



# Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation

ANNUAL REPORT 2022





# CHAIR'S REPORT

This is the first annual report for the Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation, which comes at a really exciting moment in our journey towards establishing the Settlement and making it work for all Noongar people.

Our regional corporation has made a great deal of progress since our pre-incorporation meeting in August last year. Our first general meeting was held in Bunbury on Saturday 16 July 2022. Thank you to everyone who made the effort to attend, either in person or online, to be part of this historic moment.

Our first cultural advice committee (CAC) was elected at the meeting, and they are progressing business regarding cultural matters.

We have now appointed our first expert directors, Anne Donaldson and Maria Osman, who we believe will bring great talent and expertise to our board. We are now focussed on the final steps towards endorsement by the State and by the Trustee.

At the time of writing this report, we are also about to appoint our first CEO, who will begin the work of hiring staff and finding office space, along with all the other necessary work to make our corporation run effectively.

The Noongar Boodja Trust has now received two of its annual payments, and the Noongar land estate has already received its first parcels of land. We will continue to accept more land over the next few years, to be used for cultural, social and commercial projects. The resources of the Trust and the central services corporation will support our work on projects that will improve social and economic outcomes for Noongar people, including jobs, housing and support for cultural heritage.

As a corporation, we're committed to transparent communication with members so that we can all be empowered to participate in the work of our corporation and to contribute to its success.

Our website will contain all the formal documents you may need to refer to, and all the latest news and events information, especially through during the next few busy months.

The website also includes an online membership form, and we encourage you to make sure your friends and family join our corporation so that we have many voices contributing to the best possible outcomes for our people.

Find us online at [gkb.org.au](http://gkb.org.au).

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this journey to this point. We are excited to continue the work of building a strong, sustainable and united Noongar Nation in 2023.

**John Penny**  
Gnaala Karla Booja Chair



# PROGRESS UPDATE

## PREINCORP MEETINGS

Our initial directors volunteered a huge amount of time and effort to bring our corporation to where it is today. Since our pre-incorporation meeting, the initial directors met monthly or as needed to work towards setting up the corporation.

Our initial directors were Charne Hayden, Cheryl Martin, Lynette Narkle and Lera Bennell.

During their terms, they successfully registered the corporation with ORIC, gained charitable status and an ABN, and registered our corporation's name. They also processed the first rounds of membership applications, member director elections and cultural advice committee nominations.

We greatly appreciate and value all the work these people have done to get us to this point.

## MEMBERSHIP

The Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation has held three successful membership drives, with 554 members having now been accepted as members of the corporation. Applications for membership were made online via the SWALSC website, and through hardcopy forms.

Noongar people with family connections to the Gnaala Karla Booja region are encouraged to fill out the membership application form on our website at [gkb.org.au/join](http://gkb.org.au/join).

## ELECTIONS

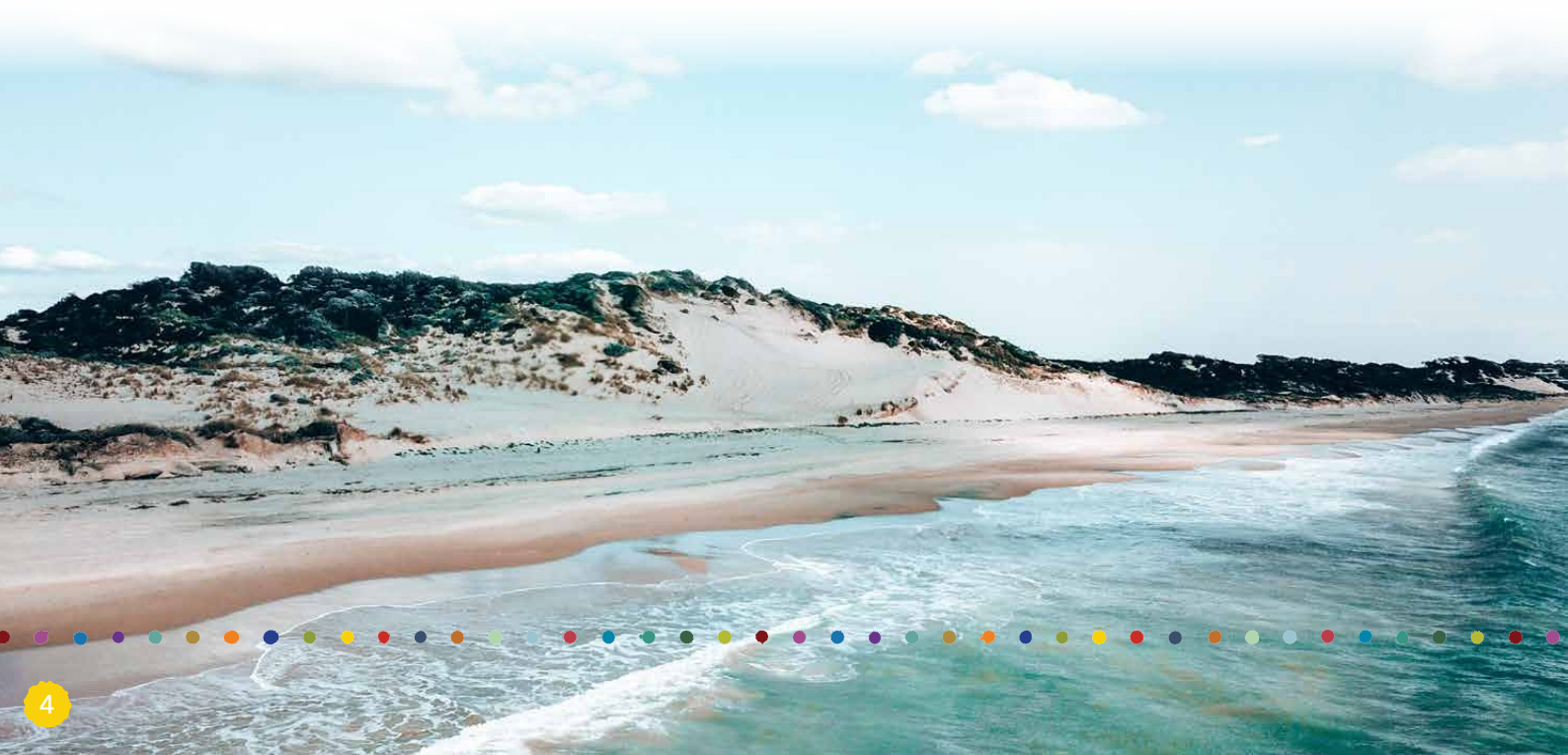
The Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation held two successful ballots this year, one via post and the other in person at the first general meeting.

The elected board of directors was held by postal ballot. The successful candidates were Cheryl Martin, John Penny, Michael Cartledge and Lynette Narkle.

They will be responsible for strategic and financial directions of the corporation, with a number of specific tasks required in the immediate future.

The directors have already appointed two expert directors, Anne Donaldson and Maria Osman, have begun recruiting a CEO, and are working towards finding a suitable office location and setting out a strategic plan.

Members of our first cultural advice committee (CAC) were elected by secret ballot at the first



general meeting. The CAC is made up of Elders who consider matters relevant to culture and make decisions to promote and protect cultural interests of the region.

The female members of the CAC are: Shirley Viti and Lera Bennell (term end 2025); Geraldine Hayden and Annette Garlett (term end 2024); Charne Hayden (term end 2023).

The male members of the CAC are: Gavin Mcguire and Faron Winwood (term end 2025); John Michael and Glen Hayden (term end 2024); Barry Ugle and Mark Ugle (term end 2023).

## FIRST GENERAL MEETING

The Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation's first general meeting was a success, held in Bunbury, on Saturday 16 July 2022.

After a Welcome to Country from Uncle Les Wallam, the meeting was co-Chaired by Lera Bennell and Lynette Narkle, and facilitated by Think Culture.

The first cultural advice committee (CAC) for the Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation was elected by private ballot, with twelve successful candidates.

The outgoing initial directors were thanked for their hard work in setting up the corporation.

The first member elected directors – Cheryl Martin, John Penny, Michael Cartledge and Lynette Narkle – began their terms at the close of the meeting, and are now busy on the next stages of gaining endorsement as the regional corporation, by the Noongar Boodja Trust and the State.

In their joint interim board chair report, Lera Bennell and Lynette Narkle celebrated the historic occasion, and updated members on the journey so far.

"Thank you so much to every one of you who have joined us. The more members we have the more effective we will be in our efforts to build our a strong, sustainable, united Noongar Nation," they said.

"The Southwest Native Title Settlement is a momentous part of our long history as Noongar people. As we all know, it has taken us many, many years for us to get to this point.

"It has taken our past Elders many more years, and some of them were not able to see this day. So, we honour them by continuing their work, to protect and respect our corporation and its potential.

"Now that regional corporations are ready to start work, we will start seeing the results of all of that time and effort."

## INDUCTIONS AND MEETINGS

At the close of the first general meeting, the board of directors and the cultural advice committee took up their roles.

Prior to the general meeting, the directors took part in an information session, and then on 9 August they had their formal induction to the role.

The board has since met regularly and will continue to meet monthly.

The cultural advice committee had its induction session on 11 August, and will also meet monthly.

To get in touch with the board or the cultural advice committee, email [regionalcorporations@noongar.org.au](mailto:regionalcorporations@noongar.org.au).

# YOUR NEW BOARD

## CHERYL MARTIN

Cheryl has vast experience in cultural governance. She is passionate about co-operative and joint management of the conservation estate and identifying economic development opportunities for Noongar people.

## JOHN PENNY

John has extensive experience in community engagement, with qualifications in Indigenous mentoring, career development, employment, finance management, cultural awareness, corporate governance and project management.

## EXPERT DIRECTORS:

### ANNE DONALDSON AND MARIA OSMAN

## MICHAEL CARTLEDGE

Michael has worked with the state government for over 13 years and has a broad range of skills and experience across finance, strategic planning, corporate management, compliance and risk management.

## LYNETTE NARKLE

Lynette is a theatre and film actor and director who has served on boards including Australia Council for the Arts, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts and Yirra Yaakin. She has an Honorary Doctor of Arts from ECU.

# YOUR CULTURAL ADVICE COMMITTEE

Each regional corporation has a cultural advice committee made up of Elders who consider matters relevant to culture, and make decisions to promote and protect our cultural interests.

Matters that may be decided by the committee include:

- Determining what cultural connection exists, or could exist, to support a piece of land being considered 'Cultural Lands' as part of the Noongar Boodja Trust.
- Determining those people who have most knowledge of relevant lands in order for surveys to be properly conducted.
- Determining how cultural knowledge should be recorded, and when and how it is shared with others.
- Determining how Noongar cultural protocols and practices should be acknowledged, valued, honoured and respected, including through welcome to country practices.

## FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE GNAALA KARLA BOOJA CAC:

SHIRLEY VITI  
LERA BENNELL  
GERALDINE HAYDEN  
ANNETTE GARLETT  
CHARNE HAYDEN

## MALE MEMBERS OF THE GNAALA KARLA BOOJA CAC:

GAVIN MCGUIRE  
FARON WINWOOD  
JOHN MICHAEL  
GLEN HAYDEN  
BARRY UGLE  
MARK UGLE

# LANDS UPDATE

## THE NOONGAR LAND ESTATE

The State Government, via the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DLPH), have continued to offer land to the Noongar Boodja Trust (NBT) with year two lands now provided. The NBT will be consulting with the Gnaala Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation cultural advice committee regarding acceptance of these lands.

It is expected this consultation process will commence in early 2023.

## LAND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

SWALSC, as the central services corporation, has been working closely with an IT consultant to design the specifications for an online land management system.

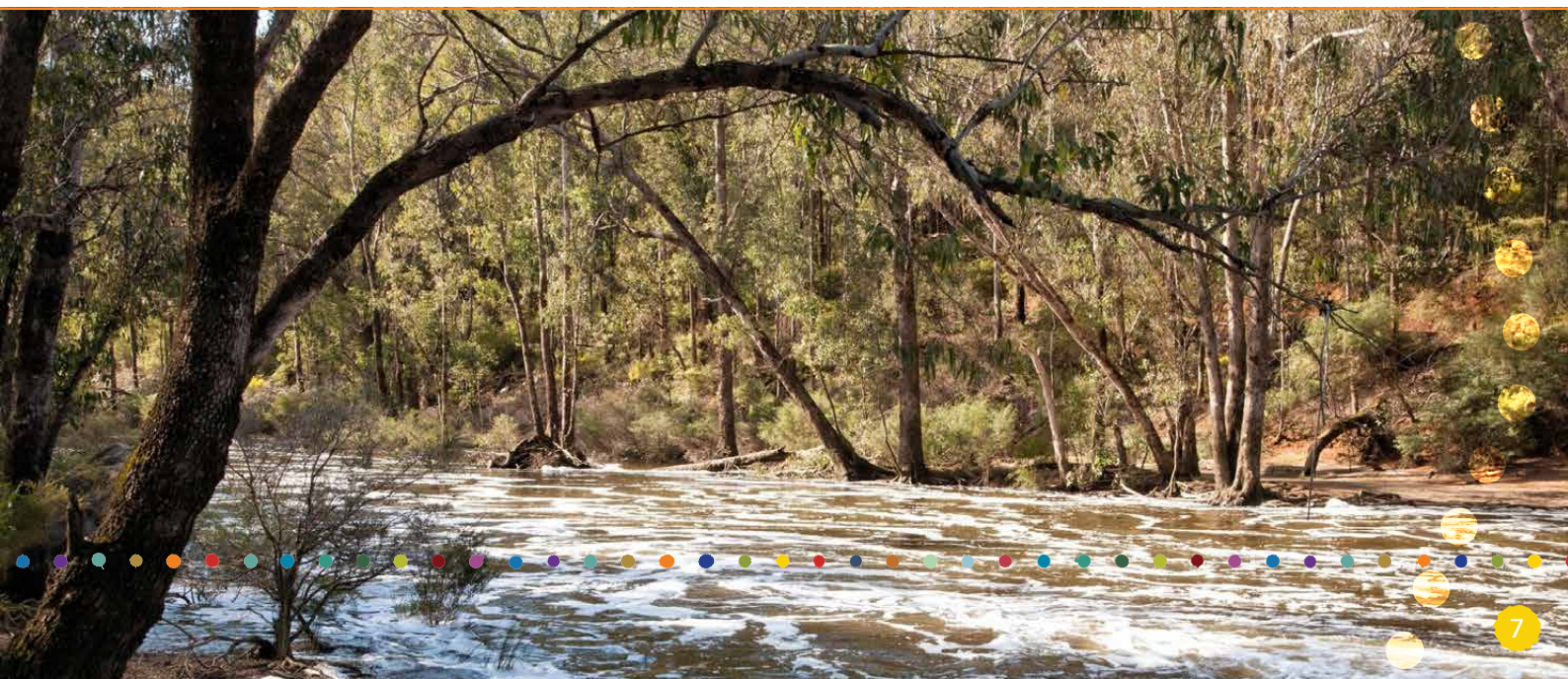
This system will be available to us and each regional corporation to assist with scheduling of land management obligations, cost tracking, mapping of individual land parcels as well as Noongar cultural values, manage Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement processes, and provide advice regarding Noongar land access and the undertaking of Noongar customary activities.

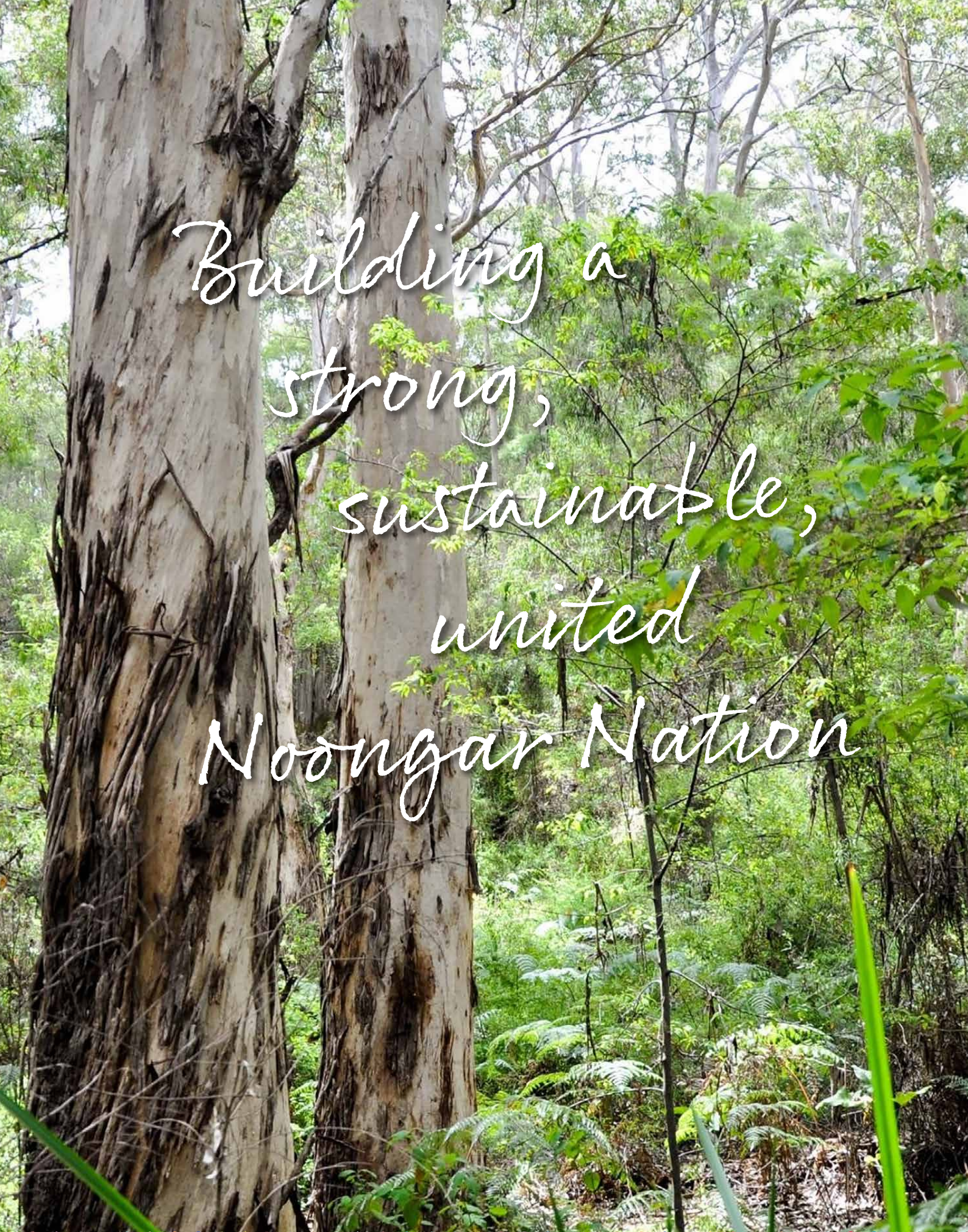
SWALSC will now seek quotes to build the land management system and expects to complete work before the end of 2022.

## SWALSC LANDS SUPPORT

The SWALSC land unit is continuing to work with us to help meet our obligations under the South West Native Title Settlement (SWNTS). This will include support around the establishment of the Cooperative and Joint Management Agreements and Committees with DBCA (Parks and Wildlife) to cooperatively manage all of the Conservation Estate; supporting and facilitating the selection, management and activation lands for Noongar social, economic and cultural purposes; and providing ongoing services and advice in regards to all SWNTS land matters including Noongar land access regimes, the protection of Noongar heritage and values and development of Noongar land management capacity.

For more information on these projects contact SWALSC's lands coordinator, Justin McAllister, at [justin.mcallister@noongar.org.au](mailto:justin.mcallister@noongar.org.au) or on 9358 7400.





*Building a  
strong,  
sustainable,  
united  
Noongar Nation*

**Gnaarla Karla Booja Aboriginal Corporation**

Level 2, 100 Royal Street East Perth WA 6004 PO Box 6383 East Perth WA 6892

Tel 08 9358 7400 Email [regionalcorporations@noongar.org.au](mailto:regionalcorporations@noongar.org.au) [ballardong.org.au](http://ballardong.org.au)