



7 July 2020

In reference to recent stories in the media regarding The Orana Foundation's Indigenous Food Database, please see the statement below from The Orana Foundation, as well as statements from Primary Industries and Regions South Australia, independent auditor Nexia Edwards Marshall and leading Indigenous Intellectual Property lawyer Dr Terri Janke.

The Board of The Orana Foundation stands by the timing of the Indigenous Food Database delivery and the use of all funds to date.

The Foundation reports into Primary Industries and Regions South Australia on all projects and spend – including donations and expenses outside of the grant – every six months. We are also audited annually by an independent auditor with reports lodged with the Australian Charity and Not-For-Profits Commission.

The database of 1443 native ingredients is complete and has been delivered to Dr Terri Janke, Australia's leading authority on Indigenous culture and intellectual property, to commence the next stage of ensuring the protection and preservation of Indigenous traditional knowledge.

There is a reason an Indigenous database of its kind hasn't existed in Australia until now: it's time consuming, labour intensive, requires extensive funding, and must have a committed team of resilient and passionate people to make it happen. Every person who has contributed to this database has created an important and enduring legacy.

Statement from Primary Industries and Regions South Australia

With regard to your query about the Orana Foundation, we can advise the Funding Deed can be viewed online: <https://www.tenders.sa.gov.au/contract/view?id=185980> (Please note the project completion date is now 30 September 2020, and the expiry date of the funding deed is 31 October 2020.)

Following the announcement of the project in the 2016/17 Budget Review, the deed between the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and the Orana Foundation was signed in May 2017.

Since the project commenced in mid-2017, the Orana Foundation has provided regular milestone reports to Primary Industries and Regions SA as required by the deed, along with other updates in relation to the project. In recent weeks, the Orana Foundation has been in contact with PIRSA on the delivery of the native food database to the Foundation by Adelaide University.

The research components have brought together a range of expertise with some of the key outcomes from the milestone reports included below.

To note, the model of delivery was under these project areas rather than through the establishment of a 'enterprise hub'. The projects below are what were included for delivery in the deed.

Project 1: Indigenous Foods Database – Document the top 1,000 plants used as food by Aboriginal communities.

- Over 1,500 native plant species have been entered into a database, which has over 100 fields of data under each species. It is understood this is the most extensive native foods compendium ever compiled.
- The database is in the process of being converted into a publically available online format, which involves improving the design and presentation for web into an accessible and user-friendly format. A key focus is for the database to be stabilised on a secure and maintained platform.
- Before being made public, all information on the database will be reviewed by a native foods specialist. Accessibility of information will also be overseen by Indigenous IP lawyers to ensure appropriate protection of indigenous knowledge.

Project 2: Food Qualities Assessment – Assess the nutritional profile and potential for bioactive compound identification of up to 100 Aboriginal food plants, in particular; sugars, proteins, vitamins, anti-oxidants, fibres, glycaemic index.

- To date, 100 species' nutritional, bioactive compound, toxicity, ethnomedicinal uses, wild harvest sustainability, and related species data have been researched and entered into the database.

- Species with sufficient information have been ranked (1-10) for each key aspect; nutritional value, bioactive potential, "deliciousness", and horticultural growing requirements, to help guide selection of the most promising candidates for further scientific assessment.

Project 3: Food Flavours Assessment – For foods with high nutritional profiles and or highly prospective in terms of taste and flavour, the potential of up to 50 plant species will be assessed, along with their optimal preparation and cooking requirements.

Plant Production Assessment – Assess the optimal bioclimatic envelope, growth conditions and horticultural practices for up to 200 plants for commercial horticulture. Conduct growth trials over 2 years under covered horticulture for the top 25 plants using 'dry' undercover production facilities.

- A literature review of horticultural information for around 200 plant products is progressing with 70 species from 45 genera being reviewed to date.
- Collection of priority plant species that are able to grow in Adelaide and South Australian conditions is occurring and propagation trials under glass house conditions have been undertaken. The next step is to understand how these species will grow under commercial situations.
- Bioclimatic envelope analysis of 18 priority species identified to date has occurred and this will be extended to the remaining species identified.

Indigenous Enterprise Development component:

Development of a new type/s of Geraldton Wax variety for culinary use

- Research work done so far on this project has involved time consuming cross pollination and embryo rescue methods, but they have been able to produce highly tasty and aromatic new plants.
- Once the final plant variety types have been selected from the research trials, bioclimatic envelope analysis will be undertaken so that they can be commercialised

Cherabin aquaculture development project

- The project is developing specific Cherabin aquaculture infrastructure to increase sustainable supply of Cherabin and create jobs in the community.

Native foods community packing shed project

- The aim of this project is the production of a demountable, affordable, fitted out native foods produce packing shed module to enable Aboriginal communities to improve quality and supply direct to retailers thereby gaining more profit from their wild harvest activities.
- A proto-type unit has been completed and is located at Twin Lakes on the Dampier Peninsula, Western Australia.

Excerpt from auditor: Nexia Edwards Marshall

The Orana Foundation's Financial Reports have been independently audited on an annual basis in accordance with the ACNC guidelines. The Independent Auditor's Report which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, 30 June 2018 and 30 June 2019 have each been in accordance with the relevant Acts and are compliant.

'In our opinion, the accompanying financial report, of The Orana Foundation Limited, is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012; including: (i) giving a true and fair view of The Orana Foundation Limited's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.'

The Financial Reports and corresponding Independent Auditor's Reports have been reported into ACNC on time and are publicly available on their website.

Statement from Indigenous Intellectual Property lawyer: Dr Terri Janke

My firm has been commissioned to assist The Orana Foundation by undertaking a best practice review of the Indigenous Food Database. We are excited to be involved in this ground-breaking project.

Our scope of work will include a best practice audit in line with legal requirements, national and international standards and best practice of the content collected and collated on the database, methods of collection, publication and digitisation of that content and intended use; a preliminary audit of the database in relation to the collection, publication and digitisation of content considering intellectual property and licensing requirements, Indigenous Cultural & Intellectual Property (ICIP) and culturally sensitive material incorporated in content and associated cultural protocol, and ethical research obligations.

Once this audit is completed, we can progress to consideration of the requirements for access and use to the database and specific content on the database, categorisation and labelling of content, implementation of appropriate protocols, end user licensing and commercialisation.