



Updating the PBC website

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The Native Title Research Unit's (NTRU) Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) website has just had a major update.

The post-determination phase of native title is providing a range of challenges and opportunities for PBCs as they manage their native title rights and engage in a number of other activities to maintain country, culture and community. To support the goals and aspirations of PBCs the NTRU has updated and expanded the PBC website.

AIATSIS has been working and conducting research with PBCs since 2005, just as the number of native title determinations were increasing. Back then only 45 PBCs were operating across Australia. The NTRU supported these PBCs to advocate for their interests with state and federal governments and started national PBC meetings and regional PBC workshops.

Now with over 220 PBCs across the nation, NTRU research continues to provide insight into this expanding sector and creates a better understanding of the challenges facing native title holder communities as they manage their native title rights.

Results from the first national PBC survey run by the NTRU in 2013 showed, for example, the need of adequate resourcing and support for PBCs, both in the organisations initial set up and in the longer term. The 2019 PBC survey shows that in addition to fulfilling their native title obligations the majority of PBCs are now running cultural and environmental services.¹ Many PBCs are also looking for extra training and are wanting to increase their skills, expertise and knowledge.

Providing information is a key factor in PBC support and the NTRU runs a number of information services. One of these services is the PBC website which assists PBCs to better understand their rights, obligations and functions and provides relevant resources and tools.

To respond to the changing needs of PBCs the website has expanded to become a hub of information for new PBCs just starting out, or established PBCs looking for information on particular topics or finding resources relevant to their needs. It is also an excellent resource for the wider native title sector. It provides a wealth of information including, profiles on each PBC and their native title holdings, contact details for Native Title Representative Bodies and Service Providers (NTRBs/SPs) and native title relevant news and events.

The PBC website is divided into two main sections:

Learn for relevant and practical information such as:

- [native title and PBCs](#)
- [role and function of a PBC](#)
- [key players in a PBC](#)
- [building PBC business](#)
- **Find** for quick reference and access to information such as:
 - [find a PBC or a partner](#)
 - [find funding and grants or training opportunities](#)
 - [news and events](#)
 - [resources and publications](#)

All existing pages have been updated and usability is enhanced with improved searchability and by including easy access to relevant resources and links.

New PBC web pages include:

- [alternative settlement](#)
- [compensation](#)
- [communication strategies and social media](#)
- [PBCs and research partnerships](#)

Many practical resources have been added such as downloadable workbooks, guidelines, checklists and templates relevant to PBC

business. These can be altered according to your PBC's needs.

Practical resources include:

- templates for [staff](#) and [board induction](#)
- a [funding workbook](#)
- a plain English [Code of Conduct](#) template
- workbooks to get involved with PBCs from a [youth](#) and [PBC perspective](#).



The [national PBC snapshot](#) provides up-to-date statistics that can now be downloaded in a number of formats. The addition of photos, diagrams and videos enhances the viewer experience.

Many sections of the PBC website are updated regularly such as news, events and [COVID-19 information](#), others on a quarterly basis including the [PBC profiles](#), [funding](#), [training opportunities](#).

Share your views on the PBC website and how we can assist with other information your PBC needs via the NTRU email ntru@aiatsis.gov.au or by phone 02 6261 4223.



Yawuru PBC AGM, Liyan-ngan Nyirrwa (in Broome). Credit: Yawuru PBC



Yawuru country, Kimberley. Credit: Simon Rowell

¹ B Burbidge, M Barber, TM Kong & T Donovan, *Project report: 2019 survey of Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs)*, AIATSIS, Canberra, forthcoming.