

10 May 2024

Media Release

Larrakia Cultural Centre Construction Contract Awarded

The Larrakia Development Corporation is pleased to announce award of the Larrakia Cultural Centre construction tender, to locally owned and operated construction company Sunbuild.

This is the largest and latest phase of works to be undertaken to deliver a world class Cultural Centre at the foot of a Stokes Hill overlooking Darwin's scenic harbour.

Construction is funded through the Aboriginals Benefit Account and will be completed in early 2026. The Larrakia Cultural Centre will be a place for Larrakia people to share, celebrate and showcase Larrakia Country, Language, Culture and Knowledge with the World.

The project is being managed by the Larrakia Development Corporation with significant contributions to the design and purpose of the Centre by the Larrakia Working Group. The Larrakia Cultural Centre Larrakia Working Group is made up members of the Larrakia community, who have interest and experience in the fields of arts, exhibition, archiving, environment, curation and commercial operations.

The Larrakia Development Corporation undertook a detailed tendering process in late 2023 and invited a number of local contractors including Indigenous contractors to tender. Assessment of tender submissions focused on the contractor's understanding of the project scope, past performance, approach to Larrakia and Indigenous engagement and supporting the local supply chain. Most important to the Larrakia Development Corporation was that the successful tenderer would comply with Larrakia Development Corporation's Indigenous engagement and employment project stipulation.

For over 20 years the Larrakia Development Corporation has held strong to its purpose of 'working for ALL Larrakia' by providing sustainable economic, employment and financial

opportunities for Larrakia. On the construction phase, the target for Indigenous employment is 30% across the whole of project workforce, and an Indigenous subcontracting target of 15%. The Larrakia Development Corporation will work with Sunbuild to drive meaningful engagement and work pathways for our local Larrakia and Indigenous people and businesses.

Quote attributed to Hon Linda Burney MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians

Today is a milestone moment in this long-held ambition of the Larrakia Development Corporation – A place to showcase Larrakia culture and history, and enable Larrakia people to continue caring for the land and sea. An iconic building with a bird-shaped roof will hover over this site – A place for people from across the Territory and across Australia to recognise and celebrate Larrakia culture.

Quote attributed to Minister for Tourism and Hospitality Joel Bowden

The Larrakia Cultural Centre is an iconic project being delivered on a culturally important site here in Darwin's CBD. A place for Larrakia people to share, celebrate and showcase Larrakia Country, language, culture and knowledge with the world. Aboriginal tourism is a significant drawcard for international and domestic visitors and the Larrakia Cultural Centre will boost the opportunity for Territorians and visitors to learn more and experience Larrakia culture and history firsthand.

Quote attributed to Mark Motlop, Chair Larrakia Development Corporation

This project has been a passion of the Larrakia Development Corporation since the signing of the Railway Deed back in 1998. At such an important stage of this project we want to acknowledge all those people and organisations who have played such an important role in bringing the Larrakia Cultural Centre to life.

About the ABA

The key purpose of the Aboriginals Benefit Account is to receive and distribute moneys equivalent to the royalties generated from mining on Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory. The ABA is administered by NIAA, which manages ABA grants approved before 2023. A new Aboriginal-led corporate Commonwealth entity - the Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC) - has been established to invest funding from the ABA and manage a new grants program.

About Larrakia Development Corporation

The Larrakia Development Corporation was officially incorporated under ASIC in February 2002. The Board and management of the Corporation are led by members of the Traditional Owner group of Darwin, the Larrakia people.

Today the Corporation is regarded as one of Australia's leading commercial Aboriginal organisations. It provides employment and business opportunities for Larrakia people through its own wealth creation and entrepreneurial activities.

The prime objective of the Larrakia Development Corporation is to create economic opportunities for all Larrakia people through the creation and operation of sustainable businesses models, and the maintenance of the Larrakia Development Trust.

About Sunbuild

Sunbuild is a key member of the NT's building industry and has been delivering significant building projects since 1993, including iconic Territory projects, such as the Charles Darwin Centre, Darwin Botanical Gardens Visitor Centre and Evolution on Gardiner.

Sunbuild has been committed to their motto 'Build with pride' over the course of their 30-year history, and this is exemplified as the recipient of 45 prestigious building awards during this time.

Media Contacts:

Larrakia Development Corporation – Kate Finch, 0413 633 750