

Your way forward for Native Title

# MESSAGE STICK



Dec 2024







NQLC acknowledges the  
Traditional Owners of our  
representative region.

We recognise their  
continuous relationships to  
the lands and waters,  
and pay our respects to  
Elders past, present and  
emerging.



# CHAIRPERSONS UPDATE



## A Year of Growth and Gratitude

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters within NQLC's representative footprint. Their enduring connection to country, culture, and community inspires all the work we do. I pay my respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

As 2024 comes to a close, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our Members, stakeholders, and staff for your dedication, hard work, and unwavering support throughout the year. This year has not been without its challenges, but together, we have made significant progress.

To the staff, your commitment to providing high-quality services and support to our communities does not go unnoticed. Your efforts ensure that NQLC continues to stand strong as a Recognised Native Title Representative Body.

## Leadership Transitions

Closing out the year, the Board held its first meeting following the Annual General Meeting. In accordance with Rule 11(8), a new Executive Committee has been endorsed:

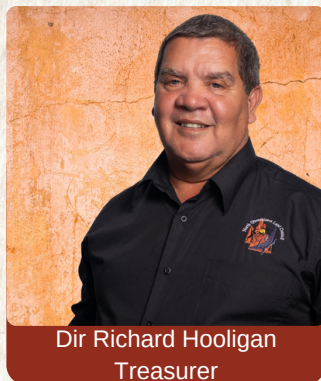
- Director Angie Akee – Chairperson
- Director Sarah Addo – Deputy Chairperson
- Director Richard Hoolihan – Treasurer
- Director Joann Schmider – Correspondence Secretary



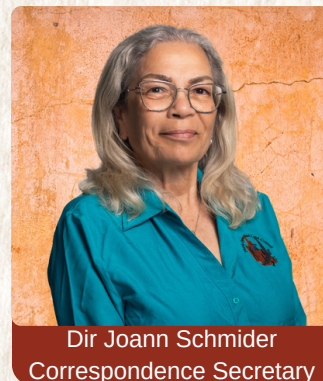
Dir Angie Akee  
Chairperson



Dir Sarah Addo  
Deputy Chairperson



Dir Richard Hooligan  
Treasurer



Dir Joann Schmider  
Correspondence Secretary

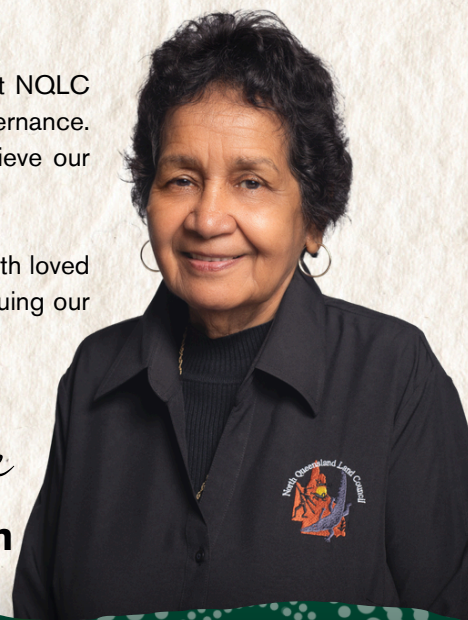
I am deeply grateful to the Board for their leadership and commitment to advancing NQLC's agenda. Under this new leadership team, we look forward to building on the progress we made in 2024 and embracing the opportunities that 2025 will bring.

## Looking Ahead

The Board has made great strides in progressing our strategic agenda this year, ensuring that NQLC continues to meet the needs of our communities while upholding the principles of good governance. 2025 aims to be a year of collaboration, innovation, and growth as we work together to achieve our shared goals.

Finally, I wish everyone a safe and very Merry Christmas, filled with joy, peace, and time spent with loved ones. Thank you once again for your contributions to NQLC's success. I look forward to continuing our journey together in 2025!

Angie Akee  
NQLC's Chairperson





# OPERATIONAL UPDATE



## Reflecting on 2024 A Year of Progress & Unity

Wonjirra – hello! As 2024 draws to a close, I take this moment to reflect on the positive strides made by NQLC. Guided by the strong performance of our dedication of our staff, our work continued to pursue our operational goals and to meeting the demands of our clients. The level of support and teamwork has been strong, and it has been a pleasure to lead the NQLC.

### Board Focuses on Document Reviews

In early June, the Board and staff had the privilege of attending the AIATSIS Summit in Narm. A pivotal event that brought together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, leaders, youth, and a diverse range of stakeholders. As one of the largest conferences dedicated to First Nations peoples, the summit offered valuable opportunities to support and strengthen our cultures, knowledge, and governance. The program included a three-day native title component and various discussions throughout the week on Indigenous research. I was particularly inspired by the keynote addresses from Jamie Lowe, CEO of the National Native Title Council, who delivered the Mabo Lecture, and Justin Mohamed, Ambassador for First Nations People. Their contributions highlighted the summit's significance in advancing our collective goals.



### NQLC's Leadership Team Grows

This year, we celebrated the well-deserved promotion of two long-standing team members to leadership roles. Jasmin Phillips as the Principal Legal Officer, and Jules Taylor as Engagement and Development Support Team Manager. With their knowledge, leadership, wealth of experience and passion for Native Title, NQLC's stands to gain considerably. Annette King and I are excited to have the Executive team back at full strength.



**Jasmin Phillips**  
Principal Legal Officer



**Jules Taylor**  
EDST Manager



# OPERATIONAL UPDATE



## Teamwork and Connection

We focused on strengthening our internal foundations, advancing initiatives that promote fairness and unity within our organisation. Our organisation culture is in need of work, and I have envisioned a "1NQLC" initiative, that I plan to roll out in 2025. I aim to engender trust and foster a spirit of inclusivity and shared purpose across the organisation.

Keeping the "fun factor" alive, we also prioritised team-building activities and engagement events, strengthening our bonds and reinforcing the importance of teamwork and connection.

## Strengthening Connections and Driving Progress

Externally, we strengthened connections and drove progress through dynamic stakeholder engagements. From claims research, authorisation meetings, negotiations, Determination ceremonies, Future Acts consultations, and EDST support our efforts remained steadfast and committed. Our Recognised Native Title Representative Body status is an honor and privilege, and our hard work reinforces why the NQLC continues to gain recognition status.

As we end 2024, I extend gratitude and thank everyone who we worked with for your trust and support. Positive outcomes come from your investment of time, knowledge and continued participation in the process.

Looking toward 2025, I see the potential for positive outcomes, optimism, leadership, learning, celebrations and meaningful work. A heartfelt thank you to Chairperson Angie Akee and the Ward Representatives on our board. For NQLC staff- enjoy the break and see you when I am looking at you.

Wishing everyone a joyful and safe festive season.

Gurru-nyundu wawal – see you later



Leon Yeatman

**Chief Executive Officer**



What an amazing year the Engagement and Development Support Team (**EDST**) has had working with PBCs. 2024 saw some amazing achievements, good news stories and highlights which we are happy to share with you leading into the festive season.

## A New Chapter for Ewamian People

The Ewamian corporate group, lead by Ewamian People Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (**EPAC**), has been working with the Future Acts, Mining and Exploration (**FAME**) team and PBC Support Unit (**PBCSU**) on many projects during 2024. Many of you would know Sharon Prior who has been EPAC's dedicated General Manager for over 16 years. Sharon has decided to move on and has been replaced by Sarah Fisher who the EDST look forward to working with in 2025. Some of Sharon Prior's achievements working with various EPAC boards include:

- supporting the development and the opening of the operations of Talaroo Hot Springs tourism business;
- supporting negotiations of more than 25 Native Title ILUAs and Agreements on behalf of Ewamian People;
- the achievement of Native Title in 2013 for over 29,000sq kms of Ewamian traditional lands;
- supporting the acquisition of Talaroo Station;
- leading the development of the Talaroo IPA Plan of Management and the ongoing successful management leading to Dedication in December 2023;
- successful management of the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program at Talaroo since 2010;
- successful management of the Talaroo IPA Program since 2011 managing and protecting the conservation and cultural values; and
- facilitating the corporate restructure of all Ewamian entities to reflect the diversity of interests and assets for Ewamian People and the development of the Ewamian People Charitable Trust.



Your dedication and commitment Sharon to Ewamian People has been extraordinary and we wish you well on your new endeavours.



## Building Legacy for DMYAC

Jasmine Clubb, FAME's Senior Project Officer who many of you would know, is also the Chairperson of her own PBC, Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (**DMYAC**) for the Goldsborough Valley Area. Better known as Jazz, she has been kicking goals with the DMYAC board including a successful ranger program that is now in its 3rd year that manages a large tract of Aboriginal Land Act land and also works closely with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and Wet Tropics. Recently, DMYAC achieved the successful acquisition of the former Gordonvale Police Station to be transformed into an office, ranger base and cultural tourism centre providing a space for their corporation to continue to grow and fulfill the aspirations of their people.



## Representing Country: TAC's Achievements



Many of the PBCs in our region are getting organised and marketing themselves with websites, logos and clothing so that when board matters are being undertaken, rangers are out on country or cultural heritage service work is being done it is clear who Traditional Owners are representing. I'm getting quite a collection of shirts happening and am proud to wear them – check out my Tagalaka Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (**TAC**) shirt – “I walked on Tagalaka Land”.

TAC have also been kicking goals in 2024 with a new ranger program and implementing an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (**ILUA**) for the newly named Tagalaka (Littleton) National Park with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (**QPWS**). TAC led the charge for the first ever co-management ILUA with QPWS outside the CYPAL area and we look forward to many more stories about their blossoming relationship

## New Horizons for WAC in 2025

Wabubadda Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (**WAC**) have also been successful for a NIAA ranger grant and we look forward to working with the WAC board in 2025 to further expand their footprint and acquire office space on country to support this program. WAC have a young dynamic board all bar two directors were born in the 1980s, with a lot of skills being brought to the table and have had other successful small grants. We wish them well!

## Innovative Solutions for Gugu Badhun Country

Gugu Badhun Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (**GBAC**) has gone from strength to strength in 2024 managing many large ILUAs and other agreements on their country. The aggregate impact of project on country when you don't have a right to say 'no' can really impact groups especially with a lot of NQLC's footprint being earmarked for renewable energy projects and critical minerals. Because of these impacts GBAC has set up an Environmental Information System. This platform will be used to collect all sites recorded and other historic sources. There will also be a member portal that will have Gugu Badhun language, members calendar for all GB events and information for members. It is these kinds of projects that see PBCs really be able to engage and record impacts on country. GBAC works with staff, directors and other community members to ensure that Country is protected.



We look forward to hearing more good news stories for our next edition of the Message Stick. Please contact me directly if you would like to share your stories.

Stay safe over the festive season and we hope you enjoy time with family, friends and loved ones. Catch you in 2025!

*Julia (Jules) Taylor*

**Manager Engagement and Development Support Team & Acting  
Coordinator Future Acts Mining and Exploration (FAME) Unit**











WE WISH YOU

Merry  
Christmas

& HAPPY  
NEW YEAR







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