



Waanyi

NATIVE TITLE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC

Newsletter 4

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 will end on Friday 31 January 2025.

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.

Stages one and two of the special administration are finished and good progress has been made in preparing the corporation to be handed back to member control.

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	COMPLETE
Restore good operational order.	
STAGE 3	COMMENCED
Prepare the corporation for return to members control.	

Memberships

The Waanyi PBC directors after special administration will have ultimate responsibility for admitting new members to the corporation. A clear pathway for admitting new members has now been implemented.

Waanyi PBC membership applications will involve a three-stage process, which may be written into the rule book:

1. In the first instance, membership applications are reviewed by the Waanyi PBC board. Applicants passing that review are accepted as members.
2. Applicants not recognised by the board go to the representative Elders of the family to which the applicant identifies. Applicants passing this second review are accepted as members by the board.
3. Applicants unrecognised in the first two stages are given the option to present their application at the next general meeting of the corporation. The general meeting decision to accept or reject an application is final.

In addition Waanyi PBC is starting to create a register of common law holders. Waanyi people who prefer not to take up membership of the PBC remain entitled to benefits as common law

holders, including the right to attend and vote at community meetings. Having a register of common law holders will make it easier for Waanyi PBC staff to keep all Waanyi people advised of what is happening. Waanyi people wanting to be on the register should contact the PBC office:

Jonathan Hall
Administration Officer
admin@waanyipbc.org
Ph: 0418 415 658

There are advantages to being a member of Waanyi PBC and / or to being on the register of common law holders. All Waanyi people are encouraged to apply for registration.

Please note that all Waanyi PBC members will automatically be added to the register of common law holders.

Corporation Advisory Group

Board skills and composition

The corporation advisory group (CAG) members have selected two potential specialist independent directors from a shortlist of four applicants. Sheryl Hedges, Adv. Dip. Accounting Dip. Project Management Member AICD and Brett Ingram, Grad. Dip. of Bus., Dip. Project Mgmt. Member AICD. Both Sheryl and Brett are Aboriginal people who have extensive board member experience and bring a wealth of experience to the CAG. Welcome Sheryl and Brett.

Welcome to the CAG – Everyl Johnny

Waanyi PBC is pleased to welcome Everyl Johnny as the newest member of the CAG. Everyl brings a wealth of knowledge, cultural insight, and a strong commitment to supporting the Waanyi People.

The CAG plays a vital role in providing guidance, community perspectives, and ensuring that decisions remain connected to the needs and aspirations of the Waanyi People. Everyl's experience and dedication will be a valuable asset to this work.

Nominations to join the CAG remain open throughout the special administration. The CAG is not a board and it will be disbanded at the end of the special administration. The CAG helps the special administrator to make sound decisions during the special administration for the welfare

and governance of the corporation. The CAG deals only with the commercial business of the corporation. That is things like reviewing budgets, financial statements, joint venture business, stakeholder relationships etc. The CAG does not get involved in country, culture, heritage and language. These things will be referred to the Waanyi Elders.

You are invited and encouraged to nominate your interest in joining the CAG using the attached form.

At the conclusion of the special administration, I will appoint members from the CAG to the new Waanyi PBC board, to lead the governance, strategy and commercial oversight of Waanyi PBC in its important role as a Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC).

Membership of the CAG will continue to change throughout the special administration.

The following people are presently members of the CAG:

Waanyi Members

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

Potential Specialist Independent Directors

- Brett Ingram
- Sheryl Hedges

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

The corporation advisory group (CAG) meets monthly on the last Thursday each month.

Again, members of the CAG are not finalised with applications welcome. Should anyone wish to apply or need help with the application process, please contact ceo@waanyipbc.org.

Changes to the rule book

I have discussed proposed changes to the rule book with the corporation advisory group. The proposed changes are summarised below, and feedback is invited from members.

- Any person who was a director of the corporation during the period 16 April 2023 to 15 April 2024 is not eligible to be appointed as a director of Waanyi PBC for a period of 2 years from 31 January 2025 (new rule).
- Waanyi PBC directors are appointed on rotation for a 2-year period so that half the directors' appointments expire each year. Directors are eligible for re-election. All directors appointed at the end of the special administration on 31 January 2025 are appointed until the 2026 AGM, at which time half of the board appointments will be presented to the AGM for election. Thereafter, half of the board will be elected at each AGM (new rule – current term 4 years).
- Waanyi PBC directors will be required to appoint 2 independent specialist directors (new rule).
- The Waanyi PBC board will comprise a maximum of 10 directors— 8 Waanyi members and 2 independent specialists (currently 8 Waanyi members only).
- Directors will need to be nominated for a directorship in advance of the AGM. All members will be sent a brief summary of the people who have nominated as directors with the notice of the AGM (new rule).
- A director's ID and a signed consent to act as a director must be provided with the director nomination (new rule).
- The Directors are to meet to attend to the Corporation's business at least once each quarter throughout the financial year (currently twice per year).
- At least 21 days' notice to be given for a community meeting (currently 7 days).
- Waanyi PBC membership applications will involve a 3-stage process as explained above (new rule).

For more information or to provide feedback on the proposed rule changes please contact Jonathan Hall at email: admin@waanyipbc.org or ph: 0418 415 658.

**Feedback is required no later than
Monday 20 January 2025**

Please note all proposed rule book changes must be approved by the Registrar for the change to take effect. The above changes are proposed changes only and are subject to member comments / feedback and to Registrar approval.

Joint venture

The relationship with the Waanyi JV continues to be poor with little to no conversation between the JV directors and the Waanyi PBC staff, corporation advisory group members or the special administrator. Waanyi PBC considers the Waanyi JV is dysfunctional and not serving any beneficial purpose. The directors of the Waanyi JV will be asked to close the JV.

As stated in the Waanyi Strategic plan: '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.'

It is pleasing to see the Waanyi PBC is now building its own capability and assets. The PBC is now delivering services to state and Commonwealth funders in its own right. Members should see the benefits of the Waanyi PBC running and managing its own affairs in increased community services and support in the short term. The use of consultants is also being reduced with operational tasks more often being delivered by Waanyi PBC staff. This reduction in consultant's costs will make available additional funds which can be reinvested in the Waanyi community.

News from the Waanyi PBC staff

AGM draft minutes available

Draft minutes of the 2024 AGM are now available. Please contact corporation staff to request a copy.

Thank You for the Cultural Dancing at the Waanyi AGM

Waanyi PBC extends a heartfelt **thank you** to all those who participated in the cultural dancing at this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Your performances were a powerful celebration of Waanyi culture, identity, and pride. The energy, storytelling, and connection to Country were truly inspiring and reminded us all of the strength and richness of our traditions.

Moments like these bring our community together and reinforce the importance of preserving and sharing our culture with future generations. Thank you for your dedication, passion, and commitment to keeping our culture alive.

Recent Events

Boodjamulla National Park working group



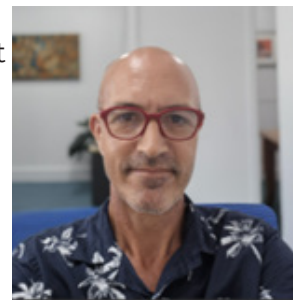
Corporate Advisory Group Century Mine Update



Staff

Administration Officer

Waanyi PBC is pleased to announce the appointment of Jonathan Hall as Administration Officer. Jonathan commenced in the Cairns office in Nov assisting Donna Leigh the CEO. Jonathan is a long-term Cairns resident. He brings a wealth of experience in administration and customer service. Jonathan's most recent role was as Project Officer for the Office of The Commissioner, Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa. A first of its kind, the Act recognises Torres Strait Islander lore in Western Law and establishes a process for the legal recognition of Torres Strait Islander traditional child rearing practice. On appointment Jonathan shared "I'm excited to share my skills and experience in this new role, especially as we transition out of special administration". Jonathan has spent over a decade working with remote Indigenous communities throughout the Cape and Torres Strait and understands the challenges that remote communities face.



Change of Auditors

At the recent AGM held in Gregory in November, the members of the Waanyi PBC appointed Jessups, based in Cairns, to serve as our appointed auditor for the 2024–2025 financial year. Jessup's is a well-regarded firm with extensive experience in supporting Indigenous corporations and community-based organisations. Their expertise will ensure our financial processes remain robust, compliant, and aligned with best practices.

Seeking expressions of interest from Waanyi artists

The Waanyi PBC would like to commission some original artworks by local Waanyi artists. If you are a painter and would like to be considered, please contact the PBC office.

Never drive through floodwater

More than half of flood-related deaths are a result of driving through floodwater. Even if it looks calm, no one can predict what floodwater will do or what's happened to the road underneath. Any amount of swift flowing water can sweep away your car, no matter what you drive. Don't risk it. If its flooded forget it.

The car

'My car can handle it'

- A car can be swept away in as little as 15cm of water.
- Water and electrics don't mix. Your car's windows and doors can quickly stop working in floodwater. Don't risk getting stuck inside your car.
- Modern materials and sound reducing seals mean newer cars are lightweight and more buoyant making it easier for them to float or be swept away.
- A well fitted out 4WD with a snorkel can handle some tough conditions, but flooded roads are in a category of their own. The normal precautions aren't enough.
- The 'wading depth' listed in your car's manual is designed for still or low speed currents. They don't consider the many dangers of floodwater. It's not worth the risk.



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.



Waanyi

NATIVE TITLE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC

ICN 7448 (under special administration)

NOMINATION TO BE IN THE CORPORATION ADVISORY GROUP

My name is: _____

I nominate myself for the corporation advisory group.

My relevant background and experience is:

My contact details

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Signature:

Date:

Please return your form to Donna Leigh, CEO by email to: donna@waanyipbc.org

For more information call Donna on 0417 391 050