

# 2024-2025 ANNUAL SUMMARY

**LOCAL** BUYING  
PROGRAM  
BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

**BHP**

**BMA**  
BHP Mitsubishi Alliance

**C·RES**  
COMMUNITY RESOURCING  
FOR THE FUTURE

PROUDLY DELIVERING THE LOCAL BUYING PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP

**LOCALBUYING  
FOUNDATION**  
AN INITIATIVE OF THE LOCAL BUYING PROGRAM



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respect and honour the Traditional Custodians of this land, and recognise their continuing connection to land, sea and waterways.

We extend our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on the lands we gather, work and connect.





# From opportunity to impact

A message from  
Tracey Cuttriss-Smith  
C-Res CEO

At the heart of our work is a deep belief in the potential of regional Australia. The BHP Local Buying Program in FY25 has continued to prove just how powerful that potential is when supported by strong partnerships, streamlined systems and community-first thinking.

This year, our focus sharpened around the full Local Buying Cycle. It's a model that creates genuine economic impact, with each stage of the cycle reinforcing the next. The BHP Local Buying Program and Local Buying Foundation are integral parts of BHP's Social Value framework, helping to build thriving local business ecosystems and contributing to a safer, more resilient and sustainable regional communities.

FY25 marked a significant milestone in our journey, with two major achievements since the program's inception. We surpassed 100,000 approved Work Instructions, an enduring testament to the scale and efficiency of our operations. Additionally, cumulative spend with BHP Local Buying Program Suppliers exceeded \$1.5 billion, reflecting our long-standing and growing commitment to local economic development. These achievements are more than numbers, they represent thousands of successful transactions, strengthened supplier relationships and benefits that flow into our regional communities.

Our Supply Chain Ready program reflects our shared commitment to ensuring that local and Indigenous suppliers are not only visible to BHP Buyers, but fully equipped to meet BHP's minimum requirements for procurement. This program supports businesses in understanding and achieving key compliance, safety and operational standards, helping them build confidence and capability to secure and sustain work with BHP.

By working closely with suppliers through tailored support and resources, we're strengthening the quality and readiness of local supply chains. This creates a more robust, competitive business community that is well-positioned for long-term success.

This success has been mirrored by expansion into new operational areas, with the inclusion of BHP Prominent Hill and BHP Carrapateena, in South Australia, bringing increased opportunities to our supplier network. Our focus remains on both welcoming new participants and continuing to support and promote those already part of our network.

Alongside BHP, our team continues to commit to systems and innovations that ensure the needs of suppliers, buyers and stakeholders are met with agility and reliability. As always, we are guided by our Vision, Purpose and Values. It is this foundation that enables us to adapt to change, deliver on our commitments and stay deeply connected to the communities we serve.

Within the cycle is the Local Buying Foundation, not just the final piece, but also the beginning. Investment received also flows back into community-driven initiatives that create long term value. Providing funding to Industry Engagement Officers as well as the capability building programs they coordinate, reflect our shared goal with BHP - to leave a lasting, positive legacy in every region we touch.

As we look ahead to FY26, we do so with pride in what we've achieved, together with an excitement for what's to come.



“

The Hedland Economic Forum is a powerful demonstration of how the Local Buying Cycle delivers real outcomes for regional communities.

It is a cycle that starts with local procurement and ends with stronger, more resilient regional economies. A more connected business community, able to sustainably support itself will ensure growth and deliver lasting impact.

”

*Tracey Cuttriss-Smith | CEO  
C-Res*



C-Res CEO, Tracey Cuttriss-Smith presenting at the Port Hedland Chamber of Commerce and Industry Economic Forum in November, 2024, an event the Local Buying Foundation is proud to sponsor.





## From small beginnings

The journey began with a small board, a part-time Managing Director, and two people, one based in Mackay and the other in the Bowen Basin (one of whom is now CEO Tracey Cuttriss-Smith). The first Work Instruction was raised by BMA Blackwater in July 2012.

As time passed, C-Res has grown into a successful company, expanding nationally to encompass all BHP Minerals Australia Assets.

The past 13 years have witnessed some wonderful successes for C-Res due to the strength of the partnership with BHP and the effective delivery of the BHP Local Buying Program.

# BHP Local Buying Program

The BHP Local Buying Program is a strategic initiative delivered in partnership with BHP and C-Res to support small, local and Indigenous businesses across regional Australia. It simplifies procurement for BHP’s off-contract spend by connecting buyers with capable local suppliers through a streamlined online platform. This not only reduces red tape but also ensures local businesses can access real work opportunities.

Since its inception, the BHP Local Buying Program has grown into a trusted and effective model for regional economic development. In 2024, 66% of suppliers reported positive business growth through the program, and buyer satisfaction rose to 84%. The program’s success is underpinned by C-Res’ commitment to supplier capability-building, transparency and continuous improvement. Initiatives such as Supply Chain Ready webinars, portal enhancements and targeted training have helped suppliers better understand how to engage with BHP and improve their competitiveness.


The BHP Local Buying Program is also closely linked to the Local Buying Foundation, which receives a contribution from every dollar spent through the program. The funds reinvested into regional communities, upholding BHP’s Social Value Framework, particularly the pillars of Indigenous Partnerships, and Thriving and Empowered Communities, by enabling economic empowerment, cultural engagement and local capability building. In 2025, the program continued to evolve. Expansion into Copper SA, BHP Carrapateena and BHP Prominent Hill, facilitated access to over 130 local suppliers, making it easier for BHP teams to source goods and services while supporting local jobs and growth. The Local Buying Program remains vital to BHP’s commitment to regional Australia.

Surpassing \$1.5 billion in approved spend and 100,000 approved Work Instructions during FY25 is more than a milestone and marks the culmination of achievements since the program’s inception. It is a reflection of the trust, commitment and collaboration that exists between BHP, C-Res and the hundreds of small businesses we work with every day. This achievement shows what is possible when we back local capability and invest in regional success.


**ACTUAL SPEND**  
**SINCE INCEPTION**

**\$1.59b**


**PAYMENTS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES**

**238,976**


**WORK OPPORTUNITIES APPROVED**

**103,978**

**SMALL, LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS BUSINESSES RECEIVING WORK**

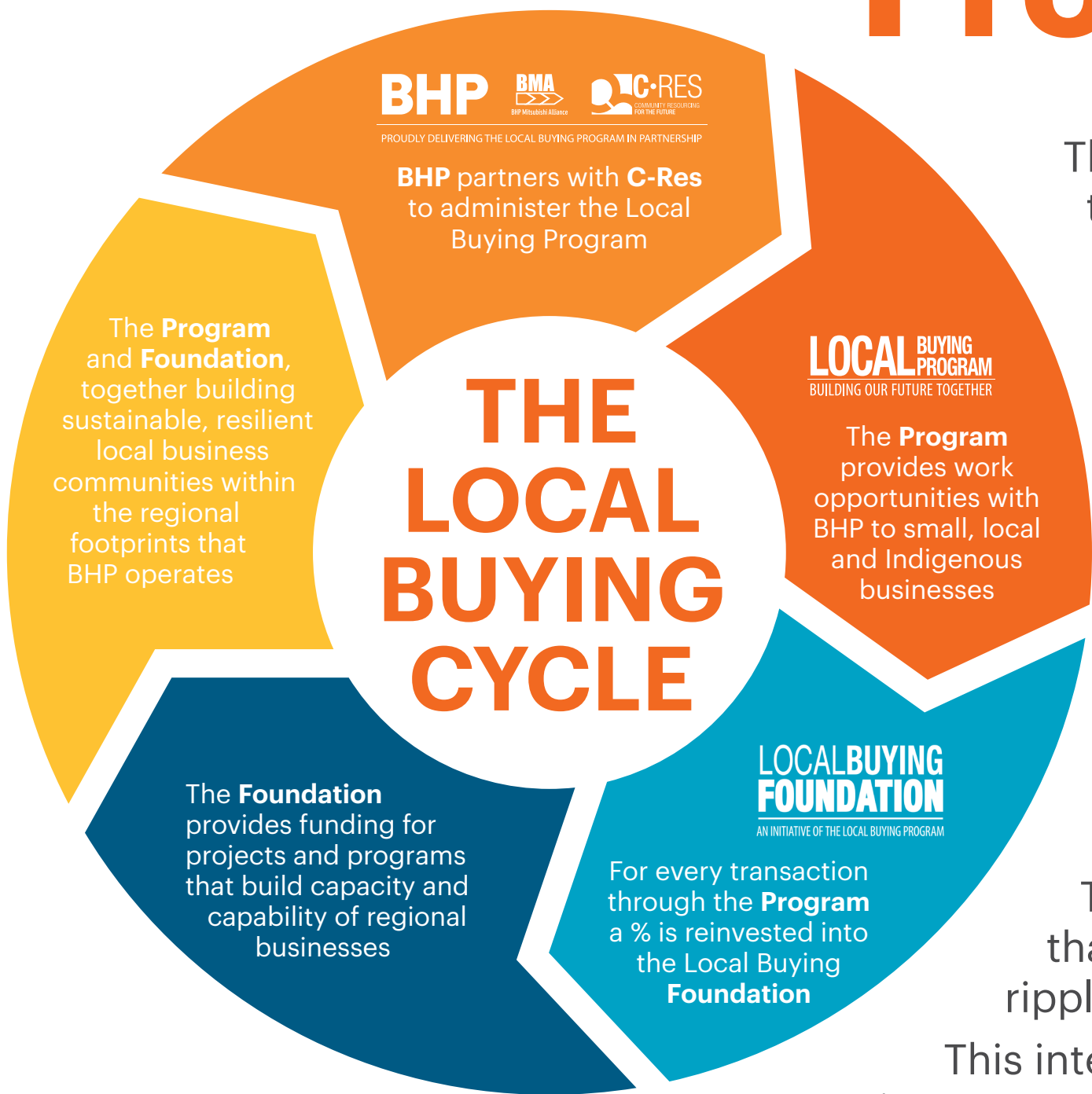
**3,020**

**BHP BUYERS CREATING WORK OPPORTUNITIES**

**7,796**



# Procurement to progress



The Local Buying Cycle is a dynamic ecosystem that begins with BHP’s commitment to sourcing from small, local and Indigenous businesses through the Local Buying Program. This partnership with C-Res ensures that procurement is not only efficient but also deeply rooted in regional economic development.

Each Work Instruction approved by BHP Buyers through the Local Buying Program triggers a financial contribution to the Local Buying Foundation. This creates a powerful feedback loop where BHP’s procurement activity directly supports community investment. It’s not just transactional. It is a strategic action that strengthens regional resilience and sustainability.

Projects like the Calendar of Events in Port Hedland, Upper Spencer Gulf, Muswellbrook and Mackay are funded by the Local Buying Foundation to provide support with training, networking and opportunities within their regions. These initiatives help suppliers evolve from being procurement-ready to becoming strategic partners in their regions.

The cycle is reinforced through buyer education, supplier onboarding and storytelling that highlights success and impact. It’s a model where every dollar spent creates a ripple effect, supporting local jobs and strengthening business capability.

This interconnected structure is what makes the Local Buying Cycle more than a process—it’s a purpose-driven strategy that links procurement with progress.

“ We had a phenomenal year in the BHP Local Buying Program in FY25, with close to 1,000 suppliers from the communities of which we are a part, both local and Indigenous, contributing to the safe, reliable and productive operation of our sites. For us, the C-Res team help connect BHP Buyers with those local and indigenous suppliers to provide services across a variety of categories.

I’d like to thank the C-Res team, our suppliers and of course my own Local and Indigenous Procurement Team for their efforts in making the Local Buying Cycle come to fruition.

I’m really excited to see what we have in store in FY26 and the continued partnership and focus on safety and productivity that we can build together.



Jessica Simpson | BHP  
Head of Governance  
and Social Value







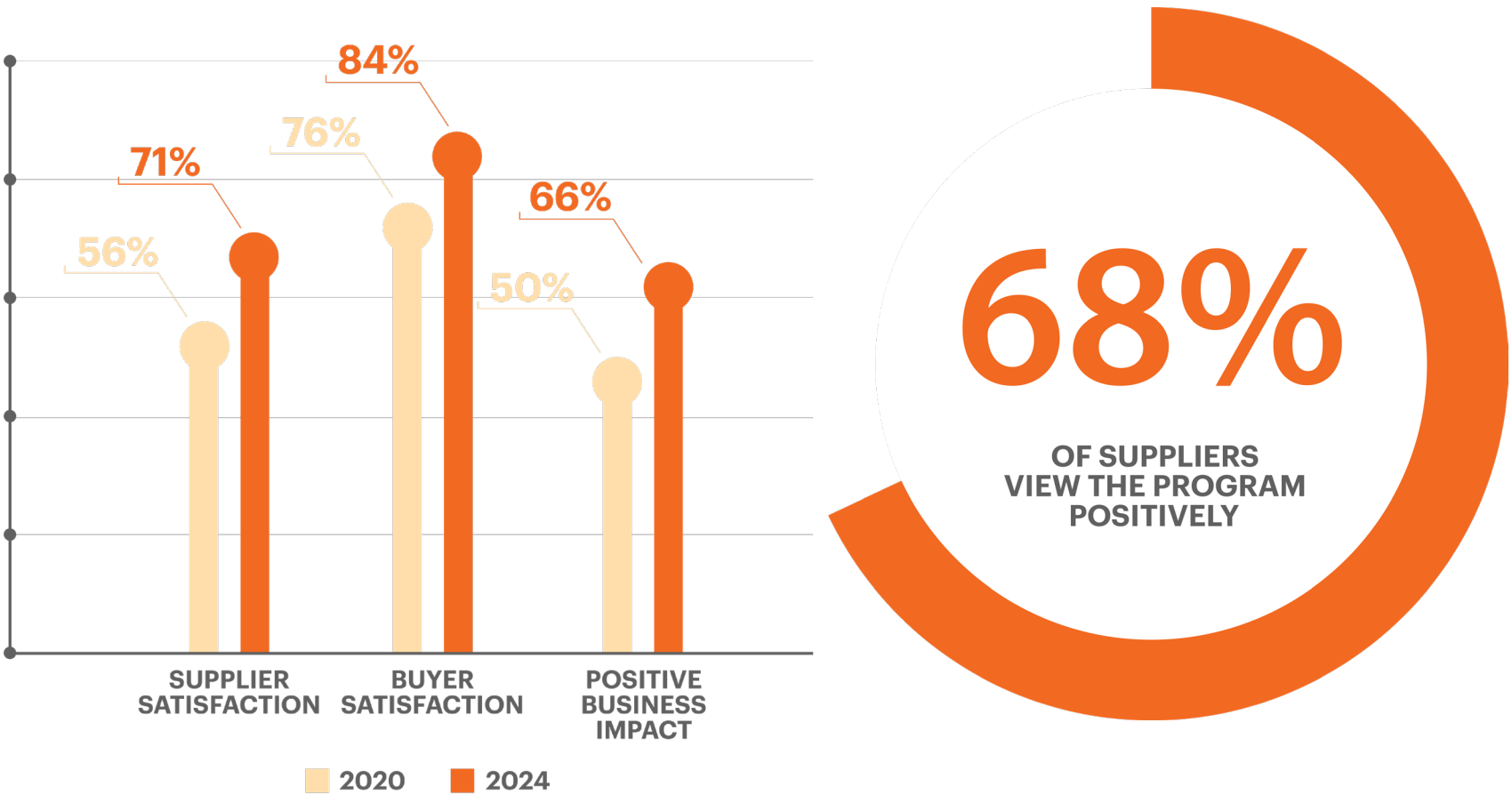
# Listen, learn, lead

## Learning from our suppliers

The Voice of Customer Survey highlighted the strength of the relationships built between BHP and local businesses through the BHP Local Buying Program and the Local Buying Foundation. Feedback consistently reflects a sense of trust, transparency and mutual respect. Local suppliers value the accessibility of BHP teams and the genuine interest shown in supporting regional capability. These insights affirm that our collaborative approach is not only delivering economic outcomes but also fostering long-term partnerships. This reinforces that when local businesses feel heard and supported, they are more confident to grow, innovate and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

The Voice of Customer Survey plays a vital role in how we measure the impact and effectiveness of the Local Buying Program and Local Buying Foundation. Conducted biannually, the 2024 survey captured feedback from suppliers and BHP Buyers across Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia. The results show a strong upward trend in satisfaction and impact, and provide clear direction for continuous improvement.

Supplier satisfaction grew from 56% in 2020 to 71% in 2024. Buyer satisfaction also increased, from 76% to 84%. Importantly, 66% of suppliers now report a positive impact on their business as a result of participating in the BHP Local Buying Program, up from 50% in 2020. These results reflect the value of seamless procurement support provided by our C-Res Program Administration Team (PAT), whose consistent service helps reduce buyer workload and ensures suppliers experience smooth, reliable transactions.



The survey also highlighted areas for growth. Awareness of the Local Buying Foundation remains relatively low, although increasing from 33% in 2022 to 40% in 2024. Buyer engagement in training is another opportunity, with only 17% of buyers having participated in Local Buying Program training, despite 89% of those who did finding it helpful.

In response, C-Res has launched refreshed buyer training, new supplier engagement initiatives and targeted communications to improve awareness and participation. These include the Buyer Ready virtual training series, Procure with Purpose site-based engagement and the Supply Chain Ready supplier training stream. These initiatives support buyers to transform procurement practices and empower suppliers who innovate to deliver value and drive social impact through the Local Buying Cycle.

The Voice of Customer Survey results are more than just metrics. They reflect the relationships we build, the trust we earn and the value we deliver. They guide our strategy and reinforce our commitment to making the BHP Local Buying Program and Local Buying Foundation more accessible, impactful and aligned with the needs of the people and communities we serve. This approach directly contributes to BHP’s Social Value Framework, particularly the pillars of Indigenous partnerships, responsible supply chains and thriving communities, by enabling economic empowerment, cultural engagement and local capability building.

As we move forward, the Voice of Customer Survey will continue to shape how we listen, learn and lead.





The Supply Chain Ready program is a strategic initiative designed to strengthen the capability of small, local and Indigenous suppliers to meet BHP's minimum requirements. Delivered by C-Res and BHP through the Local Buying Program, Supply Chain Ready supports Local Buying Program Suppliers with targeted training, resources and engagement opportunities that build confidence and capability to supply to BHP.

The program is structured around three key streams: BHP-led webinars featuring subject matter experts, capability building workshops funded by the Local Buying Foundation, and general supplier support and training. In FY25, Supply Chain Ready delivered five webinars covering topics such as anti-bribery, modern slavery and ethical procurement. These sessions are complemented by monthly email campaigns and LinkedIn newsletters that promote upcoming training and highlight success stories.

A key strength of the program is its collaborative approach. We work closely with BHP experts to design and deliver webinars that provide suppliers with access to knowledge and insights they might not otherwise have the opportunity to engage with. These sessions are tailored to address challenges and expectations within the BHP supply chain. The Cybersecurity webinar attracted 35 attendees, with feedback highlighting the value of detailed post-event insights, regional engagement data and structured reporting to inform future planning.

## Safety: more than just a checklist

Through the Local Buying Program, BHP Buyers can quickly connect with trusted businesses who have the advantage of local knowledge and are equipped to solve safety challenges collaboratively. It's an approach that not only supports BHP's zero-harm goal, but also builds capability and resilience across our regional communities.

Rather than simply fulfilling orders, many of these businesses work hand-in-hand with BHP teams to co-design safety improvements that are practical, timely and align with real conditions on site.

In one recent example, a local business printed 5,000 "BMA Safety Starts with Me" Take 5 booklets, supporting the rollout of BMA's latest safety initiative. More than just printed materials, these booklets promote a shift in mindset that allows individuals to take ownership of safety through a custom, on-the-ground resource that reflects BHP's safety culture.

Another standout partnership involved the engineering of purpose-built staircases (pictured) that enable workers to maintain three points of contact, a fundamental control in reducing fall risks. Developed by a local and Indigenous supplier, this solution wasn't off-the-shelf - it was designed in response to site feedback, and quickly deployed where it was needed most.

These examples reflect a broader trend that our local suppliers are not just vendors, they are safety collaborators, contributing ideas, experience and regional knowledge to help BHP create safer, smarter workplaces.



## Our commitment

In financial year 2025, C-Res continues to demonstrate its commitment to safety by aligning closely with BHP's values and expectations across the Local Buying Program.

Through sharing BHP initiatives like the "12 Days of Safety" campaign, C-Res has helped extend BHP's safety culture to more than 1,500 small, local and Indigenous suppliers. The campaign was intended to suit the needs of time-poor businesses, ensuring safety remains a shared priority.

C-Res also supports suppliers in meeting BHP's minimum safety standards, reinforcing that safety is not just a compliance requirement but a core value embedded in every interaction.





# LOCAL BUYING PROGRAM RESULTS

FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-2025

## NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

PAYMENTS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES **32,020**

WORK OPPORTUNITIES APPROVED **13,249**

BHP BUYERS CREATING WORK OPPORTUNITIES **1,571**

SUPPLIERS ENGAGED BY BHP **924**

AVERAGE PAYMENT DAYS **7\***

\* From receipt of invoice

**WA IRON ORE**  
ACTUAL SPEND  
**\$49m**

PAYMENTS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

5,981

WORK OPPORTUNITIES APPROVED

2,960

BHP BUYERS CREATING WORK OPPORTUNITIES

473

SUPPLIERS ENGAGED BY BHP

187

**NATIONAL ACTUAL SPEND**  
**\$213m**

**QUEENSLAND**  
ACTUAL SPEND  
**\$113m**

PAYMENTS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

20,195

WORK OPPORTUNITIES APPROVED

7,775

BHP BUYERS CREATING WORK OPPORTUNITIES

714

SUPPLIERS ENGAGED BY BHP

512

**WA NICKEL WEST**  
ACTUAL SPEND  
**\$11m**

PAYMENTS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

309

WORK OPPORTUNITIES APPROVED

98

BHP BUYERS CREATING WORK OPPORTUNITIES

35

SUPPLIERS ENGAGED BY BHP

28

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**  
ACTUAL SPEND  
**\$19m**

PAYMENTS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

2,475

WORK OPPORTUNITIES APPROVED

1,257

BHP BUYERS CREATING WORK OPPORTUNITIES

206

SUPPLIERS ENGAGED BY BHP

79

**NEW SOUTH WALES**  
ACTUAL SPEND  
**\$21m**

PAYMENTS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

2,780

WORK OPPORTUNITIES APPROVED

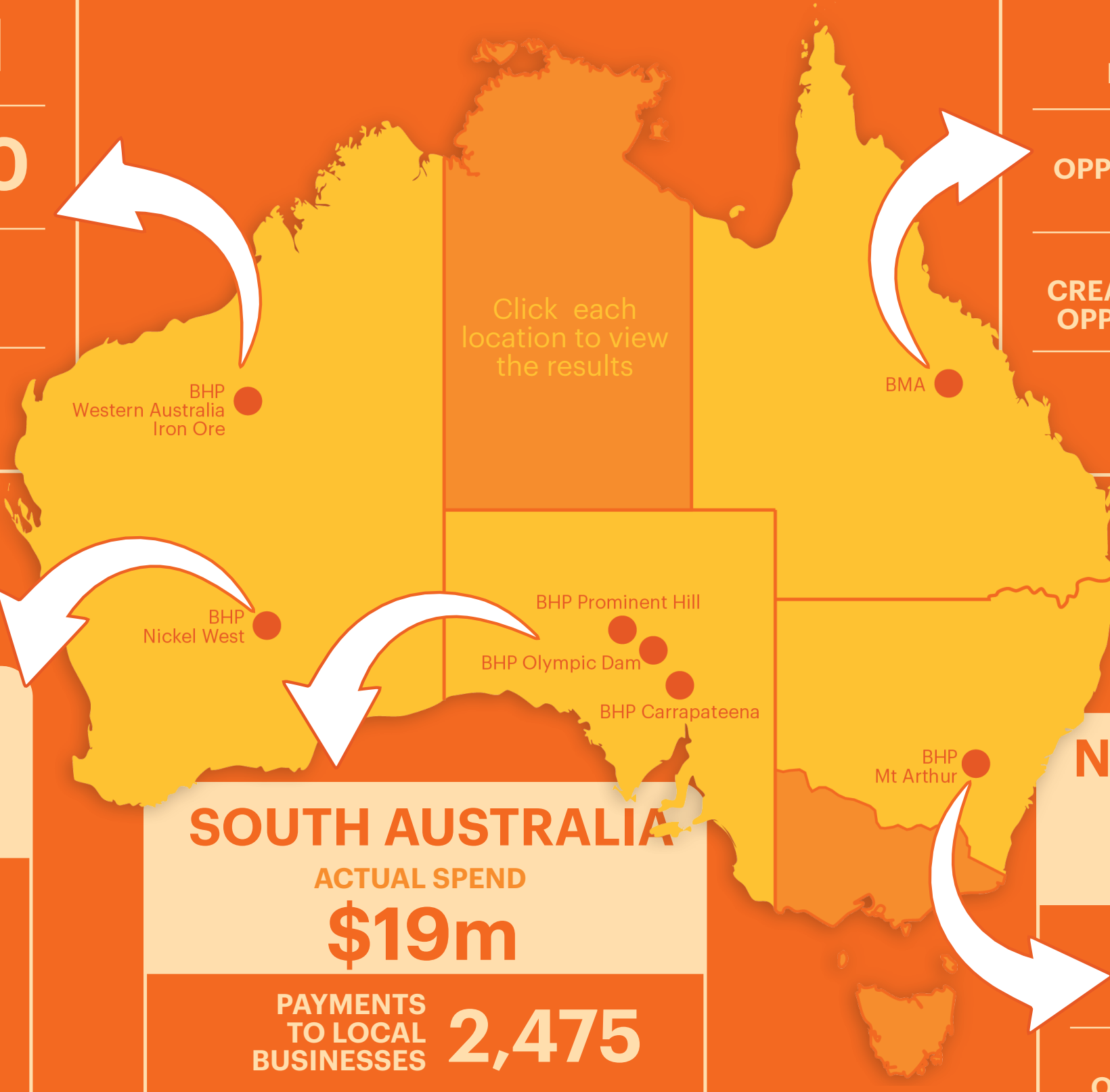
894

BHP BUYERS CREATING WORK OPPORTUNITIES

83

SUPPLIERS ENGAGED BY BHP

97







# Beyond just procurement

The BHP Local Buying Program is a vital bridge between BHP and Traditional Owner and Indigenous businesses, simplifying procurement and fostering genuine partnerships. It supports BHP’s Reconciliation Action Plan and Social Value Framework by enabling inclusive economic development, cultural engagement and long-term collaboration.

In FY25, 108 Traditional Owner and Indigenous businesses received 871 Work Instructions from BHP via the Local Buying Program, creating direct pathways to meaningful work. These opportunities extend beyond procurement, allowing businesses to deliver social value through employment, skills development and cultural empowerment in their communities.

The Local Buying Program contributes to BHP’s Australian Indigenous procurement targets, including a goal of AUD\$1.5 billion spend with Traditional Owner and Indigenous businesses for FY24 to FY27, and supports programs that build business capability. It also aligns with BHP’s Reconciliation Action Plan across areas such as understanding and respect, economic development, culture and community and advocacy for change.

Engaging Traditional Owner and Indigenous businesses in cultural services is essential for fostering respect, reconciliation and meaningful partnerships. These businesses bring authenticity and cultural integrity through the delivery of cultural awareness, education and heritage protection fieldwork. Their involvement

ensures cultural protocols are honoured and that events are delivered with genuine connection to Country and community.

This engagement supports intergenerational wealth creation and capability building, helping Indigenous businesses grow and thrive. It also strengthens community relationships and cultural competency within organisations, creating safer and more inclusive workplaces. These collaborations are tangible expressions of social value and reconciliation, providing visibility and advocacy opportunities for Indigenous businesses to showcase their expertise and connect with broader networks.

The BHP Local Buying Program ensures that commercial engagement translates into community growth, supporting local employment, cultural connection and economic resilience. These partnerships help build a stronger, more inclusive future, demonstrating how procurement can deliver lasting social impact when guided by respect and shared purpose.



## Our commitment

Through the BHP Local Buying Program, we’ve continued to increase visibility and access for Indigenous-owned and Traditionally Owned businesses, ensuring more pathways to meaningful procurement opportunities. Over the past financial year, 871 approved Work Instructions were delivered to Indigenous suppliers across Australia, helping to drive not only economic impact, but also long-term capability building within Indigenous communities.

By staying aligned with BHP’s values, we’re proud to support Indigenous business participation through proactive engagement that fosters sustainable growth.

FY25 ACTUAL SPEND \$37.1m			
PAYMENTS TO INDIGENOUS BUSINESSES	3,028	SUPPLIERS RECEIVING WORK OPPORTUNITIES	116
		WORK OPPORTUNITIES APPROVED	871
		BHP BUYERS CREATING WORK OPPORTUNITIES	323



“

We've grown from a tiny shop under the house to an actual proper functioning business, starting out as a safety flag only business.

We've been with the Local Buying Program since it started, supplying bunting, national flags and safety flags to BHP. We've never had any issues and the process from start to finish is very user friendly.

”

Kyra Davis | Gina's Flags





# Trading Tracks

Trading Tracks is a national initiative developed by the Local Buying Foundation in partnership with BHP and regional partners. Trading Tracks supports Indigenous and Traditional Owner businesses by offering culturally appropriate business assistance. The program provides mentoring, strategic planning and workshops through trusted local providers who understand the needs of their communities.

First launched in Queensland in 2022. Trading Tracks helps build strong and sustainable Indigenous enterprises that can supply goods and services to BHP and other industries. It also contributes to broader regional development by encouraging long-term economic participation and inclusion for Indigenous businesses.

“ Working together with Uncle Kevin Brown, we helped to refine his capability statement and build his confidence. Despite feeling nervous, Uncle Kevin delivered his presentation to BMA/BHP with strength and pride. Kevin said having us by his side made all the difference. ”

Shardai Williams | Queensland trading Tracks Senior Business Development Officer



## QUEENSLAND TRADING TRACKS

Queensland Trading Tracks, delivered by MARABISDA Inc, currently supports 67 businesses, with strong growth reflected in success stories from artists, tradespeople and business owners like Jaspar Youse, Big Back Yard Services and Kevin Brown from Balbara Group. Key partnerships with DATSIP, Many Rivers, IBA and the Mackay Isaac Tourism have helped connect businesses to broader networks and opportunities.

The team played a key role in the 2025 NAIDOC Awards and Indigenous Business Expo planning, ensuring a strong Indigenous business representation. Challenges including staff changes and time-poor

clients prompted the creation of a Facebook group to streamline communication. Confidence-building around grants, tenders and awards is a priority, with plans for workshops and step-by-step guides in the pipeline.

Looking ahead, the focus is on strengthening long lasting relationships and encouraging businesses to share their wins. A clearer engagement calendar and more accessible support tools will help empower Indigenous businesses to grow and gain visibility.

The team remains committed to listening and adapting to meet the needs of the community.





“

This year, we've established strong working relationships with key partners including DATSIP, Many Rivers, IBA and Mackay Isaac Tourism.

These partnerships have been instrumental in helping us connect our businesses to relevant opportunities and broader networks, and we're excited to keep building on this foundation moving forward.

”

*Shardai Williams | Queensland Trading Tracks  
Senior Business Development Officer*







# BHP's strong foundations lead to sustainable futures

A message from  
Melissa Westcott  
Local Buying Foundation Chair

As Chair of the Local Buying Foundation, I am proud to reflect on a year marked by meaningful progress, strong regional partnerships and impactful investment. The Foundation continues to play a vital role in an integral stage of the Local Buying Cycle, reinvesting directly into programs and initiatives that strengthen local and Indigenous business capability, build community resilience and support long-term regional growth. Our work is only possible through the continued collaboration with our Advisory Committees, stakeholders and the dedicated efforts of our local partners who share our vision for thriving, sustainable communities across Australia's resource-rich regions.

This year, we have seen a significant increase in applications from eligible organisations in regional New South Wales and South Australia. The enthusiasm and commitment of these organisations to contribute to their communities is truly inspiring. Our team has been diligently assessing these applications to ensure that the most impactful projects receive the support they need.

In FY25, the Foundation has funded several new initiatives that align with our priority areas. These initiatives include the development of shared workspaces and business hubs, which are crucial for fostering innovation and connecting entrepreneurial ideas with research and knowledge.

Our funding has also enabled workforce planning and development programs. These have been complemented by education and training initiatives designed to equip the regional workforce with the skills needed to adapt to new economic opportunities and thrive in a constantly changing environment.

A standout moment was the inaugural Tech Verge Summit in Mackay, Queensland, which brought together innovators, entrepreneurs and regional businesses to explore emerging technologies and digital transformation opportunities.

A broad diversity of projects across the country have received funding. These include wide-ranging professional development workshops, leadership and mentoring programs, as well as workforce development initiatives for those re-entering the workforce. The Foundation has also supported a ground-breaking decarbonisation project. In addition, it has celebrated success through sponsoring business awards and creating networking opportunities.

Through these funded programs and initiatives, the Local Buying Foundation plays a crucial role in empowering local businesses and driving economic development. Supporting sustainable growth in regional business centres ensures the longevity of our communities.

Together, we are building stronger, more resilient regional communities, one project, one partnership and one opportunity at a time.





“

Our pilot program was more successful than we could possibly have hoped for. The positive impact it made on 25 women's lives was remarkable. Not only the program itself, but also the mentoring partnership.

We return to the Local Buying Foundation because we know that we have support, a partnership the whole way through.

”

*Nic Willis | RDA Greater Whitsundays  
Project Manager*



# About the Local Buying Foundation

The Local Buying Foundation continues to play a transformative role in supporting the development and sustainability of local businesses in regions where BHP operates.

Established as a strategic initiative, the Foundation is designed to invest in economic growth and business development projects that build the capabilities of local suppliers. These efforts not only strengthen the ability of businesses to provide goods and services to BHP but also contribute to the broader economic resilience of the communities in which they operate.

Through BHP contributions, since 2012 more than \$14 million has been reinvested into 305 projects that span workforce development, business innovation and industry diversification.

In the first half of FY25, the Local Buying Foundation has delivered strong outcomes across Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia. Thousands of participants have engaged in Local Buying Foundationfunded initiatives, including workshops, Indigenous business development programs and regionally delivered events.

These activities have not only provided valuable resources and training but have also fostered collaboration and community pride. The Foundation's commitment to inclusive economic

development is evident in its support for initiatives that promote Indigenous participation in employment and business creation. Programs such as Trading Tracks have undergone comprehensive reviews to refine their scope and reconnect with businesses, ensuring that Indigenous communities have access to the tools and networks needed to thrive.

Regionally delivered events like the Women in Business Luncheon, hosted by the Port Hedland Chamber of Commerce and Industry, exemplify the Foundation's commitment to fostering inclusive growth. The luncheon created a platform for women to connect and share experiences, reinforcing the chamber's role as a regional business leader. Similarly, the Tech Verge Summit in Mackay, and the Keeping SA Far North Businesses Safe Online in regional South Australia, have showcased the vibrancy and innovation of local enterprises, highlighting the Foundation's role in building local business capabilities.

As FY25 ends, the Foundation is already laying the groundwork for FY26. Strategic projects include a renewed strategy aligned with BHP's Sustainability Investment Plans, initiatives and enhanced stakeholder engagement. The Local Buying Foundation's commitment to supporting projects that deliver lasting benefits to local businesses and industries remains unwavering.



“

We wanted to be able to prepare our supply chains for the changes to business that decarbonisation was going to bring.

Once we started to talk to the Local Buying Foundation about what our vision was and what we wanted to do for our region, they really understood. They are so entrenched in what's happening here in our region.

”

Jarrah Steen | GW3  
Decarbonisation and Diversification Lead

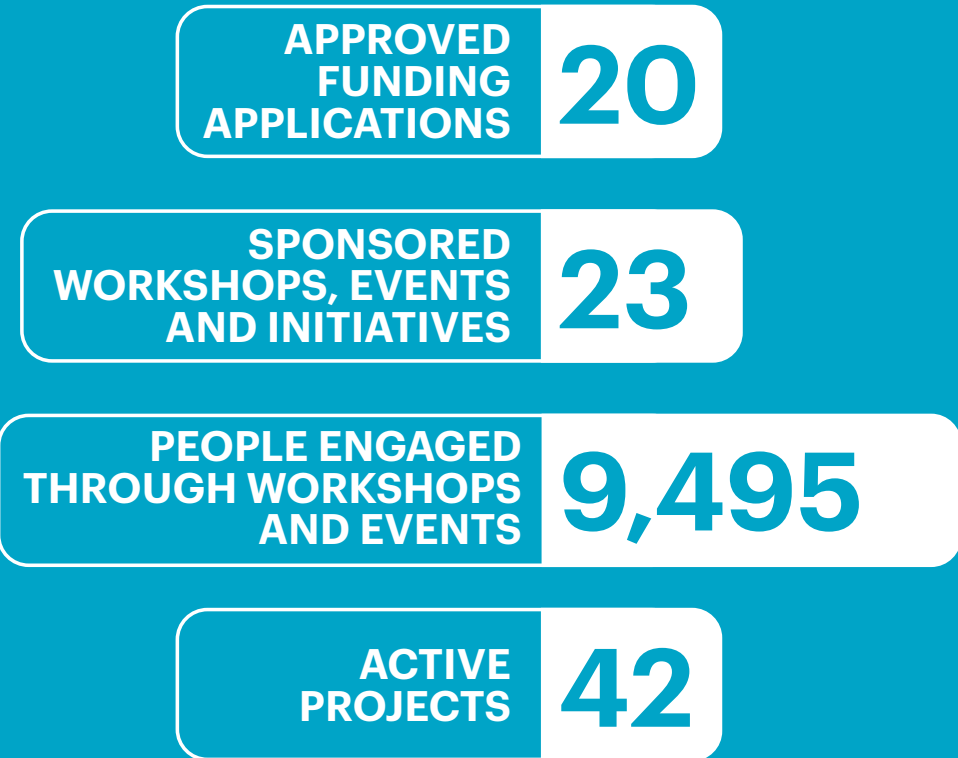
AMOUNT INVESTED **\$14.6m** SINCE INCEPTION



# LOCAL BUYING FOUNDATION RESULTS

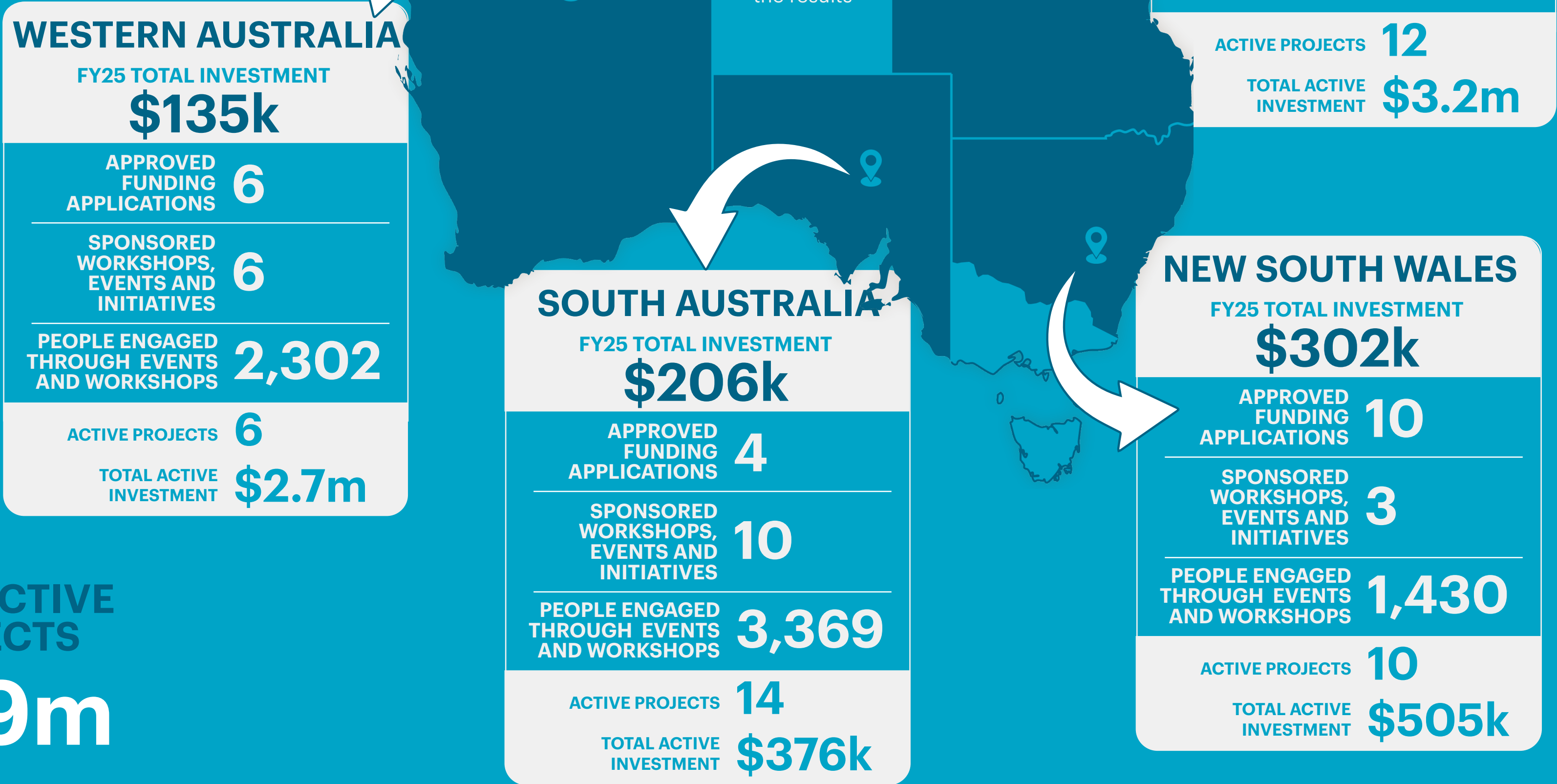
FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-2025

## NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



TOTAL INVESTED IN PROJECTS FY25  
**\$1.7m**

TOTAL ACTIVE PROJECTS  
**\$6.9m**



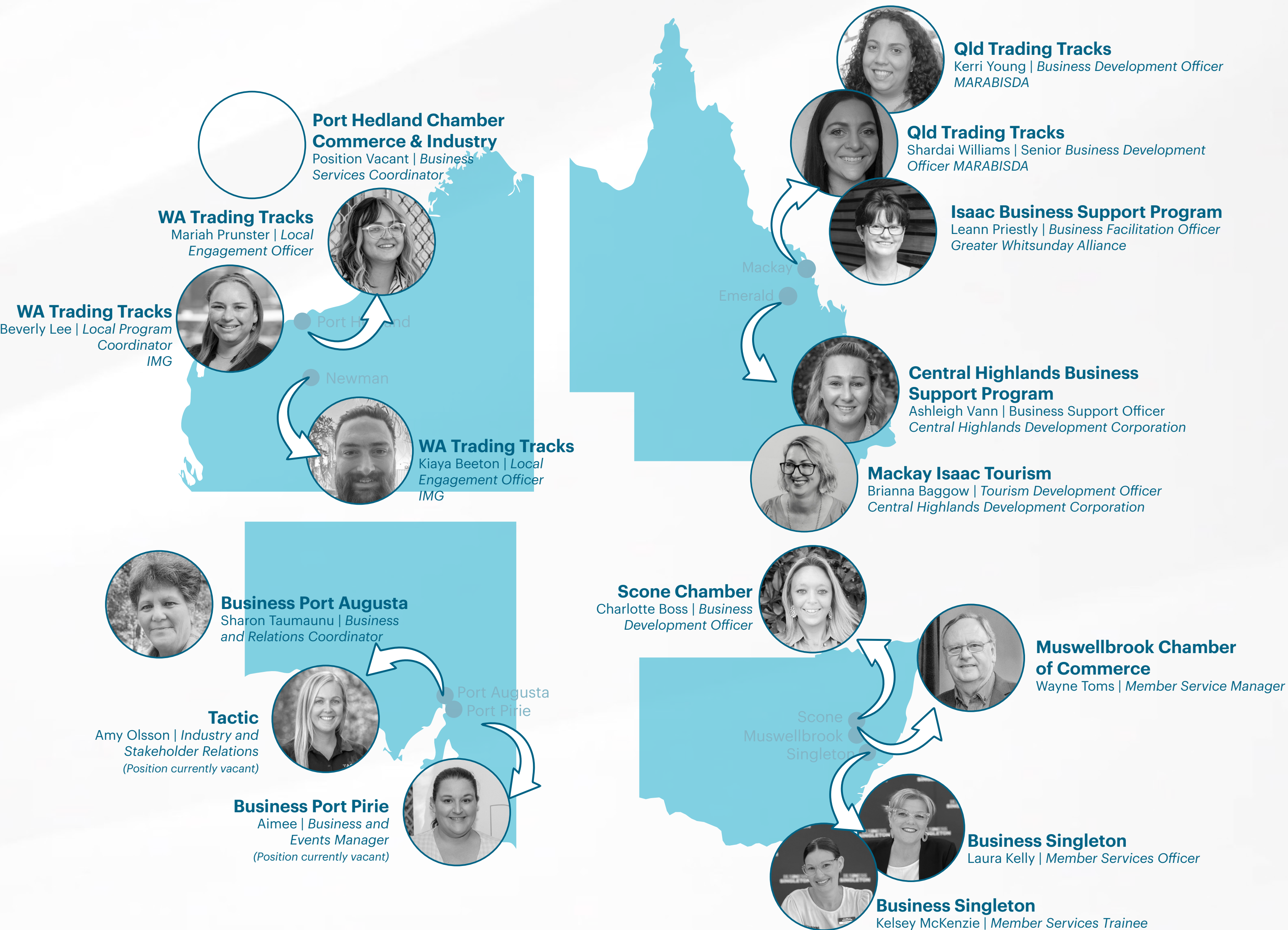


# Bridging the Boundaries

In FY25, the Local Buying Foundation continued to invest in the future of regional business through its Bridging the Boundaries initiative. This impactful program funds business support positions across local chambers and economic development groups.

Across Australia, many chambers of commerce and local business groups are run by passionate volunteers. While their dedication is unwavering, the demands of stakeholder engagement and program delivery often exceed what can be achieved on goodwill alone. That's where *Bridging the Boundaries* makes a difference.

By funding dedicated business support roles, the initiative enables these organisations to expand their reach, improve service delivery and respond more effectively to the needs of their local business communities. These roles are employed through locally based service providers who understand the unique challenges and opportunities of their regions. Their presence ensures that small, local and Indigenous businesses have access to tailored support, guidance, and resources that help them grow and thrive.





# SOUTH AUSTRALIA HIGHLIGHT



In Whyalla, a group of passionate locals is helping shape the visitor experience and strengthen the local economy. Through the Whyalla Town Ambassador program, delivered by Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula and supported by the Local Buying Foundation, 28 participants completed training to become confident and informed advocates for their town.

The program included two days of immersive learning. Participants visited local attractions and completed formal training through TAFE SA. The aim was to equip people working in customer-facing roles with the tools to promote Whyalla's unique stories and experiences. From café staff to retail workers and volunteers, these ambassadors are now better prepared to welcome visitors and share what makes Whyalla special.

This initiative follows the success of a similar program in Port Pirie during 2022, where Business Port Pirie led two intakes of ambassadors through training and regional tours. Together, these programs are building a network of tourism champions across the Upper Spencer Gulf.

These ambassadors are often the first point of contact for visitors. Their local knowledge and warm welcome help extend stays and encourage return visits. Tourism creates lasting benefits for the region's economic growth.

## Whyalla Town Ambassadors

Amount funded  
**\$15,000**

Funding category  
**Workforce Development**

People engaged  
**24 participants**

Project timeline  
**April 2025**

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA HIGHLIGHT



The Local Buying Foundation, in partnership with the Port Hedland Chamber of Commerce and Industry, launched the Business Boost program to strengthen small business capability in the Pilbara. Designed in response to a 2023 Local Buying Foundation funded study on SME challenges in Port Hedland and East Pilbara, the initiative offers tailored mentoring, coaching and networking to help businesses thrive.

The Business Development Manager role, as part of the Bridging the Boundaries program, delivers hands-on support to local businesses through the Business Boost initiative. This includes conducting business needs assessments, facilitating workshops, and connecting participants with essential business resources. Early engagement has been strong, with businesses in Newman and Port Hedland attending information sessions and signing up for support.

The July Business After Hours event, showcased the program's impact and brought together 22 attendees from 10 organisations for meaningful networking and collaboration.

Business Boost is part of a commitment to building resilient, future-ready regional economies to ensure Pilbara businesses are equipped to meet the evolving challenges of the region.

## Business Boost

Amount funded  
**\$441,583**

Funding category  
**Micro Business and SME Capacity Building**

Project timeline  
**June 2024 - June 2026**



## NEW SOUTH WALES HIGHLIGHT

The Local Buying Foundation supports three key chambers in New South Wales - Business Singleton, Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce, and Scone Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Through targeted funding that strengthens local business ecosystems, these partnerships are a part of the broader commitment to building connected business communities across the region.

Each chamber receives funding under the Bridging the Boundaries framework, which enables the employment of dedicated business development roles. These positions, such as Business Development Officers and Coordinators, are instrumental in delivering networking events and mentoring to local businesses. They also act as vital connectors between industry, government and community stakeholders.

This investment has created tangible value for the business community by improving access to resources, increasing visibility of local suppliers and supporting economic diversification. The continuity of these roles over multiple years reflects the Foundation's long-term commitment to sustainable regional growth and business resilience.



**Bridging the Boundaries**  
Amount funded  
**\$284,936**  
Funding category  
**Micro Business and SME Capacity Building**  
Positions funded  
**4**

The Bowen Basin Women in Leadership Program, funded by the Local Buying Foundation and delivered by Regional Development Australia Greater Whitsundays, is transforming leadership in regional Queensland. Designed to address the confidence gap often experienced by women in mining communities, the 12 month program combines face-to-face learning, mentoring and networking to build leadership capability and self-belief.

Participants explore their strengths, overcome imposter syndrome and develop practical leadership skills. The program is tailored to regional realities and has been delivered in locations like Moranbah and Mackay, with strong support from local councils and industry.

Graduation events celebrate personal growth and community impact. Many participants have stepped into leadership roles or launched new ventures. The program's success has led to national interest, with resources now being shared across other regions.

With over \$88,000 in funding, the initiative is now attracting additional support, making it sustainable and scalable. It's a powerful example of how targeted investment can unlock leadership potential and drive inclusive development.



**Bowen Basin Women in Leadership**  
Amount funded  
**\$88,984**  
Funding category  
**Workforce Development**  
Program graduates  
**20**  
Project timeline  
**April 2024 - May 2025**



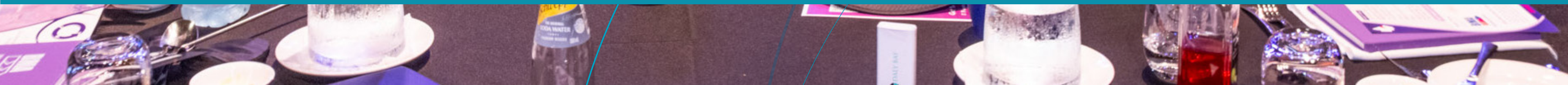


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*The BHP Local and Indigenous Procurement team and C-Res honour and remember Kelly Cooke for her unwavering commitment to Indigenous businesses and communities. As C-Res National Indigenous Business Development Principal, Kelly worked closely with hundreds of First Nations suppliers, helping them navigate opportunities through the BHP Local Buying Program and advocating for their growth and recognition.*

*Her passion for inclusion and cultural pride was evident in every conversation, every initiative and every connection she helped build.*

*Kelly's legacy lives on in the businesses she supported, the cultural awareness she championed and the spirit of belonging she fostered within our team. Her voice and vision continue to guide us, and we are deeply grateful for the lasting impact she made on our organisation and the communities we serve.*



[www.localbuying.com.au](http://www.localbuying.com.au)



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