

## Media release

### Brisbane to host Australia's largest Indigenous business event in 2024

---

Date of release      14 December 2023

---

For the first time ever, Australia's leading event for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, will be held in Brisbane.

Connect 2024 – hosted by Supply Nation – will take place at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on Wednesday 28 August and Thursday 29 August 2024.

Supply Nation's Chief Executive Officer, Kate Russell said Connect is the largest annual gathering of First Nations businesses in Australia.

"We expect over 2,500 people to attend the Connect Knowledge Forum, Indigenous Business Tradeshow and Gala Awards Dinner, many from interstate," Ms Russell said.

Ms Russell said the two-day event would also be attended by the nation's largest mainstream corporations, government departments and international delegates who seek to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and exporters.

"We see enormous potential for Indigenous business growth in the Queensland economy over the coming years and bringing Connect 2024 to Brisbane will help accelerate that growth," she said.

Queensland Minister for Treaty and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, the Hon Leeanne Enoch said the state is home to more than a quarter of all First Nations business owner-managers in Australia.

"It's great to see Supply Nation's Connect 2024 coming to Brisbane next year. Connect 2024 will be an opportunity for the many Queensland First Nations businesses to showcase what they do to the rest of Australia and the world," Ms Enoch said.

Queensland Minister for Employment and Small Business, the Hon Di Farmer said that partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses unlocks economic opportunities to build stronger, more resilient businesses and communities.

"The Queensland Government recognises the importance of economic prosperity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses across Queensland and Connect 2024 will shine a light on that," Ms Farmer said.

Supply Nation has around 75 corporate and government members and more than 1,030 Indigenous suppliers based in Queensland. At this year's awards, Sunshine Coast woman, Mundanara Bayles from BlackCard was named Indigenous Businesswoman of the Year 2023.

"Moving Connect to Brisbane after all these years was a real vote of confidence in Queensland's First Nations economy," Ms Russell said.

Tickets for Connect 2024 will go on sale early next year.

## **About Supply Nation:**

Supply Nation is Australia's leading supplier diversity organisation. Since 2009, Supply Nation has worked with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and procurement teams from government and corporate Australia to help shape today's emerging and rapidly evolving Indigenous business sector. Supply Nation's robust verification process provides peace of mind by ensuring that all businesses listed on Indigenous Business Direct are not only Indigenous owned but are regularly audited for changes in company structure. Supply Nation's support, combined with a range of business tools, helps our members develop their supplier diversity practices, and build a strong, successful and sustainable Indigenous business sector. To find out more, visit:

[supplynation.org.au](https://supplynation.org.au)

## **Media contacts:**

Imogen O'Neill, Head of Marketing, Communications and Media

Supply Nation

Email: [imogen.oneill@supplynation.org.au](mailto:imogen.oneill@supplynation.org.au)