

Circular Economy Opportunities for Indigenous Communities

NESP SC&W Hub IP5.02.04 Project

Opportunities from Waste Management and Resource Recovery
and the Circular Economy for Indigenous Communities and
Businesses in Urban and Regional Areas in Western Australia

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Project overview



Five business case studies that exemplify circular economy principles within regional and Indigenous communities and businesses in Australia.

Why? Possible Circular Economy Solutions for Businesses..

Waste is a modern construct; traditionally all materials were valued and reused.

Caring for Country meant living in a regenerative way where nothing was considered waste.

What?

Two Indigenous owned business , one Indigenous corporation and two Non-Indigenous business working with Remote Aboriginal communities were interviewed as business case studies .

Who benefits?

Beneficiaries could span across community, government, businesses, and Country.”

Pathway to impact



- Activities : Yarning with businesses ,capturing circular economy opportunities and opportunities.
- Outputs :These outputs are a start to possible conversations with councils and organisations about potential interventions and partnerships.
- Outcomes: Pathway to improved understanding of circular economy opportunities within communities including challenges.



Impact example

Problem

Currently there is no dedicated, structured support system for Aboriginal circular economy businesses. Businesses face fragmented funding options, limited visibility, and inconsistent partnerships with councils and agencies.

How research is helping /what the research Identified.

- A need for an establish a Dedicated Indigenous Circular Economy Business Network/Hub:
- Advocate for and develop specific funding streams and grant programs tailored to support Aboriginal circular economy businesses.
- Actively involve and facilitate partnerships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations, governmental agencies, and

Outcome

First step that highlights priorities, experiences, and locally grounded opportunities to guide subsequent stages of research, policy development, and implementation across Indigenous communities.



What's next

Phase 3 has recently had a change in the chief investigator and team members .The foundations are strong, and the transition gives space to consolidate what we've learned and decide where we go next.

There has been discussions around continuing developing these relationships to create opportunities for more effective material reuse and circularity by investigating specific issues within remote Indigenous communities in sector-specific waste streams such as fashion and clothing and household waste.



Impact of EMCR on project

As a Nyungar yorga myself, participating in the project was crucial and beneficial in some of the following ways .

Ensuring appropriate community engagement.

Awareness of the need for culturally relevant and respectful practice/protocols.

Bringing knowledge around “Blak Cladding” when identifying businesses as case studies .

Lived experience of Indigenous knowledge systems and perspectives.



EMCR career impact

Being a part of this research project provided me with an introduction to academic research .

Six months into the project I secured a role as a fulltime lecturer within DBE.

Future research opportunities:

I have the opportunity to continue with this project into phase three.

Also an opportunity to undertake a creative practice PHD within my current position. My interest is textile waste and circular practice in the fashion Industry .