

ABORIGINAL ENTERPRISE KICKING NRM GOALS IN SOUTHERN TASMANIA



2015

Innovative Tasmanian Aboriginal enterprise pakana services, has reached its first year as an independent social enterprise that delivers NRM outcomes while supporting the Tasmanian Aboriginal community.

This important milestone also recognises the achievements of its Aboriginal team members and their contribution to the Aboriginal community and management of Tasmania's land.

pakana services aims to provide support to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community. In the past four years, it has grown from an idea shared between the Aboriginal community, NRM South and supportive partners to become an independent enterprise in 2014.

pakana services offers land management services including tree planting, weed management, fencing, brushcutting and garden maintenance to organisations such as councils, government business enterprises and properties where land management has become a particular challenge.

The pakana ethos is focused on its people and the effective delivery of a quality service. Manager John Easton oversees the team of eight part-time Aboriginal workers and is helping to build their skills, capacity and confidence - providing a strong pathway for future employment in the land management sector.

Mr Easton is delighted with the progress the team has made, and is



hoping the enterprise will continue to grow.

"We've seen some great things happen for our team members in the last year. On a practical level our guys have developed great land management skills, and on a personal level there have been some great stories - from one fellow talking about his confidence at work, to others talking about the physical benefits of outdoor work," Mr Easton explained.

"Our focus is on delivering high quality land management services and returning the skills and the benefits back to the Aboriginal community. The vision for pakana services is that it will continue to grow so we can put more people on and bring further social and economic benefits to this part of the Tasmanian community."

NRM South CEO Donald Coventry says he is proud of pakana services' achievements and equally of the role that NRM South has played to incubate this important social enterprise.

"John Easton and the team have achieved a great deal in the last year and I congratulate them on their success. They have proven their skills and expertise in the land management area and have forged some great relationships with councils and other land managers in the state.

"It has been tremendous to see the benefits of this work to the team members and their families. The Tasmanian Aboriginal community has a great deal to offer natural resource management in Tasmania and NRM South encourages other land managers to get behind John and the pakana services team," Mr Coventry explained.

Supporting the development of an Aboriginal enterprise

NRM South has played a lead role in the development, hosting and transition of pakana services. Support for Aboriginal business development this social enterprise aligns with corporate, regional and national outcomes and also aligns with Australian Government priorities under the National Landcare Programme.

Benefits include:

Building long-term capacity in the Aboriginal community for improved land management through training and skill development.

Sharing Knowledge for better results, where businesses working with pakana services benefiting from the sharing knowledge on techniques for improved outcomes.

Improved Land Management identified via testimonials from customers such as the Tasmanian Department of State Growth.

Industry Engagement as pakana services and NRM South both receive recognition through the high quality land management services delivered.

On-ground results that are demonstrating great NRM outcomes including projects such as the North Bruny Biodiversity Fund Project.

Inspiring achievements that are providing a legacy for the pakana team, NRM South staff and those who work with pakana services.

For more information visit:
www.pakanaservices.org.au