



BY TREA MONGTA, AIATSIS

There have currently been around 367 successful native title determination outcomes across Australia, with almost 200 organisations known as Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs) established to administer native title lands on behalf of native title claim groups. The Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation (FWCAC), located on the West Coast of South Australia, is a great example of a PBC that is successfully kicking goals for their community.

The history of FWCAC's native title application process first started back in 1995 with the Mirning people's application. Their application became the sixth between overlapping native title application's. The other applications made by the Wirangu People, Kokatha People, Yalata People, Maralinga Tjaratja People and the descendants of Edward Roberts. The applicants came together to lodge the one combined native title application under the one shared vision about achieving native title rights in 2006, almost a decade after the first application had been made.

The consolidated claimant group then incorporated as the Far West Coast Traditional Lands Association (a predecessor of FWCAC) back

in 2008 and in the same year, they successfully negotiated a Native Title Mining Agreement with Iluka Resources Pty Ltd, securing economic development and investment opportunities for their members and Aboriginal peoples living in the Far West Coast region.

On the 5th December 2013, after 18 long years, the Federal Court made a determination that native title exists in parts of the determination area. Since determination, the members of FWCAC have successfully governed their PBC and have used their royalties to diversify their operations by creating a few entities that deliver different services.

Some of the Far West Coast Group of Entities are:

- Far West Coast Investments Pty. Ltd
- The Far West Coast Aboriginal Community Charitable Trust
- Far West Mining and Civil Pty. Ltd.

The aims of the Far West Coast Group of Entities are to maximise business and economic opportunities, ensure native title rights to traditional lands are exercised and maintained, enhance the recognition and respect of the Aboriginal cultures and

heritage and to provide support to the members and Aboriginal people living in the native title area.

The Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation continues to successfully manage and govern the organisation and is working towards financial security and independence to ensure the return of profits to its members remains viable well into the future especially after mining activities cease.

You can find out more about the Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation and the Far West Coast Group of Entities, their separate portfolio areas, responsibilities and priorities at <http://www.fwcac.org.au>.

More information can be found at:

Radio Adelaide:
<http://radioadelaide.org.au/2018/11/23/native-title-and-far-west-coast-investments/>

National Native Title Tribunal:
http://www.nntt.gov.au/searchRegApps/NativeTitleRegisters/Pages/NNTR_details.aspx?NNTT_Fileno=SCD2013/002

Native Title Website PBC Profile:
<https://www.nativetitle.org.au/find/pbc/7985>