an Aboriginal family, seeing racist and hateful comments surrounding an already distressing situation added another layer of hurt."

Victorian Senator Lidia Thorpe has also criticised media organisations for failing to adequately moderate comments beneath coverage of the incident.

Speaking in the Senate, she said there had not been the "condemnation this heinous crime demands".

The incident has also drawn condemnation from Gellung Warl, the new Aboriginal governance structure containing the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria.

Mr Brien was granted bail with a strict curfew and a prohibition on driving.

Olympic site trees lost amid custodian stop plea

JOSEPH GUENZLER

Yagara Elders took their fight to protect Barrambin to the Federal Government this month, presenting a cultural heritage book documenting the significance of the Magandjin (Brisbane) site as calls continue for an immediate halt to works.

Yagara Elder and Traditional Custodian Gaja Kerry Charlton, pictured, met Federal representatives involved in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act process to formally hand over the collection of evidence including pre-colonial trees, sacred water systems and cultural heritage across the site.

The handover came after recent clearing at Barrambin, with Yagara Magandjin Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) reporting at least 200 trees were removed within days. Ms Charlton said the destruction should have been prevented while Federal cultural heritage processes were unresolved. "This destruction



could and should have been prevented while Federal protection processes remained unresolved," she said. "This book documents what is at risk, while the evidence from the ground shows the devastating impact on wildlife as trees and habitat are removed.

"It is too late for what has already been lost, but there is still so much more to save."

YMAC said Traditional Custodians were not notified before the clearing and raised further concerns about impacts on native wildlife.

Volunteers have reported displaced and distressed birds and possums as habitat was removed, while one nearby resident reported seeing cockatoos and kookaburras gathered silently on her deck following the clearing.

Ms Charlton said protecting wildlife remained part of the cultural responsibility Traditional Custodians held towards Barrambin.

"We will continue our work to preserve what we can and keep doing what our people have done for thousands of years — protect the wildlife like our

ancestors expect us to, respectfully and with dignity."

YMAC has maintained its support for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games while arguing the development should not come at the expense of First Nations cultural heritage and living Country.

The latest action follows months of attempts to secure Federal protection for Barrambin under the Commonwealth's Aboriginal heritage laws.

The Federal Government confirmed on May 31 that four Section 10 applications relating to Barrambin remained under assessment at that time. YMAC has since pursued further emergency protections as clearing and ground disturbance have continued.

After the handover, YMAC and Ms Charlton called for an

immediate mandatory pause on further irreversible works across Barrambin while outstanding Federal assessments are completed.

The corporation is also calling for Traditional Yagara Custodians to be directly involved in decisions affecting Country.

National Indigenous Times sought comment from the Queensland Premier's Office and the Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority regarding the clearing, cultural heritage and wildlife monitoring, Traditional Owner consultation and concerns surrounding the Victoria Park Precinct Draft Legacy Plan, but neither responded by deadline.

Federal Environment Minister Murray Watt was also contacted regarding the ongoing

Federal protection process and concerns raised by YMAC.

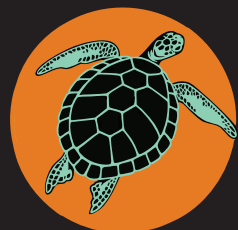
Mr Watt's office referred the enquiry to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, a spokesperson of which confirmed seven applications relating to Barrambin are being assessed under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act.

"As these matters are currently under assessment, it is not appropriate to comment further at this stage," the spokesperson said.

Save Victoria Park has backed YMAC and Ms Charlton's calls for Federal intervention, urging supporters to keep contacting decision-makers and back efforts to halt further clearing while cultural heritage applications are assessed.



Large gums felled on Barrambin / Victoria Park.
Picture: Save Victoria Park



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Deaths in custody 'crisis'

DECHLAN BRENNAN

The New South Wales Government and police need to take a level of responsibility for the number of Indigenous deaths in custody in the State, experts say.

Last year, NSW — home to the country's largest Indigenous population — saw a record number of First Nations people die in custody. Twelve Indigenous people died in corrective services custody, and a further four died during police operations — the highest number recorded for a full year. It led State Coroner Teresa O'Sullivan to argue each death demanded accountability.

"These are not mere statistics," she said at the time. "Each of these deaths represents a person whose life mattered and whose loss is felt deeply by families, loved ones and communi-

ties across the State." This year, NSW is on track to equal that record, with at least seven First Nations people having died in custody since January.

It is a "crisis", Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT acting CEO Sharif Deen says, "being fuelled by an unprecedented increase in the number of Aboriginal adults jailed in NSW".

While crime levels have remained stable, he says an "explosion in police charges" has led to prisoner numbers growing more in four months than in the previous four years.

"Aboriginal communities are being disproportionately over-policed and families torn apart, with mothers, fathers, and grandparents forced into custody," Mr Deen told National Indigenous Times. Of the 13,960 adults in custody as of June, 4726

were Aboriginal, according to data from the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research — an increase of 6.3 per cent in 12 months.

More than 48 per cent of First Nations people in custody in June had not been convicted — up 11.5 per cent in 12 months.

Lawyer and NSW Greens First Nations justice spokesperson Sue Higginson highlighted a NSW Ombudsman report which called for the standard of proof needed to find someone guilty of a prison offence to be retained.

It came as inmates were being punished for sometimes trivial correctional centre offences, such as failing to clean their cell or trading food.

Instead, the Government passed legislation which lowered the standard of proof required to find someone guilty

of an offence in prison to "on the balance of probabilities".

"Eighteen peak bodies warned the Minister for Corrections that these laws would increase the risks of deaths in custody," Ms Higginson told National Indigenous Times. In July, 27-year-old Bundjalung, Yaegl and Gamilaroi man Matthew Roberts took his life inside Lithgow Correctional Centre, having been held on remand for several months.

Later that month, a 21-year-old Aboriginal man died at Clarence Correctional Centre — Australia's largest private prison.

Ms Higginson said the 21-year-old's death followed the Inspector of Custodial Services ringing the "alarm on the fact more prisoners were being transferred to Clarence — despite severe capacity issues — due to the

unreasonably high remand population and overcrowding in prisons across the state".

A spokesperson for Clarence Correctional Centre — run by British multinational Serco — said they "work closely with Corrective Services NSW and Aboriginal support services to ensure culturally appropriate support is available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in custody and staff".

"Serco extends our sympathies to the family, and the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community," the spokesperson said. "Serco and NSW Police are investigating."

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Trees marked for clearing were wrapped with crochet blankets. Picture: South West Forest Aunties

Native tree clearing stops as NIT asks heritage questions

DIANNE BORTOLETTO

The City of Busselton in Western Australia's South West has paused a project to clear 27 native trees along Vasse-Yallingup Siding Road after the National Indigenous Times asked if Wardandi Traditional Owners had been consulted.

Part of the clearing area overlaps a registered Aboriginal heritage camping site known as Marybrook 1. The officer report Busselton councillors relied on when they endorsed the project on July 29 did not mention the site and failed to mention WA's Aboriginal Heritage Act.

The council meeting opened with an acknowledgement of the Wardandi Bibbulmun people as Traditional Custodians.

Councillors voted five to three to endorse the clearing, subject to the clearing permit being upheld following an appeal. They debated the item for about 35 minutes, yet Aboriginal heritage, Traditional Owners and the registered site were not raised at any point.

The list of relevant legislation in that report included the Land Administration Act, the Local Government Act, the Environmental Protection Act and the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

The WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation confirmed it identified the overlap with Marybrook 1 during its assessment of the clearing application.

A DWER spokesperson told National Indigenous Times the department advised the city of Busselton of its obligations under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972, which includes engagement with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

A DPLH spokesperson said the department was not aware of any applications, notifications or inquiries from the city in relation to the site. The Karri Karrik Aboriginal Corporation represents Traditional

Custodian rights, interests and heritage in the region, and chair Stephen van Leeuwen said the corporation had spoken with senior city staff following inquiries from National Indigenous Times.

"The corporation understands that the proposed activity impacts on a Heritage site," Professor van Leeuwen said.

"However, in speaking with senior staff at the city of Busselton . . . the corporation is satisfied that no works have been undertaken or will be undertaken without Karri Karrik consent."

After National Indigenous Times put questions to the city, mayor Phill Cronin said the project would be paused.

"During the application process, due diligence was carried out by the city, however, as the process has now been called into question, the project will be put into abeyance to ensure and reassure all parties that all due diligence has been completed," Mr Cronin said.

A statement from city of Busselton temporary chief executive officer Dr Garry Hunt said: "In light of the issues that have been raised, the city is undertaking a review and will provide further information with regard to these matters once this review has been concluded."

The city said questions from this publication had been sent with a short deadline. However, the original questions posed about consultation with Traditional Owners had been sent four days earlier and went unanswered.

If the appeal is upheld, the clearing permit requires the city to plant 120 replacement trees in the Wardandi Track Corridor near Vasse. DWER said the city had nominated that offset site, and Mr Cronin said the location was selected in line with DWER requirements and direction.

The clearing is part of a WA Government Black Spot project for which the City of Busselton applied in July 2022.

Racism probe shows failings

DECHLAN BRENNAN

Calls for a national truth-telling process, an independent investigation into Boxing Australia and urgent action on systemic racism in child protection marked the final two days of a Senate inquiry into racism against First Peoples in Naarm/Melbourne.

The inquiry heard evidence from First Nations leaders, athletes, sporting organisations and child and family advocates, with witnesses describing racism as deeply embedded in Australian institutions and systems.

First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria co-chair Djaran Murray-Jackson told the inquiry Australia needed a national truth-telling process alongside Treaty negotiations.

"Australia has a skeleton in its closet, and it's time that skeleton came out," he said.

Mr Murray-Jackson said conversations with communities across Victoria before the State's Treaty was established had repeatedly highlighted the importance of truth-telling.

Asked if there needed to be a national conversation, he told the committee "100 per cent".

"A truth-telling process, nationally and in every State, needs to happen," he said. "It's just about if the Government is brave enough to take it on."

The inquiry examined the impact of racism on government, law, sport and community services.

Australia's first Indigenous female Olympic boxer Marissa Williamson-Pohlman alleged widespread racism and abuse within Boxing Australia, using her appearance to call for an independent investigation.

"It's a terrible organisation, and the only good thing about boxing for them was the amount of Blackfellas that I had the honour of training with, and honestly, without them I would have really struggled," she said.

"There is something terrible going on there. The whole board needs to go."

Williamson-Pohlman said sporting organisations often celebrated Indigenous athletes while failing to provide ad-

equate cultural safety and support. "So, it's all good when I put some deadly artwork on the uniform, but cultural safety and practice is another thing," she said.

Evidence from Fitzroy Stars Football and Netball Club representatives also indicated racism in community sport.

Club president Esme Bamblett said racism was "a constant", while club representative Peter Hood said clubs faced financial barriers when challenging decisions they believed were unfair.

"If you want to challenge racism, you have to pay for it," he said. The Senate committee received close to 1000 submissions during its inquiry, which was established to examine racism, hate and violence directed at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency chief executive Muriel Bamblett recounted an instance when the organisation chose not to share publicly the story of a young woman who died as a result of family violence because of



Marissa Williamson Pohlman Picture: risswillpohl Instagram

fears people online would say "she deserved it".

"We were concerned that people would move away from sympathising with her and start to vilify her as an Aboriginal woman," she said.

The hearings in Melbourne also covered the impact of systemic racism on First Nations children and families.

SNAICC chief executive Catherine Liddle said racism was a key factor behind the over-representation of Indigenous children in out-of-home care and youth detention.

Asked if racism was driving the high numbers of Indigenous children in care, she said: "Absolutely."

"At every stage of a decision-making tree, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

are treated differently," she said. "Without an understanding of what systemic racism is, we'll never be able to solve that problem."

First Nations children make up around 7 per cent of Australia's child population but account for 60 per cent of children in juvenile custody and 45 per cent of children in out-of-home care.

"That is what structural racism and systemic racism looks like in the departments and programs responsible for children," Ms Liddle said.

"Cultural competence should not be optional. It must be mandated, part of the way staff are trained, part of the way services operate."

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'Voice for truth' resigns

JARRED CROSS

Yingiya Guyula has been thanked for his advocacy, his impact as a mentor and for standing as the "voice of truth and wisdom" in the Northern Territory Parliament following his resignation as the independent member for Mulka.

Mr Guyula announced last Wednesday his decision to end a decade as the MP for Mulka, previously known as Nhulunbuy, in East Arnhem Land, with scathing criticism of the Country Liberal Party Government.

Mr Guyula said the Government had "introduced too many laws that are dehumanising, oppressing and destroying our communities and our people".

"They have significantly failed Aboriginal people, and their ongoing actions are contributing to the breakdown of our culture and people, in what is now becoming a slow genocide," he said. "I no longer feel that I can be a part of the NT Parliament and sit opposite a government who are not willing to listen or form partnerships."

The Northern Land Council said Mr Guyula's resignation "has shaken people right across the Northern Territory".

NLC chair Matthew Ryan noted the difficulties of working with a CLP Government which "has continuously attacked safeguards and rights of Aboriginal Territorians".

"No matter who was in



Yingiya Guyula, the former independent MP for Mulka, has resigned, effective immediately. Picture: (A)manda Parkinson (AAP)

government, he persevered in holding the government of the day to account—for better housing, improved health and reliable transport services for people who live in one of the most remote parts of Australia," Mr Ryan said. Arnhem Land's Laynhapuy Homelands Abor-

iginal Corporation said it was saddened by Mr Guyula's decision, calling his resignation the loss of a "strong representative of the homelands and Yolngu" in Parliament.

Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri McCarthy said Mr Guyula "is a

man of great strength and leadership".

Independent Senator Lidia Thorpe said Mr Guyula "is a true representative of his people" who "worked his heart out to bring truth-telling and accountability to the NT Parliament".

The Central Land Council said his resignation was a "devastating loss not just for Aboriginal Territorians but the whole nation".

The by-election for the seat of Mulka has been set for September 12, with candidate nominations open until August 27.

Could do better: How States and Territories fare

This report is the first in a series looking at the performances of Australia's State, Territory and Federal governments on Indigenous policy. This edition looks at Victoria, Queensland, and New South Wales.

Victoria B+

No State or Territory has done more.

The failure of the national Voice to Parliament referendum has not hindered the advancement of Treaty and Truth—two other aspects of the Uluru Statement from the Heart—in Victoria.

In late 2025, the First Peoples' Assembly—a democratically elected body of Traditional Owners set up during the Daniel Andrews Government—finalised a Treaty with the State Government.

It was the first of its kind in Australia. "We do this not to divide Victoria, but to complete it," former Assembly co-chair Rueben Berg said at the time.

Nonetheless, the fear this will be dismantled remains. The Liberals, who polling shows are likely to win government in November, have vowed to tear up the Treaty within 100 days of taking office.

Appearing at a racism inquiry this month, Assembly co-chair Djaran Murray-Jackson said: First Peoples were raising concerns across the state. "It's scary for our mob... every conversation with us they raise it," Mr Murray-Jackson said. "I was hopeful Treaty would stay above party politics."

Under Truth, the landmark Yoorrook Justice Commission—

Australia's first truth-telling body—finalised its report last year.

Over four years, it conducted 67 days of public hearings, heard testimony from more than 200 witnesses, engaged with more than 2000 people, and received more than 1300 written submissions.

Recommendations included for the State Government to consider redress for First Peoples through a range of measures, including land restitution, financial compensation, tax relief and other benefits.

Last year the Premier, Jacinta Allan, formally apologised to First Peoples of Victoria for the "harm inflicted upon them through the actions and inactions of the State, and the colony that came before it". Nevertheless, many recommendations have not been implemented.

Despite Treaty and Truth, the latest Closing the Gap report shows Victoria places Indigenous children in out-of-home care at a higher rate than anywhere else in the country.

The State Government has introduced several laws which Indigenous groups have criticised.

These include adult sentencing for children as young as 14, and stricter bail laws for youth offenders.

Queensland D

Nearly three years after Queensland recorded the strongest No vote of any State in the Voice referendum, its record on Indigenous affairs continues to slide backwards. There have been regressions on First Peoples

recognition, and a failure to address key Closing the Gap metrics.

Queensland voted 68.21 per cent No in 2023, compared with 60.06 per cent nationally.

The most significant reversal has been on Truth and Treaty. Labor's Path to Treaty Act passed with bipartisan support in May 2023, establishing a First Nations Treaty Institute and Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry, but the LNP withdrew its support days after the referendum, and abolished both after winning government in 2024.

Inquiry chair Joshua Creamer learnt of the decision through the media.

"I was not advised in advance of the press conference and have not had any communication with the Premier's office following the announcement," the Waanyi and Kalkadoon barrister said at the time. "My team were taken by surprise because the closure of the inquiry was not included in the new Government's 100-day plan."

Queensland does not have the Statewide Indigenous representative body contemplated under Labor, but the Crisafulli Government has established an accord with the State's 17 discrete First Nations local governments.

The latest Productivity Commission Closing the Gap report found Queensland was improving in life expectancy, education, employment and other areas, but youth detention, adult imprisonment and the number of children in out-of-home care were worsening. Of the 452 Indigenous children in detention nationally on

an average day in 2024-25, more than 45 per cent were in Queensland. Across the State, First Nations children made up 71 per cent of the detained youth population. During their time in office, Labor twice suspended Queensland's Human Rights Act for youth justice measures, including criminalising youth bail breaches and allowing children to be held in adult watch houses, before supporting an expansion of the LNP's Adult Crime, Adult Time laws.

New South Wales C

The last State to begin formal steps towards Treaty began its early journey last August.

NSW is home to more Indigenous people than anywhere else in the country.

The 12-month consultation process with First Nations people and communities is led by NSW Treaty Commissioners Aden Ridgeway and Naomi Moran.

What comes of it is not yet known, despite continued broad vows for reconciliation efforts.

"The purpose of this process is to hear from Aboriginal people about their desire for a treaty or other formal agreement and explore what form this might take," the NSW Government says online about Treaty consultations.

In the lead-up to their 2023 State election win, the then-opposition Labor committed to a State-based Voice, Treaty and Truth process, and later pledged \$5 million towards the treaty efforts.

Despite public support for a national Voice to Parliament ahead

of the referendum, the Minns Government has parked any progression beyond consultations until the next state election, set for 2027.

July's Closing the Gap report identified improvements on life expectancy; pre-school enrolment; Year 12 or equivalent qualification; tertiary qualification; youth engagement; employment; appropriately sized housing; children in out-of-home care; and land mass subject to legal rights or interests in NSW.

Childhood development, youth detention and adult imprisonment were seen as worsening.

In addition to the four national Closing the Gap key priority reform areas—formal partnerships and shared decision making, building the community-controlled sector, transforming government organisations, and shared access to data and information and regional levels—NSW has its own fifth priority: employment, business growth and economic prosperity.

According to Corrective Services NSW data, as of August 19, 25 Aboriginal people have died in custody in the State since mid-2024. This includes 12 deaths between mid-2025-2026.

At present, NSW's Aboriginal Languages Trust is in community consultations to inform its next five-year strategic plan.

Proposed changes to crown lands legislation, first tabled in March, have been labelled as a major threat, even discriminatory, to Aboriginal land rights in NSW by the State's Land Council peak.



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STYLEUP

FASHION, BEAUTY & LIFESTYLE

Country to Couture

Two days of First Nations fashion

Pages 12-13

ALSO INSIDE

NATSIA Awards

PAGE 10

Stories through design

PAGE 11

Darwin shines

PAGE 15

Budjerah

PAGE 16

MumRed worn by
model Savannah
Kruger. Picture:
Dylan Buckee



Awards shine a light on art

NATASHA CLARK

A Renaissance-inspired dreamscape, handwoven dillybags made from British Museum maps, and a digital recording of Tiwi song and dance were among the works recognised at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards this month.

Marri Ngarr artist Dr Ryan Presley won the major \$100,000 Telstra art award for his oil painting *Our Lifestyle Of Tranquillity Undisturbed*.

Now in its 43rd year, the awards unite established and emerging First Nations artists from across Australia.

Presley, born in Mparntwe/Alice Springs and based on Yugambeh Country, painted a reclining figure beside a dog and a rifle. Dark water glints near the figure while a large bushfire burns in the distance, creating a scene that appears peaceful, but a tension can be felt in the undulating ripples.

He said the work drew on Renaissance painting while reflecting current political and social tensions. “*Our Lifestyle Of Tranquillity Undisturbed* appears as a dreamscape that mediates the Orwellian slogan: ‘Who controls the past controls the future; who



Ryan Presley's *Our Lifestyle of Tranquillity Undisturbed*.

controls the present controls the past,” he said.

Judges said the painting brought together cultural and art history references while prompting contemplation of past, present and future.

Western Aranda artist Vanessa Inkamala won the

\$15,000 Telstra general painting award for Arrkurla Nukala / Lyaarta Ntema, painted on recycled road signs.

Judges said her work honoured the creative language of her forebears while exploring technology's role in art. Wulu Marawili's

Garranali — Sanctuary was highly commended.

Barayuwa Munungurr was awarded the Telstra bark painting award for *The Hidden Reef At Yarrinya*, created with earth pigments on stringybark. The painting carries a Munyuku clan story about ancestors who killed their brother, the whale Mirinyunu. Judges praised the artist's choice to conceal and reveal narrative elements through painted designs and bark removal.

Maps gathered from the British Museum were transformed into six handwoven dillybags in Jenna Mayilema Lee's *Taking Back Taken*. The Larrakia, Karrajarrri and Wardaman artist won the \$15,000 Telstra work on paper award for the 4.5m installation. Judges described the work as quietly beautiful, addressing the effects of museums and collecting practices on communities whose belongings were removed.

Yolnu artist Napuwarri Marawili won the Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D award for two carved and painted reef herons representing both bird and hunter. The \$15,000 award marked its 40th anniversary this year and commemorates

Yolnu artist and leader Wandjuk Marika OBE.

Marawili's work, *Djambatj — Deadly Hunter*, carries the Madarrpa clan design associated with the saltwater of Yathikpa.

Guruwuy Murrinyina received the Telstra emerging artist award for *Prismatic Arc*, a towering hollow log painted in earth pigments. Murrinyina lives at Gangan, a remote homeland inland from Blue Mud Bay in north-east Arnhem Land. Her work carries the Galpu clan miny'tji associated with rainbows and the cyclonic power of Wititj, the Rainbow Serpent.

“The sun shining against the scales of the snake forms a prism of light like a rainbow,” Murrinyina said.

Tiwi artist and digital media practitioner Colin Heenan-Puruntatameri won the Telstra multimedia award for *Ngirramini Ngini Amparruwu (The Story of the Widow)*.

The video records the artist performing a chant created by his mother and a widow dance, accompanied by two carved ironwood fighting sticks.

The NATSIAA exhibition is on show at MAGNT Darwin until January 24.

The author travelled to Darwin courtesy of Telstra.

Showcase event is a platform for wider success

JOSEPH GUENZLER

For rising artists, BIGSOUND is about more than the chance to play a stage, with the annual Magandjin (Brisbane) event designed to put musicians in front of people who can help shape their careers.

Held across Fortitude Valley from September 1 to 4, BIGSOUND combines three nights of showcases with industry discussions, meetings, workshops and networking, bringing artists together with labels, managers, booking agents, publishers, festival programmers and media.

That purpose has been part of BIGSOUND since QMusic launched the event in 2002, with the original aim of putting Australian artists in front of people who could make a difference to their careers.

For younger and emerging First Nations artists, that concentration of people can provide access to an industry that can otherwise be difficult to navigate.

BIGSOUND's Goolwal Goolwal program also provides an Indigenous-led space within the event, with performances, workshops,



BIGSOUND creates pathways for the next generation of Indigenous artists.

conversations and networking focused on building connections and careers for mob.

Ghanaian-Australian artist AKOSIA sees the event as a chance to build relationships with festival promoters, booking agents and other contacts. “Opportunities like BIGSOUND are life changing,” she said.

“For Black and Indigenous artists, access to platforms like this can be the difference between having a great song and having a successful career.”

Maori artist Payton Taplin's Greatsouth project will travel

from Aotearoa for its first international showcase, bringing taonga puoro and Maori storytelling into its indie and alternative rock sound.

Mr Taplin, who is Te Rarawa and Ngati Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, is looking for long-term relationships with people willing to support Indigenous expression and take those stories around the world.

Palawa hip-hop artist KIZ, from lutruwita/Trouwerner, sees BIGSOUND as arriving at an important stage in his career, with the artist looking to build connections across the country and create new performance opportunities.

“BIGSOUND came at the perfect moment and will be one of the keys that opens all the next doors for me,” KIZ said.

For Papua New Guinean-Australian artist Ngaiire, networking is most useful when it develops into genuine relationships rather than short-term transactions.

Ngaiire is looking to build an international team for her next release while strengthening links between Australia, Papua New Guinea and the wider Pacific. “For me, the best networking has always been about genuine relationships rather than walking into a room trying to get something

from someone. BIGSOUND creates a rare opportunity to have artists, labels, festivals, managers and people from all corners of the industry in the same place, and sometimes one conversation can open a door you didn't even know was there.”

Samu and Suy woman Zipporah, from Saibai Island in the Torres Strait, noted: “First Nations artists certainly don't have as much exposure in the industry as others, especially those who may live or come from remote/regional areas.”

Tickets, passes and the schedule are available through the official BIGSOUND website.

Winner 'a story teller in design'

Delvene
Cockatoo-Collins
and NIFA host
Megan Waters.
Picture: Dylan
Buckee



MARIA MAROUCHTCHAK

Off the back of being the inaugural recipient of the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair Cultural Couture Award, Delvene Cockatoo-Collins was named winner of this year's Fashion Design Award at the National Indigenous Fashion Awards.

NIFA judge and Country Road creative director, Lisa Friedl, praised Cockatoo-Collins' ability to weave together craft and storytelling through a contemporary lens.

"Delvene's work channels culture and story through a timeless yet relevant fashion lens. Her collection is beautifully balanced, with a restrained yet effective use of design elements," Friedl said.

The award was supported by Country Road. Cockatoo-Collins will be offered either a \$5000 prize or a

12-month mentorship with the Australian fashion label.

For Cockatoo-Collins, fashion is deeply connected to family, Country and the stories carried through generations. Her practice is inspired by the knowledge and techniques passed down from her mother, Evelyn Parkin, and grandmother, Bethel Delaney — connections which continue to shape her evolving creative journey. Cockatoo-Collins told Style Up the recognition has encouraged her to continue exploring the stories embedded within her work.

"It's really encouraging for me to continue on that pathway to keep exploring those stories," she said.

Based on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island), Cockatoo-Collins draws inspiration from the natural environment surrounding her, incorporating elements of Country into her designs —

from fallen banksia bark to washed-up quampie shells.

Her practice is one of constant movement and creation. After presenting several new collections across multiple runways last year, moments of stillness are rare.

"It's probably a good time for me to pause and really reflect on my work," she said.

"I'm sometimes up printing at 4am, dying (fabrics) and watching the pot overnight.

"With winning this award, I'd really like to sit and celebrate and acknowledge myself in that space. So, it's time to pause."

Cockatoo-Collins said she looks forward to more quiet mornings by the water with her husband, coffee in hand, taking in the sight of dolphins swimming through the shallows and appreciating the simple moments on Country.

She said she is excited to work alongside Country Road and gain new insights that

support the continued growth of her business. Country Road has proudly supported NIFA since 2020, reflecting the brand's ongoing commitment to creating meaningful pathways for First Nations designers and celebrating the next generation of creative talent.

"I'm looking forward to meeting their team and seeing what they know and how they're going to help me in a way that is suitable to my little business and the way that I run," she said. "I think there's a true value in having First Nations work out there, and I'm really excited about where that's going to lead everybody. It's important to create these spaces and see younger designers come through."

Hosted by Indigenous Fashion Projects, NIFA — alongside Country to Couture — has cemented its place as Australia's leading celebration of First Nations fashion.

Bringing art into life from early days

JARRED CROSS

Noongar-Sicilian artist Janelle Burger's recent collaboration isn't just about bringing her art into people's homes, but also bringing joy and calm at a special time of their lives.

She is lending her craft to design-focused specialist cot maker Bold Baby's new collection.

Burger's connection to culture and art started at a young age.

Growing up, her Sicilian paternal grandmother's home had sculptures in every room, and art had a big presence.

On her Noongar mother's side, her grandmother was a painter.

Now, her own works will be there from the start for others.

"I'm happy something so colourful is going into a baby space because it is such a great fit. It felt very special to be part of this project. A baby's environment is so important, and I liked the idea that my artwork could become part of someone's early memories and daily life," she said.

Bold Baby co-founders Jim Walsh and Megan Cooper created their first customisable cots in 2024 to be something more than functional and static. The cots can adjust and grow with a young family and their baby, and aim to make nurseries a canvas for storytelling through visual art.

Burger's featured work in their Art Series cot brings a new level of texture and colour to the range.

She also hopes it can create an emotional response.

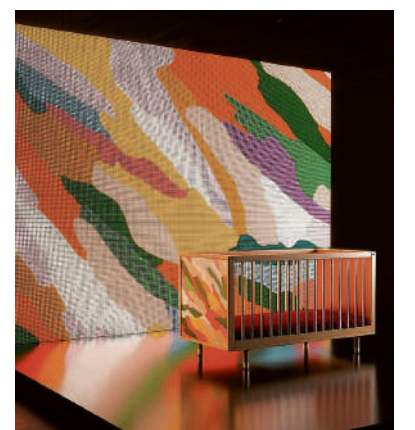
"It draws from my connection to Australia, nature, and a feeling of home rather than one direct story. Living in Europe, I feel a deeper connection to my home country, and I feel that influences my art," Ms Burger, who is based in Paris, said.

"I'd like families to know that this art in their nursery was made with care and honesty.

"I hope it brings warmth, creativity, and a sense of joy and calmness into their space."

Burger encouraged emerging Indigenous creatives, particularly women and girls.

"Keep going and trust your own voice. There's value in your perspective and your story, even if the path feels uncertain at times," she said.



Artist Janelle Burger's Bold Baby cot design.

Creative folks urged to apply for NAISDA

PHOEBE BLOGG

Leading First Nations arts training organisation NAISDA announced the opening of its 2027 intake this month.

NAISDA encourages young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to apply for its intake with the launch of a new course for those interested in live performance production.

As part of its legacy and its celebration of 50 years, the college has introduced a new course focusing on live production and technical skills.

The CUA40425 Certificate IV in Live Production and Technical Services is a new pathway into the creative sector and sits alongside NAISDA's existing Dance Practice qualifications.

NAISDA chief executive Kim Walker AM said it would open NAISDA up to mob interested in



Students at the 2026 NAISDA Graduation.

careers across the performing arts. "We know there are young people out there who are passionate about the arts but don't necessarily see themselves as dancers or choreographers," he said.

"Obviously that's how NAISDA started, but as we celebrate 50 years we look to the future and

are expanding our curriculum.

"Students will gain practical skills in lighting, sound, staging, vision, hands-on industry experience, as well as cultural learning with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and cultural tutors.

"I am excited to see what our first cohort in Live Production will

bring, and encourage people who know someone with an interest to apply."

For dancers and performers looking to take centre stage, NAISDA continues to offer four nationally accredited Certificate IV to Advanced Diploma pathways in Dance Practice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Main picture:
Designer Off The
Plantation,
photographer
James Albert.
Below: Designer
Jina-Jina by
Yinjaa-Barni Art,
photo by Michael
Jalaru Torres.

Boab light reflects couture of Country

PHOEBE BLOGG

In 2026 the Country to Couture runway returned with an engaging, newly expanded two-night schedule.

Curated by Indigenous Fashion Projects and presented as part of the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Foundation's 20th anniversary program, Country to Couture took place on Larrakia Country across August 2-3.

With 2026 marking the event's new two-night schedule, attending guests and media were able to attend Show 1, Carried By Our Matriarchs — From Legacy We Rise, and Show 2, Imprints And Memory — Seasons of the Land, Waters And Sky.

Before Show 1 guests were welcomed to Larrakia Country by Larrakia leader and DAAF chairperson Nadine Lee and her daughter Cyan Lee, accompanied by the Leading First Nations singer songwriter Dr Shellie Morris in a ceremonial calling and spoken word piece.

Opening with a moving tribute to the late Simone Arnol, the wings of matriarch butterflies were carried to the base of the boab tree, centring the focus for the show to begin. Arnol was an award winning artist and creative, who went on to be named the National Indigenous Fashion Award's designer of the year in 2025.

With Show 1 boasting an impressive 11 collections, Carried By Our Matriarchs

— From Legacy We Rise marked an exciting new chapter for Australia's largest annual showcase of First Nations Fashion.

Set within the outdoor landscaped forecourt of Charles Darwin University's Danala Campus, the runway unfolded beneath a heritage boab tree, in a setting that reflected the spirit of the event.

Danala, meaning "dillybag" in Larrakia language, symbolises a place for holding and sharing knowledge, reinforcing Country to Couture's enduring connection to Country, culture and community.

Welcoming new and returning designers and art centres to the catwalk, Show

1 featured the likes of Babbarra Women's Centre, Badu Art Centre, MumRed, Nagula Jarndu Designs and more.

Through powerful collections, participating designers and creatives honoured the rhythm carried by generations of women, the artistry, collaboration and lore that sustains culture, and the grace of Ancestors whose knowledge continues to flow through the sacred cycles of Blak womanhood.

"Returning to Country to Couture this year was incredibly special," MumRed designer Samala Cronin told Style Up.

"This year was particularly powerful because it brought together the largest



gathering of First Nations fashion designers, creatives, models, production teams, hair and makeup artists, and choreographers that we have seen. "Being on Larrakia Country, watched over by the 140-year-old boab tree as we activated that space, felt deeply significant.

"There was so much creative energy, culture, connection and pride across both showcases. It was absolutely magic."

Taking place on August 3, Show 2, Imprints and Memory — Seasons Of The Land, Water And Sky, explored the ongoing relationship between people and Country.

Described as a living archive, each collection embodied the imprints of place, story and

seasonal knowledge, reflecting how land, water and sky hold memory and guide cultural cycles.

Show 2's runway saw the return of several seasoned Country to Couture designers, (including Yarrenyty Arltere Artists, Corella & Crow and Goompi's Girl), and proud First Nations man Lucas Schober returned to the runway, not as a model, but rather a designer. After having walked the runway as a model for several years, this year the talented First Nations model turned designer was thrilled to debut his first collection at Country to Couture.

"This is my first time showcasing my art during the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair,"

he said. "After working in the fashion industry as a model for the past five years I saw a natural step to develop my own skills as an artist to learn about the medium of dressmaking."

Schober said the new collection Busted up is an evolution of his development in art and artistic practices and mediums.

"The collection which I titled Busted up shows the evolution of my development in this medium — from working hard out of a spare bedroom at my parents' house in Karama to embracing these challenges and accepting the support of my many communities around me, coming full circle to a blossoming collection shown on one of Australia's most





Above: Designer Noongar Arts Fashion, photographer James Alberts. Right: Designer LULUJARU, photographer Michael Jalaru Torres. Left: Designer The Mermaid Collective, photographer Benjamin Warlingundu Ellis.



Above: Designer Lucas Schober Art, photographer Michael Jalaru Torres. Left: Designer Mumred, photographer James Alberts.

illustrious stages in fashion," he said. Indigenous Fashion Projects manager Michelle Maynard said the Country to Couture broader creative team is "the essential ingredient" to "years of successful runway events that embed Indigenous agency".

"Our team reflects the breadth of the First Nations fashion community who come together on our runway, we ground together on Larrakia country to deliver the stories of designers and artists from so many regions," she said.

"It is our collective approach that has allowed the depth of talent to come through the program and extend into the industry. "Cassie Black and Jake Powers returned to the

team as styling assistants continuing in their professional development and elevation as leaders in our space; both have grown through the program over recent years and are carving their own career pathways in their respective communities.

"The experience for the team and our models has been enriched by additional industry creatives, including leading choreographer and creative Balla Neeba, who has levelled up the movement and creative delivery of the new runway experience, in collaboration with ARIA Award winning producer, Larrakia based artist James Mangohig, who returned to deliver a rich emotive soundtrack to hold the show."



Where footy meets fashion

PHOEBE BLOGG

First Nations supermodel Billie-Jean Hamlet and AFL star Jack Ginnivan have teamed up as the local faces of Reebok's major global campaign, Born Classic. Worn for Life.

Celebrating a new generation of trailblazers who set their own pace, the collaboration bridges high-fashion runway elegance with the raw, high-energy world of Australian sport.

The local rollout arrived this month amid massive global momentum for the sportswear powerhouse after Reebok's recent runway partnership with luxury house Celine at Paris Fashion Week.

This is the next local iteration of Reebok's Born Classic. Worn for Life. creative platform following previous successful chapters starring international model Inka Williams, as well as India Rafter and Mia Hewitt earlier this year.

The campaign,

covering Reebok's Classics line-up including the Club C 85, Club C Revenge, Workout Plus, Freestyle Hi, and Freestyle Lo, showcases how heritage court silhouettes seamlessly transition into modern street style.

For Hamlet, fronting the campaign caps off a monumental creative period.

Beyond opening and closing Australian Fashion Week, she continues to cement her status as a major creative force, recently directing the landmark Indigenous Couture Fashion Parade at the National Indigenous Art Fair.

"Fashion has become one of the ways I get to honour my ancestors, continue our tradition of storytelling and proudly represent my culture," Hamlet said.

Ginnivan brings his own distinct style credentials to the mix.

Recognised as one of Australian sport's most electrifying personalities, the premiership player made waves beyond the footy field with his runway debut at the 2025



AFL star Jack Ginnivan and model Billie-Jean Hamlet.

Melbourne Fashion Festival. By pairing Hamlet's editorial command with Ginnivan's unapologetic energy, the campaign highlights two icons who use timeless style to express their true individuality.

As part of the launch, Reebok is also introducing its new Garment & Gold collection. Following the launch of the Garment Leather range earlier this year,

this new drop takes 100 per cent premium leather classics, specifically the Club C 85 and Workout Plus, and elevates them with sleek metallic gold detailing, offering a refined, minimal twist on the brand's heritage shapes.

The Reebok Classics line-up, including the new Garment & Gold collection, is available now at reebok.com.au and select retailers.

Pluto Infill (PLA09) Development Drilling and Subsea Installation 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 Infill (PLA09) Development Drilling and Subsea Installation Environment Plan

The Pluto Infill (PLA09) Drilling and Subsea Installation Project is intended to utilise available processing capacity (ullage) at the existing Pluto facility by developing a new infill production well (PLA09), which will be connected to existing Pluto field infrastructure. The Project comprises installation of the moorings for a Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU), development drilling and completion of the new production well, pre- and post-lay surveys, installation and tie-in of subsea infrastructure, and cold commissioning of the subsea production system.

Environment that May Be Affected (EMBA)

The EMBA is the largest geographic area where an unplanned event could potentially have an environmental consequence. In the highly unlikely event a hydrocarbon release does occur, the whole EMBA would not be affected.

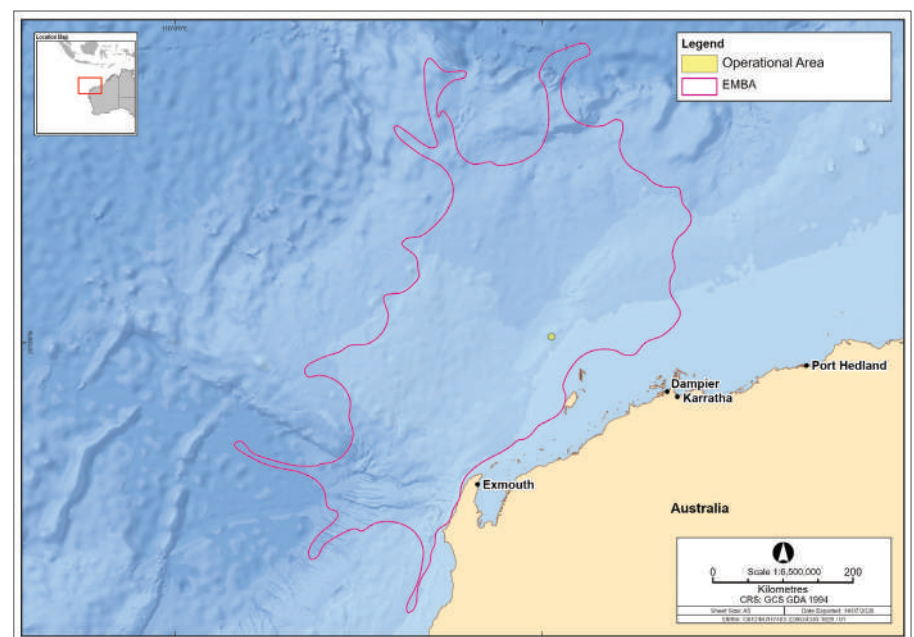
We would like to hear from you

If you are an individual, organisation or community group and believe your functions, interests or activities may be affected by the activities under this Environment Plan, we would like to hear from you by **17 September 2026**.

To find out more go to:

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Darwin shines as cultural hub

PHOEBE BLOGG

Darwin was a thriving hub for cultural opportunity this month, with the National Indigenous Fashion Awards, National Indigenous Music Awards, and Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair all held in the Top End this year.

National Indigenous Fashion Awards

The National Indigenous Fashion Awards on August 5, saw 25 finalists from across Australia honoured in seven categories recognising outstanding creativity, cultural knowledge and innovation, hosted by Indigenous Fashion Projects.

IFP manager Michelle Maynard said she was proud to provide a platform to acknowledge and lift up First Nations excellence.

“NIFA celebrates the diversity and strength of the First Nations fashion community, recognising designers whose work is shaping the future of Indigenous fashion while remaining grounded in culture,” she said. Award winners received industry mentorship, professional development opportunities, financial support, and access to partnerships designed to support sustainable careers in fashion.

Delvene Cockatoo-Collins won the prestigious fashion designer award. Other winners included Lillardia Briggs-Houston (textile design award),



Michelle Pulatuwayu Woody Minnapinni (traditional adornment award), Lucy Simpson (wearable art award), Jake Powers (Cecilia Cubillo young achiever award), Babbarra Women’s Centre x Tharangini Studio (community collaboration award), and Kimberley Aboriginal Fashion Textiles Art (business achievement award).

Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair

Celebrating its 20th year, the DAAF held an impressive opening ceremony on August 6, setting the tone for its three-day program with performances by Tiwi singers and dancers from Jilamara and Munipi Arts & Crafts Associations, and the Kerkar Kus Dance Team.

An expanded public program, allowed visitors to connect

deeply with artistic practice, cultural traditions and contemporary design.

The program featured artist-led workshops, dance performances, artist talks, masterclasses, material demonstrations, children’s activities and more.

DAAF Foundation executive director Claire Summers noted 2026 marked two decades of “celebrating and elevating the work of First Nations artists across the country”.

“DAAF started with a clear vision to create a platform for community-owned art centres to showcase the vibrancy and rich cultural tapestry of Indigenous art and creativity — giving them the autonomy to showcase the work of their communities in their own way,” she said. “Twenty years on,



Above: Baker Boy led a big night of winners at the NIMAs. Left: Waringarri Arts Centre gallery assistant Petrea Griffiths in front of Bali Bali Balga (top-left corner) by her grandfather Boorgaga (Chris Griffiths). Pic: Natasha Clark

that vision remains at the heart of what we do — connecting Indigenous-governed and community-led art centres directly with the world.”

DAAF was free to attend, allowing people to buy art ethically, directly from more than 75 Indigenous-owned art centres.

From 2016-2025, DAAF generated more than \$34.2 million for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visual art sector.

National Indigenous Music Awards

The National Indigenous Music Awards celebrated Indigenous music on Larrakia Country on August 8.

The NIMAs have been celebrating Indigenous Australian music for 20 years,

and bring together acts who are yet to make their mark on the world with those who have achieved international acclaim, such as Jessica Mauboy and Barkaa.

They are held annually at the Darwin Amphitheatre.

Recognising artists in seven categories — alongside two Hall of Fame inductions and a program of live performances — this year’s ceremony saw Baker Boy win album of the year for Djandjay, while his track Thick Skin, featuring Thelma Plum, Emma Donovan, Kee’ahn and Jada Weazel won song of the year and film clip of the year.

Baker Boy dedicated his album of the year award to his late grandmother, who gave Djandjay its name.

“She was the reason I have the confidence and no shame to . . . get out there and express my feelings and who I am and where I come from,” he said

The ceremony also inducted Guguyelandji and Woppaburra blues artist Marlene Cummins and Elcho Island roots outfit Saltwater Band into the NIMAs Hall of Fame.

During the ceremony, Big Noter performed Identity and marked 10 years since Briggs and the late Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu won the song of the year award for The Children Came Back.

Baker Boy returned to the stage to perform Thick Skin, joined by Emma Donovan, before Saltwater Band closed the ceremony with Bolu and Sailing Boat.



Deborah Mailman at the 2026 Logie Awards. Picture: Anna Kucera

MAILMAN JOINS LOGIES HALL OF FAME

GIOVANNI TORRE

Deborah Mailman made history this month as the first Indigenous person to be inducted into the Logie Awards Hall of Fame.

Mailman, a Bidjara and Maori actor and writer, said in her acceptance speech the historic moment left her “overwhelmed with pride”.

“It would take me a very, very long time to thank the people that I need to thank,” she said.

“The people who have shaped who I am today . . . you know who you are and I hope you know . . . how grateful I am for the role that you’ve played in my life.

“I’m overwhelmed with pride to be the first Aboriginal person to receive this honour and . . . as I look around the room, I’m so thrilled to see so many of our mob being celebrated tonight

“And finally, to my husband Matt who’s been by my side more than anyone and to my boys Henry and Ollie, I love you all.

“Thank you so very much everyone, thank you.”

Noongar star Lila McGuire was also honoured with the

Graham Kennedy Award for most popular new talent acknowledging her acclaimed performance in Goolagong as tennis legend Evonne Goolagong Cawley.

On August 16, Mailman became just the sixth woman to join the Logie Awards Hall of Fame.

She began her acting career in theatre, co-writing and acting in The 7 Stages Of Grieving in 1994.

She played Nona in Indigenous director Rachel Perkins’ film Radiance in 1998, winning an AFI Award for best lead actress, before her television debut as Kelly Lewis in The Secret Life Of Us, a performance that earned her her first Logie in 2002, and another in 2004.

Her career has gone from strength to strength, earning another Logie for Redfern Now, and starring in Bran Nue Dae and The Sapphires on the big screen.

Mailman also starred in the critically acclaimed Mystery Road, in the Indigenous superhero series Cleverman, and the award-winning The New Boy, in addition to doing voice acting in the children’s NITV series Little J & Big Cuz.

Budjerah 'perfect' for Akubra

DIANNE BORTOLETTO

He's shared the stage with Ed Sheeran, performed with Kylie Minogue, and Diane Warren wrote the closing track on his debut album.

Now, Budjerah is adding another big name to his story.

The Bundjalung singer and proud Coodjinburra man is fronting a campaign for Akubra, the 150-year-old Australian hat maker, wearing the Slim Dusty model from the brand's Heritage collection.

Named after a beloved Australian country music legend, the hat has found a new custodian.

"To me, Akubra definitely represents the strength of Australians," Budjerah said.

"Hard workers, drovers.

"That's what I saw my uncles doing when I was younger.

"It represents that strength

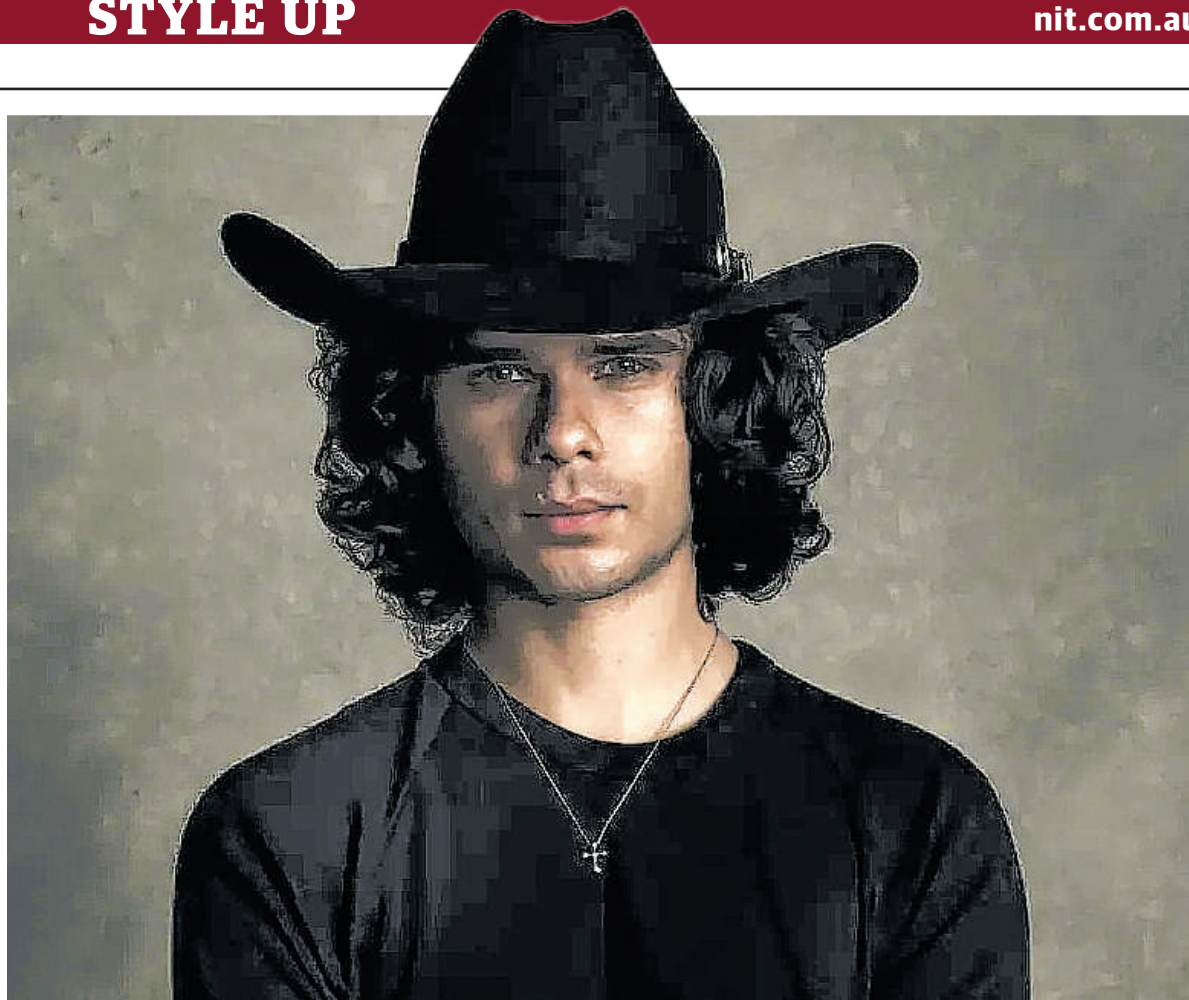
and resilience that Australia embodies."

That connection to Country runs deep. Budjerah grew up in the New South Wales North Coast town of Fingal Head and spent parts of his childhood visiting his mother's family in Brewarrina, western NSW, where his uncles worked the land in Akubras and, as he puts it, he "got to be a cowboy for a couple of weeks of the year".

When those same uncles visited recently and saw the hat, the reaction said everything. "They all thought it was cool. I felt so cool with my Akubra on," the 24-year-old said.

Akubra CEO Natalie Culina said the partnership was a natural one.

"Budjerah is the perfect representative of the Slim Dusty hat — grounded, authentic and connected to



Indigenous musician Budjerah has fronted a campaign for Akubra in the brand's 150th year.

place, just as Slim was in his time," she said.

It's a significant year for Akubra — its 150th anniversary.

Each hat takes six weeks to make, passing through 60 pairs of hands over 162 steps at Akubra's Kempsey factory in regional NSW. In a sense, Budjerah operates in the same

way. Debut album *Gentleman*, released at the end of July, was four years in the making, built around the idea of a young man stepping into who he always knew he could be.

The centrepiece is a suit, custom made, the kind of clothes he used to save for special occasions. Now, the moment he puts it on, the suit

transforms a shy kid from Fingal Head into a performer.

"It's like putting on a costume and putting on a character," he said.

"I have a guy in my head that I want to be. I want to be the gentleman, he's so cool and confident. When I put on that outfit and go on stage, that's who I am."



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This powerful story is reimagined in the artwork (pictured left) by Mexican Nahua artist Cuauhtémoc Wetzka.

At Woodside, we are inspired by stories that illuminate connection, culture and shared understanding.

Woodside's Indigenous Peoples Strategy 2026–2030 reflects this commitment, setting a clear vision for respectful relationships, meaningful engagement and shared value wherever we operate.



Scan the QR code to explore the Strategy and learn more.

Leaders urge funding fix

GIOVANNI TORRE

Indigenous leaders and representative bodies, women's groups and other human rights advocates have united in an urgent call this month for the Canadian Government to renew funding for work addressing missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

The British Columbia Native Women's Association, First Nations Summit, Indigenous Women Rise Society, Protect Our Indigenous Sisters Society, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs joined 15 other people and major organisations in writing the open letter to the Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney, and Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Rebecca Alt, on August 6.

They also called for a meeting with the PM and the minister.

Under the banner of the Coalition on Murdered and Mis-

sing Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit+ People (MMIWG2S+) in British Columbia, the letter's signatories expressed "grave concern" regarding the Canadian Government's decision to allow critical funding for MMIWG2S+ supports, Indigenous women's organisations, families, survivors and community-led initiatives to end "without adequate notice, transparency or a clear plan for renewal". The advocates urged the government to renew all Federal funding for MMIWG2S+ supports that had expired or was scheduled to do so, with no gaps in service delivery, and provide clear time lines for renewal.

The Indigenous leaders and women's advocates also called on the PM and Ms Alt to establish "sustainable long-term, stable core funding" for Indigenous women's organisations, family- and survivor-led organisations, grassroots groups and regional

coalitions working to end violence against Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit+ and gender-diverse people.

Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit+ people in Canada are disproportionately affected by gender-based violence. According to the Canadian Ministry of Justice, in 2017, despite Indigenous people making up only 5 per cent of the country's population, Indigenous women accounted for 10 per cent of all missing Canadian women and, in 2014, accounted for 21 per cent of all murdered women in Canada.

Indigenous women's organisations and family and survivor-led groups have warned Federal funding for programs addressing the crisis of MMIWG2S+ has expired or is at risk of expiring, leaving organisations unable to plan, retain staff, support families or continue urgent work to prevent, and respond to the

harms of, gender-based violence.

A recent report by the YWCA of British Columbia, found at a minimum, gender-based violence costs the province \$C1.12 billion (\$1.14b) annually.

In the August 6 letter, advocates urged the national Government to commit to "permanent, adequate and equitable" funding for MMIWG2S+ prevention, response, Indigenous-led health, healing and other support services; and to ensure families and survivors are meaningfully resourced to participate in decisions regarding MMIWG2S+ funding; implementation of the Calls for Justice and evaluation of Federal action.

They also urge the Government to report annually, in accessible and transparent language, on "how federal funding is advancing the Calls for Justice, including distinctions-based, regional, including urban

and rural, and family and survivor-led outcomes".

In April, Indigenous women's organisations called for long-term, sustained and equitable funding, noting short-term funding decisions undermined the very organisations working to prevent violence and support families and survivors.

"The federal government cannot claim commitment to the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice while allowing the infrastructure required to implement them to erode," the advocates warned this month.

"The National Inquiry made clear that the violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit+ people is rooted in colonialism and constitutes ongoing genocide.

"Governments have legal, constitutional and human rights obligations to respond with the urgency and accountability that this crisis demands."

Hearing a bid to protect ancestral forests

ANDREW MATHIESON

The Malind-Anim Indigenous community are mounting a legal challenge to protect West Papuan ancestral forests from a planned commercial development.

The action has been taken against the Merauke regency, an Indonesian administrative division, who have seized control of the Malind's customary land in a move the country's largest environmental non-governmental organisation claims threatens the Indigenous people's very survival.

The hearing is progressing this month in the Jayapura State Administrative Court in the largest city in Western New Guinea.

Reports on the proceedings indicate the Merauke administration has defended its position in the courtroom, while Malind lawyers have argued authorities failed to properly recognise Indigenous customary rights and the community's deep relationship with the forest.

Sekar Banjar Aji, the Malind people's plaintiff's chief lawyer, said the filing of the Merauke regency's decree has disregarded the principle of free, prior and informed consent (as enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples).

This term is an internationally-recognised principle protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples when governments and/or companies propose activities that could affect their



Testimony is heard inside the Jayapura Administrative Court hearing. Picture: Hubertus Gobai

lands, territories, resources or way of life.

The Malind people are seeking to have the permit set for food production revoked and to stop the proposed development, which they argue threatens customary forests, wetlands, and ancestral lands.

The Papua chapter of the Indonesian Forum for the Environment added the lawsuit is representing a "legitimate effort" by the Malind community to challenge a regional policy that may facilitate land-grabbing and "accelerate environmental destruction" across their customary land in the South Papua province.

The environmental non-governmental organisation is warning that large-scale land clearing and conversion for the

National Food Security Project may severely damage rainforest ecosystems, wetlands and swamp water sources that have long sustained the Malind people's livelihoods, culture and social life. It is standing in solidarity with the Malind community while closely monitoring the ongoing court proceedings surrounding the affected forests for the customary rights holders of the land.

"(Merauke) regional government policies should prioritise the protection of Indigenous rights and environmental sustainability rather than paving the way for any environmentally-destructive investment projects," the Papua chapter of the Indonesian Forum for the Environment said in a statement.

Lawyer Emanuel Gobay, who

is also representing the Malind-Anim people, described the Malind tribe as "the last bastion of ecological defence in Merauke".

"Revoking their rights to customary land is tantamount to robbing their identity, culture, and the future of future generations in Papua," he said.

The Papua chapter of the Indonesian Forum for the Environment called on the judges in the administrative court to "remain independent, uphold environmental justice principles, grant the Indigenous community's claims in full, and to annul the Merauke regency's decree".

The organisation also urged the Merauke regency administration to review and revoke permits affecting customary

lands and to focus on recognising and protecting Indigenous land rights.

Five representatives of the Malind-Anim Indigenous community initially filed the lawsuit to halt the decree, which approved the environmental feasibility of a prospective 135km access road in the Ilwayab district of Merauke, as part of Indonesia's Ministry of Defence's National Food Security Project; a series of initiatives aimed at increasing domestic food production.

Supporters from the Indonesian government administrations argue the project could boost overall food production, generate greater employment, encourage investment in an underdeveloped region and to improve overall transport.

Women bear the brunt

HANNAH MCGLADE

The Senate inquiry into racism against Aboriginal people is now wrapping up having traversed Australia and heard from many people from all walks of life.

Racism is well and truly a part of the social fabric in Australia, notwithstanding that racial discrimination has been prohibited here since 1975.

As an Aboriginal expert in race discrimination, I was scheduled to speak to the committee earlier this year, but dropped at the last minute.

Apparently, the witness list was full on that day, and they promised they'd be back!

My 30-plus years of working in race discrimination, including successfully prosecuting a serving Liberal senator for racial vilification under s18C (the first such successful Aboriginal case in Australia); supporting community in precedent discrimination cases; research and advocacy, were apparently unvalued. This is just one experience, and a relatively minor one, that I've had as an Aboriginal woman of seeing my work undervalued and perhaps even being

discriminated against. More importantly, I hear from Aboriginal women — increasingly so — about many and pervasive forms of discrimination they encounter, and are often distressed by.

Take the case of Mandurah's Strong Women's Group which on April 4, 2025, attended the City of Mandurah offices to hand-deliver a letter outlining its opposition to the proposed development of the Mandurah foreshore area for a brewery.

This area was once a Noongar women's birthing site, and is believed to be a burial place for stillborn babies.

The Strong Women's Group, made up of about 25 elderly Aboriginal women (and non-Aboriginal women supporters), including Elders with disability, entered the building during office hours to deliver their letter of concern.

They were met with an extraordinary police response following an employee's call that 30 people had forced entry into the council building and they had gone into lockdown.

Overzealous and aggressive police attention to Aboriginal people, especially women and mothers, is rooted in colonial history where police, working

“The triple-O call . . . was deemed a Priority 2 threat . . . Instead, police found a peaceful gathering of elderly women, some singing in Noongar . . . as well as the unofficial national anthem . . .

with “welfare”, removed thousands of Aboriginal children under assimilationist laws designed to end Aboriginal people as a race.

Police mistreatment and violence towards Aboriginal women, even young girls, has never ended, and neither has surveillance by “welfare”.

Recent reporting in The Australian on the Mandurah Strong Women's Group shows Freedom of Information reports recorded the triple-O call from the City of Mandurah was deemed a Priority 2 threat on par with a domestic violence assault or a serious vehicle crash. Instead, police found a peaceful gathering of elderly women, some singing in Noongar, as well as the unofficial national anthem, I Am Australian.

The FOI reports show the incident was downgraded from “priority” to “false” as police found no forced entry.

The question of how a peaceful protest resulted in such a heavy-handed police response is one the Police Commissioner Col Blanch should investigate.

It smacks of racism, and could have diverted police from serious violent crime.

Across Australia, Aboriginal women are increasingly reporting hurt and trauma from conduct and decisions that evidence discrimination against them as Aboriginal women, whose intersectional identity extends to other factors including age, disability, and sexual or gender identity.

Unfortunately, responses to racism are few and far between, and tend to neglect the multiple forms of discrimination that Aboriginal women experience.

Paradoxically, the more forms of discrimination a person experiences, the less

likely it is the discrimination will be seen and responded to.

Discrimination towards Aboriginal women can disappear in mainstream discussion on racism, but without question adversely affects women's health, social and emotional wellbeing, employment, economic empowerment, cultural status and human rights.

Importantly, the Strong Women's Group is also highlighting a need for wider dialogue about the obsession with breweries in view of the public health impacts of alcohol — and the alcohol industry — in particular, alcohol-related deaths, as well as harms caused by alcohol to unborn children and children exposed to alcohol-related violence.

These incidents also provoke questions about the State's commitments to reconciliation and truth telling, leaving unanswered how such processes will address the insidious, pervasive and growing problem of racism towards Aboriginal women.

Dr Hannah McGlade is a Kurin Minang human rights expert and law academic.

NAPLAN doesn't test the knowledge of our kids

RENAE ISAACS-GUTHRIDGE & MIKAYLA KING

Another NAPLAN release.

Another round of headlines telling the country Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are, once again, “lagging behind”.

We're tired of reading that sentence — because it's the wrong sentence, and has been for 18 years. Since 2008, NAPLAN results have been used to tell the same “gap” story, picked up and repeated as “news”, problematising students over other factors that contribute to student success like the education system itself.

We know Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are competent knowledge producers. That shouldn't need repeating every time NAPLAN results are released, but the deficit reporting keeps making it necessary.

NAPLAN was never designed to capture Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students' knowledge and strengths.

Many students we know speak more than one language and expertly code-switch between standard Australian English, Aboriginal English and their own language — skills invisible to standardised testing. Nor does it credit the agency, independence and sense of responsibility so many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students bring to and lead with in their classroom.

The settler-colonial education system in this country is working exactly as it was designed. In Western Australia, the 1840s Perth Native School trained Aboriginal children in domestic labour, and it wasn't until the mid-1900s that entry was allowed into mainstream schooling. Yet the system itself was never questioned, and low expectations of Aboriginal students have remained.

NAPLAN doesn't measure a level playing field. It measures how a colonial curriculum, a colonial testing regime and, too often, a colonial teacher workforce have kept Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at the margins while maintaining the educational project of assimilation as a key indicator of success.

There's a bigger question: why are we still measuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students against a non-Indigenous ‘norm’ at all?

Indigenous data sovereignty principles assert our right to control how data about us is collected, structured and used, so that it reflects our priorities and our definitions of success, not a settler benchmark we never agreed to.

Researcher Maggie Walter calls the alternative the “Indigenous data paradox” — an oversupply of data that neither meets our needs nor recognises our strengths, because it's built from the ground up to find us deficient

against someone else's norm.

NAPLAN is that paradox in action and it is used as a government mechanism to defend “what works”.

The narrow version of “what works” according to “evidence-based practice” ignores the importance of context, children's lived experiences and knowledge.

The “what works” ideology in the context of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students' NAPLAN results must be examined. What works for who? When? What are the benefits?

At what cost is “success” achieved? And how do we know this?

As researcher Robert Hattam says, “what works doesn't mean ‘what works’ for everyone”. It means “worked for the version of the child, the classroom and the community that survived the purification process”.

We know what actually works, because one of us has taught it. In a Year 4/5 classroom in Perth, an eight-week unit built around Noongar fish traps put Aboriginal knowledge-holders forward as the authors, had students researching their own families' fishing practices, and taught mathematics and science as knowledge systems thousands of years old rather than content to be delivered.

Students were engaged in literary practices that not only developed the use and application of standard



Words in the Dharawal language on a classroom wall. Pic: Alasdair Pal

Australian English conventions, but fostered joy in learning. It produced exactly the shift in confidence, pride and engagement policymakers claim they can't find another way to achieve. That's not an enrichment activity bolted on to “real” literacy and numeracy teaching. That is rigorous teaching, built on what Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students already know. And yet we see the current push towards scripted explicit direct instruction as the “national fix” and marketed as “the science of learning”.

There is little proof programmatic interventions, including EDI, make a difference by themselves, particularly when they follow a non-relational script dictated by government. EDI cannot happen in isolation. We know practices that are relational, negotiated and built with community get results a script never will.

Culturally responsive pedagogy (see Lester Irabinna Rigney and Robert Hattam) and the MELLE Framework (see

Helen Adam) are two examples that recognise the need for high-quality instruction, combined with children's funds of knowledge and critical resources.

We are at a crisis. We've got the theory and lived experiences — how we frame what happens next matters.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are not behind. They have — we have — always been capable, knowledgeable, and navigating a system doing exactly what it was built to do. The next report should measure that system.

Renae Isaacs-Guthridge is a Noongar and Yamatji Yorga with connections across Countries, including Wadandi Boodja. She is an academic and currently completing a PhD titled Aboriginal Student Transition To University: A Strengths-based Approach. Dr Mikayla King is a Kalkadoon woman, born on Whadjuk Country. She is an academic and recently completed her PhD titled Affective Awareness And Culturally Responsive Pedagogy: An Ethnography Of Teacher Researchers In Superdiverse Australian Classrooms.



Indigenous Businesswoman of the Year Jasmine Kadic. Picture: Benang Infrastructure

Underground work is there for all to see now

REECE HARLEY

"This award is for the women who have shaped the Indigenous business industry," Jasmine Kadic told the Supply Nation Supplier Diversity Awards gala in Boorloo/Perth this month, moments after being named Indigenous Businesswoman of the Year.

"For the grandmothers who walked the streets and fought to be seen. For the women who continued to show up, even when they felt like nobody was watching."

The Whadjuk Ballardong woman, managing director of Perth infrastructure business Benang, dedicated the award to women "who have faced barriers, discrimination, doubt and hardship and still found a way to keep going", to women lost to domestic and family violence, and to mothers "who have felt alone, who have carried the weight of their families on their shoulders, and somehow found the strength to keep moving forward".

"For every woman who has ever looked at her circumstances and thought, maybe I can't, I am here tonight to tell you, you can," she said.

Her final words were for her mother: "The woman I am, the woman I continue to become, and the strength I carry, it all comes from you."

Kadic told National Indigenous Times the speech drew on the women who came before her.

"I was channelling my grandmothers who paved the way for me to be there," she said. "I felt their energy that night, so I took that up with me on stage. I really wanted to make sure it was a speech that would honour them and the women I surround myself with, and also the women that don't have a voice."

The award capped a landmark week for Western Australia, with Supply Nation's Connect, the country's largest Indigenous business event, held in the west for the first time.

More than 2,000 people moved through the Indigenous Business Tradeshow at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, where more than 230 verified Indigenous businesses exhibited.

"It's been powerful to see so many people come together for Supply Nation, not just Aboriginal people themselves but our allies," Kadic said. "The network we've all created is quite powerful."

She said it was special to win as a West Australian as the national business community watched.

"We've got some pretty mature businesses in this sector who are doing some incredible things," she said. "Everyone was saying how much they loved having it over here. It was good for them to finally come over and see what the West has to offer, which I think is pretty bloody good."

Kadic co-founded Benang in 2018 with her husband Damir and business partner Goran Utjesinovic. Eight years on, the

multi-disciplinary contractor delivers underground services across water, power and gas for clients including Western Power, ATCO and Water Corporation, with a fabrication arm rounding out what she calls a turnkey offering. The business runs from a head office in Subiaco, a fabrication workshop, a laydown yard in Wangara and a site at Perth Airport.

Benang employs just over 80 staff, 20 per cent of them Indigenous, and Kadic ties that pipeline directly to the security of the contracts the business wins.

Its long-term partnership with ATCO has anchored a framework for apprenticeships.

"It's the continuity of business, the cash flow, the contracts, being able to expand over a few years, in order for me to make a difference when trying to upskill people," she said. "That's the real key to creating change, and we are doing that with ATCO."

That continuity has been hard earned. "We've worked really hard on our relationships with our clients, so we're not so nomadic these days," she said.

The company is structured into water, power and gas units, and moves crews between them. "What's powerful about that is we're able to use those employees and cross-skill them, so they're able to have that work all the time," she said.

Kadic said government procurement had helped to open real doors for Benang.

Māori on track to build a business alliance

REECE HARLEY

Waikato-Tainui, one of Aotearoa New Zealand's largest iwi (Maori tribal nations), this month signed a letter of intent with Indigenous Business Australia to invest across the Tasman, an alliance representing more than \$4.4 billion in Indigenous-owned assets.

For Tuku Morgan, Chair of Te Arataura, the executive management board for the Waikato-Tainui tribal iwi, the agreement rests on family.

"This is more than doing business," Mr Morgan told National Indigenous Times. "Many thousands upon thousands of our families have intermarried with First Nations people, and that makes it even much more personal. We are inextricably bound together by lineage, and we share common values, of looking after the environment, of looking after each other."

The letter of intent, signed in Sydney, commits the two organisations to investigating opportunities in managed investment funds and special purpose vehicles, including the Indigenous Prosperity Fund and the Indigenous Real Estate Investment Trust, along with Australia's mining and critical minerals sector and long-term infrastructure spanning energy, water, transport and logistics.

The timing follows the Maori Queen's call last year for a collective Maori investment fund.

The Kotahitanga Fund, announced at a national economic summit in December with around NZ\$100 million in seed capital pledged by iwi entities, is due to launch in September, Mr Morgan said.

"There has never been a better time than now for us to formalise a working relationship with an entity like IBA that provides scale, that provides infrastructural opportunity, in an important country like Australia," he said.

Mr Morgan's ambition for the partnership is ownership.

"The days of First Nations people, including Maori, standing on the sideline while big motorways are being built, while water treatment plants are being built, while power stations are being constructed, are over," he said. "We have to be meaningful players . . . That means taking equity. That means ownership."

Waikato-Tainui holds NZ\$2.4 billion in assets, built over the three decades since the Waikato Raupatu settlement of 1995, in which the Crown compensated the iwi for colonial land confiscations with NZ\$170 million in cash and land.

Waikato-Tainui was the first iwi to reach a comprehensive settlement with the Crown, and the deal seeded a commercial arm, Tainui Group Holdings, whose portfolio now reaches across retail, hospitality, logistics and land development.

Their model, keeping the land and leveraging it, sits behind the experience the iwi believes it can offer Traditional Owners in Australia: decades of convincing banks to lend against communally owned land.

"So long as people understand the nuances of native title, it can be used to benefit the native owners, the First Nations people who own those lands," Mr Morgan said.

"After years of working with banks, we're able to use multiply owned land as security for the things that we want to do on those lands. That's a major mind shift for banks and funds who don't understand our culture."

"The challenge for us is to take these people on a journey, to demystify Maori land, native title, and convince our partners that we can work with whatever the nuances are."

"It's been a long journey for us, and we've got some learnings . . . that we will bring to the table when we're talking to First Nations mobs around Australia."

IBA chairperson Darren Godwell said the agreement would lead to a significant new source of Indigenous capital entering Australia from offshore.

"The interest from Waikato-Tainui shows how Indigenous-owned capital is being mobilised from outside Australia for investment alongside IBA into Australian Traditional Owners and First Nations investment opportunities," Mr Godwell said.

IBA chief executive David Knights said IBA's role would be "to provide the institutional bridge between those investors, Traditional Owners and the broader Australian capital market".

Mr Morgan and Mr Godwell have already begun discussing prospective investments.

Access to capital is a step to success

REECE HARLEY

“We’ve been talking about better access to capital for thirty-odd years. To be honest, I don’t think we’re there yet.”

Leah Armstrong, interim director of the Australian National University’s Centre for Indigenous Economic Transformation, delivered that verdict at Supply Nation’s Connect 2026 conference in Boorloo/Perth this month, on a panel that put finance, and the institutions that control it, at the centre of the fight for Indigenous economic self-determination.

Yamagigu Consulting’s Roana Edwards presented the Blak-Print report, produced by the Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network with Yamagigu and Deloitte Access Economics, which found Indigenous businesses added \$3.4 billion to the Northern Territory economy in 2024-25, a tenth of everything the Territory produced and within \$75 million of the entire public administration industry. The sector employed 11,600 full-time equivalent workers, more than the Territory’s construction industry, and contributed \$843 million in tax across Territory and Australian governments.

“Investing in this sector is no longer just a nice thing to do, it is highly responsible economic policy,” Ms Edwards said.

“Our business sector is not something that sits on the fringes. It is at the heart of this nation and its economy.”

Noongar Chamber of Commerce and Industry chair Gor-

don Cole facilitated, opening on the banks of the Derbarl Yerrigan where his grandfather was born, and Wunan Foundation executive chair Ian Trust completed the panel.

The discussion kept returning to the morning keynote from KingKira Group founder Tammy O’Connor, knocked back for a \$40,000 car loan on her way to financing heavy machinery. Asked what a narrative of Indigenous economic success looks like, Ms Edwards answered: “It looks a bit like Tammy, right?”

Ms Armstrong said mainstream financial institutions had spent years on procurement targets, Reconciliation Action Plans and cultural capability while their risk appetite barely moved.

“Mainstream institutions still want an Indigenous business to fit into a traditional mainstream mould to access capital.

“Because those core systemic changes aren’t happening, we need to build a different system, a system that recognises and assesses the risk of Indigenous businesses differently.”

She put the sector’s capital demand at about \$800 million a year, based on survey work with Yamagigu at First Australians Capital, and cited Indigenous Business Australia’s estimate that \$100 billion will be needed for major projects requiring First Nations equity participation.

The model she wants exists in Canada, where the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association has helped build an architecture running



The finance panel at Supply Nation’s Connect in Boorloo/Perth. Picture: Reece Harley

from community lenders offering start-up capital to the First Nations Financial Authority and its billion-dollar loans. Ms Armstrong is advising the Commonwealth on similar reforms through the First Nations Economic Partnership, alongside the Coalition of Peaks and Treasury.

“Procurement has done great work over the last 10 to 15 years, but procurement needs to be part of a larger fiscal and financial architecture to truly accelerate progress over the next five years,” she said.

Mr Trust, who has spent four decades driving economic development in Western Australia’s East Kimberley, set the stakes in a single statistic.

“In 1967, the crime rate was below the State average. Today, it is 200 to 300 per cent above it. You’ve got to ask the question: what happened to cause that?”

His answer is jobs, business, assets and a growing Indigenous middle class.

“In a country as wealthy as Australia, there should be a huge effort to build the middle class. Yet there is still an element in our community that doesn’t see this as a positive thing. They think we’re aban-

doning our cultural values to some extent, which is not the case. I think that’s an issue of leadership, Aboriginal leadership selling our story.”

He pointed to the T-shirts worn at Kimberley Land Council meetings that read “Walk in Two Worlds”.

“That’s exactly what we’ve got to do. But I don’t think we’re very good at telling the second version of that story.”

At ground level, he said, the capital gap decides who sleeps at night.

“I know a guy out there who told me, ‘I can’t go to sleep because I’m worrying about how I’m going to pay my men, and worrying about where the next contract is coming from’. It is a very tenuous existence trying to run a business directly.”

He called on State governments to break up major contracts so smaller Aboriginal operators could tender with industry partners.

“If they are upgrading the road between Fitzroy Crossing and Derby, and the contract is worth \$100 million or \$200 million, why can’t they carve off a portion of that for Aboriginal operators to tender for with an industry partner?”

“I really connected with Tammy’s story about getting rejected for a \$40,000 car loan,” Mr Cole said. “It is deflating and devastating when you think you’ve made it, only to be rejected. I grew up expecting not to get loans, but when you finally do, it feels incredible.”

The same assessment, he said, waits in every meeting room: “You walk into these corporate or government offices and you can see a giant question mark over your head. They just look at you as a risk.”

Ms Edwards said the Indigenous Procurement Policy had been a game changer, and how relevant it proved depended on the contract managers who apply it: on nervousness about newer businesses, protection of comfortable incumbent relationships, and ignorance of what the policy allows.

“A policy is only as good as how it is used. The policy allows for great things, but in practice, we don’t see them occur.”

Asked what non-Indigenous companies could do, Mr Trust wanted satisfied clients to back emerging Aboriginal contractors with testimonials; Ms Armstrong wanted longer-term contracts.

NIT

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Kennelly claims top award

NICOLE BROWN

Kennelly Constructions was recognised this month with the inaugural Sunshine Coast NAIDOC Blak Business Award, celebrating an Aboriginal-owned and led business that has combined commercial success with an investment in First Nations employment, enterprise and community for more than 15 years.

Established on the Sunshine Coast in 2010, Kennelly Constructions has grown into a nationally recognised contractor delivering defence, civil and commercial projects across Australia. Led by brothers Shane and Adam Kennelly, the business has remained grounded in the values that shaped its beginnings.

For managing director Shane, the recognition carries particular significance because it comes from his own

community. "As a proud Bundjalung man, being recognised by your own community during NAIDOC Week carries a weight that no industry award can match," he said.

"It is recognition of the whole journey, not just mine but my brother Adam's, our families', and every person who has worked alongside us since we started the business."

The business has remained anchored by the same values since day one.

"Do what you say you will do, look after your people and never forget where you come from," Mr Kennelly said.

"Our culture is not a marketing line. It is who we are. Commercial success and cultural responsibility are not competing priorities for us. They belong side by side."

Those values are reflected in the company's commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander employment, apprenticeships, subcontracting opportunities and supplier diversity.

Together with sister businesses First People Recruitment Solutions and Indigenous Employment, Kennelly Constructions has helped create pathways to long-term careers while supporting Indigenous-owned businesses to grow. "Economic empowerment is self-determination in practice. A job changes a life, a career changes a family, and a business changes a community," Mr Kennelly said.

Beyond the workplace, the company has invested in initiatives that strengthen community connections, including helping establish the Sunshine Coast Indigenous Rugby Round, which has grown into a region-wide celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.



Shane Kennelly, left, with the Sunshine Coast NAIDOC Blak Business Award.

Winners inspire with their journeys

CALLAN MORSE

Indigenous business excellence was celebrated this month at Supply Nation's annual Supplier Diversity Awards.

The Awards, held at the Connect Gala Awards Dinner at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre on August 12, recognise businesses, government agencies, not-for-profit organisations, and individuals making a significant contribution to supplier diversity and helping build a vibrant Indigenous economy.

The Dr Dean Jarrett Award recognising Outstanding Impact was presented to Morrul, a Broome-based not-for-profit dedicated to creating lasting economic empowerment through business development and procurement opportunities.

100 per cent Aboriginal-owned and operated, Morrul supports Indigenous businesses across regional and remote Western Australia at every stage of growth. Its services include mentoring, business establishment, capability building, compliance support, and helping businesses secure government and industry contracts.

Supply Nation said between September 2024 and August 2025, Morrul supported 328 Indigenous businesses. Through one of its project funding streams alone, the organisation helped Aboriginal businesses secure more than \$39.3 million in contracts, creating an estimated 118 jobs for Aboriginal people.

Supply Nation CEO Kate Russell said the awards honour organisations and individuals making a positive difference to prosperity and their communities, "and that is something worth celebrating".

"Indigenous businesses remain resilient, optimistic, and committed to their values, and this is driving growth and success," she said.

The Indigenous Businesswoman of the Year 2026 was awarded to Jasmine Kadic, founder and managing director of Benang, an infrastructure and mechanical services company.

Corporate Member of the Year was awarded to Sodexo, a food service, hospitality and facilities management business with a focus on servicing the energy and resources sectors.

Government Member of the Year was awarded to Main Roads Western Australia and the Transport Portfolio Aboriginal Engagement branch.

Ms Russell said procurement of quality products and services from Indigenous businesses

All 2026 Supplier Diversity Awards winners

- Certified Supplier of the Year: Gunggandji Aerospace
- Supplier Diversity Advocate of the Year: Mark Kucks, Hutchinson Builders
- Corporate Member of the Year: Sodexo Australia
- Indigenous Businesswoman of the Year: Jasmine Kadic - Benang
- Registered Supplier of the Year: Morrul
- Procurement Professional of the Year: Sharleen Ains, BHP
- Government Member of the Year: Main Roads Western Australia and the Transport Portfolio Aboriginal Engagement branch
- Sam Tjengala Reuben Award recognising Young Entrepreneur of the Year: Samuel Coote, SIERA Logistics
- Indigenous Exporter of the Year: Kakadu Organics
- Supplier Diversity Partnership of the Year: Kardan Construction and Department of Housing and Works
- Dr Dean Jarrett Award recognising Outstanding Impact: Morrul

remains a foundation stone of business growth. "It's about knowledge sharing, building relationships and trust through personal connections and taking time to reflect on the achievements that are supporting economic empowerment, greater self-determination and improvements in the livelihoods of Indigenous peoples right across Australia," she said.

Supply Nation said this year's Connect theme, Journey, celebrated progress, growth and resilience; acknowledging the traditions of trade and entrepreneurship which have sustained Indigenous economies for generations and the legacy being built for future generations.

Supply Nation's Connect is Australia's largest and longest-running Indigenous business event and was held in Boorloo/Perth for the first time in its current format.

More than 230 verified Indigenous businesses exhibited at the Indigenous Business Tradeshow, representing sectors including consumer products, digital services, construction, project management, geospatial mapping and environmental services.

Supply Nation said 2,000 attendees visited the trade show to connect with suppliers and explore procurement opportunities. "We have received wonderful support for Connect 2026 and our Supplier Diversity Awards from businesses and partners in Western Australia," Ms Russell said.

"It's been exciting to see the passion on show in Boorloo. Congratulations to this year's winners and all finalists."

Ownership a way to long-term vision

REECE HARLEY

First Nations communities, businesses and families will demand more than \$100 billion in capital over the next five years, Indigenous Business Australia chief executive David Knights told the Developing Northern Australia Conference in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) this month.

"This is the foundation of a future economy where First Nations people are partners and leaders," Mr Knights said. "Achieving it requires trust, opportunity and equity."

To meet that demand, IBA is developing a new arm of the business, Major Projects and Structured Finance, dedicated to facilitating large-scale investments that build the Indigenous capital asset base and attract more capital into Indigenous Australia.

Mr Knights said IBA estimates

there may be as much as \$4.8 billion of Indigenous owners' equity sitting within the largest ORIC registered corporations alone.

"This, coupled with IBA capital, could be the seed to unlock wider pools of capital, and particularly in northern Australia," he said.

The speech, "From ILUAs to Equity, Igniting Indigenous-Led Investments", drew on years of work with organisations holding Indigenous Land Use Agreements.

"Consistently, the message has been that communities want to use those revenues to take control of their economic future," Mr Knights said. "Indigenous equity is self-determination. It is through ownership of projects on Country communities can exercise control. . . . Indigenous ownership and leadership offers intergenerational planning, thinking seven generations ahead, so we can work through the current uncertainty

and volatility and have a firm plan for future generations." Mr Knights noted the scale of the opportunity. The First Nations population of about one million people is young, with 60 per cent under the age of 30. The Indigenous estate covers about 70 per cent of the continent's land mass. He set out three interdependent conditions for unlocking First Nations led development: productive Country, productive capital and productive communities.

IBA is the Commonwealth's longest running economic development program. Over 50 years it has supported about 23,000 Indigenous families into home ownership and partners with more than 60 First Nations co-investors through its Indigenous Prosperity Fund, which returns between 7.5 and 11.5 per cent per annum. The organisation holds a net asset position of \$2.4 billion.

Grading way to growth

Walter Steam started his career operating a single grader, supporting businesses including Fortescue. It was the beginning of a long partnership that continues today.

Mr Steam, a Palyku Traditional Custodian, has grown his business into Munganya, a 50/50 joint venture with Sharon Kais and Jordan Kais that works with mining businesses across WA.

Munganya, meaning echidna in the Palyku language, is a symbol of strength and determination. The business creates training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people, with Mr Steam and the team also investing a portion of proceeds into community development initiatives. That growth has brought Munganya to work alongside Fortescue at the Nullagine Wind Project, where the business will maintain roads supporting the project. "I'm proud of what we have built at Munganya so far and we're looking forward to supporting Fortescue's wind farm project at Nullagine," Mr Steam said.

"This will be the first wind farm project we have worked on, but we are well equipped to deliver the work.

"It's a great opportunity for our business and we see value in projects that can reduce emissions and have a better outcome for the environment and our Country."



The Munganya and Fortescue teams.

The relationship extends beyond the work. Last month, Fortescue team members joined Mr Steam, the Munganya team and local residents for a barbecue in Nullagine, providing a chance to connect on Country.

Fortescue's director of approvals, communities and services, Rosli Wheelock, said "having Munganya working with us on the Nullagine Wind Project means we're drawing on their local knowledge and experience, while supporting an Aboriginal business with strong connections to the community".

This report was produced with the support of Fortescue.



Munganya's growing fleet.



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	29/1343	DALLA COSTA, Melville Raymond	48BL	63.8km SW'ly of Leonora	Lat: 29° 9' S Long: 120° 45' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	36/1138	METAL HAWK LIMITED	2BL	27.8km SW'ly of Leinster	Lat: 28° 7' S Long: 120° 32' E	LEONORA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	47/4866	NORTHERN STAR (PILBARA) PTY LTD	4BL	39.1km SE'ly of Whim Creek	Lat: 21° 4' S Long: 118° 7' E	KARRATHA CITY, PORT HEDLAND TOWN
Exploration Licence	47/4883	NZE MINING RESOURCES PTY LTD	15BL	28km SE'ly of Whim Creek	Lat: 20° 58' S Long: 118° 3' E	KARRATHA CITY
Exploration Licence	51/2325	1 MEEKATHARRA SG50 PERTH PTY LTD	37BL	87km W'ly of Wiluna	Lat: 26° 21' S Long: 119° 23' E	MEEKATHARRA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3376	MINING EQUITIES PTY LTD	38BL	5.1km SW'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 29' S Long: 119° 26' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	77/3397	GOLDEN HORSE MINERALS (AUST) PTY LTD	16BL	48.1km N'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 49' S Long: 119° 7' E	YILGARN SHIRE
Exploration Licence	80/6231	AMERY HOLDINGS PTY LTD	12BL	32.9km W'ly of Halls Creek	Lat: 18° 20' S Long: 127° 22' E	HALLS CREEK SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3437	SIMUNOVICH, Frank Peter RYDER NOMINEES PTY LTD	159.09HA	38.8km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 40' S Long: 120° 52' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5643	TOLEDO TENEMENT HOLDINGS PTY LIMITED	49.24HA	18.3km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 25' S Long: 120° 53' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5963	MINING EQUITIES PTY LTD	101.85HA	12.1km SE'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 31' S Long: 121° 24' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5988	BELL, Kevin Arthur	160.79HA	7.3km N'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 18' S Long: 121° 2' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5989	BELL, Kevin Arthur	199.29HA	7km N'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 18' S Long: 121° 2' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5990	BELL, Kevin Arthur	175.72HA	6.1km NW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 19' S Long: 121° 2' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5991	BELL, Kevin Arthur	199.66HA	5.5km N'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 19' S Long: 121° 3' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	24/5994	NORTON GOLD FIELDS PTY LTD	141.54HA	6.3km N'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 23' S Long: 121° 20' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4868	KURRAWANG RESOURCES PTY LTD	131.01HA	14.9km S'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 52' S Long: 121° 25' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE, KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	77/4717	FORRESTANIA RESOURCES LIMITED	17.17HA	16.1km SE'ly of Marvel Loch	Lat: 31° 32' S Long: 119° 37' E	YILGARN SHIRE

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: 26 August 2026

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 **26 November 2026**. 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. **26 December 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**

Mandjindja teen Kade Davey is aiming to become the first Indigenous Supercars driver. Picture: Supercars



CALLAN MORSE

West Australian teen Kade Davey is climbing Australian motorsport ranks with the ambition of being the first Indigenous Supercars driver.

The 18-year-old Mandjindja racing prodigy was behind the wheel in the Toyota GR Cup at the weekend, as part of the three-day Ipswich Super 440.

The one-make competition features identical Toyota 86 sports cars and is a key part of the Racing Together program, which provides a pathway for young Indigenous drivers to pursue a career in motorsport.

Davey moved to the Gold Coast in 2023 to join Racing Together and the renowned Norwell Motorplex, owned by Australian motorsport identity Paul Morris.

"While I was racing in the Aus-

Kade sets sights on Supercars dream

tralian Karting Championship, I found out about Racing Together through Michael Patrizi (driver manager) at the time," Davey said.

"Myself and my mum reached out to Garry Connelly and Monique (Racing Together founders), and we just told them a little bit about who I am and what I wanted to achieve, and then I got invited over to do a test day in an Excel.

"That's kind of how it all started. From there I went to do a race meeting, went OK in that, and then at the end of 2023 got accepted into the team.

"I did a year of Excel racing in 2024, then last year I raced Scholarship and GR Cup, and this year I'm racing GR Cup again."

Davey has taken on mentorship from Morris, and is in the second year of an mechanical apprenticeship which also sees

him work on his own race car.

"The ultimate goal for me is to be the first Indigenous Supercars driver — that's where I want to end up," he said ahead of the GR Cup action.

"It's such a long journey, and it already feels like we've come so far from karting to Excels and 86s, but really it's only starting now.

"I'm definitely excited to see what we can do at Queensland

Raceway this weekend, a home race, so not too far away which is nice"

The Toyota GR Cup was among four support categories racing at the Ipswich Super 440 at the Queensland Raceway.

The event was also the final round of Supercars' Repco Sprint Cup, with the championship leader at the end of the weekend booking a ticket to the Supercars Finals.

Broncos step up to encourage strong health

PHOEBE BLOGG

Brisbane Broncos proudly supported the Indigenous Literacy Foundation as its NRL Indigenous Round 50-50 Charity Raffle partner this month.

Responding to requests for culturally relevant books, early learning board books, resources and literacy programs, the Indigenous Literacy Foundation works in partnership with remote First Nations communities across Australia.

The foundation also supports communities to create, publish and share their own stories in the languages of their choice, with director of programs and publishing Zoe Cassim saying the work was about ensuring children could see their cultures, languages and commun-

ities reflected in the stories they read. "The power of seeing yourself in the book you read, seeing and hearing your language spoken, seeing your artwork and characters that look like you, in places that you recognise . . . it's a feeling of being valued enough to be seen and represented," she said.

"The ILF books and programs aim to support all generations of the families we are lucky to support and work alongside.

"Every child deserves to have access to books in their home language (and) every child deserves to be seen and heard."

League fans were able to support the Indigenous Literacy Foundation by buying a 50-50 Charity Raffle ticket for Round 24 (the second weekend of the

League's Indigenous Round games). Ms Cassim said every contribution helped the foundation continue its work alongside more than 500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

"We are fully not-for-profit, which means every dollar and cent raised, every person who shares our work or wears our merch, that money goes straight back into the 500+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities we work with," she said.

The Broncos also supported Deadly Choices Round at Suncorp Stadium as the Club's NRL and NRLW teams came together for a double-header for Indigenous Round.

An initiative of the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health,

Deadly Choices is Australia's leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander preventive health program which has maintained a long-standing collaboration with the Broncos.

The partnership uses the reach of rugby league to encourage and empower Indigenous peoples to make healthy choices for themselves and their families such as eating healthy, being physically active, not smoking or vaping and connecting with a community-controlled health service for a 715 Health Check — a specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health check focused on key areas of risk.

The team also played mini league on Suncorp Stadium as part of the night's action alongside Deadly Choices teams from

ATSICHS Brisbane, Yulu-Burri-Ba Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health, Goolburri Aboriginal Health Advancement, and Galangoor Duwalami Primary Healthcare.

Institute for Urban Indigenous Health chief executive and Torres Strait Islander man from Mabuig and Yam, Wayne Ah Boo, said Deadly Choices Round was an important opportunity to celebrate community and the partnership, while encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to take control of their health.

"This particular round is about platforming our community for their commitment to making healthy choices, celebrating our culture and inspiring the next generation's health journey," Mr Ah Boo said.

SPORT

Leader Hill joins the elite 300 club

JARRED CROSS

Three-time premierships player, fan favourite and recognised leader Brad Hill, starred for St Kilda in his 300th game last Thursday.

Hill's milestone capped his 15th season at the highest level.

The Noongar man became the 113th player in VFL/AFL history to reach 300 games, and the ninth First Nations player to reach the milestone, joining Brownlow medallists Gavin Wanganeen and Adam Goodes, Andrew McLeod, Michael O'Loughlin, Shane Edwards, Eddie Betts, and premierships teammates at Hawthorn Lance Franklin and Shaun Burgoyne.

While the Saints were defeated 14.19 (103) to 12.8 (80), Hill racked up 42 possessions and gained almost 1000m.

Hill has been recognised for his leadership of First Nations players at his club and across the competition.

Commemorative T-shirts were a presence at the club during the week, as were clips sent in by past teammates, rivals and more.

Hill, 33, has another year left on his contract, and told News Corp his body was not yet letting him down as he looked ahead to a 16th season and, hopefully, a push for the 2027 finals.

Saints coach Ross Lyon said Hill had been a mentor to every Indigenous player who had come through the Saints during his time there. Nasiah

Wanganeen-Milera said remaining with Hill had been a factor in his mega re-signing with the club last year.

"It's nice to hear that," Hill said in response.

"It does make you feel as if you have had an impact on them and that they feel good in rocking up to the club.

"I always like to make it a safe space for them and a place for them to come in and enjoy and to be the best they can be.

"If Nas feels that way, that's good. He's a special player and he's a special person."

Hill debuted with the Hawks in 2012, going on to win three consecutive flags in 2013-15 before a move back to his home state for three seasons with Fremantle from 2017.

He claimed the Dockers' best-and-fairest in his first year at the club, where he joined his brother Stephen.

The pair became the first siblings to line up against one another in a grand final for more than a century when Hawthorn and Fremantle met in the 2013 premierships decider.

Hill returned to the east to join St Kilda ahead of the 2020 season, and has played 151 of his 300 games in the red, white and black strip.

He has represented the Indigenous All Stars multiple times throughout his career, including in their return in 2025, and featured for WA in February's State of Origin season curtain-raiser against Victoria.



Bradley Hill of the Saints is chaired from the field by teammates Liam Ryan and Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera after his 300th match. Picture: Scott Barbour

Wallam and Mi Mi extend their time at Lightning

JARRED CROSS

Donnell Wallam and Leesa Mi Mi will stay put on the Sunshine Coast after re-signing this month with the Lightning for the 2027 Super Netball season.

The First Nations stars have penned one-year deals after the competition's signing window opened.

Wallam will run out for a second season with the Lightning next year after returning to

Australia from Aotearoa's ANZ Premiership.

The 32-year-old starred up front this year, finishing with 600 goals for the season.

"This has been the perfect place for me to make my return to Super Netball," Wallam said.

"I've felt so supported as a player from all my teammates, the staff, and the entire Lightning community."

Wallam also clocked up 71 rebounds, and earned selection

in the Australian Diamonds 2026-27 squad.

She capped the year as the Lightning's players' player winner at the club's end of season awards night.

Wallam will have a new partner in the shooting circle following the departure of Cara Koenen.

Mi Mi has committed to a fourth season with the Lightning.

"I have loved my time so far

with the Lightning; since moving here in 2024, the Sunshine Coast has become my home," Mi Mi said last Monday.

"Having the opportunity to learn and grow in such an amazing place is a big reason why I'm excited to pull on the Lightning dress next season."

The mid-courter moved north from Brisbane after a season as a training partner and five Super Netball games with the Queensland Firebirds in

2023. Mi Mi, 26, quickly established herself on the court on the Sunshine Coast.

"Leesa has already shown us that she has amazing talent and we can't wait to see her continue to get better and better in 2027 and beyond," Lightning coach Belinda Reynolds said.

On Wallam's signing, Reynolds said: "She has quickly become a favourite with our players and fans and is so reliable for us week in, week out."