



ELY TRUST
REACHING OUT
GROWING STRONG IN UNITY

NEWSLETTER

July 2025

Shifting our focus towards the well-being of communities



Message from Ely Trust Chairperson, Rex Burke

Dear Community Members,

We hope this message finds you and your families in good health and spirits.

This month, we bring you updates from our recent Directors and Shareholders meetings in Cairns, news of business development and community projects we've proudly supported, and a spotlight on the incredible work of community member Whyte Adidi. You will also find information about upcoming meetings, grant application news, and ways to stay connected.

Ely Trust Meetings Update

2025 has been a productive and busy year for Ely Trust. Monthly Directors' Meetings have continued either virtually or in-person, ensuring momentum and connection with Directors and Shareholders.

On 30 April 2025, Directors and Shareholders came together in Cairns for a significant meeting, featuring joint presentations from:

- **Rio Tinto:** providing an overview of the Rio Tinto Weipa operations and important mine plans and dates.

- **EMM Consulting:** spoke to the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment.
- **Business Foundations:** spoke on local procurement and regional economic development.

Feedback from shareholders was very positive, describing the presentations as inspiring and informative, with many expressing interests for expanded collaboration, mine closure planning, rehabilitation, and community-led business development.

Please start discussions with your clan groups and local community members on how to move forward and generate business for your communities.



Message from Ely Trust Financial Controller

Financial Update – FY 2024/25

The financials for the 2024/25 year are currently in progress, with transaction finalisation nearing completion.

Preparations are also underway for the upcoming audit of the Trust, which is scheduled to commence in the next few weeks.

From **1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025**, Ely Trust has approved over \$2 million in Business Development and Community Project Grants, with **\$1.8 million paid to Ely Trust beneficiaries**.

Resources and Support

New Business Development Fund Application Form

Ely Trust has introduced a new **Business Development Fund policy, procedure, and application form** designed to simplify the application process. The new application form aims to make it easier for all Ely Trust beneficiaries who wish to apply for a BDF grant.

If you are interested in applying, please don't hesitate to email the Trust at elygrants@elytrust.com.au to request your new application form and procedure documentation. Please refer to important **grant application submission due dates below**.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Trust for guidance and support through the application process.

Website

Our new website is coming soon — stay tuned for updates!

Upcoming Directors Meetings & Grant Application Submission Dates

Directors Meeting

 28 July 2025

Directors Meeting

 27 August 2025

Directors Meeting

 17 September 2025

Grant application submissions

Due by 7 July 2025

Grant application submissions

Due by 6 August 2025

Grant application submissions

Due by 27 August 2025



Community Entrepreneur Spotlight:

Whyte Adidi

This month, we proudly feature **Whyte Adidi**, who recently launched **Rural Machinery & Mechanical Services** with support from the **Ely Trust Business Development Fund**.

We spoke with **Whyte Adidi** about his journey and the role the **Ely Trust BDF** grant played in helping turn Whyte's idea into a thriving local business:



Q: Tell us about your business and what inspired it.

Whyte Adidi: *Rural Machinery & Mechanical Services specialises in mechanical repairs and maintenance for a wide range of vehicle and equipment based in Weipa. I've always loved being outdoors – whether it's in the bush, out on the water, or travelling to different places. Fixing things has been a passion of mine for as long as I can remember.*

Q: How did the Ely Trust grant help you get started?

Whyte Adidi: *The Ely Trust played a key role in helping us establish Rural Machinery & Mechanical Services. Their support enabled us to invest in essential tools and equipment during our early stages, laying the groundwork for reliable service across remote communities. We proudly acknowledge their contributions to our growth.*

Q: How is the business going now? What kind of response have you received?

Whyte Adidi: *It's going great with a range of contracts keeps it moving forward, seeing more and more opportunities which is great for the business.*

Q: What challenges did you face when starting your business, and how did you overcome them?

Whyte Adidi: *Lots of competition with mechanical work, had to think outside the box and really thrive to prove myself and just doing quality work.*

Q: How does your business connect back to community or Country?

Whyte Adidi: *That connection to land and community has always been a big part of who I am. What started as a hobby turned into a business because I realised how much I enjoyed helping people keep their vehicles and boats running smoothly.*

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Q: What advice would you give to others who are thinking about starting something of their own?

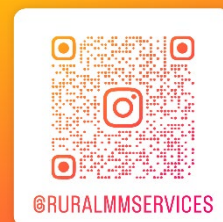
Whyte Adidi: *Back yourself and give it a go. Starting your own business can be challenging, but it's also rewarding. Stay committed, stay consistent, and don't be afraid to ask for help or learn along the way. Make the most of the support around you and trust in your skills – that's what builds growth and confidence over time.*

We celebrate **Whyte Adidi** and the work he's doing through **Rural Machinery & Mechanical Services**. Let's continue supporting local talent. Be sure to check out **Rural Machinery & Mechanical Services**, contact details below.

Email: ruralmmservices@gmail.com

Mobile: +61 477938320

Location: Weipa



Upcoming Community Meeting

Ely Trust invites you to join us at the following upcoming community meeting.

 **New Mapoon Community Meeting**

 **Tuesday 29 July 2025**

 **9.30am – 12.30pm**

 **Nai Beguta Agama Aboriginal Corporation Conference Room,**

42B Langie Draha Street, New Mapoon, 4876.

Morning tea, lunch and refreshments provided.

Thank you for reading.

If you have feedback or would like to contribute to the next newsletter, we welcome your ideas.

We would love to feature your accomplishments in future editions, and how Ely Trust helped support your business or local community project. Please reach out via email at elygrants@elytrust.com.au to share your story.

For questions about the content mentioned in this newsletter, feedback, or grant application submissions, please reach out to your local Directors: Rex Burke (Chairperson), Gina Nona, Linda McLachlan, Sandra Woosup, Irene York and Gwen Toby or with myself, Anthony Bird (anthony@elytrust.com.au).



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