



**ICIN** Indigenous  
Carbon  
Industry  
Network

# Annual Report

2024-2025



Delegates at the 2025 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum



Seven Emus Station, Gulf of Carpentaria © David Hancock

# About Us

In 2022, following five years of coordination and consultation, the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN) was launched by its members as Australia's first independent charitable company owned by Indigenous producers of carbon credits and therefore the first peak body for the Indigenous carbon industry. ICIN demonstrates the growth and leadership of Indigenous people in the carbon industry, and supports Indigenous groups to benefit from opportunities emerging in carbon markets.

The Network is owned by its 23 Full Members who are Indigenous land and sea management organisations that directly produce carbon credits and/or own carbon projects. The Network also has nine Associate Members who are all Indigenous organisations with an interest in carbon markets. ICIN is overseen by a Board of six Aboriginal people from within its membership who are appointed by members.

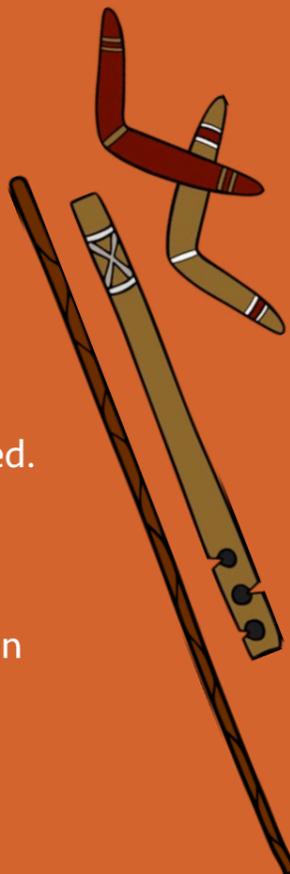


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## Acknowledgement of Country

ICIN wish to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands our members, directors and staff operate on all around Australia. In particular, the network is grateful for the collective wisdom and guidance of our elders past and present. We acknowledge that our office is located on Larrakia land and pay our respects to Larrakia people, whose sovereignty of these lands and seas was never ceded.

ICIN wish to acknowledge the incredible people we have sadly lost across the network and their contributions to the Indigenous carbon industry. In particular, we have been deeply saddened by the passing of Mr. N GulayGulay, a proud Yolngu Elder and ICIN Board Director since 2021.



ICIN Director Teddy Bernard delivering the Indigenous Address at the Carbon Farming Industry Forum © Carbon Market Institute





# The Board

ICIN Ltd is an independent, Indigenous-led charity owned by its Full Members. The Constitution sets the rules for ICIN Ltd, a registered charitable company limited by guarantee, owned by its full members and overseen by a seven-person, 100% Aboriginal Board of Directors.



## Our Board



**Cissy Gore-Birch OAM**  
Co-Chair



**Dr Dean Yibarbuk**  
Co-Chair



**Suzanne Thompson**  
Director



**Cathy Goonack**  
Director



**Teddy Bernard**  
Director



**Sarah Parriman**  
Director

# A Tribute

Mr Gulay Gulay was a long-serving ICIN director and senior ranger with the Arafura Swamp Rangers Aboriginal Corporation (ASRAC) up until his passing in April 2025. He dedicated his time to caring for his Country and was playing an increasing role in the development of carbon methods aimed at managing and reducing the impact of hard-hoofed introduced animals in wetlands. He was deeply committed to the work of the network, bringing invaluable cultural insight and leadership.

His loss will be felt profoundly across the network and beyond.



Mr Gulay Gulay

ICIN Co-Chair Dr. Dean Yibarbuk said:

*“For 30 years I looked up to him and really respected him. He was close family, a cousin, a brother. We worked together in many different capacities, in government and in the ranger programs. He was passionate about his work and pushed to get things to happen. He was extremely important to ICIN and highly respected by Traditional Owners and those working on ranger and fire projects. I wish to give my deep condolences to his family and to the ASRAC team. With our work with the ICIN going out to communities, I thought he would be there with us. He will be greatly missed, I will miss him, all the ICIN groups will miss him.”*

ICIN Co-Chair Cissy Gore-Birch OAM said:

*“As the Co-Chair of the ICIN Board, I wish to express my condolences to his family and to ASRAC. His loss will be profoundly felt within ICIN, where we valued the contributions he brought to his role as Director. He was deeply passionate about doing what is right for both the people and the land, a humble man, and a quiet achiever. He had a big heart, always driven by what was right for his people. His wit, his warmth, his cheeky nature, how he made us laugh – it will all be greatly missed.”*

# Our Values

**Strategic and Focused:** Our purpose is clear and connected to our actions.

**Genuine, Indigenous-led, accessible and member driven:** We work together to support each other from the ground up, by ensuring decision-making is driven by our members.

**Empowering and Inclusive:** We support more Indigenous voices to be heard and seek to maximise benefits to Indigenous communities by enabling greater Indigenous engagement in the carbon industry.

**Respectful:** We acknowledge that we all come from different places, yet we seek common ground where we find it. We respect local cultural protocols and are mindful that our industry is grounded in thousands of years of traditional knowledge and practices.

**Transparent and Accountable:** We are a trusted voice for the industry through our reputation for practicing good governance and by supporting two way communication throughout the network.

**Innovative and Adaptive:** We are an emerging network, so we will adapt to members needs as they change. We are innovative in our work and want to learn as we grow.

**Independent and Not-for-Profit:** We do not have any commercial interest in the carbon market other than seeking to enhance benefits for all Indigenous carbon businesses across Australia.



Delegates at the 2025 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum

# Co-chair's Report

## Cissy Gore-Birch OAM

The ICIN is only as strong as its members, and this year we were proud to grow the network to 23 Full Members (with carbon projects) and nine Associate Members (without carbon projects). Working together, we are enabling and empowering Indigenous people to benefit from carbon, and environmental markets.

In partnership with our members and funders, we host events such as the Savanna Fire Forum to facilitate knowledge exchange.

We publish free and independent resources such as the Indigenous Carbon Projects Guide and Free, Prior and Informed Consent Guidelines. Throughout the year, ICIN regularly consults with its members on carbon method development and climate policy to ensure it supports enabling access of Indigenous communities to emerging carbon markets in a way that values and supports Indigenous land and sea management practices as well as the self-determined aspirations of Indigenous communities.

It was my pleasure to MC the Savanna Fire Forum this year and see the incredible work of our members showcased on the main stage. Each year, more and more rangers are bravely stepping up to talk about their work on their carbon projects, and it is particularly impressive to see more young people than ever speaking up this year. A personal highlight was listening to a song Jawoyn rangers wrote at the forum about fire.

Beyond the forum, we have been engaging in critical conversations such as at Garma Festival, highlighting the incredible economic development opportunity that members have created for mob on country through their carbon projects.

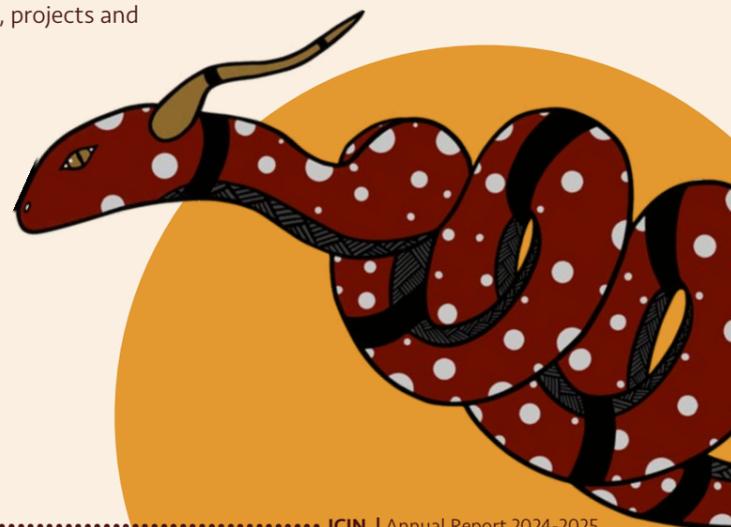
We thank our generous funders for their support over this past year and look forward to many more partnerships, projects and achievements.



It has been an exciting ride as Co-Chair of ICIN, and it is rewarding to see so many great outcomes being achieved by our members across Australia through their carbon projects, supporting restoration of healthy country and benefits for our remote communities.

I am proud of our staff team and their work to support our members to grow their capability and share knowledge and experiences across remote places. I thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Read on to be inspired, and to support our work, you can always make a donation at: [icin.org.au/donations](https://www.icin.org.au/donations)



## Dr Dean Yibarbuk

The ICIN has done a lot of incredible work over 2024/25. We have seen tremendous efforts in fire operations from ranger groups, and we have become stronger working with stakeholders, particularly I want to mention our work with international stakeholders over the past year.

Our North Australia Savanna Fire Forum in February 2025 was a tremendous success and great example of this. This conference is incredible how it brings together people, not just from Australia but from across the world. I am very happy to see other Country representatives coming and listening to our work because they also want to use fire to reduce carbon emissions in their own countries too.

In 2025, the Fire Forum was so happy to welcome international participants from Botswana, Brazil, Mozambique, Zambia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste, who came to learn how Indigenous peoples here use fire to manage landscapes. I was very impressed

that they came all this way, to learn our tools, to hear our knowledge, and to try to do these fire practices on their own country. It was the most international guests we had ever welcomed to the Fire Forum.

Working with people from Botswana has been really interesting and ongoing. In Botswana they have a lot of grassland like northern Australia's savanna but a lot of them are coming at this cool burning fire practice from scratch, and now they are already initiating these burning programs in their country. It was wonderful for us to share knowledge with them.

We thank the International Savanna Fire Management Initiative for supporting these people to travel to the Fire Forum. We need to keep building these international relationships, we've got a lot to learn from them and them from us.

As an elder, 35 years of my work has been in creating land management programs for our people and talking to people from across Arnhem Land who are interested in ranger



programs. A lot of work, time and energy has also been put into research, to support the development of carbon methods, and I can say I am proud of the journey we have all been on. These [carbon] methods are important, and we need to keep showcasing that they are contributing to the biodiversity of the world.

Receiving an Honourary Doctorate this year offers an opportunity for my community to witness my footprints and to encourage more people to find ways to contribute to positive outcomes for community, country and the whole world.

ICIN, its members and Directors look forward to continue this important work, meeting with different stakeholders on what is happening, promoting successful land management programs, representing our interests to government and sharing our knowledge internationally.



# CEO's Report

2025 was a significant year of growth for the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network. I am very pleased to welcome Tyron Bin Hitam-Keefe, Genevieve Schulz, Suzanne Munkara and Amanda Lilleyman to our growing team, enabling members to stay informed and supporting key policy and communication projects.

It is great to see our membership continue to grow as opportunities through the carbon market expand to include more activities. A key factor supporting greater engagement has been the network's focus on raising awareness of Indigenous rights and interests in carbon and advocacy for greater recognition of these rights and interests in government policy.

To this end, this year we are working with the ILSC, legal advisors and Indigenous groups with experience in agreement making to develop an Indigenous Agreement Making Guide on Carbon Projects which will build from the Seeking the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Communities for a Carbon Project Best Practice Guidelines.

We are also working with research partners at Charles Darwin University, the University of Queensland and NAILSMA on guidelines for Indigenous groups in relation to Blue Carbon rights and opportunities in coastal regions.

ICIN is pleased to partner with the Australian Government to deliver the First Nations Carbon Farming Outreach Project. This significant project over three years includes delivery of

- 30 policy consultation workshops with Indigenous groups on ACCU scheme policies, both online and in person, to inform policy submissions
- 30 Carbon Farming Outreach Workshops to support Indigenous groups' understanding of carbon markets, both online and in-person.



Perhaps of greatest impact is ICIN's work to support collaborations on carbon and nature repair method development and design, and to support our members to lead and inform this work. This includes;

- Improved Hooved Animal Management Carbon Method (led by NAILSMA and UQ)
- NEW Savanna Fire Management carbon accounting methods (led by Australian Government DCCEEW) which will value carbon stored in living plants for the first time.

We continue to support our members to advocate for implementation of the ACCU Review recommendations, including removal of 'conditional' registration before consent has been given by Native Title holders.

I am very grateful for the ongoing support of our hard-working team, and the leadership of our Directors and members. I look forward to working together with you all in 2026 as we continue to build the network's capability to support its members and grow opportunities to support Indigenous land and sea managers to access carbon and environmental markets.



Clare Price, Dr Dean Yibarbuk, Amy O'Brien, Anna and Sunny at the Dangkal Gwo'yal-wa First Nations Land and Water Management Forum 2024

# The ICIN team



**Anna Boustead**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Jarrad Holmes**  
Technical Advisor



**Clare Price**  
Communications Manager



**Amy O'Brien**  
Project Officer



**Genevieve Schulz**  
Policy Manager



**Tyron Bin Hitam-Keefe**  
Communications and Outreach Officer



**Suzanne Munkara**  
Policy Officer



**Amanda Lilleyman**  
Communications Advisor

# Update on ICIN's five-year strategy

## 5 key strategic pillars



Download our 2023-2026 Strategic Business Plan

### PILLAR 1

## Indigenous groups across Australia are enabled to make informed decisions about carbon projects

### Overview

Indigenous carbon projects create environmental, cultural and whole of community benefits. The industry began with one project in 2006 and has expanded to 42 projects today. These projects drive genuine economic self-determination and create meaningful employment opportunities in often very remote areas.

The Network provides free independent information about the carbon industry targeted to Indigenous audiences to support informed decisions regarding engaging with carbon. We work together to facilitate knowledge sharing and improved understanding of carbon markets, producing guides unpacking complex topics with Plain English and providing regular updates to our members on related policy issues.



### Key achievement

#### North Australia Savanna Fire Forum: February 2025

In February 2025, the Network delivered its largest, most successful North Australia Savanna Fire Forum. 500 participants at the three-day event at the Darwin Convention Centre travelled to Garramilla (Darwin) from all States and Territories.

Now recognised as Australia's largest fire forum, this event celebrates the achievements of the Indigenous carbon industry. The 2025 theme was 'Delivering results for people and planet'. In 2025, Indigenous organisations purchased 67% of all tickets, reflecting their strong leadership and engagement. Representatives from 110 diverse organisations attended, including international participants from Botswana, Brazil, Mozambique, Zambia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste, around 5% of total attendees, who came to learn how Indigenous peoples use fire to manage landscapes and reduce carbon emissions.

A highlight of the 2025 forum was a fire demonstration in partnership with Raindance Systems and Bushfires NT. This was the first time ICIN had been able to offer a controlled fire at a fire forum, using drone incendiary machine technology. A Youth Yarning Session focused on future opportunities for young Indigenous people working on Country.

Diverse sessions included:

- Indigenous ranger report backs,
- Deep dives into the new Savanna Fire Management methods, the Blue Carbon Feral Ungulate Management method and nature repair markets,
- Gamba grass identification and management,
- Biodiversity research,
- Health impacts of hot fires,
- Federal and state carbon policy updates,
- Perspectives on COP28 and other international opportunities.

Offsite controlled burn by latest drone incendiary machine technology at the 2025 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum



The Forum was facilitated by ICIN Co-Chair Cissy Gore-Birch OAM, with program development stewarded by ICIN's working group made up of our members and fire researchers. The Hon Josh Burgoyne MLA, NT Minister for the Environment, the Hon Selena Uibo, Member for Arnhem and Assistant Minister for Climate Change Josh Wilson MP presented to the forum.

ICIN raised \$350,000 in sponsorship and from ticket sales which enabled us to fully cover the cost of hosting the event, keeping ticket prices low. Most exciting was the ICIN video competition, which saw Wunambal Gaambera AC wheel away a new eBike donated by UBCO after making an inspiring video entry talking about what their fire project means to them.

94% of attendees completing the event survey said their expectations were met or exceeded.

ICIN was pleased to work with local Indigenous businesses on the delivery of the event including: XhalEvents, Moogie Down Productions and Following in their footsteps.

The Indigenous-led program, photos and videos from the forum are available here:

[www.icin.org.au/2025\\_savanna\\_fire\\_forum](http://www.icin.org.au/2025_savanna_fire_forum).



Cissy Gore-Birch OAM, Barry Hunter, Sarah Parriman and Melissa Sinclair



Brian Wilson and Tom Vigilante



Youth session, 2025 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum



Delegates at the 2025 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum



Dr Otto Bulmaniya Campion with Dr Dean Yibarbuk



Bobby Bowie, Ranger, Batavia Aboriginal Corporation



Joyce Bohme, Kate Nawirrdj, Noreen Wurrkidj, Jamie Yibarbuk and Dickson Marrday from Djelk Rangers



Delegates at the 2025 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum



Danella Lee, Larrakia artist



Gamba grass offsite workshop

## Sponsors of the 2025 Forum

### GOLD

- Commonwealth Bank Australia
- Charles Darwin University
- Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC)
- National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)
- The Nature Conservancy Australia
- Western Australia's Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

### SILVER

- Clean Energy Regulator
- Gondwana Carbon
- International Savanna Fire Management Initiative (ISFMI)
- Maki Planet Systems
- North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)
- Northern Territory Government

### BRONZE

- Darwin Centre for Bushfire Research (DCBR)
- Arnhem Helicopters
- Climate Friendly
- Marsh
- NAFI
- Queensland Government
- Raindance Systems
- Research Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods (RIEL)

**“Savanna fire management for us young people is learning from all the old people, learning about all the different cultures, and how people work differently, and the different terrains people work on, and it’s good to learn how they work.”**



Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation, Marlie Gillett - Forum youth yarning session.

**“Fabulous work. Cissy Gore-Birch made an extraordinary contribution,”**

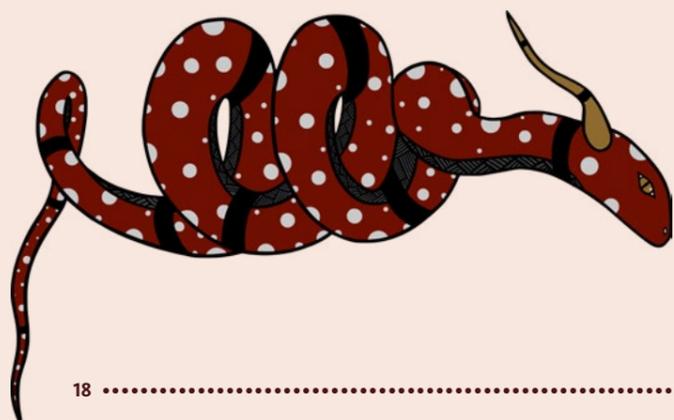
-Petronella Vaarzon-Morel, Charles Darwin University.

**“Well done ICIN team, the forum was great and our TOs and ranger teams got a lot out of the 3 days,”**

-Representative, Northern Land Council.

**“The Savanna Fire Forum is the best learning moment of the year for our rangers”**

-Debbie Symonds, CEO Olkola Aboriginal Corporation



**500**  
Attendees

**18**  
Workshops

**85**  
Speakers

**18**  
Indigenous ranger groups presented

**67%**  
Tickets to Indigenous organisations

**47%**  
Tickets to organisations outside of the NT

**2**  
On-country visits

**5000**  
Meals served over three days

**20**  
Valued sponsors

Main auditorium, 2025 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum

## Further achievements

- The Indigenous Carbon Projects Guide was updated, thanks to funding from the QLD Government and published on the ICIN website. ICIN distributed the printed guide to members and at information stalls at key national events. An electronic version can be downloaded for free at: [https://www.icin.org.au/indigenous\\_carbon\\_projects\\_guide\\_downloads](https://www.icin.org.au/indigenous_carbon_projects_guide_downloads)
- Regular member alert emails keep our Network up to date with the latest policy developments related to climate, upcoming events and deadlines, member-relevant consultations and more.

## PILLAR 2

# A growing Indigenous-led carbon industry, enabling more jobs and opportunities for Indigenous people

### Overview

Australia's carbon market provides an opportunity to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander caring for Country practices. ICIN is supporting Indigenous-led carbon projects, and the development of new methods and markets including the Nature Repair market.

ICIN supports its members to inform the development of new carbon and environmental methods and to influence the policy settings of these markets to ensure Indigenous people can access and benefit. ICIN works to enhance Indigenous leadership and amplify Indigenous voices through the network's advocacy platforms.



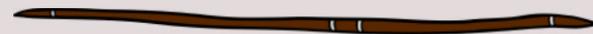
### Key achievement

A key achievement during this reporting period was ICIN providing critical support to enable two Indigenous-led methods to be prioritised under the Australian Government's proponent led development process. These methods are:

The Reducing Emissions through Management of Introduced Hooved Animals method, put forward by NAILSMA and the University of Queensland. This method presents a significant opportunity for Indigenous land and sea managers, many of whom continue to grapple with the impacts of feral ungulates on their Country.

The Extended Savanna Fire Management- Northern Arid Zone method, put forward by the Indigenous Desert Alliance (an ICIN Associate Member). The method proposes to extend the 2025 Savanna Fire Management Emissions Avoidance Method into the Northern Arid Zone of the NT and WA, taking in the Tanami Desert and the southern Kimberley.

ICIN and its members are continuing to support the development of these methods as they progress.



### Further achievements

A key focus for ICIN during this reporting period has been supporting the development of Indigenous-led carbon methods that create opportunities for our members and growth of the Indigenous-led industry more broadly. ICIN has been doing this by:

- Facilitating technical workshops at the 2025 Savanna Fire Forum on the 2025 Savanna Fire Management (SFM) methods and the Savanna Carbon Accounting Model (SavCAM).
- Facilitating the Feral Ungulate Working Group and participating in the NAILSMA-led Scientific Advisory Group and Technical Advisory Group to support member engagement in the development of the proposed Reducing emissions through management of introduced hooved animals (ungulates) method.



Feral Ungulate workshop with ICIN members in the north Kimberley hosted by University of Queensland



Sade Popoola from the Kimberley Land Council presenting in ICIN's showcase at the International Congress on Conservation Biology



Aidan Joseph presenting NAFI training at ICIN's event

- Convening workshops with members and engaging with DCCEEW and the Carbon Market Institute on the proposed Integrated Farm and Land Management (IFLM) method.
- Facilitating workshops and providing advice regarding the Queensland Government's proposed Improved Avoided Clearing of Native Forest Regrowth method.

ICIN will continue to work with NAILSMA, the University of Queensland, the Indigenous Desert Alliance, and others to develop Indigenous-led Nature Repair Market methods, including the Introduced Hooved Animals Management Method, Savanna Fire Management Nature Repair method, and the Desert Habitat/Rangelands method.

With support from the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, we are also working on communication resources to explain complex methods such as the SFM methods. These will assist Indigenous groups to understand risks and opportunities presented by the methods.



Shaun Evans presenting at the Australian Marine Sciences Association Conference

ICIN is committed to supporting our members to speak at high-profile forums, to advocate for the Indigenous-led carbon industry as a sustainable development opportunity in their communities and as a valuable professional development opportunity.

- In June 2024, ICIN delivered a symposium titled "Indigenous Carbon Industry Research Updates: For People and Planet" at the June 2024 International Congress on Conservation Biology (ICCB) the annual premier global meeting for conservation scientists and professionals, including researchers and environmental educators, in Meanjin (Brisbane), QLD. ICIN supported members from our Network to present on Traditional Owners leading transformative conservation efforts across Australia, speakers included: Teddy Bernard from Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council, Sade Popoola from the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) and Bridie Velik-Lord from the Northern Land Council (NLC).
- At the 2025 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum, training sessions were provided to members on how satellites 'see' fires, the new NAFI website, an overview of the National Bushfire Intelligence Capability (NBIC), and the Safety Culture App and the Avenza Maps App which provide real-time reporting on savanna burning fire-carbon projects.



ICIN has been proactive in investigating how to best build the capacity of Indigenous groups and organisations to participate in the carbon industry with more control and better outcomes for Traditional Owners.

In June 2025, ICIN secured funds from the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation to undertake a project to respond to address this challenge. Currently, the sector often favours a model where third parties (e.g. carbon service providers and non-Indigenous landholders) have significant control and benefit from projects, often at the expense of Indigenous people. Further, often Indigenous groups do not have access to the information and resources to negotiate and make informed decisions about carbon projects—including project governance structure and agreement.

This project aims to respond to these challenges by developing accessible tools to support Indigenous groups and organisations to identify pathways into the carbon industry and negotiate agreements that achieve better outcomes for Traditional Owners. These resources will also be communicated to the broader industry to increase understanding in the Australian carbon industry of Indigenous rights to carbon. ICIN has convened a national working group of key Indigenous organisations and groups to oversee this project, which will be launched in early 2026.

***“Method development can be very technical, but mob need to be involved in those discussions. Technicians need to take the time to explain what those technical decisions actually mean. Science can be understood by everyone,”***

said Barry Hunter, CEO, North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA), at the 2025 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum.

***“Since these projects have been in operation there is a 70% reduction in late season fires,”***

said Jarrad Holmes, ICIN Advisor, based on his analysis of cool versus hot fire scars mapped from satellite data over the past 25 years. This research demonstrates the incredible impact savanna fire management projects have had on reducing emissions from fire.

## PILLAR 3 Indigenous rights to carbon are fully recognised in policy and practice of carbon and other environmental markets

### Overview

Having rights in relation to a carbon or nature repair project gives Indigenous organisations a seat at the table to negotiate the type of project or outcome that works best for them. Rights coupled with the appropriate policy settings, methods, and support, will lead to Indigenous leadership in carbon and nature repair markets.

Led by our growing policy team, ICIN has continued to support the design of Indigenous-led carbon methods, inform policy and legislative change, conduct research to influence this change, and support Indigenous leaders to advocate for the industry at key national forums. ICIN has also continued to lead the way in producing original analysis and communicating Indigenous rights to Indigenous and other audiences across the carbon and nature repair markets through reports, presentations, and best practice guides.



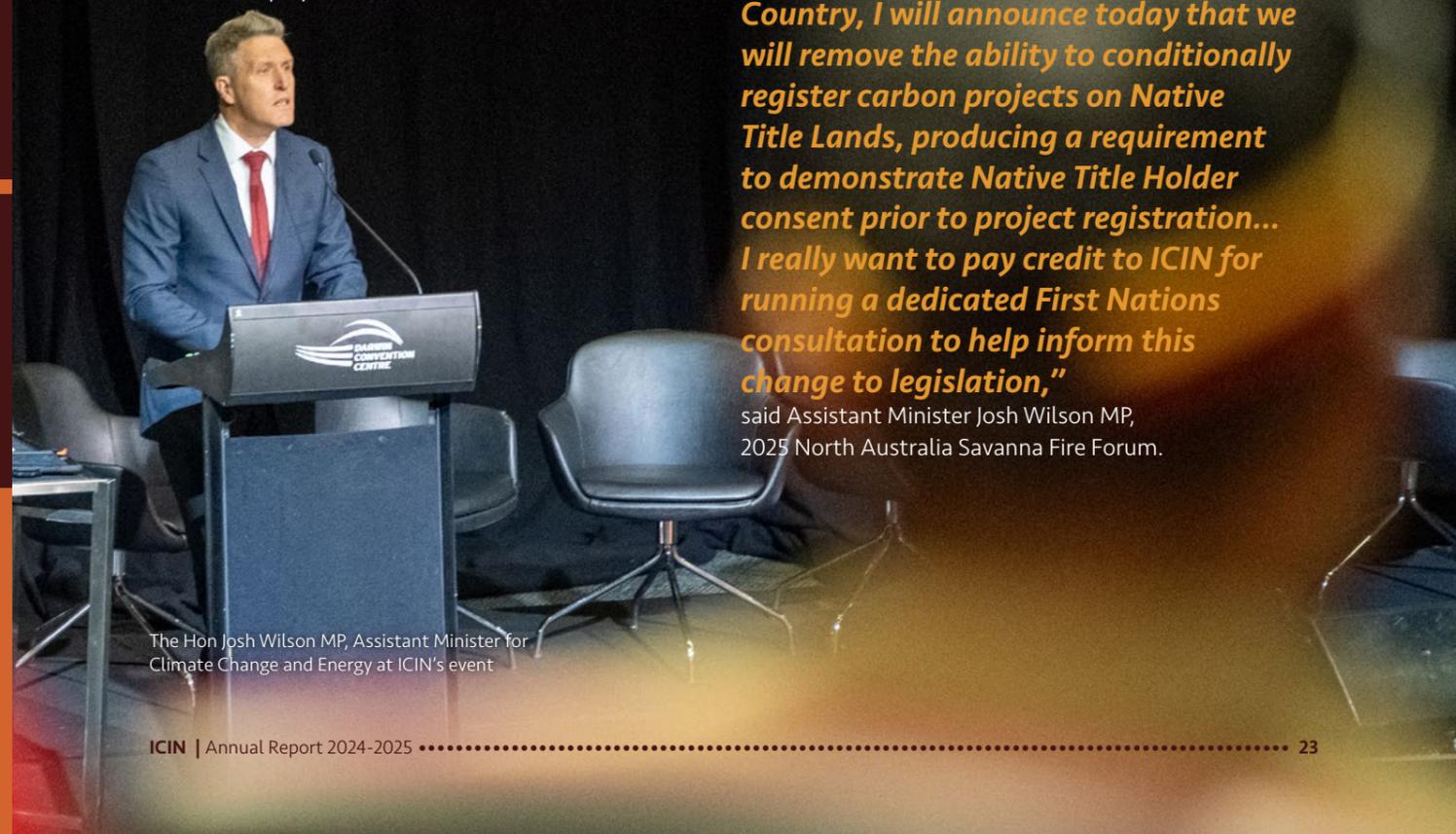
### Key achievement

At the February 2025 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum, ICIN members met with the Assistant Minister for Climate Change, Josh Wilson MP to discuss priority policy issues. Members advocated strongly for the Government to commit to a timeframe for actioning legislative change to require carbon proponents to seek Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from Native Title holders prior to the point of registration of a carbon project.

As a result, in his keynote address at the Forum, Assistant Minister Wilson committed to this legislative change:

***“Because the Government rightly recognises that the early and genuine engagement of Indigenous people is crucial to the success of projects on-Country, I will announce today that we will remove the ability to conditionally register carbon projects on Native Title Lands, producing a requirement to demonstrate Native Title Holder consent prior to project registration... I really want to pay credit to ICIN for running a dedicated First Nations consultation to help inform this change to legislation,”***

said Assistant Minister Josh Wilson MP, 2025 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum.



The Hon Josh Wilson MP, Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy at ICIN's event

Suzanne Thompson delivering the Opening Address on day two of the 2024 Carbon Market Institute AER Summit



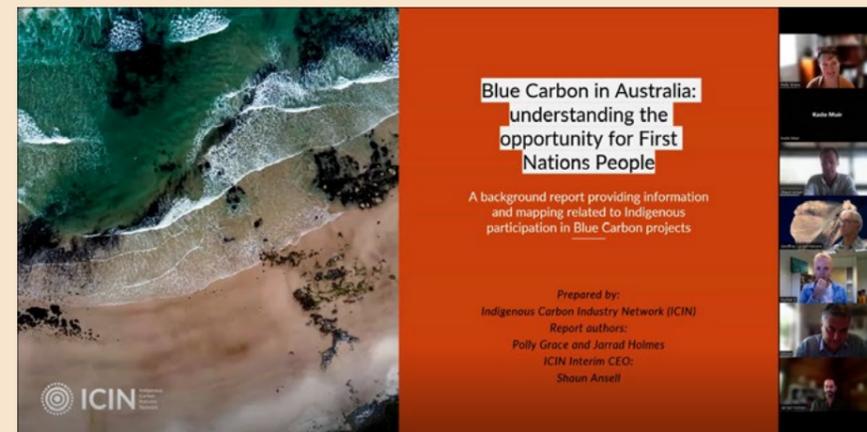
## Further achievements

ICIN has engaged closely with members to identify policy priorities and advocate to the Australian Government for policy and legislative changes that recognise Indigenous rights and interests. To achieve this, the ICIN team has:

- Facilitated monthly meetings of the ICIN Policy Working Group, which operates to provide direction to ICIN regarding policy and advocacy matters related to the carbon industry and related matters.
- Facilitated workshops at the 2025 Savanna Fire Forum on policy issues including Commonwealth, state and territory carbon policy, biodiversity and nature repair markets, health impacts of hot fires, and COP28 and International opportunities.
- Presented the findings of ICIN's Blue Carbon Report to 70 Commonwealth, state and territory government stakeholders, including policy recommendations designed to increase Indigenous participation in Blue Carbon, such as to grant Indigenous people the rights to own and sell carbon

in coastal ecosystems where the Crown may otherwise have the carbon right (below, left).

- Informed ACCU Scheme legislation and policy, including the implementation of the Chubb Review and design of methods.
- Delivered submissions to the NT Government regarding the Territory Coordinator Bill 2024 (NT) (the Bill) and to CSIRO regarding the proposed framework for Ecological Knowledge System for the Nature Repair Market.



Suzanne Thompson at COP29 in Azerbaijan

During this period, ICIN has focused on promoting the findings of ICIN's 2024 Blue Carbon Report and awareness of the blue carbon sector and Nature Repair Market through national events and workshops.

The ICIN team also continued to communicate Indigenous rights and interests and model Indigenous leadership to Indigenous and other audiences across the carbon and nature repair markets.

As part of ICIN's advocacy work, ICIN Directors were supported to deliver keynote presentations at high-profile national events.

- Suzanne Thompson delivered the Opening Address on Day Two of the August 2024 CMI Australasian Emissions Reduction Summit on Wurundjeri Country, Naarm (Melbourne)
- Teddy Bernard gave the Indigenous Address at CMI's May 2025 Carbon Farming Industry Forum on Bundjalung Country (Lennox Head), NSW
- Cissy Gore-Birch OAM presented at the Reimagining Conservation: Emerging opportunities for Indigenous Peoples in Blue Carbon, August 2024, Djabugay Country (Cairns)
- In November 2024, ICIN Board Director Suzanne Thompson travelled to Baku, Azerbaijan to participate in the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP29), presenting on Indigenous rights, nature positive and net zero.

To further support ICIN's advocacy for Indigenous rights and interests at these events, ICIN has developed a poster that identifies Indigenous rights and interests recognised under the ACCU Scheme.

During the reporting period, ICIN continued its work on blue carbon and environmental markets funded under the National Environmental Science Program in collaboration with Charles Darwin University. This project is a response to the growing interest in the blue carbon sector nationally and internationally, the development of methods that apply to sea country, and risks to Indigenous rights and interests from project development.

- In September 2024, ICIN presented on sea Country rights at the Australian Marine Sciences Association (AMSA) conference, a gathering of marine scientists and sea Country managers on Nipaluna Country (Hobart) in Lutruwita (Tasmania) and at the Australian Sea Country Conference on Larrakia Country (Darwin).
- In 2025, ICIN held workshops with Indigenous groups with Sea Country to discuss their experiences with blue carbon and environmental markets and seek their views on how Government could support Indigenous participation. Key reflections from these discussions included that communities need more accessible information about blue carbon and environmental markets to ensure that people are aware of their rights and interests and can make informed decisions about whether a method and project is the right fit for the Country.

***"Looking ahead, we need to continue political advocacy to enable better recognition of our rights and Indigenous participation in the carbon industry,"***

said Sarah Parriman, ICIN Director and Deputy CEO of the Kimberley Land Council

## Nature Repair

Beyond carbon, ICIN is increasingly focusing on opportunities for members in environmental markets, including the Nature Repair Market Scheme. The Nature Repair Market, which commenced in February 2025, offers a significant opportunity for Indigenous people<sup>1</sup> to:

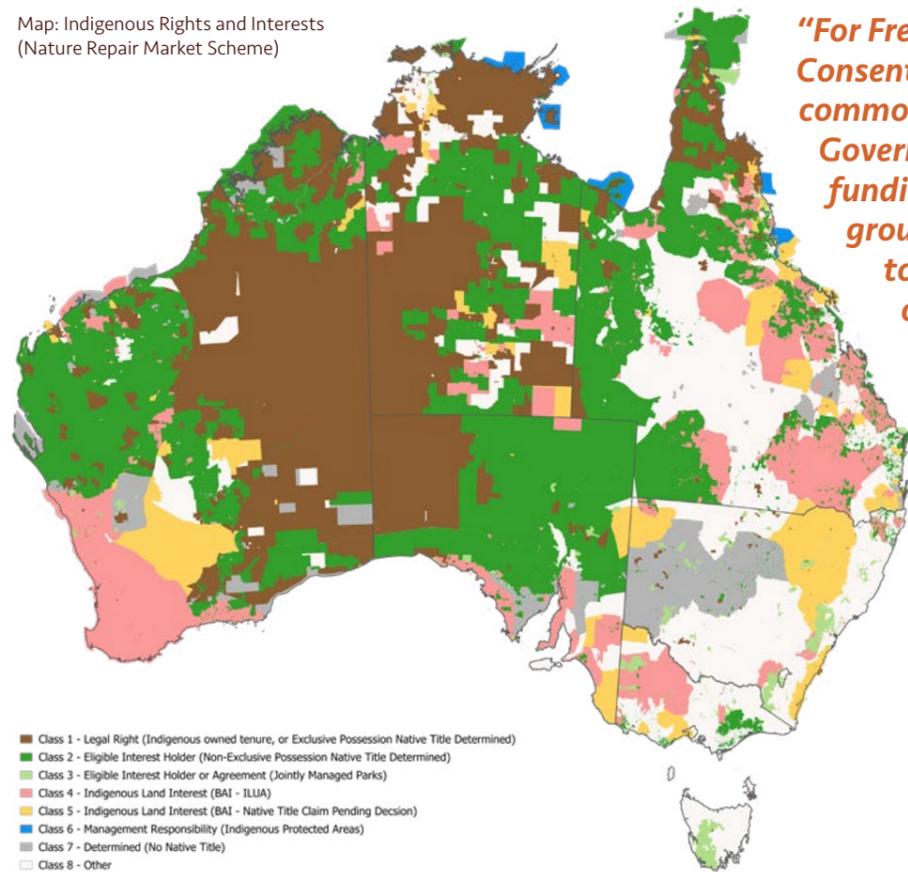
- apply to areas where the ACCU Scheme has not provided the opportunity to engage in environmental markets
- provide additional revenue to organisations and groups who have one or more ACCU Scheme projects, and
- increase the viability of undertaking activities to care for Country where ACCU Scheme projects have been too marginal to commence or thrive

ICIN's analysis indicates that Indigenous people are responsible for making decisions regarding nature repair projects across approximately 71% of Australia's landmass, including the right of veto across 59% of land, and the right to be 'appropriately engaged' across an additional 18% of land.

During this reporting period, ICIN has focused on building awareness of the Nature Repair Market legislation and methods and the connection to carbon methods and projects.

Discussions have focused on how the Scheme as a whole and provisions concerning Indigenous rights and interests will be implemented in a way that is consistent with principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent and the decades of experience of ICIN members in the carbon market. In May 2025, ICIN provided a submission to CSIRO regarding the proposed framework for Ecological Knowledge System for the Nature Repair Market. The submission noted the importance of providing clear guidance on how the proposed framework would be implemented in practice, expressed caution over the framework being applied in a mandatory manner, and recommended the establishment of an Indigenous Advisory Group to support the implementation of the Nature Repair Act that is inclusive of networks like ICIN and its members.

Map: Indigenous Rights and Interests (Nature Repair Market Scheme)



**“For Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) to become commonplace, Governments must provide funding to Indigenous groups and organisations to engage in consultation and agreement making,”**

said ICIN Co-Chair Cissy Gore-Birch OAM.

## PILLAR 4 Promote Indigenous-owned carbon projects

### Overview

Indigenous-owned carbon projects bring Traditional Owners back to their Country, support the handing down of traditional knowledge from elders to future generations, and protect cultural sites. Indigenous-owned carbon projects generate Indigenous Carbon Credit Units, credit units that sit in their own category on the market.

ICIN is proud to promote the success and uniqueness of Indigenous carbon projects in a variety of ways including through developing the long called-for ICIN Full Member Brand and accompanying brand rules, hosting booths at high profile national events showcasing our members' efforts and publishing latest information about the Indigenous carbon industry within leading publications, on our website and across social media.

### Key achievement

Following extensive consultation with our members, the Network was excited to announce the launch of its Full Member Brand and accompanying brand rules at the 2025 North Australia Savanna Fire Forum. This new initiative was specifically designed for the Network's Full Members and establishes a clear and recognisable brandmark that indicates an organisation is a Full Member of the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network (ICIN).

To be eligible to apply to become a full member of ICIN, the organisation must produce evidence to show that they are an Indigenous-led and Indigenous managed organisation producing carbon credits, and be vetted by the ICIN Board.

A Full Member Brandmark has been identified by ICIN Full Members as an opportunity to support Network integrity and further help showcase Indigenous-owned and -led organisations producing carbon credits.

In accordance with its rules, the Full Member Brand is only for use by organisations that are ICIN Full Members. We encourage ICIN Full Members to read the Brand Rules. The Full Member Brand and artwork was designed with input from Terri Janke & Co Legal and Larrakia artist Trent Lee. The Network thanks the Queensland Government for their funding support for this project.

The Full Member Brand is designed to:

- Showcase ICIN Full Members: The brand signifies that an organisation is a full member of ICIN. This means it is an Indigenous-owned organisation with a carbon project that is owned by Indigenous land and sea managers of the project area.
- Enhance differentiation in the carbon market: This brand allows members to stand out, highlighting their Indigenous leadership and engagement in the Indigenous carbon industry.
- Protect against misrepresentation: The Full Member Brand will serve to protect against false claims made by non Indigenous organisations about their involvement in the creation of Indigenous carbon credits. It safeguards against misrepresentations, ensuring that only eligible members can use the brandmark.



**Definition of an Indigenous Carbon Credit as developed by ICIN Members at the National Indigenous Carbon Forum, 2023.**

Carbon Credits (ACCUs) generated by Traditional Owners on their own estates with a controlling interest in the carbon project underpinned with principles such as free, prior and informed consent, access and benefit sharing, rights-based and subsidiarity.

- Indigenous-owned and controlled.
- Non-transferrable on secondary markets.
- Benefits of carbon projects (biodiversity, cultural, social etc) are self-determined and additional to the value of the Indigenous carbon credit.

ICIN's booth at the 2024 CMI AER summit



## Industry achievements

- In early 2025, ICIN conducted analysis on the current state of the Indigenous carbon industry which was published online and in leading publications. This analysis highlighted that in 2024, Indigenous-owned carbon projects were issued their 10 millionth credit and 17 of the 34 Indigenous-owned savanna fire management carbon projects reached ten-year operating milestones. As opportunities continue to expand for Indigenous people to engage in the growing carbon industry, it is clear that the recognition of Indigenous carbon rights by governments and industry is crucial to ensuring its future success.
- ICIN promoted significant events and achievements of our members. These included:
  - In July 2025, ICIN Member ALFA-NT supported Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, Labor Senator for the Northern Territory, and Chris Bowen MP, Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy, to view Indigenous-led carbon projects - both savanna fire management and blue carbon methodologies around managing introduced hard-hoofed animals - and their wide-ranging benefits on Yolŋu Country in north east Arnhem Land.

- ICIN Co-Chair Dr Dean Yibarbuk's Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Charles Darwin University for his environmental leadership, specifically his lifelong dedication to land conservation and management in west Arnhem Land and beyond.
- In September 2024, ICIN members, Balangarra, Dambimangari, Wilinggin and Wunambal Gaambera, published the world's largest fire study proving the success of Indigenous fire management.
- The research titled 'Factors enabling fire management outcomes in Indigenous Savanna fire management projects in Western Australia', was published by CSIRO in the International Journal of Wildland Fire in September 2024. Drawing on 22 years of data across 11.7 million hectares, the research found that fire frequency decreased across nearly half the project area (42%) during the years when Indigenous fire management was supported. The projects significantly reduced the occurrence of destructive, late dry-season fires and increased the prevalence of cooler, patchier burns. To date, this is the world's largest fire study, and it was published at a pivotal moment for the Indigenous carbon industry.

- ICIN hosted information booths at high-profile events promoting our member showcase, video content of our members' carbon projects and publications. Events included:
  - 1st Dangkal Gwo'Yal-Wa (strong country) Forum, hosted by the Australian Government on Larrakia Country (Darwin), August 2024
  - The CMI Australasian Emissions Reduction Summit, Wurundjeri Country, Naarm (Melbourne), October 2024



Senator Malarndirri McCarthy and Chris Bowen MP with ALFA-NT on Yolŋu Country, north east Arnhem Land  
© Senator Malarndirri McCarthy



The ICIN booth at the Dangkal Gwo'yal-wa First Nations Land and Water Management Forum

***"It was very special to join Senator Malarndirri McCarthy and hear from Dr Otto Campion and his team at Arnhem Land Fire Abatement about this traditional knowledge in action. For tens of thousands of years, Aboriginal people in Arnhem Land have used fire strategically – lighting small, cool burns early in the dry season to prevent dangerous wildfires later. We now support this ongoing practice through carbon credits (Australian Carbon Credit Units) also known as offsets, and it's creating jobs, with 300 people employed through Arnhem Land Fire Abatement projects alone,"***  
said Chris Bowen MP.



Anna Boustead with Dr Dean Yibarbuk

***"Receiving this [Honorary Doctorate] on Country offers an opportunity for my community to witness my footprints and to encourage more people to find ways for economic growth through traditional methods of land management and care. These [carbon] methods are important, and we need to keep showcasing that they are contributing to the biodiversity of the world,"***  
said Dr Yibarbuk.

## Communications snapshot

- LinkedIn followers were 1745 in 2022 and have increased to 3,160 in 2025
- Facebook followers: 1.1K up to 1.5K in 2025
- Newsletter mailing list: 1353 up to 1433 in 2025
- Over the reporting period, ICIN published 20 member alerts, and 12 monthly newsletters

## New ICIN Members

- Over the last 12 months, ICIN welcomed the following new members:
  - Namultja Aboriginal Corporation
  - Jagun Alliance, our first member from NSW
  - Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board
  - Yued Aboriginal Corporation

## PILLAR 5

# The Indigenous Carbon Industry Network is meeting the long-term needs of its member organisations

### Overview

Caring for Country practices such as fire, weed and feral animal management, revegetation programs, traditional food harvesting, cultural mapping and ecological surveys provide an opportunity for Indigenous people provide a way to reestablish or strengthen their connection to Country, these activities can also be extremely hard work especially as weather patterns change with increasing climate change.

As our Network navigates the changing conditions out on Country, fast paced carbon and nature repair markets and a changing climate policy environment, it is essential that ICIN can grow, adapt and innovate to support the long-term needs of our members. This has been achieved through securing new funding streams for essential work for our members, surveying our members regarding our work and implementing changes accordingly and advocating in the policy arena for policies and funding that empower our members.

### Key achievement

ICIN has successfully secured funding over the next three years to run several projects to meet the long-term needs of our member organisations. In March 2025, ICIN was pleased to be awarded Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water funding to deliver the First Nations Carbon Farming Outreach program over the next three years. Through the program, ICIN will be supporting the design and delivery of:

- Policy consultation workshops on key issues related to the ACCU scheme and carbon methods.
- First Nations Carbon Farming Outreach workshops which cover key concepts Indigenous groups may need to know if they are considering a carbon project.
- Communication tools that will help Indigenous groups to understand carbon methods relevant to Indigenous land and sea management and the Indigenous carbon industry.
- Raising awareness of the Indigenous carbon industry, including profiling of our members carbon projects at two national events each year.

This funding builds on the Government's published CFOP free online training package, which was launched in 2024 in partnership with the University of Melbourne. This training package was created to help land managers make decisions about reducing emissions and storing carbon. ICIN worked to ensure free ICIN resources, designed to support better participation of Indigenous people in Australia's carbon market, were referred to in the course.



To support our members to understand the opportunities and challenges with emerging blue carbon markets, ICIN has received two funding allocations. First from the National Environmental Science Program (NESP), Charles Darwin University and NAILSMA to support with research, workshops in community and with Indigenous organisations and to develop Indigenous engagement guidelines.

Second, the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) has contracted ICIN to deliver workshops, and a blue carbon educational animation.



Feral Ungulate workshop with ICIN members in the north Kimberley hosted by University of Queensland on Kwini Country.

### Further achievements

- In July 2025, ICIN undertook an annual member survey to inform and improve ICIN's work plan, including communication, marketing, policy, and advocacy strategies.
- ICIN advocates for long term multiyear funding of the North Australia Fire Information Service (NAFI). NAFI is a crucial tool for land managers, Indigenous communities, and fire services in northern Australia, providing near real-time fire tracking data and burnt-area maps. ICIN is relieved that NAFI has received some funding from NEMA for the next two years however long-term funding remains an issue.

### Funding Partnerships

ICIN and its member organisations are grateful for support of its funders and partners during 2024-25

- Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC)
- North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)
- Queensland Government – Department of Environment and Science
- Charles Darwin University (CDU)

### Results from the 2025 annual member survey:

100% agree that ICIN's level of engagement with members is appropriate and helpful.

80% agree that over the last 12 months, ICIN membership has improved members' understanding of the carbon industry.

Members find engagement with ICIN most useful for supporting their understanding of industry knowledge and policy information.

80% support for a combined (Savanna Fire Forum and National Indigenous Carbon Forum) face-to-face event in February. ICIN is delivering this in 2026.

Respondents have requested future Plain English guides covering the topics of:

- Opportunities under the Nature Repair Market Scheme (90% of respondents)
- ACCU methods (e.g. new Savanna Fire Management method) (70% of respondents).

- National Environmental Science Program (NESP)
- University of Queensland (UQ)
- University of Melbourne
- Carbon Market Institute (CMI)
- Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF)
- National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)
- Northern Territory Government

# Financial information

## Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

As at 30 June 2025

	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
<b>REVENUE</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>		
Contract income	494,165	622,225
Donations	-	9,408
Sales - tickets	164,554	101,772
Membership fees	41,500	40,500
Other income	7,665	17,762
Sponsorship income	295,000	214,545
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>1,002,884</b>	<b>1,006,212</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Accounting and audit fees	(59,813)	(59,421)
Advertising	(23,958)	(9,201)
Consultants	(75,323)	(214,245)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(710)	(1,021)
Directors' fees and travel reimbursements	(27,900)	(32,280)
Employee benefits expense	(362,915)	(257,269)
Equipment - minor	(9,136)	(6,034)
Forum costs	(301,007)	(233,612)
Office and administration	(64,597)	(58,507)
Other expenses	(5,757)	(4,054)
Travel and accommodation	(47,061)	(36,497)
Total expenses	(978,177)	(912,141)
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>24,707</b>	<b>94,071</b>
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>24,707</b>	<b>94,071</b>

## Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2025

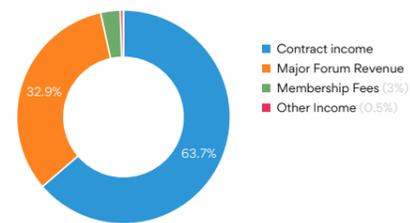
	2025 (\$)	2024 (\$)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,095,756	449,859
Trade and other receivables	157,575	2,200
Recoverable employee benefits	-	5,533
Prepayments	1,305	5,030
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>1,254,636</b>	<b>462,622</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	1,661	2,371
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>1,661</b>	<b>2,371</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,256,297</b>	<b>464,993</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	36,012	23,390
Unspent grant liabilities	636,084	-
Provisions	21,935	6,180
ATO liabilities	105,803	1,560
Accrued expenses	19,741	21,848
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>819,575</b>	<b>52,978</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>819,575</b>	<b>52,978</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>436,722</b>	<b>412,015</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained surpluses	436,722	412,015
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>436,722</b>	<b>412,015</b>

# Financial summaries

As at 30 June 2025

## Profit and Loss

Revenue - \$1,002,884

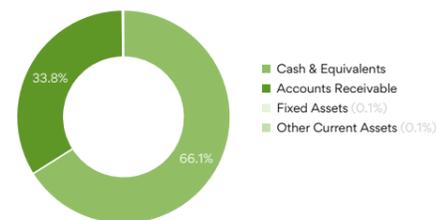


Expenditure - \$978,178

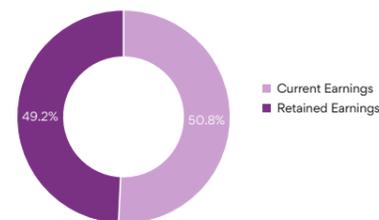


## Financial Position

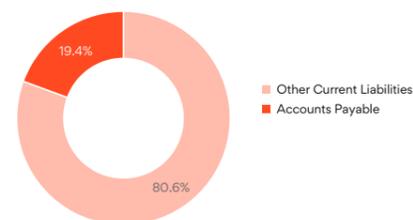
Total Assets: \$1,254,636



Total Equity: \$436,722



Total Liabilities: \$819,575

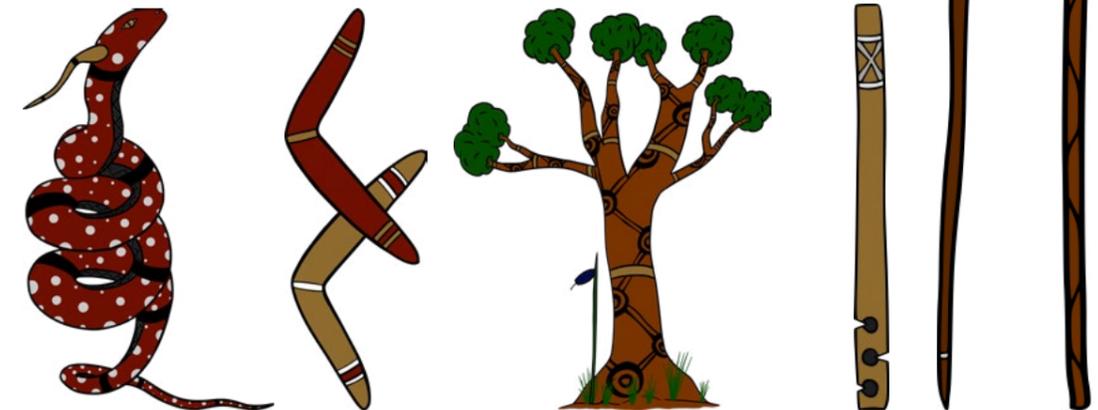


# Trent Lee

Larrakia Artist

## The story behind these images

The Rainbow Serpent represents the creation story, a powerful symbol of life's beginning. The tree symbolises the deep connection between land, sky, and the capture of carbon highlighting the importance of balance in sustaining life. The pattern on the tree is one given to us by my father, Duwun Lee. It represents the stars, linking Aboriginal astrology and our ancestors. The tree as a whole reflects the interconnectedness of land and sky. This image also represents ICIN and the work they do to support Indigenous people through ranger programs and land management. The small plant is a bush potato, symbolising the deep, ongoing connection our people have with the land, a connection I see reflected in ICIN's efforts to care for both Country and the people who protect it. The boomerang represents men and the winds from the north, south, east, and west. These winds carry songlines, connecting everything through story and spirit. The digging stick represents women, their strength and power. The fire sticks symbolise the passing on of traditional knowledge, and the sacred role of fire in our culture and land care practices.





**ICIN** Indigenous  
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Industry  
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