



Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

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Eastern Kuku Yalanji launch new era of cultural tourism with Cape Tribulation tourism hub

Jabalbina Corporation today formally opened the Bamanga Muruku Tourism Hub visitor centre at Cape Tribulation, heralding it as a gateway for visitors to experience First Nations culture.

Jabalbina chairwoman Laurel Denman described the opening as the beginning of a new era in cultural tourism. “This is exciting news for Eastern Kuku Yalanji, for the tourism industry, and for the region. This resets cultural tourism in our region. A range of commercial ventures and social programs will now flow from the centre,” Ms Denman said.

The Bamanga Muruku Tourism Hub is owned and operated by Jabalbina and will support a range of socioeconomic programs, including the development of cultural tourism businesses, a cultural heritage program, and an employment and training drive. Along with the hub, Jabalbina launched Yalada Tours, which offers unique eco-cultural journeys through EKY country. Yalada provides guests the opportunity to form lasting connections and understand the two World Heritage sites of the Daintree and the Great Barrier Reef through the eyes of the world’s oldest living culture.

“This has been a long time coming. To finally have an Indigenous owned tourism business based on Eastern Kuku Yalanji Country, led by EKY Bama and extending north of the Daintree River, is something we are very proud of,” Ms Denman said.

The visitor centre is the first stage of the Cape Tribulation tourism hub, which will provide direct employment, visitor accommodation, and event and training spaces. It was made possible with the support of both the Australian and Queensland governments.

“We thank the federal and state governments for their ongoing funding support of the centre and the rollout of our tourism strategy,” Ms Denman said. “We look forward to working closely with the Cook and Douglas Shires and the industry in developing sustainable cultural tourism offerings in the region.”

CEO of Jabalbina, Josh Paterson, highlighted the strategic significance of the hub. “This is part of a broader and coordinated strategy to sustainably develop the region’s cultural tourism experience. It’s part of our partnership with all levels of government to renew the visitor experience in culturally and environmentally sustainable ways that benefit traditional owners,” he said.

“A host of socioeconomic programs already operating can now be centred on the tourism hub, including training and employment, youth justice, and healing programs. In this way we’ll marry economic development with our broader social agenda, ensuring our investment is culturally sustainable.”

The \$4.8M Bamanga Muruku Tourism Hub was funded by \$3.5M in funding from the Australian Government and \$1.34M million from the Queensland Government.

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