



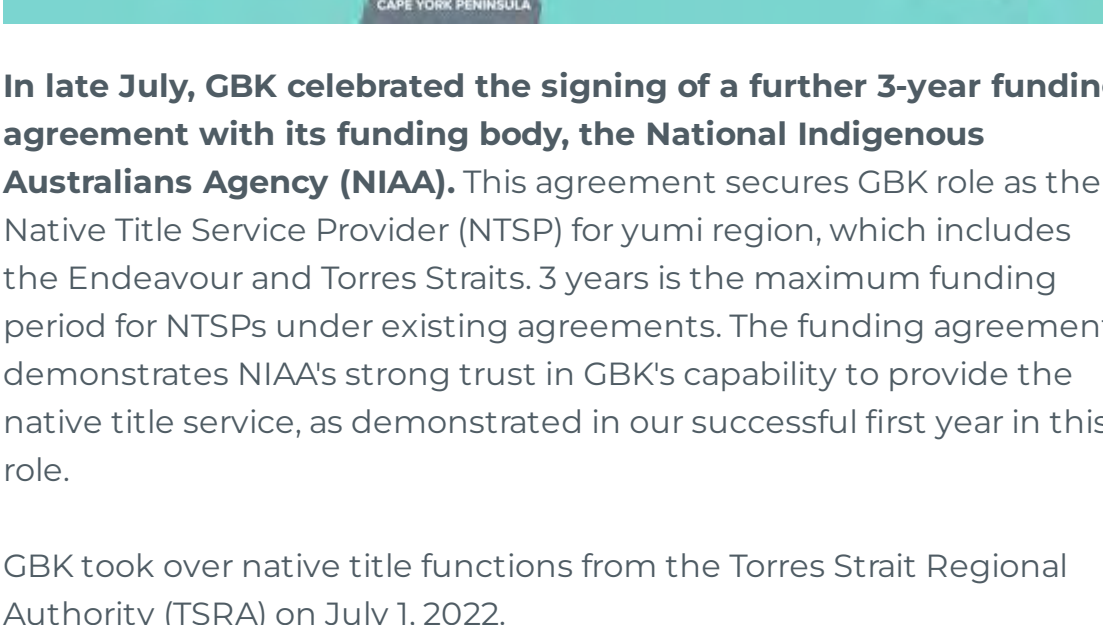
## YUMI NATIVE TITLE NEWSLETTER

August 2023

Welcome to the second edition of the GBK Native Title newsletter! Our dedicated team at GBK is excited to bring you another round of valuable insights and updates on all things related to Native Title and the important work of Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs) across the Torres and Endeavour Straits.

In this edition, we've compiled a diverse range of articles and features to keep you informed and engaged.

### GBK announced as region's NTRB for another 3 years



In late July, GBK celebrated the signing of a further 3-year funding agreement with its funding body, the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA). This agreement secures GBK role as the Native Title Service Provider (NTSP) for yumi region, which includes the Endeavour and Torres Straits. 3 years is the maximum funding period for NTSPs under existing agreements. The funding agreement demonstrates NIAA's strong trust in GBK's capability to provide the native title service, as demonstrated in our successful first year in this role.

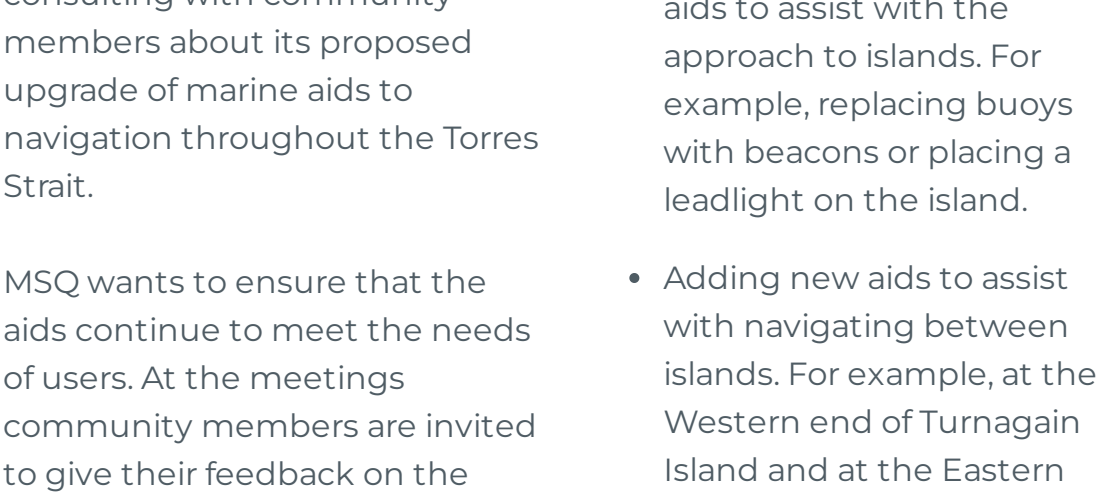
GBK took over native title functions from the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) on July 1, 2022.

For the 2023-24 fiscal year, GBK's key priorities include finalising ongoing native title claims as per court schedules, expanding the Torres Strait Regional Seas Claim determination of 2010 to cover previously unclaimed areas, preparing for the next phase in the claims process, the lodgement of compensation claims through projects like the Boundary Mapping Project, and enhancing the capacity of PBCs to ensure effective native title agreements and economic benefits for native title holders.

The six active claims in GBK's service region are the Torres Strait Regional Sea claims (Part B and Part C), the Kaurareg claims (1, 2, and 3), and the Warral & Ului claim.

The funding GBK receives for the next 3 years matches the funding for our initial year as NTSP

### Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ)



Paul Brandenburg presenting to community members on Yam Island on MSQ's proposed works on the navigational aids via a video-link up.

Over the past months, Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ), with the assistance of GBK, has been holding consultation meetings with community PBCs. Some further meetings are scheduled to be held in September. MSQ is consulting with community members about its proposed upgrade of marine aids to navigation throughout the Torres Strait.

MSQ wants to ensure that the aids continue to meet the needs of users. At the meetings community members are invited to give their feedback on the proposed works in their area. MSQ attends the meeting either in person or via video-link up to answer any questions community members may have.

The proposed works include:

- Upgrading existing buoys at all islands with slightly larger buoys that are better suited to handling strong currents.
- Adding additional or new aids to assist with the approach to islands. For example, replacing buoys with beacons or placing a leadlight on the island.
- Adding new aids to assist with navigating between islands. For example, at the Western end of Turnagain Island and at the Eastern end of Numar Reef.

All community PBCs will be contacted by GBK about the consultation meetings.

The map below shows the location of the proposed work.

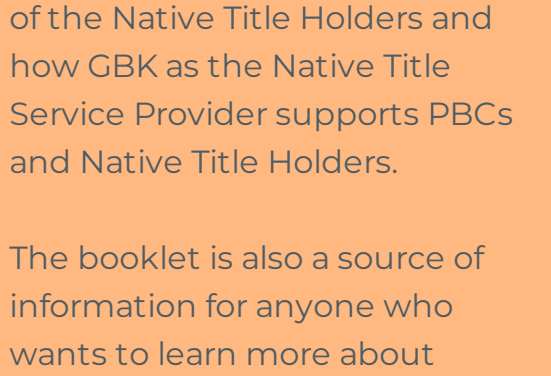


### Quick Links:

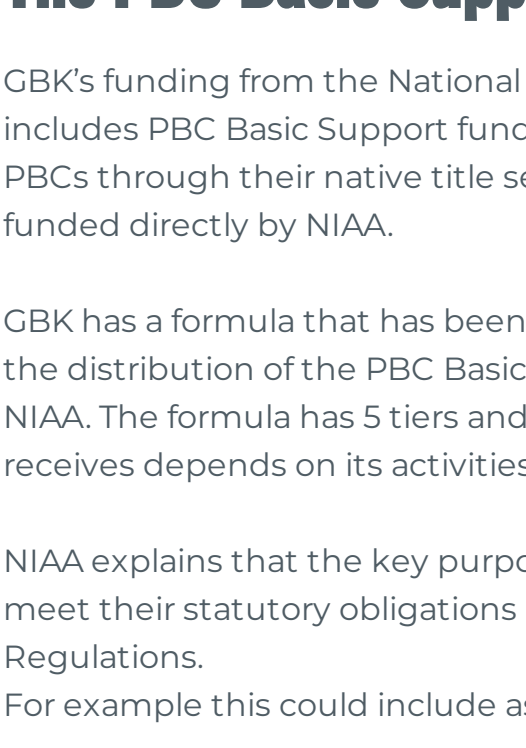
For more information on GBK's Boundary Projects (including illustrative maps), visit our website:



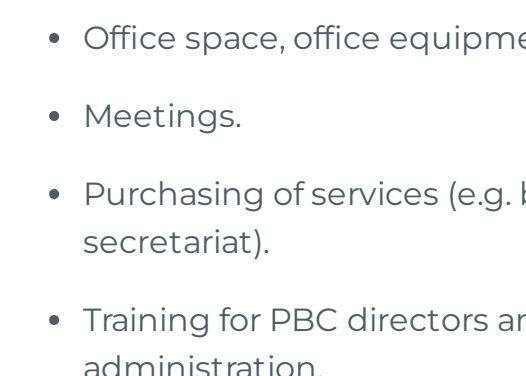
For more information about NIAA (with lists of NTSPs and NTRBs) visit NIAA's website:



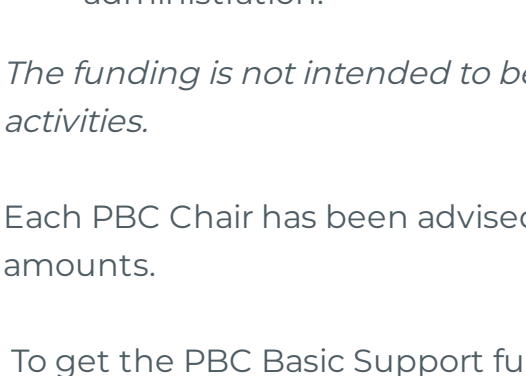
### Resource: Native Title Story



GBK has published "The Native Title Story of the Torres Strait Region" This booklet is for all First Nations People in Zenadth Kes.



It explains how native title has been recognised in the Torres and Endeavours Straits Region and what this recognition means for Native Title Holders and those dealing with them. It also explains the role of PBCs in managing the rights on behalf of the Native Title Holders and how GBK as the Native Title Service Provider supports PBCs and Native Title Holders.



The booklet is also a source of information for anyone who wants to learn more about native title – a legal concept that has its origin in the Torres Strait.

[Download a copy](#)

### The PBC Basic Support Funding

GBK's funding from the National Indigenous Australians Agency includes PBC Basic Support funding. This funding can be accessed by PBCs through their native title service provider. PBCs cannot be funded directly by NIAA.

GBK has a formula that has been agreed by its board of directors for the distribution of the PBC Basic Support funds it has received from NIAA. The formula has 5 tiers and the amount of money each PBC receives depends on its activities and size.

NIAA explains that the key purpose of this funding is to assist PBCs to meet their statutory obligations under the CATSI Act and the PBC Regulations.

For example this could include assistance with:

- Office space, office equipment and utilities.
- Meetings.
- Purchasing of services (e.g. book-keeping, accounting, secretariat).
- Training for PBC directors and staff in governance and administration.

The funding is not intended to be used for economic development activities.

Each PBC Chair has been advised of their PBC Basic Support funding amounts.

To get the PBC Basic Support funding transferred by GBK to their accounts, PBCs need to do three simple things:

1. Make sure they have a bank account ready to use.
2. Pick someone to manage their financial records (GBK or a bookkeeper).
3. Make a plan for how they will spend the money. They can either use a template from GBK or make their own plan.

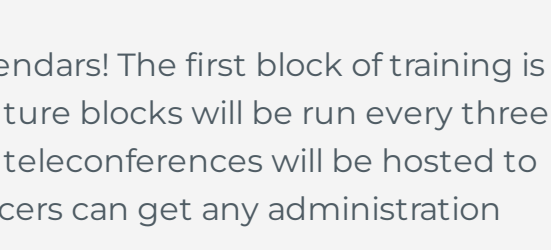
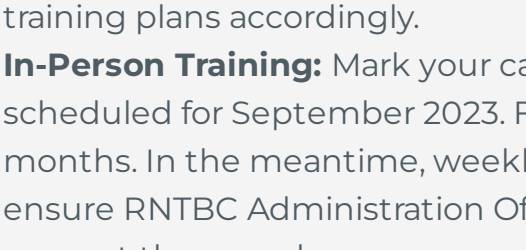
PBCs should send their budget and invoice for payment to Charly Kaddy (charlie.kaddy@gbk.org.au).

Funding for economic development activities can be applied for by PBCs under the PBC specific Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) funded stream administered by NIAA: **PBC Capacity Building funding**.

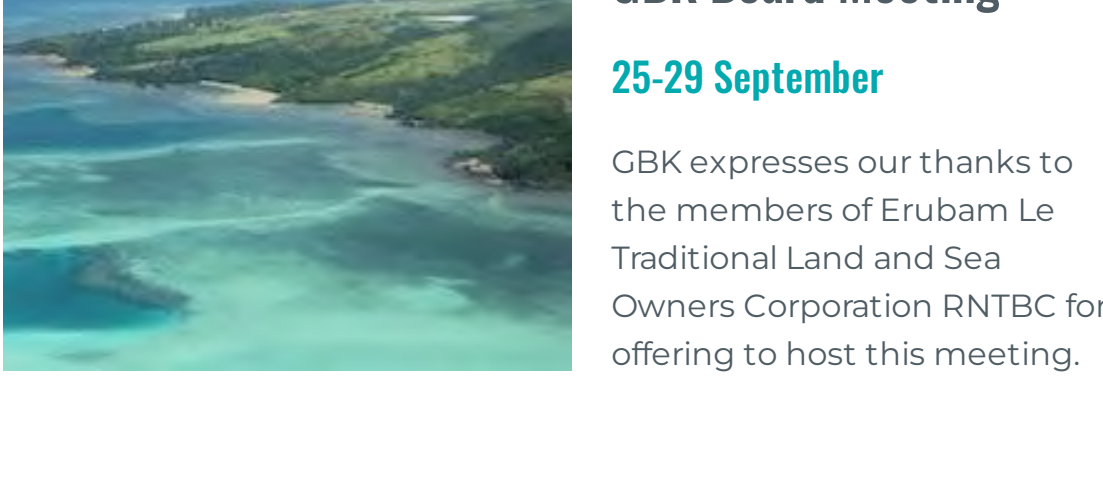
Further information on PBC Capacity Building funding can be found here:

This funding is available for PBCs and other bodies acting on their behalf, for example NTSPs. Unlike the PBC Basic Support funding, PBCs can directly apply for this funding. They don't have to go through GBK. GBK, however, can assist PBCs with their application.

[Find out more](#)



### New look RNTBC Admin projects (was PBC Admin project)



GBK's MGNM is running a unique project with see job seekers being employed as administrative support officers for PBCs.

We are excited to announce that it has been extended until October 2024. Under this revised project, up to 11 PBCs have a new staff member responsible for administrative tasks.

Following feedback from directors at the July GBK Board Meetings, we've made changes to the project to make it even more impactful.

**What does the project offer?** Under the project, MGNM employs and trains 11 jobseekers as PBC Administration Officers from July 2023 to October 2024.

Participating PBCs receive fully funded Administration Officers, elevating your ability to meet ORIC obligations and allowing Directors to concentrate on strategic decisions rather than administrative tasks. The selected participants secure meaningful employment, preferably within their community, and will receive the best-in-class training, and on-the-job support. We are committed to ensuring their success. In addition, the project will foster a supportive network of PBC Administration Officers, further strengthening the collaboration among PBCs and GBK.

**What is new?** **Move from Casual to Part-time Contracts:** As a sign of our commitment, we are offering existing PBC Administration Officers part-time contracts of 25 hours per week from 14 August to 30 June 2024.

**A Dedicated Project Coordinator:** To ensure seamless coordination, Kimberley Yorkston has been appointed as the GBK's project coordinator. As a senior GBK officer, Kim will be your go-to person for any queries or support.

**Needs-based Training:** Your PBC's priorities matter to us. Kim will work directly with PBC Directors and existing Administration Officers to better understand your preferences and design personalised training plans accordingly.

**In-person Training:** Mark your calendars! The first block of training is scheduled for September 2023. Future blocks will be run every three months. In the meantime, weekly videoconferences will be hosted to ensure RNTBC Administration Officers can get any administration support they need.

To find out more, contact Kimberley Yorkston  
Phone: 0476 652 913 | Email: [kimberley.yorkston@gbk.org.au](mailto:kimberley.yorkston@gbk.org.au)

### Date Claimers



#### GBK Board Meeting

25-29 September

GBK expresses our thanks to the members of Erubam Le Traditional Land and Sea Owners Corporation RNTBC for offering to host this meeting.

#### PBC General Meetings

4 September 2023

Kulkalgal (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC  
9.30AM — 11.30AM

Carboi (Torres Strait Islanders) Corporation RNTBC  
1PM — 3PM

Place: TSIRC Community Hall, Poruma

Technology: MS TEAMS video-linkup



For a copy of the full meeting notice and its attachment please contact the PBC Chairs, or Frank David GBK's PBC Liaison Officer

### OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 23, 2023: First Councilors Conference at Masig

Aug 24, 2023: Native Title Determination Day (Mabuiaig)

Aug 28-31: Regional Sea Claim Meeting (Cairns)

### IN THE NATIONAL NEWS



#### Senate Inquiry called into land councils

The ABC reports that Federal Member for Lingiari Marion Scrymgeour said land councils were already under significant scrutiny and that Senator Price has a "personal vendetta" against land councils. Senator Price says that TOs don't feel listened to or represented by land councils.

[READ MORE](#)



#### GBK's YesCampaign: A Unified Voice to Parliament

On 8th August, GBK hosted a significant YesCampaign event on TI featuring notable personalities, including Ned David, TSRA Chairman Pedro Stephen, YES23 Advocate Noel Pearson, Cape York Land Council Chairperson Richie Ahmat, as well as Kenny Bedford, and Stacey Ketchell

[READ MORE](#)

