

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Business and Innovation:

Investment on Aboriginal Land

Please advise what new approaches to investment on Aboriginal land are being supported in Nhulunbuy Electorate? And what kind of support is being offered?

The Department of Trade, Business and Innovation is working collaboratively with stakeholders to facilitate investment on Aboriginal land. A range of projects and initiatives are being progressed across government to assist Aboriginal land owners achieve their vision for their lands.

Aboriginal Business Development Program

The Aboriginal Business Development Program supports Aboriginal Territorians interested in starting a business or expanding an existing business in the NT.

The program can assist with professional development for business owners and/or staff (accredited and non-accredited training and other qualifications), engage professional or specialised services to assist with regulatory issues or approvals, secure tangible assets essential for the business to commence operation or act on new opportunities.

The program was recently used by Rurrangala Bush Produce Pty Ltd to assist with survey work on a proposed bottled drinking water production enterprise.

Other support available includes the Business Growth Program, which provides a range of support to encourage business growth through continuous improvement strategies created to meet the needs of NT businesses.

The following organisations and businesses in East Arnhem have received the following support under the **Remote Aboriginal Economic Development Fund**:

- Baniyala Garrangali Aboriginal Corporation (the Corporation) - \$55 000 to co-fund a business manager positioned at Baniyala over a period of three years to upskill the Corporation Board and support their transition to local management of land administration and municipal services
- Gapuwiyak Culture and Arts Aboriginal Corporation - \$53 676 to extend the art centre to increase economic activity of the art centre
- Gumatj Corporation - \$74 809.41 to establish the sub orbital launch facility on the Dhupuma Plateau, near the Gulkula site just outside of Nhulunbuy, and
- Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation - \$51 645 development of laynhapuy Indigenous Protective Area Tourism Development Program for the East Arnhem region.

Indigenous Business Australia - Business Development and Assistance Program

The **Business Development and Assistance Program** aims to provide business support and capability development services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Businesses and to build the skills and capabilities of customers receiving services as a result of the program.

Current recipients to this program are:

- Gapuwiyak Culture and Arts Aboriginal Corporation - \$25 000 to support website development, including videography and still images
- Injalak Arts Centre Gunbalanya - \$25 000 to support website development including booking system and online sales platform integrated into the website
- Wiligi Arnhem Land – \$17 000 to support website development including booking system into the website, videography, still images and integration into social media platforms
- Elcho Island Arts (Marthakal) - \$10 000 to support the redevelopment of website functionality, and
- Arnhem Coastal Camp Cobourg Peninsula - \$15 000 to support website development including booking system into the website, videography, still images and integration into social media platforms.

Infrastructure Investment

The NT Government is also working with key stakeholders including: the East Arnhem Economic Development Committee, Aboriginal land owners, existing infrastructure operators, and the \$5 billion Commonwealth Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility to promote and facilitate private sector investment in key infrastructure projects on Aboriginal land and in regional and remote areas.

Gove Port can be a key enabler of economic activity in East Arnhem by supporting the expansion and diversification of number of industries including small and larger scale commercial fishing and marine tourism, as well as improving the efficiency of the existing service/supply chain (e.g. bulk fuel storage or improved freight services) to support other industries such as forestry and other regional services. These industries could also potentially support several downstream activities such as fish processing, marine maintenance services and local tourism product development.

The NT Government is examining a facilitated approach to leverage private sector investment for new marine infrastructure, consistent with the processes that have driven private sector investment in the Northern Gas Pipeline, Darwin Port and the Darwin Luxury Hotel. The business case is due to be considered by the NT Government in late 2018. NT Government agencies are and will continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure extensive community and industry input to any development and investment at the Gove Port.