

MEDIA RELEASE

A Special Citizenship Ceremony in the Heart of the Ngaanyatjarra Lands

31 October 2025 | Warburton, Western Australia

The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku was proud to host a private Citizenship Ceremony on Sunday, 6 October 2025, at the Shire offices in Warburton to officially welcome Mr Bento Alfredo Caetano as an Australian citizen.

Citizenship ceremonies are a familiar event across Western Australia, but for the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku, the most remote local government area in the state covering more than 160,000 square kilometres and bordering both South Australia and the Northern Territory, they are a rare and momentous occasion. With the majority of the Shire's small population being Indigenous to the Ngaanyatjarra Lands, welcoming a new citizen is always a proud and meaningful moment for the community.

The region is home to several Indigenous communities that hold deep cultural and spiritual connections to Country. It is also a place where people from across Australia and around the world have chosen to live and work, helping create a rich and diverse community fabric.

The ceremony was conducted by Ngaanyatjarraku Council President Mr Damian McLean, who had the honour of welcoming Mr Caetano and his family. Proceedings included a Welcome and Introduction, Acknowledgement of Country, reading of the Minister's Message, and the Preamble. The ceremony concluded with Mr Caetano's pledge of commitment to Australia and the presentation of his Citizenship Certificate.

Mr Caetano, who originally hails from Mozambique came to Australia in 2008 and moved to Ngaanyatjarraku in 2017 with his wife and daughter to pursue a new career opportunity with Ngaanyatjarra Lands Council for the CDP. Since arriving, he has become a valued member of the community, earning the respect and friendship of residents and staff alike.

Shire CEO Mr David Mosel said it was a meaningful occasion for everyone involved.

"It's always a privilege to be part of a citizenship ceremony, but there's something truly special about holding one here in Warburton. We were incredibly proud to celebrate Bento's achievement and welcome him as an Australian citizen," said Mr Mosel.

Mr Mosel said Bento's story was a reminder of what makes Ngaanyatjarraku such a unique place to live and work. "When we get a story like Bento's, of someone who chooses to move their family to this remote part of the country, we are reminded how fortunate we are to have people from all walks of life join us. They bring with them their own experiences, cultures and customs, which we can now all celebrate together as Australian citizens," he said.

The intimate ceremony was attended by Mr Caetano's family, a small number of Shire staff and Council members, as well as members of the local community. A media crew visiting the region to capture content for the Shire's upcoming Waste Management Campaign were also present to document the occasion.

Pictured: Bento Caetano with Ngaanyatjarraku Council President Damian McLean.

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Shire of **Ngaanyatjarraku**
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