

The South West Native Title Settlement

An Agreement reached between the Noongar People and the
WA Government

Noongar Economic Participation Framework: Factsheet

The South West Native Title Settlement (the Settlement) is the largest and most comprehensive agreement to settle Aboriginal interests over land in Australia. The Settlement, involving six Noongar Native Title Agreement Groups, and covering 200,000 square kilometres of land, represents significant social and economic investment in the Noongar community and the shared future of Western Australia.

On 8 June 2015, after extensive negotiations, and authorisation by the Noongar people, the Western Australian Government signed (executed) the six South West Native Title Settlement Agreements with the Ballardong, Gnaala Karla Booja, South West Boojarah, Wagyl Kaip & Southern Noongar, Whadjuk and Yued groups.

The Settlement as a whole will only become fully effective after all of the six Agreements have been conclusively registered in accordance with the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), and any related court proceedings have been resolved.

For the latest information see the 'status of the Settlement' section of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website (<http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/lantu>).



Noongar Economic Participation Framework

The Noongar Economic Participation Framework (the Framework) was negotiated, as a part of the South West Native Title Settlement, to assist Noongar business capacity and interests, towards improving Noongar participation in the wider economy. The Framework complements the other significant economic assets delivered through the Settlement.

What are the objectives of the Framework?

- Grow Noongar owned businesses and Noongar/non-Noongar joint ventures, and increase Noongar employment in Noongar businesses;
- Increase the knowledge and skills of the Noongar community in the areas of Government procurement, tendering and contracting;
- Increase Noongar participation and representation in employment and the broader economy; and
- Build on the existing strengths of the Noongar community to foster the Noongar entrepreneurial culture.

How will the Framework be implemented?

The Noongar Economic Participation Steering Group (Steering Group) will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Framework. WA Government agencies will also be responsible for helping meet the various key deliverables and initial projects identified in the Framework.

What is the membership of the Steering Group?

The membership of the Steering Group will comprise of one representative from each of the six respective Noongar Regional Corporations and the one Central Services Corporation, and senior representatives from the relevant WA Government agencies and authorities.



How does the Framework fit with the Settlement's other significant economic assets?

The Settlement will provide significant economic assets and development opportunities for the Noongar people, through the respective Noongar Regional Corporations. These assets include the:

- development of the Noongar Boodja Trust - 50,000,000 to the Noongar Future Fund; and \$10,000,000 for operational funding for the Noongar Corporations annually for 12 years;.
- creation of the Noongar Land Estate – land for both Cultural and Development purposes;
- Noongar Housing Program; and
- Capital Works Program - land and funding linked to the creation of a cultural centre and office accommodation funds for the Noongar Corporations.

The Framework is stand-alone, and will initially focus on a range of deliverables and projects to be provided by the WA Government in collaboration with the Regional Corporations and Central Services Corporation (Noongar Corporations). Over time it is anticipated that the Steering Group will broaden its scope and membership to meet the needs of the Noongar Community as they develop. This expansion will allow the Noongar people, through the Noongar Corporations to take full advantage of the range of assets delivered through the Settlement and set the direction of the Framework in line with Noongar identified priorities.

What are the Principles in the Noongar Economic Participation Framework?

The Principles are:

- Recognition that Noongar people and business are a valued part of the local and regional economy particularly in the South West;
- Channels of communication are open to ensure Noongar Businesses and corporations are provided with information regarding Government contracting and tendering opportunities;
- A demonstrated commitment to transparent, accountable and appropriate governance structures.



What are some of the initial projects the WA Government will deliver under the Framework?

- Delivery of workshops in partnership with the Noongar Corporations on topics such as; demystifying the government tendering process, how to take advantage of existing Aboriginal business initiatives, establishing a business and how to obtain preferred provider status;
- Creation of a central location for information and policies relevant to Aboriginal business; and
- Promotion of the Aboriginal Business Directory and the registration of Noongar businesses to the Directory.

What are some of the Framework's longer-term key deliverables?

- Intensive capacity building in year one of the implementation of the Settlement, and ongoing support thereafter in government tendering and contracting policies as well as the development and submission of tender documentation;
- Promote early engagement between State Government agencies through Early Tender Advice for all Noongar businesses registered with Tenders WA;
- Exemption from competitive tendering processes that allows for the direct engagement of a registered Noongar business for works, goods and services procurements valued at less than \$150,000
- Increase registration of Noongar businesses on the Tenders WA website;
- Provide Noongar representation on tender evaluation panels for Government agencies providing works in the South West where appropriate