

EAST ARNHAM COMMERCIAL FORESTRY OPPORTUNITIES

An important research project for East Arnhem forestry is happening now. This is a big win for the region. Stakeholders from the East Arnhem region have been working together for over 18 months to get this project funded and started.

WHO

DEAL, the Northern Territory Government, National Indigenous Australians Agency, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia, and Gumatj Corporation have all put money into this project. An organisation called Forest and Woods Products Australia has matched the money that the other organisations have put in.

Forest and Woods Products Australia will manage the project in partnership with the University of the Sunshine Coast. The East Arnhem Forestry Working Group and the East Arnhem Indigenous Forestry Technical Advisory Committee will oversee operations and add input where required. The Working Group includes regional stakeholders and Yolŋu organisations and its job is to help make sure the project delivers outcomes for the region and traditional owners.

WHAT

The ***'Indigenous Commercial Forestry Opportunities: East Arnhem, northern Australia'*** project to be delivered through the University of the Sunshine Coast, will do research to better understand whether there are business opportunities for sustainable, selective harvest forestry in East Arnhem Land so that traditional landowners can make informed decisions towards commercial forestry assets and opportunities on their land.

WHEN

August 2020 to mid 2023



Sustainable forestry; an Indigenous forestry worker demonstrating safe and selective tree harvesting practices.



Bush products; native seeds collected from East Arnhem forests to be used for mine site rehabilitation.

HOW

There are four phases of this project that are happening at the same time over three years:

Phase 1

Forest Product Development Pilot

- Set up a pilot site where harvesting, product identification, manufacturing, and sustainable forest management practices will occur.
- Product manufacturing, performance testing and market assessment will be undertaken by research partners.
- Prepare an Operational Harvest Plan (OHP)
- Commence CALM training including tree marking, production identification, species mix and other (OHP) requirements.

Phase 2

Traditional Owner Engagement

- Consult with Indigenous communities interested in commercial forestry and informing them of industry opportunities and practicalities.
- This will be championed by the DEAL project [East Arnhem Landowner Prospectus](#) - supporting Yolŋu to explore economic opportunities on their land.

Phase 3

Forest Resource Assessment

- Involves a comprehensive inventory of the commercial forests of East Arnhem Land.
- This will include fine-scale mapping/reporting of the forests via desktop analysis and field-based surveys.

Phase 4

Indigenous Capacity Building

- Working with the Indigenous communities with identified potential to operate forestry enterprises to develop their forestry workforce and business opportunities.
- Training landowners and community members in forest resource assessment.
- Prepare an integrated forestry development model, identifying how communities can work together across the forestry industry.

You can read more about this exciting opportunity for the region in the [East Arnhem Forestry Project Overview and Governance](#) document. **Yolŋu businesses and organisations, landowners, ranger and land management groups, CDP providers and other representatives that wish to learn more about this project or have an interest in participating in this project please see contact details below:**

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