

WA PBC Workshop

20-22 NOVEMBER 2013 Perth

By Claire Stacey



The first state wide meeting of Western Australian Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs), who are also known as Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (RNTBCs), was held on the 20th-22nd November this year at the University Club of Western Australia in Perth, WA. This workshop follows on from a series of regional workshops that have been convened by AIATSIS, in partnership with Native Title Representative Bodies and Service Providers (NTRBs/NTSPs), in Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.

The WA PBC Workshop was attended by representatives from 15 of the 28 PBCs in Western Australia. Representatives from some native title claim groups, NTRBs/NTSPs, the National Native Title Council (NNTC) and Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) also attended the workshop. The workshop was facilitated by Gordon Cole, a Director of the South West

Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) and Lisa Strelein from AIATSIS.

The first day of the workshop focused on mapping what activities PBCs are currently involved in, what PBCs would like to achieve in the future, how PBCs run their business and the barriers that PBCs face. PBCs talked about wanting to achieve cultural, social, economic and environmental outcomes for their communities, but also discussed the challenges facing the majority of PBCs to achieve these outcomes without the financial resources needed to get their PBC off the ground. PBCs also discussed the need for strategic planning, cultural and demographic mapping of their communities, adequate training programs for Directors and the need for formal arrangements between PBCs and their respective NTRB or NTSP.

At one point in the meeting a PBC director from the Pilbara expressed

frustration at the ongoing lack of financial and other resourcing for PBCs, concluding that 'whoever invented PBCs didn't do their homework'.

The second and third days of the workshop provided PBCs with the opportunity to get information about relevant resources and programs and build relationships with government stakeholders. Presentations were made by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), six WA state government departments, the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT), the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC), the Aurora Project, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and the Foundation of Independent Directors of Indigenous Organisations (FIDIO).

The workshop concluded by PBCs at the meeting resolving to form a WA PBC Network, whose aims include PBC networking, lobbying government on behalf of PBCs interests and building regional alliances over specific issues and concerns. PBCs requested the support of AIATSIS to help get the network off the ground and are currently looking at future opportunities to bring PBCs in WA together again.

For more information about the WA PBC Network or AIATSIS's work with PBCs, please contact Claire Stacey at the Native Title Research Unit on (02) 6246 1158 or Claire.stacey@aiatsis.gov.au.

Top: Courtesy of Living with Native Title.

Left: Representatives of PBCs at the WA Workshop, Nov. 20-22, 2013.

Credit: Pamela McGrath





Left to right, top to bottom: Representatives from PBCs inside the WA Workshop, Nov. 20-22, 2013; Marlene Nampatjinpa and Eugenia Leslie-George at the Workshop BBQ; Gordon Cole speaking at the PBC Workshop; Joseph Edgar inside the Workshop; Michelle Riley inside the Workshop.

Credit: Pamela McGrath and Ludger Dinkler