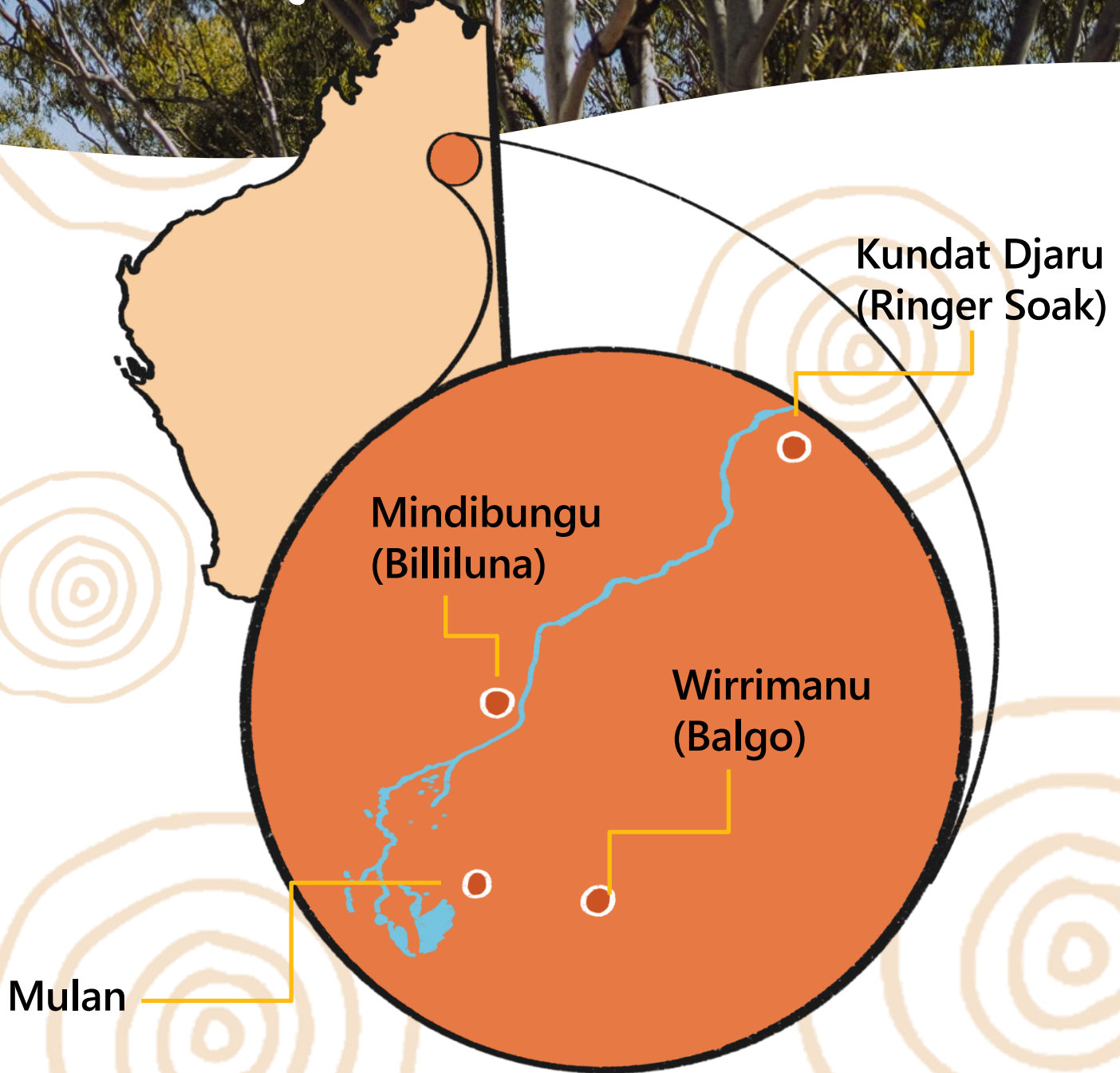
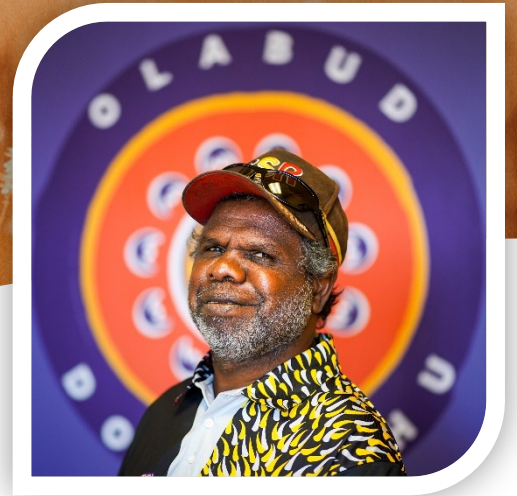


THE KUTJUNGKA PROJECT



PROSPECTUS 2021



To my countrymen,

We all want a better future for our communities and the government and services need to change how they do things.

The government is spending money on a new project for our desert communities, and this book will explain more about it.

*We are hoping the **Kutjungka Project** will make good changes that we want, and we need you to speak up so we know what to do and how to do it the right way.*

*There are jobs for local people working on the **Kutjungka Project** and they will be coming around the community to ask you how what we need in our communities and how to do things better.*

They will also be telling government and services what they need to change to do a good job for our community.

I look forward to working with all of you to help make these important changes.

Dennis Chungulla

Chairperson of Tjurabalan PBC





Contents



Section 1: The journey to now



Section 2: The Kutjungka project



Section 3: Aboriginal-led governance



Section 4: What we know so far



Section 5: Opportunities to partner

Kutjungka region is an ancient and important part of the Kimberley, with beautiful places and proud people.

THE JOURNEY TO NOW

The remote desert communities on the edge of the Tanami Desert have inhabited the area also known by us today as **the Heart of the Kimberley** for tens of thousands of years. Native title rights to 26,000 square kilometres of country were finally recognised in 2001.

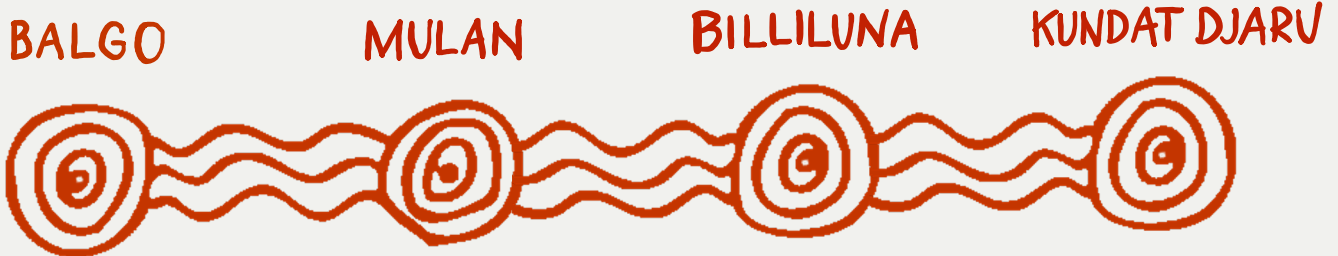
Language is still spoken fluently, and communities are proud custodians of the oldest living culture on earth.

This country has many important and beautiful places, including:



The communities are proud custodians of the oldest living culture on earth.

The remote desert region in the East Kimberley on the edge of the Tanami Desert has **four diverse and unique communities**:



60,000 years ago

Aboriginal people have lived in the Kimberley.

1939

Balgo established by German Catholic missionaries

Late 1970s

Pastoral slavery abolished

Late 1980s

Many Aboriginal people returned to traditional lands.

Mulan, Billiluna and **Kundat Djaru** established as "outstations"

Today

Communities still proudly live on traditional lands like countless generations of their ancestors

Communities have **long been determined** to ensure their people have the **same standards of service** as everyone else in the country.

Traditional governance and leadership is **strong**.
These leaders have a **history of fighting for self-determination**.

TOGETHER WE WORK TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE

A decorative vertical line of orange dots on the left side of the page, starting from the top and curving slightly towards the bottom.

The Kutjungka Project

What is a Community Navigator?

A Navigator is somebody who helps find the right way forward.

The Kutjungka project will make sure that:



Local Aboriginal people decide **who, when and how** services are delivered in their community.

Community gets what they **want and need**

Government listens to what community wants before doing anything.

Government works in a **culturally safe** way with community.

The Kutjungka Project will join services and community people together and make sure everyone knows who is coming, what they are going to do, and how they are going to do it.

Over the next few months, each Community Navigator will work with their own respective local communities to identify more community priorities and ideas.



Everything you need to know about the Kutjungka Project.

Why is this happening?

We know that many services are not working the way they should be. We all want a better future for our desert mob. We need to walk and talk with community.

Who is paying for the project?

The Federal government in Canberra want to change the way they work with Aboriginal people and their communities. They have given money to make the Kutjungka Project happen.


When is the project happening?

The Shire of Halls Creek and the Olabud Doogethu Project have funding for the Kutjungka Project for a pilot project. The Government might have more funding to make it run longer and we will know more soon.

Where is the project happening?

The Kutjungka Project will happen in the four communities – Wirrimanu (Balgo), Mindibungu (Billiuna), Kundat Djaru (Ringer Soak) and Mulan.





**The best people to make
decisions are local
Aboriginal people**

Governance for the Kutjungka Project will be Aboriginal-led

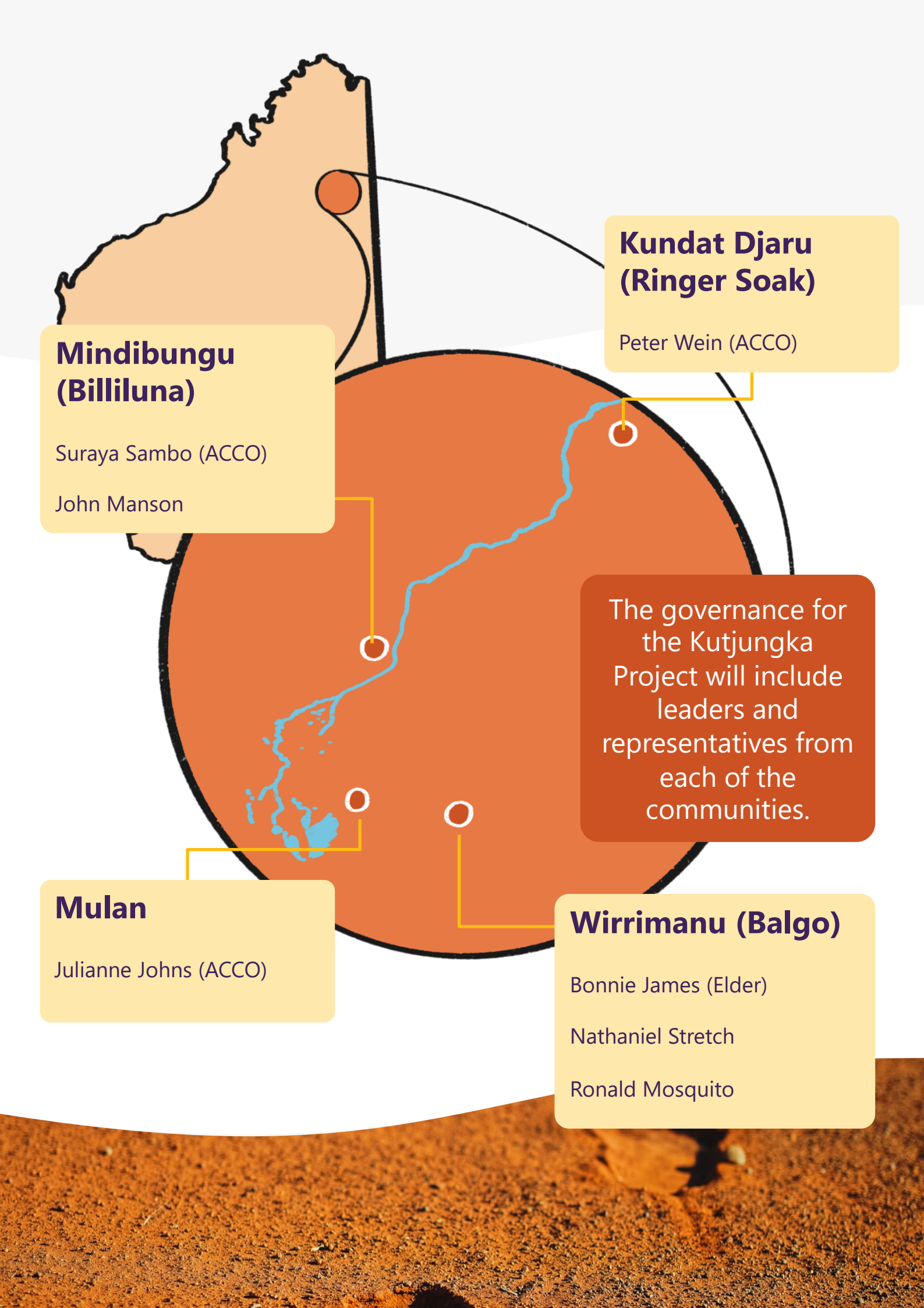
Governments in Perth, Canberra and Halls Creek have told Aboriginal people what to do for many years. They have not always listened clearly to the good ideas Aboriginal people have about how to do things better.

**Governments are learning that the best people to
make decisions are local Aboriginal people.**

By listening to what local people are saying, governments can be do a better job. More good things happen when local Aboriginal people make the decisions. The governments are listening, and the Kutjungka project will help make this happen.

*"WE, THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, NEED TO BE STRONG IN OUR VOICE AND
TRY TO LEAD OUR OWN COMMUNITY" – JUSTIN*

*"WE NEED TO GET EVERYBODY INVOLVED, WORK TOGETHER AS A
TEAM, AS A COMMUNITY, AND HELP BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY
FOR OUR FUTURE – FOR OUR KIDS" – SANDRA*



Mindibungu (Billiluna)

Suraya Sambo (ACCO)

John Manson

Kundat Djaru (Ringer Soak)

Peter Wein (ACCO)

The governance for the Kutjungka Project will include leaders and representatives from each of the communities.

Mulan

Julianne Johns (ACCO)

Wirrimanu (Balgo)

Bonnie James (Elder)

Nathaniel Stretch

Ronald Mosquito

KUTJUNGKA PRIORITIES

These are the priorities identified by the four communities. They come from recent conversations with community leaders in 2021.

“

Kutjunga hopes to make people proud and happy that they are from their communities – Balgo, Mulan, Billiluna and Ringer Soak

- Nathaniel Stretch

”



Housing

We want more good quality houses for our growing families. We need better maintenance when things break down or wear out, and more community control of how things are done.

Community Solution: More land for subdivision so more housing can be built, training for local people to carry out repairs quickly while keeping the money in community, better water quality and plumbing. We can make this happen through more community control of planning and maintenance.

We need our communities to be safer for families and we want an end to domestic and family violence.

Community Solution: More safe houses and shelters in the right cultural areas for women and children, funding for local programs to help people change their ways, and funding for local plans and strategies so communities can make things right.

Safer Communities

KUTJUNGKA PRIORITIES

Disability Supports

We want better services for people with a disability, and the right supports for them to do the things they want and need to do.

Community Solution: Better NDIS services and access to assessments to help people with physical and mental disabilities. We want more than just medication for people with mental illness.

We need the right support to stop preventable illnesses like trachoma, rheumatic heart disease, scabies, glue ear and other health problems.

Community Solution: Less overcrowding in our houses, more regular pest control support from housing authorities, animal management, and funding for community education programs.

Health

Drug & Alcohol Abuse

We need the right support to stop drug and alcohol abuse in our community and to keep everyone healthy and happy.

Community Solution: Funding for men's groups, workshops on alcohol and other drugs to help stop peer pressure. We need the police to keep drugs and alcohol out of our community, and to police our community better by hiring local people.

MULAN PRIORITIES

These are the priorities identified by the four communities. They come from recent conversations with community leaders in 2021.

“

*When you work together,
you learn from each other.*

- Julie-Anne Johns

”



Infrastructure

We need to make our communities safer with the right kind of infrastructure.

Community Solution: Gravel roads with speed bumps and footpath ramps around community for elderly to get to the shops.

We want proper fencing around our houses for safety and security.

Community Solution: Head height and lockable fences to keep our children and pets from wandering around.

Safety and Security

MULAN PRIORITIES

Infrastructure

We want good places and spaces to spend time with our family outdoors, and tend to families' gravesites.

Community Solution: Trees, gazebos and outdoor seating and tables at the shops and art centre. Two gazebos, shading trees and water taps in our cemetery.

We need help to keep our children and pets safe from wild dogs.

Community Solution: Environmental health officers and veterinarians to control dog numbers and desexing program.

Animal control

Technology

We love language, music and culture and we also want the right technology to connect with the world outside our region.

Community Solution: Upgrade radio and mobile network signals.

MINDIBUNGU (BILLILUNA) PRIORITIES

These are the priorities identified by the four communities. They come from recent conversations with community leaders in 2021.

“

We, the whole community, need to be strong in our voice and try to lead our own community.

- Justin Brockman

”



Mental health

We want our family members with ongoing mental health issues to get proper help and support.

Community Solution: Education from trained professionals on how to spot mental illness and how to better support our mentally ill family members. Funding for supports needed for them to get better.

We want to stop the harm that comes from drugs and alcohol abuse in our communities.

Community Solution: We need better education on how to stop abuse and support people who want to change. We need the police to do a better job of keeping drugs and alcohol out of our community.

Drug and alcohol abuse



MINDIBUNGU (BILLILUNA) PRIORITIES




Infrastructure

We need to make our communities safer with the right kind of infrastructure.

Community Solution: Fixing potholes and seal roads. Provide footpaths and ramps for our old and disabled people.

We need to strengthen our community economy by creating jobs and cultural tourism.

Community Solution: Create an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) with rangers, and create map and tour of cultural sites with signage for tourists.



Economy



Culture

We want our community to be healthier and happier by keeping culture strong.

Community Solution: Funding and support for men's and women's camps out on country.

WIRRIMANU (BALGO) PRIORITIES

These are the priorities identified by the four communities. They come from recent conversations with community leaders in 2021.

“

For our community, 'Kutjungka' means that we are one, together.

- Bonnie James



”

Environmental
health

We want a healthier community away from pests and rubbish so that the air and country around town is cleaner.

Community Solution: Move the rubbish dump further away from the community.

We want a healthier and happier community with stronger families and culture.

Community Solution: Help getting people out of town for cultural healing by providing water supply, generator and fuel subsidies for a special camping ground out on country.

Strong
families,
strong
culture



WIRRIMANU (BALGO) PRIORITIES



Education

We want help for our young people to do better at school.

Community Solution: Early assessment of young people to identify learning difficulties and the right support to help them succeed and be their best.

We need to strengthen our communities by celebrating our culture while generating more tourism.

Community Solution: Permanent telescope for the lookout so we can share our stories about stars with our families and tourists.



Tourism



Culture

We need to make our community stronger and safer by healing and building better relationships.

Community Solution: Funding and support for the development and delivery of a culturally safe strategy to manage family feuding.

KUNDAT DJARU (RINGER SOAK) PRIORITIES

These are the priorities identified by the four communities. They come from recent conversations with community leaders in 2021.

“

*Together, we are strong
and can better our
communities*

- Peter Wein

”



Respect

We care about our family members that have passed away, and we need better services to look after their graves.

Community Solution: To lay a water pipe from the community to both cemetery sites and set up a watering system. To look if KRSP or anyone else are contracted to maintain the cemetery grounds and to then ensure the works are carried out.

We need proper health services and local staff that people can get to know and trust.

Community Solution: A permanent nurse based in the community, and regular dentist visits.

Health



KUNDAT DJARU (RINGER SOAK) PRIORITIES

Transport

We can't afford or arrange to transport ourselves to important appointments and events in town.

Community Solution: Funding for community owned transportation that regularly travels to town and is parked in a secure area when not in use.

Employment

We need jobs for locals and support to help us care for our country and keep us strong.

Community Solution: Funding and support for community ranger positions based out of our community.

Community spaces

Proper facilities to host community services and meetings without filling up our art centre.

Community Solution: Extra space or building that local services and official visitors can use when they want to come to our community.

The Kutjungka Project will evolve and adapt to changing community priorities.

What we will do now

We are on a journey to put service delivery back in the hands of Aboriginal people.

We are right at the start of the Kutjungka Project. It will continue to evolve and change to adapt to emerging community priorities.





We invite organisations to partner with us

Communities and community councils are the key partners in this project.

In addition, we welcome partnerships with other relevant groups and stakeholders to deliver the Kutjungka Project.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 🕒 Health | 🕒 Arts | 🕒 Law |
| 🕒 Disability | 🕒 Sports | 🕒 Police |
| 🕒 Housing | 🕒 Culture | 🕒 Governance |
| 🕒 Social and emotional wellbeing | 🕒 Conservation and land management | 🕒 Employment |
| 🕒 Community services | 🕒 Environmental health | 🕒 Economy |
| 🕒 Education | 🕒 Infrastructure | 🕒 Community development |

Walk with us!

The Kutjungka Project is being led by:



The communities of Wirrimanu (Balgo), Mindibungu (Billiluna), Kundat Djaru (Ringer Soak) and Mulan



The Tjurabalan PBC



Olabud Doogethu Aboriginal Corporation



Shire of Halls Creek



National Indigenous Australians Agency



Kullarri Regional Communities Indigenous Corporation



To learn more about what the Kutjungka Project means for you or how you can contribute, contact Dean or Margaret.



Dean Mosquito

Executive Officer Culture & Transformation

Ph: 0474 005 925

Email: youth3@hcshire.wa.gov.au



Margaret Glass

Director Youth & Community Development

Ph: 0477 554 299

Email: dycd@hcshire.wa.gov.au



THE KUTJUNGKA PROJECT – PROSPECTUS 2021

