



Waanyi

NATIVE TITLE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC

Newsletter 3

ICN 7448 (under special administration)

Dear members, traditional owners and other interested people,

My name is Peter McQuoid and on 15 April 2024 the Registrar of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations, Tricia Stroud, appointed me as the special administrator for Waanyi Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (ICN 7448) (Waanyi PBC).

My appointment is due to end on Friday 18 October 2024; a period of 6 months.

While I'm in this role I'll send regular newsletters to let you know what I'm doing to help get your corporation back on track. This is the third.

Where are we now?

My job is to restore good operational practice and then to prepare the corporation to be handed back to member control.

Stage one of the special administration is finished and good progress has been made in a number of important areas.

I am pleased to advise that with the support of the members, consultants, community and other stakeholders all services continue to operate at Waanyi PBC.

There are 3 stages to a special administration.

STAGE 1	COMPLETE
Take control of the assets, including bank accounts; build a complete picture of issues and challenges; and establish a clear plan of action.	
STAGE 2	NEARING COMPLETION
Restore good operational order.	
STAGE 3	NOT STARTED
Prepare the corporation for return to members control.	

Corporate changes

Waanyi joint venture

Priority 4 of the Waanyi PBC strategic plan is 'build capacity'. The plan says:

The Waanyi PBC is the representative body for the Waanyi People, and as such is best placed to own and develop strategic assets and businesses on Waanyi land for the ultimate betterment of all Waanyi People. Whilst capability primarily through joint ventures such as the WaanyiDowner JV and the Waanyi JV will assist with the initial opportunities, ultimately it is the Waanyi People that intend to build and own capability and assets. The intent of the partners is to assist with the initial business development and operations, and subsequently transfer capability to the Waanyi PBC in the longer term.

We are winding down Waanyi PBC's involvement in joint venture business. The PBC has taken on the Boodjamulla contract in its own right and is delivering services with PBC staff. Going forward the PBC will use consultants only to help build capacity of the PBC.

The PBC is tendering for new contracts in its own name and hopes soon to be at a stage where it no longer requires the consulting services of the joint venture.

New office for Waanyi PBC

The PBC now has its own office. It is at 345 Sheridan Street, Cairns North. The office is open from 8:30 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday. Members are welcome to visit.

Management are now looking at premises in Mount Isa, Doomadgee and Gregory where they can visit on a monthly basis and be available to support Waanyi PBC members.

We'll provide an update on this at the AGM in November.

Change of accountants

The PBC's accountants, DFK Hirn Newey have been updating the Waanyi PBC accounting system to ensure grant acquittals and budget variance reports are completed automatically. This project will be completed in October 2024. Operating budgets for each grant and corporate administration have been completed and entered in the accounting system.

This means the PBC is now able to produce full budget variance reporting. The Corporation Advisory Group (CAG) will be able to accurately monitor the financial performance of the PBC on a monthly basis.

Change of auditors

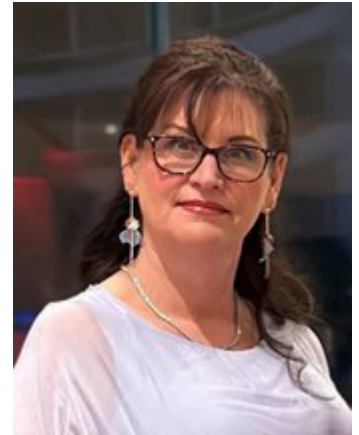
SRJ Walker Wayland, a Sunshine Coast based firm, have been appointed as the Waanyi PBC auditors for the 2023–24 financial year.

At the November 2024 AGM, we will ask members to select an auditor for the 2024–25 financial year.

Staff

CEO

Waanyi PBC is pleased to announce the appointment of Donna Leigh as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Donna commenced on Monday 16 September 2024.



Donna is a long-term resident of North Queensland. She brings a wealth of experience in business and leadership in not-for-profit community organisations.

Donna's most recent role was with the Eacham Community Help Organisation (ECHO) in Malanda, where she was CEO for the past 4 years. While at ECHO Donna led the successful commercial turnaround of the organisation and capacity building within the community. Before then Donna was director and CEO of Allied Health Performance and Medical for 14 years, a successful private allied health medical practice.

Donna was formerly a physiotherapist and will complete a law degree this year.

Her diverse professional skills and experience empowers her to address broader issues that affect both individual rights and systems. She is able to navigate complex situations to ensure that everyone receives the best possible outcome.

On appointment to the Waanyi PBC Donna shared, 'I am honoured to be stepping into the role of CEO for the Waanyi PBC. I will bring a unique blend of experience and deep commitment to values that align with the needs and aspirations of our community', emphasising her commitment to cultural respect, community engagement and sustainable development.

Trent McKenzie continues to assist the Waanyi PBC and is currently handing over to Donna Leigh.

Anthropologist

Conor Harrington has transferred from the joint venture to the Waanyi PBC as a full-time employee in the role of anthropologist. Many of you already know Conor. He will continue working on both state and Commonwealth funded projects at Boodjamulla National Park. Welcome Conor.

Administration officer

We have started recruitment for an administration officer to be based in the Waanyi PBC Cairns office.

Please visit waanyipbc.org for more details on the position and how to apply.

Board skills and composition

We're almost finished the recruitment process for specialist independent directors. We will announce appointments at the AGM in November.

Extension of special administration

I have asked the Registrar to extend the special administration of Waanyi PBC to 31 January 2025. The extra time will allow for:

- Finalising the agreements with the Waanyi Joint Venture.
- Negotiating with creditors to ensure Waanyi PBC can pay its bills when they are due.
- Consulting members on changes to the rule book to allow specialist independent directors and rotational directors.
- Finalising the 2023–24 audit and financial position of the corporation as at 30 June 2024.
- Securing additional funding streams for the PBC.
- Finalise reporting to the state and Commonwealth governments on how grant funding has been spent.
- Recruiting members for the CAG from unrepresented family groups.
- Providing additional support and coaching to the CAG and new CEO.

Waanyi PBC website

The Waanyi PBC website has been updated. Waanyi PBC will use the website to help the community find out what is happening at the PBC.

We've updated the website to include opportunities on the CAG, Culture and Heritage Committee, new membership application forms, policies, newsletters and other announcements. We post new information each week – for example, minutes of the recent community meeting are available.

I encourage you to visit waanyipbc.org.

Corporation Advisory Group

Nominations to join the CAG remain open throughout the special administration. You are invited and encouraged to nominate your interest in joining the CAG using the form attached to this newsletter.

The CAG is not a board; it will be disbanded at the end of the special administration. The group helps me as special administrator to make sound decisions during the special administration for the welfare and governance of the corporation. The group deals only with the commercial business of the corporation – things like reviewing budgets, financial statements, joint venture business, stakeholder relationships etc. The group does not get involved in country, culture, heritage and language – these things are referred to the Culture & Heritage Committee.

At the end of the special administration, I will appoint members from the CAG to a new board of directors for Waanyi PBC. The board's job is to lead the governance, strategy and commercial oversight of Waanyi PBC in its important role as a registered native title body corporate (RNTBC).

It's likely that membership of the CAG will change throughout the special administration. The following people are the current members:

- Anthony Saltmere
- Dawn Aplin
- Hayley Iles
- Kay Langtree
- Patrick Wheeler
- Tina Roughsey
- Warren Smith.

Many thanks to the members for their support of the Waanyi PBC and the work they put in to assist with the running of the corporation.

Right now members are working on a volunteer basis. Next financial year we will consider the possibility of paying fees after we have a clearer understanding of Waanyi PBC's finances.

The group meets on the last Thursday each month.

Again, members of the CAG will change throughout the special administration.

If you want to apply or need help with the application process, please contact ceo@waanyipbc.org.

Policy on community support payments

With the help of the CAG, the Waanyi PBC has updated its policy on cultural payments. This policy outlines the process and criteria for Waanyi individuals seeking financial support for funerals or medical treatment.

You can download a copy of the policy from waanyipbc.org.

Community bus

The community bus has been fixed and is operating again. The bus will be available to transport people from Doomadgee to Gregory for the AGM.



Please contact the office to book a seat.

Post flood recovery – help available

The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) has been allocated funding to help Country recover after the 2023 NW Qld gulf region floods. Boodjamulla National Park, Gregory River, Nicholson River and Lawn Hill River are some of the areas that were heavily impacted by the floods.

Kim and Sarah from DESI are talking to the Waanyi so we can get a better understanding of the environmental impacts from the 2023 flooding events and how these impacts have affected the local community and Country.

Having a yarn about this will help us ensure that we are directing funding for environmental recovery where it most benefits Country and community.

The area impacted by the 2023 monsoon and flooding event is vast, we cannot repair all the damage done by the flooding.

We are asking the local community to share with us which areas are particularly special that have been impacted by the floods and what recovery actions they would like to see on Country.

Where possible, we would like to incorporate capacity building and training for First Nations people and community groups in environmental recovery activities funded by this program. This then promotes resilience and provides ongoing opportunity for environmental recovery and community skills enhancement.

Questions to think about:

- What changes have you noticed since the floods?
- Have those changes impacted you or how you use your Country?
- What can we do to help Country recover from the floods?
- Have you noticed more weeds or pests on Country since the floods or in new locations?
- Have any of your special cultural sites been impacted or damaged from the floods?can this be repaired?
- Have the floods stopped you being able to access and use your culturally significant places?
- Is there training or resources that may help Waanyi fix environments that were damaged by the floods?
- Do you have any concerns about particular animals or plants since the floods?
- Have any of your cultural food sources been impacted by the floods?

Examples of projects we may be able to support:

- Pests and weed surveys and eradication activities
- Fencing of special riverine areas to keep cattle out of creeks
- Revegetation projects to replace lost trees and shrubs washed away by the floods
- Cultural heritage impact assessments
- Cultural site repair
- Clean up of flood debris and rubbish in areas that flooded
- Study of significant waterholes impacted by floods
- Repair solutions for heavily eroded important watercourses
- Survey of threatened, priority or culturally significant plants and animals that were impacted by flood events
- Rehabilitation of significant or threatened plants and animals habitat

Waanyi plants and animals book

The Waanyi Plants and Animals book is nearly finished. The authors have asked the PBC to be involved in the publishing of the book. The book will contain language names and traditional knowledge about many of the plants and animals found in Waanyi country.

The Culture & Heritage Committee are considering how this book may be used in the future.



wudiji
River Cabbage Palm

Funding available for language projects

Funding is available from First Languages Australia to support communities in undertaking projects that have one or more of the following aims:



1. Documenting language speakers

2. Delivering community language lessons

3. Developing teaching and learning resources

If you have an idea for a Waanyi language project, please contact the Waanyi PBC's anthropologist, Conor Harrington, on 0402 374 205 or at conor@waanyipbc.org

Funding applications are due in November 2024.

Many thanks,
Peter

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR



Peter McQuoid
PDM Consultancy

Ph: 0435 018 879
Email: p.mcquoid@pdmc.net.au

MORE ON SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION

The Registrar has a fact sheet, *Special administrations: what members and directors need to know* – see oric.gov.au/special-admins or call 1800 622 431.



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NOMINATION TO BE IN THE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR'S ADVISORY GROUP

My name is: _____

I nominate myself for the special administrator's advisory group.

My relevant background and experience is:

My contact details

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Signature:

Date:

Please return your form to Sue Bruce at PDMC by email to: s.bruce@pdmc.net.au

For more information call Sue Bruce on 0474 242 751



NATIVE TITLE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION NTBC

ICN 7448 (under special administration)

NOTICE OF

Annual General Meeting

All Members of Waanyi PBC are advised that the 2024 Annual General Meeting of Waanyi PBC will take place as follows:

DATE: Monday 11 November 2024

SIGN IN STARTS: 10:00 am

MEETING STARTS: 10:30 am

VENUES: Gregory Racecourse, Gregory QLD 4830

TECHNOLOGY (video access): The AGM link is available on the Waanyi PBC website or by emailing: ceo@waanyipbc.org

Members who are not able to attend the AGM in Gregory will need to visit the Waanyi website and click on the link for access to the AGM video link or email ceo@waanyipbc.org and a link will be sent to you. Email requests for a link must be received by the corporation by 12 noon on Friday 9 November 2024.

Peter McQuoid
Special administrator

10 October 2024

INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION

This notice contains important information about the meeting. It sets out the business of the meeting and the decisions that Waanyi PBC Members will be asked to make at the meeting. Members should read all of this notice.

Who is the meeting for? This is a meeting for all members of the Waanyi PBC.

What is the meeting about? This meeting is the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the Waanyi PBC.

1. Standard business

At this meeting, members will:

- be given reports on the audited financial position of the Waanyi PBC for the year ended 30 June 2024
- have an opportunity to ask questions about the management of the Waanyi PBC
- be asked to appoint an auditor to audit the annual financial statements of the Waanyi PBC for the financial year ending 30 June 2025 and consider and approve the fee of the auditor
- have an opportunity to check their details on the Waanyi PBC's Register of Members.

Members may appoint proxy

Members also have the right (under rule 63 of the Waanyi PBC rule book) to appoint another member as the member's proxy to attend the AGM in their place. **A member can only be a proxy for one other member at a time.**

A member may appoint a proxy by notifying Waanyi PBC using Form 3 attached to this notice, or preparing a notice that contains:

- (a) the name and address of that member;
- (b) the name of the corporation;
- (c) the name of the proxy; and
- (d) the meetings at which the proxy may be used.

Return proxy appointments to the Waanyi PBC by post or email to:

Post: Waanyi PBC
c/- Hirn Newey
PO Box 183, Nndah QLD 4012

Email: ceo@waanyipbc.org

Proxies must be provided to the Waanyi PBC at least 48 hours before the meeting start time (before 10:30 am on Friday, 8 November 2024).

Registration and assistance

The Waanyi PBC is arranging bus transport from Doomadgee to Gregory (and return) for people who register with the Waanyi PBC no later than **Wednesday, 6 November 2024.**

No accommodation assistance will be provided.

To register contact Trent McKenzie ceo@waanyipbc.org or 0435 297 479.

BUSINESS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023–24

(AGENDA)

Item	Description
1.	<p>Opening</p> <p>1.1. Welcome by the chairperson – special administrator</p> <p>1.2. One minute of silence</p> <p>1.3. Attendance and apologies</p> <p>1.4. Confirmation of a quorum</p> <p>1.5. Announcement of proxy votes received.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of previous general meeting</p> <p>2.1. Minutes of previous general meeting of members</p> <p>Proposed resolution 1:</p> <p>RESOLVED by ordinary resolution to accept the minutes of the Waanyi PBC Annual General Meeting of 22 November 2023 as a true and correct record of the meeting.</p>
3.	<p>Waanyi PBC Financial Statements</p> <p>3.1. The special administrator presents the financial statements to members.</p> <p>3.2. Members have an opportunity to ask questions about the financial statements.</p>
4.	<p>Appointment of auditor</p> <p>4.1. Members will be asked to appoint an auditor to audit the annual financial statements of the Waanyi PBC for the financial year ending 30 June 2025 and consider and approve the fee of the auditor</p>
5.	<p>Waanyi PBC register of members</p> <p>5.1. Review Waanyi PBC register of members</p>
6.	<p>Special administrator's update</p> <p>6.1. Establishing the Culture & Heritage Committee</p> <p>6.2. Activities of the Corporation Advisory Committee</p> <p>6.3. Update on the Waanyi Joint Venture</p> <p>6.4. Questions about the corporation / special administration</p>
7.	<p>Any other business</p>
8.	<p>Lunch – 12:30 pm to 1:00pm</p>
9.	<p>Any other business</p>
10.	<p>Close approximately 2:00 pm</p>

Further information

For more information about the meeting, the matters to be discussed, or to request a copy of the Waanyi PBC's audited financial statements, please email ceo@waanyipbc.org or call Trent McKenzie on 0435 297 479.

FORM 3: Appointment of proxy for a general meeting

Notes:

1. Only a person who is a member of the Waanyi Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC can be appointed as a proxy.
2. Proxy forms have to be given to Waanyi Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC no later than 48 hours before the AGM is scheduled to start.

I _____
full name

of _____
address

being a member of the Waanyi Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC hereby appoint

full name of proxy

of _____
address

who is also a member of the Waanyi Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the AGM of the Waanyi Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC to be held on 11 November 2024 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

Signature: _____
Signature of member appointing proxy

Date: _____