

**Submission
No 34**

INQUIRY INTO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

Organisation: Banbai Enterprise Development Aboriginal Corporation
Date received: 21/03/2016

OUR BACKGROUND

BANBAI ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Our vision: is for our country to be self-sustaining for future generations where our children learn cultural values (such as bush tucker and traditional practices) and have greater economic and social opportunities. Our country is a meeting place for family and community gatherings where knowledge is shared and what we see now generations will see in the future. Healthy country, healthy people and healthy waterways will make our country self-sustaining.

Corporate Governance: Banbai Enterprise Development Aboriginal Corporation (BEDAC) Board of Directors holds and protects the title of our traditional lands, the Board consists of 6 members, and two positions are held for young Banbai members.

Aboriginal Employment: BEDAC employs a total of 15 Aboriginal people consisting of: 1 Project Manager, 9 full time rangers, (i.e. consisting of 2 full time supervising rangers, 1 senior ranger, 4 FTE rangers and 2 part time rangers) and 3 administration staff (i.e. consisting of 1 FTE admin, 1 PTE admin and 1 casual). Our program provides **crucially employment/training opportunities** for Aboriginal people of the region.

CHALLENGES OUR ORGANISATION(S) HAVE FACED AND HOW YOU OVERCAME THEM

Our biggest challenge is: financial and program uncertainty with regards to the federal governments IPA and WoC programs (i.e. IPA and WoC contracts finish in 2018)

Our response is to:

- Investigate and lobby for co management opportunities with NSW national parks (natural/cultural planning/management/employment)
- Plan for business enterprise development (i.e. Aboriginal small business development/employment): This includes: land management services (i.e. fencing, pest animal weed control services), civil construction services (i.e. earth moving services), cultural heritage services (i.e. cultural heritage consultancy services on proposed DA's) domestic services (i.e. catering, cleaning and maintenance services).

RECOMMENDATIONS WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE COME OUT OF THIS INQUIRY

- Co management arrangements/partnerships with NSW national parks.
- Ongoing industry mentoring support - project management/financial management/ business planning and corporate governance (we are at the centre of decision making at all times)
- Expansion/creation of industry incentive programs that allow Aboriginal people to develop sustainable economic businesses, which ultimately will drive greater employment opportunities for Aboriginal people of the region.