

Queensland Train Manufacturing Program

Quarterly First Nations business newsletter Quarter 2 (2025)

Welcome to the sixth 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. It includes success stories on First Nations staff and businesses, and it identifies upcoming events, culturally significant dates and more.

First Nations business success

Downer has awarded two contracts to First Nations-owned businesses so far in 2025. Geared Up Culcha will provide approximately \$250,000 worth of standard safety equipment and clothing to QTMP, and Indigenous female-owned logistics company Worldwide Ro-Lo Shipping will manage the transportation of specialist equipment, with an estimated contract value of \$450,000.

Events

Pathways 4 Mob (Maryborough)

The inaugural Pathways 4 Mob event run by the Department of Trade, Education and Training (DTET) was held on the Fraser Coast in March.

Allweld Manufacturing General Manager Josh Linwood was a guest speaker. Allweld Manufacturing was awarded a contract to build two train mock-ups for QTMP.

Downer attended the event and provided an update on the QTMP, as well as an opportunity for the community to register for upcoming career opportunities via the [Downer Careers](#) page. First Nations people looking for work, wanting to upskill, get an apprenticeship/traineeship or start their own business had a great opportunity to talk with stall holders.



Indigenous businesses and stakeholders met at the Pathways 4 Mob event in Maryborough.

Closing the Gap Event - Gunya Meta (Logan)

QTMP subcontractor DT Infrastructure attended a Closing the Gap careers event held in March 2025. The event was facilitated by Gunya Meta and GaWun Supplies and focused on connecting Grade 10–12 students with training and career opportunities with local businesses.



First Nations staff success story

Rhiannon's hard work onsite helps to build skills for the future.

Rhiannon Coolwell has gained three mobile plant tickets (excavator, dozer and bobcat) in only a few months working on QTMP, and is now working towards her Certificate IV in Work, Health and Safety.

A former cleaner turned plant operator, the Hervey Bay local has had a very positive experience working on the project and said the best part has been the ability to gain qualifications while working.

'Being able to upskill on the project is incredible. It's allowed me the opportunity to progress in my career and also get the opportunity to learn more skills on those particular pieces of plant which is invaluable. The people on this project are more than happy to share their wisdom, so I'm taking every bit of information and advice in.'

Rhiannon looks forward to continuing to develop her skills as she prepares for her next role in the industry once she finishes on QTMP.



Rhiannon Coolwell is working at the Torbanlea train manufacturing facility.



Biodiversity Australia success story

QTMP is proud to be working with First Nations business, [Biodiversity Australia](#), at the Ormeau rail facility.

Biodiversity planted casuarina trees as part the project's commitment to preserving and restoring marine plants and country.

Providing specialist ecological management solutions for diverse sectors, Biodiversity Australia delivers a broad range of environmental management services such as ecology, fauna and vegetation management.

Culturally significant dates

National Sorry Day - 26 May

National Sorry Day was first held in Sydney in 1998. It remembers and honours the Stolen Generations and acknowledges the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People (First Nations) who were forcibly removed from their families and communities. 26 May also recognises the creation of the Uluru Statement of the Heart, a consensus document for constitutional recognition.

National Reconciliation Week - 27 May to 3 June

Reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between First Nations people and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of all Australians.

27 May marks the anniversary of the 1967 referendum when Australians voted to remove clauses in the Australian Constitution that discriminated against First Nations people.

3 June (MABO Day) marks the historic 1992 Mabo decision in which the High Court of Australia recognised native title. This identified that First Nations' rights over their lands existed prior to, and survived, British colonisation.

To participate in public events, you can visit [Reconciliation Australia](#) or your local council's website for more information. QTMP is providing a morning tea for its employees, featuring food from a First Nations supplier, along with a guest speaker who will highlight the significance of these important dates.

Want to supply to QTMP?

Supply opportunities continue as the project progresses in 2025. Please see below for additional support for First Nations-owned businesses tendering into QTMP.

If you would like to supply goods and services to QTMP, 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. This is why it is important when setting up your profile in Supply TMR that your capability statement is as detailed as possible.

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 \(downergroup.com\)](https://www.dnrgroup.com/QTMP-supplier-opportunities)

Support, advice, resources

Upcoming training

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

The Jobs Pathways Program aim to boost confidence and job readiness in a supportive learning environment. It is free and runs regularly all year for four weeks at a time

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 4000

Contact us for alternate accessible formats or for Translation Services.

**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.*

(Tuesday to Thursday from 9am - 2pm). A light breakfast and lunch are provided. The program helps familiarise participants with industries through site visits and guest speakers, as well as highlight career opportunities in the region. See Fraser Coast Regional Council's [website](#) for program start dates in 2025 (Pialba and Maryborough) and more information about their Business Managers Program.

[Manufacturing Skills Queensland](#) is committed to providing relevant training, enhancing skills and fostering workforce development. Check out their [programs](#) which are designed to support small, medium and large businesses, leaders in industry and individuals.

If you're interested in a career in construction, [Construction Skills Queensland](#) offers funding of more than 75% for training and connects you with a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) in your area.

The [Fraser Coast Industry & Careers Showcase](#) is on 4 June 2025, between 10am and 3pm at the Maryborough Showgrounds and Equestrian Park. The showcase brings together jobseekers and businesses. To register as an exhibitor at this event, click [here](#).

Enabling competitive contract bidding

QTMP support includes increasing lead time to prepare and submit tenders and expressions of interest (EOI) documents, and providing favourable payment terms. We can also provide feedback to First Nations - owned businesses who submit tenders but are ultimately unsuccessful. We have developed a resource information pack which our subcontractors use to assist with sourcing and training First Nations employees. It includes information about culturally appropriate recruitment practices, protocols and how to ensure a safe and inclusive workplace.

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