

The South West Native Title Settlement

About the Settlement

The South West Native Title Settlement (the Settlement) is a landmark native title agreement negotiated between the Noongar people and the Western Australian Government.

The Settlement commenced on 25 February 2021.

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.

The Noongar Nation is one of the largest Aboriginal cultural blocs in Australia, covering the entire south-west corner of Western Australia.

At the time of British settlement, up to 15 Noongar language dialects existed.

The Trust Effective Date of 29 March 2021, triggered the establishment of, and the flow of benefits to, the Noongar Boodja Trust, including the payment of funds and the transfer of land and houses.

For more information visit noongar.org.au.



South West Aboriginal
Land and Sea Council
Aboriginal Corporation

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Native Title Agreement Groups

Ballardong ILUA

York, Northam, Hyden, Kondinin, Merredin

Yued ILUA

Jurien, Moora, Lancelin, Gingin

Gnaala Karla Booja ILUA

Mandurah, Bunbury, Donnybrook, Collie, Narrogin

South West Boojarah ILUA

Busselton, Dunsborough, Margaret River, Pemberton, Nannup

Wagyl Kaip and Southern Noongar ILUA

Katanning, Gnowangerup, Albany

Whadjuk ILUA

Perth metropolitan area

Learn more about
the Agreement Groups
at noongar.org.au




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What does the Settlement include for Noongar people?

Noongar Recognition through an Act of Parliament

The Noongar (Koorah, Nitja, Boordahwan) (Past, Present, Future) Recognition Act 2016 (proclaimed on WA Day - 6 June 2016) recognises the Noongar people as the Traditional Owners of the south-west region of Western Australia.

Through the Act, the Western Australian Parliament acknowledges and honours the Noongar people as Traditional Owners of the land recognising:

- the living cultural, spiritual, familial and social relationship that the Noongar people have with the Noongar lands; and
- the significant and unique contribution that the Noongar people have made, are making, and will continue to make, to the heritage, cultural identity, community and economy of Western Australia.

Noongar Boodja Trust (NBT)

The Noongar Boodja Trust receives, holds and manages all benefits and assets arising from the Settlement on behalf of the six regional corporations. The benefits from the Settlement are designed to deliver enduring economic, social and cultural benefits to the Noongar people for generations to come.

The WA Government will contribute \$50 million annually for 12 years to the NBT, and \$10 million annually for 12 years for the operation of the Noongar Regional Corporations.

The first payments were made on 22 April 2021.

Noongar Regional Corporations

Six Noongar Regional Corporations have been established to represent the rights and interests of each of the six Agreement Groups.





Central Services Corporation

The South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) has been established as the Central Services Corporation to support and connect the six Noongar Regional Corporations.

Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement (NSHA)

The Agreement is a uniform and efficient approach for conducting Aboriginal Heritage Surveys in the Settlement Area in compliance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. The NSHA came into effect on 8 June 2015.

Noongar Heritage Partnership Agreement

The Agreement is a framework for the Noongar Regional Corporations to work in partnership with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to improve the recording, protection and preservation of Aboriginal sites within the Settlement Area.

Noongar Land Estate

Up to 320,000 hectares of land will be transferred to the NBT for development and cultural purposes. The first land transfers were made on 14 July 2021.

Cooperative and joint management

The Noongar Regional Corporations will enter into Cooperative and Joint Management arrangements with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) for the care and protection of the South West Conservation Estate.

Land Access

Land Access licences will be provided to the six Noongar Regional Corporations to give the Noongar people lawful access to certain unallocated Crown land and unmanaged reserve land for defined customary activities.

Separate to the licence, amended water by-laws also enable Noongar people to undertake some land based Aboriginal customary activities in public drinking water source areas within the Settlement Area.





Community Development Framework

A commitment between the WA Government and the Noongar people to a set of principles and priorities aimed at improving the Noongar community development opportunities.

The framework will provide greater scope for direct communication and collaboration between the WA Government and Noongar people.

Capital Works Program

Includes funding for the establishment of a Noongar Cultural Centre in the metropolitan area and office accommodation for the Noongar Regional Corporations.

Noongar Land Fund

\$46,850,000 over 10 years will support land, joint management and heritage objectives.

The fund will facilitate partnerships between the WA Government's key land agencies and the Noongar Regional Corporations.


Economic Participation Framework

A framework to support partnership in the building of Noongar business capacity, interests and participation within the wider economy.

Noongar Housing Program

Transfer, in freehold title, of 121 Housing properties to the NBT. Funds will be available for the maintenance and upgrade of these properties.





Does the Native Title Act still apply?

No.

Any native title rights and interests that may have existed in the ILUA area were resolved through the Settlement on 13 April 2021.

While future act processes will no longer occur within the Settlement area, existing ILUA and legislative obligations relating to the protection of Aboriginal heritage continue.

Land users are also encouraged to continue agreement making and engagement with the Noongar community and the Noongar Regional Corporations, to ensure activities acknowledge and benefit the recognised Traditional Owners.

