



## Media Release

### Supply Nation Board appoints new Co-Chair

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The Supply Nation Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Board Director Penny Bingham-Hall as Co-Chair alongside Board Member and fellow Co-Chair Michelle Deshong, effective 1 May 2024.

Former Co-Chair and Board Director Scott Wharton will remain on the Board continuing his service to supplier diversity and growing the Indigenous business sector.

“I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution of Scott in the role of Co-Chair over the past two years, and I am delighted that his deep experience in supplier diversity along with his track record in leading and transforming organisations will continue to add value to the Supply Nation Board,” said Michelle Deshong.

Scott Wharton said that it had been an honour to serve as Co-Chair alongside Michelle and Supply Nation Board Members, however current responsibilities as CEO & Managing Director of Smartgroup meant he could no longer continue as Co-Chair.

“Over recent years, Supply Nation has made good progress against our strategic priorities in a period of considerable growth. The Board continues to strengthen and has real depth of experience that will help guide the organisation to even greater success. We have appointed a new CEO, Kate Russell, who brings tremendous passion, experience, and knowledge to the role,” said Scott Wharton.

“I would also like to welcome Penny to the role of Co-Chair,” said Michelle Deshong.

“We are currently very privileged to have an exceptionally experienced and talented Board with a diverse range of backgrounds and skills,” she said.

Penny Bingham-Hall is a non-executive director of Fortescue and is the Chair of Vocus Group and Deputy Chair of both the Salaam Foundation and the Advisory Council of the Climate Governance Initiative, Australia.

Ms Bingham-Hall has extensive industry experience in construction, mining, property, and infrastructure development. She is an experienced company director in publicly listed, government and not-for-profit organisations and has supported Supply Nation and its strategic goals over a 15-year period since its inception.

“The position of Co-Chair and its responsibilities is a privilege and I thank the Supply Nation Board for the opportunity to contribute to that role,” said Penny Bingham-Hall.

“Recognition of the value that supplier diversity can bring to businesses as well as the contribution by First Nation’s firms to the Australian economy and their communities is growing. It is an exciting time to be implementing initiatives that directly assist Indigenous businesses with the backing of the Board, our corporate members, and partners,” she said.

## 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)

For more information on Supply Nation's Board: [supplynation.org.au/about-us/meet-our-team/](https://supplynation.org.au/about-us/meet-our-team/)

Connect is Supply Nation's annual flagship event for the Indigenous business sector. The event brings together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, corporate and government organisations to foster strategic opportunities and celebrate the success of the sector.

Connect 2024 will take place on Wednesday 28 August and Thursday 29 August 2024 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on the lands of the Turrbal and Jagera peoples in Meanjin. Find out more and purchase tickets: [connect.supplynation.org.au](https://connect.supplynation.org.au)

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