

Queensland Train Manufacturing Program



Quarterly First Nations Business Newsletter Quarter 1 (2026)

Hello and Happy New Year!

Welcome to the ninth 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 businesses and also identifies upcoming events, culturally significant dates and more.

Culturally significant dates for early 2026

National Apology Day 13 February 2026

[National Apology Day](#) commemorates the first-ever national apology made by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd (2008). This initiated the federal government's rehabilitation, justice and reconciliation agenda for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (First Nations) and the tens of thousands of children who were forcibly removed from their families during Australia's assimilation era.

National Close the Gap Day 19 March 2026

Launched as a collaboration between Australia's top public-health organisations and agencies, [Close the Gap Day](#) was launched in 2007 by Olympians Cathy Freeman and Ian Thorpe. The campaign raises awareness of the poor health outcomes experienced by some First Nations communities.

Events

Indigenous Business Month (IBM) October 2025

The Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism's (DWATSIPM) IBM Event was held in Maryborough, featuring [Allweld Manufacturing](#) (Allweld). Managing Director Josh Linwood shared his story with the audience and showcased Allweld's growth from humble beginnings. He discussed how Allweld has overcome challenges in tendering and showcased their recently completed QTMP train mock-up.



Image: Indigenous Businesses hear from Josh Linwood (Allweld).

Indigenous Workforce Connect October 2025

A joint collaboration between DWATSIPM and the Department of Trade, Employment and Training (DTET), the inaugural Indigenous Workforce Connect was attended by over 100 community members, with panel discussions and presentations about how to improve First Nations business capability for upcoming events like the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Teams participating in panels included Moonyah Workforce, DCC Industry Group, CleanCo, BindiLee Painting Services, Feros Care, Paperbark Consulting and Al Mucci Enterprises.



Image: Indigenous Businesses listen to the DWATSIPM team during the workforce connect event.

Success Story

Empowering First Nations Through the QTMP Project

[Lindores Construction Services](#) (Lindores) has played a pivotal role in the QTMP, bringing decades of construction expertise and a strong commitment to inclusive workforce development. A Supply Nation registered business, Lindores Indigenous ownership and leadership is central to fostering meaningful First Nations engagement across all stages of the project.

To date, Lindores has provided labour hire for 180 workers on the QTMP project, with 127 of those based in the Fraser Coast region and 31 First Nations Team members. The onsite team also includes 44 female workers, reinforcing Lindores dedication to diversity and gender equity in traditionally male-dominated sectors.

“By ensuring Indigenous perspectives and talent are involved in the delivery of the QTMP, Lindores Construction Services is not only helping deliver a world-class transport solution but also strengthening community ties and creating lasting social impact. We remain committed to expanding these opportunities and ensuring that First Nations voices are heard, respected, and represented throughout the life of the project,” Lindores Construction Services General Manager, Max Claxton said.

Yakka Training — Preferred Training Supplier

Congratulations to [Yakka Training](#), who have recently become a preferred supplier with Downer Group! Yakka is specialised in training, mentoring and job placement with both the wider community and diverse groups, including First Nations and women.



Image: Joel Thompson from Yakka at the Downer Creek Street office.

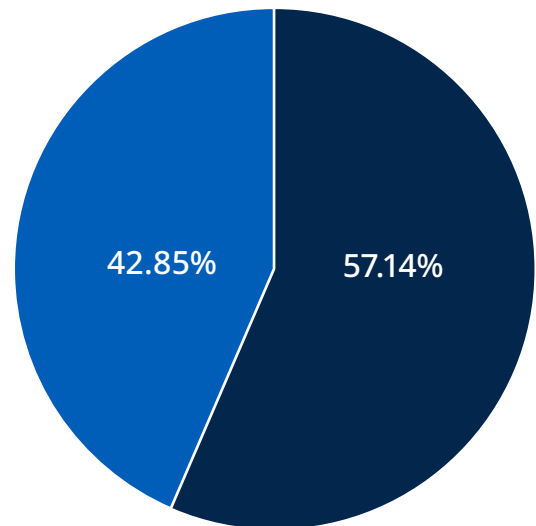


Image: Joel holding a cultural awareness session with Downer.

DT Infrastructure First Nations' procurement commitment

As part of DT Infrastructure's ongoing commitment to First Nations' procurement on the QTMP, a proposed pathway has been established, targeting a total spend of at least 3% addressable spend (around \$15 million). To date, DTI has made strong progress, with approximately \$8 million already spent and a further \$6 million committed. This leaves around \$1 million to be allocated by project completion. DTI has a clear pathway to achieve its target.

DTI's Indigenous spend to date



- Spend to date
- Remaining target

QTMP Toolbox Talk — Shaping Australia Group (SAG)

Downer's Zero Harm Advisor, Darren Dimmack presented a toolbox talk to a group of First Nations individuals doing their Civil Construction Employment Readiness Course with [Shaping Australia Group](#). Darren discussed the QTMP project, including work at Torbanlea and Ormeau and spoke about what Downer looks for when employing staff.



Image : Darren Dimmack (Downer - Centre) with SAG Staff Shannon Fraser and Rhys Yorke.

Support, Advice, Resources

Upcoming Training Events

Supply Nation will provide events for [registered businesses](#) throughout 2026. Visit their website here for the latest events. Please contact qtmp@downergroup.com for additional information.

Interested in building your own business capability and capacity?

Please contact Principal Indigenous Program Officers Marty Ermer martin.emer@desbt.qld.gov.au and Gail Russell gail.russell@desbt.qld.gov.au or Principal Project Officer, Uncle Barry Fewquandie Barry.Fewquandie@dwatsipm.qld.gov.au for more information.

Enabling competitive contract bidding

QTMP support includes increasing lead time to prepare and submit tenders and expressions of interest (EOI) documents. We also provide favourable payment terms. We can also provide feedback to First Nations owned businesses who submit tenders but are ultimately unsuccessful. This is provided in order to assist businesses with their future planning for work opportunities. Please see [QTMP supplier opportunities](#) for additional information or contact qtmp@downergroup.com.

Pathways for Mob — 17 March 2026

The highly successful Pathways 4 Mob event is happening again on the Fraser Coast. Whether you're a business or a jobseeker curious about what's on offer in the Wide Bay-Burnett region, the Pathways 4 Mob is your go-to for information and connections. Stakeholders are planning this special event for the community, which will be held in March 2026 in Hervey Bay. For more information, please contact ncoasttraining@dtet.qld.gov.au or 0408 710 817.

Contact us

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