

MEDIA STATEMENT: Supply Nation congratulations the Government of Western Australia's Aboriginal Procurement Policy

DATE: 20th December 2017

Supply Nation congratulates the Government of Western Australia on its announcement yesterday of the state's first Aboriginal Procurement Policy, designed to drive Aboriginal entrepreneurship and business opportunities.

From July 1, 2018, Western Australian Government departments will be required to award one per cent of contracts to registered Aboriginal businesses, with this target increasing to two per cent on July 1, 2019 and three per cent on July 1, 2020. The targets will apply to all government agencies and government trading enterprises when purchasing goods, services, community services and works.

In addition, the Aboriginal Business Initiative allows procurement directly from Aboriginal businesses where the value of the contract is under \$250,000 without complying with minimum requirements. Where the value is over \$250,000, and circumstances exist to support the procurement being taken, the minimum requirements may also be waived.

Laura Berry, CEO of Supply Nation, says:

"Supply Nation supports the work that is being done to grow the Indigenous business sector across the country. We have seen with the Federal Government's Indigenous Procurement Policy (launched in July 2015), that the setting of measurable and reportable targets opens up opportunities to Aboriginal businesses. We believe that the introduction of this policy in Western Australia is likely to drive significant outcomes for Aboriginal entrepreneurs, their families and communities"

Ms Berry continued *"We anticipate that this new policy will further accelerate the growth in the sector. Supply Nation's national directory of Indigenous businesses has grown by over 300% over the last 2 years as corporate and government organisations recognise the value that a diverse supply chain (that includes Indigenous businesses) deliver."*

Social Return on Investment

Supply Nation's Social Impact Report "The Sleeping Giant" highlights that, for every dollar of revenue, Certified Suppliers create \$4.41 of economic and social value.