



Fortescue, NAB unlock access to crucial capital

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The miner and the bank are helping First Nations companies to thrive

Fortescue has partnered with NAB to unlock capital for First Nations businesses in Western Australia, reinforcing what the company describes as its "strong commitment to driving sustainable communities".

Under the partnership, eligible First Nations businesses will be able to access the necessary capital to fulfil contracts with **Fortescue**, building on the success of **Fortescue**'s existing collaboration with ANZ which provides similar financial support.

The first company to benefit from the loan guarantee NAB initiative is KingKira Group, a 100 per cent First Nations-owned business that provides vital services to the mining industry in Western Australia, including **Fortescue**. King Kira Group founder and managing director Tammy O'Connor says the loans are a "game-changer" for Indigenous businesses.

"With the support of NAB and **Fortescue**, we can secure more contracts, ensure sustainable growth and ultimately empower our community," she says. "This is a significant move toward a more inclusive industry, and we are thrilled to be part of this transformative initiative." **Fortescue** Metals chief executive Dino Otranto says the company believes "procurement is a powerful lever for social and economic change, and this partnership with NAB will ensure we are able to continue providing First Nations businesses with the tools to help create value and sustainability".

"Our Buriya Capital Funding program with ANZ has already provided support to hundreds of First Nations businesses, with **Fortescue** guaranteeing over \$56 million last financial year," he says.

"Together with NAB, we will be able to take this support to the next level, allowing even more First Nations businesses to grow. These partnerships build on our pioneering Billion Opportunities program, which has awarded over \$5bn in contracts and subcontracts to First Nations businesses since 2011." NAB, which is committed to more than doubling its lending to First Nations businesses over the next three years, has expressed enthusiasm about the potential impact of this partnership in fostering long-term economic growth and stability within Indigenous communities.

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NAB associate director Indigenous business Annie Ashworth says: "We know it can be particularly difficult for First Nations businesses to access capital and this partnership with **Fortescue** is a powerful example of how we can work together to unlock new opportunities. When First Nations businesses thrive, the entire community thrives and we are proud to be a part of this journey." This report was produced with the support of **Fortescue** Metals.

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