



2023-24

Annual Report



**Indigenous
Desert Alliance**
Keeping the desert connected

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Keeping the desert connected

The Indigenous Desert Alliance (IDA) is a member based organisation that plays a vital role in securing the future health of the Australian desert and its people. It does this by strengthening the existing connections between desert people, empowering Indigenous groups to look after their country and by promoting the importance of the Australian desert.

We work with over 60 ranger groups from across the desert to support in our role 'Keeping the Desert Connected' to empower a united voice for the desert.



Chairperson's Message

Dear IDA Members,

It is a great privilege as the new chair of the Indigenous Desert Alliance (IDA) to present you with the 2023-24 Annual Report.

This report demonstrates our alliance is strong, with good foundation in place to take on the opportunities that our collaborative network makes possible. This report is also a story of learning, sharing and working together. It's a story of our love of Country and the determination of desert rangers to care for our homelands like our old people always have.

Our deepest thanks to outgoing Chairperson Nyaparu Rose, a guide, teacher and leader to all of us. Aunty Nyaparu has been involved with the IDA from the very beginning, dedicated to its mission of empowering desert rangers to do their best. The same must be said of outgoing CEO Lindsey Langford, a true friend for desert mob, always listening and advocating right way. Both Nyaparu and Lindsey will remain close by and together with all the desert ranger teams we will keep this fire burning bright.

There is no better way to keep this fire burning than coming together to mark ten years of connection at the 2024 IDA Conference later this year. Together, we will look back at the successes of desert ranger teams this year, inspire and act on issues that matter to desert rangers today and dream big for our future generations to come. The health of desert Country will always be in good hands with our mob leading the way.

B. Elston

Boyd Elston

Boyd is an Anmatyere man from the Central desert. Boyd is Chairperson of the Indigenous Desert Alliance and a leader in the Regional Land Management team at the Central Land Council. He has previously coordinated the Anangu Luritjiku Rangers who are based out of his home community of Papunya and look after a large area of Country where the Gibson Desert meets the range Country of Central Australia.

Highlights

Desert Women's Leadership

A leadership exchange with a strong focus on giving women rangers opportunities to strengthen their public speaking skills for various audiences, building their confidence and creating leadership pathways for themselves into the future.

Right Way Desert Fire

The world's largest Indigenous fire program. 25 Indigenous ranger teams working together at landscape scale to look after Country the right way.



Malleefowl Workshop

A collaborative workshop bringing together Traditional Owners and Indigenous rangers from the southern deserts to connect up, share local and cultural knowledge and work together on protecting Malleefowl.



Telstra Exchange

GACS Rangers brought Telstra staff slowly into the cultural story of Country, sharing knowledge about Malleefowl, bush food and medicines, visiting cultural and historical sites, and yarning around the campfire with Elders.



SA Arid Lands Indigenous Ranger Gathering

The gathering brought Indigenous land managers together for three days of connecting, learning and sharing on Kokatha Country.



COP28

IDA attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai, to share the desert climate change story.



Ranger Team Exchanges

An increasingly popular platform for keeping the desert connected and sharing skills and knowledge between both emerging and more established Indigenous ranger teams.



Ngururrpa Night Parrot Research

Ngururrpa Rangers were the lead authors on a research paper rooted in two-way science, focusing on Night Parrots living on Ngururrpa IPA in WA's Great Sandy Desert.

CEO Report

IDA Members can be proud of the collaborative work of desert ranger teams this year. Across the desert there is a strong commitment to supporting each other to look after Country the way you want, the right way. The IDA's board and staff are here to support your work and continue the collaborative spirit of this alliance.

Thank you to outgoing Chairperson Nyaparu Rose and CEO Lindsey Langford for their many years of leadership at the IDA. Both have been guiding hands every step of the way since this alliance of desert groups formed and both have created a great path to continue walking on.

The IDA exists to keep the desert connected and looking back on the year that was, we can say that we have brought together groups from across the desert to share, inspire and act on issues that matter to Indigenous rangers. The IDA has continued its collaborative Right Way Desert Fire program to support members with training, planning and burning with Traditional Owners priorities front and centre. Our Significant Species program is demonstrating to the conservation sector that two-way science is not only the right way but the best way. Through initiatives like Mulyamiji March to protect the Great Desert Skink in the Central and Western Deserts and a Malleefowl recovery workshop in November last year for southern desert ranger teams, our alliance is demonstrating what Indigenous led, landscape scale conservation really looks like.

Underpinning all the work the IDA has achieved for its members this year is a healthy network of rangers, undertaking ranger exchanges and professional development to learn and share. We welcome new members, congratulate emerging teams and thank the more established desert ranger programs who are leading the way and bringing us all up with you. Our old people have been looking after Country for generations. Desert mob have never stopped looking after Country, but the Indigenous land management (ILM) sector, as it is today, is still developing. The IDA takes a proactive response to the challenges and opportunities of the ILM sector. Piloting a desert internship program has been a welcome response to sector wide challenges like recruitment and retention. Importantly, the IDA's recently launched Regional Support Program is helping members achieve their goals that matter most to them. This could be anything from ranger mentoring to country planning or logistical support. People look after country, and their needs and capacity are supported through this program first and foremost.

The desert women's leadership trip undertaken in March this year by eight Indigenous women rangers from four desert ranger teams is a good example of the strength in supporting people. This leadership exchange had a strong focus on giving women rangers opportunities to strengthen their public speaking skills for various audiences, building their confidence and creating leadership pathways for themselves into the future. As a Daughter, Mother and Aunt, I believe our young women cannot be what they cannot see. It's a good thing for women to be supporting each other in this way with our Elders always up front with their permission and support.

The IDA's program of work is made possible through a balanced mix of funding that includes its major supporters BHP Foundation; BHP; major philanthropic partners; Lotterywest; the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Natural Heritage Trust and the WA Aboriginal Ranger Program's Innovation Fund. Meaningful partnerships are needed to secure the future of Indigenous land management in the desert. So, on behalf of IDA Members, we sincerely thank all our partners for your commitment and support.

Lastly, it must be acknowledged that the desert is a big and important part of Australia, it's about one-third of the continent, but at times it can feel like few people are listening or recognising the hard work of rangers looking after it. The 2023 Australian Indigenous Voice referendum defeat was a particularly tough time but the strength of our communities and eternal goals of staying connected to Community, caring for Country and continuing on with Culture live on.

For desert mob, we are in the middle of the nation singing out, and in many ways, desert voices are being heard louder and clearer than they ever have before. People from all sides of politics and walks of life are now recognising that the way our mob look after Country is good for everyone. We are a resilient people and as the world deals with climate change, they are looking to us desert mob for answers. This is the message we shared at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai earlier this year, "not only are we culturally looking after Country the right way for our mob but we're also hitting environmental outcomes for you mob." The important work we do as Rangers and land management organisations keeping culture strong is also contributing greatly to the nation's environmental goals.

As we look forward to the year ahead, this is not only a message of resilience but our desert story of empowerment. The IDA will continue its mission to empower Indigenous desert rangers to realise their cultural, environmental and economic aspirations. The desert is in good hands with rangers leading the way.



Sam Murray

Sam is a proud Yilka/Wongutha/Nyoongar woman who grew up in and around Yilka (Cosmo Newberry Community) and Laverton. She is a Traditional Owner of Yilka Country which is situated in the Great Victorian Desert in Western Australia and has connections to the broader Goldfields and Central Desert area. For the past five years, Sam has played a vital role at the IDA, supporting people and managing programs. Prior to starting with the IDA, Sam has worked in many areas such as Education, Indigenous Housing, TAFE and Human Resources.

Strong Ranger Teams

The IDA Network

Keeping the desert connected is a full-time job. The IDA brings its members, desert ranger teams and partners, together across a range of platforms to ensure their story informs the desert story. The IDA is proud to work with over 60 Indigenous desert ranger teams and 26 Indigenous land management member organisations.

In a year without an IDA Conference, it remains vital to continue to provide opportunities for ranger teams to connect and spend time on Country together. Four Ranger Team Exchanges occurred including Nyangumarta Rangers travelling to the APY Lands to learn from one another in managing Black-footed Rock Wallabies, and a team of 13 Punmu and Kunawarritji women rangers embarking on a journey to Alice Springs to meet with Akeyulerre Healing Centre regarding intergenerational transfer of bush medicine knowledge, language, and cultural healing practices.

The IDA also organised a mapping workshop in Alice Springs during November. Seven ranger teams from the NT and SA participated in a two-day workshop facilitated by Kim Mahood. Rangers learned how to prepare a large canvas topographical map to assist with land management and healthy Country programs. Participants discussed how the map could be used for education, the intergenerational transfer of knowledge, and used for recording and program reporting.

There were six ranger coordinator network catchups, which are online meetings for IPA and ranger coordinators to connect and enable peer-to-peer support. The catchups are often topical and may include a guest presenter. Topics that have been covered this year include intercultural facilitation, communication, and working with data and maps.



SA Arid Lands Indigenous Ranger Gathering delegates on Kokatha Country.



Lance Ingomar, Oak Valley Ranger, talks about Nganamara at the Malleefowl workshop.

SA Arid Lands Indigenous Ranger Gathering

The IDA supported South Australia Arid Lands (SAAL) Landscape Board in delivering a two-day event at Roxby Downs Station in South Australia during September, hosted by Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation along with Indigenous ranger delegates from Nantawarrina, Arabana, Yappala, Gawler Ranges, Kanku-Breakaways, Sumayah Surprise, Ngurrara Ranger from WA and Boyd Elston on behalf of and Anangu-Luritjiku from NT also attended to present sessions.

Bringing together rangers from the region provided an opportunity for networking, sharing of ideas and to proudly recognise the collective work of the Indigenous ranger groups in their emerging programs and sectors.

"We got heaps of experienced people out there that's worked on Country, live on Country, (know) how to look after Country... We all want the same outcome. We all want healthy Country."

Sam Stuart, Arabana Rangers

"I've enjoyed it. It's, it's pretty awesome, you know, meeting everyone, connecting with everyone, all the different ranger groups. Learning from other people... I've got my mother who knows about all of this, you know, but working two ways, you know, scientists and Aboriginal people working together. Get everything in motion and don't stand back and wait... We're going to get people coming out or helping us to go, okay, this is what we need to do, you know, and this is how we can work together."

Fifi Harris, Tjiwarl Rangers

Malleefowl Workshop

In October, Traditional Owners, Indigenous rangers and conservation groups from the desert met over three days at Morapoi Station for a Malleefowl recovery workshop. The workshop enabled southern desert ranger teams to connect up, share local and cultural knowledge and work together on protecting Malleefowl. It was hosted by Goldfields Aboriginal Community Services (GACS) with support from the IDA. It brought together over 60 attendees representing different ranger groups across WA and SA, including GACS, Ngadju Conservation Rangers, Spinifex Rangers, Tjiwarl Rangers, Wakamuru AC, Far West Coast Rangers, Yalata Land Management Rangers, Oak Valley Rangers, APY Land Management (Kalka Pipalyatjara and Waru West Rangers), and Esperance Tjaltraak Rangers.

Malleefowl, also known as Nganamara or Gnow, are a culturally significant and threatened species that live on mallee and mulga country in the Southern Deserts. Ranger teams identified their collective needs for more practical support to monitor and track Malleefowl. Teams also identified ways to share information, keep culture strong, and have a voice in the management of national Malleefowl recovery efforts.



Tjuwanpa Women Rangers Sonya and Sheena and Tjuwanpa Rangers Clint and Colin preparing their base map during an IDA coordinated mapping workshop.



Malleefowl Workshop participants.



APY, Wiradjuri and Walgalu ranger groups stand atop Mt Kosciuszko.



GACS and Tjaltjraak rangers at Tjaltjraak's seed bank, Kardutjaanup.

Ranger Team Exchanges

The IDA supports Indigenous ranger teams working in the desert to undertake exchanges. Ranger Team Exchanges support the professional capacity development of desert rangers by maintaining connections between rangers working across the desert (and elsewhere in Australia) and by providing a platform for the exchange of information and enhancement of skills and knowledge.

Nganngi from the desert to the mountains: APY and Wiradjuri/Walgalu rangers

APY Rangers recently re-discovered a new species of Nganngi (frog) on APY Lands, and are now leading a two-way science project to learn more about how to look after Nganngi. Almost 3,000kms away in Kosciuszko National Park, Wiradjuri and Walgalu rangers have successfully rehabilitated the Corroboree frog, which belongs to the same family as the Nganngi found on APY Lands. APY Rangers journeyed to Kosciuszko National Park to connect up with Wiradjuri/Walgalu mob, check out frog habitat and enclosures, visit important cultural sites, and yarn up together about country and land management.

"It was really good to meet those rangers, I'm excited to see them when they come here. Going to Canberra to see that frog was the best week of my life."

David Coombes, APY Ranger



Learning together: GACS and Esperance Tjaltjraak rangers

While planning the October Malleefowl workshop, Goldfields Aboriginal Community Services (GACS) Rangers organised an exchange with Esperance Tjaltjraak Rangers to learn more about looking after Malleefowl, and the ranger work they do on sea country. GACS rangers were involved in a practical session on tracking and locating Malleefowl nests. The session was led by experienced rangers, giving everyone the chance to improve their monitoring skills. GACS also learned about Tjaltjraak's seed bank of native bush tucker and medicine, and their sea country work like island visits, sea life monitoring and water monitoring.

"We learnt so much and are excited to hold our Malleefowl camp in October at Morapoi Station."

Priscilla Reynolds, GACS Ranger

Exchanging knowledge: APY to Monarto Zoo

APY Warru ranger Kumana completed a one-month placement with Monarto Safari Park, building skills in animal handling and the conservation sector. Kumana is using skills developed during the placement to help inform the warru project management on the APY Lands and to provide leadership to his fellow rangers.



Kumana releasing a Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby after a health check.

Connecting through cultural exchange: KJ and CLC rangers

During a cultural exchange trip to celebrate collaboration and connections between Indigenous women ranger teams, a group of KJ Rangers from Punmu and Kunawarritji communities had an opportunity to visit Mparntwe (Alice Springs). Throughout the week, the rangers engaged in various cultural activities in and around Mparntwe and Ltyentye Apurte like exploring the Yeperenye Walking Trail, taking a cultural tour, and making bush medicine. The KJ rangers came away feeling inspired, discussing the cultural activities they would love to share on their country.

"It feels good when you have someone there, Arrernte woman to talk to their ancestors, spirits. When it was over and I said "Thank you for having us. And welcoming us." And they felt happy too, to have us here on Country."

Delisha Attwood, KJ Ranger



Martu Elders Deborah Thomas (left) and Gladys Bidu (right), with Arrernte Elder Veronica Dobson on the Mparntwe cultural exchange.

Sharing knowledge on warru: Nyangumarta and APY Warru rangers

Nyangumarta rangers rediscovered Black-footed Rock-wallaby or Warru on their country, so they travelled from the ranger base in Bidyadanga to APY Lands in New Well, to learn more about looking after Warru from APY Warru rangers. The rangers learnt about trapping, processing and releasing Warru, using Warru scat to choose the right habitat for them, and checked out the Pintji – a 100-hectare fenced enclosure where warru are able to breed without predators around. Nyangumarta rangers are bringing this knowledge back to their country to search for more Warru, and look after the ones they have already found.

"It was a good trip, we loved going on APY Lands. We went there to see Black-footed Wallaby."

Lisa Toby, Nyangumarta Ranger



L-R Ronald Yanawana, Vernon Bellou and Emma Randle processing a warru.



Ltyentye Apurte, Apatula, Tjuwanpa and KJ Women Rangers on the cultural exchange trip.



Nyangumarta ranger Roberta Hunter helps process a warru.



Sector Development

The Sector Development team is working to implement proactive responses to issues and opportunities strategically aligned to IDA Member priorities. This work includes addressing key sector wide challenges with initiatives such as:

- Recruitment and retention of key staff positions – Desert Internship Program.
- Proactive solutions to organisational support structures – Regional Support Program.
- Supporting individual training and mentoring needs and developing future pathways and professional development for desert rangers.

Desert Internship Program

As Indigenous ranger programs have grown across the desert, and nationally, rangers and their organisations have identified the need for better recruitment and retention of ranger coordinators to support ranger team development, leadership and operational capacity. Responding to this issue raised by IDA Members, the IDA created the Desert Internship Program. The program provides a dedicated entry pathway into the sector aiming to attract a broader pool of talent and train potential coordinators with foundational skills to work in ranger coordinator positions. The program was trialled in July 2023, graciously hosted on country by the Birriliburu IPA program.

The recruitment strategy actively targeted 'career-changers' and applicants with transferrable skills and experience from other sectors. Eighty-five candidates applied for this paid internship opportunity, with three intern positions offered. Interns participated in an in-depth coordinator training program focussed on foundational skills for the sector, intercultural communication and facilitation, practical field skills, project management, reporting and resilience & wellbeing. Two of the three program graduates are now employed in the sector. On top of this, the IDA supported a further two program applicants to successfully pursue employment with member organisations.

Based on the level of interest and direct outcomes from this pilot, the IDA is looking for opportunities to grow and expand this program, to deliver greater stability and sustainability of ranger programs through improved preparedness of entrants into the sector into ranger coordinator roles.

"I really like it, for them to see our country, how we live, learn the old ways and listen to the stories and get to know desert people. For them to come and join in with the rangers, experience how to work the right way with us is really important learning two sides, two-way science and cultural way. That's a good thing for people to see. Going out on country, burning, seeing the old ways, learning about the plants and animals, and seeing how we run a trip – getting ready, packing for the trip, being out on country, these are good things to learn to be a coordinator."

S. Long, Birriliburu Ranger

"I wouldn't have known that ranger coordinating was a potential pathway for me and I wouldn't have guessed that I could have the right skillset and background if I wasn't chosen for the internship. I also may not have considered working in the desert without having this kind of experience."

Jo Chibnall, 2023 intern

Ranger Development Program

The Ranger Development Program (RDP) has been a groundbreaking form of support and development for rangers and ranger teams in the Western Australian deserts. It has enabled rangers in very remote areas to receive tailored professional development support in regions which usually miss out, and helped break down the barriers of distance and remoteness.

The RDP has supported ranger teams to learn and build skills through:

- On-country support.
- Ground-up project development.
- Regional knowledge-sharing workshops and events
- Creating leadership opportunities.

During this period, the IDA successfully completed and acquitted Lotterywest support which contributed to the majority of RDP funding. This was a major milestone for the IDA as it was the first major funding agreement wholly entered into by the IDA.

This funding enabled 13 ranger-led, small grants projects, and five regional workshops building skills in leadership and confidence, project management, two-way education facilitation, public speaking and budgeting and financial management. The IDA continues to build on the foundational aspects of the RDP to provide targeted strategic support through the Regional Support Program, a small grant program, and the Indigenous Desert Alliance Foundation (IDAF).



Southwest ranger media workshop participants.

Southwest ranger media workshop

Three southwest ranger teams, Wiluna Martu, Birriliburu and Spinifex, came together for a media training workshop in Perth during November. Throughout the week, rangers worked in small teams, learning how to tell strong stories. Together, rangers familiarised themselves with new filming equipment, practised interviewing skills, learnt to edit content, and brainstormed story ideas to film back on country. To end the week, rangers watched and then reflected on each other's short films.

"I really enjoyed it and doing new things. Learning how to use new technology and how to film and edit are useful skills I can use when I go back home to video. I enjoyed meeting new people, working together and sharing our stories."

Tarlisha Currie, Spinifex Ranger

"[Through the RDP] I've learnt how to be a leader and how to plan what we started and I feel good, for the first time, becoming a leader."

Raylene Lenmardi, Ngurrara Ranger

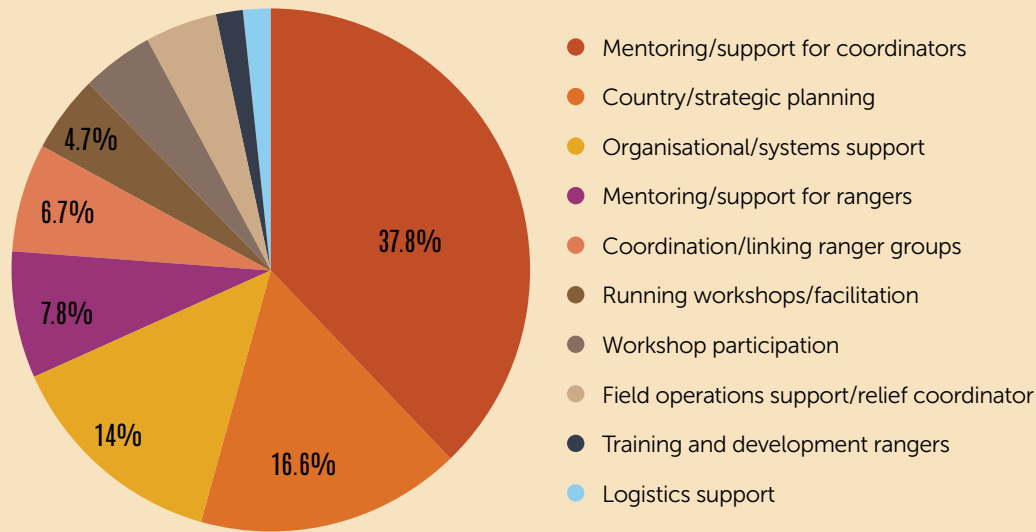


Raylene Lenmardi on Ngurrara Country.

Regional Support Program

Building on the foundations of the Ranger Development Program, the IDA has sought to bolster support to desert land management organisations. Commencing in January 2024, the Regional Support Program deploys regional IDA staff to bolster member organisation capacity and to provide strategic support delivered by experienced land management staff in a way which responds to and supports the needs of organisations at an appropriate level.

Regional Support Officers in this initial period of the project have been building on existing IDA relationships and networks, responding to ranger team needs, and actively listening to rangers and member organisations to ensure that support is focused in the right areas.



Regional Support Unit, Far West South Australia

Having ranger teams working together and collaborating on projects of scale and supporting teams to work together as a network in the Far West Region of South Australia has long been part of a vision for the Oak Valley, Far West Coast and Yalata ranger teams.

Working together with the ranger teams and Far West Community Partnerships (FWCP), the IDA commenced operationalising this plan in October 2023. Through the engagement of a Ceduna-based Regional Support Officer, a Regional Support Unit (RSU) is coming to life. Whilst consulting with rangers to ensure alignment of the RSU to ranger priorities, IDA staff have been using these opportunities to facilitate peer-to-peer ranger activities, and build strong working networks between ranger teams. Working in partnership with the IDA, members have been able to identify key issues and solutions to make sure rangers have the support and resources to do what they excel at – managing country right way.

Through RSU support, ranger teams are planning to establish an ongoing forum to bring rangers together at a regional level and support each other, as well as identify joint training and operational projects. Already, the impacts and benefit of keeping ranger teams connected

at a regional level are being observed, and solutions being implemented to respond to region specific opportunities and challenges. Examples of the impacts and benefits so far have included:

- Supporting ranger teams to have a strong network at a regional level.
- Providing human resourcing (HR) and induction support for new ranger coordinators to enable consistency for ranger teams.
- Supporting funding applications for the growth and expansion of ranger teams.
- Identifying wage funds to make sure rangers are able to keep working consistently on country at times of funding uncertainty.
- Providing relief ranger coordination to make sure rangers have been able to continue seasonally dependent projects, e.g. managing to contain buffel grass impacts at priority sites.

The RSU is supported by Far West Community Partnerships, as part of the Stronger Places, Stronger People initiative of the Australian Government Department of Social Services.



Arabana Media Training

In 2023-24 the IDA has supported three ranger-led project initiatives with South Australian Indigenous desert ranger teams, including Arabana, Nantawarrina IPA and Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation Ranger Teams.

The Arabana Rangers utilised a small grant to undertake media training to tell their own desert stories right way. The training covered video and photography skills, equipment familiarisation and storytelling techniques, such as storyboarding, message framing and interviewing. With these skills and training, the Arabana rangers are now better equipped to share their own stories the right way.

“I can’t wait till we start doing this properly, I’m serious!”

Stanley Wingfield, Arabana Cultural Liaison Ranger



“Looking after country, teaching our community, school kids and keeping our traditions is what we do as rangers. This exchange with Telstra is another way we can share knowledge of Country and show what rangers do best.”

Priscilla Reynolds, GACS Ranger Coordinator

GACS and Telstra Exchange

The IDA partnered with the Telstra Foundation and Goldfields Aboriginal Community Services on an on-country two-way exchange program in June 2024 to tell stories from the desert to the world. Hosted on Wangkatha County, the program is based on a week-long on-country immersion experience for senior Telstra executives to enable sharing, storytelling and reconciliation, as told through a collaborative digital storytelling project.

This experience helped bring out the best of everyone involved and was a genuine act towards reconciliation and respect for First Nations leadership and ways of working. Everyone went home feeling connected, with stories to share and new friendships formed. With desert country often overlooked in Australia, rangers know that sharing knowledge of country with their Elders and showing what rangers do is a great way to advocate for the desert.





Desert Women's Leadership Program participants.

Women's Leadership Program

In March, eight Indigenous women rangers from four ranger teams across the desert travelled to Naarm (Melbourne) for the 2024 Desert Women's Leadership trip. Lisa, Roberta, Sunny, Kalina, Caitlin, Pricilla, Sheena and Jeanina were selected from Nyangumarta, Nantawarrina IPA, Goldfields ACS and Tjuwanpa Women Rangers. The leadership exchange had a strong focus on giving women rangers opportunities to strengthen their public speaking skills for various audiences, building their confidence and creating leadership pathways for themselves into the future.

This trip, run in collaboration with The Thin Green Line, built on the success of the 2023 pilot, to grow the opportunity for desert women to speak up strong for Country. Over the course of the trip, the women rangers gave seven presentations to over 600 people and various groups, including Taungurung Rangers, Mornington Secondary School, Parks Vic Rangers, family businesses, corporate groups and sponsors.

The trip was a great opportunity for the women to connect with the wider Australian conservation network, and to speak up strong about Country, culture and being a ranger, to put the desert on the map.

"This was really good learning about different things what rangers do from different places and I was happy to meet the ladies and learn about this different country."

Roberta Hunter, Nyangumarta Ranger

"Forging the way for other women', that's what I am thinking and was thinking before coming."

Priscilla Reynolds, GACS Ranger Coordinator



Nantawarrina rangers Sunny Coulthard and Kalina Saunders present about their ranger work.

Curtin University Partnership

In August 2023, the IDA entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Curtin University to share knowledge and expertise and identify how a partnership could support building resilience in the Indigenous Land Management sector for the desert.

Working primarily with the Indigenous Stewardship, Biodiversity and Environment Group (ISBE) & ARC Training Centre for Healing Country led by Prof Stephen van Leeuwen, the IDA has been exploring how this opportunity may build resilience within the Indigenous Land Management sector in the desert by:

- Building pathways into the ranger sector.
- Creating pathways for rangers to access university education.
- Supporting and elevating desert Indigenous knowledge and community two-way teaching and learning.

The IDA has been working with the Wiluna community and Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Aboriginal Corporation to co-design what a 'field school' hosted by Wiluna may look like as a way of building stronger cultural awareness within Curtin. The IDA has also commenced work on developing desert specific course material for Curtin 'micro credentials' which will form part of a new Indigenous Land Management degree with a vision to supporting desert rangers to have their knowledge recognised and accredited at a university level.

IDA Foundation

The Indigenous Desert Alliance Foundation (IDAF) provides critical funding and support to build the capacity of Indigenous ranger teams to deliver the highest standard of environmental and cultural stewardship for the Australian desert. 100% of funding through the foundation is directed to grants supporting on-ground priorities determined by Indigenous ranger teams.

The IDAF was able to achieve a significant milestone in the reporting period, having run its inaugural grant ground. Nine applications were approved for funding with eight applications progressing to the grant contracting stage. The IDAF team is now focused

on managing contracts, evaluating progress, and incorporating feedback and lessons learned to improve and refine our approach to funding and working with beneficiaries. It is anticipated that a second grant round will be held in late 2024.

The IDA held an official launch of the IDAF in March 2024 which has significantly boosted its profile. In June, a smaller event was held in Melbourne to share the IDAF story, as well as seek funding and advice from local philanthropists.

"Coming out Country makes you feel good. You open your mind and your heart, and you reset again in your spirit. It makes me feel strong inside, you know, in our spirit, because we as young people we carry our land, our old people, our ancestors with us inside. And even though they pass in the flesh and body, spirit, they go back home to places like this. We feel them, feel their love, feel their presence, and it gives us strength to keep going."

Nuriah Jada, KJ Martu Ranger



KJ's Kalyuku Ninti Return to Country trip, funded through an IDAF grant.

"They [the old people] been looking after these tjakuras for a long time. That's why it's for us mob to look after it, and the young fellas."

Cedric Thompson, Mala Ranger



Participants of the Predator Management Workshop held at Uluru.



Central Land Council Warlu Meeting at Tennant Creek.



Wiluna Martu Rangers during their Mulyamiji March survey.

Desert Projects

Significant Species Program

In the past year the IDA's Significant Species program supported ranger teams across the desert to initiate, develop and implement multiple two-way science projects. These innovative projects integrated traditional knowledge and cultural priorities with scientific aims and used both traditional methods and cutting-edge technology. The project enabled rangers and Traditional Owners to take a leading role in management activities for the protection of threatened species including Night Parrot, Great Desert Skink and Bilby.

Eighteen threatened species surveys were conducted on country during the period. This number includes surveys done for the second annual Mulyamiji March survey as an action of the Great Desert Skink recovery plan. Rangers were highly engaged by the survey work and further developed their monitoring skills. Other projects developed predator management programs tailored to rangers' local contexts. As a whole, these activities supported rangers to develop expert skills, achieve licensing for new technology and build their capacity for research.

The IDA's Significant Species program provided support for rangers to contribute a voice from the desert to important national forums and academic research. Some examples include:

- Supported the Kiwirrkurra Ranger Team to present to the Threatened Species Commissioner's National Feral Cat Taskforce.
- Gathered and collated contributions from multiple ranger teams for the Night Parrot National Conservation Advice and forthcoming Recovery Plan.
- Facilitated a four-day predator workshop at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park for 34 rangers from six ranger teams to ensure their traditional knowledge and expertise creates the backbone of the predator control strategy that the IDA has been commissioned to write for the Park.
- Supported Warlpiri ranger Christine Ellis-Michaels to present on feral cat control at the Territory NRM conference.

These activities positioned Indigenous rangers' voices front and centre in conversations relating to desert land management and raised the profile of their work.



85
sites surveyed

119
rangers



12
ranger teams



486
burrow systems found

Ngururrpa rangers look after Night Parrot

The Ngururrpa Ranger Team are looking after the largest known population of Night Parrots in the world. They worked with IDA ecologist Rachel Paltridge to understand how best to manage threats to Night Parrots. They collected data for management by:

- Surveying for Night Parrot using songmeters and night listening.
- Using camera traps and tracking surveys to monitor feral animals.
- Collecting predator scats for analysis.
- Documenting traditional knowledge about Night Parrot habitat.

All this research was collated in a journal article written from the dual perspectives of rangers and scientists. The article will be published in the international journal, Wildlife Research, and gives a two-way science overview of Night Parrot knowledge. The rangers' contribution was written in their own words and they were credited as lead author to highlight the importance of their knowledge. This is a great example of rangers taking the lead and speaking up for the desert.



Ngururrpa rangers Isaac Sunfly, Clifford Sunfly, Eli Gill and Luke Parker trialling Felixers to control feral cats around Night Parrot sites.

"Rangers are working together with the scientists to learn two-ways – the science way and the traditional way. For the traditional way, we read the country – by looking at the area and knowing where there could be water around, and looking at the plants they [Night Parrot] eat and measuring the distance from where they could have their home to the water, to where they eat. We are also using technology, science way, to look for nests."

Clifford Sunfly, Ngururrpa Ranger Team



Spinifex Rangers assessing burn photos.

Right-Way Desert Fire Program

In 2023/24 the IDA's Right-Way Desert Fire (RWDF) program continued to support members by providing funding, landscape-scale coordination and specialised support for their fire work. Led by Traditional Owners, IDA members worked collaboratively to undertake culturally informed fire work that resulted in outcomes that reflect traditional practice. Ranger teams undertook training in aerial burning practices, met together to do fire planning for their Country and spent time on Country undertaking fire work.

"It's good working with other groups. Fires that start on their side might come over to us and fires on ours might go to them. Working together we protect each other, looking after neighbours."

Braeden Taylor, Karajarri Ranger Coordinator

The IDA's RWDF program was primarily funded by an 18-month Australian government grant which concluded in mid-2023. However, the committed work of rangers in successfully implementing the program was recognised by both the federal government and the state government. The Australian Government invited the IDA to apply for a grant to continue this important work through the Natural Heritage Trust: Right-Way Desert Fire grant opportunity. The IDA's tender was successful and guarantees funding for the program until early 2026. The Western Australian Government recognised the importance of collaborative fire management by awarding funding to the Southern Deserts Right-Way Fire Project through the Aboriginal Ranger Program's Innovation Fund.

This renewed funding is very significant as it means the RWDF program can continue to achieve deep impacts. More rangers involved in more fire work through to 2026 will protect the desert against devastating summer bushfires. Importantly, the program will also allow rangers to maintain their connection to country as they look after cultural places and significant species.



Ngururpa and Ngurra Kayanta on a burning trip at Yagga Yagga.

"It's good that we are all getting together and talking about what things we've been doing in each of our groups, with the rangers and the TOs, and learning more about how to keep the country good."

Enid Nangala Gallagher, South Tanami IPA Ranger Team



Right Way Desert Fire



57

rangers and Traditional Owners involved



23

burning days in total



Ngaanyatjarra rangers planning the burn.

Ngaanyatjarra collaborative burning

The Ngaanyatjarra Ranger Team arranged a large collaborative fire trip that brought together Traditional Owners and community members from across the Ngaanyatjarra IPA involving people from Warakurna, Warburton and Tjukurla. Supported by the IDA, the trip allowed old people to share cultural and ecological knowledge with young people and to undertake burning together.

The trip is a great example of a holistic approach that ensures cultural priorities guide fire management practices. On the first night, senior knowledge holders sang the songs for the Country and the next day the rangers followed these song lines, visiting important cultural sites. The senior people provided the cultural authority for the rangers' work giving them permission to burn at appropriate places. That evening, song again filled the night sky as the senior knowledge holders shared the song lines of the day's journey. During the following days rangers undertook cultural inspections flights and aerial burning, visited and recorded cultural sites and hunted for bush foods.

"Remembering all the old tracks we made, it's good to remember... that's why we came."

Maime Butler, Ngaanyatjarra Ranger

Nature Markets Program

The IDA came a step closer this year to achieving its aim of enabling desert rangers to access emerging biodiversity markets. Last year the IDA’s Desert Habitat Method (DHM or ‘the method’) was accredited by Accounting for Nature. This innovative approach, developed by scientists and informed by desert rangers, shows the impact of rangers’ fire programs on country. It measures and reports on the condition of native vegetation as habitat for native animals within Australia’s spinifex dominated desert regions.

In 2023-24, the IDA secured a two-year Innovative Biodiversity Monitoring grant from the Australian Government to test the DHM in trials with four ranger groups. These trials will give the IDA the opportunity to:

- Share the method with rangers.
- Ensure that the method is consistent with ranger and TO knowledge and goals.
- Ground truth fire scar and rainfall data which is used in the method.
- Work with rangers to establish local monitoring sites.

Work began with an online information workshop attended by 32 people representing 18 land management organisations. The first trial workshop on Country was also held with the Kiwirrkurra Ranger Team. During the workshop, rangers learnt about the method and contributed their feedback and input for its further testing and refinement. Next year the Kiwirrkurra Ranger Team will implement the DHM on a test site on their IPA.

Later in 2024 the Nyangumarta Ranger Team will begin their participation in the DHM trials. In 2025 another two ranger teams will be recruited to the trials. Discussions are currently underway with potential teams to select areas which will enable testing in a variety of conditions.

“We are keen to be included in this trial. Biodiversity markets could be the next big thing for desert mobs.”

José Kalpers, YMAC Program Manager (Nyangumarta Ranger Team)



DHM mapping activity.



Kiwirrkurra ranger Yalti participates in the DHM trial mapping activity.

“We been doing this [burning] for long time. It’s what we do in life. It’s burning for going hunting, look after country proper way. It’s [the DHM] probably gonna... allow us to do more burning on country.”

Conway Gibson, Kiwirrkurra Ranger Team

Kiwirrkurra rangers participating in a mapping activity during the Desert Habitat Method workshop on Kiwirrkurra IPA.



Aerial view of right way desert fire on Ngurrara Country at sunset.

Strong and United Voice

Advocacy

The IDA's role is to act as a united voice for the desert, working closely with members who set the agenda. In 2023-24 the IDA's advocacy approach continued to be proactive and collaborative to elevate and empower desert Indigenous communities, ensuring that their voices are heard, and their concerns addressed on multiple fronts. This approach includes maintaining and building profile with relevant government agencies, like-minded private conservation partners, funders and supporters. The IDA's advocacy is leading to further opportunities to extend its programmatic work in key areas of interest.

The IDA has been active in many areas of advocacy including:

- Collaborating on key government submissions on topics or activities related to the desert, for example, a submission to the NT Government advocating for Buffel Grass to be listed as a weed.
- Consultations on Climate Adaptation with the Australian and Western Australian Governments.
- Sam Murray delivering a keynote presentation at the national Biodiversity Conference, hosted at the University of Western Australia (October 2023).
- Working with and on behalf of IDA Members in developing appropriate nature market solutions for desert rangers based on cultural land management practice. This includes ensuring Indigenous voices are included in the design of the Nature Repair Market through strategic engagement with government and Indigenous partners, and advocating for Indigenous leadership in national and international markets. This advocacy approach has included participation in prominent panels and promoting Indigenous-led desert biodiversity initiatives to ensure they are represented and recognised in the broader market.
- IDA staff presenting at the PLC23 Conference hosted by the Australian Private Lands Conservation Alliance (October 2023).
- Sam Murray and IDA Coordinator Jon Hodgetts attending and presenting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (November 2023).
- Attending the BHP Foundation supported Indigenous Carbon Exchange and Environmental Resilience Program Partners Meeting, hosted by Indigenous Awajún communities in Peru (April, 2024).
- Engaging consistently with organisations on matters of shared interest, such as Indigenous Carbon Industry Network, Invasive Species Council, Biodiversity Council, Australian Land Conservation Alliance, Arid Lands Environment Centre, to further amplify Indigenous voices of the desert.
- Engaging with an Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) hosted workshop on prescribed burning.
- The IDA's Right Way Desert Fire program, including Indigenous desert rangers, presenting at several events including AFAC Conference in Brisbane, (August 2023), the Savannah Fire Forum (February 2024) and the Fire Behaviour and Fuels Conference (March 2024).
- The IDA's Significant Species program supporting Indigenous rangers to contribute a voice from the desert to important national forums and academic research.
- Supporting the South Australia Arid Lands Landscape Board in delivering a two-day Indigenous Ranger Gathering at Roxby Downs Station, Kokatha Country.



First Nations gathering at the COP28 Australian Pavilion



Participants of the BHP Indigenous Carbon Exchange with Indigenous Awajún communities in Peru.



Karajarri Rangers presenting at the Biodiversity Conference, UWA.

Communications and Media

The IDA's communications and media strategy to amplify the voices of desert rangers compliments the IDA's advocacy approach.

This strategy has resulted in robust media coverage through traditional outlets and its expanding social media presence, highlighting the central role desert rangers play in caring for desert Country and their broader positive impact.

Notable examples of mainstream media engagement that centralised Indigenous ranger voices include:

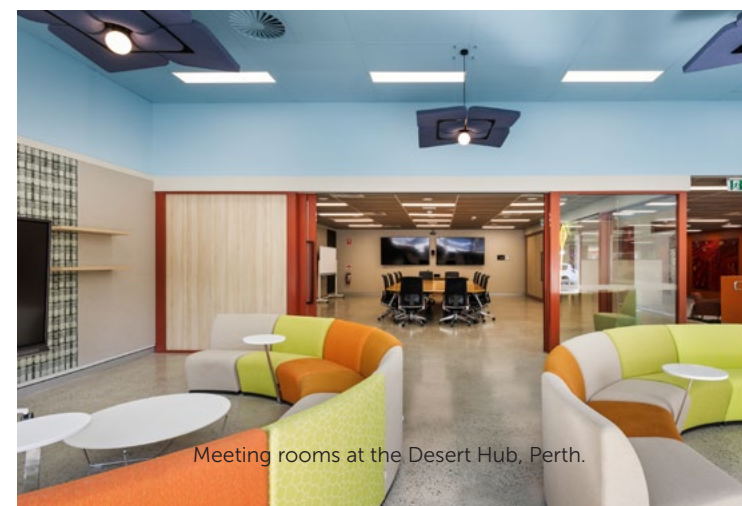
- Coverage of events like the Mulyamiji March, an IDA coordinated monitoring event for the threatened Great Desert Skink, which gained national press coverage and showcased the diverse narratives within our membership, with high levels of engagement across social media platforms. This has included participation of ABC television personality Tony Armstrong at the Mulyamiji March event.
- Publication of an opinion piece by then Deputy CEO Sam Murray about the impacts of climate change on desert country in WAtoday, The New Daily and National Indigenous Times.
- Publication of an opinion piece by Chairperson Boyd Elston, outlining the landscape scale success of desert rangers burning country the right way. This was preceded by another news article initiated by the IDA that was published in The Australian about the Right Way Desert Fire program.
- The IDA's social media storytelling has increased its reach in 2023-24 by 11.2%, connecting with more than 840,000 unique users across mainstream platforms. A single recruitment post for the Desert Internship Program reached 40,000 Australians to promote the opportunities of working with Indigenous rangers. This post formed part of a larger marketing campaign to attract quality candidates. Through a regular calendar of digital story sharing, the IDA is helping to put the desert on the map.

Desert Hub

In early 2024 the IDA completed the build and fit-out of the Desert Hub in the city of Perth.

The Desert Hub is a culturally appropriate and creative meeting place for Indigenous desert rangers and land management organisations. It's a highly immersive and visual space where desert mob can feel connected, comfortable and at home while doing business. It's a place to host events, conduct workshops, deliver training, utilise a media and recording studio, and meet with government and funders.

The Desert Hub is free for IDA Members to hire, and discounted rates apply for not-for-profit organisations. It is already being utilised by both member and non-member Indigenous organisations as a culturally safe space for Indigenous people to connect and collaborate.



Meeting rooms at the Desert Hub, Perth.



Right Way Desert Fire news article in The Australian newspaper.

Strong Organisation

IDA Board of Directors

The 2023-2024 Financial Year has been a year of growth for the IDA, reflecting strongly on the positive and steady leadership of the IDA Board. The IDA Board has been led by its Chairperson, Boyd Elston, who stepped into the role after the IDA's long serving former Chair, Nyaparu Rose, finished her term as an IDA director. The IDA Board managed this transition seamlessly by appointing Boyd as Co-chair with Nyaparu for a period, to provide Boyd with the opportunity to be mentored by Nyaparu and to develop a solid understanding of the responsibilities and expectations of being the Chair of the IDA.

At the 2023 Annual General Meeting, the IDA Board welcomed new Directors Wanda Miller (Southeast Ward), Sam Stuart (Southeast Ward), Helen Wilson (Northeast Ward) and Leah Royle (Independent Director) whose knowledge, experience and skills have all contributed towards the IDA achieving its strategic objectives.

The IDA Board has worked with management to ensure that the IDA is meeting the needs and aspirations of Indigenous ranger teams. This includes by reviewing the organisational structure and closely monitoring the implementation of the strategic plan ensuring that the IDA is a fit for purpose and nimble organisation that can respond to the growing demands on the sector as well as elevating Indigenous desert voices. An example of this is the nature repair market space, which is moving at a pace and complexity that many small Indigenous land management organisations, but for the involvement of the IDA, may not be able to keep up with.

As the organisation has continued to grow, the Board has overseen its regular review of the IDA's policies, working hard to ensure that the IDA's policies and procedures continue to be both up to date from a legal perspective and are best practice. Examples of policies implemented by the Board this year have been Respect@ Work Policy, Social Media Use Policy and Director Remuneration Policy. Policies that have been updated include the Grievance Policy, Bullying and Harassment Policy and Delegations Policy.



Board and Committees

The Board meets at least four times a year, with a meeting schedule adopted early in the calendar year. At each meeting, the Board considers the IDA's performance against its strategic plan and monitors its financial position, risk management, workplace health and safety systems and key operational activities. Detailed reports are provided to the Board by the management team.

Committees

The Board has also established committees to assist the Board by considering aspects of the business in more detail and providing recommendations to both management and the Board.

Each committee has a Terms of Reference set by the Board which includes the committee's roles, responsibilities and reporting requirements.

Committees are in the following areas:

Risk Committee

The Risk Committee oversees the effectiveness of the IDA's Risk Management Framework. It performs its role through:

- a. overseeing risk appetite and risk tolerance appropriate to each business area;
- b. considering the risk policy and strategy;
- c. ensuring that there are adequate organisational processes and systems for identifying and reporting risks and deficiencies, including emerging risks;
- d. overseeing compliance with the stated risk appetite and policies and procedures related to risk management governance and the risk controls framework;
- e. monitoring the alignment of the risk framework to the organisation's growth, supporting a culture of risk taking within sound risk governance;
- f. having an overview of the key risk issues identified across the organisation and the wider network.

The Risk Committee is comprised of Board Members, Management and an external Risk Advisor.

Finance and Audit Committee

The Financial and Audit Committee was established to assist the Board in its oversight of the integrity of the IDA's financial reporting, including supporting the Board to meet its responsibilities regarding financial statements, the financial reporting systems and internal controls. It also monitors, on behalf of the Board, the effectiveness and objectivity of external auditors.

Its members include Directors, senior management and Paxon, IDA's external financial services provider.



Indigenous Desert Alliance Foundation Committee

This is a new committee which has been established to support the IDA Board in the administration and operation of the Indigenous Desert Alliance Foundation (IDAF). The Committee has been tasked with:

- a. supporting the IDA Board in the administration and operation of the IDAF;
- b. considering, providing advice and making recommendations on funding applications; within the delegations set by the IDA Board; and
- c. making recommendations to the IDA Board about the IDAF and its operation, including matters that contribute to continuous improvement.

The IDAF Committee is comprised of up to six members and currently includes both of IDA's Independent Directors and four externals.

Board Meetings

IDA Board meetings are held both virtually and in person at least four times a year.

Board meetings were held on 27 July 2023, 23 and 24 August 2023, 19 October 2023, 13 and 14 February 2024 and 1 and 2 May 2024. The eligibility to attend meetings and Board Meeting attendance over the 2022/2023 reporting period was as follows:

Board Member	Ward	Meeting Attendance	Notes
Nyaparu Rose	Northwest	3/3	Term ended 2023 AGM
Andrew Minyardie	Northwest	5/5	
Boyd Elston	Northeast	4/5	
Helen Wilson	Northeast	4/5	*See note below
Harvey Murray	Southwest	3/5	Resigned June 2024
Vacant	Southwest	-	
Sam Stuart	Southeast	2/3	*See note below
Wanda Miller	Southeast	1/2	Appointed 2023 AGM
Rob Carruthers	Independent	5/5	
Stephen Moloney	Independent	0/3	Resigned 2023 AGM
Leah Royle	Independent	2/2	Appointed 2023 AGM

*At the 27 July Board meeting, the IDA Board appointed Helen Wilson (Northeast Ward) to fill a casual vacancy until the 2023 AGM. Helen was then appointed by the Membership as an IDA Director at the 2023 AGM.

*At the 23-24 August Board meeting, the IDA Board appointed Sam Stuart (Southeast Ward) to fill a casual vacancy until the 2023 AGM. Sam was then appointed by the Membership as an IDA Director at the 2023 AGM.

Management team

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has responsibility for the day-to-day management of the organisation via a formal delegations from the IDA Board. The CEO leads the IDA team and is responsible for the implementation of the strategic and business plans.

The senior management team for the 2023-24 Financial Year was comprised of CEO Lindsey Langford, Deputy CEO Samantha Murray, Chief Operations Officer Emmanuel Hondros, Legal & Governance Officer Christina Araujo, Desert Partnerships Manager Gareth Catt and Head of Philanthropy Angela Bowman.

During the 2023-2024 Financial year, CEO Lindsey Langford worked with Deputy CEO Samantha Murray and the Board to transition Samantha into the role of CEO. Samantha commenced in the role as the CEO of the IDA on 1 July 2024.

Risk management

The IDA continues to focus heavily on risk management and mitigation across the organisation and activities. The Risk Committee, Management Team and the IDA Board engage in regular and proactive risk identification, management and mitigation of strategic, financial, operational, reputational, legal, compliance and governance risks. The IDA has implemented a range of processes to ensure that identifying and managing risk is an on-going exercise across all parts of the organisation and undertaken by all staff.

The Risk Committee meets four times a year where it reviews IDA's risk register, ensuring that it is up to date, responsive and complies with any legal requirements. The Committee and the IDA more broadly, benefits from advice from an independent and expert risk adviser. The Committee reports up to the Board, who sets IDA's risk appetite and provides oversight on how risk is being managed.

In the 2023-2024 reporting period, the Risk Committee undertook an extensive review of the risk register and has consolidated the register to ensure that it accurately encompasses risks faced by the organisation and that control and management measures are appropriate and responsive.

Workplace health and safety

The IDA prioritises safety through a robust safety management system and a strong safety culture, guided by the Board and supported by the Workplace Health and Safety Committee. The Committee meets regularly to review all incidents, systems and procedures. All incidents and any incident management responses are reported through to the Board.

Additionally, Member Directors and Traditional Owner staff provide leadership and advice to ensure that the IDA offices and operations are culturally safe and foster an inclusive workplace. This commitment underscores the importance of safety and cultural awareness within the organisation.

Members

As of 30 June 2024, the IDA had 26 members across its four wards. In the 2023-24 reporting period, it welcomed four new members: Arabana Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, Nipapanha Aboriginal Corporation, Karajarri Traditional Lands (Aboriginal Corporation) RNTBC and Tjiwarl Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC.

Membership of the IDA is subject to the requirements set out in the IDA Constitution. However, it is important to note that Indigenous ranger teams in the desert may access projects and services provided by the IDA regardless of whether their organisation is a member of the IDA.

Ranger Teams and Co-Management Boards

APY Land Management

- 1 - Antara-Sandy Bore Rangers
- 2 - Apara-Makiri-Punti Rangers
- 3 - Kalka-Pipalyatjara Rangers
- 4 - Walalkara Rangers
- 5 - Warru East Rangers
- 6 - Warru West Rangers
- 7 - Watarru IPA Rangers

Arabana Aboriginal Corporation

- 8 - Arabana Rangers

Australian Wildlife Conservancy

- 9 - Newhaven Sanctuary Rangers
- 10 - Ngallurtju Sanctuary Rangers

Central Land Council

- 11 - Anangu Luritjiku Rangers
- 12 - Anmatyerr Rangers
- 13 - Aputula Rangers
- 14 - Akityarre Rangers
- 15 - Kaltukutjarra Rangers
- 16 - Ltyentye Apurte Rangers
- 17 - Murnkurumurnkurru Rangers
- 18 - Muru-warinyi Ankkul Rangers
- 19 - North Tanami Rangers
- 20 - Tjakura Rangers
- 21 - Tjuwanpa Rangers
- 22 - Walungurru Rangers
- 23 - Warlpiri Rangers
- 24 - Utopia Rangers

Coober Pedy Council

- 25 - Kanku-Breakaways Co-management

Desert Support Services

- 26 - Birriliburu Rangers
- 27 - Kiwirrkurra Rangers
- 28 - Kulyakartu Rangers
- 29 - Marputu Rangers
- 30 - Ngurra Kayanta Rangers
- 31 - Ngururra Rangers
- 32 - Wakamurru Rangers

Dugalunji Aboriginal Corporation

- 33 - Lake Eyre Basin Rangers

Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation

- 34 - Far West Coast Rangers

Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation

- 35 - Gawler Ranges Rangers AC

Goldfields Aboriginal Community Services

- 36 - GACS Rangers

Jamukurnu Yalikurnu Aboriginal Corporation

- 37 - Martu Rangers

Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa (KJ)

- 38 - Jigalong Rangers
- 39 - Kunawarrtji Rangers
- 40 - Parnngurr Rangers
- 41 - Punmu Rangers

Karajarri Traditional Lands Association

- 42 - Karajarri Rangers

Kimberley Land Council

- 43 - Kumirrki Rangers
- 44 - Paruku Rangers

Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation

- 45 - Kokatha Rangers

Maralinga Tjarutja Aboriginal Corporation

- 46 - Oak Valley Rangers

Ngaanyatjarra Council

- 47 - Blackstone Rangers
- 48 - Warakurna Rangers
- 49 - Warburton Rangers
- 50 - Jameson Rangers

Ngadju Conservation Aboriginal Corporation

- 51 - Ngadju Rangers

Nipapanha Aboriginal Corporation

- 52 - Nantawarrina Rangers

Nyangumarta Warrarn Aboriginal Corporation

- 53 - Nyangumarta Rangers

Pila Nguru Aboriginal Corporation

- 54 - Spinifex Rangers

Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Aboriginal Corporation

- 55 - Wiluna Martu Rangers

Tjirilya Aboriginal Corporation

- 56 - Mt Willoughby Rangers

Tjiwarl Aboriginal Corporation

- 57 - Tjiwarl Rangers

Tjuwanpa Aboriginal Corporation

- 58 - Tjuwanpa Womens Rangers

Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation

- 59 - Nyinkina Mangala Rangers

Warnpurru Aboriginal Corporation

- 60 - Warnpurru Rangers

Yalata Aboriginal Corporation

- 61 - Yalata Land Management

Yappala IPA

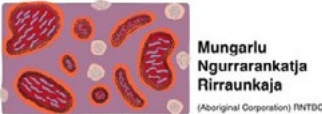
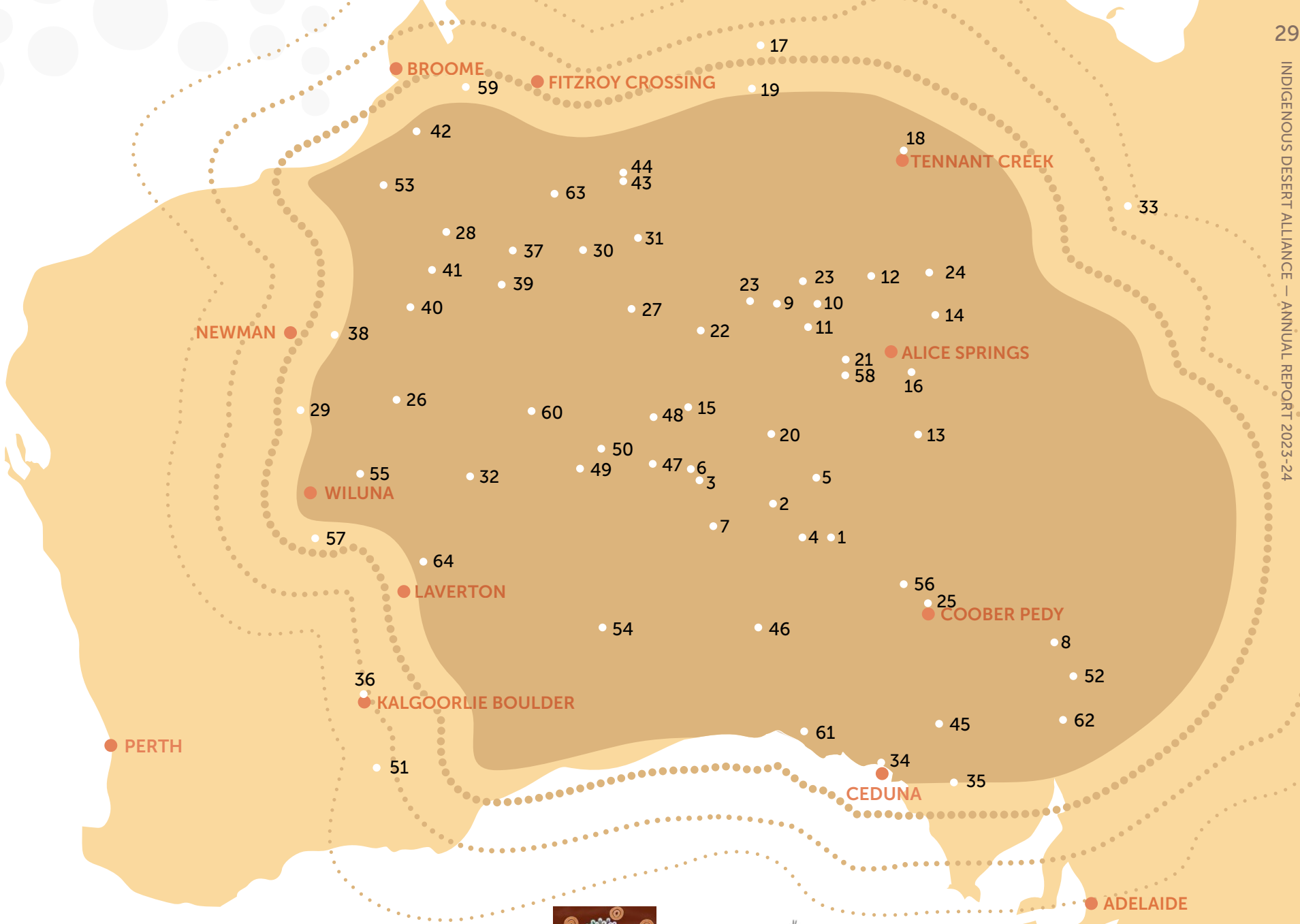
- 62 - Yappala IPA Rangers

Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation

- 63 - Ngurrara Rangers

Yilka Heritage and Land Care

- 64 - Yilka Rangers



IDA Supporters

Meaningful partnerships are needed to secure the future of Indigenous land management in the desert. The IDA works with a range of partners across sectors to promote desert land management, facilitate access to expertise and in the development and resourcing of collaborative projects that can achieve regional impacts.

The IDA is grateful for the support of our partners.



The IDA would also like to thank its generous philanthropic supporters.

Financials

DIRECTOR'S DECLARATION

In accordance with a resolution of the directors of Indigenous Desert Alliance Limited, the directors of the company declare that:

- The financial statements and notes, as set out in pages 14 to 36 are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and:
 - Comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements; and
 - Give a true and fair view of the financial position of the company as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the year then ended on that date.
- There are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Chairperson


Boyd Elston
19 October 2024
16

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue			
Operating grants, subsidies and contributions	4	7,946,110	8,486,181
Interest received		150,971	102,648
Other revenue	5	1,208,320	1,355,447
		9,305,401	7,944,276
Expenses			
Employee costs		(3,132,835)	(2,686,492)
Materials and contracts	6	(4,912,947)	(4,924,857)
Depreciation	13	(251,714)	(201,264)
Interest Expenses		(6,806)	(8,505)
		(8,304,302)	(7,821,118)
Operating result for the year before income tax		1,001,099	123,158
Income tax expense		-	-
Operating result for the year after income tax		1,001,099	123,158
Other comprehensive income for the year			
Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss			
Items that will be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss when specific conditions are met			
Total other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		1,001,099	123,158

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	6,311,917	4,732,184
Trade and other receivables	8	907,582	326,601
Total Current Assets		<u>7,219,498</u>	<u>5,058,785</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Fixed Assets	9	176,813	247,413
Right of use assets	14	102,172	157,843
Total Current Assets		<u>278,985</u>	<u>405,256</u>
Total Assets		<u>7,498,483</u>	<u>5,464,041</u>
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	10	1,452,805	421,932
Provisions	11	179,505	188,048
Lease liabilities	14	82,755	140,864
Total Current Liabilities		<u>1,715,065</u>	<u>750,845</u>
Non-current Liabilities			
Provisions	11	218,105	150,463
Lease liabilities	14	21,118	19,637
Total Non-current Liabilities		<u>239,223</u>	<u>170,100</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>1,954,288</u>	<u>920,945</u>
Net Assets		<u>5,544,195</u>	<u>4,543,096</u>
Equity			
Retained earnings	12	5,544,195	4,543,096
Total Equity		<u>5,544,195</u>	<u>4,543,096</u>

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

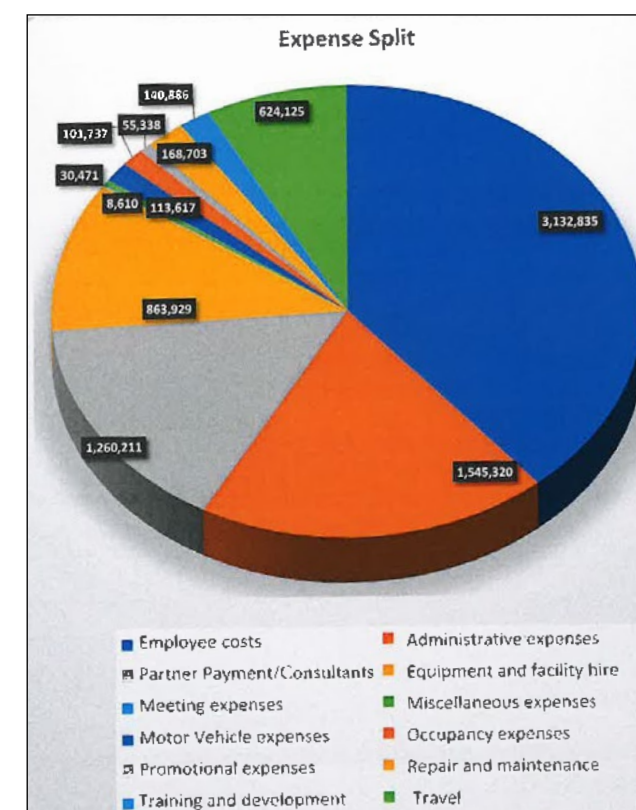
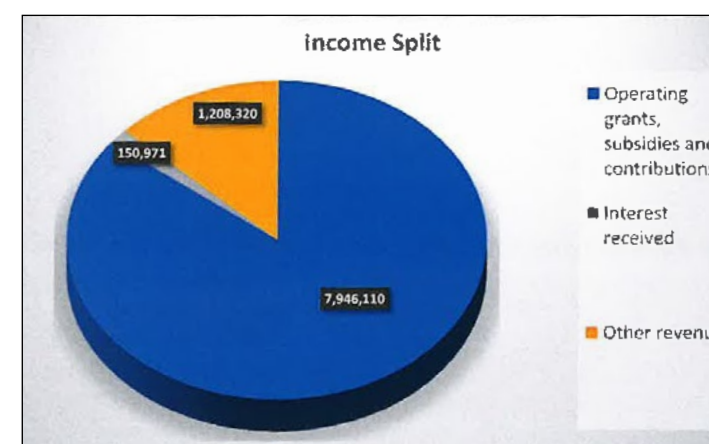
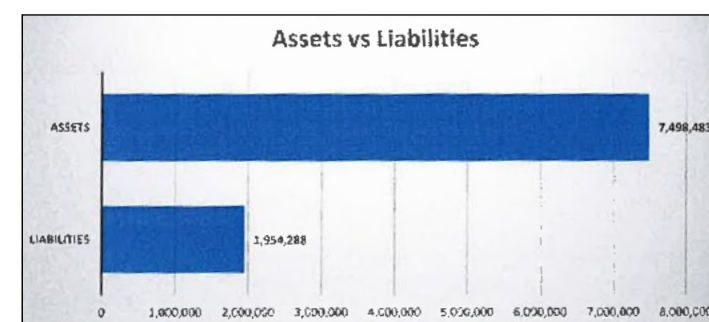
For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Retained Earnings \$	Share Capital \$	Total \$
2023			
Balance at the beginning of the year	4,419,938	-	4,419,935
Operating result of the year	123,158	-	123,158
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	123,158	-	123,158
Balance at end of the year	<u>4,543,096</u>	-	<u>4,543,096</u>
2024			
Balance at the beginning of the year	4,543,096	-	4,543,096
Operating result of the year	1,001,099	-	1,001,099
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	1,001,099	-	1,001,099
Balance at end of the year	<u>5,544,195</u>	-	<u>5,544,195</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities			
Receipts from operations		9,771,654	7,450,659
Payments to suppliers and employees		(8,162,090)	(7,965,180)
Interest received		141,817	23,204
Interest paid		(6,806)	(8,505)
Net GST recovered (paid)		17,230	68,950
Net Cash from/(used in) Operating Activities	13	<u>1,761,805</u>	<u>(430,872)</u>
Cash Flow from Investing Activities			
Payments for purchase of fixed assets		-	-
Net Cash from/(used in) Financing Activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash Flow from Financing Activities			
Payments for principal portion of lease liabilities		(182,072)	(128,188)
Net Cash from/(used in) Financing Activities		<u>(182,072)</u>	<u>(129,188)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		1,579,733	(559,060)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		4,732,184	5,291,244
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	7	<u>6,311,917</u>	<u>4,732,184</u>



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To: The Members of Indigenous Desert Alliance Ltd

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Indigenous Desert Alliance Ltd, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Indigenous Desert Alliance Ltd is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporations Act 2001, which has been given to the directors of the Company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Act 2001 and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so. The going concern basis of accounting is appropriate when it is reasonably foreseeable that the company will be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members.



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CERTIFIED PRACTISING ACCOUNTANTS



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Our objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of members taken on the basis of this financial report.

We have complied with the competency standards set by Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC). Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements, and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal controls relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report, or if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure, and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during the audit.

Paul Gilbert FCPA MBA
Macleod Corporation Pty Ltd
Unit 16, 12 Cowcher Place, BELMONT WA 6104

Dated this 27th September 2024



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