



**FIRST PEOPLE
OF THE MILLEWA-MALLEE**
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Newsletter 1, December 2024

ICN 8264 (under special administration)

Dear members, traditional owners and other interested people,

Our names are Jack James and Paula Smith and we are from the firm Rodgers Reidy. On 17 December 2024, the Registrar of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations appointed us as the special administrators of First People of the Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation (FPMMAC).

During this administration, we will keep you informed of progress through regular newsletters and information meetings.

These newsletters and all meeting notices will be available on the public Register of Indigenous Corporations at oric.gov.au – use the 'Find a corporation' tool, search using 'Millewa' and follow the link to 'documents'.

What is special administration?

Special Administration is a type of external assistance unique to the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act). Only the Registrar can appoint a special administrator.

The effect of appointing special administrators is that the positions of the directors are vacated. Effectively, the special administrators replace the directors.

Special administration differs from other types of external administration in that the aim is to work with the corporation to fix internal and governance problems and restore it to good health. If that is achieved, the special administrators will appoint a new board of directors and hand back control of the corporation to the members.

Our appointment is for 6 months and is due to end on 17 May 2024.

Registered Aboriginal Party

FPMMAC is an appointed Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) and has cultural heritage responsibilities under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 (Vic) over its appointed area. The corporation will continue to operate as a RAP during the period of the special administration. As a result of changes to the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* in September 2022, the corporation will not lose its RAP registration/status because it has been placed under special administration.

Why have special administrators been appointed to FPMMAC?

Following an examination of the books of FPMMAC, the corporation was issued a compliance notice by the Registrar. The compliance notice raised concerns about the corporation's standard of corporate governance and financial management; and required the directors to implement 6 action items over a period of 3 months.

The corporation was provided an extension of time to meet the requirements of the notice. Despite the extension of time, the corporation managed to address just one of 6 action items.

In addition to the directors' failure to meet the requirements of the compliance notice, the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations considered further evidence received that unresolved disputes were interfering in the proper affairs of the corporation.

Current progress

There are 3 stages to a special administration:

STAGE 1	IN PROGRESS
Take control of the assets, including bank accounts; build a complete picture of issues and challenges; and establish a clear plan of action.	
STAGE 2	PENDING
Restore good operational order.	
STAGE 3	PENDING
Prepare the corporation for return to members control.	

We are currently in stage one of the special administration. This newsletter will outline some of the progress we have made in the opening stages of our work.

What has happened so far?

As the RAP, FPMMAC provides a range of important cultural and associated programs and services to the First People of the Millewa-Mallee.

During the special administration, the corporation and these programs and services will continue to operate on a business as usual basis.

Staff

We have meet with staff to advise of our appointment and answer any queries. We have reassured staff that services will continue without interruption and we are most grateful to all staff for their ongoing work and support of FPMMAC and the important work it does.

Information meeting

We will be holding our first information meeting on Wednesday, 29 January 2025. Details of the meeting are as follows:

Date:	Wednesday, 29 January 2025
Time:	10.30am
Place:	Quality Hotel Mildura Grand, 129 - 137 Seventh Street, Mildura Victoria 3500

The information meeting will be open only to corporation members, Traditional Owners and staff. It provides the opportunity to hear from the special administrators about work being done and allow people to ask questions.

A representative from ORIC, will attend and be available to answer your questions.

The corporation will not be able to pay the costs for members to travel to the meeting. Virtual access to the meeting will be made available to members upon registration.

SEE THE ATTACHED MEETING NOTICE.



Seeking an Advisory Group

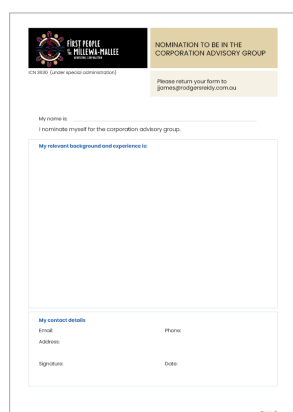
To help us during the special administration, we would like to form an advisory group who will provide advice about matters that we need to deal with in order to get FPMMAC ready to return to community control.

Members of the advisory group will be people who want to be considered for appointment to the new board at the end of the special administration and who have skills required to work at a board level.

Mainly, the advisory group will help us to (amongst other things):

- Review the rule book to strengthen governance at FPMMAC
- How best to strengthen FPMMAC

If you would like to nominate to be on the advisory group, please complete and return the attached form by 30 January 2025. However, we will keep accepting nominations for the advisory group after this date because the people on the advisory group may change or additional members may be required.



Register of members

We have identified that there are discrepancies between the internal register of members maintained by FPMMAC compared to the membership list FPMMAC have provided ORIC. As we have only just been appointed, we have not had the opportunity review the membership lists to determine which one is accurate. We will review both lists and encourage members to ensure their details are up-to-date.

Christmas/New Year Closure

The FPMMAC office will be closed from 5.00pm Tuesday 24 December 2024 and will reopen on Monday 6 January 2025. During this period, Mike Gilby, acting CEO, will be available to deal with any urgent matters.

Mike's contact details are: email: mike.gilby@fpmmac.com.au or mobile: 0435 303 226

Many thanks,
Jack and Paula

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATORS



Rodgers Reidy
(08) 9328 6262
jjames@rodgersreidy.com.au
psmith@rodgersreidy.com.au

MORE ON SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION

The Registrar has a fact sheet, *Special administrations: what members and directors need to know* – see oric.gov.au/special-admins or call 1800 622 431.



ICN 3630 (under special administration)

NOTICE OF INFORMATION MEETING

For corporation members, Traditional Owners and staff

Corporation members and staff are invited to an information meeting

On 17 December 2024 the Registrar of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations appointed us as the special administrators of First People of the Millewa-Mallee Aboriginal Corporation.

We are holding our first information meeting about the special administration and would like to invite all members of the corporation and interested parties to come.

Only corporation members, Traditional Owners and staff will be able to attend the information meeting.

A representative from ORIC will also be at the meeting and will be available to answer questions.

Details of the meeting:

Date	Wednesday 29 January 2025
Time	10.30am
Place	Quality Hotel Mildura Grand, 129 - 137 Seventh Street, Mildura Victoria 3500

This is your opportunity to discuss the special administration and your corporation's future. Please come along.

Light refreshments will be provided at the meeting.

Attending virtually

If you want to attend the meeting virtually, register by contacting FPMMAC reception:

Email: reception@fpmmac.com.au

Ph: (03) 5832 0222

before 12.00 noon on Friday 24 January 2025.

After you register, at a date closer to the meeting, we will send you instructions on how to access the meeting.

No travel assistance

The corporation will not be able to pay the costs for members to travel to the meeting.

Agenda

1. Role of the special administrators and aim of the special administration
2. Progress to date
3. Next steps in the special administration
4. Asking questions.

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATORS



Rodgers Reidy
(08) 9328 6262

jjames@rodgersreidy.com.au

psmith@rodgersreidy.com.au

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NOMINATION TO BE IN THE CORPORATION ADVISORY GROUP

Please return your form to
jjames@rodgersreidy.com.au

My name is: _____

I nominate myself for the corporation advisory group.

My relevant background and experience is:

My contact details

Email:

Phone:

Address:

Signature:

Date: