



April
2021

Boorna Wangkiny

DIRECTORS MESSAGE

Brendan Moore

Kaya to all members of SWALSC.

On 18 April 2021, Vanessa Kickett resigned as a director of SWALSC to take up an opportunity as the Implementation Manager at SWALSC. I am privileged to have been appointed by my fellow directors to replace Vanessa as the chair of SWALSC and thank Vanessa for her leadership since the AGM in November 2020.

After an extensive recruitment process the directors have also appointed a new CEO, who will start in May 2021. We will formally introduce him in the next newsletter and at upcoming community meetings.

As chair, I am committed to continuing the work of SWALSC towards implementation of the South West Settlement. The path to date has brought many challenges, but we remain focused on honouring the vision of our ancestors, our elders and our communities, whose guidance and dignity inspire us to be strong and proud.

On Monday, 29 March 2021 we reached a significant milestone in our journey. SWALSC directors came together with representatives of the WA Government and Perpetual Trustee to sign the deed of trust for the Noongar Boodja Trust. This is just the beginning, rather than the end, of years of hard work. How much it will change lives depends on the Noongar people. We have to write our own story.

We must now create the governance structures to guide the implementation of the \$1.3bn South West Settlement, starting with the establishment of the six Noongar regional corporations.

We will also work hard to gain the support of the Noongar community for SWALSC to become the central services corporation that will support the regional corporations.

Now that the trust deed is signed, it is time for us to make the most of the benefits that will flow from this deal. This will be

a way to honour those who have fought so long to win justice for our people. Let's now come together and see what we can achieve.

Since 29 January 2021, we have held 28 community meetings in just under three months to explain the settlement process and answer questions from community.

There are also many more community meetings coming up, well as the all important pre-incorporation meetings to set up up the regional corporations and I encourage you to attend. Keep on eye on our website for upcoming dates.

We have also employed 12 Noongar people, including our Noongar regional officers in Bussleton, Northam and Albany, to work with people on the ground about land, the settlement, consultation with elders, cultural heritage and the establishment of the regional corporations.

On 29 January 2021, we held a joint information meeting with Equity Trustees about the El Caballo, Guildford and Midland properties. There was a commitment at the meeting to undertake an independent review of the El Caballo properties and to hold a further meeting to present the findings.

That meeting will be held on 27 May 2021 and a notice of the meeting is included with this newsletter.

We have also written to the Aboriginal Housing Recovery Centre Limited (AHRCL) to request the return of the properties at Midland and Guildford to the Noongar Charitable Trust. AHRCL has refused that request, but SWALSC will continue to consult with its members about how to return these properties to community control.

Brendan

IN THIS ISSUE:

Noongar Boodja
Trust Deed signed
page 2

Call for interim
directors
page 4





NOONGAR BOODJA TRUST DEED SIGNED

On Monday, 29 March 2021, the directors of SWALSC came together with representatives of the WA Government and the Perpetual Trustee Company to sign the deed of trust for the Noongar Boodja Trust.

The signing ceremony took place in the presence of The Honourable Kim Beazley AC, Governor of Western Australia, at Government House and Noongar elders who have committed decades of their lives' work to the pursuit of justice for the Noongar community.

During the ceremony, the settlor for the trust deed, Mr Bill Lawrie; the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC; and SWALSC representatives Vanessa Kickett and Barry Winmar signed the trust deed and security deed documents.

The signing of the trust deed documents officially appoints Perpetual Trustee as the trustee for the Noongar Boodja Trust and signifies the trust effective date, or the date the trust commences.

The commencement of the trust enables the benefits under the South West Settlement to start flowing into the trust.

"While the signing of the trust deed is a significant achievement, our work in creating the governance structures that will guide the implementation of the South West native title agreement has just begun," Vanessa Kickett said at the signing ceremony.

"There is a lot more work for SWALSC to do in the next six months to establish the six Noongar regional corporations and gain the support of the Noongar community for SWALSC to become the central services corporation.

"Today, I remember the Noongar elders who fought so long to win justice for our people and who passed before they were able to see this day come to pass.

"We pay our respects to their memory and honour the legacy they leave for our people.

"The path to date has brought many challenges, but we remain focused on honouring the vision of our ancestors, our elders and our communities, whose guidance and dignity inspire us to be strong and proud."

The signing of the trust deed paves the way for the first payment by the WA Government to the trust and the transfer of land into the Noongar Land Estate (see next page).



SOUTH WEST NATIVE TITLE SETTLEMENT LAND BASE

The Noongar Land Estate (NLE), a part of the South West Settlement, will initially hold up to 300,000 hectares of land allocated as reserve or leasehold and up to 20,000 hectares of land allocated as freehold for cultural or economic development use.

The NLE will be held by the Noongar Boodja Trust (NBT) and is intended to provide significant opportunities for the Noongar community to achieve sustainable economic, social and cultural outcomes.

The Noongar Land Base Strategy (Annexure J of the Indigenous Land Use Agreements) sets out what land can be allocated and how this will happen. The lands to be allocated include:

- unallocated Crown Land;
- unmanaged Reserves; and
- Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT) properties.

WA Government agencies may also identify freehold land and reserves, for which they hold management orders but no longer require, for potential allocation to the NLE.

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), on behalf of the State of Western Australia, commenced sending formal land offers to the NBT on 12 March 2021. Altogether, the offer constitutes 353 land parcels totalling 28,399.73 hectares.

The first formal land offer is comprised of:

- 363.76 hectares of land offered for transfer in Freehold; and
- 28,035.97 hectares of land offered as Reserve under Management Order.

This is a significant step towards the Year 0 targets for land identification, selection and acceptance.

The trustee has 40 business days to accept the terms of allocation from the state, otherwise the parcel may be referred to a priority land meeting.

There is a map on the SWALSC website detailing the land offered and under consideration. Not all land identified on the map will be transferred to the trust. SWALSC's Noongar regional officers will be visiting land that is being offered, and details of where and when are available on our website. All Noongar people are welcome to attend to find out more information about the land.

Where land is unavailable for transfer but is of high cultural value to the Noongar community, then there is an opportunity for further discussion during priority land meetings (Annexure J of the ILUAs 'Noongar Land Base Strategy').

No land will be transferred into the Noongar Boodja Trust until the relevant terms of allocation are accepted.

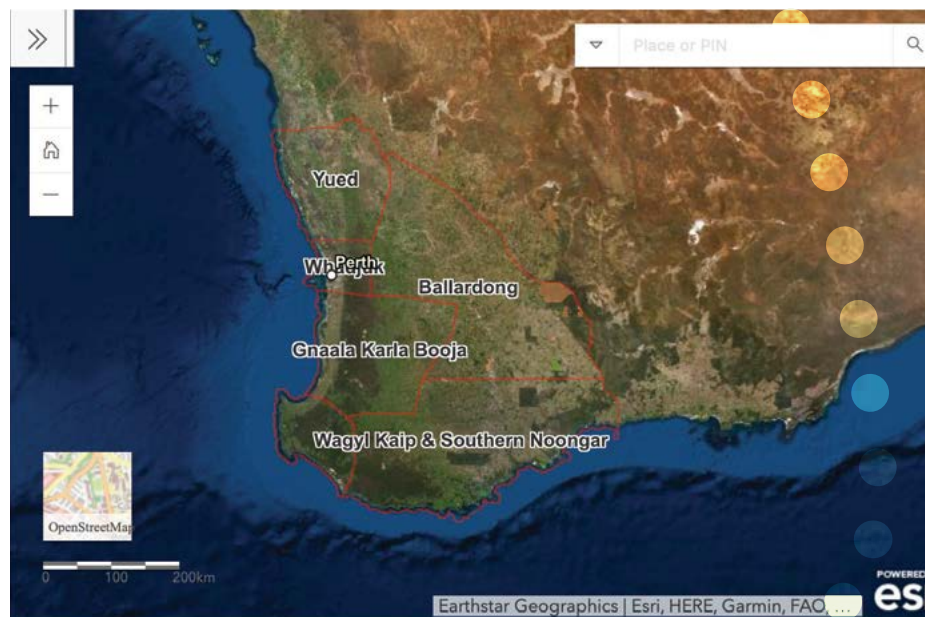
For further information about any specific parcel of land on the SWALSC website, please make note of the land parcel PIN number and contact SWALSC's regional officers or email vanessa.forward@noongar.org.au.

Djeran season

Djeran sees a break in the really hot weather, with cool nights and early morning dews. Nights become cooler and damper along with some cool and rainy days.

The winds have changed, with light breezes generally swinging from southerly directions. Flying ants can be seen cruising in the light winds.

Djeran is a time of red flowers. Banksias start to flower, providing nectar food sources for many small mammals and birds.



DIRECTORS OF REGIONAL CORPORATIONS

As part of the process towards pre-incorporation, SWALSC is conducting a 2nd round of nominations for the initial directors of each of the six regional corporations.

Nominations close: 4 June 2021

Six pre-incorporation meetings will be held later this year, following a series of rulebook workshops and 16 community information sessions held by SWALSC over the last few months.

Nominees will put their names forward to be considered by the pre-incorporation meetings as the 'initial directors' of the regional corporations. These initial directors will be responsible for opening up the regional corporations for new members to join.

The interim directors will then call elections for the first four 'member-elected directors'. Those member-elected directors will appoint one of them to be the chairperson of their regional corporation. They will then appoint two more directors, known as 'expert directors' who will bring additional skills to the boards of the regional corporations.

Nominations are open to any eligible member who is interested in putting their name forward to be considered by the pre-incorporation meetings. All directors must meet high standards of experience and suitability, as set out in the ILUAs and the draft rule books (available on the SWALSC website).

To download a nomination pack go to www.noongar.org.au/initial-directors or call SWALSC on 9358 7400 to discuss your eligibility and ask any other questions.

FIRST NOMINATIONS IN 2018

In 2018, SWALSC facilitated the first round of nominations for the initial directors.

Prior to the delays in the implementation of the South West Settlement, SWALSC held a series of workshops with nominees to help them understand their roles and obligations should they be elected at the pre-incorporation meetings to be the initial directors. These workshops covered a range of topics including: the regional corporation rule books, the role of the Noongar Corporations Committee, how

lands will be transferred back to Noongar ownership and control, establishing cultural advice mechanisms, and good governance principles.

The people who nominated and found to be eligible will remain as 'director nominees' to be considered for selection at the pre-incorporation meetings. They do NOT need to lodge a new nomination.

SWALSC has now re-opened nominations to any other eligible member who is interested in putting their name forward to be considered by the pre-incorporation meetings (see above).



Director nominees who attended the first workshop held at the Canning River Eco Education Centre, 8 Feb 2018.

