

# Djarlma – exploring the relationships between people, forests and woodlands



## How can the forestry industry and Noongar people work towards healthy people and forests?

The forestry industry recognises it has an opportunity to support transformative change towards a more sustainable future for Western Australia. To seize this opportunity, the Djarlma Plan provides a strategic framework to achieve long-term regional economic well-being, employment, and

investment to foster ecologically sustainable development and to provide social and environmental benefits.

The Djarlma Plan is inspired by the Noongar concept of Djarlma, which reflects the interconnected relationship of people with forests and woodlands.

“When the great Waugal created the boodja (land), he ensured that there were wirrin or spirits to look after the land and all that it encompassed. Some places, such as the kaart (hills) and ngamar (waterholes), boya (rocks), bilya (rivers) and boorn (trees) were created as sacred sites and hold wirrin, both warra (bad) and kwop (good). Noongar believe that the spirits of their ancestors live in the forests. The ancestral spirits of their demanggar (grandparents) are there to give them their healing and their food.

Everything in Noongar Boodja has a purpose; if the forests are not preserved and maintained then they will have no ancestral spirits to guide them and give them sustenance and healing, the forest spirits will go to sleep forever and Noongar will become sick in both mind and body.

Djarlma is about looking after wirrin, which ensures the spiritual health of the forests. For Noongar, the spirit is in the forest, the forest is a place of worship, the Mother place (wirrin / ngaank).

The forest is not simply an asset but is life. Noongar identity and connection is drawn from the land (kadjan / kanya) and their totems dictate a holistic responsibility for animals, trees and places (borunga). The trees in the forest cannot be considered separately to their spiritual ecosystem.”

*Courtesy of the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and extended by Senior Noongar custodians.*



## Key outcomes of the Djarlma Plan

- Aboriginal-led engagement in the forestry industry, including through the application of traditional knowledge, employment and the development of Aboriginal forest enterprises.
- Support Aboriginal people to manage forests and woodlands for spiritual and ecological values, including by promoting an understanding of Djarlma as a concept for the holistic and spiritual management of forests and woodlands.
- Collaborate with researchers and Aboriginal communities, including through industrywide support for research, to better understand the threats to forest health and to identify opportunities to adapt forestry operations.
- Aboriginal people to lead the development of Djarlma standards, aligned with internationally recognised certification scheme standards, to benchmark the forestry industry against cultural values.
- Establish an industry stakeholder reference group that provides a diversity of stakeholder views, including the views of Aboriginal people, to the Commission.
- Supporting Aboriginal people to maintain and grow cultural practices.
- Create opportunities for Aboriginal-led engagement and practices within the forestry industry, including by facilitating the development of Aboriginal forest enterprises.



The aim of 'Djarlma - exploring the relationships between people, forests and woodlands' is to bring the Forestry Industry and Aboriginal Leaders together to explore the pathway forward.

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 | Venue: BREC | 9.30am - 4.00pm**

**\$50.00 - purchase tickets here: [www.djarlma\\_exploringpossibilities.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.djarlma_exploringpossibilities.eventbrite.com.au)**

9.30 - 10.00	<b>Registration and morning coffee</b>
10.00 - 10.30	Welcome to country and Elders opening comments <i>Gloria Dann</i>
10.30 - 11.15	Opening Address Djarlma Plan - the who, what and what now <i>Oral McGuire</i> Managing Director Gundi Consulting Djarlma Plan Advisory Group
11.15 - 11.30	<b>Morning Tea</b>
11.30 - 12.00	South West Native Title Settlement - Opportunities and Update <i>Nick Abraham</i> SWALSC
12.00 - 12.30	Aboriginal Economic Development (AED), <i>Melissa Hartmann &amp; Mark Chmielewski</i> Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
12.30 - 1.15	<b>Lunch</b>
1.15 - 1.45	What can be done to support emerging Noongar enterprise <i>Gordon Cole</i> Noongar Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NCCI)
1.45 - 2.15	What is the Timber Industry? <i>Ian Telfer</i> Chair - Forest Industries Federation WA
2.15 - 2.45	Case Study One - Breakaway Pathway to Work <i>Lou Evans</i> Breakaway Aboriginal Corporation
2.45 - 3.15	Case Study Two - Examples of Engagement <i>Drew Griffith</i> Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
3.15 - 3.45	Panel Discussion - What are the opportunities and pathways forward
3.45 - 4.00	<b>Closing Remarks and key actions</b>

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