

## Media Release

### Supply Nation announces new data on Indigenous procurement in Western Australia

---

Date of release      12 March 2026

---

Supply Nation is pleased to announce the launch of its latest *State of Indigenous Business: WA Insights Report*. Building on the *State of the Indigenous Business* released last year, this report provides data and analysis on procurement trends specifically for Western Australia.

Published in collaboration with the Waalitj Hub, the report confirms that Western Australia (WA) plays a critical role in Australia's Indigenous business sector with procurement activity accounting for more than a third of all national spend with Supply Nation suppliers in 2024–25. A copy of the full report and highlights is available [here](#).

The total spend by Supply Nation members was \$2.1 billion in procurement with WA-based suppliers, or 36% of the total national amount, contributing to a new national milestone of over \$5.83 billion in procurement spend with verified Indigenous-owned businesses, up from \$4.6 billion the previous year.

Indigenous businesses in WA participate strongly in large-scale industries, particularly mining and construction, with a growing dominance of high-value contracts, and nationally significant outcomes for female-owned Indigenous businesses.

The mining sector remains the primary driver of Indigenous procurement in WA, accounting for approximately \$1.1 billion in spend during 2024–25.

WA suppliers received more high-value contracts than any other state or territory, with 306 transactions valued at more than \$1 million. These contracts represent a substantial share of total spend, indicating that WA Indigenous businesses are increasingly participating in large supply chains.

WA is a national leader in procurement with female-owned Indigenous businesses. These businesses received a total of \$708 million in procurement spend, representing almost half of the national total spend with female-owned Indigenous suppliers. Notably, 73% of WA's transactions over \$1 million were awarded to female-owned businesses, with the mining sector alone accounting for \$572 million.

Small to medium-sized enterprises accounted for 87% of total WA procurement spend, confirming their significant role in the Indigenous business sector. Members showed a clear preference for suppliers with annual revenues above \$10 million, suggesting that smaller and younger businesses face structural barriers to accessing high-value opportunities.

The 2024–25 financial year showed significant growth in procurement spending with Indigenous suppliers, reflecting ongoing efforts to strengthen supplier diversity and economic participation across Australia.

“Western Australia is an important jurisdiction given the size and scale of the industry sectors. It’s essential that Supply Nation is focused on WA. Over the previous few years, we have reopened our Perth office and increased local staffing levels making sure we meet the needs of members and suppliers,” said Kate Russell, proud Awabakal woman, and Supply Nation CEO.

“This year we are very pleased to bring Australia’s largest and longest-running business event for the Indigenous business sector – Connect – to Boorloo. Over two exciting days with a Knowledge Forum, Tradeshow and Gala Awards Dinner, it is an event not to be missed. Real business is done, as well as celebrating the success and growth of the sector.”

“We have a long-standing relationship with the Waalitj Hub and were very pleased to have the opportunity to partner with them to produce this report. Supply Nation and Waalitj Hub represent two components of a broader Indigenous business ecosystem and by collaborating, it is our hope that we can ensure Indigenous businesses achieve their unique aspirations and full potential,” she said.

Supply Nation’s report *The Sleeping Giant Rises* found that for every dollar of revenue produced by Indigenous-owned businesses, \$3.66 of positive economic and social value was generated into the Australian economy.

Social value refers to the positive changes seen through an Indigenous lens of wellbeing – one that encompasses people, Country, and Culture. This value includes improved agency and control over life, expanded aspirations, financial security, pride, physical health and mental wellbeing and stronger connections to Community, Culture and Country. Indigenous businesses create this value purely by operating as a business, it excludes any formal or informal support or other philanthropic programs.

#### **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 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.com.au](https://supplynation.com.au).

Supply Nation has a zero-tolerance approach to any commercial fraud, dishonest or anti-competitive behaviour that impacts the successful growth and reputation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses. Allegations of fraudulent behaviour, including the unauthorised use of Supply Nation’s brand and logos signifying Certified and Registered business will be investigated.

Connect is Supply Nation’s flagship event for the Indigenous business sector. The event brings together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and corporate and government organisations to foster strategic opportunities and celebrate the success of the sector. Connect 2026 will take place on 11–12 August at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre in Boorloo. To find out more and purchase tickets visit: [Connect 2026](#).

#### **Media contact:**

Paul Sanda  
Media Manager, Corporate Affairs and Engagement  
[media@supplynation.org.au](mailto:media@supplynation.org.au)