



BUSINESSNEWS

Indigenous Business

SPECIAL REPORT



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“Procurement is a powerful tool for social and economic change - Elizabeth Gaines

Brindabella Resources director Elsa Derschow (left) with Elizabeth Gaines and Stephen Dawson at Fortescue's Cloudbreak mine

Miners lead on indigenous spend

Mining is the largest supporter of indigenous businesses, but the contribution of big miners is highly variable.



Mark Beyer
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THE Aboriginal business sector is large and growing much faster than the rest of the economy, two reports released this year have found.

Supply Nation, which runs an accreditation scheme for Aboriginal businesses, has 2,335 suppliers on its national directory.

Its State of Indigenous Business report found these businesses have annual revenue of \$3.9 billion and more than 30,000 employees.

It also found rapid growth in revenue by Aboriginal businesses.

“Between 2011 and 2017, Supply Nation suppliers grew at 13 per cent per annum compared to business growth of 3 per cent per annum for the economy as a whole,” the report concluded.

A study by the University of Melbourne, which drew on data from Supply Nation and several other sources, found the Aboriginal business sector was even larger.

It estimated there were 3,619 indigenous businesses across Australia, about double the number in 2006.

These businesses have annual revenue of \$4.9 billion and employ more than 45,000 people.

University of Melbourne head of indigenous business research Michelle Evans said the research was unprecedented.

“It shows us that indigenous businesses bring not just significant economic impact, but far more,” she said.

The university study found Aboriginal businesses were larger, employed more people, and paid higher wages than non-indigenous businesses, largely because of a lack of sole traders.

“On top of that, the sector is growing more quickly,” it concluded.

The University of Melbourne study found that Aboriginal businesses were weighted towards regional areas, particularly northern Western Australia and the Northern Territory, where they primarily service the mining, tourism and health sectors.

Supply Nation's report reached similar conclusions, finding that mining was by far the biggest contributor.

This was based on spending by Supply Nation members with Supply Nation suppliers.

The total amount spent in 2019 was \$952 million.

Government members accounted for \$340 million, with half of this from the Department of Defence.

Corporate members accounted for a much larger \$617 million, with nearly half this (\$296 million) coming from mining companies.

The next largest sector was construction (\$203 million), which likely includes work on mining and roads projects.

Miner ratings

The big iron ore miners in the Pilbara are widely recognised as leaders when it comes to procurement from Aboriginal businesses.

However, data obtained by *Business News* shows an extremely wide variation in their spend in WA.

Rio Tinto, which is the biggest miner in the Pilbara, said that last year it engaged 57 indigenous businesses with \$218 million in expenditure.

Its competitor, BHP, has reported much lower spending.

BHP's WA iron ore business spent \$67 million with 43 Aboriginal businesses in the year to June 2020.

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In the current financial year, it has spent a similar amount, \$66 million, so far.

On top of this, BHP is a big funder of an indigenous ranger program in the Pilbara. It spent \$14 million on this program last year, employing 385 Martu rangers.

At the other end of the scale, Fortescue Metals Group spent \$354 million with 63 Aboriginal businesses and joint ventures in FY20.

This was part of its Billion Opportunities program, which has awarded \$3 billion in contracts to 130 Aboriginal businesses and joint ventures during the past decade.

Fortescue's focus on Aboriginal contracting reflects the philosophy of its founder and chairman, Andrew Forrest, who advocates 'a hand up, not a handout'.

The flipside of this philosophy is that Fortescue has in some cases resisted the payment of royalties to native title holders.

Fortescue chief executive Elizabeth Gaines reflected this philosophy when she said strong, sustainable Aboriginal businesses created employment and development opportunities.

"Procurement is a powerful tool for social and economic change," Ms Gaines said.

Comparisons

The wide variation between the big iron ore miners begs the question of whether the data is like-for-like.

BHP, for instance, says only businesses that are owned 50 per cent or more by Aboriginal people are included in its statistics.

It also highlights its engagement with traditional owner businesses.

By value, half its annual spending is with traditional owner businesses, and by number, two thirds are traditional owner businesses.

Fortescue quotes similar statistics. During the past three years, more than 50 per cent of contracts it has awarded

Spending with Aboriginal businesses in 2020

Fortescue Metals Group	\$354m	with 63 businesses
Rio Tinto	\$218m	with 57 businesses
BHP – WA Iron Ore	\$67m	with 43 businesses

Source: Company reports, BN research



under Billion Opportunities were to majority owned Aboriginal businesses.

Joint ventures also form a critical part of Fortescue's program.

They provide the opportunity for Aboriginal businesses to partner with established contractors to help build their capabilities, before securing contracts on their own.

When asked about joint ventures, Fortescue acknowledged not all its contracting partners were Supply Nation suppliers.

That helps to explain why the reported spending by the big three iron ore miners in WA (\$639 million) greatly exceeds Supply Nation's data on total spending by mining companies across Australia (\$296 million).

(Rio Tinto has not provided a detailed breakdown of its Aboriginal contracting.)

Commercial focus

Ms Gaines said Fortescue approached Aboriginal contracting in a commercial manner.

"These contracts are not handouts, they are real contracts with real deliverables," she said.

Ms Gaines added that Fortescue helped some Aboriginal contractors along the way.

"We have people who are dedicated to working with our Aboriginal business partners, to helping them develop business plans," she said.

"Some of these contracts might start off very small; it might be one piece of equipment undertaking some work.

"But we have then worked with those businesses to help them grow."

Ms Gaines said Fortescue expected its contractors to also support Aboriginal partners.

"We restructured our procurement policies and practices to ensure that our contractors also adopted our level of commitment to Aboriginal engagement."

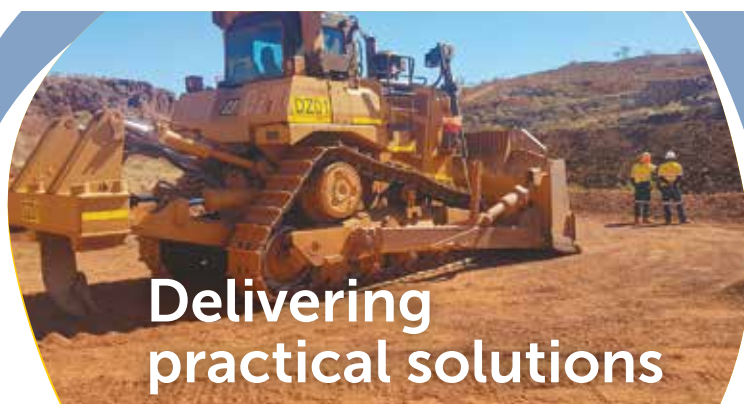
Other steps taken by Fortescue include 14-day payment terms to improve operational cash flow and a \$50 million leasing facility with ANZ Bank.

Fortescue has provided guarantees for \$25 million worth of loans under this facility.

It was used recently by Brindabella Resources, a plant hire business established by five traditional owner women.

Mr Forrest has used his philanthropic Minderoo Foundation to also support Aboriginal businesses.

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Last year, it hosted Australia's first indigenous angel investor and entrepreneur masterclass program.

Twenty indigenous entrepreneurs and potential angel investors participated, and Minderoo is looking to take the program national.

BHP and Rio also have programs to support Aboriginal businesses.

BHP's local buying program offers an entry point for smaller Aboriginal businesses and traditional owner businesses by allowing a simpler engagement with the company.

In addition, the two big miners provide support through regional chambers of commerce in the Pilbara.

Rio's grow local program, for instance, engages businesses through a series of workshops and events in Karratha, Tom Price and Newman.

A BHP spokesperson said the company was aiming to substantially lift its national spending.

"BHP is committed to creating opportunities for indigenous businesses and over recent years we have increased our spend significantly, with more than \$800 million spend estimated in the next five years," they said.

"We continue to improve and simplify our processes so it's easier to do business with us."

Fortescue is also aiming for more: it plans to award \$1 billion of contracts to Aboriginal businesses and joint ventures through its green energy program by 2030.

3,619

INDIGENOUS BUSINESSES IN AUSTRALIA

Source: University of Melbourne

Government support

The sector has received a big boost from state and national programs that mandate a minimum proportion of contracts must go to Aboriginal businesses.

The federal government's indigenous procurement policy (IPP) has awarded \$3.5 billion worth of contracts to 2,000 businesses since it was implemented in 2015.

Speaking at Fortescue's Cloudbreak mine last month, Aboriginal Affairs Minister Stephen Dawson enthusiastically acknowledged Andrew Forrest's role in pushing for the IPP.



Tim Milsom with Codee Cleaning's Jennifer Vo at the Noongar Chamber of Commerce's Subiaco business hub. Photo: David Henry

"In terms of encouraging Aboriginal business growth through procurement, we are on the same page as Fortescue and I want to commend the company's inspiring leadership in this space," Mr Dawson said.

"We were so impressed by the national policy we committed to implement a similar scheme in our state."

WA's Aboriginal procurement policy (APP) has awarded \$339 million in contracts in its first two years.

It exceeded its 2 per cent target last year, with 5.5 per cent of contracts awarded to Aboriginal businesses.

The largest recipients included registered Aboriginal corporations that hold native title in parts of WA.

They were led by Pilbara Meta Maya Regional Aboriginal Corporation, which was awarded \$40 million worth of contracts by the Department of Communities.

It is one of WA's largest Aboriginal corporations, with annual revenue of \$18 million and 80 staff (see list).

It employs 21 Aboriginal people, including board members.

That is a relatively low proportion for an Aboriginal business.

On average, one third of employees are Aboriginal, according to Supply Nation data.

The state government's APP also helped private Aboriginal businesses, including Daniel Tucker's Carey Mining, which won a \$20 million road construction contract.

Carey is arguably Australia's oldest and most resilient Aboriginal business.

However, it has been overtaken as the state's largest Aboriginal business by another mining services contractor, according to *Business News's* Data & Insights.

Warriakal chief executive and major owner Amanda Healy said her business had about 650 staff, double the number it had a year ago.

Main Roads Western Australia was a big supporter of Aboriginal businesses.

It awarded more than 10 contracts to each of H&M Tracey Construction, GBSC Yurra and Kardan Construction.

South West focus

The Aboriginal business sector in the South West does not have big operators like the Pilbara and Kimberley.

Nonetheless, it is substantial, judging by the Noongar Chamber of Commerce, which has 420 members and 14 corporate partners.

"We're going from strength to strength," chief executive Tim Milsom said.

"We have a fully tenanted hub in Subiaco, with 10 Aboriginal businesses working from that space.

"We filled it very quickly and we have a waiting list."

The major tenants in the subsidised space include Spartan First, led by former AFL footballer Des Headland, Codee Cleaning, and Aboriginal grower group Noongar Land Enterprise.

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Mr Milsom said corporate partners had been very supportive: Development WA provided the Subiaco premises, CBRE planned to provide office space in QV1, and Deloitte had provided pro bono support to install a CRM system supplied by Salesforce.

"Our corporate partners don't want to join us just to be a member, they actually want to join us to do some good," he said.

Mr Milsom said he would like to replicate the hub in other areas, such as Midland, Joondalup, East Perth and possibly Fremantle.

The chamber's regular programs include a two-week on-boarding course for indigenous job seekers.

"That has proved really popular and very successful," Mr Milsom said.

Chamber president Gordon Cole said its activities were linked to the Noongar cultural philosophy of commerce and trade.

"The colonial process took it away," he said.

"It's like we are reclaiming our commerce and trade on country.

"We work from that philosophy."

Mr Cole said the chamber was regularly approached by both young people and elders wanting to set up a business.

"It's giving people the belief they can actually do it," he said.

"Having business role models is crucial."

Indigenous construction company Marawar is keen to lift the profile and performance of the Aboriginal business sector.

Established in 2018, the company has a 55 per cent Aboriginal workforce and claims 90 per cent staff retention.

Noongar traditional owner and director Gerry Matera said the role of Aboriginal engagement manager was at the heart of the company's business framework. At Marawar, it was a role assumed by Aboriginal woman Carmel Smithson.

"We invest heavily in our people, which means addressing individual challenges at great depth, whether that's ensuring they have petrol for their car, support for their family or a sense of self and community," Mr Matera said.

"Most of these young kids are just surviving and their main concerns are things that others take for granted, such as mobile phone credit, bus money and how they are going to get to work."

He said Marawar's engagement model sought to blur the lines between commercial operation and social enterprise.

It has combined that approach with work on several large projects, including Bunnings in Albany, Match apartments in Fremantle, and Armadale Emergency Health Service.



Rank	Change	Company name	Senior executive and title	Year est. in WA	Total staff in WA	Total Revenue - this year	Total Assets - this year	Core function
1	↑	Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services	Ms Lorraine Anderson Medical director	1986	205	a) \$38.7m b) \$33.8m	a) \$40.6m b) \$34.9m	Provide and promote indigenous health improvement to the Kimberley region.
2	↓	Karlka Nyiyaparli Aboriginal Corporation	Mr Nick Preece Chief executive	2001	8	a) \$35.7m b) \$35.9m	a) \$29.3m b) \$26.4m	Heritage ethnographic survey and archaeological survey work for mining and exploration companies in the Pilbara. Act as the Local Aboriginal Corporation pursuant to the Indigenous Land Use Agreements with BHP Billiton Iron Ore...
3	↑	Wirlu-murra Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation	Ms Allery Sandy Chair	2010	160	a) \$29.6m b) \$23.1m	a) \$21.8m b) \$15.9m	Actively participate in building capacity and capability across its operations and Corporation by delivering mining support services across various projects for the betterment of the Yindjibarndi Community.
4	↓	Kimberley Land Council	Mr Wayne Bergmann A/Chief executive	1978	103	a) \$25.6m b) \$24.0m	a) \$28.5m b) \$25.3m	The peak Indigenous body in the Kimberley region working with Aboriginal people to secure native title recognition, conduct conservation and land management activities and develop cultural business enterprises.
5	↑	Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation	Mr Joe Grande Chief executive	1993	192	a) \$25.6m b) \$19.6m	a) \$19.6m b) \$14.7m	Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation (NAC) is a Broome-based community driven by Aboriginal membership predominantly derived from the Dampier Peninsular Region, North of Broome. The Corporation provides environmental health services...
6	↓	Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation	Ms Denise Andrews Chair	1981	138	a) \$24.1m b) \$24.2m	a) \$72.1m b) \$69.8m	The Corporation is a not-for-profit organisation that operates a range of programs and services for the residents of Fitzroy Crossing and the surrounding valley in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia.
7	↑	Wungening Aboriginal Corporation	Mr Daniel Morrison Chief executive	1989	189	a) \$22.7m b) \$20.2m	a) \$19.1m b) \$18.5m	The Corporation was set up in 2017. It's purpose is to provide culturally secure and holistic programs and strategies that inform, educate and address the harmful effects of alcohol, drugs and other substances on individuals...
8	↓	Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation	Mr Simon Hawkins Chief executive	1994	102	a) \$22.0m b) \$23.6m	a) \$18.9m b) \$14.5m	Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the Native Title Representative Body for the Traditional Owners of the Pilbara, Midwest, Murchison, and Gascoyne regions of Western Australia.
9	↓	Ngaanyatjarra Council	Mr Gerard Coffey Chief executive	1981	138	a) \$19.5m b) \$20.8m	a) \$13.1m b) \$11.3m	Principal organisation of governance in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands. The principal activities of the Corporation is to provide support for the development of its members (in regard to health, education, housing, land and culture, law and...
10	↓	Pilbara Meta Maya Regional Aboriginal Corporation	Ms Rachael Christensen Chief executive	1994	72	a) \$18.0m b) \$23.4m	a) \$16.3m b) \$17.2m	Provision of services planned and unplanned maintenance, (water, power and waste water) to 29 Aboriginal communities within the Pilbara, Gascoyne & Murchison regions....
11	↑	Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service	Mr Robby Chibawe Chief executive	2009	37	a) \$17.1m b) \$15.9m	a) \$28.1m b) \$21.8m	Provision of primary health care services and associated health programs to the Indigenous communities of Punmu, Pargurr, Kunawarrtji and Jigalong.
12	↓	Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service	Ms Tracey Brand Chief executive	1974	101	a) \$16.4m b) \$16.2m	a) \$8.9m b) \$6.4m	Provides culturally secure primary health, mental health and dental services for Aboriginal families living right across the Perth metropolitan area.
13	↑	Gumala Aboriginal Corporation	Mr Justin Dhu Executive Officer	1996		a) \$15.8m b) \$10.7m	a) \$5.3m b) \$4.5m	Gumala is Australia's second largest Indigenous organisation, serving the Banyjima, Innawonga and Nyiyaparli people of the Pilbara region in Western Australia....
14	↓	Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation	Mr Steven Sonneman-Smith Chief executive	2000	72	a) \$13.7m b) \$13.7m	a) \$12.7m b) \$13.5m	The Ashburton Aboriginal Corporation (AAC) was formed in 2000 to promote the interests of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people in the Shire of Ashburton. The AAC delivers a wide range of services to job seekers, indigenous communities...
15	↑	Winun Ngari Aboriginal Corporation	Ms Susan Murphy Chief executive	1983	67	a) \$13.5m b) \$10.1m	a) \$10.0m b) \$8.3m	To provide corporate support and governance and training of community members in the Kimberley Regional Communities, to help build sustainable, prosperous communities in which the community members can create and take up social...
16	↓	Ngarliyarndu Bindirri Aboriginal Corporation	Mr Francois Langlois Chief executive	1970	168	a) \$12.4m b) \$11.3m	a) \$4.9m b) \$4.4m	Ngarliyarndu Bindirri Aboriginal Corporation is Roebourne's oldest and highly respected not for profit organisation. It provides corporate support and governance and training of community members, to help build sustainable...
17	↓	Banjima Native Title Aboriginal Corporation	Ms Johanna Ramsay Chief executive	2014	183	a) \$11.7m b) \$16.0m	a) \$4.8m b) \$7.4m	The maintenance and support of Country, traditions, lore, language and culture as well as the provision of economic, social and cultural benefits, including housing, training and education to the Banjima People.
18	↓	Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation	Mr Neil Fong Chief executive	2005		a) \$10.7m b) \$10.9m	a) \$16.1m b) \$15.3m	The Corporation is the governing body for native title over the land of which the Ngarluma people are the traditional owners. Whilst operating out of Karratha, the Ngarluma people predominantly live in the town of Roebourne and surrounding...

Gumala, Wintawari shift focus

Two major Aboriginal businesses have shut their contracting arms, choosing to invest instead in tourism and mining.



Karajini Eco Retreat in the Pilbara has become the main focus for Gumala Enterprises.



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“The prime focus is the protection of heritage and culture, and that will be unhindered - Tony Bevan

WITH Western Australia in the midst of another iron ore boom, there are plenty of opportunities for Aboriginal businesses chasing contracts in the mining sector.

Despite that, two well-established Aboriginal operators have shifted away from contracting during the past year.

Gumala Enterprises has been working in the Pilbara for 15 years, winning multiple contracts in its own right and with joint venture partners.

Like most contractors, it has had lean periods, but appeared to be on the up during 2018 and 2019 when it won contracts with BHP and Rio Tinto worth more than \$30 million.

Gumala obtained Supply Nation certification in September 2019, which was another signal of the group's desire to expand its business operations.

However, in July last year, its parent Gumala Aboriginal Corporation (GAC) removed the board of directors and launched a strategic review.

GAC attributed this dramatic move to COVID-19 restrictions, saying they had reduced the pipeline of work and made it very difficult to manage the business and plan for the future.

“The GAC board felt it needed to move quickly and efficiently to resolve the situation, so the decision was made to remove the Gumala Enterprises board,” chair Gloria Smith said at the time.

The decision came shortly after Gumala Enterprises had completed repayment of a \$3.3 million loan to its parent, which included GAC writing off about \$2.2 million.

In October, GAC completed the strategic review and said it would shut down the civil contracting business.

GAC's 2020 annual report revealed the discontinued operations generated revenue of \$26.3 million that year, indicating their substantial scale.

However, after adding in other income and expenses, Gumala Enterprises incurred a loss of \$4.4 million for the year.

The winding down was an expensive exercise, as it resulted in staff redundancies costing \$350,000, supplier costs of \$1.7 million, and bills from the Australian Taxation Office of \$2.1 million and the Office of State Revenue of \$342,000.

Gumala has retained ownership of a workshop in Tom Price, but its main undertaking is ownership of Karajini Eco Retreat in the Pilbara.

Gumala built the resort in 2007 and took over its management in 2017.

However, it decided last year to appoint private company Mackerel Islands to manage the resort.

Mackerel Islands was founded in 1969 and operates several tourism facilities in the Pilbara.

Its chief executive, Drew Norrish, said he was thrilled to work with Gumala

Enterprises and that Karajini Eco Retreat complemented his company's existing portfolio of facilities.

“This next chapter in Karajini Eco Retreat's 14-year history will be exciting in terms of potential as we further develop the market,” he said.

To support its continued operations, Gumala Enterprises has taken out a \$7 million loan from another entity in the group, Gumala Investments.

Its focus on Karajini could be aided by the state government's election commitment to invest \$10 million upgrading visitor facilities at the remote park.

The government plans to establish a new campground, cultural walk trail and interpretive facilities, and seal the dirt road between the Eco Retreat and various gorges, making the area more accessible for hire cars and coaches.

More generally, the state government is seeking to promote Aboriginal tourism.

Last month, it launched a \$20 million fund to support more Aboriginal people who wanted to be involved in the sector, including development of up to three new Camping with Custodian campgrounds.

The government has also launched an Aboriginal tourism action plan, known as Tjina, which was developed by Tourism Western Australia and the Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council.

INDIGENOUS BUSINESS

Wintawari Guruma

Meanwhile, Wintawari Guruma Aboriginal Corporation is close to completing a major shift in its business focus.

WGAC – the registered ‘body corporate’ holding native title for the Eastern Guruma people – set up its own contracting business in 2014.

That was a contentious move, as four Eastern Guruma families already had a successful privately-owned contracting business, known as Eastern Guruma Pty Ltd (EGPL).

WGAC’s business arm – Wintawari Guruma Enterprises – has shut down its labour hire operations and is in the process of selling its plant and equipment.

It has retained one aspect of its old business operations: a facilities management joint venture with US-based Civeo, at Fortescue Metals Group’s Solomon mine.

Its new focus is on mineral exploration, under the name Guruma Resources.

The company has applied for nine exploration tenements on Eastern Guruma land, which surrounds Tom Price, and has already been granted three.

Director Tony Bevan described Eastern Guruma land as one of the most heavily mined and explored areas in Australia, with 93 per cent covered by mining tenements.

This includes six Rio Tinto mines and Fortescue’s Solomon hub.

The area was also home to many culturally significant places, with more than 70 rock art engraving sites, 40 ceremonial areas and 30 traditional burial locations.

Mr Bevan said WGAC had, in the past, experienced poor behaviour by mining companies where they had not complied with agreements or relevant environmental and heritage laws and processes.

Most recently, it protested when Fortescue breached an agreement governing the clearance of land.

Fortescue issued an immediate apology and blamed an administrative error.

“It’s an area under significant pressure,” Mr Bevan said.

“This enables us to manage the heritage in a better way.

“We can engage with partners that are culturally responsible.”

To support its new focus, WGAC has started an evaluation of mining companies operating on its land.

It has introduced a mining company scorecard, with 34 questions covering matters such as heritage surveys, regulatory compliance, care for the environment, relations with native title



Perth-based contractor Eastern Guruma has a major joint venture with Wiru-murra Enterprises.

holders, and environmental social and governance (ESG) reporting.

Early next year, WGAC will publish the results and provide feedback to the mining companies recognising areas of excellence and identifying areas for improvement.

WGAC director Tony Bevan said there were two main reasons for shutting down the contracting arm.

One was to avoid any potential conflicts of interest in dealing with mining companies that may award large contracts.

“The prime focus is the protection of heritage and culture, and that will be unhindered,” he said.

The second reason was that three businesses owned by Eastern Guruma members were already in existence.

“The board recognised that private traditional owner businesses can be more nimble and responsive,” Mr Bevan said.

The private businesses include Muntulgura Guruma, a 50:50 partnership between Clinton Wolf’s iContracting and HHF Pty Ltd, a company set up by the Hughes and Hicks families.

WGAC originally supported the establishment of this business.

A second is SX5 Group, a diversified contractor that is 51 per cent owned by Eastern Guruma elder Kenzie Smith.

The largest is EGPL, which is chaired and part-owned by Tania Stevens.

It has been operating for nearly 20 years and consistently ranked as one of WA’s largest indigenous contractors with about 200 staff, according to Data & Insights.

EGPL increased revenue to \$33.9 million and net profit to \$1.9 million last financial year, according to financial statements lodged with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

The directors’ report said EGPL had a good year due to the strong performance of its joint ventures and exceptional performance in two new projects, which included construction of a sealed road and a conveyor tunnel at Rio Tinto’s Silvergrass mine.

This offset another write-down in its discontinued pastoral operations.

EGPL’s most significant joint venture is with Wiru-murra Enterprises, an entity that has been strongly supported by Fortescue.

The joint venture has been in place since 2013 and provides road maintenance and mining services for Fortescue.

Wiru-murra chief executive Jose Castillo told *Business News* the scope of this contract had been increased and would now deliver revenue of \$35 million per annum.

Wiru-murra also delivers maintenance services in its own right to non-process infrastructure at Fortescue’s Solomon mining hub.

It employs about 70 tradespeople under this contract.

When these contracts were awarded in 2019, Fortescue said they were the largest it had ever awarded to 100 per cent Aboriginal-owned businesses.

The third major leg of Wiru-murra’s business is bus services: it owns 15 buses and hires a further six to transfer mine workers.

Wiru-murra employs 140 people in total, with 32 per cent Aboriginal participation.

It increased annual revenue to nearly \$29 million, according to the 2020 report of its parent, Wiru-murra Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation.



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Indigenous business getting more diverse

agencies looking to boost their indigenous procurement. Mr Devitt said ... said. * To read more about Indigenous business in WA, and the highly-varied ... Indigenous business getting more diverse ...

Marawar wins national accolade

that involves largely local indigenous businesses. The company ... long-term viability of the indigenous business sector. Supply Nation's ... prosperous and sustainable indigenous business sector, with entries ...

BHP opens 'new generation' mine

employment and 15 per cent indigenous employment. The company said ... cent female and 15 per cent Indigenous operational staff, reflects ...

\$40m Rottnest lodge revamp

respect to the island's Indigenous significance. "We are ...

Loss as personal as it is public for defeated MPs

Ashburton. Elsewhere, Carol Martin, the first indigenous woman to be elected to any ... book representing several indigenous businesses and causes in ...

INCITE 2021 Awards finalists announced

vulnerable communities including Indigenous Australians, the autistic ... medical terminology into Indigenous languages. Telethon Kids ...

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