

# CONNECTING TO COUNTRY

Ngadju Newsletter



## Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

### NNTAC

Dear members and other interested people.

My name is Rob Klug and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (NNTAC).

Welcome to the "Connecting to Country" Ngadju Newsletter. NNTAC is also referred to as the Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) and was formed after the Federal Court granted Native Title to the Ngadju people.

All newsletters and meeting notices are available on the public Register of Indigenous Corporations at [oric.gov.au](http://oric.gov.au). Use the 'Find a corporation' tool and search using 'Ngadju Native Title' or '8297' (the ICN) and the follow the link to 'documents'.

### What's inside our latest issue:

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Native Title  
Aboriginal  
Corporation

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



NNTAC Board of Directors have been engaging in important matters on behalf of Ngadju members since their appointment. Some of these matters will be highlighted in the Mining and Heritage section of the Newsletter.

A reminder that the Board of Directors comprises:

### Member Directors

- Hector Graham (Snr)
- Gaile Mallard
- Verna Newchurch
- James Schultz
- Pearl Scott

### Independent Specialist Directors

- Maryanne Kelly
- Michael Allbrook

Half of these member Directors have been appointed for a two year term until 2022 AGM. At the 2022 AGM half of the member Directors will retire and will be eligible for reappointment. The other half will retire at the 2023 AGM and be eligible for reappointment. The Directors will decide prior to the 2022 AGM which of them will retire at the 2022 AGM.

The two independent specialist directors have been appointed by the Board of Directors for a term of two years and are eligible to be re-appointed by the Board of Directors at the end of that initial two year term.

## ELDERS ADVISORY GROUP

NNTAC welcome the newly elected Elders for the Donaldson, Flynn and Jacobs family group who were appointed at the November AGM in Norseman.

The Elders Advisory Group will advise the Board in relation to a range of cultural and other matters including membership.

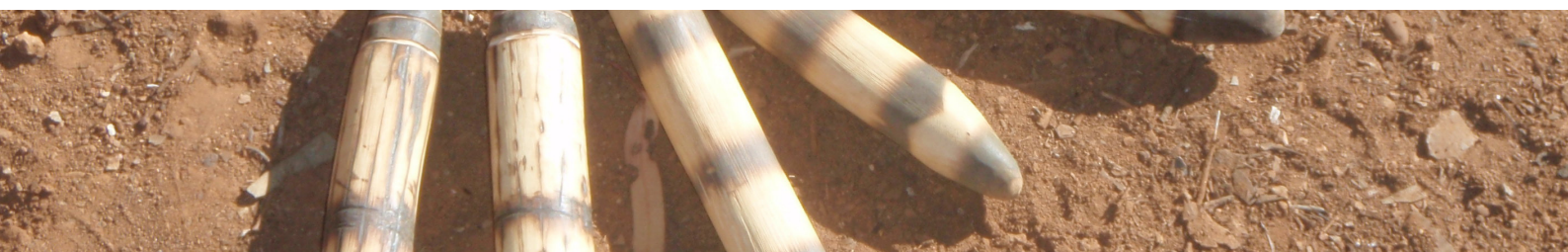
The Board still has the final say in these matters but will listen to the advice of the Elders.

The following senior Ngadju people are appointed as the Elders Advisory Group and now have a 2 year term until the 2022 Annual General Meeting at which time new family elections will be held.

### Our Elders Advisory Group

- Betty Logan - Belang
- Jennifer Woods - Dalgety/Ray/Munroe
- John Graham - Graham
- Stephen Rule - Rule
- Les Schultz - Schultz
- Valma Schultz - Wicker
- Diane Clinch - Wilson/Nine
- Allison Dimer - Donaldson
- Grantley Flynn - Flynn
- Gavin Smith (Snr) - Jacobs

The next Elders Advisory Meeting will be held in Norseman on Tuesday 23rd February 2021. Following the meeting will be the Norseman Yarning Circle at Marks Park. Please come along to yarn with your Elders, NNTAC staff and Ngadju members. A group photo of our Ngadju Elders is soon to follow.



## STAFF PROFILES

### MICHELLE ALEXANDER

#### NATIVE TITLE AND LAND ACCESS MANAGER



Also new to NNTAC is Michelle Alexander, our Native Title and Land Access Manager. Michelle commenced full-time with NNTAC in July 2020. Michelle has worked in the Native Title sector for 19 years having lived and worked in and around the Western Desert, Goldfields and Pilbara Regions. Michelle has extensive experience in relation to PBC governance and management as well as managing future acts, land access and cultural and heritage matters. Michelle has worked extensively on the ground with traditional owners and native title holders to assist them maintain and protect country in a culturally relevant way. Michelle has a Bachelor of Laws and has recently completed a Diploma in Legal Practice.

## OPERATIONAL MATTERS

### MEMBERSHIP

NNTAC received 134 applications which were reviewed at the October 2020 Elders Advisory Group and Board of Directors meeting.

With a new application and membership process, the Elders Advisory Group and Board of Directors did well to review such a high volume of applications.

A reminder that this new process was put in place during special administration after extensive consultation with the Advisory Group and members generally. The process places a heavy emphasis on an applicant being able to demonstrate that he or she has been on country and recognises Ngadju law and custom. The reason for this is to ensure Ngadju culture is preserved for future generations but also to protect native title for which the Elders fought so hard to obtain.

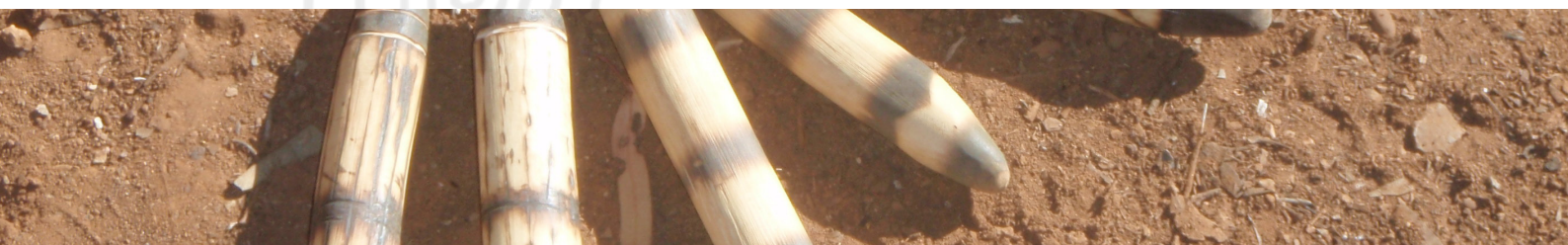
The new process has the full support of the Board of Directors and the Elders Advisory Group. Under the new process for consideration of membership applications, NNTAC management thoroughly review each application to ensure sufficient information has been provided for each criteria.

NNTAC does provide assistance to applicants and follows up with the applicant if the criteria is incomplete prior to the meetings. Most of the applications NNTAC received did not have identification, or were unable to fulfill the on-country and law and custom membership criteria.

The Elders Advisory Group consider each application and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors whether each application should be approved.

The Board of Directors then have the final decision for each application. As part of each decision the Directors are required to include reasons for any application that they decline. NNTAC management then advise each applicant in writing whether they have been successful or unsuccessful outcomes, including giving reasons for these decisions.

NNTAC welcome our new Ngadju members and would like to thank the applicants who were invited and attended the AGM in November. Their invitation was extended from the Board of Directors in order to complete their on-country requirement. The meeting greatly appreciated the courage and wisdom of those new members.



## POST OFFICE

The Ngadju Charitable Trust No.2 (**Trust**) has now purchased the old Post Office in Norseman. The Trust has purchased the building with a view to lease it to NNTAC for Ngadju to use as an office in Norseman. With guidance from the Board of Directors NNTAC will assign a working group who will oversee a renovation and tidy up to turn the building into a modern and fresh space of which all Ngadju people can be proud. The contractor in charge of the renovations has made available a small number of training opportunities for any Ngadju who want to work.

Members have now received communication from the Trust for these training opportunities. As this is such a great opportunity for Ngadju people, the members who expressed their interest will be able to begin their traineeship in two groups with group 1 starting Monday 8th February 2021.

## LAND ACCESS AND FUTURE ACTS

2021 will be a busy year for NNTAC and Ngadju People in relation to Land Access and Future Acts matters. The number of exploration and prospecting licence applications on Ngadju Country has been steadily growing with more than 100 new tenement notifications in recent months. NNTAC is negotiating Ngadju Heritage Protection Agreements in relation to all of these matters to ensure that companies have a strong agreement with NNTAC. As well as strong activity in relation to exploration and prospecting, NNTAC will be engaging in a number of reviews of existing mining agreements and new negotiations relating to mining tenure in 2021. NNTAC will also be commencing a number of Implementation Committees in 2021 to ensure that Ngadju People are able to directly engage in the monitoring of these agreements and to keep companies accountable.

Heritage surveys continued to be conducted in the last quarter of 2020. Prior to the field season starting in 2021, the Elders Advisory Group and the Board will be

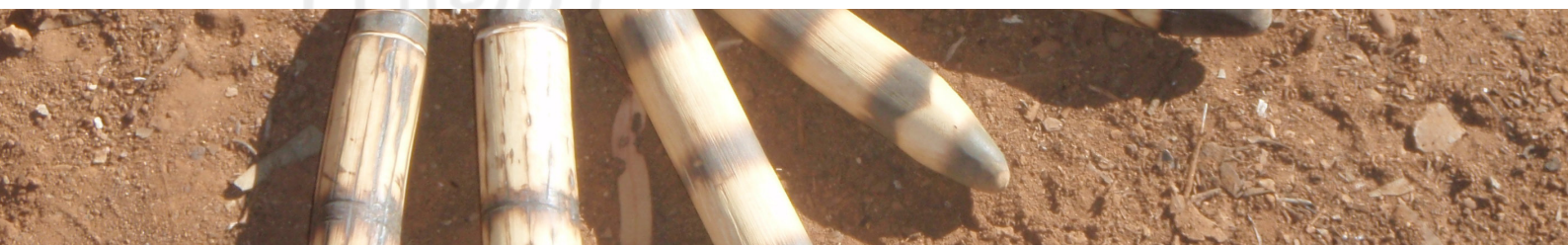
confirming a new process around heritage surveys to ensure strong protection of country and a fair process for participation in surveys.

The State Government has been undertaking a process to review the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA). This review included a three stage consultation process where the State undertook a wide ranging consultation with stakeholders over a period of about 18 months. A draft Bill, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill 2020, was released in early September 2020 (Draft Bill). NNTAC has made an initial assessment of the Draft Bill but will need to await further regulations and guidelines to be developed by the State Government before being able to properly understand how the Draft Bill will impact Ngadju going forward.

## NATIVE TITLE CLAIM OVER UNCLAIMED AREAS INSIDE EXCLUSIVE AREA DETERMINATION

On Tuesday 20th October 2020, Native Title Services Goldfields (NTSG) held a meeting in Norseman for Ngadju Native Title holders. The notice of the meeting was communicated to members of NNTAC via website and email. 35 Ngadju common law holders attended this meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider and if thought appropriate authorise a Ngadju native title determination application over the unclaimed areas highlighted in the map on the last page of the newsletter. The meeting authorised NTSG to prepare and lodge the claim on behalf of all Ngadju common law holders. The meeting also authorised NTSG to request all connection materials from NNTAC and GLSC that were prepared and used in the original Ngadju native title determination hearing. These materials include anthropological reports and genealogical materials. NNTAC believes sharing these materials with NTSG to allow NTSG to lodge the new claim on behalf of Ngadju common law holders is the right thing to do.



In the CEO report at the AGM I told the meeting that the Board was going to authorise provision of these materials to NTSG unless any Ngadju common law holders or NNTAC members raised any concerns. Nobody has raised any concerns with the CEO or any member of the Board so NNTAC has given approval for those materials to be provided to NTSG for submission of the new claim.

## YARNING CIRCLES

NNTAC held their first information sessions in October 2020 which we are calling "yarning circles". The idea of these catch-ups is for members to have a chance to meet the CEO and find out what's going on in the corporation. It's an informal opportunity for members to ask questions about NNTAC and give their ideas and suggestions. As requested at previous yarning circles and the AGM our next yarning circles will focus on discussions around the new Rule Book and membership process. Please come along as it's only through your feedback that we can improve.

| DATE                        | TIME          | VENUE   |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---|
| WEDNESDAY,<br>17TH FEBRUARY | 4.30PM TO 6PM | PERTH,<br>WOODBIDGE RIVERSIDE PARK                            |
| THURSDAY,<br>18TH FEBRUARY  | 4.30PM TO 6PM | GERALDTON<br>NGALA TRAINING CENTRE,<br>24 - 28 GREGORY STREET |
| TUESDAY<br>23RD FEBRUARY    | 4.30PM TO 6PM | NORSEMAN<br>MARKS PARK  |
| THURSDAY,<br>18TH MARCH     | 4.30PM TO 6PM | KALGOORLIE<br>HAMMOND PARK                                    |

## NGADJU LANGUAGE

Over the past few years the Goldfields Language Centre has been working with Senior Ngadju members to revive the Ngadju language to allow it to be learnt and spoken again.

Funding for this work has primarily come from the Federal Government.

In order to expedite completion of this important project which includes production of online learning tools, NNTAC is considering providing the necessary funds.

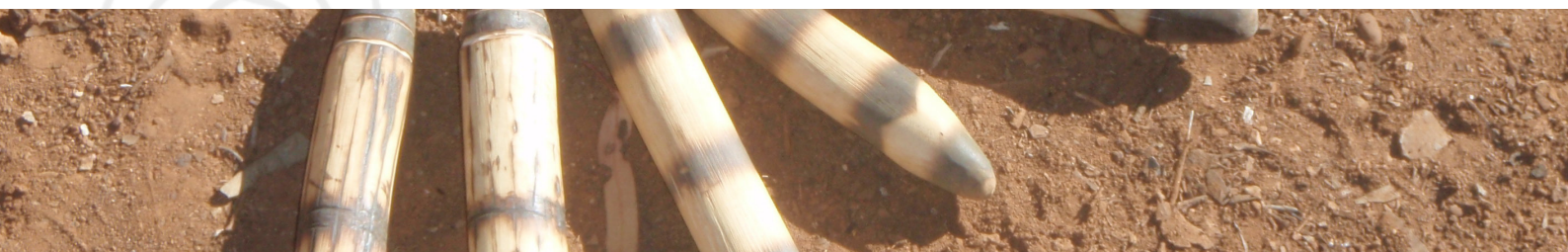
NNTAC believes that language is a key part of identity and making people feel connected to country. NNTAC believes that allowing Ngadju people to learn their native language will provide many positive outcomes and benefits.

## RETURN TO COUNTRY PROGRAMS

Due to the changes in the Rule Book within the criteria of membership applications, NNTAC will plan, facilitate and establish a return to country program for Ngadju people. NNTAC recognises the emotional and financial difficulty for members and future Ngadju members to return to country.

With guidance from the Board of Directors and knowledge from Ngadju Elders, we will formulate the program to assist current and future members meet the on-country membership requirement and embrace the Ngadju cultural practice on-country. Our return to country program will help Ngadju people with any disconnection on identity, health and wellbeing and will enable an understanding of knowing who you are, where you come from and what this means. The program will incorporate people, land, water, language, kinship systems, knowledge, values, beliefs and spirituality.

As we are still in the planning process for this program, if you know of a future member or family member who would be interested in attending our Return to Country Program, please send your interest to NNTAC on 08 9462 3500, reception at [reception@nntac.org.au](mailto:reception@nntac.org.au) or speak with me on 0419 431 131 or Monique Dimer on 08 9462 3506.



## COMMON LAW HOLDER & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC and CLH meeting was held in Norseman on 28 November 2020 with a new Board of Directors.

We successfully worked through the agenda on the day, family groups for Donaldson, Flynn and Jacobs appointed their Elder representatives, IGO presented more information around their proposal for an IGO ILUA and NCAC provided an update of Ngadju Rangers and the upcoming celebrations of the Indigenous Protection Area (IPA), being held in Norseman in March 2021.

Following the AGM in November 2020, the Board of NNTAC would like to express its disappointment at the continued negative behaviour of a small minority of Ngadju PBC members. The Board would like to reiterate the position put by the Chairman of the AGM that negative behaviour will no longer be tolerated. The Board is doing its best to start a new chapter for Ngadju and wants the whole of Ngadju to work with it to achieve great outcomes for Ngadju. The Code of Conduct of NNTAC which all members agree to when they sign up for membership of the PBC requires everybody to treat each other with respect and not to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs when attending meetings. This includes behaving respectfully at meetings and not talking in a negative way about NNTAC or the Board and staff of NNTAC on social media. It especially includes spreading confidential information on social media.

If members act in any of these ways, the Board of NNTAC will not hesitate to convene a meeting for the cancellation of the membership of those members who are acting in these negative and disrespectful ways.

If you want to discuss any of these aspects please do not hesitate to contact Robert Klug CEO on 0419 431 131 or James Schultz Chairman on 0473 672 842.

Lastly, we would like to thank our members for their feedback from the suggestion box at the AGM.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### RECENT PASSING OF NGADJU MEMBERS

NNTAC would like to extend our deepest condolences to the Ngadju family groups of Dalgetty/Ray/Munroe, Graham/Donaldson, Rule and to their extended family and friends and to acknowledge the passing of important Ngadju Elders and members of the community.

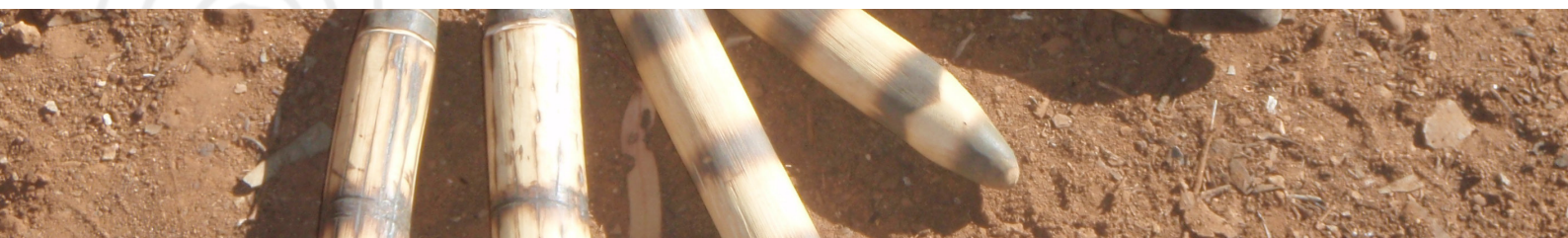
### INDIGENOUS PROTECTION AREA (IPA) CELEBRATION

The Ngadju Indigenous Protected Area was dedicated over Ngadju Country in 2020 and it will massively help conservation in 4.4 of the Western Woodland's 16 million hectares.

Why has an IPA been granted? Because the Great Western Woodlands is the largest intact temperate woodland left on Earth, a refuge for endangered birds and mammals and is home to 30 per cent of Australia's eucalyptus.

It's one of two sites in Western Australia declared Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) under agreements with the Federal Government. The woodland around Norseman in WA's Goldfields has been dedicated to the National Reserve System under the Federal Government's new IPA program.

Ngadju Conservation Aboriginal Corporation (NCAC) has been running a successful ranger program since 2012 and have been tasked with managing the IPA.



To celebrate this momentous achievement and acknowledge the work NCAC have committed to preserving Ngadju land, please join NCAC, NNTAC and special guests on **Saturday 20th March in Norseman**.

Travel and accommodation assistance will be available for those wishing to take part in the celebrations. Please contact NNTAC for further information.

## ABBOTT TRUSTEE SERVICES

A reminder to all members that NNTAC is a different organisation to Abbotts. Abbotts looks after all programs and payments to Ngadju common law holders. So if you have a query about a payment or a program or a voucher you should ring Abbotts on 08 6165 4080 or 08 6165 4182 (Ngadju Application Hotline). NNTAC looks after membership, native title and heritage. So if you have a query about membership, native title or heritage please call us on 9462 3500.

## NNTAC WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE

With our yarning circles providing NNTAC important feedback from our members, we've had suggestions for NNTAC to communicate information to the Ngadju community more effectively. In order to increase engagement between NNTAC and its members, NNTAC will be creating a Facebook page in the near future and we will also give our current website an overhaul to be more user friendly.

As our relationships improve with exploration and mining companies, its created an awareness companies need to communicate their job opportunities to Ngadju people.

With the improvement of the NNTAC website and creation of a Facebook page, these will be a great platform for communication of job opportunities, meetings, events, yarning circles, forms, up-coming surveys and providing other important documents and resource links.

So keep your eye on the website and Facebook for job opportunities and upcoming events.

## UPDATE OF CONTACT DETAILS

A reminder to all members to please ensure your contact details are up to date with NNTAC. Members need to inform NNTAC of any changes to their contact details so we can ensure communication is reached to our members. Over the past few months NNTAC has distributed a high volume of information regarding yarning circles, events, meetings, newsletters and employment opportunities to our membership.

If you know of Ngadju family members who have not received our communications please ask them to contact NNTAC to update their information on 08 9462 3500 or fill out the update of contact details at the back of the Newsletter and return to NNTAC.

## FINANCIALS

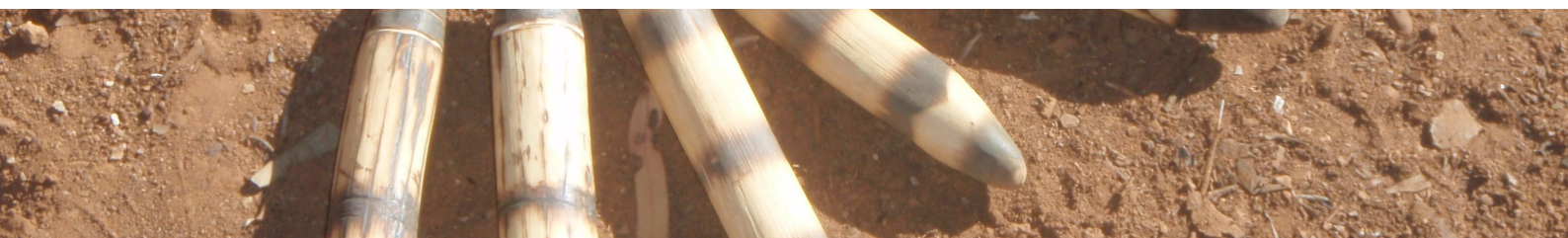
### THE MONEY STORY

The corporation generated an unaudited surplus of \$229,720 for the first six months of the financial year. Again, another good result given that the budget provided to the corporation by the trust is \$1,550,000 only and we've held both the AGM and Native Title Holders meeting in November. The surplus has been assisted by the Corporation minimising legal and consulting costs as promised during the Special Administration. It has also been assisted by the one-off job keeper payments, for which NNTAC is no longer eligible.

### BALANCE SHEET

#### (STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION)

|                          | 31 December 2020<br>(unaudited) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>            |                                 |
| Current assets           | 741,009                         |
| Non-current assets       | 409,507                         |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>      | <b>1,150,516</b>                |
| less                     |                                 |
| <b>Liabilities</b>       |                                 |
| Current liabilities      | 241,105                         |
| Non-current liabilities  | 33,625                          |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b> | <b>274,730</b>                  |
| <b>EQUITY</b>            | <b>875,786</b>                  |



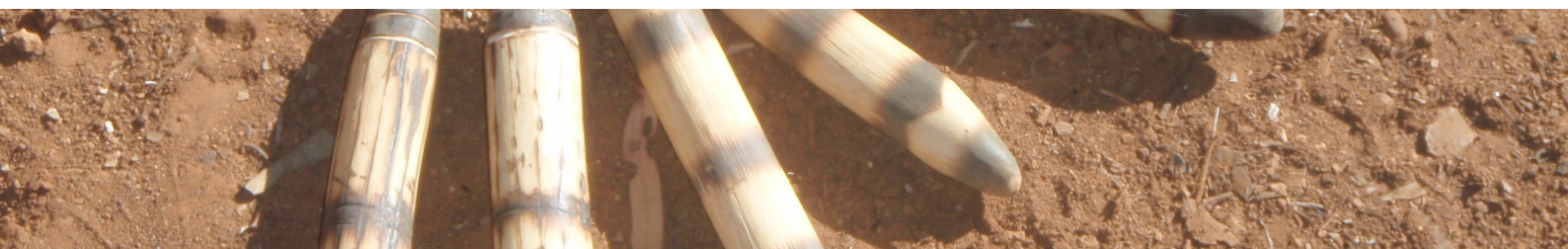
## INCOME STATEMENT (STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION)

|  | 31 December 2020<br>Actuals<br>(unaudited) | 31 December 2020<br>Budget |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>  |  |                            |
| PBC administration funding                           | 775,000                                    | 775,000                    |
| Heritage Services                                    | 342,239                                    | 136,875                    |
| Various Income                                       | 406,484                                    | 244,030                    |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                  | <b>1,523,723</b>                           | <b>1,155,905</b>           |
| Less   |  |                            |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                      |  |                            |
| <b>Land access &amp; native title expenses</b>       |  |                            |
| Legal and consulting fees – land access              | 34,251                                     | 107,000                    |
| Heritage survey costs                                | 287,701                                    | 119,022                    |
| <b>Total land access &amp; native title expenses</b> | <b>321,952</b>                             | <b>226,022</b>             |
| <b>Board meeting &amp; governance expenses</b>       |  |                            |
| Legal fees – governance                              | -  | 12,000                     |
| Consulting fees – governance                         | -  | 6,000                      |
| Directors and Elders meetings                        | 63,703                                     | 134,225                    |
| Members meeting costs                                | 215,292                                    | 120,000                    |
| <b>Total Board meeting and Governance expenses</b>   | <b>278,995</b>                             | <b>272,225</b>             |
| <b>Administration and office expenses</b>            | <b>693,056</b>                             | <b>675,481</b>             |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                                | <b>1,294,003</b>                           | <b>1,173,728</b>           |
| <b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>                           | <b>229,720</b>                             | <b>(17,823)</b>            |

For any questions, please contact  
NNTAC on 08 9462 3500



Rob Klug  
CEO  
0419 431 131







# NATIVE TITLE DETERMINATION APPLICATION Ngadjju #2

Note: Refer to the maps at Schedule 3 of Native title determination WAD00001900 Ngadjju (WCD0014004) (30/04/2014) on behalf of the Ngadjju People v State of Western Australia (2014) FCA 13479 as determined by the Federal Court on 21 November 2014 for greater detail.

- Application Area
- Norseman Townsite

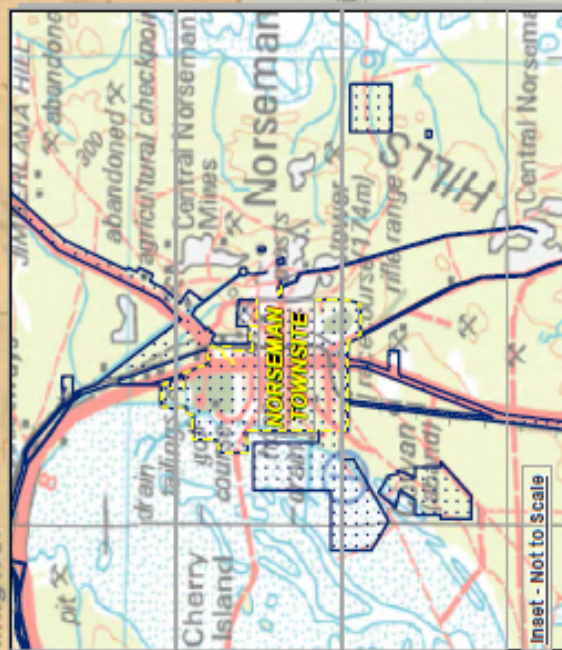


Prepared by:  
Geospatial Services, National Native Title Tribunal  
10/08/2020

Data Source:  
Application boundary prepared by Geospatial Services based on information sourced from the Applicant.  
Norseman Townsite data sourced from Landgate (WA), February 2020.  
Topographic image data is © Commonwealth of Australia and is used under licence from Geoscience Australia, 2020.

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In return for you receiving this information you agree to release and indemnify the Commonwealth and third party data suppliers in respect of all claims, expenses, losses, damages and costs arising directly or indirectly from your use of the information and the use of the information you obtained by any third party.





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**Web:** www.nntac.org.au **Email:** reception@nntac.org.au

|

## Contact details update form

### Bank Details

|                        |        |                |       |  |     |  |
|------------------------|--------|----------------|-------|--|-----|--|
| Account Name           |        |                |       |  |     |  |
| BSB                    |        | Account Number |       |  |     |  |
| <b>Contact Details</b> |        |                |       |  |     |  |
| Last name              |        |                |       |  |     |  |
| First Name             |        |                |       |  |     |  |
| Family Group           |        |                |       |  |     |  |
| Address                | Street |                |       |  |     |  |
|                        | Suburb |                |       |  |     |  |
|                        | City   |                | State |  | Zip |  |
| Phone                  |        |                |       |  |     |  |
| Email                  |        |                |       |  |     |  |
| Date of Birth          |        |                |       |  |     |  |

I consent for Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (NNTAC) RNTBC to share my contact details including residential address, phone numbers and bank account details to Abbott Native Title Trustees ATF The Native Title Charitable Trust No. 2 until I notify NNTAC in writing that my consent is withdrawn.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Office use only

Confirm all details.....  admin initial: ..... date: .....

Amend in NNTAC register.....  admin initial: ..... date: .....

Inform Abbott of update.....  admin initial: ..... date: .....