## For immediate release:

#### Milikapiti Festival – A Celebration for Tiwi, by Tiwi – 6 September 2025

The Tiwi Islands will come alive on Saturday 6 September 2025 with the Milikapiti Festival – a one-day celebration of Tiwi culture, sport, music, and community pride, produced by proud Tiwi woman Libby Collins with Artback NT.

Running from 1:00pm to 10:00pm, the Milikapiti Festival marks the first time since the 2023 Yirriwinari Festival in Pirlingimpi that Artback NT has collaborated with Tiwi community to deliver a cultural event.

Creative Producer Libby Collins says:

"As a Tiwi woman, I'm so proud to be able to bring this festival to Milikapiti and work with our people on the ground to make it happen. It's a celebration of our people, which is so special."

"We'll kick off with a Welcome and Opening Ceremony from 1:00pm and will have activities for all the mob throughout the day with performances on the mainstage by an all-Tiwi line up."

#### Getting there & staying over

Please note this festival is for people who live in Milikpaiti and across the Tiwi Islands. Local attendees will have access to bus services, with a schedule to be released closer to the day, as well as extra inter-island ferry services to help with travel between Bathurst and Melville Island on Saturday and Sunday (details closer to festival).

If visiting attendees to the festival are staying the night they will need to organise accommodation for the night.

# Food & safety

A community BBQ for lunch and dinner will be provided at the festival.

The Milikapiti Festival is a family-friendly, alcohol-free event, with activities and entertainment suitable for all ages. On-site security will be available throughout the day.

The Milikapiti Festival is supported by: The Australian Government through Creative Australia, National Indigenous Australians Agency and Indigenous Languages and Arts Program, and the Northern Territory Government through Arts NT and Northern Territory Major Events Company.

"It's very special to be able to work with Artback NT to deliver a festival in Milikapiti, creating a space for Tiwi people to see themselves reflected in the music, the games, the food, and the laughter, and to know that their culture is strong and thriving.", says Libby Collins CEO Michelle Bell said, "Artback NT is proud to support local artists and cultural leaders at Milikapiti Festival, connecting generations and showcasing the richness of Tiwi traditions."

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Full program details are available on our website <a href="https://artbacknt.com.au/what-we-do/indigenous-traditional-dance/milikapiti-festival/">https://artbacknt.com.au/what-we-do/indigenous-traditional-dance/milikapiti-festival/</a> and via the Milikapiti Festival Facebook event page <a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/1JTWmhjEUg/">https://www.facebook.com/share/1JTWmhjEUg/</a>

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#### **About Artback NT:**

Artback NT develops and presents creative works from across the Northern Territory – to and from some of Australia's most remote locations. We work collaboratively with artists and communities to create and present high quality arts and cultural experiences not readily available to regional, remote, and very remote communities who are often left off the touring map.

Our Performing Arts Development and Touring Program delivers dynamic theatre, music, and dance performances, as well as creative workshops to audiences around Australia.

Working primarily with NT based artists, producers, and companies, Artback NT is passionate about sharing the strong and unique stories of the Northern Territory and providing a lens into life experienced in this part of the world.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body and proudly supported by the Northern Territory Government, Arts NT.

### **About Libby Collins:**

Libby Collins is currently a Producer with GARUWA. She has a strong national profile, working in production, marketing, communications and community engagement across the country for more than a decade.

Libby's credits reflect a diverse body of work from feature film to TV documentaries. Her most recent works include roles with Channel 10 and NITV collaboration 'First Inventors', due to be released in 2023. Libby also worked as a Production Manager (Tiwi Islands) on feature film Top End Wedding.

After a decade in New South Wales where she fulfilled a national facing community engagement role with Bangarra, Libby returned to the Northern Territory, working with Aboriginal health leaders to get clear messaging into communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her connection to community and culture drives the work she does and through her personal life.

She is passionate about creating opportunities that advance First Nations people and communities to bring about change

## **About the Milikapiti Festival:**

The Milikapiti Festival is a day where Tiwi community comes together to celebrate our music, our people, our language, our sport, and our stories. From the flurry of activity during the day to the songs on the main stage playing out over the community into the night, and the stories shared at activity stalls, this festival is about connection and pride. Held at Milikapiti Oval, the festival runs from 1pm to 10pm and features, activities for all ages, and a chance to meet and share with Elders, family and friends. It is a family-friendly, alcohol-free event made by Tiwi people, for Tiwi people. Buses, extra inter-island barge services will be available.