

## Media release: Supply Nation Connect 2019

DATE OF RELEASE: 15 April 2019  
DATE OF EVENT: 8 May and 9 May 2019  
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### Supply Nation's Connect 2019 showcases the increasing maturity, growth and achievements of the Indigenous business sector

Over 2,500 people from across Australia and the globe will gather for Australia's largest Indigenous business event, Supply Nation's Connect 2019.

Supply Nation's CEO, Laura Berry, says "In this, Supply Nation's 10th year of operation, Connect will bring together some of the pioneers of supplier diversity, together with some of our newest business voices to create a space where the Australian supplier diversity community can learn, grow and connect."

This year, Supply Nation's premier event will showcase the sheer size, maturity and growth of the sector through the number and calibre of Indigenous business exhibiting as well as the diverse backgrounds of the Supplier Diversity Award finalists.

Ms Berry continues, "Recent results from the Federal Government's Indigenous Procurement Policy illustrate that the Indigenous business sector is growing exponentially year on year – and we're definitely seeing that at Supply Nation with the rapid growth in the number of Indigenous businesses listed on our directory, and in the record numbers of corporate and government members that work with us."

Over 400 international and local delegates will gather at the Knowledge Forum to explore this year's theme, **'the power of an idea'**. Almost 200 Indigenous businesses will showcase their products to more than 1500 buyers at the Indigenous Business Tradeshow; and on the final night – the supplier diversity community will gather to celebrate the achievements of the sector at the Gala Awards Dinner.

During the red-carpet Gala Awards Dinner, the winners of the 2019 Supplier Diversity Awards will be announced. Finalists (listed below) represent a cross-section of more than 1,900 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses now listed on Indigenous Business Direct (Supply Nation's database) and of Supply Nation's membership of over 425 corporate, government and not-for-profit organisations.

From the most successful organisations to the individuals who are exceeding expectations and creating change through their powerful ideas and business acumen, the Supplier Diversity Awards are the highest recognition of achievement in Australian supplier diversity.

Ms Berry also made an announcement: "We're also excited to be able to share that we have secured the international sensation Jessica Mauboy, a proud Kuku Yalanji woman, as our headline act for the evening. Her star power and incredible talent will ensure the celebration of the best in the Indigenous business sector ends on a high note."

"Every successful business, partnership or start-up was sparked by an idea – so it will be exciting to see who takes home an award from each category." Ms Berry concluded.

## 2019 Supplier Diversity Awards finalists

### **Certified Supplier of the Year – proudly sponsored by Telstra**

- Barpa Construction Services
- Complete Business Solutions
- Indigenous Professional Services

### **Registered Supplier of the Year – proudly sponsored by Kulbardi**

- Every Trade Recruitment and Construction
- Indigenous Management Group
- Kooya Australia Fleet Solutions

### **Corporate Member of the Year – proudly sponsored by Kulbardi**

- Australia Post
- Fortescue Metals Group
- Laing O'Rourke

### **Government Member of the Year – proudly sponsored by Evolve FM**

- Australian Taxation Office
- Department of Defence
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

### **Indigenous Businesswoman of the Year – proudly sponsored by Westpac**

- Kristal Kinsela-Christie, IPS Management Consultants
- Leah Cameron, Marrawah Law
- Sharna Collard, Kooya Australia Fleet Solutions

### **Young Indigenous Entrepreneur of the Year – proudly sponsored by EY**

- Corey Dotti, DOTBUILD Constructions
- James Curran, MOEC Pty Ltd
- Morgan Coleman, Vets on Call

### **Procurement Professional of the Year – proudly sponsored by Every Trade Recruitment and Construction**

- Paul Ktenas, KPMG
- Sarah Fulker, JLL
- Steve Hansen, Australia Post

### **Supplier Diversity Advocate of the Year – proudly sponsored by Laing O'Rourke**

- Mark Coleman, PSG Holdings
- Murray Saylor, Tagai Management Consultants
- Stephanie Roache, Australia Post

### **Supplier Diversity Partnership of the Year – proudly sponsored by ANZ**

- Biodiversity Australia and Department of Defence
- PSG Holdings and Lendlease
- Wesfarmers and Young Guns

### **Outstanding Impact Award – proudly sponsored by Lendlease**

The winner is selected from the finalists of all other award categories

## Knowledge Forum and Networking Drinks, 8 May 2019

International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour 8.30am – 6.30pm

PLATINUM SPONSOR	Winc
GOLD SPONSOR	CPB Contractors
SILVER SPONSOR	Inside Policy (Indigenous business)
SILVER SPONSOR	Inspire Travel Management (Indigenous business)

### KEY FACTS:

- Full day conference program
- Over 400 attendees expected to attend
- Keynotes by Harriet Michel and Ross Dawson
- Speakers drawn from Supply Nation’s members, global experts and Indigenous businesses

## Indigenous Business Tradeshow, 9 May 2019

International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour 8am – 3.30pm

GOLD SPONSOR	Australian Government
GOLD SPONSOR	NAB
SILVER SPONSOR	TSS Total Surveying Solutions (Indigenous business)
SILVER SPONSOR	Maybell Group (Indigenous business)

### KEY FACTS:

- Australia’s largest Indigenous Business Tradeshow
- Over 170 Indigenous businesses will exhibit
- Over 1,500 attendees expected to attend
- Contracts worth millions are initiated after meetings at Connect each year

## Gala Awards Dinner, 9 May 2019

International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour 6pm – late

PLATINUM SPONSOR	Commonwealth Bank
GOLD SPONSOR	Carey Mining
GOLD SPONSOR AND OFFICIAL AIRLINE PARTNER OF CONNECT 2019	Qantas

### KEY FACTS:

- Over 1200 guests expected to attend
- Ten Supplier Diversity Awards to be announced
- Hosts: Luke Carroll and Casey Donovan
- Headline act: Jessica Mauboy

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## For editors

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For more information about Connect 2019:

[supplynationconnect.com.au](http://supplynationconnect.com.au)

For more information about the Knowledge Forum speakers:

[supplynationconnect.com.au/speakers/](http://supplynationconnect.com.au/speakers/)

For more information about the Knowledge Forum program:

[supplynationconnect.com.au/schedule/](http://supplynationconnect.com.au/schedule/)

## Who are we

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Since 2009, Supply Nation has worked with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses along with procurement teams from government and corporate Australia to help shape today's emerging and rapidly evolving Indigenous business sector.

Supply Nation's world-leading [5-step verification process](#) provides peace of mind by ensuring that all businesses listed on Australia's largest national directory of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses (approx. 1850 suppliers), Indigenous Business Direct, are not only Indigenous owned but are also regularly audited for changes in company structure and ownership.

In addition, Supply Nation receives daily updates from ASIC regarding any changes to business ownership which allows us to conduct real-time audits. This reinforces the integrity and accuracy of Indigenous businesses listed on Indigenous Business Direct

Supply Nation partners with its paid membership of government, corporate and not-for-profit organisations to develop procurement policies that modify and redirect spend to include the traditionally underutilised Indigenous business sector.

For further information about Supply Nation, visit [www.supplynation.org.au](http://www.supplynation.org.au)

## Interviews available

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Interviews with Supply Nation's Chief Executive Officer, Laura Berry are available by appointment.

Should you wish to arrange an interview with Supply Nation CEO or with any of the 2019 award winners (after the awards are announced), please contact Sybil Williams:

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To register for complimentary tickets to cover the event, and to arrange interviews, please contact us.