

NIT

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS TIMES



Fast & glorious
Artist's supercar head-turner

STYLE UP **STARTS PAGE 9**



Gumatj leaders Djawa Yunupingu, centre, and Balupalu Yunupingu, far right, celebrate outside the High Court of Australia in Canberra. Picture: Mick Tsikas/AAP

HISTORIC LAND RIGHTS VICTORY

High Court rules for Gumatj over mining lease compensation

DECLAN BRENNAN & DAVID PRESTIPINO

Traditional Owners have won an historic land rights case with potentially major implications before the High Court.

The Commonwealth this month lost the legal battle over whether it can be liable for up to \$700 million in compensation for lost Native Title rights over a mining lease on Gumatj land.

The case was brought by renowned land rights activist, the late Dr Yunupingu, on behalf of the Gumatj people in 2019 after bauxite mining operations began to cease on the Gove Peninsula in North East Arnhem Land.

The Federal Court previously found Native Title rights and interests constituted property, with any extinguishment amounting to an acquisition.

It ruled the Gumatj clan's land was not acquired "on just terms" before it was then leased to the mining consortium, Nabalco.

The Commonwealth appealed against this verdict to the High Court, which ultimately found in favour of Dr Yunupingu (on behalf of the Gumatj Clan or Estate Group) on March 12.

Djawa Yunupingu, a senior member of the Gumatj clan, told the ABC outside court that "justice has been served in this country for my people and the

people of North East Arnhem Land".

"I also want to acknowledge my late brother . . . who was the one who had the vision. It's for the future of my people and our children and their children."

Federal Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus said the Government "recognises the significant contribution that the late Dr Yunupingu made in initiating this case".

"The Commonwealth appealed to the High Court to settle critical constitutional issues in this case. This decision clarifies the Constitution's application to those issues for parties to this and future matters."

The case focused on the Commonwealth's decision to allow

mining on the land in 1968 without consent from Traditional Owners.

The Gumatj had to demonstrate that there was "property" to acquire "on just terms". However, the property is in the Northern Territory — a territory — in which the Commonwealth has control and final say over the land.

The Traditional Owners argued the granting of leases left it with non-exclusive Native Title rights which included the right to resources on or below the surface — including minerals.

The Commonwealth argued the "just terms" clause within section 51(xxxi) of the Constitution does not apply to the

territories. The High Court rejected this argument.

The Government had argued it would be exposed to a "vast amount" of compensation if its appeal fails.

"The Commonwealth would be liable to pay compensation (to Native Title holders) with interest . . . possibly over 100 years or more," Commonwealth Solicitor-General Stephen Donaghue previously said.

The Commonwealth also argued Native Title rights could be overruled by an exercise of the Crown's sovereignty. This was also rejected by the court.

"In the present case, to adopt

CONTINUED PAGE 3

WA Hall of Fame adds six strong women

RHIANNON CLARKE

Six Indigenous women were among the 16 inductees to the Western Australian Women's Hall of Fame at a ceremony in the Government House ballroom on March 6.

Inductees were recognised in eight categories – arts; business; community; culture; education; health; sport; and STEM and technical trades.

Among the inductees was proud Noongar woman Kim Farmer, whose career in law has seen her serve in multiple industries, including as a barrister and solicitor for the Aboriginal Legal Service and as a sole legal practitioner. In 2024, Ms Farmer was appointed a Magistrate of the Children's Court.

Dr Hannah McGlade, the first Aboriginal woman to complete a law degree in WA, was also inducted. The human rights advocate, researcher, and community leader is dedicated to advancing Aboriginal rights and supporting Aboriginal women and children affected by violence.

Her advocacy played a key role in shaping the first action plan on violence against Aboriginal women, and her work extends to the United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues. "Aboriginal women have long been described as the 'backbone of the community' but too often our leadership and work are not recognised or acknowledged," Dr McGlade said. "I've worked hard for women to have safety from violence



Six acclaimed Indigenous women were inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame. Picture: WA Women's Hall of Fame

throughout my life, and it's lovely to have this recognition."

Proud Noongar woman Alison Scott from Boorloo (Perth), was recognised in the community category. An advocate for survivors of family and domestic violence and sexual violence, she has used her own experience to drive awareness and push for systemic change.

Anaiwan artist and educator Lesley Murray, from NSW and living in WA for 30 years, was inducted for her contribution to the arts in WA and beyond. As a co-ordinator for Best Start Armadale, she helped prepare Aboriginal children and families for school, while honouring cultural heritage. This resulted in

children graduating high school and mothers securing employment.

In the culture category, Noongar woman Glenys Collard, from the South West, was honoured for her extensive contributions to Aboriginal education, language preservation, and cultural advocacy. A leading figure in the study of Aboriginal English, Ms Collard has played a significant role in ensuring greater recognition of this linguistic heritage, particularly through her work on the ABC of Two-Way Literacy and Learning project.

The sport category celebrated Professor Juli Coffin, who has traditional ties to her grandparents' Nyangumarta country in the Pilbara.

A former elite water polo player and the first Aboriginal player to represent Australia, Professor Coffin now leads Yawardani Jan-ga, an innovative research project and equine assisted learning program based in the Kimberley.

Among the four additional women posthumously recognised in the Roll of Honour was Senior Elder Janet Oobagooma (Eewaambood) of the Worrorra tribe, a respected teacher of Country and Culture who passed away in 2022. A passionate advocate for Native Title rights, Mrs Oobagooma worked tirelessly to preserve language, culture, and traditional knowledge, passing it down to future generations. Fluent

in Woddordda, Wunambal, and Ngarinyin, her contributions have left a lasting impact on her community.

The WA Women's Hall of Fame was established in 2011 to mark the centenary of International Women's Day.

The event was held in the presence of Governor of Western Australia Chris Dawson and Sue Ellery, who was the minister for women's interests at the time, celebrating the contributions of these women across various fields. This year's WA Women's Hall of Fame induction reinforces the importance of acknowledging the impact of women in WA.

'Unprecedented' powers

GIOVANNI TORRE

The NT parliament passed the Territory Coordinator Bill last week, despite strong opposition from leading Indigenous groups and legal experts.

The new law creates an office with the power to override more than 30 laws relevant to projects of "economic significance", and also allow the Territory Coordinator Minister, a role held by Chief Minister Lia Finocchiaro, to modify or exclude other Territory laws applicable to the same projects.

The 32 laws the Coordinator and Minister can override under the new system include the building, environmental protection, water and radiation protection acts. Last November, the draft Bill was released for public consultation, with 94 per cent of the hundreds of public submissions received being opposed to the proposal.

Last month a second draft was introduced to parliament then sent to the parliamentary Legislative Scrutiny Committee, which is effectively controlled by the government.

On March 18 Deputy Chief Minister Gerard Maley said the government accepted eight of 25 recommendations made by the committee. However, Traditional Owners had warned that the committee made only "minor" recommendations.

One recommendation rejected was that the appointment of the Coordinator be made only after an endorsement from parliament. Another rejected recommendation was that compensation for damage to land should be determined by the minister or an independent third-party, not the Coordinator.

All four of the Territory's Land Councils opposed the Bill, as did the Larrakia Nation, Aboriginal Peak Organisations

NT, and the Nurrdalini Aboriginal Corporation.

The Territory Coordinator will be able to affect decisions and processes across 32 Scheduled Acts listed in the Bill, along with a host of regulations made under those Acts giving the coordinator "unprecedented and sweeping powers", the Land Councils said.

The addition of the Heritage Act 2011 to the list of Scheduled Acts will make it subject to the powers of the unelected Coordinator, demonstrating, in the words of the four Land Councils, that the NT government is "calously uninterested in the protection and preservation of our places of historical importance; and powers to enter private property including Aboriginal freehold land without a warrant are a breach of fundamental rights".

Consultation on the Bill has been "tokenistic at best", the

Councils said, with "almost no recommendations made by Land Councils taken on board from our comprehensive submissions". "This feels like a sign of things to come. Instead of improving the Bill, the Territory Coordinator's decision-making powers in the final draft are expanded, and the public's right of review is removed," the joint statement read.

The removal of merits review from the NT Petroleum, Planning and Water Acts is also likely to be passed in the March Sitings of Parliament. The Council said that when taken alongside the Territory Coordinator Bill, "this represents a fundamental attack on the rights of Territorians to scrutinise government decision-making and protect the parts of the Territory's society and environment that are important to them".

Northern Land Council chair Matthew Ryan said Traditional

Owners "should not be sidelined by the NT Government, we should have a seat at the table when it comes to decision-making that affects our future".

Anindilyakwa Land Council Chair Cherelle Wurrawilya said all activities on Aboriginal land must involve the land's owners.

Nurrdalini Aboriginal Corporation chairperson Samuel Janama Sandy, a Djingili Elder from Elliott in the heart of the Beetaloo Basin, said the new law "puts too much power in the hands of one person".

In a submission to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee, Greg McIntyre SC, a former Law Council of Australia president who represented Eddie Mabo in the landmark native title case, wrote: "This is an extraordinary piece of legislation which gives unprecedented powers to a public servant... It is a very unusual piece of legislation to have before any parliament."

The National Indigenous Times is proudly produced by The West Australian in partnership with the NIT editorial team. NIT is circulated in every State and Territory by Seven West Media and News Corporation.

SALES CONTACT

Ads Manager:
adsmanager@nit.com.au
0414 608 795
Print ads must be confirmed by Tuesday prior to print

EDITORIAL CONTACT

Editor:
Giovanni Torre,
editor@nit.com.au, 0437 989 411
Business Editor:
Zak Kirkup, kirkup@nit.com.au
Lifestyle: styleup@nit.com.au

CIRCULATION

Distributed on the last Tuesday of each month in The West Australian in WA, and the last Wednesday of each month in The Courier-Mail, The Daily Telegraph, Adelaide Advertiser, NT News, The Mercury and The Herald Sun.



The National Indigenous Times is a Supply Nation-certified 100 per cent Aboriginal-owned media company.

Adobe lashed for hurtful AI 'stock' images

JOSEPH GUENZLER

Adobe is facing criticism from Indigenous artists and human rights advocates for hosting AI-generated images and artworks depicting "Indigenous Australians" on its stock image platform.

A review of Adobe Stock found numerous AI-generated images labelled as Indigenous Australians, many of which do not resemble Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The images also feature random markings that have no cultural or clan significance, raising concerns about authenticity and consultation.

Traditional body markings in Indigenous cultures are specific to tribal groups, yet the AI-generated images appear to apply them in a generic and inaccurate manner.

AI-generated Aboriginal art-



A screenshot of AI-generated art that looks like Indigenous art. It is no longer on AdobeStock.

work has also been discovered on the platform, leading to fears real traditional designs may have been used to train AI models without permission.

Indigenous artists community members have questioned whether Adobe sought consent from traditional custodians before producing these works and whether the AI-generated content is replacing or devaluing real Indigenous artists.

Wanyi and Kalkadoon artist Kylie Hill called it an attack on real artists. "I think it's criminal. It's taking money away from real artists," Ms Hill said.

"Our artwork is about our lives and our family, and they're taking that to make a quick buck off it."

Additional concerns were raised regarding Adobe Stock's use of the outdated and offensive term "Aborigine" in its image descriptions, a term with a harmful colonial history. The stock images also included AI-generated pictures purportedly of Native American people, with one image showing southern European-looking young girls wearing fake feather headdresses.

National Indigenous Times queried Adobe on its accountability measures, consultation processes, and whether the inclusion of AI-generated



AI-generated "Indigenous" kids with random markings. Pic: AdobeStock

Indigenous images was an attempt to avoid paying real artists and models. Adobe did not directly address the concerns raised. Instead, it provided a statement referencing its Reconciliation Action Plan, saying it is "on a journey of reconciliation" and "exploring how we can evolve and update our RAP".

Adobe also pointed to its Illustrative Editorial category, which allows for AI-generated conceptual imagery intended for editorial use.

"Unless explicitly marked as editorial only, the content displayed on Adobe Stock reflects the creative vision of its contributors and should not be interpreted as factual."

Dr Hannah McGlade, a Kurin Minang Noongar woman and Senior Indigenous Fellow at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human

Rights, also criticised Adobe's actions, warning that the company is disregarding human rights principles.

"It's shocking that a major company like Adobe would be engaging in such disrespectful conduct towards Indigenous people who have suffered histories of colonisation and violence," she said. "UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights need to be respected by all non-state entities, including Adobe."

The backlash against Adobe highlights broader concerns about AI, cultural appropriation, and Indigenous representation in digital spaces.

Indigenous advocates are calling for greater transparency, accountability, and an immediate halt to the use of AI-generated Indigenous images and artwork without consultation or consent.



A screenshot of an Adobe image which is captioned as being of an Indigenous Aboriginal man. The man appears to be wearing a Native American styled headband.

An elderly, older indigenous Aboriginal Australian man staring at the camera. Traditional head band. First Nations people.

By Opium Creative

Generated with AI

Editorial use must not be misleading or deceptive.

DIMENSIONS	FILE TYPE	CATEGORY
5376 x 3584px	JPEG	Culture and Religion

LICENSE TYPE
Standard or Extended

- Standard license (Free trial) ⓘ
- Extended license (A\$8799) ⓘ

Download with free trial

High Court rules NT land lease was against Constitution

FROM PAGE 1

the conditional common law rule of recognition of Native Title rights and interests would destroy that equality and perpetuate its own form of injustice," the court found.

The National Native Title Council congratulated the Gumatj Clan. "This decision realises the vision of Mr Yunupingu and the Gumatj Clan, who continue to fight for land and Native Title rights to be recognised and respected, not just in the Northern Territory, but across all our various Countries," chair Kado Muir said. "The Gumatj decision shows when our sacred lands are

taken away, we are entitled to receive compensation on just terms in accordance with . . . the Constitution, in the same way as any other citizen of Australia."

NNTC chief executive Jamie Lowe said the decision "confirms . . . Native Title is now not only recognised under Australian law but also clearly protected by the Constitution, the same as any other ordinary land title or property".

"Where the Commonwealth, States or Territories have acted in a way that fails to respect Constitutional or other legal protections, then it is common sense that there will be redress."

There was no decision on the compensation for the Gumatj Traditional Owners, with Mr Muir noting the "question of the amount of compensation will be referred back to the Federal Court to determine".

"Once the issue of quantum of compensation is determined, the award arising from today's judgment will support real economic empowerment for the Gumatj people," he said.

The First Nations Economic Empowerment Alliance said the ruling highlighted the need for a national settlement process.

"While the Federal Court will now

determine specific compensation, this ruling highlights the urgent need for a comprehensive national settlement process rather than forcing Indigenous communities through protracted and costly litigation to secure what is rightfully theirs," they said in a statement.

Chairman of the Alliance, Professor Peter Yu, said the decision "honours the legacy of the late Dr Yunupingu, whose courageous leadership through decades of legal battles has finally secured justice for his people".

The Northern Land Council also praised the judgment, saying it respected the rights of Native Title

holders in the NT to seek amends for historic acts. The Rirratjingu people also declared it a landmark victory.

Rirratjingu patron and former chair, Bakamumu Marika, said it was a big step to fulfilling the important work of "being in control of our land – work begun by our fathers and grandfathers".

"This battle was always about more than compensation; it was about justice, recognising the true cost of dispossession and strengthening our future through land rights, economic independence and cultural sovereignty."

Knowledge man on mission to connect

JARRED CROSS

Wurundjeri Ngurungaeta Murrundindi felt a deep connection with his ancestors, their birthplace and the site they called home from the first time it was under his feet.

It's a connection he's welcomed, carried and imparted for the majority of his life.

"In 2006 my uncle left me his title of Ngurungaeta, meaning (Wurundjeri) head man," he told National Indigenous Times.

At 79, Murrundindi celebrated 40 years of service at Healesville Sanctuary this month, on the same site as Coranderrk Mission, where he's worked sharing Wurundjeri knowledge and history for decades — plants, foods, animals, language and customs.

Born on Country, albeit in "brick city" North Melbourne, it started from a young age.

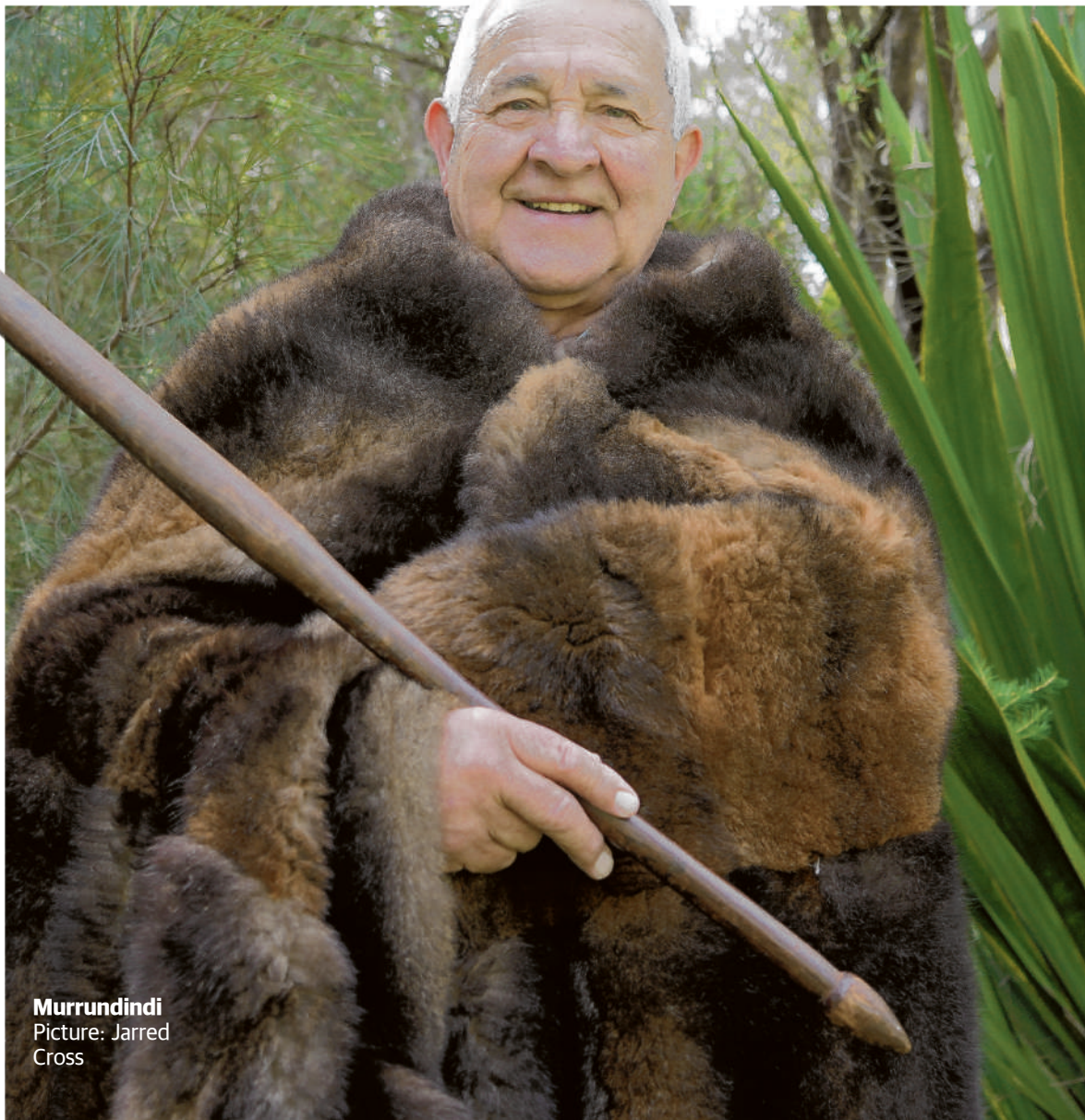
Western education wasn't a major presence in his early life. "I found it very difficult to read and write up until the age of 40," he said, but he always took to what's become a love and responsibility.

"I was the middle son, and I was the one always hanging around my grandparents and my parents, and always with my mother and my grandmother wanting to know about culture, wanting to know about history," Murrundindi said.

He made spears and boomerangs in the back shed, taking on the cultural knowledge and his late parent's encouragement for respect for all people and cultures, something he says is vital for everyone, including his father's side's Scottish background.

Murrundindi's mother was the last Aboriginal woman born at Coranderrk Mission, he said. His name means "home up in the mountain" in Woi Wurrung.

"Every time I'd come up to Healesville to visit my grandmother I'd always go out in the bush with her. She'd take me fishing. We'd make spears up here. We had so much fun. I remember, as a little boy grow-



Murrundindi
Picture: Jarred Cross

ing up, when I was up here (in Healesville) with my grandmother I felt home," Murrundindi added, "and then we'd go back to what I call brick jungle . . . in a housing division estate, I wasn't happy there. I wanted to be up here all the time because the land is my life . . . I call the land my mother. I respect her."

He says a lot of progression to culture, the land and environment has been made through the years, particularly in the past decade and a half.

"I love what I do," Murrundindi said, still coming to the Zoo's Victoria Sanctuary every Sunday and for school tours, sharing culture and his coun-

try Murrundindi calls a "supermarket".

"I have parents who come here today and I taught them in kindergarten. They're bringing their children just to see me. That makes me feel very honoured. We've for that generation coming through — they want to learn about culture and history. I pick up on energy and I just talk about what comes into me."

A mum once told Murrundindi he saved her daughter and a friend's life with his food knowledge and survival skills he taught them as school children after they later got lost in the Grampians.

On March 19, friends and col-

leagues celebrated Murrundindi's 40 years at the sanctuary. Director Ross Williamson said he's been a "guide and teacher on our journey to learn".

"It's wonderful to see how he connects with people and makes them feel special. They always leave with a greater respect for the Wurundjeri People and their connection to this Country," Mr Williamson said.

Murrundindi's work is a major contributor to the sanctuary's three consecutive Victorian Tourism awards Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Tourism Experiences.

"As long as I teach culture, my diary is booked out for the rest of my life," he said.

Racism and abuse rose over Voice referendum, report finds

DECLAN BRENNAN

During The Voice referendum First Nations people experienced increasingly open and hostile levels of racism — much of it in the media and online, a report released this month confirms.

The 2023-24 Call It Out report highlighted 453 validated reports of racism towards Indigenous people between March 21, 2023, and March 20, 2024. Almost two-thirds of registrations of incidents (62 per cent) were reported by a witness, up 14 per cent from the previous year. The report covers respondents to the Call It Out online register, an independent, Indigenous-controlled reporting mechanism operated as a collaboration between the Jumbunna Institute for Education and Research and the National Justice Project.

Many of the comments reported came during the immediate aftermath of the referendum. Several Indigenous organisations reported a rise in racist abuse in the period, while misinformation and disinformation spread about Indigenous people and organisations from sources including media personalities was widely acknowledged as a factor.

"The relatively higher rates of witness reports in 2023-24 perhaps reflects the impact of the Voice Referendum 'debate' and the related increase in reported instances of online and media related racism," the report said.

"There can be no genuine discussion on the Voice referendum without discussing the impact of racism, both throughout the campaign and in its aftermath," Jumbunna director Professor Lindon Coombes said.

"This is its insidiousness. It infects clear and rational debate and thought. Arguments for and against a simple advisory body that was safe from political interference could not get clear air without the cloud of racism."

More than four in 10 of all incidents were witnessed or experienced in traditional or social media. High-profile media commentators — some who openly deny historical truths like the Stolen Generations — used the referendum to push false narratives. There was also a proliferation of apparently unmoderated comments on several media organisations' websites with racist, false and harmful rhetoric.

Associate Professor at Jumbunna, Fiona Allison, said: "Reports often contain multiple incidents of racism experienced or witnessed by the same person — sometimes occurring over many years and across generations, and can include multiple victims, including children".

"Consequently, the overall number of reports is a significant undercount of the actual incidents reported and those impacted."

Professor Coombes said, "racism remains an insidious and all too common aspect of life for Indigenous people in Australia".

Women unite to demand action on major issues

KEIRA JENKINS

Indigenous women from across the world gathered this month to call for an end to violence, eradication of inequality, and for their voices to be heard.

The International Indigenous Women's Forum, marking 25 years of advocacy, released its political declaration at the 69th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

The forum called for sanctions for gender-based violence,

human trafficking and murder of Indigenous women; respect for traditional knowledge, access to sexual and reproductive health services; and inclusion of Indigenous women in climate and biodiversity policymaking. Waanyi and Kalkadoon lawyer Sandra Creamer, a board member of the forum, said among the issues at the forefront of Indigenous women's minds were climate change, domestic violence, incarceration, and suicide rates. "We do have the solutions but there has to be respect

for our culture . . . that culture has been our foundations since day one," she told AAP.

Each year, the forum brings Indigenous women from around the world to the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN — something Ms Creamer said should not be underestimated.

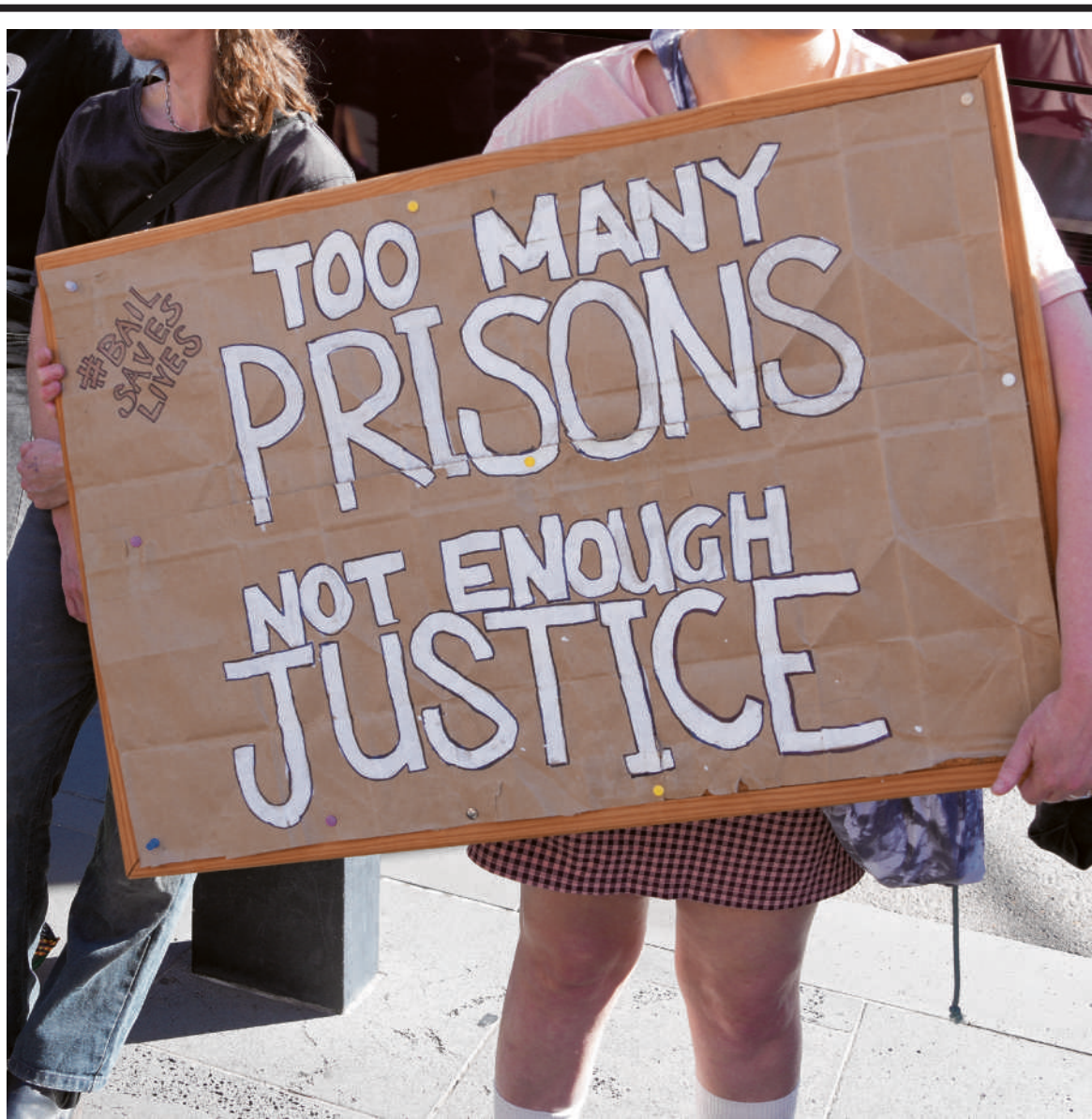
"It's about being a collective of Indigenous women who have that connection to our land, which is so important to us because it is our spirituality, our identity, our Songlines, and how we keep maintaining that," she

said. Ms Creamer believes the dream of eradicating violence against Indigenous women can be realised, if not for this generation, then for the next.

"The women come with so much pride, so much strength, and their strong spirits to make for whatever they need to do in their communities and their countries," she said.

AAP

Lifeline 13 11 14
13YARN 13 92 76
1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)



A protest was held last week against the bail changes in Victoria. Picture: Dechlan Brennan

Bail change 'will lead to more deaths in custody'

DECLAN BRENNAN

"Knee-jerk" bail laws introduced in Victoria have been condemned by Indigenous, legal, and human rights groups who argue they will only lead to more deaths in custody.

The laws, passed by Parliament last week with the support of the Opposition, come less than a year after they were previously changed in the wake of the death of Indigenous woman Veronica Nelson.

The Gunditjmarra, Dja Dja Wurrung, Wiradjuri, and Yorta Yorta woman, died in custody in 2020 in a "vomit-ridden" prison cell from a rare gastrointestinal condition. An inquest into her death heard Coroner Simon McGregor describe the then-bail laws as an "unmitigated disaster".

He said the Bail Act had a "discriminatory impact on First Nations people, resulting in grossly disproportionate rates of (Indigenous people) remanded in

custody, the most egregious of which affects alleged offenders who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women".

Premier Jacinta Allan said the laws in their current form were "not meeting community expectations" nor were they "dealing with this repeat pattern of offending we are seeing across our community". She added the changes after the death of Ms Nelson in 2020 were, in hindsight, "wrong".

Veronica Nelson's mother, Aunty Donna Nelson, said the Government had lied to her, and the changes were an "insult" to her daughter's memory.

"Their promises mean nothing. They are trampling on Veronica's grave," she said.

The laws will see the scrapping of the principle of remand only as a "last resort" for accused youth offenders. In its place, community safety will become the "overarching principle" for magistrates and judges when

deciding on bail applications for children and adults. Despite being a signatory to the Closing the Gap agreement, Premier Allan said the new laws "will see more people on remand".

The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service said the "rushed measures" would lead to more Indigenous people — especially women and children who are experiencing poverty, family violence and mental illness — being "unnecessarily locked up".

"This Government doesn't learn from their mistakes, rather they go out of their way to repeat them," chief executive Nerita Waight said. "You start to wonder after failed policy after failed policy is it really a mistake or rather an active decision to pursue the colonial agenda, to lock our people up, to hold those at the mercy of the system responsible for their own failures to invest in adequate diversion and alternative pathways."

Fight for lives led by First Nations

JARRED CROSS

The Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association says empowering young people and grassroots community-led action is critical to reducing First Nations suicide rates.

From 2018-2022 the suicide rate among First Nations people was 2½ times higher than among non-Indigenous Australians, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

In the same period, suicide was the cause of 4.6 per cent of all deaths of Indigenous people, and close to a quarter of all deaths for First Nations people aged 24 and younger.

Elevating The Voices Of The Next Generation was a theme at the national workforce convened for the Indigenous Suicide Prevention Forum in Sydney this month.

"Nothing about us without us," Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association director Tanja Hirvonen told National Indigenous Times.

"That includes cohorts like young people, Elders, people in community, LGBTQI mob. We have to make sure that we are listening to those voices, and they're part of the solution."

AIPA hosted the sector's annual forum, which Ms Hirvonen described as a gathering for discussion of prevention, intervention and post-vention.

"We've got rainforest country, desert country, saltwater, Island roots... So, if you applied a one-size-fits-all (approach) to all these different environments and locations, that's woefully inadequate and culturally ineffective," she said.

Edward Mosby, a Torres Strait Islander psychologist, founded Wakai Waian Healing a decade ago, working with 14 communities across Queensland.

About 70 per cent of its employees are Indigenous.

He told the forum the first

point of call for Wakai Waian psychologists was learning the needs and gaining knowledge, community by community, and down to the individual.

"It's easy to go into a community saying 'you get what you get', Mr Mosby said.

"It's easy to do that. But it's wrong. Grassroots initiatives, reciprocity... that's us"

Aunty Glendra Stubbs, former Link-Up NSW Stolen Generations support service chief executive and speaker on an Elders panel said: "There's not an Aboriginal family that haven't been touched by suicide.

On the same panel, John Duckett warned against the stereotyped expectations placed on men.

The notion of "don't cry in your own house, and don't tell anybody" was widespread during his upbringing, he said.

Fellow panel member Chris Duckett asked why dedicated drug and alcohol services for Indigenous people were not more common and better-resourced.

"We've got the oldest knowledge in the country, in the world, and we're not using it enough... to heal our young," he said.

The need for a balance between structural systems, from government level, to organisations, community-led, and grassroots approaches was highlighted.

NSW's four-year Towards Zero Suicides initiative is backed by \$143.4 million in government investment from 2022.

The State's director of Aboriginal Mental Health, Matthew Trindall, told the forum "there's a whole role of responsibility, not only for government, but for everyone".

"Things are heading in the right direction (funding, services available)... but unfortunately suicide rates aren't," he said.

Lifeline 13 11 14

13YARN 13 92 76

Report offers 'tangible solutions' to hit Closing the Gap targets

DECLAN BRENNAN

Stagnating and declining progress across Closing the Gap targets has real consequences for First Nations people, a new report revealed this month.

The Productivity Commission's latest Closing the Gap data, published in early March, showed progress in some key areas but noted critical targets requiring urgent government action — particularly in suicide

prevention, incarceration, and child removal — had worsened.

A March 20 report by Close the Gap, an independent, Indigenous-led campaign not affiliated with the Australian Government's Closing the Gap Strategy offered "tangible solutions" with the themes of "Agency and Self-determination", "Leadership and Solidarity", and "Reform and Transformation". Underpinned by the United Nations Declaration on the

Rights of Indigenous Peoples, it noted the only way to close the gap was by "creating genuine systemic reform".

CTG co-chair and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Katie Kiss, stressed the significance of holding governments accountable for their commitments.

"A critical element of our report is to demonstrate that genuine reform for the betterment of Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander peoples must be grounded in our rights as First Peoples," she said.

"Our respect for and desire to protect our lands, seas, and cultures shapes who we are and how we exist in the world."

Ms Kiss said the recommendations in the report were clear, and it highlighted the importance of building an enabling and supportive environment at the departmental and agency level. Among the report's 44 rec-

ommendations, it calls for a full implementation of the 2024 Closing the Gap Review; establish a national framework to deliver Voice, Truth and Treaty; establish a body to monitor the recommendations from the royal commission into deaths in custody; and implement all the recommendations from the National Children's Commissioner's report, Help Way Earlier!

Lifeline 13 11 14

13YARN 13 92 76

Honour for life of health work

GIOVANNI TORRE

Aboriginal Elder, activist, “barefoot doctor” and health leader Alma Thorpe was honoured by Victoria University with an honorary doctorate this month in recognition of her contribution to health and activism in Australia.

It recognises Dr Thorpe’s lifetime of work and service to Aboriginal self-determination.

Presenting the award in front of 200 health graduates at the graduation ceremony, Vice-Chancellor Professor Adam Shoemaker said Dr Thorpe has been the backbone and strength of the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service.

“It is well known you are the co-creator of the Aboriginal Health Training Program that was delivered through Koorie Kollij. Your lifetime commitment and community work have transformed the health and life outcomes for countless Aboriginal people and the story remains alive in the Aboriginal History Archive of Victoria University,” he said.

Her contribution to revolutionising healthcare and healthcare systems for Aboriginal

communities has been profound. After travelling to China to see the work of the barefoot doctors — a program under which 1.5 million peasants received intensive training then returned to their communities to deliver basic healthcare — Dr Thorpe returned to Fitzroy in the 1970s and working with Bruce McGuinness, Professor Gary Foley, Geraldine Briggs, Margaret Briggs and other emerging Aboriginal leaders established the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service in Gertrude Street, Fitzroy.

Dr Thorpe pioneered the role of Aboriginal health worker, the equivalent of China’s “barefoot doctors”. Reflecting on her journey at the university event, she said: “It’s a long story. In the 70s, we had no say as Aboriginal people. It was very hard. When the Blak Power movement came, that gave us a voice.

“I was proud to be who I was. I was a Fitzroy Blakfella. I’m Gunitjmarra, I was born and bred in Fitzroy. My father was an Aboriginal. All the family came to live with us. Everybody has a connection to Country and we are all interconnected in one way or another,” she said.

VAHS cared for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and central to her legacy was her impact on many young men who were battling substance addiction. “I was one of the first Aboriginal health workers and I am so proud of that,” Alma’s daughter, Glenda Thorpe said.

“The very special place of Fitzroy was, for many people... about identity. It is about what brings about the specialness in you.”

Seeing the impact of the VAHS model in Fitzroy, Dr Thorpe worked with 150 First Nations communities around Australia to listen to their needs and played a key role in setting up the National Aboriginal and Islander Health Organisation, which has been recognised by the World Health Organisation.

“She was a mother to a lot of people, not just me and my siblings,” Alma’s son, Robbie Thorpe, said. “I travelled a lot with mum setting up health service in rural and urban areas around this country. The idea was: community control, community-based, self-determination and the principles of sovereignty. I’ve been on that wagon ever since; our place in



Dr Alma Thorpe Picture: Victoria University.

this country. And my mother’s legacy; she has made it a lot easier for a lot of people to understand our place in this country. I’m so proud of you mum.”

VU Indigenous Academic Unit, Moondani Balluk executive director, Karen Jackson, is working with Professor Foley and his team to preserve Dr

Thorpe’s work and legacy in the Aboriginal History Archive.

Dr Thorpe turns 90 later this month, and as her granddaughter Nioka Thorpe-Williams said while the formal academic recognition of Alma was a long time coming: “Becoming a doctor three weeks before you turn 90 is pretty special.”

BHP

“Projects and work for local people. To me that’s *big*”

Discover how the KingKira Group is helping look after the Pilbara for future generations.

Messages off mark in COVID response

DECHLAN BRENNAN

Gaps in language translation and an inability to isolate due to overcrowding made First Nations people particularly vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic, a report has found.

Published by the Australian Human Rights Commission this month, it found at-risk groups — including Indigenous communities — along with domestic violence victims, renters and casual workers bore the brunt of the pandemic response.

"The pandemic response saved lives, but it also came at a significant cost, with some Australians feeling they were overlooked in the nation's push to contain COVID-19," the reports co-author and Human Rights Commissioner, Lorraine Finlay, said. The report noted many of the issues faced by First Nations and migrant communities were not specific to the pandemic and would "likely emerge again during future emergencies".

"Therefore, learning these lessons from the pandemic will enable more targeted communication which will have real-world benefits in ensuring effective future emergency responses," the report read.

First Nations communities faced barriers accessing services or essential information, with service providers in the NT telling the commission wider translation of government messaging was needed for remote communities.

The commission also heard of the "mixed perspectives" of measures put in place to restrict movement in and out of remote communities to protect First Nations people who were assessed to be more vulnerable to COVID-19.

Respondents said the restrictions weren't "culturally appropriate or realistic for regional First Nations communities" where children and young people regularly go between a wide group of households.

On the upside, one First Nations stakeholder said the autonomy given to some communities over the pandemic response was empowering and demonstrated the "success of trusting Indigenous leadership".

On Palm Island, for example, the report said successful strategies included Elders, prioritised shared decision making, and allowed the local council to identify the needs and solutions specific to the community. However, this did not result in long-term change.

Commissioner Finlay urged governments to strike a better balance between individual freedoms and health responses in future disasters and urged them to adopt a currently developed Emergency Response Framework.



Ricky Hampson Jr's sister Anita Hampson, mother Lydia Chatfield, sister Samantha Hampson, brother Marley Hampson, and father Rick Hampson Sr during a press conference at the Lidcombe Coroners Court in Sydney. Picture: AAP

Preventable death sparks health move

DECHLAN BRENNAN

The following article contains the name of a person who has died.

The New South Wales health minister will support all recommendations to improve Indigenous health care after the death of an Indigenous man misdiagnosed at Dubbo Hospital who died after being discharged, it was announced this month.

Kamilaroi-Dunghutti man Ricky "Dougie" Hampson Jr, 36, died on a friend's couch from two undiagnosed perforated duodenal ulcers.

Deputy State Coroner Erin Kennedy said the father of eight's death was "totally unnecessary" and "preventable", after he was misdiagnosed with cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome — an illness identified in long-term cannabis users — and sent home the next day without a CT scan in August 2021.

Despite a confessed fear of hospitals, he had checked into the emergency department with

"10 out of 10" pain. At an inquest last year, it was heard Mr Hampson Jr was not given a scan in the 19 hours he spent at the hospital.

Ms Kennedy recommended Dr Sokol Nushaj, who admitted cognitive bias had led him to misdiagnose Mr Hampson Jr, to the NSW healthcare complaints commission.

She also made five recommendations to the Western NSW Local Health District.

In a six-page response published this month, Health Minister Ryan Park said all recommendations were supported. He said NSW Health was "committed to improving the health outcomes" for First Nations people and communities.

"I trust this response affirms NSW Health's commitment to continuous improvement and provision of safe, high-quality care for all people receiving care by the NSW Health system," Mr Park said.

Ms Kennedy said Aboriginal-

ity was a key factor to consider in delivering health care; recommended that Western NSW Local Health District establish a First Nations consultation and advisory group in collaboration with local Indigenous health organisations; and called for Dubbo Hospital to have face-to-face engagement with First Nations people.

She also called for specific training to ensure better treatment for all Indigenous people in the catchment area.

Mr Park said NSW Health was prioritising face-to-face training, would continue to work with local Aboriginal communities, and had engaged two Aboriginal consultants to review the framework for eLearning.

The inquest heard Mr Hampson Jr would probably have survived if he had been given the treatment he needed promptly.

Mr Hampson Jr's father, Rick Hampson Sr, told the ABC he welcomed the response from NSW Health, but it had been

3½ years of agony for his family. "We want to see the on-the-ground changes at Dubbo Base Hospital, including working with the local Aboriginal community to make sure they are involved in ensuring that these policies and training are implemented," he said.

"We would like to see more signage promoting the importance of these changes and to remind staff of the importance of health issues when it comes to First Nations people.

"We would also like to see more signage regarding the importance of stopping racism and how it kills our people when seeking life-saving treatment, and signage of Dougie's case to remind all health staff the importance of treating all people equally."

Speaking outside the Dubbo courthouse last year, he said he struggled to get up and breathe after his son had died.

"But we carry on in the hope that we get justice for our son," Mr Hampson said.

Re-elected trailblazer earns role advising Premier

GIOVANNI TORRE

Member for Kimberley Divina D'Anna was returned for four more years as WA Labor won a landslide victory in WA's election this month.

At last count, Ms D'Anna had 61.7 per cent of the vote on a two-party-preferred basis.

Last week, Ms D'Anna was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, a role which will involve her advising and supporting Roger Cook.

As National Indigenous Times went to press, across the State Labor had won 46 seats, having needed 30 to retain government, with the Liberals

on track for seven and the Nationals six.

Ms D'Anna, a Yawuru, Nimanburr, and Bardi woman raised in Broome, has been an enthusiastic supporter of locally led initiatives.

"I feel quite excited and I am feeling quite grateful and humble that the people of the Kim-

berley chose me, a Kimberley Aboriginal woman, to represent them again for the next four years," she said on election night, March 8. "There has been a line of trailblazers that come from the Kimberley, especially women, and being re-elected on International Women's Day is a bonus."



EMPOWERING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

The Fortescue Community Grants program helps fund projects, groups and initiatives that have a positive impact on our Pilbara communities.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to eligible applicants to support community projects within Port Hedland, Karratha, Ashburton and East Pilbara Local Government Areas.

Applications are open from 1 to 31 March 2025.
To apply for community support scan the QR code below.



fortescue.com

STYLEUP

FASHION, BEAUTY & LIFESTYLE

Moving canvas

Artist revs up with go-faster stripes



ALSO INSIDE
Bold vision for street fashion **P13**
Artists soar on the wings of culture **P14**

Reko Rennie
Picture: Robert Blackburn

Flamboyant supercar sure t

JARRED CROSS

Kamilaroi artist Reko Rennie kicked off Formula 1 weekend in Naarm (Melbourne) with “maximum impact”, unveiling a one-off McLaren Artura supercar featuring his work.

Rennie presented the collaboration with McLaren F1 driver and fellow hometown product Oscar Piastri behind the wheel ahead of Australian Grand Prix at Albert Park from March 14 to 16.

The bold hypercolour, geometric lines and “camouflage” wrap made for a “declaration of proud identities”, he said.

“There’s no hiding.

“It’s about being out there.

“There’s a crossover with art and cars, and there has been for a long time.

“We wanted maximum impact and something very striking.

“I had the medium, the canvas of a car, and that was pretty inspiring, and to think about how you’re going to make it pop out from that.”

It was part of Australian-born global financial platform Airwallex’s Shifted Perspectives campaign.

It gave Rennie, a self-described motorsport fan and Melbourne western suburbs kid who dreamed about the F1 driver’s lifestyle, a chance to star in his own video piece.

He hit Melbourne’s streets and a scenic track for “a good time”.

As part of the campaign, Airwallex offered grants to Australian businesses embodying innovation.

One-hundred per cent Indigenous-owned and managed, female-led and regionally based business and social enterprise Chocolate On Purpose was chosen for the First Nations business category.

Over 12 years, Wiradjuri woman Fiona Harrison has made active steps to support cacao farmers and Indigenous Ecuadorian and African female cacao farmers while taking an ethical, sustainable, environmentally conscious palm-oil-free approach.

“The mission goes deeper than that,” she said.

“It’s about participation of Indigenous people in the Australian native and botanical supply chain.

“I try, wherever I can, to source native ingredients from Indigenous growers . . . contributing to them playing a bigger game, but more importantly, the platform that I have that I can talk about those farmers helps to grow their participation.

“So, I was very thrilled to get this grant.”

With it, she plans to invest in a freeze-drying machine.

Ms Harrison’s mission is similar to Rennie’s.

“It’s (the Artura design) about putting our culture on the world stage and being super international,” he said.

“What better platform to do it? Here we have a supercar



Reko Rennie with his McLaren supercar design.
Picture: Robert Blackburn (Whale Production Agency)



Picture: Jarred Cross

and international organisations supporting First Nation artists and showing the diversity of First Nation art.”

Last month National Indigenous Times told how Rennie had designed hyper-colour playing jerseys for Australia’s soccer sides.

The Matildas and Socceroos have both since worn the playing strips in international

matches as they look ahead to the AFC Women’s Asian Cup 2026 and the remaining qualifying games for the men’s World Cup in 2026.

Rennie said it was a thrill to unify the national teams through something which was more than a jersey, but a “powerful symbol of Australia’s footballing identity”.



Picture: Jarred Cross

to turn heads



Matilda Kyah Simon in the new home strip designed by Reko Rennie, and left, the away strip. Below: Rennie's artwork embedded into the national playing kits.
Pictures: Bridget Patterson



Exhibition shines light on darkness of prison

JOSEPH GUENZLER

Victoria's Heide Museum of Modern Art has announced a major exhibition in partnership with The Torch, set to run from April 5-July 20.

Blak In-Justice: Incarceration and Resilience will feature works by leading First Nations artists alongside participants from The Torch program, highlighting the issue of Indigenous incarceration in Australia.

The exhibition includes work by prominent artists such as Gordon Bennett, Destiny Deacon, Richard Bell, Trevor Nickolls, and Julie Dowling.

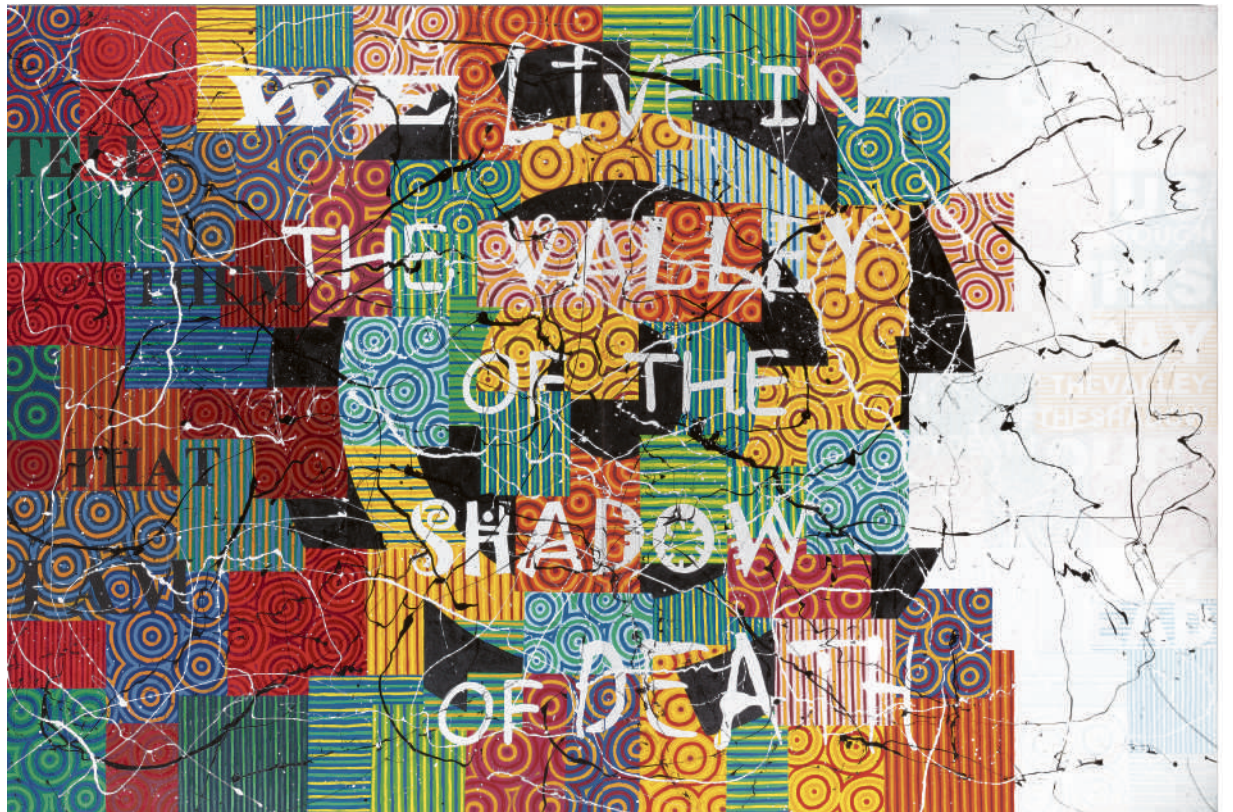
It also showcases pieces by Jimmy Pike, whose artistic career began during his time in Fremantle Prison, and garments from his early Desert

Designs range. Artists from The Torch program — which works with artists in Victorian prisons — including Thelma Beeton, Stacey Edwards, Sean Miller, and Daniel Church, contribute deeply personal works reflecting their journeys and connections to culture.

Church's installation Pelican Mudjin (Family) symbolises ties between Aboriginal peoples of the south-east coast and his Darug heritage.

Curated by Barkindji artist Kent Morris, creative director of The Torch, the exhibition presents works that address overrepresentation of Indigenous Australians in the criminal justice system and deaths in custody.

"A First Nations-developed and led project, the exhibition not only raises awareness of



Richard Bell's *Walk On (Bell's Theorem)*, painted in 2007. Picture: Museum of Contemporary Art Australia

the mass incarceration of First Nations people but shines a light on what is being achieved to break the cycle of Indigenous imprisonment," Mr Morris said. "The idea to present this exhibition in partnership with a major public museum has been formulating for many years, and I greatly appreciate the support and enthusiasm from the Heide team for the project."

He emphasised the role of art and culture in creating pathways to healing and self-determination. "By sharing

the stories of those who have experienced incarceration and how connection to art and culture has provided trailblazing pathways to healing and self-determination, we hope that visitors to the exhibition become a part of the solution to this ongoing issue," he said.

Indigenous Australians represent 32 per cent of the national adult prison population despite making up only 3 per cent of the total population. Indigenous men are 17 times more likely to be

incarcerated than non-Indigenous men, and Indigenous women 25 times more likely than non-Indigenous women.

Since the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, incarceration rates have more than doubled, and there have been more than 500 Indigenous deaths in custody.

The exhibition is supported by the Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner and the Australian Government through Creative Australia.

BUILDING AN EXCEPTIONAL FUTURE

We create a safe environment for all and are committed to providing opportunities for women across our operations.

Women working for Hancock Prospecting companies are earning nearly twice as much as women in hospitality and administration, giving them the opportunity to build a strong future. Many of our female staff say, "**the best company I've ever worked for!**"

Join us to continue building an exceptional future for our great nation, and to set yourself up now and into the future.

www.buildinganexceptionalfuture.com.au



HANCOCK
PROSPECTING

ROY HILL



HAN ROY

Bold vision for street fashion



PHOEBE BLOGG

Created by proud Bila-Kalari (Upper Lachlan River) man from the Wiradjuri Nation, Benjamin Thomson, Take Pride Movement has grown beyond being a brand.

“Take Pride Movement isn’t just a brand. It’s a statement. A movement. A collective. A big ‘screw you’ to the doubters, the crabs in the bucket, and anyone who ever tried to keep me small,” Thomson says.

“I’m not here to play it safe. I’m not here to fit into a box. This is about taking up space, standing tall, chest out, and owning every single step forward. Take Pride Movement is like a bag of mixed lollies — each piece has its own flavour, just like the people who wear it. From old-school hip-hop to new-wave Indigenous sounds, the vibe is always shifting, always evolving.”

Thomson said after a quiet 2024 he is committed to perfecting TPM. “2024 was a reset year for me. I stepped back from socials, took time to breathe, and really stripped things back to why I do this,” he said. “I love fashion. I love creating. And I love that I get to build something that represents pride, power, and movement.”



TPM models at Melbourne Fashion Festival. Picture: Dan Castano

Take Pride Movement officially launched the Take Pride: True Locals capsule after the Melbourne Fashion Festival’s MOB IN FASHION runway on March 8.

“This collection is about being on Country, by the land, by the ocean—it’s about honouring where I come from before stepping up into something bigger, something unstoppable,” Thomson said. “From there, it’s forward

movement only. No backwards steps. I don’t care about the noise. I refuse to be held back by anyone or anything.”

Thomson said the new True Locals capsule collection fuses an ath-leisure vibe with a street style twist.

“This collection is a blend of old-school sportswear, modern street style, and raw cultural storytelling. It’s bold, expressive, and built for

everyone — men, women, and even kids,” he said.

“I went back to the essence of streetwear—that effortless energy from the ‘80s and ‘90s. Oversized fits, statement graphics, and pieces that don’t just look good—they feel powerful to wear. But this isn’t just about aesthetics. Every piece carries a story—a piece of me, my people, my journey.

“But more than that—this collection is for everyone who wears it. Take Pride Movement isn’t just mine. It’s all of us. When you put it on, you’re stepping into something bigger. You’re repping strength, culture, and the belief that we move forward—always.”

Thomson hopes to take the brand global this year.

“TPM is built on survival, resilience, and progress. I stand on the shoulders of my ancestors, of 60,000 plus years of culture, strength, and resistance. I’m here because of the people before me, who fought for the right to be seen, to exist, to thrive,” he said.

“Fashion is not an easy industry. Brands come and go. People start things, but when they realise the grind it takes to actually build something sustainable, they drop off. That’s not me. I refuse to stop.”

Shell Australia invites the Western Australia and Northern Territory community to get in touch

If you have functions, interests or activities that may be affected by the Prelude Floating Liquefied Natural Gas (FLNG) facility (Prelude), Shell Australia wants to hear from you.

In Australia, Shell is an integrated energy solutions business which includes gas production and liquefaction, as well as renewable power and energy solutions.

Prelude is moored offshore approximately 475 kilometres north-northeast of Broome in Western Australia. Prelude extracts, liquefies and stores gas and condensate at sea, before it is shipped to customers.

Shell Australia is seeking to consult in preparation of the five-yearly revision of the Prelude FLNG Environment Plan (EP). The EP will be submitted to the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA). Consultation with relevant persons is an important part of this approval.

Please respond by 31 May 2025.

For more information, please visit:
www.shell.com.au/prelude

The Pearl at the Heart of Shell artwork

This artwork represents Shell Australia’s reconciliation journey and is inspired by the history of shell use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

The artwork was developed by Tarni O’Shea and Jenna Lee.



Prelude FLNG Joint Venture Partners



Artists soar on the wings of culture

TarraWarra Biennial 2025
curator
Kimberley Moulton.
Picture: Acmi

JOSEPH GUENZLER

The TarraWarra Biennial 2025: We Are Eagles, curated by Yorta Yorta woman Kimberley Moulton, will open at TarraWarra Museum of Art on Saturday and run until 20 July.

The exhibition title takes inspiration from a speech given by activist Pastor Sir Doug Nicholls at the 1938 Day of Mourning, in which he declared, “we do not want chickenfeed . . . we are not chickens; we are eagles”.

Ms Moulton draws from this powerful sentiment to present an exhibition exploring regenerative practices, transcultural connections to land, and the role of cultural memory in shaping contemporary narratives.

She describes We Are Eagles as an exhibition that reclaims cultural narratives through an Indigenous curatorial lens.

“We Are Eagles is an exhibition that considers the relationality between cultural material, memory, and place and the ways embodied knowledge disrupts coloniality and prescribed notions of identity within the Australian imaginary,” she said.

“Through this exhibition, I am applying a First Peoples curatorial approach to a wide range of contemporary Australian artists and hope to share ways in which creative practice can re-story our connections to object and memory.”

Featuring works by 23 artists, the Biennial will include more

than 20 newly commissioned pieces, spanning painting, sculpture, photography, sound, and large-scale installations.

Among the highlights is a new sound work by Wurundjeri artist Brooke Wandin, which responds to a wangimu bubupal (a child’s boomerang) on loan from Museums Victoria. Recorded in language with her family, the work restores the spirit of the wangimu bubupal and the history it carries.

Venezuelan-born artist Nadia Hernandez presents an immersive mixed-media installation drawing from Venezuelan protest songs, while Pitjantjatjara artist Iluwanti Ken shares the eagle story from her community, collaborating with her niece Yaritji Young on a new

painting. Gamilaroi artist Warraba Weatherall will showcase a large-scale light installation, drawing from scientific and anthropological records of Gamilaroi cultural sites, while Lisa Hilli presents photographic works exploring the cultural practices of Papua New Guinea’s Tolai people, focusing on women, land, and ancestral knowledge.

A significant addition to the exhibition is the work of Kaiela Arts artists Laurel Robinson, Cynthia Hardie, Amy Briggs, and Jack Anselmi, whose paintings and ceramics depict local stories and memories from the Shepparton-based Aboriginal arts centre.

The Biennial will also feature a dynamic public program of artist talks, performances, and

guided tours. On Saturday, March 29, and April 12, Moulton will lead tours of We Are Eagles, featuring insights from participating artists.

As part of a special collaboration with RISING 2025, the museum will host a day-long event on June 14, celebrating art, food, and music.

Highlights include a performance of Venezuelan protest songs, an artist talk with members of Kaiela Arts, and a screening of Yorta Yorta/Wurundjeri artist Moorina Bonini’s new conceptual film Matha, which was commissioned for RISING.

The TarraWarra Biennial 2025: We Are Eagles, opens March 29 at TarraWarra Museum of Art.

Goodwyn Alpha Geophysical and Geotechnical Surveys 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.

Goodwyn Alpha Geophysical and Geotechnical Surveys Environment Plan

Woodside is submitting a revision to the in force Goodwyn Alpha Geophysical and Geotechnical Surveys Environment Plan (EP), accepted by NOPSEMA in May 2024. In the revised EP, the Operational Area will be expanded to encompass survey activities that will support future decommissioning activities. The revised EP will also make provision for surveys to be undertaken to support other scopes including the Goodwyn Alpha Infill development.

Environment that may be affected (EMBA)

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

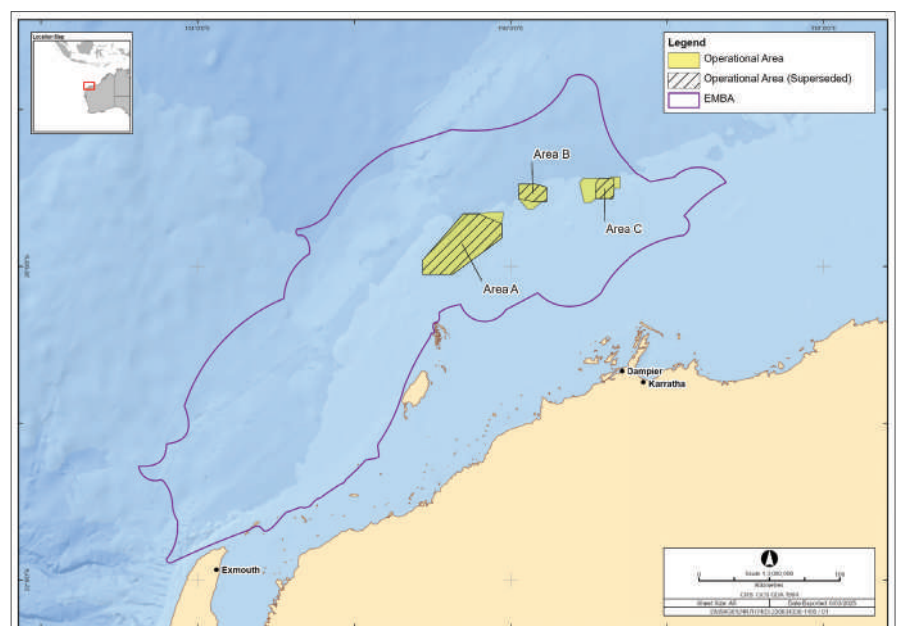
We want to hear from you

If you are an individual, organisation or community group and believe your functions, interests or activities may be impacted by the activities under this Environment Plan, we want to hear from you by **9 May 2025**.

To find out more go to:

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

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



consultation@feedback.woodside.com
Toll free: 1800 442 977
woodside.com



Peruvian leaders issue call

GIOVANNI TORRE

Indigenous leaders from the Peruvian Amazon calling for Peru's Government to stop oil and gas projects in their territory took their case to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights this month.

The leaders, presenting evidence of the impact of oil and gas exploration at a hearing before the commission, said the projects violated Indigenous rights by threatening their land, health and food security, as well as being in breach of international obligations that required Indigenous groups to be consulted.

Joint data from several Peruvian organisations has documented 831 oil spills in the Peruvian Amazon.

The Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest (AIDE-

SEP), representing the leaders, said the projects posed risks to uncontacted Indigenous groups, and noted the specific impact on Indigenous women.

Government representatives told the hearing Peru was a democratic State which respected law and guaranteed human rights to all citizens, but AIDSESEP board of directors member from the Madre de Dios region of the Amazon, Julio Cusurichi Palacios, told the Associated Press the government "have stated things that are not in accordance with what is happening in reality."

"The rights of Indigenous peoples are not being respected, the contamination of our rivers and territories continues, there are threats to uncontacted Indigenous Peoples, more regulations that make environmental standards more flexible, and oil and gas lots continue to be



A burned forest in the department of Madre de Dios, Peru. Picture: Renzo Ramirez Santa Cruz/EPA

promoted," he said after the hearing in early March.

The Government rejected most of the claims made by Indigenous leaders and ignored media requests for comment.

About 75 per cent of the Peruvian Amazon, home to 21 Indigenous nations, is covered by oil and gas concessions, many of which overlap with Indigenous territories.

An environmental lawyer who participated in the Commission hearing, Cesar Ipenza, told AP the situation "has been

getting increasingly worse".

"There's a policy of promoting extractive activities in highly vulnerable areas, especially in the Amazon," he said.

The commission has directed the Government to provide written responses to the claims raised by Indigenous groups.

Indigenous advocacy group Survival International told AP at least 20 uncontacted tribes in the most remote regions of the Peruvian Amazon were under threat, noting the recent appearance of the uncontacted

Mashco-Piro people near logging concessions and their deadly encounters with logging workers. Survival International researcher Teresa Mayo said Indigenous organisations had been compelled to turn to international bodies in their pursuit of justice.

"They want the commission to force Peru to abide by the international laws and treaties it's signed up to, rather than ignore those aspects which it finds inconvenient," she said.

with Associated Press



GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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 Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 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	08/3755	BURLEY MINERALS LTD	12BL	67.1km SW'ly of Pannawonica	Lat: 22° 7' S Long: 115° 56' E	ASHBURTON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	09/2990	BREAKTHROUGH MINERALS LIMITED	79BL	137.1km NE'ly of Kalbarri	Lat: 27° 10' Long: 115° 25' E	MURCHISON SHIRE
Exploration Licence	29/1287	RIO TINTO EXPLORATION PTY LIMITED	19BL	115.1km SE'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 28° 52' S Long: 119° 53' E	MENZIES SHIRE
Exploration Licence	53/2340	GATEWAY MINING LIMITED	2BL	90.1km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 11' S Long: 119° 25' E	WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	53/2365	GATEWAY MINING LIMITED	2BL	99.8km N'ly of Sandstone	Lat: 27° 5' S Long: 119° 23' E	WILUNA SHIRE
Exploration Licence	70/6687	AUSQUEST LIMITED	44BL	97.2km N'ly of Mullewa	Lat: 27° 39' S Long: 115° 27' E	MURCHISON SHIRE, NORTHAMPTON SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6942	BRANCH, Ian Robert	9.96HA	93.6km NE'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 45' Long: 120° 8' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	15/6951	BRANCH, Ian Robert	107.52HA	93.5km NE'ly of Southern Cross	Lat: 30° 46' Long: 120° 8' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3465	CZAPLINSKI, Paul Edward	9.98HA	27.4km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 31' S Long: 120° 50' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3466	CZAPLINSKI, Paul Edward	10.01HA	27.6km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 31' S Long: 120° 50' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3467	CZAPLINSKI, Paul Edward	9.97HA	27.4km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 31' S Long: 120° 50' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3468	CZAPLINSKI, Paul Edward	9.95HA	27.2km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 31' S Long: 120° 50' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3469	CZAPLINSKI, Paul Edward	9.94HA	27.2km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 31' S Long: 120° 50' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3506	PARNELL, Brett Ian	108.09HA	29.2km SW'ly of Broad Arrow	Lat: 30° 40' S Long: 121° 10' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	16/3507	TORRICELLA, Carmine	199.40HA	26.5km S'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 36' S Long: 121° 3' E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE
Prospecting Licence	24/5837	FLEMING, Leo Glenn	113.67HA	14.2km E'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 20' S Long: 121° 12' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	25/2865	MURTAGH, Jason Lee	193.17HA	28.5km E'ly of Kalgoorlie	Lat: 30° 42' S Long: 121° 45' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4815	CLARKE, Benn Francis	187.71HA	36.6km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 57' S Long: 121° 55' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4816	GOLDTIMERS PROSPECTING PTY LTD	184.02HA	35.5km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 59' S Long: 121° 56' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY
Prospecting Licence	26/4817	GOLDTIMERS PROSPECTING PTY LTD	182.89HA	35km NE'ly of Kambalda	Lat: 30° 59' S Long: 121° 56' E	KALGOORLIE-BOULDER CITY

Nature of the act: Grant of prospecting licences which authorises the applicant to prospect for minerals for a term of 4 years from date of grant. Grant of exploration licences, which authorises the applicant to explore for minerals for a term of 5 years from the date of grant. **Notification day: 26 March 2025. Native title parties:** Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until 3 months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to applications. The 3 month period closes on **26 June 2025**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100. **Expedited procedure:** The State of Western Australia considers that these acts are acts attracting the expedited procedure. Each licence may be granted unless, within the period of 4 months after the notification day (i.e. **26 July 2025**), 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 Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518. * - 1 Graticular Block = 2.8 km²



GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO RENEW MINING LEASE

NATIVE TITLE ACT 1993 (CTH) SECTION 29

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

Tenement Type	No.	Applicant	Area	Locality	Centroid	Shire
Mining Lease	16/5	KERLEY, Peter John	5.92HA	18.3km SW'ly of Ora Banda	Lat: 30° 29' 10" S Long: 120° 55' 31" E	COOLGARDIE SHIRE

Nature of the act: The renewal of mining lease, which authorises the applicant to mine for minerals for a term of up to 21 years. **Notification day: 26 March 2025. Native title parties:** Under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*, persons have until three months after the notification day to take certain steps to become native title parties in relation to the notice. The three month period closes on **26 June 2025**. Any person who is, or becomes a native title party, is entitled to the negotiation and/or procedural rights provided in Part 2 Division 3 Subdivision P of *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*. Enquiries in relation to filing a native title determination application to become a native title party should be directed to the Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth WA 6000, telephone (08) 9268 7100. The mining lease may be renewed if, by the end of the period of four months after the notification day (i.e. **26 July 2025**), there is no native title party under section 30 of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)* in relation to the area of the application for renewal. For further information about the act (including extracts of plans showing the boundaries of the application for renewal), contact the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, 100 Plain Street, East Perth WA 6004, or telephone (08) 9222 3518.

The vote is not enough

VICTORIA GRIEVES WILLIAMS

There is a problem with a democracy that has failed to enrol more than 67,000 of its constituents, the Aboriginal minority — especially when it claims to be bringing all the benefits of democratic government to the people.

The evidence for turnout on voting day is shocking: 56 per cent Indigenous compared with 92 per cent total Australians.

These figures come from a study of unrealised Indigenous electoral power by Francis Markham and Bhiemie Williamson published by CAEPR (2022). They are totalled from the 15 electorates where Indigenous voters could change the course of any Federal election, and a conservative estimate.

My American friend gave me a book remaindered by the local library. *Yiwara: Foragers Of The Western Desert* (1969) is the result of research by a postgraduate anthropology student, Richard A. Gould from New York. He spent a year with the Ngatatjarra speakers of the Western Desert documenting the lives of people who had not yet abandoned their cultural ways. *Yiwara* is a word with



An enrolled voter at Warruwi's community hall, South Bathurst Island in the NT in 2013. Picture: AAP

multi-level meanings for “track” — that of an animal, of people, of the ancestral heroes who laid down the country and left “songlines” for people to follow.

This word, *yiwara*, epitomises the hunting and gathering nomadic lifestyle of the people at that time, and their sacred day-to-day lives.

It is just over 50 years since the publication of this book.

Two generations. The NSW Government began to let Aboriginal children into schools in the 1960s.

It has been a hard road for Aboriginal people to get a western education in this time.

Between 1949 and 1965 the prohibition on Aboriginal people voting was lifted in States and Territories across the country.

The successful referendum

of 1967 saw our people properly recognised as citizens, included in the census, and officially incorporated into the Australian democratic State.

However, democracy demands a certain level of literacy and education in civics. What is the point of being able to vote if you can't read the ballot paper?

If the candidates do not

know you and the struggles you face day to day? High-level literacy is required to influence policy.

The truth is politics in Australia is almost wholly co-opted to serve the urban centres near the coasts. Aboriginal people know their marginalisation only too well.

Researchers Markham and Williamson reveal Aboriginal enrolments fall below 70 per cent in WA and the NT.

While the non-Indigenous enrolment rate is uniformly above 90 per cent nationally, only in NSW and the ACT does the Indigenous enrolment rate sit above 80 per cent.

While Markham and Williamson reveal unrealised Indigenous voting power that has huge potential to determine the fate of governments, is it defensible to have people enrol to vote without giving them the civic education needed to fully participate in a democracy?

It would be cynical to encourage people to enrol to vote when, after more than 50 years of having the right to vote, they have not had an opportunity to participate in the democracy.

Dr Victoria Grievus Williams is Warrimaay from the mid-north coast of NSW, and a historian.



Environment plan consultation: Opportunity for relevant persons to provide feedback

INPEX is an energy company committed to sustainable and responsible resource development.

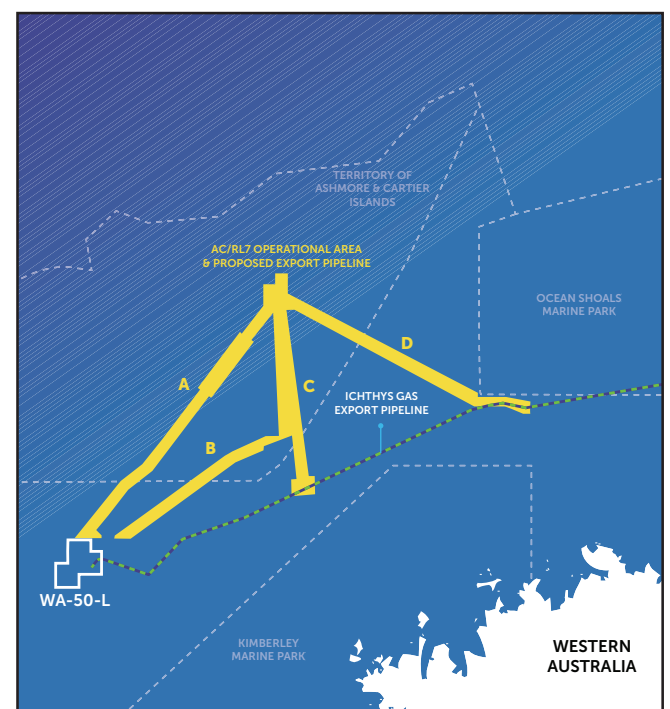
INPEX Cash Maple Pty Ltd on behalf of the Cash Maple joint venture participants is developing the Cash Maple gas/condensate fields in the Bonaparte Basin off the north-west coast of Western Australia (WA). The proposed development supports INPEX-operated Ichthys LNG's long-term production volume – and continued security of supply for our customers.

INPEX is proposing to undertake a vessel-based geophysical and geotechnical survey to inform and support decisions at an early concept select phase.

At the closest point, the survey area is approximately:

- 110 kilometres from the Kimberley coastline
- 320 kilometres from northwest of Kalumburu

We wish to hear from relevant persons whose functions, interests and activities may be affected by the work that we are planning. These may include cultural and spiritual connections, commercial or recreational activities offshore, tourism or local community interests. Your feedback assists with continuing to understand the environment, identifying any new potential environmental impacts and risks, and enables INPEX to refine its management measures, if needed, to reduce potential impacts.



Contact us

Your views on these activities are important to us and we welcome your comments. If you have any questions, please contact the consultation team on **1800 705 010** or by visiting the above QR to the right. INPEX kindly requests feedback by 8 May 2025.

For more information on INPEX visit inpx.com.au



Partners focus on restoring health of the land

ZAK KIRKUP

Cherratta Holdings, an Aboriginal-owned facilities management company in Karratha, is carrying out land rehabilitation in WA's Pilbara region through a new partnership with Woodside.

The partnership involves rehabilitating Country, using traditional Indigenous knowledge and practices to restore native vegetation and improve soil health.

The project forms part of Cherratta's broader mission to create economic opportunities and ensure cultural and environmental management remains at the forefront of development.

Cherratta managing director Greg Renton highlighted the importance of the work, saying reconnecting with Country was essential for the community's long-term sustainability.

"The land means everything to us. It's more than just a place to work or live — it holds our stories, our history, and our identity," he said.

"Working together with companies like Woodside allows us to restore and heal Country that has been disturbed over time. It creates a future where our people can continue to thrive."

Mr Renton said the process was about healing Country in a way that respected cultural traditions and ensured future generations could maintain their connection to the land.

For Woodside, supporting initiatives like this is a key part of its strategy to build meaningful, long-term relationships with Traditional Owners. The initiative is also boosting employment opportunities and skills training for First Nations workers, opening pathways to careers in construction, land management and rehabilitation.

Cherratta has become a leader in the Pilbara's civil and construction sector, demonstrating the value of Indigenous-led businesses in driving economic and cultural progress. Mr Renton sees this partnership as a model for future projects, showing how corporate engagement with Indigenous enterprises can benefit all involved.

"We want to see more companies working with Aboriginal businesses in ways that aren't just transactional but transformational," he said. "This isn't just about today — it's about creating a legacy for future generations."

Taskforce to advise on business sector

DECHLAN BRENNAN

The NSW Government announced an Aboriginal Business Taskforce this month to help grow the State's First Nations business sector.

Announced at the NSW Indigenous Chamber of Commerce in Redfern on March 11, the taskforce members — most of whom are Indigenous — will bring knowledge and experience in running Aboriginal businesses.

Former AFL champion and 2014 Australian of the Year Adam Goodes, now chief executive of the Indigenous Defence & Infrastructure Consortium, is one of eight appointees.

"The Indigenous businesses sector is the fastest growing business sector," he said. "Indigenous businesses are 100 per cent more likely to employ other Indigenous people, and provide a huge amount of social and economic value for every dollar that is spent with them."



Adam Goodes Picture: Dean Lewins

The NSW Government said the taskforce was a "key initiative" from the Aboriginal Business Growth and the bi-annual Aboriginal Business Roundtables, and would help ensure the voices of Indigenous business owners and managers were heard by those in power.

Taskforce member Terri-Anne Daniel said that it was an opportunity to ensure Indigenous business owners to bring

"lived experience of the real challenges, and because we are entrepreneurs, we bring bold solutions to the table".

"When Aboriginal businesses thrive, communities thrive," she said. "We're not just creating jobs; we're fostering independence, self-determination, and long-term prosperity for our people."

The taskforce will provide the Government with "timely, strategic advice" on how it can be supported to ensure growth.

"This taskforce will advise the NSW Government on how it can continue to support Indigenous businesses in NSW," Mr Goodes said, "so the sector can continue to grow and support the wellbeing and prosperity of our people."

Alongside Mr Goodes and Ms Daniel, are Doug Delaney; Luke McIlroy-Ranga; Malinda Rutter; Melissa Fletcher; Phillip Usher; and Sharon Winsor.

Data from the Federal Depart-

ment of Industry, Science and Resources showed for every \$1 of revenue, certified Indigenous businesses created \$4.41 of economic and social value and Indigenous-owned businesses were also more likely to employ Indigenous people.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses across the country employ more than 116,000 people and generate revenue over \$16 billion annually, according to a report by the Dilin Duwa Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership.

NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, David Harris, said the Government recognised economic empowerment and business development were critical to socio-economic growth of Aboriginal communities and closing the gap.

"The taskforce is another step in NSW's determination to lead the nation in pursuing economic prosperity as a key goal to close the gap for Aboriginal people."

New body to grow Indigenous tourism

DAVID PRESTIPINO

A national First Nations tourism body is set to be established to ensure First Nations businesses and people are best placed to benefit from the growing sector.

Indigenous tourism leaders from across Australia gathered in Gadigal (Sydney) on March 18 for the inaugural meeting of the First Nations visitor economy partnership, agreeing to its terms of reference and discussing priorities for work.

The meeting was a key milestone in the Federal Government's support for increased First Nations participation in the tourism industry, and followed a robust few years for the Indigenous tourism sector.

Demand from tourists in Australia to experience First Nations culture is greater than ever before.

Austrade's Tourism Research Australia found there were 3 million trips that included First Nations tourism activities in 2023-24, the highest number on record, with interest from international visitors also at record highs.

Members of the partnership appointed Nhandia Yamaji man Robert Taylor as chair, and Cameron Costello, a Quandamooka man from Moreton Bay, as deputy chair.

Mr Taylor is CEO of the Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council, and Mr Costello the chair of the Queensland First Nations Tourism Council.

"This partnership is about bringing First Nations tourism from around Australia together," Mr Taylor said.

He said the new body would allow many Indigenous Aus-



Robert Taylor and Cameron Costello. Picture: Austrade

lians' voices to be heard.

"What's exciting is the interest we're seeing from the broader tourism industry to learn about Aboriginal culture, and how they can be involved," Mr Taylor said.

Priority objectives for the new partnership include establishing a permanent national First Nations tourism body; providing advice on Federal Government policies and programs; representing the First Nations tourism sector at national activities and forums; and sharing key information with Indigenous tourism businesses and stakeholders.

Federal Tourism Minister

Don Farrell said Mr Taylor and Mr Costello brought significant expertise in First Nations tourism and real enthusiasm to collaborate nationally and grow the industry, as well as to improve economic opportunities and outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

"Australia is home to the oldest continuous culture on Earth, and we want all visitors to this brilliant country to be able to share in First Nations experiences," the minister said.

"The inaugural meeting brought First Nations tourism leaders from around Australia together to begin discussing priorities for work.

"It is a key step towards increasing opportunities for First Nations people, and showcasing Australia's wonderful First Nations cultures to visitors from near and far."

Mr Farrell said the partnership — funded through the Federal Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy — showed a commitment to supporting First Nations job creation and empowerment across the country.

"I look forward to more Indigenous tourism businesses showcasing Australia's wonderful First Nations cultures to visitors near and far," he said.

Retailer shows its representative side

DAVID PRESTIPINO

When Tristram Gray brushed past Gunggari man and NRL legend Johnathan Thurston as he walked to the stage at the Indigenous Leadership Summit in Sydney in November, the Kmart Group executive had a hard act to follow.

But the Kmart Group's chief people and capabilities officer quickly caught the ear of business leaders in the room, detailing the company's five-year employment program that has led to it becoming a dominant First Nations force in retail, achieving 4.8 per cent Indigenous employment with thriving community and cultural programs across Australia.

Securing and retaining Indigenous workers and promoting First Nations culture have been strategic successes for the group, starting with the customer-focused Deadly Store Network: more than 120 Target and Kmart outlets in highly-populated Aboriginal areas.

The DSN program supports store team members to build relationships with community partners, and encourages long-term employment opportunities through cultural education, awareness and tailored initiatives.

More than 2200 members of Kmart Group's workforce are First Nations people, including specialised leaders across several States who steer its successful employment program.

Kevin Bloomfield is the longest-serving Indigenous employee in a range of roles across departments in his more than 20 years at Target and Kmart.

"Due to the size of our business, we have a unique opportunity to celebrate Indigenous culture, sharing and amplifying positive storytelling



Kevin Bloomfield is the longest-serving Indigenous employee at Kmart Group.

throughout our store network," the proud Marrambidya and Galari People of the Wiradyuri Nation man said.

Mr Bloomfield is Kmart Group's First Nations program manager, driving the company's successful cultural and economic programs through meaningful engagement and consultation with various Indigenous communities, organisations and agencies.

He said caring for and inspiring a generation of Indigenous leaders was a driving passion and a privilege. "To work with community, and for communi-

ty, all the time is an honour," Mr Bloomfield said.

"As is spending time learning from Elders, ensuring our ancestors' perspectives are valued in decision-making."

The recent Indigenous leadership gathering gave businesses a peek at Kmart Group's strategy, with key takeaways including executive sponsorships, aligned values, leadership support, and championing Indigenous voices.

Mr Gray said the company's success was built on continuous learning, and earning trust with communities and staff,

addressing issues promptly when they arose.

He said the DSN broadened cultural awareness and community connections, provided safe spaces for team members and customers, and increased Indigenous employment via training programs and local partnerships.

"In those locations, we're aware of the Indigenous demographic and that's how we benchmark, are we parity in those areas?" Mr Gray said.

"Our store teams are representative of the communities we operate and serve in."

Miners join to create safe spaces for at-risk children

ZAK KIRKUP

In a landmark initiative set to commence in mid-2025, Fortescue, in collaboration with BHP, has pledged up to \$22 million over five years to launch the Hedland and Newman Safe Spaces programs.

Led by the Pilbara Development Commission in partnership with Department of Communities and co-designed with locally-based Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations Julyardi Aboriginal Corporation in Hedland and Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa Aboriginal Corporation in Newman, this commitment is Fortescue's largest single community investment to date.

The initiative aims to provide essential support and safety for vulnerable and at-risk children and young people. The programs will offer temporary safe spaces and transport home for unsupervised and vulnerable children and young people found on the streets at night in the Port Hedland and Newman.

Beyond immediate safety, the programs are designed to facilitate culturally responsive follow-up services that address underlying challenges faced by at-risk youth. This includes life skills development, education, and employment pathways to long-term positive change.

Fortescue director of approvals, communities, and environment, Warren Fish, emphasised the transformative nature of the initiative.

"The Pilbara Safe Spaces Program is about more than just providing a safe place; it's about creating real opportunities for young people to build a brighter future," he said.

Each Safe Space will serve as a voluntary facility where young people under 18 can seek refuge or be brought by service providers, WA Police, or other community outreach teams. While at the Safe Space, young people will have access to food, hygiene supplies, and safe resting areas.

By investing in the safety and future of young people in the Pilbara, Fortescue and its partners aim to create stronger, more resilient communities. This initiative reflects a commitment to providing the financial support required to implement these programs and make a lasting difference in the lives of those who need it most. The proactive approach not addresses immediate safety concerns and lays the groundwork for sustainable development. By focusing on culturally responsive services and long-term support mechanisms, the Safe Spaces Program exemplifies a holistic strategy.

Fortescue's investment in this program highlights the role of corporate entities in driving social change and supporting governmental efforts to enhance community wellbeing.

The report was produced with the support of Fortescue.

Young Dieri people get back on Country

A young generation of Dieri people have strengthened their connections to their rich culture and heritage through an On-Country visit.

The visit, facilitated by Beach Energy in the Cooper Basin through the Dieri Aboriginal Corporation, provided a valuable opportunity for young Dieri people to connect with their Elders, and their cultural heritage and also learn about Beach's oil and gas operations in the basin.

The group explored cultural heritage sites including ancient stone artefacts their ancestors held many thousands of years ago.

Dieri participant Sarah Clark said she enjoyed learning about how much was being done to protect Dieri country.

"I learnt a lot about my people and the way my ancestors lived," she said.

"I really want to thank Beach



Young Dieri people on the cultural heritage visit.

staff for the amazing weekend."

Beach cultural field advisor and Dieri Elder Chris Dodd said he was proud to lead his people through the sites and teach them about the ways of their ancestors.

Mr Dodd expressed pride in

getting young Dieri people on Country, fulfilling one of his goals as a Dieri Elder, "to bring our children back to Country and teach them about culture".

The visit came in the lead-up to the recent release of Beach's Reconciliation Action Plan,

which commits to embedding a cultural awareness program, enabling more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment, and ensuring transitional languages are archived for future generations.

Beach managing director and CEO Brett Woods said the company's RAP was "focused on ensuring our relationships with First Nations peoples are meaningful, culturally sensitive, and recognise and respect the cultural and spiritual connection to traditional lands".

"Being an Australian and New Zealand-based company we recognise that First Nations people have a strong cultural and spiritual connection across the vast areas where we operate — and this must always be acknowledged and respected," he said.

The artwork for the RAP was provided by Lawson Dodd, a Kurna, Narungga and Ngarindjeri artist.

Rail firm lighting the way



Jackson Aldridge at the NSW Premier's Export Awards with Supply Nation CEO Kate Russell.

ZAK KIRKUP

If you've ever ridden on the Sydney Airport Link, the Malaysian Double Track, or the Singapore Circle Line, it's highly likely you've seen an Australian export in action.

Hidden in the world's major transport networks is the work of Aldridge Railway Signals, an Indigenous-owned company that has been driving innovation in railway signals for decades.

Founded by Kamilaroi man David Aldridge, Aldridge Railway Signals is a powerhouse in the transport infrastructure sector, supplying critical signals in Australia, Asia and beyond.

The company's journey began with a breakthrough in 1995 when it designed, made and commissioned Australia's first LED rail signals into the Sydney Underground System.

Aldridge is now a leading exporter at a time when recognition of Indigenous business success worldwide is growing.

In a landmark move, the Australian Export Awards have introduced the First Nations Exporter Award for the first time in its 63-year history.

The award acknowledges the increasing impact of Indigenous-led enterprises in global markets, with the First Nations Businesses Succeeding Internationally Report revealing Indigenous exporters generated over

\$670 million in revenue in 2022-23 and employed over seven times more workers than other First Nations businesses.

Aldridge has been a shining example of Indigenous business success, winning Indigenous Exporter of the Year at the Supply Nation Diversity Awards in 2023, and the Indigenous Exporter Award at the 2024 NSW Premier's Export Awards.

For Mr Aldridge, these accolades are not just about recognition — they are about opportunity. "There are a lot of people out there who help Indigenous exporters, and they are always happy to help," he says.

Export markets now make up 43 per cent of Aldridge's turnover, with markets as diverse as Thailand, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Philippines, and New Zealand among its key destinations. But Mr Aldridge says success doesn't come from waiting for opportunities.

"You cannot export from behind a computer. You've got to get out, get up and running. Go meet clients. Speak to people. Just putting yourself out there including for awards," he says.

Managed by Austrade, the Australian Export Awards celebrate the country's successful and innovative exporters. Applications for the 2025 awards open on April 29 for six weeks. visit www.exportawards.gov.au.

Okha Floating Production Storage and Offloading Facility Operations 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.

Okha Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) Facility Operations Environment Plan (EP)

With the five-year EP revision, Woodside plans to continue operation of the Okha FPSO facility which extracts, processes and stores oil and export gas. Vessel-based routine inspection, monitoring, maintenance and repair activities are planned to support 13 subsea wells and infrastructure.

Environment that may be affected (EMBA)

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

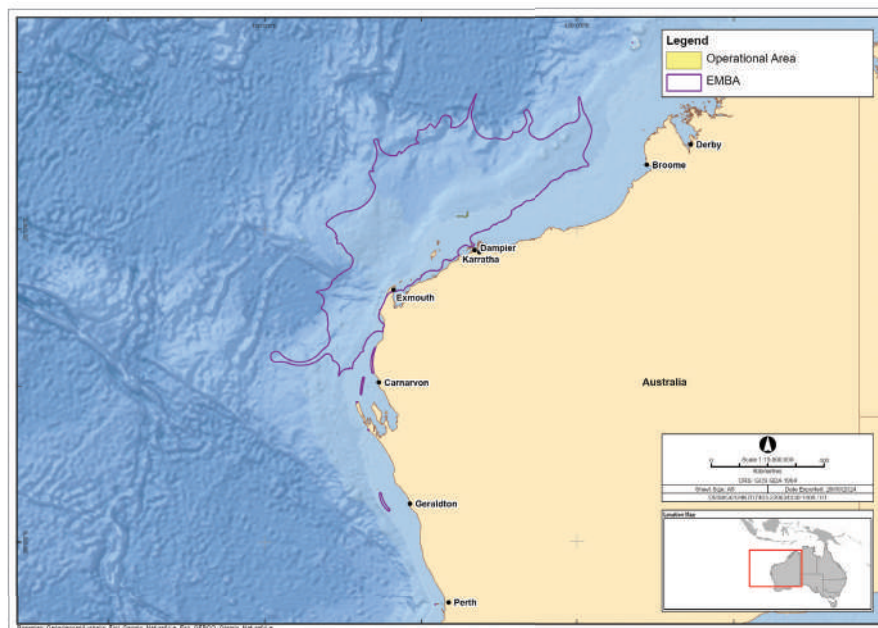
We want to hear from you

If you are an individual, organisation or community group and believe your functions, interests or activities may be impacted by the activities under this Environment Plan, we want to hear from you by **16 May 2025**.

To find out more go to:

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

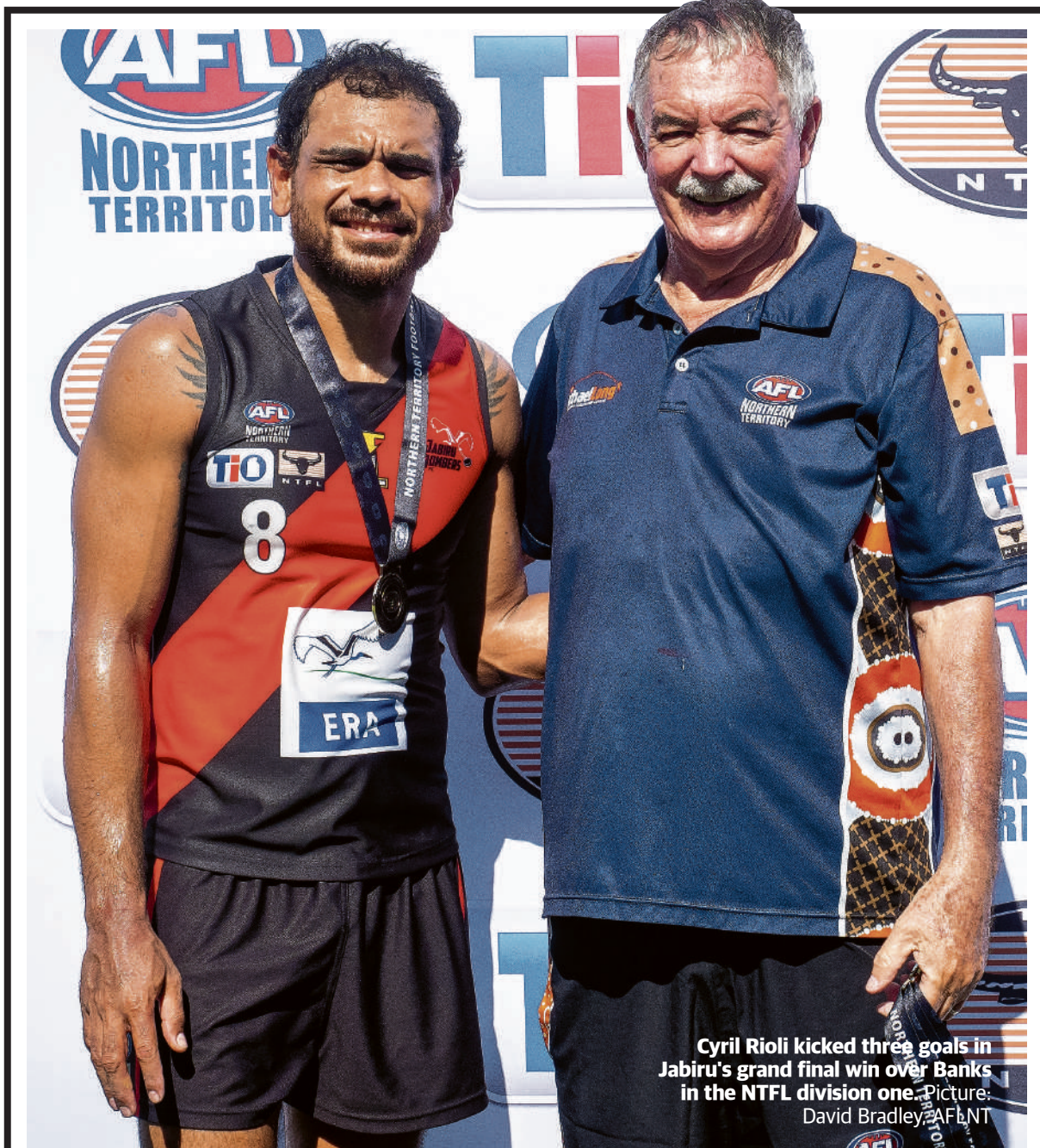
You can also subscribe via our website to receive future information on upcoming activities. The consultation information sheet for the Okha FPSO Facility Operations EP will be available starting 7 April 2025.



consultation@feedback.woodside.com
Toll free: 1800 442 977
woodside.com



SPORT



Cyril Rioli kicked three goals in Jabiru's grand final win over Banks in the NTFL division one. Picture: David Bradley/AFLNT

Rioli helps Jabiru break flag drought in the NT

JACKSON CLARK

Jabiru Football Club claimed a drought-breaking Northern Territory Football League division one flag this month to cap off an undefeated season.

The win over Banks was the club's first premiership triumph since joining the NTFL from the now-defunct Top End Australian Football League competition in 2010.

"This year's win is a combination of relief and recompense," Bombers president Matthew Large told National Indigenous Times.

"The premiership is recognition of the many years of hard work and sacrifice, slowly building to the success on the weekend."

Jabiru is about 250km south-east of Darwin and has a population of just over 1000 people.

The Bombers have been in operation since 1982, when they were an inaugural member of what was then the Northern Territory Football Association.

The team faces a tough schedule, often travelling more than 550km eight to 12 times per

season. Since joining the NTFL, the club had played in multiple grand finals but a premiership had eluded them.

That all changed on March 8, with the Bombers' 14.9 (93) to 7.5 (47) win over the Bulldogs at TIO Stadium.

One of the club's standout performers was four-time Hawthorn premiership player Cyril Rioli, who made his long-awaited return to local footy.

The 35-year-old AFL champion lived up to his reputation as a grand final specialist with a forward-line masterclass, finishing with three goals.

"We were honoured to have been the club that he chose to play for after being away from footy for so long," Large said.

Large said the champion small forward had a slow start before eventually finding his rhythm.

"His first couple of games were quiet and he seemed to just be happy to be out there, having a kick and putting the odd tackle on," he said.

"By the third game we started seeing glimpses of the player that we had seen on television for many years.

"He was hitting the pack during a stoppage and popping out the other side with the ball to have sneaky shots on goal from deep in the pocket.

"Cyril lifts those around him, and our side looks 10-feet tall when he is around," Large said.

Large praised the leaders at the club for this season's success.

"Our head coach, Kingsley Whitehurst and his assistant coach Duane Von Senden did an amazing job, managing to go undefeated all season and then sealing it with a dominating win for the final," he said.

The club also achieved plenty of recognition at the NTFL's presentation night.

Aidan McAdam took out the NTFL division one leading goal kicker title, while Liam Reid claimed the competition's best-and-fairest award.

These feats were replicated in the women's division two competition, with Desiree Nadji named the (leading goal kicker) and Sasha Burns winning the best-and-fairest award.

To cap it off, the club won the coveted senior club of the year prize for the first time.

Festival of footy a chance to unite

Rivals join for celebration

JARRED CROSS

Senior South Sydney Indigenous players have backed the latest addition to the NRL's Indigenous Round — a three-day "festival" of football called the Gadhu Gathering.

Allianz Stadium is set to host the games across the second weekend of Indigenous Round in celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, with the NRLW and local competitions also featuring.

The Rabbitohs, alongside arch rivals Sydney Roosters and Wests Tigers, have announced plans for the Gadhu Gathering which takes place from August 15 to 17.

"A three-day festival at Allianz is unreal," Souths half Cody Walker said. "It's a special round I always look forward to playing in and hopefully we can get the two points against Parra this year."

La Perouse-based culture, language and research organisation Gujaga Foundation was involved by the clubs and Venues NSW in the event's development, with art and symbolism included. Gadhu refers to a body of water in Dharawal language.

The Gadhu Gathering games will kick off on the Friday with the Roosters hosting the Bulldogs. The Rabbitohs play the Eels on the Saturday, and there is a Tigers double-header on the Sunday — they face Manly in a men's game and the Dragons in an NRLW clash.

Local sides Redfern All Blacks and La Perouse United will also feature during the weekend.

"It's a great round to represent our team, our family, all the kids in the community (and) hopefully give some little kids some dreams to chase and (to) represent our culture," Bunnies centre Jack Wighton said.

"It's all about representing, spreading good messages, doing your family proud. I've got four kids of my own so anything I can do within culture or for them to follow suit and look up to, it makes me very proud as a man."



The Gadhu Gathering will debut in August. Picture: AAP

Wighton said Indigenous Round has grown "bigger and better" since its introduction.

Walker said the annual league-wide celebration of Indigenous culture has helped him grow as a leader, and aided him with "being proud of myself, who I am and where I come from, but also using my platform or my voice to really talk about some serious issues in Aboriginal communities across Australia".

"I find it's my responsibility as a leader in this game to continue to do that," he said.

Souths, Roosters and Wests chief executives Blake Solly, Joe Kelly and Shane Richardson each welcomed their clubs' involvement in the Gadhu Gathering as a cultural celebration.

NSW Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Harris said: "To have six Sydney-based NRL clubs uniquely come together to create a three-day event that showcases the incredible talent and cultural pride of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is wonderful leadership."

Sport Minister Steve Kamper said: "This will be a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and rugby league not seen before".

NRL Indigenous Round takes place across men's rounds 23 and 24 and women's rounds six and seven.