



The Noongar Elders Advisory Group provide advice to Wheatbelt NRM and maximise opportunities and participation for the aboriginal community.

Collaborations in the Wheatbelt

Building relationships with our
Noongar community

By Toni Korotschuk-Rose,
Wheatbelt NRM

Wheatbelt NRM has a long history of building relationships with the Noongar community of the Wheatbelt. Through their Noongar Elders Advisory Group, Aboriginal school-based traineeships, Mooditj Boodjar website and the Noongar Budjar Rangers aboriginal engagement and collaboration is kept strong in the Wheatbelt.

Wheatbelt NRM has a long history of building relationships with the Noongar community of the Wheatbelt. The Noongar Elders Advisory Group is made up of 10 members who come from all areas of the Wheatbelt and represent many of our Noongar families. The Elders advise Wheatbelt NRM as part of the planning processes for our work and help to maximise opportunities and participation for the aboriginal community. The Elders Group also ensures that all our work is conducted with cultural competency. Priorities of the group include increasing opportunities for the community to work on country and they are especially interested in increasing employment options in NRM.

Wheatbelt NRM also supports an aboriginal school-based trainee who is undertaking vocational training as part of senior schooling. Areas of interest for the Aboriginal NRM program include establishing bush tucker enterprises, ensuring sites of cultural and environmental significance are recognised and protected and sharing the rich cultural history of this region with the wider community.

*“With my traineeship at Wheatbelt NRM, I have learnt about many native plants and trees, enjoyed travelling the Wheatbelt and working on country. The last 24 months have given me many new skills that will help me in the future.” Tarkyn Narrier 2019-2020
Aboriginal, School-Based Trainee*



The Aboriginal NRM program is designed to build capacity in the regional Noongar Aboriginal community to engage in natural resource management. This is achieved in various ways, including the identification and management of culturally and ecologically significant sites in the region, and promotion of community stories about Country on the [Mooditj Boodjar website](#). The Wheatbelt NRM Aboriginal Elders Advisory Group provides guidance and advice to Wheatbelt NRM's natural resource management initiatives in the region, particularly for places of cultural importance to the Noongar community.

The Noongar Budjar Rangers aims to give members of the aboriginal community opportunities to work on country and learn important skills that provide ongoing employment options. Working on a business model of providing a responsive and competent labour force the Ranger team undertakes a range of work across the region for various organisations including local governments and other not for profits. It is a priority for the aboriginal community for the youth to be able remain in the local community, close to family and with connection to country. Often lack of employment can make that difficult. The Noongar Budjar Ranger program aims to develop work-ready potential employees that can move onto bigger opportunities. The Ranger Team also provides an opportunity for organisations to increase their aboriginal participation when they may not know how to achieve that themselves. Most importantly the team can respond quickly and help out organisations that require immediate action. Since 2018, over 40 individuals have worked as part of the Noongar Budjar Rangers team delivering 600+ days of work.



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“The Wheatbelt NRM aboriginal project is very important because it gives job opportunities for aboriginal people to be working on country and learn from their elders past and present a very significant part of healing country.”

For further information, contact Jermaine Davis, Project Delivery Officer – Aboriginal NRM, Wheatbelt NRM on 08 9670 3116 or email jdavis@wheatbeltnrm.org.au OR visit wheatbeltnrm.org.au/what-we-do/operations and www.mooditjboodja.com.au

*Jermaine Davis
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