



2024-25

Annual Report



**Indigenous
Desert Alliance**
Keeping the desert connected

Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land and their Elders past, present and emerging wherever we gather. We wish to honour Aboriginal peoples across the desert, who have been caring for their homelands since the beginning of time. We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and sky and the contribution of Indigenous rangers who are protecting desert country for future generations.



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.

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Highlights

Chairperson's Message

Dear Members,

Looking back on another big year for the IDA, I can say without a doubt that coming together for the IDA Conference last November at Uluru was the biggest highlight. Connecting and yarning as desert people and rangers is a good feeling. Whether it's sharing information about our healthy country plans or simply sharing a meal and a laugh together, we travel home from this event knowing we share similar concerns, challenges, opportunities and aspirations.

Like I shared on the opening morning of the conference, it's hard to put into words what we do as rangers caring for Country. From right-way desert fire, water management, protecting plants, animals and important sites, to sharing knowledge with the next generation, taking direction from our Elders, working with scientists and other partners, and to carrying out our plans for healthy country, this list goes on. It really is a big job! But we all know, it's also the best job in the world.

The IDA Conference marked 10 years of keeping the desert connected and this work of connecting must continue. Our Indigenous land management sector continues to grow and the IDA, both as a network and an organisation, is delivering practical support in a way that fits each ranger team's individual goals and pacing. This alliance now has 29 members, a strong indication that the IDA presents value and opportunities that are needed. From its Regional Support Unit and Right-Way Desert Fire program to the committed IDA board and staff team working hard to strengthen our sector for the long term, we can see firsthand that the IDA is delivering on its vision of desert rangers working together to look after desert Country.

Thank you to all the IDA's members and partners for once again being an advocate, a connector, a friend, and a voice for Country this year.

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.

IDA Conference 2024

Held at Uluru, the biennial conference marked 10 years of connection with an awards evening, on-Country workshops, and ranger-led panels and sessions.

Right-Way Desert Fire

The IDA facilitates the world's largest Indigenous-led fire management program. We supported 35 ranger teams working on 17 Indigenous Protected Areas to manage around 66 million hectares of desert country with right way fire in 2024-25.

Mulyamiji March

The IDA facilitates Australia's first Indigenous-led recovery plan for a threatened species, the Tjakura (Great Desert Skink). Since 2022, the IDA has led the annual monitoring program, Mulyamiji March, to support the survival of this culturally significant species.

Desert Women's Leadership

The IDA is elevating women's voices and cultural leadership to ensure their roles are fully recognised and empowered across the desert ranger sector.

IDA Foundation

\$1 million in philanthropic support was distributed through 18 grants, enabling ranger teams to deliver projects driven by Indigenous knowledge, needs, and cultural priorities.

Desert Internship

Now in its third year, the program is building a pool of emerging ranger coordinators equipped with the skills to work the right way in the desert ranger sector.

Regional Support Unit

Regionally based IDA staff are strengthening ranger teams and supporting the strategic growth of IDA member organisations.

Desert Habitat Method Trials

Working with ecologists and four ranger teams, the IDA is trialling a new, culturally appropriate way to measure the impact of desert ranger's fire management work. The Desert Habitat Method uses rangers' local knowledge to demonstrate how Indigenous desert fire management affects spinifex country. It could help rangers access emerging nature markets.

CEO Report

As we reflect on another year of keeping the desert connected, the IDA's achievements and growth highlights that members, desert ranger groups and partners not only see value in our alliance but have a strong desire to continue working together towards our shared vision of a resilient desert ranger network.

For desert mob, resilience is a good thing. It means we are strong in our culture, now and always. Our cultural resilience means the environment is intimately and better cared for and our cultural connections will continue forever. Resilience also means we can act right way on the opportunities and issues that matter most and together we have the strength and support to overcome the challenges of living and working in some of the remotest areas in the world. Our resilience to dealing with a changing climate still needs better recognition and resources, and the IDA will elevate desert voices to address this both at home and on the world stage in the coming year.

This year marked a decade of connection for the IDA. We have come a long way from our first meeting in 2014 and it was truly inspiring and heartwarming to once again come together for the IDA Conference last November at Uluru to celebrate this special milestone. To see and hear from hundreds of rangers looking after our beautiful desert country and to share in a week of storytelling together shows that the connection between desert ranger teams remains strong and powerful. It is always a good thing when us desert mob can come together, spending time yarning and connecting with family!

The IDA's Right-Way Desert Fire Program continues to go from strength to strength too. This year 66 million hectares of desert country were managed with good fire and over 300 Indigenous rangers were engaged in fire management activities. There was also a big focus on training and capacity building. Right-way fire is an important cultural practice that compliments the IDA's Significant Species Program. The Significant Species Program elevates cultural knowledge through two-way science. We know that when rangers are looking after threatened species like the Bilby, Great Desert Skink, Night Parrot, Malleefowl and Central Rock Rat, then important cultural sites will also be looked after, and our old people's knowledge and language will continue to be shared across the generations – everything is connected. As well as our Right-Way Desert Fire and Significant Species Programs, and alongside targeted sector development initiatives, the IDA is also supporting desert ranger organisations to develop ways to participate in nature markets on their own terms. For example, the IDA, with four desert ranger teams, will soon complete trials of a new scientific method known as the Desert Habitat Method to measure the results of right-way desert fire for nature market investors.

Now in its third year, the IDA's Desert Internship has successfully offered 15 internships, bringing in good people to work right way with IDA member organisations and our emerging sector. This year alone we received 130 internship applications which shows a growing interest to work in our sector. It's further proof that Australians believe that the work of desert rangers is vital and extraordinary. We are proud to be an organisation that not only holds space for our sector but carefully grows it. The IDA's Regional Support Unit is another program focused on backbone support for our members when they request it. From strategic business development, hands-on training and mentoring to even acting as interim ranger coordinators, throughout the year the IDA's Regional Support Unit has been flexible and responsive to IDA member priorities. The IDA Foundation is providing further support to the sector through flexible funding for desert ranger teams. So far, 18 grants have supported ranger-led priorities for the construction of remote infrastructure and trips back to Country for knowledge recording and sharing between, Elders, rangers and young people.

A key focus this year has been increasing Indigenous employment across the IDA, ensuring that our team reflects the communities we serve and is led by the voices, knowledge and lived experience of desert people. The IDA now has eight Indigenous staff working to their strengths and interests.

Leading the IDA is an Indigenous led Board with desert representatives from all corners of the desert bringing their cultural leadership and breadth of expertise and experiences to the governance and direction of the IDA. Thank you to Martu man and outgoing IDA director Andrew Minyardie for his many years of service to this organisation. We are so grateful for Andrew's leadership throughout the IDA's foundational years. We also thank outgoing independent director Robert Carruthers. Rob has been a champion for desert rangers and another guiding force through the IDA's formation. Their support for me in my first year as CEO, has been really important and appreciated. It has made sure that I am set up the right way to help lead IDA going forward.

I have spent much of my first year as CEO connecting up and listening to our members and my biggest learning has been to stay true to the IDA way. That's why, together with the IDA Board, we have developed five values to guide us in everything we do together. These values are Genuine, Collaborative, Empowering, Respectful and Doing things the right way. As a desert woman and CEO of the IDA, I am proud of these values, our team and program of work that is dedicated to giving space and support for First Nations people to good way and right way care for Country. This would not be possible without the support of our members, major partners and philanthropic supporters. Thank you to BHP Foundation, BHP, the Australian Government, the WA Aboriginal Ranger Program's Innovation Fund, Paul Ramsay Foundation and The Nature Conservancy for your support and trust in the IDA's work. We also extend this thanks to the many philanthropic supporters of the IDA Foundation.

As we look to the year ahead with 2030 in sight, the IDA is passionately and culturally invested in ensuring Indigenous rangers who have the expert skills and local knowledge are empowered to achieve vital nature positive outcomes for Australia. There are now 28 Indigenous Protected Areas connected across the desert representing the majority of Australia's global commitment to protecting 30% of its land areas by 2030 (30 by 30). The urgency to avoid the worst of climate change and restore nature is the biggest global challenge of our time but 30 by 30 should be as much about economic empowerment for Indigenous communities as it is about conservation. The IDA is ready as a strong and connected voice to ensure good policy and sustainable investment in desert rangers is realised in the next five years to 2030. Desert mob have big aspirations for the future and the IDA stands committed to our eternal goals for Community, Culture and Country.



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.

For the past five years, she has played a vital role at the IDA, supporting people and managing programs. As the IDA's first Indigenous CEO from the desert, Sam approaches the role with passion and focus, dedicated to ensuring that Indigenous rangers are enabled to collaboratively manage the Australian desert and are empowered to realise their aspirations for Community, Culture, and Country.

Strong Ranger Teams

The IDA Network

The IDA brings its members, desert ranger teams and partners together across a range of platforms to ensure their story informs the desert story. These ranger forums enable desert rangers to spend time with each other either on Country or online to discuss their aspirations and the pressing regional land management priorities of today.

IDA Conference 2024

In November 2024, the biennial IDA Conference was attended by 423 people at Uluru, including 330 representatives from 54 desert ranger teams. Of the IDA's 27 member organisations, 22 had rangers or support staff present, many travelling thousands of kilometres to take part.

2024 marked the IDA's 10th anniversary, celebrated under the theme "10 Years of Connection." Over three days, delegates connected through themed sessions, workshops, field trips, interactive spaces, and networking opportunities. Highlights included the Ranger of the Year Awards and a closing concert by the Mutitjulu Band at the Yulara footy oval. Local Mutitjulu Mala Rangers and Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park Rangers played key roles, leading field trips on tourism management, drone use, and bush foods and medicine.

A popular new feature was the interactive room showcasing a 3D desert fire modelling tool and a fire simulation game, while VR headsets offered 360° desert experiences. Another unique opportunity was joining IDA ecologists at sunrise to check Elliott traps. Delegates engaged with small mammals and reptiles including the Great Desert Skink, Brush-tailed Mulgara, and Sandy Inland Mouse, sparking discussion on monitoring, permits, and conservation priorities.

Core to the conference were Ranger-to-Ranger and Elder-to-Elder sessions, providing space for sharing aspirations and concerns that will shape IDA's agenda for the next two years. Main themes included Protecting Significant Species, Ranger Exchanges, and Fire Management.

The conference reinforced its place as IDA's flagship event, prioritising ranger knowledge, leadership, and innovation. Many rangers stood before large audiences to share their expertise, an inspiring marker of the sector's growth over the past decade.



IDA Conference delegates.



Conference road trip ranger convoy celebrating their arrival at Uluru.



(L-R) Central Land Council Reading the Country team presenters Madeleine Dixon and Enid Gallagher.

Men and women ranger award recipients included:

- **Emerging Ranger of the Year (Female)**, Hayley Mulardy, Karajarri Rangers
- **Emerging Ranger of the Year (Male)**, Daniel Dickenson, Muru-Warinyi Ankkul Rangers
- **Ranger of the Year (Female)**, Eunice Woods, Tjakura Rangers
- **Ranger of the Year (Male)**, Clifford Sunfly, Ngururpa Rangers
- **Senior Ranger of the Year (Female)**, Alice Nampijinpa Henwood, Warlpiri Ranger Team, and Kuyu Pungu (Expert Tracker) with the Reading the Country team
- **Senior Ranger of the Year (Male)**, Charles Coleman Snr, Far West Coast AC Rangers
- **Ranger Coordinator of the Year**, Priscilla Reynolds, Goldfields ACS Rangers
- **Collaboration of the Year**, Reading the Country Pilot Project, North Tanami Rangers and Warlpiri Rangers from the North and South Tanami IPAs with the Walungurru Rangers

"A conference like this, speaking up in front of everybody to be a better person for my community and my Karajarri people and I can go back home and show them what I've been through speaking with other young ladies."

Roxanne Possum, Karajarri Rangers



Participants of the Mala Tjukurpa walk.

"Seeing these young ones come up, makes me really happy and proud. And walking with the Elders on Country and going back home together very strong and knowing more about the job and how to look after country."

Jamie Brown, Paruku Rangers



Nyikina Mangala Ranger, William Watson, at the VR Booth.



2024 SAAL Ranger Gathering participants.

Ranger Program Network Sessions

The IDA keeps the network connected and discussing regional priorities by coordinating regular catchups between rangers, coordinators and program managers including hosting a series of subject matter driven webinars and through an active, member-focused presence.

Ranger Coordinator Catchups

For the last six years the IDA has hosted regular sessions for coordinators to come together as a network to learn from and support one another. The sessions also provide opportunities to delve into a particular topic and discuss support needs. Coordinators are often new to remote living and these sessions can help inexperienced coordinators seek advice from their broader peer group on work and life out bush.

Session themes for the year were as follows:

- **July 2024** – The role of IDA's Regional Support Officers and the on-line Ranger's Hub
- **August 2024** – Project management: sharing hacks from project management principles to make your job easier
- **September 2024** – Looking after yourself and others (managing stress, living and working in remote places)
- **October 2024** – Question and answer for the 2024 IDA Conference
- **November 2024** – Held in person at the IDA Conference in Yulara as a networking session and opportunity to share and learn from one another
- **March 2025** – Repeat project management session at the request of the coordinator network.
- **April 2025** – Smarter workplans – tips and hacks for writing work plans to make it easier and simpler to report back on and 'complete' activities
- **May 2025** – Intercultural facilitation and communication
- **June 2025** – An overview and working guide of IPAs

National IPA Managers Network

This year the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW) engaged the IDA to reconvene the National IPA Managers Network. IDA CEO, Sam Murray, and professional facilitator Darryl Pearce, a Central Arrernte man, coordinated the first three-hour online meeting in May. 96 people attended the meeting from IPAs across Australia, to participate in panels, presentations, and breakout session conversations. A follow up event will be held later in 2025 before the IDA passes facilitation on to DCCEEW and the IPA Network into the future.

IDA Network Supported Events

South Australian Arid Lands (SAAL) Indigenous Ranger Gathering

The second South Australian Arid Lands Indigenous Ranger Gathering was held in August 2024 at Pichi Richi Park on Nukunu Country, co-hosted by the IDA and SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, with four desert groups attending including the Arabana Rangers, Nantawarrina Rangers, Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation land management team and Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation. Like the IDA Conference, the gathering featured Indigenous-only sessions to elevate ranger voices and strengthen regional collaboration.

"Have that time spent with each other just collaborating and just going through all the learning curves and like figuring out what works and what doesn't, the do's and the dont's."

Justin Coulthard, Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation

Ranger Collaborations and Exchanges

Since its inception, the IDA has supported 28 ranger team exchanges including three international exchanges. Collaborations can vary from being just one ranger who is looking to develop their skills through to a whole ranger team wanting to visit or host another ranger team. Ranger exchanges are popular with emerging ranger teams that recognise the value of ranger to ranger learning and connecting with more established ranger programs. So far in 2025, two ranger exchange applications have been granted.

Ranger collaborations extend beyond ranger team exchanges and have so far included internships, practical training workshops and networking opportunities with the conservation sector at large.

"You've got to have connection, get to know family right way, ngurra, Jukurr, that's your history here. We've got to share, you've got your family."

Christopher James, Kunawarritji KJ Ranger



"We can learn from this mob, how they do it, and take ideas, and do it our own way. That's what this ranger exchange is all about."

Malcolm Uhl, Ngurra Kayanta Ranger



(L-R) Kunawarritji Ranger Terry Biljabu and Ngurra Kayanta Ranger Trevor Mudji at Well 33 on the Canning Stock Route



Kunawarritji and Ngurra Kayanta Ranger Teams together at the Kunawarritji ranger base after their exchange.

Sector Development

The IDA works closely with its members and partners to proactively address sector development opportunities and challenges as the Indigenous land management sector continues to grow, and ensure culturally appropriate training, skills, people and resources, match the needs of the sector.

Desert Internship Program

The IDA's Desert Internship Program, now in its third year, is providing a successful and productive pool of new talent to the Indigenous desert land management sector with the foundational skills and appropriate understanding of Indigenous ways of working from day one on the job. As of August 2025, 15 desert internships have been offered with many of these interns now working successfully in the sector. A big thank you to Nyikina Mangala Rangers, Nyangumarta Rangers, Central Land Council Warlpiri and Utopia Rangers and Wiluna Martu Rangers for hosting interns in 2024-25 and sharing vital knowledge for working good way.

"They like to go around with us, see country, learn about bush medicine and fire. We've been showing them waterholes, sacred sites, bush plums – all the things we look after."

Paul Club, Central Land Council Utopia Rangers

"If you think you know then that's as much as you'll know. In other words, having lots of knowledge and experience is good, but an open mind and heart is far more valuable. It's our capacity to continue to grow and learn that is most important."

Kyle Hutchison, Nyikina Mangala Ranger Coordinator and 2024 Desert Intern



(L-R) 2025 intern Amit Rotenberg with CLC Utopia Ranger Helen Kunoth.



2024 Nyikina Mangala hosted Desert Internship.



(L-R) 2025 intern Clementine Heath and Nyangumarta Ranger Vallerina Aspro.

Regional Support Unit

Launched in 2024, the Regional Support Unit places experienced land management staff in regions to strengthen the capacity of member organisations and provide proactive support. This year, the program has focused on operational support and assisting with grant applications for the Indigenous Ranger Program and Indigenous Protected Area program, aligning with the Federal Government commitment to doubling ranger job numbers.

In 2025, the Regional Support Unit has supported 55 desert ranger teams, delivering data management workshops across the southern desert region, assisting emerging teams through healthy Country planning and grant applications, and providing external mentoring for coordinators. This on Country, locally driven support is proving to be an invaluable service for the sustainability of desert ranger programs.

"It was hard getting information from a piece of paper and a pen, but using this app has made it much easier to do our work proper ways."

Richard Lennon-Lawrie, Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation Ranger



FWC Rangers Troy Newchurch and Richard Lennon-Lawrie testing out their data management method on country near Ceduna.



FWC Ranger Richard Lennon-Lawrie on country using their new data management method.



GACS and Telstra Exchange

For a second year, the IDA partnered with Goldfields Aboriginal Community Services (GACS) Ranger team and the Telstra Foundation for an on-country two-way exchange program. This week-long on Country immersion experience enables Telstra staff to connect with desert rangers and custodians. It also supports Telstra's ongoing commitment to reconciliation and respect for First Nations leadership, cultures and ways of working.

"It's all about connection and sharing knowledge and just being able to become kind of like family, because that's the most special thing."

Caitlin Thomas, GACS Ranger



Participants of the Desert Women's Leadership Trip.

Desert Women's Leadership Trip

The Desert Women's Leadership Trip is an exchange for Indigenous women rangers. It offers rangers opportunities to grow as leaders while visiting the big city of Naarm / Melbourne. Over the course of the week, rangers engage in activities that help build confidence in public speaking and presenting.

In March, ten women from Karajarri, Nyangumarta, Far West Coast and Birriliburu participated in the trip. Nyangumarta Ranger Lynette Wildridge returned as a leadership mentor following her attendance in 2024.

With thanks to the IDA's partner Thin Green Line for hosting this professional development opportunity for the third year running.



Far West Coast Ranger Jordan Miller presenting on the Desert Women's Leadership Trip.



Participants of the Desert Women's Leadership Trip learn about the work Parks VIC Rangers do.



"I'm here showing other rangers what we doing back at home looking after our culture and our land, our language. It's very important for us to share our knowledge."

Miranda Long, Birriliburu Ranger

Desert Projects

The IDA has continued to provide specialist support to desert rangers through the Right-Way Desert Fire, Significant Species and Desert Nature Markets Programs. Led by and working closely with rangers and Traditional Owners, the IDA has provided operational, capacity building and research assistance working to enhance the health of desert country.

Significant Species Program

IDA ecologists have worked alongside desert rangers trialling innovative management methods drawing on cutting edge scientific research and Indigenous cultural knowledge.

The Kiwirrkurra Rangers have continued with their work managing wild Bilby populations. This year the rangers also trialled aerial baiting for feral predators in known Bilby habitat. The rangers' work is one of the only projects in Australia attempting to mitigate the threats to populations of wild Bilbies. As well as laying baits, the rangers used their tracking expertise to undertake aerial surveys of the species and to collect Bilby scats for genetic analysis. The analysis can tell the rangers important information about the number of Bilbies, how they are related, how far they travel and whether management actions are successful. In March the IDA supported the Kiwirrkurra, Northern Tanami, Warlpiri, Muru-warinyi Ankkul, and Parnngurr rangers to attend the National Bilby Summit in Sydney where they shared their knowledge of the species and its management with the wider scientific community.

Efforts to implement the Great Desert Skink Recovery Plan have continued with the Tjakura rangers trialling cat trapping around known sites. The rangers are testing a new trapping technology that remotely alerts the rangers when traps are activated, significantly reducing the labour involved in monitoring the traps. If successful, the system could prove to be an efficient method for reducing the pressure of feral cats in select management areas.

The annual Mulyamiji March monitoring event has seen rangers across the desert again conduct surveys for Great Desert Skink in 2025. This is a key activity of the Recovery Plan for the species. 172 rangers from 16 ranger teams participated and surveyed over 100 sites. The Wiluna Martu, Mala, Yulara, Tjakura, Warakurna, Birriliburu, Kiwirrkurra, Ngallurrjtju, Newhaven, Walungurru, Warlpiri, Ngururpa, Warnpurru, Warburton, Parnngurr and Punmu ranger teams all undertook surveys.

Desert ranger groups including the Ngururpa Rangers have attended the Ecological Society of Australia conference in Melbourne. Ngururpa Rangers presented on the successful publication of the Night Parrot research paper co-authored by the ranger team and IDA ecologists which was included in [Wildlife Research, a CSIRO journal](#). The paper highlights the success of a two-way science approach to conservation on Indigenous lands.



Delegates of the National Bilby Summit.

"It's so good just going through the landscape looking for signs of tracks for Kuniya (Woma python) and Tinka (Sand goanna) and we know where they are heading to – where the Tjakura piti (burrows) are. That's how we know."

Daisy Ward, Ngaanyatjarra Traditional Owner



The Central Land Council Warlpiri Rangers during their Mulyamiji March surveys.



Ngururpa Ranger Clifford Sunfly representing the desert at the Ecological Society of Australia Conference.

Right-Way Desert Fire Program

Drawing on training completed throughout 2024 and 2025, 300 rangers and Traditional Owners across the desert have been supported by the IDA to undertake landscape-scale fire management, including aerial burning, over their country. The aerial burning was done alongside cultural site mapping and return to Country activities, to ensure Traditional Owner priorities were at the forefront of a holistic approach to fire management.

The Right-Way Desert Fire Program prioritises careful relationship building and long-term work with rangers. This approach is demonstrated in the case study of the Spinifex Rangers.

The IDA has supported the Spinifex Rangers to build their fire program in the Great Victoria Desert since 2021. Initial work focussed on relationship building, cultural site mapping and ground burning. This prior work was instrumental in developing the ranger team's confidence to undertake aerial burning on the IPA this year during an IDA-supported fire trip. This was the Spinifex rangers first opportunity to do Traditional Owner led aerial burning operations. The rangers also used the helicopter for cultural clearance work before undertaking remote "drop-off" ground burning around Malleefowl habitat. The Spinifex rangers have a keen desire to develop a culturally informed fire plan and the work on the aerial burning trip will also contribute to the development of their plan.

The IDA has focussed on capacity building and support for women rangers to engage in fire work this year. We have now employed a female fire officer who, in addition to supporting mixed gender fire work has:

- facilitated a fire workshop for women rangers in Wiluna
 - the workshop used a strength based approach, highlighting the women's experience and knowledge as a scaffold for further capacity building
- supported female rangers who attended Incendiary Machine Operations (IMO) training with a mixed gender ranger teams to achieve IMO certification.
- organised and facilitated IMO training at Watarrka exclusively for a group of women rangers who had a 100% pass rate.
 - eight women from the Anangu Luritjiku, Kaltukatjara, Warakurna and Warburton ranger teams received their qualifications and are now undertaking aerial burning operations.

"I've been working as a ranger for four years, it's important because it helps us connect to country and go out burning."

Scott West, Kiwirrkurra IPA Ranger



Kiwirrkurra Ranger Conway Gibson preparing for aerial burning.



Nyangumarta Rangers Desert Habitat Method trial.

Over the course of the year, the IDA has supported multiple regional fire planning meetings, bringing together rangers and Traditional Owners from multiple neighbouring land management organisations to share knowledge and coordinate landscape scale fire management activities. When neighbouring groups collaborate, it amplifies the protective impact of each group's right-way fire work. For example, the IDA organised and facilitated the second annual Northern Deserts Fire Working Group meeting in Broome which brought together over 50 rangers and Traditional Owners from six northern desert ranger teams. The group discussed the 2024 burning season and how best to ensure that the voices of Elders guide fire operations. The old people present indicated they were happy with the rangers' fire work and shared their knowledge of traditional cultural fire practices. The meeting allowed rangers and Traditional Owners to plan for 2025 with a strong focus on collaborative work in the shared country around the boundaries of Native Title areas.



Ngururpa Rangers aerial and ground burning trip.

Desert Nature Markets Program

The IDA has continued to trial the Desert Habitat Method (DHM), a scientific way to track and measure the impact of land management work. Its main purpose is to show how fire management affects spinifex country. This includes how fire affects native plants, bushfoods and bush medicines and the habitat available for native animals. The method may allow Indigenous Land Management Organisations to access emerging biodiversity markets. The Kiwirrkurra, Nyangumarta and Walpiri ranger teams are participating in trials to make sure the method meets the needs of rangers. The trials include on-country workshops with rangers and Traditional Owners which ensure that:

- the method uses local knowledge in a culturally appropriate way
- public information used in the method like vegetation maps and rainfall data reflects what is happening on the ground
- the method supports ranger team's own work and goals.

Watch the films below to see the trials in action:

- [Waru Palya – Kiwirrkurra Fire Story](#)
- [Nyangumarta Wika Muwarr](#)

A DHM facilitator training curriculum has also been developed to ensure skilled facilitators are available to assist with the on-country workshops.

The IDA has continued to contribute to the development of the Australian Nature Repair Market scheme through submissions, committee meetings and advocacy. In addition, the Australian Government is funding the IDA to adapt the Desert Habitat Method for the Australian Nature Repair Market. The new version will be called the

Rangelands Habitat Method. If the method is approved by the government, ranger teams will be able to use the Rangelands Habitat Method to measure the impact of their work and earn biodiversity certificates, which they can sell on the Nature Repair Market.

The Desert Nature Markets Program supports members to understand nature markets and the opportunities it presents. Workshops held online and at the IDA Conference in Yulara brought together IDA members and partner organisations. The workshops provided insight into Australian nature markets and the work the IDA is doing. The IDA has also developed [seven plain English fact sheets](#) that explain key aspects of nature markets.

In October 2024, the Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Josh Wilson MP, announced that the Australian Government had prioritised the IDA's expression of interest, 'Extending Savanna Fire Management to the Northern Arid Zone,' for development. This means the Savanna Fire Management method will be one of the next four methods to be updated for the ACCU scheme, the Australian Government's carbon market. The Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee (ERAC) assessed 39 expressions of interest, and the IDA proposal was one of only four to be prioritised.

The proposed extension would cover an area of 850,000 km², mostly under Indigenous controlled tenure, and includes the operational areas of approximately 15 different Indigenous ranger groups. If the government approves the extension desert ranger teams in the Northern Arid Zone will be able to use the method to earn credits through the Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme by implementing right-way fire management.

"The workshop is really good 'cause you come in and learn about our country and you learn our language for animals and country, yeah. That helps save the language. You're taking pictures and you're learning from us... It's better to learn and share on country, looking with our own eyes. When you are in a classroom you can't understand. But when you go out on country you can see everything and learn more better."

Janie Wright, Nyangumarta Elder

IDA Foundation

The Indigenous Desert Alliance Foundation (IDA Foundation) was established in response to feedback from IDA Members and Indigenous ranger groups seeking flexible, untied and locally driven funding. Grants support the priorities and projects of Indigenous desert ranger teams. The goal is to help where it is needed most on Indigenous land management and conservation projects with a focus on desert knowledge, cultural priorities and infrastructure needs.

This year, many round one grants were completed and nine Indigenous-led projects received funding in a second round. These projects show the important work that Traditional Owners and Indigenous rangers do every day to protect culture, keep desert country healthy, and pass down knowledge to future generations.

The IDA's profile with philanthropists is gradually building in Australia and internationally. Recent activities included hosting a breakfast in Boorloo / Perth for the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network during their WA field trip, welcoming Philanthropy Australia's WA members to the Desert Hub for their annual networking event and joining the International Funders of Indigenous Peoples gathering in Kenya, where the IDA helped share the story of desert rangers and their contribution to environmental work.

"This makes me really proud building this on my country. I'm really excited to bring families here."

Angus Tjungurrayi, Kiwirrkurra IPA Ranger



Kiwirrkurra Rangers standing in front of the partially built Remote Ranger Base at Marruwa.



Kiwirrkurra Rangers working on the Marruwa Ranger Base structures.



Workshop participants on Morapoi Station.

IDA Foundation Featured Projects

Desert ranger base supports expanded land management

The Marruwa Remote Ranger Base in Kiwirrkurra IPA was built with collaboration between the Kiwirrkurra Rangers, Tjamu Tjamu Aboriginal Corporation, and Traditional Owners. Located centrally in a priority management zone, the base now supports expanded land management by enabling more frequent fire control, threatened-species protection (including species like the Bilby, Night Parrot, Great Desert Skink and Northern Marsupial Mole), feral cat control via aerial 1080 baiting, and ecological surveying. The facility strengthens regional conservation efforts while acting as a cultural and community hub hosting workshops, ranger exchanges, family gatherings and opportunities for emerging programs like junior rangers.

What it takes to build a thriving ranger program

Barra Parrapi Aboriginal Corporation launched its first-ever ranger program, beginning with a workshop at Morapoi Station that brought together 19 participants including 12 Traditional Owners to build the foundations of a thriving ranger team. Over two days, attendees covered essential topics from fire management and climate change to cultural history and the ecology of Malleefowl nests, while also exploring the role of Indigenous-led land management for protecting both biodiversity and cultural values across Nangaanya-ku Country. With strong local leadership, partnerships, and a clear vision, the program is set to expand through on-country trips and further training.

Birds and learning in full flight at Yalata

The Yalata Rangers, together with Yalata Anangu Traditional Owners and the Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation Board, built a bird hide at a culturally meaningful rockhole site. Designed to be safe, accessible and connected to both community and culture, the hide draws in a wide variety of local birds (ravens, honeyeaters, bronze-wing pigeons, parrots, etc.) and has quickly become more than a tourism asset, it is a living classroom. It supports school children in learning about local species (including in the southern Pitjantjatjara dialect), reinforces intergenerational knowledge exchange with Elders, and contributes to wildlife monitoring, educational materials, and nature appreciation.



Yalata Rangers with their bird hide.

"There's a story to that whole place, it's just amazing. You can actually see it, physically see. You read the story or get told the story and then you can actually see the physical part of it. We've got a few of our older people still left and we're making the most of what we can."

Zaaheer McKenzie, Arabana Head Ranger

Strong and United Voice

Speaking Up

IDA staff, Board members and rangers have been speaking up for the desert at numerous engagements, events and forums. Raising the voices of those from the desert is vitally important as IDA staff and members are often the only people in a room that have a connection to and interest in the desert, highlighting the importance of ongoing advocacy.

Through the work of the IDA during this period, the desert ranger voice was represented in the following activities:

- The Reimagining Conservation conference in Cairns
- NIAA hosted national ranger conference in Darwin
- Global Nature Positive Summit and 2024 Private Lands Conference in Sydney
- World Ranger Congress in France
- International Land Conservation Network Congress in Quebec City
- IDA organised screening and expert panel discussion of the ABC TV series Eat the Invaders featuring the Kiwirrkurra Rangers feral cat management
- The Tjakura and Ngururpa rangers attended the Ecological Society of Australia's conference in Melbourne to present their Great Desert Skink and Night Parrot two-way science research
- The IDA shared its experience of forming a ranger alliance and network at the Sea Country Forum in Cairns, invited by the Reef TO Taskforce
- International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB 2025) in Brisbane

"I see [World Ranger Congress] as a very important thing because it's an eyeopener for a lot of ranger groups, rangers that come from across all over the globe to see how other rangers do their jobs, and their issues and their problems that they're dealing with... it's very important I reckon."

Cleveland Kantawara, Central Land Council



Torres Strait rangers and Desert rangers connecting at ICCB 2025



Delegates of the World Ranger Congress in Hyères, France.



Delegates from the Central Land Council at NIAA's national ranger conference.



Indigenous Community Liaison Officers

This year, the IDA has employed four regionally based Indigenous Community Liaison Officers (CLOs). Their role helps keep desert ranger teams connected and to support IDA members with their priority projects. CLOs operate as a bridge between community and the IDA, supporting desert mob to speak up for desert country at forums and working groups, strengthen relationships locally and help other rangers share their voices. The role is hands-on, working alongside ranger teams to support their projects and aspirations.

Advocacy

The IDA has begun drafting an Advocacy Plan to guide how and where it speaks up for the desert. The plan will draw on the Desert Ranger Sector Sustainability Plan, the IDA Strategic Plan, and cultural priorities voiced at IDA events by rangers, coordinators and Elders. The draft plan will be shared with members for feedback in the coming year.

Desert Ranger Sector Sustainability Plan

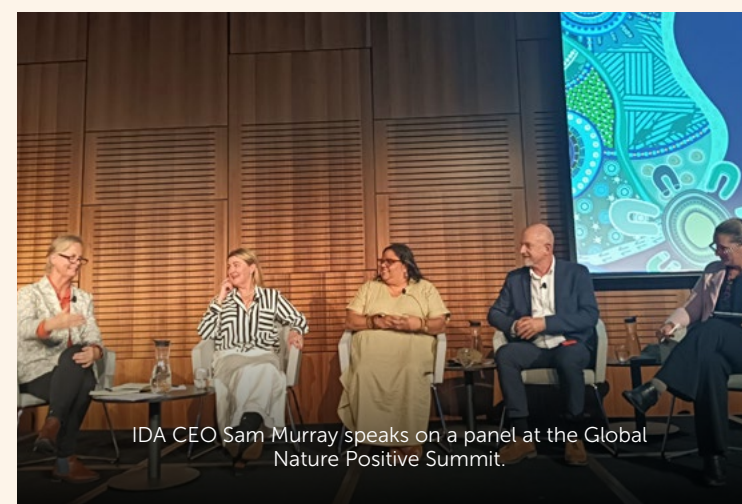
In April 2025, the IDA released a Desert Ranger Sector Sustainability Plan compiled by Social Ventures Australia that identifies key challenges facing Indigenous desert land management and presents practical solutions for a strong and sustainable future. Grounded in the experiences of desert-based Indigenous ranger programs, the plan equips policymakers, funders, and partners with actions to support and strengthen the sector meaningfully.

The plan sets out seven key actions:

- 1 Strengthen representation
- 2 Align funding with community priorities
- 3 Improve cultural competence
- 4 Reform funding agreements
- 5 Invest in infrastructure and resources
- 6 Expand operational funding
- 7 Support training and career pathways

The key takeaway from this plan is the long-term sustainability of the sector depends on the interconnectedness of Culture, Country and Community within ranger programs.

A well-attended IDA webinar briefing for members provided an overview of how desert ranger groups may wish to utilise the plan in their advocacy and is now available on the IDA's website [here](#).



IDA CEO Sam Murray speaks on a panel at the Global Nature Positive Summit.



ABC Eat the Invaders filming on Kiwirrkurra Indigenous Protected Area.

Communications and Media

This year the IDA's communication team's major priority was servicing the IDA Conference – a large communication undertaking. A [latest news section](#) has been added to the IDA website to enable access to informative notes on what's happening at the IDA and across the ranger sector. This is a useful webpage for people who don't use social media or members and partners seeking a simple overview of IDA news and events as they happen. The IDA's [online Ranger Hub](#) also continues to be a popular resource for members wishing to access hundreds of handy tools, templates and guides shared by the desert ranger network.

Key IDA initiated news media coverage for the year includes:

- ['Looking for Tjakura'](#) published on Australian Geographic
- ['Elusive Night Parrots thriving in WA'](#) broadcast on ABC News TV and Radio
- ['From Papunya to France: Indigenous rangers on global stage for world conference'](#) published on SBS
- ['Female leaders stand strong, have voices heard at Indigenous Desert Alliance conference at Uluru'](#) published on ABC News
- ['Buffel kerfuffle: should the invasive grass be listed as a weed of national significance in Australia?'](#) published on Guardian Australia

Desert Hub

Opening in early 2024, the IDA Desert Hub located in the city of Boorloo / Perth is a culturally appropriate and creative meeting place for Indigenous desert rangers and land management organisations. It's a place to host events, conduct workshops, deliver training, utilise a media and recording studio, and meet with government and funders. Over 600 hours of member use has so far been registered since the Desert Hub's launch.

From Papunya to France: Indigenous rangers on global stage for world conference

Rangers from Australia will share their knowledge of looking after Country with representatives from around the world.



Female leaders stand strong, have voices heard at Indigenous Desert Alliance conference at Uluru

By Victoria Ellis ABC Rural Indigenous Culture

Thu 14 Nov



"We need support to get our healthy Country back and the next step is recognising buffel as a weed of national significance to help our communities get better support for fighting this dangerous weed,"

Wanda Miller, Far West Coast Elder and IDA Director

Strong Organisation

IDA Organisation Values

These values guide the IDA Organisation in how we approach the IDA mission. It determines how we work with the IDA Network and stakeholders.

The IDA Board created these values through a collaborative and interactive session in a face-to-face board meeting, ensuring a breadth of input. These were created in 2025.



Genuine

We care deeply about our people and purpose. We lead with compassion, commitment, and authenticity in everything we do.



Collaborative

We believe in the power of working together. We are inclusive, friendly, and approachable, always seeking to connect, innovate, and create meaningful opportunities with and for Desert Rangers.



Empowering

We support Desert Ranger teams to grow, achieve, and thrive. We build pride, confidence, and hope through encouragement, positivity, and belief in each person's potential.



Respectful

We honour the knowledge, experience and voices of Traditional Owners, Elders, Rangers, Country, and each other. Respect is the foundation of all our relationships.



Doing things the Right Way

We do things the right way. Our actions are led by Desert Rangers, grounded in culture, guided by strong ethics and integrity, and upheld with professionalism.

IDA Team Values

These values guide the Team in how we as individuals approach our work. It determines how we work with each other. The IDA Team created these values. These were created in 2020 and have been reviewed periodically.



Safety First

We are committed to the highest standards of health, safety and welfare for everyone we work with.



Leadership in every role

We each show leadership in our respective roles.



Committed and Passionate

We are invested in what we do and have a sharp focus on our way.



Accountable

We are accountable to IDA Members and the priorities they set. We set high standards and are also open and accountable to each other.



Honest

Transparent, straight up, trustworthy.



Collaborative

We work together and draw on each other.



Fun

We enjoy working together.

Capturing the Yarn

Across all aspects of the organisation, from board level to projects, the IDA places great emphasis on doing things right-way. For example, IDA CEO Sam Murray with support from Curtin University staff has developed Capturing the Yarn, a cultural impact framework that places Indigenous desert voices at the centre of project design and evaluation. Through a yarn-based approach, Capturing the Yarn avoids a traditional metric-led approach to impact evaluation. This year, trials of Capturing the Yarn have been applied to a range of projects across the organisation. The IDA is continuing to ensure Intellectual Property (IP) and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) are adequately protected within the framework and refining the framework to best suit IDA members.



IDA Board of Directors



Board and Committees

IDA continues to be led by a strong and committed Board of Directors who meet regularly to provide strategic oversight, ensure good governance and compliance and guide the organisation in achieving its mission and vision.

In the last financial year, the IDA Board welcomed new Directors Vivianne Landy (Northwest Ward) and Hayden Stuart (Southeast Ward) providing additional skills, knowledge and experience to compliment those of the existing board members.

In April 2025, the IDA Board undertook a comprehensive mid-term review of IDA's strategic

plan to ensure that it is still meeting the needs and aspirations of Indigenous ranger teams. Minor changes were made to better reflect where the IDA is at now and looking towards the future as things like nature markets become more understood and IDA increases its advocacy activities.

As in previous years, the organisational structure of the IDA was reviewed to ensure that the organisation has the appropriate staffing levels and expertise to continue to deliver on its strategic objectives. Additions to the team in the areas of advocacy, stakeholder management, human resources and nature markets will occur in the later part of 2025, and some current roles will be amended.

Board and Board 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:

- overseeing risk appetite and risk tolerance appropriate to each business area;
- considering the risk policy and strategy;
- ensuring that there are adequate organisational processes and systems for identifying and reporting risks and deficiencies, including emerging risks;
- overseeing compliance with the stated risk appetite and policies and procedures related to risk management governance and the risk controls framework;
- monitoring the alignment of the risk framework to the organisation's growth, supporting a culture of risk taking within sound risk governance;
- 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 30 & 31 July 2024, 16 October 2024, 19 February 2025 and 18 June 2025. The eligibility to attend meetings and Board Meeting attendance over the 2024/2025 reporting period was as follows:

Board Member	Ward	Meeting Attendance	Notes
Vivianne Landy	Northwest	1/2	*See note below
Andrew Minyardie	Northwest	4/4	
Boyd Elston	Northeast	4/4	
Helen Wilson	Northeast	4/4	
Vacant	Southwest		
Vacant	Southwest		
Sam Stuart	Southeast	0/2	**See note below
Wanda Miller	Southeast	4/4	
Rob Carruthers	Independent	4/4	
Leah Royle	Independent	3/4	

*Vivianne Landy’s term commenced 24 January 2025.

**Sam Stuart resigned from the Board on 21 November 2024. In June 2025, Hayden Stuart was appointed by the IDA Board to fill a casual vacancy until the 2025 AGM with his first eligible meeting falling into the next financial year.

Management team

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has responsibility for the day-to-day management of the organisation via 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 2024-25 Financial Year was comprised of CEO Samantha Murray, Chief Operations Officer Emmanuel Hondros, Legal & Governance Officer Christina Araujo. The senior management team work closely with the IDA Board.

Samantha Murray completed her first year in the role of the CEO. Having an Indigenous desert woman at the helm has heralded a new era for IDA with the IDA’s visibility significantly increasing as Samantha travels both nationally and internationally to talk about the importance of the work of Desert ranger teams and the need to continue to support keeping the desert connected.

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 engages 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.

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

The IDA membership has grown to 29 Ngurratjuta Wanka Wilurratja / Alturla Rinya Aboriginal Corporation joining the IDA in June 2025 and Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation in August 2025.

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 - Ngaurrtju 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

Cooper 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 - Ngururpa 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 Yapalikurnu Aboriginal Corporation

- 37 - Martu Rangers

Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa (KJ)

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

Karajarri Traditional Lands Association

- 42 - Karajarri Rangers

Kimberley Land Council

- 43 - Kumirriki Rangers
- 44 - Paruku Rangers

Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation

- 45 - Kokatha Rangers

Maralinga Tjarutja Aboriginal Corporation

- 46 - Oak Valley Rangers

Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation

- 47 - Mala Rangers

Ngaanyatjarra Council

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

Ngadju Conservation Aboriginal Corporation

- 52 - Ngadju Rangers

Ngurratjuta Wanka Wilurratja/Alturla Rinya

Aboriginal Corporation

- 53 - Kungka Rangers

Nipapanha Aboriginal Corporation

- 54 - Nantawarrina Rangers

Nyangumarta Warrarn Aboriginal Corporation

- 55 - Nyangumarta Rangers

Pila Nguru Aboriginal Corporation

- 56 - Spinifex Rangers

Tarlka Matuwa Piarku Aboriginal Corporation

- 57 - Wiluna Martu Rangers

Tjirilya Aboriginal Corporation

- 58 - Mt Willoughby Rangers

Tjiwarl Aboriginal Corporation

- 59 - Tjiwarl Rangers

Tjuwanpa Aboriginal Corporation

- 60 - Tjuwanpa Womens Rangers

Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation

- 61 - Nyikina Mangala Rangers

Warnpurru Aboriginal Corporation

- 62 - Warnpurru Rangers

Yalata Aboriginal Corporation

- 63 - Yalata Land Management

Yappala IPA

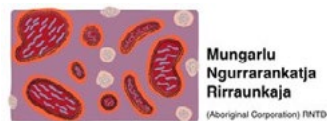
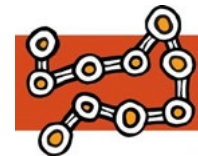
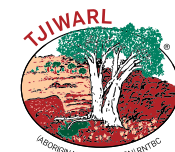
- 64 - Yappala IPA Rangers

Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation

- 65 - Ngurrara Rangers

Yilka Heritage and Land Care

- 66 - 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 our 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 AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities; and
 - Give a true and fair view of the financial position of the company as at 30 June 2025 and of its performance for the year then ended on that date.

2. 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
Date: 28 October 2025

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue			
Operating grants, subsidies and contributions	4	10,148,607	7,946,110
Interest received		143,637	150,971
Other revenue	5	2,133,934	1,208,320
		<u>12,426,177</u>	<u>9,305,401</u>
Expenses			
Employee costs		(3,879,989)	(3,132,835)
Materials and contracts	6	(5,805,548)	(4,912,947)
Depreciation	13	(297,797)	(251,714)
Interest Expenses		(11,467)	(6,806)
		<u>(9,994,801)</u>	<u>(8,304,302)</u>
Operating result for the year before income tax		<u>2,431,376</u>	<u>1,001,099</u>
Income tax expense		-	-
Operating result for the year after income tax		<u>2,431,376</u>	<u>1,001,099</u>
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		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		<u>2,431,376</u>	<u>1,001,099</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	11,380,091	6,311,917
Trade and other receivables	8	316,655	907,582
Total Current Assets		11,696,746	7,219,498
Non-Current Assets			
Fixed Assets	9	290,892	176,813
Right of use assets	14	176,238	102,172
Total Current Assets		467,130	278,985
Total Assets		12,163,876	7,498,483
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	10	3,395,711	1,452,805
Provisions	11	277,659	179,505
Lease liabilities	14	167,465	82,755
Total Current Liabilities		3,840,834	1,715,065
Non-current Liabilities			
Provisions	11	334,988	218,105
Lease liabilities	14	12,483	21,118
Total Non-current Liabilities		347,471	239,223
Total Liabilities		4,188,305	1,954,288
Net Assets		7,975,571	5,544,195
Equity			
Retained earnings	12	7,975,571	5,544,195
Total Equity		7,975,571	5,544,195

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

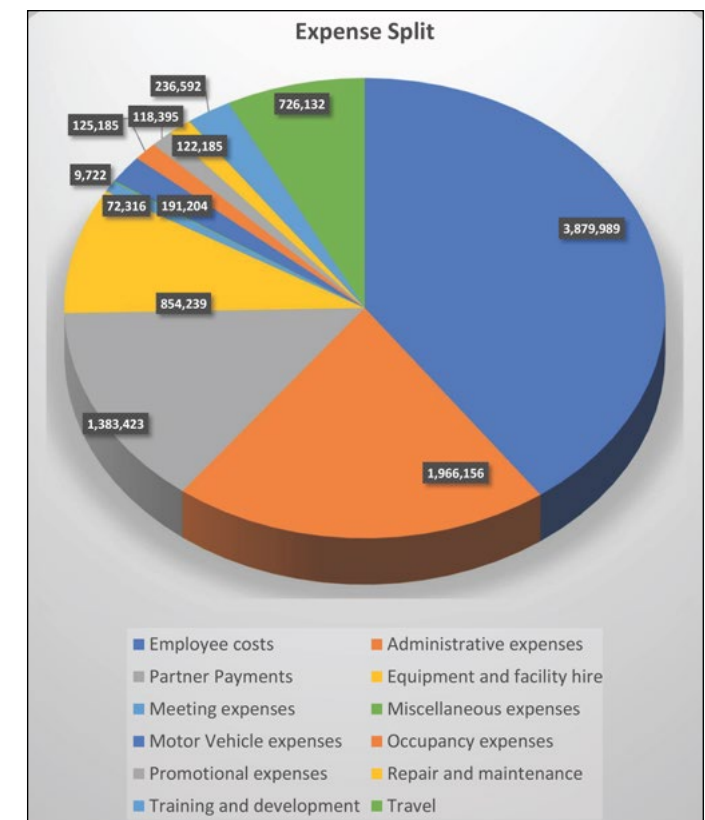
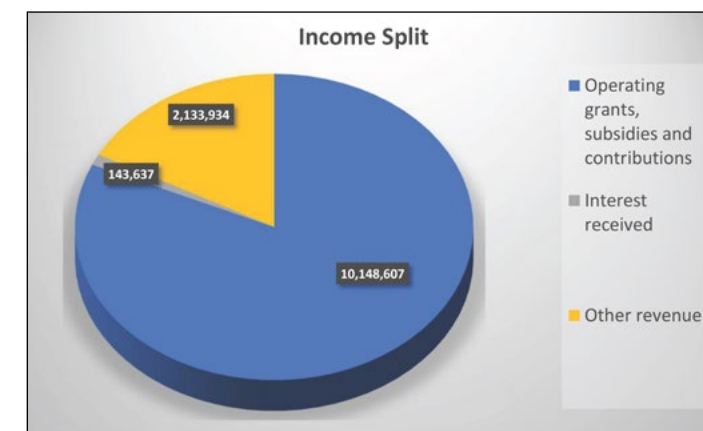
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	Retained Earnings	Share Capital	Total
	\$	\$	\$
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	5,544,195	-	5,544,195
2025			
Balance at the beginning of the year	5,544,195	-	5,544,195
Operating result of the year	2,431,376	-	2,431,376
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	2,431,376	-	2,431,376
Balance at end of the year	7,975,571	-	7,975,571

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 30 June 2025

Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities		
Receipts from operations	14,733,932	9,771,654
Payments to suppliers and employees	(9,369,215)	(8,162,090)
Interest received	141,313	141,817
Interest paid	(11,467)	(6,806)
Net GST recovered (paid)	(16,523)	17,230
Net Cash from/(used in) Operating Activities	5,478,041	1,761,805
Cash Flow from Investing Activities		
Payments for purchase of fixed assets	(198,394)	-
Net Cash from/(used in) Financing Activities	(198,394)	-
Cash Flow from Financing Activities		
Payments for principal portion of lease liabilities	(211,473)	(182,072)
Net Cash from/(used in) Financing Activities	(211,473)	(182,072)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	5,068,174	1,579,733
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	6,311,917	4,732,184
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	11,380,091	6,311,917



DIRECTORS:
VIRAL PATEL RCA, CA
ALASTAIR ABBOTT RCA, CA
CHASSEY DAVIDS RCA, CA
FAZ BASHI RCA, CPA

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:
ROBERT CAMPBELL RCA, CA
SANTO CASILLI FCPA PFIAA

AUSTRALIAN AUDIT

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

To the Members of Indigenous Desert Alliance Limited

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Indigenous Desert Alliance Limited (the company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the accompanying financial report has been prepared in accordance with requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act), including:

- giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2025, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended; and
- complying with the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosure Requirements, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022.

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 Corporations Act 2001, the ACNC Act 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.

Other Matter - Predecessor Auditor

The financial report of the company, for the year ended 30 June 2024, was audited by Paul Gilbert who expressed a Unqualified opinion on that report on 27 September 2024. We do not express an opinion on the comparative financial information for the 2024 year included in this financial report.

Responsibilities of Management and The Directors for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosure Requirements, the ACNC Act 2012 and the Corporations Act 2001. The responsibility of Management also includes such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are 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 the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

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 control 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 management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's 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 our 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 our 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 our audit.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opinion, the company has complied with 60-30(3)(b), (c) and (d) of the ACNC Act:

- by providing us with all information, explanation and assistance necessary for the conduct of the audit;
- by keeping financial records sufficient to enable a financial report to be prepared and audited; and
- by keeping other records required by Part 3-2 of the *ACNC Act*, including those records required by Section 50-5 that correctly record its operations, so as to enable any recognised assessment activity to be carried out in relation to the company.



Viral Patel, CA, CPA, RCA
Registered Company Auditor number 333615
Director
Australian Audit
Perth, Western Australia
Date: 29 October 2025



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