

## A Year of Renewal and Progress

### Welcome to our Latest Update

**Dear members, traditional owners and community,**

As we bring to close the end of the financial year, I want to thank all Waanyi people who continue to guide our direction with strength and patience. We have spent the first half of 2025 putting strong plans in place — not just for the months ahead, but for the long-term future of our people and Country.

From strategic planning with our Board to finalising our Budgets but proudly continuing the important work required, most notably in reopening Boodjamulla National Park. We are building a future that is not only sustainable but deeply grounded in our culture and values. The work continues — and we are proud to share our latest updates with you all.

Yours sincerely,

**Michael “Mick” Miller**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Waanyi PBC

## 2025–2030 Strategic Plan: Mapping the Future

In May 2025, the Waanyi Board and Executive Team gathered for a two-day planning workshop to begin shaping the Waanyi PBC Strategic Plan 2025–2030. This process was guided by our TRACS values — Trust, Respect, Accountability, Cultural Knowledge, and Strategic Outlook — and supported by community feedback gathered over the past year.

**The workshop focused on identifying our priorities in areas like:**

- Job creation and economic development
- Youth and women’s leadership pathways
- Environmental and cultural stewardship
- Self-determined governance and systems

The Strategic Plan will be released in July 2025 and will serve as a roadmap for all future decisions, partnerships, and investments.

It will ensure Waanyi PBC stays focused on long-term goals while responding to the evolving needs of our people and Country.

## Budget Planning

Alongside the Strategic Plan, the Executive team has completed a detailed 2025–2026 Budget, which has now been approved.

The budget includes tailored staff structures, project commitments, and engagement plans. We're ensuring Waanyi PBC will remain stable, transparent, and focused on community priorities.

## Major Tenders Submitted: Aiming High for Waanyi

### 1. NIAA Capacity Building Grant

Submitted in early May, this \$1,800,000 proposal seeks to support:

- Business development resource
- Training support and delivery
- Policy and compliance improvements
- Ongoing legal, cultural, and HR systems support

If successful, this funding will help Waanyi PBC deliver a strong internal governance framework — reducing reliance on external providers and strengthening our ability to lead from within. This is heavily geared towards supporting our strategic objective.

### 2. Century Mining Training Tender

This \$2.12 million proposal, lodged in mid-May, was unfortunately not successful. However, with the Gulf Region Economic Aboriginal Trust securing the tender, we look forward to ensuring much of the funding goes toward creating real training and job outcomes for Waanyi, including:

- Waanyi-led training programs in mining, conservation, tourism
- Elders mentoring young people
- Job readiness and employment pathways
- On-Country workshops and cultural inductions

## Financial Year End and ORIC Requirements

Waanyi PBC is finalising its financial year-end reporting and preparing for a full audit review, scheduled for August 2025.

### Key tasks include:

- Completing project acquittals and financial close-outs

- Preparing for the Annual ORIC Compliance Return
- Finalising the Fraud and Risk Reports
- Conducting internal checks on cultural and operational payments
- Coordinating the external audit, led by Hirn Newey Accountants

These steps ensure we remain accountable and transparent, not just to regulators, but to every Waanyi member.

## 6 June Community Meeting – Gregory/Bidunggu

**Waanyi members gathered in Gregory for a community-wide update. The session included:**

- A presentation from the Board and Executive Team outlining progress made during the year (as covered in Newsletter)
- A financial update and early insights into 2025–2030 planning
- Open forum discussions — where all Waanyi people were invited to share views, ask questions, and raise priorities

### Key discussion points included:

- Ensuring more youth involvement in governance
- Expanding Waanyi-led training pathways
- Maintaining strong financial controls while growing programs
- Access to jobs in environmental and mining sectors

## Now Open: QLD Indigenous Youth Leadership Program

Applications are now open for the 2025 Queensland Indigenous Youth Leadership Program (QIYLP), a powerful opportunity for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders aged 18–25 to strengthen their voice, build leadership skills, and connect with like-minded peers from across the state.

Since 2004, the program has supported over 750 young people — many of whom return as mentors and facilitators to support the next generation of leaders.

The 2025 program will take place in Brisbane from 22 to 28 November. Applications close on 17 August 2025. For more information, visit [qld.gov.au/qiylp](https://qld.gov.au/qiylp)

Or follow the hashtag **#QIYLP25** on social media to stay updated.

## CMC on-Country Week: Walking Together at Boodjamulla

From 3–5 June 2025, the Collaborative Management Committee (CMC) met with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) team for a week of On-Country work and discussions.

### Highlights included:

- A field visit to Boodjamulla National Park to view post-flood rebuilding progress
- Joint workshops on cultural fire practices and tourism opportunities
- Strategic planning sessions for future park management
- Time on Country guided by Elders, sharing knowledge and reflections

This week was an important reminder that land management is not just about logistics — it's about respecting lore, walking gently, and building shared understanding between agencies and Traditional Owners.

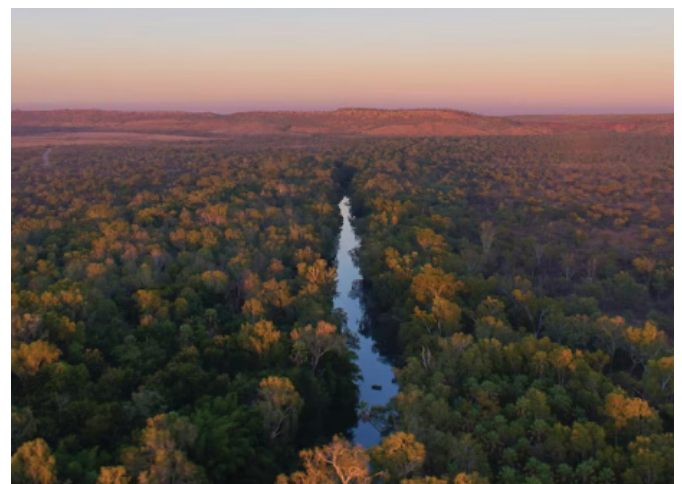


## Boodjamulla in the News: Honouring Waanyi Leadership

The story of the reopening of Boodjamulla has reached National headlines, with ABC News recently highlighting the important work led by Waanyi Traditional Owners to care for Country and guide the park's next chapter.

The article recognises the strength, patience and cultural leadership shown throughout the recovery process. It's a proud reflection of what many in our community already know: that real progress happens when decisions are grounded in lore, guided by Elders, and carried forward together.

Together, we are building a path forward that respects lore, honours Country, and creates space for healing and connection and we are proud that the work of Waanyi people is being recognised across the country.



### Read the article:

[abc.net.au/news/2025-06-20/boodjamulla-national-park-lawn-hill-reopening-after-flood/105398942](https://abc.net.au/news/2025-06-20/boodjamulla-national-park-lawn-hill-reopening-after-flood/105398942)



# Boodjamulla National Park – Post-Flood Weed Management (June 2025)

Bushland Conservation Management (BCM), engaged by QPWS and the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, undertook a targeted weed control program in Boodjamulla National Park following recent flood impacts.

**A cultural induction was led by Waanyi Traditional Owner Everyl Johnny, and all work followed cultural protocols:**

- No female workers at Wild Dog Dreaming site
- No male workers past the “two paperbark marker”

## Work Areas:

Lawn Hill Creek riparian zones, including Ranger Base,

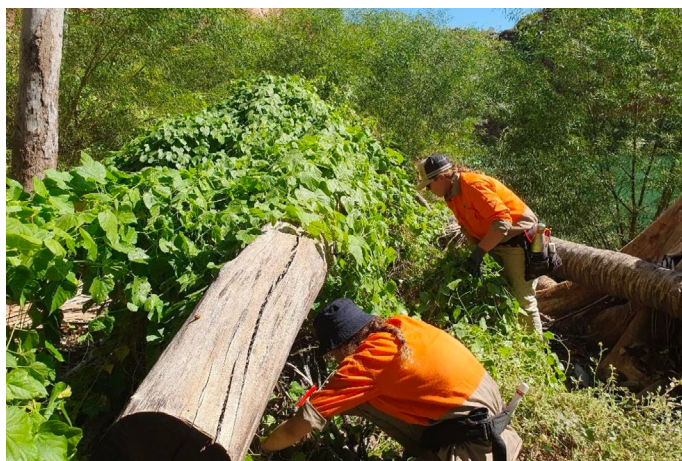
Rainbow Dreaming, and Constance Track.

## Treatment Methods:

Cut, scrape and paint; hand weeding; knapsack foliar spraying.

## Results:

The Ranger Base was fully treated, with a follow-up sweep completed on the final day. At Rainbow Dreaming, visual weeds along the creek edges were cleared and open areas were prepared for foliar spray. Constance Track was found to be heavily infested with Stinky Passion (*Passiflora foetida*), which had significantly impacted native vegetation at both ground and mid-levels. Vines were cut away from native plants and treated at the base before the area was sprayed. Other weeds treated during the visit included Calotrope (*Calotropis procera*), Noogoora Burr (*Xanthium occidentale*), and Butterfly Pea Vine (*Clitoria ternatea*). This work supports the ongoing recovery of Boodjamulla’s native ecosystem following flood events.



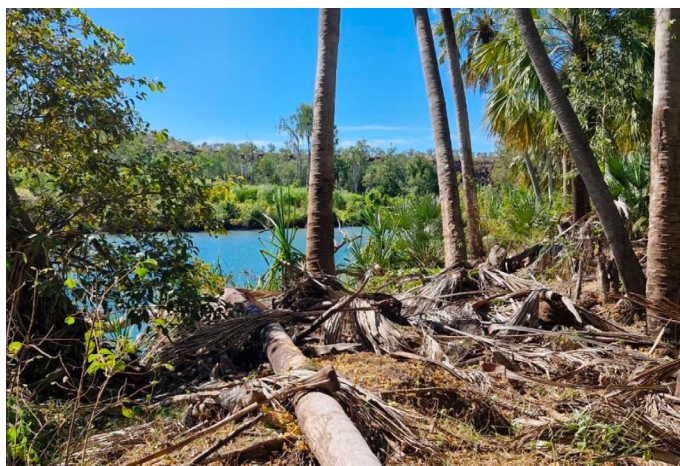
Before



After



Before



After



## Governance Milestones and the Path to November AGM

Since the end of Special Administration in February, Waanyi PBC has continued to strengthen its governance structures and prepare for the next major milestone: the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November 2025.

### Key governance updates:

- **Board Operations:** The Board has met regularly since February, reviewing budgets, approving major tenders, and guiding the development of the Strategic Plan. All meetings are now conducted with full agendas, board packs, and follow-up actions.
- **Audit and Compliance Preparation:** As noted earlier, Waanyi PBC is actively preparing for the annual audit and ORIC compliance reporting. These will form the foundation for member reporting at the AGM.
- **Director Elections:** In line with Rulebook provisions, there will be 3 spots available for appointment to the Board. A nomination process and suggested criteria will be developed in the coming months.
- **Policy Reviews:** A full review of governance policies is underway — covering HR, finance, risk, compliance, and cultural payments. These are being simplified for easier use and clearer accountability.
- **Stakeholder Reporting Tools:** A new online board reporting and stakeholder tracking system has been rolled out, providing directors and managers with real-time access to project status, budgets, and key risks.

Together, these steps represent not just a shift in governance — but a deepening of integrity, responsibility, and openness.

## Stories from Country: Progress, Pride & Participation

As always, our greatest progress comes when we are grounded in Country and led by our people

### Elders Lead Cultural Tours at Boodjamulla

During the June On-Country week, Elders from across the region led QPWS staff, CMC members, and younger Waanyi in guided walks through key parts of Boodjamulla National Park. These included cultural stories at sacred sites, seasonal observations, and guidance on respectful access.

“It’s not just about what you see — it’s about what you feel. That’s how Country speaks,” one Elder shared during the tour. These sessions were powerful reminders of the role Waanyi Elders play in protecting Country

— not through paperwork, but through presence.

### Young Voices at the Table

At the Gregory community meeting, a number of younger Waanyi men and women shared their hopes for jobs, training, and stronger community involvement.

## Waanyi Youth Visit Queensland Museum

As part of Doomadgee Council’s Indigenous Youth Connection to Culture (IYCC) program, a group of Doomadgee students recently visited the Queensland Museum — with support from WNTAC and guidance from cultural mentors Randell and Marcus.

During the visit, the group was granted a special behind-the-scenes tour of artefacts from the Lower Gulf region, including items not on public display. Some students were moved to discover that the artefacts had been made by their own family members — a powerful reminder of the living connections between heritage, identity, and community.



Museum staff were deeply appreciative of the group’s insights and were treated to a performance led by Randell and Marcus, who also head the Doomadgee Dancers.

WNTAC is proud to have supported this visit and continues to work with the Queensland Museum on future opportunities — including the return of cultural heritage items to Waanyi Country.

## Cooperative Management in Action

From 27–29 May 2025, Boodjamulla National Park (Aboriginal Land) hosted a Natural Resource Management (NRM) Workshop bringing together staff from Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI), Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Waanyi PBC, and the Ngumari Waanyi Rangers. The workshop focused on strengthening cooperative efforts to manage and protect the Park's unique cultural and natural values.

Key topics included annual NRM priorities, with particular attention to fire, weed, and pest management. Rubbervine infestations and feral pigs were highlighted as major threats to native habitats and cultural heritage

sites. Participants also discussed ongoing survey and monitoring programs for threatened species, including the Gulf Snapping Turtle and the Carpentarian Grasswren.

A highlight of the workshop was a hands-on demonstration of camera trapping techniques using scent lures to detect feral cats and dingoes. Impressively, both species were captured on camera during the first night of testing. A late-night spotlighting session through the gorge further showcased the effectiveness of thermal spotting scopes for detecting wildlife in complete darkness.

The workshop concluded with a roundtable review of the Park's pest management strategy and monitoring and research priorities — reinforcing the value of collaborative planning and on-Country knowledge sharing.



## Stay Connected on Socials

Our community is strong, proud, and always moving forward. To help keep everyone connected and informed, Waanyi PBC has launched an official Facebook page — a new way to share updates, opportunities, and stories that matter to our people.

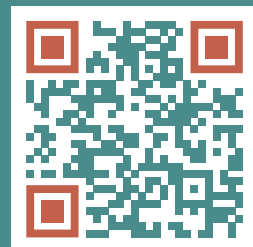
This page is for our mob — to share news, support each other, and stay strong together. Use your mobile to scan the QR Code to follow the page and stay connected.

We have also launched a Waanyi LinkedIn page which a platform to share our work with partners, organisations, and supporters. Follow us there if you're on LinkedIn and want to see how Waanyi is leading in land management, cultural governance, and economic development.

**Help us spread the word, encourage family members to follow too. The more connected we are, the stronger we grow together.**



**Waanyi RNTBC**  
[facebook.com/waanyipbc](https://facebook.com/waanyipbc)



[linkedin.com/company/waanyi](https://linkedin.com/company/waanyi)





# Looking Ahead: A Connected and Confident Future

As we head into the second half of 2025, Waanyi PBC will continue walking together on the path of **self-determination, sustainability, and cultural strength**.

## Here’s what’s coming up:

Upcoming Milestones	Planned Date
Strategic Plan 2025–2030 Launch	July 2025
Community Meeting	September 2025
External Audit and ORIC Reporting	July – August 2025
Policy and Systems Review Completion	August 2025
Board Election Preparations and Nominations	September – October 2025
Annual General Meeting	November 2025

## Waanyi PBC will also Continue:

- Publishing bi-monthly newsletters (every 6 weeks)
- Establishing Drop-In Centres in Doomadgee, Mount Isa, and Gregory/Bidunggu
- Enhancing the [waanyipbc.org](http://waanyipbc.org) website as the central hub for updates

Please ensure your contact details are up to date so we can keep you informed. If you haven’t already, visit [www.waanyipbc.org](http://www.waanyipbc.org) to subscribe or update your info.

## Closing Message

We end this edition with gratitude. Thank you to all members, Elders, youth, Board members, and partners who continue to believe in a stronger, more united Waanyi future. It has not been easy — but the foundation has been laid.

As always, we welcome your feedback, questions, and ideas.

“We walk forward with our feet on Country, our eyes on the future, and our hearts grounded in lore.”

**Michael “Mick” Miller**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Waanyi PBC

