

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## YAWURU OFFICIALLY OPENS LIYAN-NGAN NYIRRWA CULTURAL WELLBEING CENTRE

After many years of planning, preparing and construction, the Liyan-ngan Nyirrwa Cultural Wellbeing Centre at Nyamba Buru Yawuru will be officially opened on June 28.

The landmark community-focussed Centre sits in a beautifully designed and landscaped space and houses community programs, meeting facilities as well as a function centre and a cafe. The daily work of the Centre is underpinned by the mabu liyan (positive wellbeing) philosophy, driven by Yawuru's cultural strength to enhance growth and empowerment of the Yawuru community.

Yawuru PBC Chair, Thomas 'Unda' Edgar says "For many years the Yawuru boards and community have had a vision for a facility which offers a range of development opportunities and we now have the capacity to act on them. We look forward to increasing engagement with our Yawuru family as well as drawing in the wider Broome and business communities to engage with us."

Funding from the Federal Government's Building Better Regions program and WA Lotterywest were secured to complement NBY's contribution. The construction was undertaken by Indent, a joint venture between NBY and H&M Tracey Construction. The building, delivered on time and on budget with 30% Indigenous workforce, was also recently awarded the Master Builders Association (Kimberley- Pilbara) 'Best Public Use Building'; a real achievement for Indent's inaugural project.

Nini Mills, Manager Community Development says "We began acting on our vision for the Liyan-ngan Centre about five years ago. Seeing it finally open is very heartening for us all and delivers on a promise to increase our services and programs within a welcoming space. This centre nurtures our culture and cultivates a strong sense of purpose and connection for our community and what it means to be Yawuru."

With the new facility, NBY has expanded programs in the Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga Language Centre, the Yawuru Special Projects and Mangara archive, the HIPPY Early Childhood program and Nurlu and cultural projects. The function centre and Mabu Mayi Café are located within the landscaped gardens which have been developed with community guidance to reflect Yawuru heritage and culture. Fourteen artworks on the grounds add a deeper understanding of Yawuru cultural philosophy and create a lively and interactive space.

The Bugarrigarra Nyurdany (Because of the Dreaming) Exhibition will also be on display in the centre during Kullarri Naidoc week between 28 June and 4 July, exploring Yawuru culture and heritage through the cycles of seasonal change.

The official opening of the Centre will be on June 28 with dignitaries including MP Melissa Price, Treasurer Ben Wyatt and Shire President Harold Tracey.

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