

## Ngaliwurru-Wuli Aboriginal Corporation

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## Ngaliwurru-Wuli Aboriginal Corporation Capability Review Updated February 2019

The Ngaliwurru-Wuli Aboriginal Corporation (NWAC) was formed over 32 years ago under the NT Associations Act to serve as an Outstation/ Homelands Resource Centre, servicing homelands communities in the Big Rivers Region west of Katherine. Our communities are located from Mengen - approx. 150km southwest of Katherine - right across to Brumby Plains on the West Australian border.

- We are based in Timber Creek, where we have a large land holding area incorporating our main offices, a mechanical workshop, training and meeting buildings, municipal services, building supplies and other service buildings. We also have 10 houses and a block of 5 units that we use for our indigenous staff accommodation, together with three separate staff houses located adjacent to the NWA main headquarters.
- NWAC is CAL registered and provides support to Homeland outstation residents through building and asset maintenance. As part of our business we apply for and are regularly

awarded contracts through various NTG Departments to undertake infrastructure construction and maintenance on NTG assets in the region.

- This includes contracts with the NT Government to provide municipal and essential services and housing repairs and maintenance to all these Outstations.



We also perform other Civil and Construction work to other government departments and work for the public in general. We have on staff tradesmen carpenters, plumbers, painters, steel fabricators and an electrician.

We currently have a staff of 33, of which nearly 90% are Indigenous, and who are all employed full time on our regular and commercial projects. By servicing our Homelands, we are able to keep our indigenous staff connected to their own family and country and as such they gain more experience and respect by working on these projects.

As the main resource centre for the local Indigenous people for over 32 years, NWA has provided training and community development to all outstations and communities in this period. Most of the local Indigenous training has been developed within our business in this time.

We currently have several areas of Indigenous engagement, employment, training and small business development such as:

- **Civil works and fabricating business:** This capacity engages only Indigenous people to perform all contract work as and when required. The business has up to 8 employees at times in both training programs as well as working in formal business opportunities. For example, plant and equipment operation; plant & equipment servicing; fencing; concreting; civil road and earthworks; welding and steel fabrication.
- **Mechanical workshop:** This is a commercial enterprise operated from our Timber Creek Compound. This has been successfully operating for over 5 years and now has many return clients and performs work for many local businesses and agencies such as the Katherine West

Health Board, Timber Creek Police, Timber Creek School, the Victoria Daly Regional Council, many local residents along with the substantial passing tourist trade.

Our workshop is also the AANT agent for Timber Creek and surrounding area. The workshop currently employs and trains two fully indentured Indigenous apprentice mechanics.



- **Plumbing:** We have our own licensed commercial plumbing operation which carries out work across the region for many diverse clients as well as managing our own contracts on the outstations and communities. This activity employs a fully qualified and licensed plumber along with an Indigenous apprentice and engages and trains as many local Indigenous people as possible.
- **Centrelink:** We operate the Timber Creek Centrelink agency which is attached to our main business office in Timber Creek and in which we employ a full time Indigenous staff member to supervise and manage the office.
- **Housing:** We have a Local Building Team (LBT) who are all Indigenous people. This team is supervised by a fully qualified Indigenous carpenter and two Indigenous apprentice carpenters. This team performs all work on community housing and other extraneous contract work that becomes available in the district.

The Housing section is also supported by two Indigenous female Housing Officers who manage our housing repairs and maintenance requests and all paperwork to do with rental collections and payments etc. These positions support the Centrelink agency and vice-versa.

- **Municipal and Essential Services:** This activity is supervised by Stan Retchford, a local Indigenous man and employs a minimum of 8 local Indigenous people to carry out work in our contracted areas of MUNS and ESS Services on all of our Homeland outstations and communities.

- **Administration:** The Ngaliwurru-Wuli Aboriginal Corporation's capacity to deliver programs can be demonstrated via our successful administration and delivery of numerous projects including many differing grant programs over our 30-year history.

We have on staff a qualified Indigenous bookkeeper who manages the Corporation's books from our office, in addition to an off-site qualified accountant who manages the finances on a daily on-line basis to ensure we are functioning within our capacity.

We also utilise the services of an external Accounting & Business Advisers firm, who provide advice on all business and finance as and when required. We use another professional Accounting & Audit Service for our annual Audit to ensure everything is as it should be and that we are able to successfully acquit all our grant funded programs each year.

- **Governance:** NWAC is now incorporated under the ATSI/ORIC ACT 2006 and is an Indigenous Aboriginal Corporation with a Board of 10 Directors including the Chair and Deputy Chair. The Directors are representatives of most of our Homeland communities and are elected annually. As per the Aboriginal Corporations Act, full audited financial statements are provided annually along with all other financial and administrative information required to be eligible to receive grant funding.

We are also looking into restructuring our organisation in order to consolidate some of our separate operations and to streamline our management and reporting procedures.

- Accordingly, at our AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018, our members agreed to change over from an NT Aboriginal Association body to an ATSI/ORIC-based Aboriginal Corporation. This process was completed in February 2019. The new name of our organisation is the **Ngaliwurru-Wuli Aboriginal Corporation (NWAC)**.
- **Future Projects:** NWA is working to expand its capabilities to include ongoing housing construction, possibly in joint venture arrangements with other similar indigenous organisations. By doing this we hope to be able to substantially expand our base services and with it the employment and training of local indigenous personnel.

