

Njernda announces CEO resignation

Njernda Aboriginal Corporation's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Tracey Dillon has stepped down from her role after overseeing the process of returning the organisation to community control.

Ms Dillon tendered her resignation to the board meeting last week, and a national search for a new CEO is underway.

"On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Tracey for her tenure, and acknowledge the difficult task she had before her when she was appointed in March 2022 as we were preparing for our release from a period of Special Administration," Njernda chairperson Belinda Day said.

"There has been significant progress under Tracey's leadership, in stabilising the organisation post-administration, which will support the long-term viability and sustainability of our organisation."

Ms Dillon said she was proud of the progress and achievements made during her time with Njernda.

"It's been a process of future-proofing the organisation and allowing it the opportunity for it to emerge as a more focussed and resilient organisation," Ms Dillon said.

"My first priority when I started was to engage with community members and then my attention was turned to strengthening Njernda's operating model," she said.

"That has involved implementation of a new financial system, a new human resources system and a new organisational structure, all of which is now in place and we have established a traineeship program for the Aboriginal community.

"We have moved the Baroona Redevelopment to its final stages, putting in place a model of care and are now ready for architectural design for construction of the new healing centre. In the absence of the healing centre we have put in place the Baroona Youth Day program, which is supporting our young people in the interim.

Ms Dillon said with the support of the new executive, Njernda teams had worked hard over the past six months on strengthening engagement and returning community events after COVID.

"We are also well advanced on setting the future Strategic Direction for Njernda, with community consultation being the next phase in that process," Ms Dillon said.

"There's been a lot of work behind the scenes with government and community to develop a master plan for Njernda's capital infrastructure needs which includes a business case to present to funders or philanthropists," she said.

"Njernda has the platforms in place to move forward and make strong progress from here, and that will depend on the community being prepared to unite behind the board and its new CEO."

Ms Day said the Board of Directors has begun the careful process of recruiting a new CEO.

"The search process is expected to take several months, with the Board working with a national agency to identify the best candidate for the role," Ms Day said.

"In the interim, an Acting CEO will be considered in due course to ensure business continuity.

"We have a strong team of Executive Directors in place who will work closely alongside the Board of Directors and our partners to ensure the organisation continues to grow and evolve."

Ms Dillon said she had resigned to pursue other opportunities closer to her home in Tasmania.

"I have given a long period of notice to allow the board and executive team the best opportunity for a smooth transition, and that will mean a seamless delivery of services to the Echuca Moama community," she said.

Ms Dillon's last day will be Friday 18 August 2023.