



# Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation

**ANNUAL REPORT 2022**





# CHAIR'S REPORT

This is the first annual report for the Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation, which comes at a really exciting moment in our journey towards establishing the Settlement and making it work for all Noongar people.

Our regional corporation has made a great deal of progress since our pre-incorporation meeting in September last year. Our first general meeting was held in Busselton on Saturday 2 July 2022. Thank you to everyone who made the effort to attend, either in person or online, to be part of this historic moment.

Our first cultural advice committee (CAC) was elected at the meeting, and they are progressing business regarding cultural matters.

We have now appointed our first expert directors, Ju Lin O'Connor and James Back, who we believe will bring great talent and expertise to our board. We are now focussed on the final steps towards endorsement by the State and by the Trustee.

At the time of writing this report, we are also in the processes of recruiting our first CEO, who will begin the work of hiring staff and finding office space, along with all the other necessary work to make our corporation run effectively and efficiently.

The Noongar Boodja Trust has now received two of its annual payments, and the Noongar land estate has already received its first parcels of land. We will continue to accept more land over the next few years, to be used for cultural, social and commercial projects. The resources of the Trust and the central services corporation will support our work on projects that will improve social and economic outcomes for Noongar people, including jobs, housing and support for cultural heritage.

As a corporation, we're committed to transparent communication with members so that we can all be empowered to participate in the work of

our corporation and to contribute to its success through improving the wellbeing of Noongars.

Our website will contain all the formal documents you may need to refer to, and all the latest news and events information, especially through during the next six busy months.

The website also includes an online membership form, and we encourage you to make sure your friends and family join our corporation so that we have many voices contributing to the best possible outcomes for our people.

You can find us online at [karrikarrak.org.au](http://karrikarrak.org.au).

Thanks to everyone who has participated in the journey to this point. We are excited to continue the work of building a strong, sustainable and united Noongar Nation in 2023.

**Stephen van Leeuwen**  
Karri Karrak Chair





# PROGRESS UPDATE

## PREINCORP MEETINGS

Our initial directors volunteered a huge amount of time and effort to bring our corporation to where it is today. Since our pre-incorporation meeting, the initial directors met monthly or as needed to work towards setting up our corporation.

Our initial directors were Chontarle Bellottie, Nicole Calgaret-Casley, Anthony Hansen and Stephen van Leeuwen.

During their terms, they successfully registered the corporation with ORIC, gained charitable status and an ABN, and registered our corporation's name. They also processed the first rounds of membership applications, member director elections and cultural advice committee nominations.

We greatly appreciate and value all the work these people have done to get us to this point.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation has held three successful membership drives, with 348 members having now been accepted as members of the corporation. Applications for membership were made online via the SWALSC website, and through hardcopy forms.

Noongar people with family connections to the Karri Karrak region are encouraged to fill out the membership application form on our website at [karrikarrak.org.au/join](http://karrikarrak.org.au/join).

## ELECTIONS

The Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation held two successful ballots this year, one via post and the other in person and online at the first general meeting.

The election of the board of directors was held by postal ballot. The successful candidates were Chontarle Bellottie, Nicole Calgaret-Casley, Anthony Hansen and Stephen van Leeuwen.



The board appointed two expert directors, Ju Lin O'Connor and James Back, and have commenced the process of recruiting a CEO, finding a suitable office location and setting out the framework for a strategic plan.

The board will be responsible for strategic and financial directions of the corporation, with a number of specific tasks required in the immediate future.

Members of our first cultural advice committee (CAC) were elected by secret ballot at the first general meeting. The CAC is made up of Elders who consider matters relevant to culture and make decisions to promote and protect cultural interests of the region.

The female members of the CAC are: Suzanne Kelly and Sandra Lesley Hill (term end 2025); Gail Airey (nee Hill) and Shirley Williams (term end 2024).

The male members of the CAC are: Jack Hill and William Thompson (term end 2025); Wayne George Webb (term end 2024).

## FIRST GENERAL MEETING

The Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation's first general meeting was a success, with members attending both online and in person in Busselton on Saturday 2 July 2022.

After a Welcome to Country from Uncle Billy Webb, the meeting was chaired by Stephen van Leeuwen and facilitated by Think Culture.

The outgoing initial directors were thanked for their hard work in setting up the corporation.

The first member elected directors – Chontarle Bellottie, Nicole Calgaret-Casley, Anthony Hansen and Stephen Van Leeuwen – began their terms at the close of the meeting, and are now busy on the next stages of gaining endorsement as the regional corporation by the State and the Noongar Boodja Trust.

In his report as interim board chair, Stephen van Leeuwen celebrated the historic occasion, and updated members on the journey so far.

"Thank you so much to every one of you who have joined us. The more members we have the more effective we will be in our efforts to build our a strong, sustainable, united Noongar Nation," Stephen said.

"The Southwest Native Title Settlement is a momentous part of our long enduring history as Noongar people. As we all know, it has taken us many, many years for us to get to this point.

"It has taken our Elders, past and present, many more years, and unfortunately some of them were not able to see this day. So, we must honour their efforts by continuing their work to protect and respect our culture, build our corporation and unlock our potential to become the masters of our future."

"Now that our regional corporation is ready to embark on this journey, we will start seeing the results of all that time and effort."

## INDUCTIONS AND MEETINGS

At the close of the first general meeting, members of the board and the CAC took up their roles.

Prior to the general meeting, the directors took part in an information session, and then on 15 July they had their formal induction to the role.

The board has since met regularly and will continue to meet monthly.

The cultural advice committee had its induction session on 4 August, and will also meet monthly.

To get in touch with the board or the cultural advice committee, email [regionalcorporations@noongar.org.au](mailto:regionalcorporations@noongar.org.au).

# YOUR NEW BOARD

## NICOLE CASLEY

Nicole is an experienced lawyer, policy advisor and director with networks across diverse sectors. She is experienced in native title, negotiation, heritage and corporation law

## STEPHEN VAN LEEUWEN

Stephen was a member of the Noongar leadership team negotiating the Settlement and drafting the Indigenous Land Use Agreement. He is a botanical ecologist and is currently the Chair of Biodiversity and Environmental Science at Curtin University.

## CHONTARLE BELLOTTIE

Chontarle has a background in conservation and land management, heritage and education. She strives to make a difference for people and Country and believes in working together to create opportunities for our community.

## TONY HANSEN

Tony was a founding executive member of the WA Stolen Generations Alliance and a founding member of Reconciliation WA. He sits on the National Stolen Generations reference group and Chairs the Carrolup Elders Reference Group.

## JU LIN O'CONNOR

Ju-Lin is a lawyer and adviser with over 20 years' experience in native title negotiations, settlement implementation, corporate governance, heritage and legislative reform. She has worked in NSW, NT, Victoria and now resides in Perth.

## JAMES BACK

James was the inaugural CEO of Reconciliation WA, and has built strong relationships across all sectors and diverse stakeholders. He is also an independent director for Puutu Kunti Kurrama People in the Pilbara.

# YOUR CULTURAL ADVICE COMMITTEE

Each regional corporation has a cultural advice committee made up of Elders who consider matters relevant to culture, and make decisions to promote and protect our cultural interests.

Matters that may be decided by the committee include:

- Determining what cultural connection exists, or could exist, to support a piece of land being considered 'Cultural Lands' as part of the Noongar Boodja Trust.
- Determining those people who have most knowledge of relevant lands in order for surveys to be properly conducted.
- Determining how cultural knowledge should be recorded, and when and how it is shared with others.
- Determining how Noongar cultural protocols and practices should be acknowledged, valued, honoured and respected, including through Welcome to Country practices.

## FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE KARRI KARRAK CAC:

SUZANNE KELLY  
SANDRA LESLEY HILL  
GAIL AIREY  
SHIRLEY WILLIAMS

## MALE MEMBERS OF THE KARRI KARRAK CAC:

JACK HILL  
WILLIAM THOMPSON  
WAYNE GEORGE WEBB

# LANDS UPDATE

## THE NOONGAR LAND ESTATE

The State Government, via the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DLPH), have continued to offer land to the Noongar Boodja Trust (NBT) with year two lands now provided. The NBT will be consulting with the Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation cultural advice committee regarding acceptance of these lands.

It is expected this consultation process will commence in early 2023.

## LAND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

SWALSC, as the central services corporation, has been working closely with an IT consultant to design the specifications for an online land management system.

This system will be available to each regional corporation to assist with scheduling of land management obligations, cost tracking, mapping of individual land parcels as well as Noongar cultural values, manage Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement processes, and provide advice regarding Noongar land access and the undertaking of Noongar customary activities.

SWALSC will now seek quotes to build the land management system and expects to complete work before the end of 2022.

## SWALSC LANDS SUPPORT

The SWALSC land unit is continuing to work with us to help meet our obligations under the South West Native Title Settlement (SWNTS). This will include support around the establishment of the Cooperative and Joint Management Agreements and Committees with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Parks and Wildlife) to cooperatively manage all of the Conservation Estate; supporting and facilitating the selection, management and activation of lands and waters for Noongar social, economic and cultural purposes; and providing ongoing services and advice in regards to all SWNTS land matters including Noongar land access regimes, the protection of Noongar heritage and values and development of Noongar land management capacity.

For more information on these projects contact SWALSC's lands coordinator, Justin McAllister, at [justin.mcallister@noongar.org.au](mailto:justin.mcallister@noongar.org.au) or on 9358 7400.



*Building a  
strong,  
sustainable,  
united  
Noongar Nation*

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