

Queensland Train Manufacturing Program

Quarterly First Nations Business Newsletter Quarter 4 (2025)

Welcome to the eighth edition of our First Nations Business Newsletter, created to help First Nations-owned businesses and individuals connect with the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program (QTMP).

This update provides information about QTMP's procurement approach, success stories on First Nations staff and businesses and also identifies upcoming events, culturally significant dates and more.

Events

QTMP Toolbox Talk — YAKKA

Downer's Rail Systems Manager, Darryn DeReuck, presented a toolbox talk to a group of First Nations individuals on completion of their Certificate 2 in Rail and Infrastructure in June. [The Yakka Training](#) graduates were able to hear about Darryn's rail background and his transition from a professional rugby player into his engineering career.

Darryn discussed the QTMP project, including work at Torbanlea and Ormeau. He spoke about what Downer looks for when employing staff. For example, someone who is willing to learn new things, is open to challenges, a team player and is passionate about making a difference in communities.



Image: Yakka Training graduates with QTMP Rail Systems Manager, Darryn DeReuck, and APM Trainer, Martin Griese, in Nerang, Gold Coast

DORRIE Day — Bundaberg, 28 August

Coordinated by the Port Curtis Coral Coast Trust, [Dorrie Day](#) was held at the CQ University campus in Bundaberg in late August. Jobseekers, students and employers were able to yarn with inspiring businesses and explore new career paths. More than 50 elders shared traditional insights, and more than 100 organisations and businesses attended to connect with the community.



Image: Indigenous business and stakeholders having a yarn at Dorrie Day in Bundaberg

Success Story

Meet First Nations Trainee, Stacey-Leigh Banks, DT Infrastructure



Stacey-Leigh decided it was time to return to work in 2024 after three years of being a stay-at-home mum to her two children. She first commenced a Certificate 1 Business Traineeship in aged care and then decided to branch into social work, which she undertook for six months. Following her previous studies and in response to a job advertisement by DT Infrastructure (DTI), Stacey-Leigh applied for a traineeship to undertake her Certificate 3 in Business Administration. She has been upskilling with DTI for 11 months and she is loving it so far. Well done on your career journey, Stacey-Leigh!

First Nations business — WRL



WRL Shipping Australia (WRL) is a majority Indigenous, female-owned logistics company with roots in Brisbane and operations across Australia and internationally. They have provided logistics services on QTMP in transporting specialist equipment for train manufacture.

Since 2008, as a second-generation family business, they have been committed to delivering tailored, reliable solutions for complex and heavy cargo movements.

WRL is providing specialist logistics services, coordinating the safe and efficient transport of integral components to site. Their involvement ensures that critical project materials arrive on time and in top condition, supporting the program's milestones. Importantly, their involvement highlights the capability and contribution of Indigenous businesses in delivering major infrastructure for Queensland's future.



Image: WRL and Downer working together

Culturally Significant Dates

Indigenous Literacy Day, 3 September

Indigenous Literacy Day 2025 is a celebration of First Nations stories, cultures and languages. This year's theme, Strength In Our Stories: For Now & Future Generations, was captured in a [short film and live streamed in a performance](#) from the Sydney Opera House. The film took viewers on an adventure through three remote Aboriginal Communities (South Australia, Northern Territory and Western Australia) to learn about the diverse ways storytelling makes their communities strong.

NAIDOC Week legacy continues at QTMP Torbanlea and Ormeau, 6 - 12 July, 2025

John Holland's QTMP team proudly celebrated NAIDOC Week on-site at Torbanlea. Team members from Lindores Construction Services alongside their families and the Butchulla community delivered a Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony and traditional dances to commemorate the occasion.



Image: Local Butchulla community and Lindores family members celebrate NAIDOC with traditional dance with JHG

At Ormeau, QTMP subcontractor DT Infrastructure celebrated the theme and the 50-year anniversary of NAIDOC. They reflected on what it means to be Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations), while participating in a collaborative artwork that will be on display at the Ormeau site office.

Downer also celebrated NAIDOC Week across its facilities. Guest speaker, Craig Wright, from Aboriginal Cultural Immersions, spoke to the team about the traditional history of Brisbane and valuing culture. In Hervey Bay, the QTMP team attended a Family Fun Day hosted by Central Queensland Indigenous Development, which was attended by over 400 community members.

Want to supply to QTMP?

If you would like to supply goods and services to QTMP, please ensure you register on the Supply TMR portal: <https://supplytmr.benchon.com>

Once you have registered on Supply TMR:

- Look for an email from Supply TMR to book a time for a call to help you set up your account and use the portal (please check your junk folder).
- Once your account is set up, keep your business capabilities up to date.
- Get notified about packages that match your capabilities and matching preferences.
- For work packages, your business needs to have the required technical capability and capacity to deliver the contract. It is important when setting up your profile in SupplyTMR that your capability statement is as detailed as possible.

Contact us

Find out more online at www.tmr.qld.gov.au/trainmanufacturing

Email qtmp@downergroup.com | Call 1800 464 512* | Post PO Box 830, Brisbane QLD

*Monday to Sunday 6.30am to 7.30pm. Free call from anywhere in Australia, call charges may apply for mobile phones. Check with your service provider for call costs.

As packages are released, the portal will search for required capabilities and notify all relevant businesses.

You can view the schedule of upcoming work packages at QTMP supplier opportunities (www.downergroup.com/qtmp-supplier-opportunities)

Support, advice, resources

Upcoming training events

Supply Nation will provide events for [registered businesses](#) throughout 2025. Visit their website [here](#) for the latest events.

Jobs Ready — Foundational Soft Skills and Business Managers Programs (Pialba and Maryborough)

The Jobs Pathways Program aims to boost confidence and job readiness in a supportive learning environment. It is FREE and runs regularly for 4 weeks (Tues-Thurs from 9am - 2pm). See [Fraser Coast Regional Council's Jobs Ready Program](#) for program start dates and more information about their Business Managers Program.

Enabling competitive contract bidding

QTMP is committed to ensuring support for First Nations as part of the tender submission process. Where appropriate, QTMP encourages and supports joint ventures, alliances and partnerships between local First Nations-owned Businesses and other organisations, enabling them to bid competitively for contracts that they may not have secured on their own.

Downer is committed to supporting First Nations-owned businesses through its Supply Nation membership, developing a directory of First Nations businesses and collaborating with Supply Nations on training opportunities.

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