



Waanyi

Newsletter 2

NATIVE TITLE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC 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 second.

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	IN PROGRESS
Restore good operational order.	
STAGE 3	NOT STARTED
Prepare the corporation for return to members control.	

Corporate changes

Change of accountants

SB Partners have for many years provided accounting and financial advice to the Waanyi PBC. SB Partners are also providing accounting and financial advice to the Waanyi JV Pty Ltd. At the same time SB Partners directors partly owned one of the shareholder companies in the Waanyi JV Pty Ltd. This meant the directors of SB Partners were receiving a share of the profits made by Waanyi JV.

It was felt that SB Partners should not be providing accounting and financial advice to the PBC while they were in business with and sharing in the profits of the Waanyi JV Pty Ltd. The special administrator considered that SB Partners had a conflict of interest.

The arrangement between SB Partners and Waanyi PBC has been brought to an end by the special administrator.

DFK Hirn Newey have been appointed as the Waanyi PBC accountants and business advisors with immediate effect. DFK Hirn Newey is a Brisbane based mid-sized firm and is ranked as one of the top 25 accounting firms in Queensland.

Change of auditors

Aspire Accountants & Advisors (AAA) were the auditors for the Waanyi PBC last financial year. We have advised AAA their contract to provide auditing services will not be renewed. Quotes for auditing services are being sought. We will review them and appoint a new auditor in coming weeks.

Staff

Several changes have been made to the corporation's staff. Details of staff departures are on waanyipbc.org under the heading special administrator.

Recruitment of a **Chief Executive Officer** has started. It's been advertised on Seek, ORIC's Corporation jobs, *The Northern Star*, *National Indigenous Times*, *Koori Mail* and waanyipbc.org.

Please share the advertisement (attached to this newsletter) with anyone you think may be qualified for the role. Encourage them to apply or ask Sue Bruce from PDMC (s.bruce@pdmc.net.au) for more details.

Recruitment of **other staff positions**, starting with a Finance Officer and Administration Officer, will begin soon. These positions will be advertised on the website, Seek and newspapers.

Recruitment of **specialist independent directors** has commenced with an excellent response so far.

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. I encourage you to visit waanyipbc.org.

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



Cultural & Heritage Committee

Input from Waanyi Elders is essential for certain decisions and governance of the Waanyi PBC. To ensure Waanyi PBC involves Waanyi Elders in these decisions I have created a Cultural & Heritage Committee.

We hope that the Elders on this committee will represent each of the 8 Waanyi countries in Queensland.

The role of the committee is to make decisions on:

1. Waanyi people who are to be included on heritage surveys.
2. Working with mining companies that want to make proposals to the Waanyi common law holders.
3. Appointing specialist advisors for surveys and other cultural and heritage matters.
4. matters involving Lore, country, culture, heritage and language.

The committee is not responsible for running the commercial side of Waanyi PBC's business. That is the role of the corporation advisory group.

The Waanyi PBC will support the committee by helping to arrange its meetings, keeping minutes and providing support to the Elders.

Membership of the committee will be decided by the Waanyi Elders; not me as the special administrator.

I invite Waanyi Elders to join the committee.

If you are an Elder or know an Elder who would like to be on this committee, please contact Annie Brown at admin@waanyipbc.org.

Corporation Advisory Group (CAG)

Nominations to join the Corporation Advisory Group 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 Corporation Advisory Group 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 Corporation Advisory Group 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 Corporation Advisory Group will change throughout the special administration. The following people are the current members:

- Charmaine Chong
- Hayley Iles
- Kay Langtree
- Tina Roughsey
- Warren Smith
- Patrick Wheeler.

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. The first meeting was held on 30 May 2024. This meeting was mostly introductory though I welcomed input on locations for future community meeting, the location of Waanyi PBC administration services, and policy for cultural request payments.

Again, members of the Corporation Advisory Group will change throughout the special administration. I welcome applications up until October 2024.

If you want to apply or need help with the application process, please contact Annie Brown at admin@waanyipbc.org.

Waanyi Joint Venture Activities

Ngumari Waanyi Rangers & QPWS Field Work (April 2024)

Under a new cooperative management agreement, the Ngumari Waanyi rangers and QPWS are collaborating to manage Boodjamulla National Park. Activities in April focused on fire and weed management:

- **Fire Management:** Conducting cultural and hazard reduction burns to prevent large fires and improve habitat diversity.
- **Weed Control:** Targeted Noogoora burr and passion vine in the park's gorge area. This collaboration fosters cross-cultural learning and skill development. Future activities will include pest management and species health checks.

Return of Historical Waanyi Artefacts (March 2024)

Historical artefacts, including iron spear tips and a drinking mug, were retrieved from the Sunshine Coast by the Waanyi JV. These items, believed to be removed in the mid-1980s, are being planned for return to Waanyi Country.

On-Country BNP Strategic Redevelopment Planning Workshop (7-9 May 2024)

A workshop for the Boodjamulla National Park Strategic Redevelopment Project involved Waanyi members, rangers, and indigenous tourism consultants. The workshop aimed to gather input for the planning and design phase. Regional councils were briefed, and site visits assessed flood recovery at Lawn Hill Gorge and upcoming land handback at Creek Resources Reserve. Further consultations are planned.



Ngumari Waanyi Ranger Kyle Jacob (background), and La Schaya Body from QPWS, undertake weed work at the Park

Ground burning aerial shot





Boodjamulla National Park (AL) with Ngumari Waanyi Rangers Shaquelle Connelly & Kyle Jacob, and Hayley Seears (Plan C), Deborah Robbins (TCL)

Lawn Hill Gorge Visit:

From left - Ross Browning & Cath Chilvers (Waanyi JV), Shaquelle Connelly & Kyle Jacob (Ngumari Waanyi Rangers), Hayley Seears (Plan C), Boyd Simpson & David Darby (Waanyi JV), Deborah Robbins (TCL), Jim Gleeson (Plan C)



Community meeting in May

The Waanyi PBC held a significant community meeting at the Doomadgee Sport and Recreation Hall on 16 May.

The meeting was chaired by David Meale from Chalk and Behrendt lawyers. There was good attendance by community members as well as representatives from Anglo American, Aeon Metals, and Traka Resources.

Representatives from Anglo American – Anthony Kalma, Kamalendra Jhala, and Ira Friedman – presented their exploration goals for proposed areas near Gregory township and Century Mine.

It was agreed to enter into an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Protection Agreement with Aeon Metals Limited companies. This agreement has now been finalised.

Trakka Resources Ltd representatives provided an outline of their company and proposed operations.

This meeting marks an important step in ongoing efforts to balance exploration activities with cultural heritage protection, highlighting the active participation and decision-making of the Waanyi community.

Community support policy

With the help of the corporation advisory group, the Waanyi PBC has updated its policy on cultural payments. This policy outlines the process and criteria for Waanyi individuals seeking financial support.

The new policy applies from May 2024. You can download a copy of the policy from waanyipbc.org.

Community bus

Unfortunately, the community bus has fallen into disrepair. We have had it towed to a 4WD repair shop in Cloncurry. We are waiting for information on costs and estimated timing for the bus to be repaired.



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

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

- Waanyi Registered Native Title Body Corporate RNTBC (Waanyi PBC)
- Care for country, culture, and heritage
- Full time role reporting to the Board

Waanyi PBC is a Traditional Owner organisation representing the Waanyi people over an area of 17,000 square kilometres north of Mt Isa, in North West Queensland. Care for country includes the Bidunggu Land Trust area, a number of pastoral properties and reserves, Boodjamulla (Lawn Hill) National Park, in and around the town of Doomadgee and the Century Mine site.

On 15 April 2024, the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) placed Waanyi PBC under special administration to initiate and ensure corporate reform in preparation for the return of the corporation to member control.

About the Opportunity

Waanyi PBC seeks to appoint a dynamic Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report to the Board, responsible for the strategic direction, growth, and operational excellence of the organisation. This includes achieving the strategic vision, strengthening financial performance and corporate governance, capacity building across the community, and developing a stronger, more unified organisation for further development for all Waanyi people.

The CEO role is critical to lead Waanyi PBC to improve the lives and welfare of the Waanyi people, represent country and community with stakeholders, and promote and protect culture while taking action to build economic advancement in the region.

The CEO will be based in the corporation's offices in Cairns.

Applications are invited from individuals with the following **candidate requirements**:

- Proven senior executive or senior manager experience in community and/or government services, ideally with knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage matters.
- Demonstrated success in building effective relationships in Community and partnerships with regulators, government agencies and other community bodies.
- Commercial operations management skills, including funding management and financial reporting.
- Demonstrated experience in developing the vision, strategic and operational plans targeting actions to achieve desired outcomes and KPIs.
- Experience working with Boards, and understanding the role of the Chief Executive, management, staff and stakeholder partners in the leadership, management and operation of an organisation.
- Demonstrated experience in leading and managing teams, mentoring and empowering staff to build a culture of engagement and success; and
- Tertiary qualifications in professional business, finance or community services disciplines.



PO Box 183
Nundah QLD 4012
Email: admin@waanyipbc.org

Applications from First Nations people are encouraged however, this is not a designated/identified opportunity. Previous applicants to this position are encouraged to reapply.

How to Apply

Please forward to s.bruce@pdmc.net.au the following:

- A cover letter of no more than two (2) pages reflecting on your suitability against the candidate requirements; and
- A resume / curriculum vitae reflecting their professional career, skills and experience.

For more information, please contact **Sue Bruce** of PDM Consultancy on 0474 242 751 for a confidential discussion.

Please note: It is a requirement that prior to commencing in this role, you must possess and present a current National Criminal History Check.

Applications close **12.00 noon on Friday 5 July 2024.**