

Media Release

Supply Nation Board appoints new Co-Chair

Date of release 16 August 2024

The Supply Nation Board today advises that Michelle Deshong has stepped down as Co-Chair and Board Director, and Damien Barnes has been appointed Co-Chair alongside Penny Bingham-Hall.

Michelle has been a member of the Supply Nation Board for over seven years, including nine months as Acting CEO in 2023. Michelle has brought extensive experience in leadership and governance to the Board, but due to other ongoing business and governance roles she could no longer commit the time required to continue as Co-Chair of Supply Nation.

“We have regretfully accepted Michelle’s resignation from the Board of Supply Nation. For over seven years, Michelle has made significant contributions to the leadership, governance and operations of Supply Nation as well as the growth of the Indigenous business sector more generally,” said Board Director and Co-Chair, Penny Bingham-Hall.

“Michelle has helped steer the organisation to achieve significant milestones, as Acting CEO, Co-Chair and Board Director. We are excited for Michelle to pursue her next chapter,” she said.

“The time I have served on the Board of Supply Nation has been one of the most rewarding governance roles I have held. The opportunity to work alongside other Board members, Supply Nation staff, and our excellent and committed Indigenous businesses and members has been an honour and a privilege,” said Michelle Deshong.

“Supply Nation continues to fulfil a critical role in the growth of the Indigenous business sector. I am proud to have been associated with the success and achievements of this unique organisation,” she said.

Penny Bingham-Hall welcomed new Co-Chair Damien Barnes and said that his appointment demonstrated the strength and diversity of the Supply Nation Board.

“Damien joined Supply Nation’s Board a year ago and is an experienced non-executive director. He brings firsthand experience as both an Indigenous business owner and a trusted advisor to numerous Indigenous communities and businesses,” said Penny Bingham-Hall.

Damien is a Bidjara man and the founder and Managing Director of YIMBA Legal & Consulting. He is the Chair of NSW Aboriginal Housing Office and Westpac’s Indigenous Advisory Council and a Member of Westpac’s Stakeholder Advisory Council. He is also a Director of SEC Victoria and is the Australian Government’s First Nations Co-Representative on the Indigenous People Economic Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

Damien has been a Director of The National Centre of Indigenous Excellence, Bangarra Dance Theatre, the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre, Chair of Nguluway Design Inc, a founding Board member of Ngalaya Indigenous Lawyers Association, and a Member of both the NSW Law Society Indigenous Issues Committee and

UTS' Indigenous Industry Advisory Group Faculty of Design Architecture and Building. He holds an Executive MBA, Law Degree, Civil Engineering Degree and a Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Leadership.

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

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 rapidly evolving Indigenous business sector. Supply Nation's rigorous verification process provides peace of mind by ensuring that all businesses listed on their database, Indigenous Business Direct (IBD), are not only Indigenous owned but are regularly audited for changes in company structure. Supply Nation's support and 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

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 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

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