

Aboriginal Participation



Oaks Workforce Development and Training Program graduating trainees

Sharing stories on how we are embracing Aboriginal cultures and working with Aboriginal peoples and businesses to provide increased and sustainable employment opportunities.

Oaks' pre-employment program

Oaks Civil Construction (Oaks), through the Government's Local Recovery Fund, has been delivering the Oaks Workforce Development and Training Program. This is a five-week pre-employment program designed to upskill trainees to enter the civil construction industry and develop more opportunities for job seekers.

Oaks worked with the Tonkin Gap Alliance (TGA) team to facilitate on-site, practical work experience for the trainees.

A suite of work readiness modules was developed by Oaks, to ensure

the trainees gained relevant and valuable qualifications and work experience during the training program.

During their time at TGA, the trainees assisted the supervisors onsite with traffic set up and pack down, stop/go and daily traffic audits. They also attended pre-starts and received training on safety systems.

Out of the 14 trainees who joined the program, 12 successfully graduated the program, completing the Infrastructure Skill Set and Traffic Control training. All 12 trainees were offered full time

employment with Oaks as qualified Traffic Controllers.

Oaks is a 100 per cent Aboriginal-owned and operated civil construction, traffic management and workforce solutions business who is passionate about providing sustainable and meaningful employment opportunities for the local community.

New Director Aboriginal Engagement

Dennis Kickett has been appointed as Director Aboriginal Engagement Transport Portfolio and will formally join the Transport Portfolio Governance Council and Main Roads Corporate Executive.

The Portfolio has business and employment targets over the next five years to provide \$700 million of contracts to Aboriginal businesses, as well as having Aboriginal workers complete 3.5 million workhours through significant capital works, services, and maintenance programs.

Led by Dennis, a Portfolio Aboriginal Engagement Office will be established with the team working closely with the Portfolio agencies and offices including Main Roads, Department of Transport, Public Transport Authority, Office of Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery, METRONET and Westport to help deliver this important outcome.

The Portfolio will continue to support Dennis and his team in their expanded roles to deliver lasting social and economic services that will benefit Aboriginal peoples and the West Australian community.

Hear from Dennis in the video below.



Venture Smart helps business kick goals

Ben Rioli, from the famous Indigenous family synonymous with Australian Rules Football, is now kicking goals in the traffic management industry.

Ben got into the traffic management industry after meeting Robbe Bryce, Managing Director of Advanced Traffic Management (ATM), who are a contractor for Venture Smart, Ventia's joint venture with Johnson Controls, which manages Main Roads' Statewide Electrical Infrastructure Contract.

Robbe helped Ben set up his business two years ago, and Venture Smart Project Director Mick O'Bradaigh wanted to provide Ben with the traffic control work he needed to have a viable business.

Mick said Venture Smart was committed to providing sustainable jobs for First Nations peoples and investing in Indigenous companies to help close the gap.

Venture Smart had a target of 3 per cent direct Indigenous employment in 2018 when it won

the Main Roads contract, and Aboriginal peoples now represent 12.5 per cent of Venture Smart's staff.

"When the opportunity came up to provide Ben with his first start, we were keen to be involved, as I was really impressed with his work ethic, enthusiasm and what he had achieved in football."

"We now use his company Rioli Traffic Management for most of our major traffic management jobs, and I look forward to continue working with him and watching his business grow," Mick said.

Ben said he was really enjoying taking on a new challenge in his career.

"I love my footy, but I didn't think it would be possible to have my own business."

"Venture Smart was the first company to give me the opportunity, and I can't thank them enough. They have opened so many doors for me and been very supportive and we work as a team," Ben said.

Heavy Vehicle Driver Program

TAFE WA is offering a driver trainer program that provides real, hands-on experience with practical hours in heavy haulage. Upon successful completion, trainees will be ready to join the transport and logistics industry, which currently has a huge demand for skilled workers.

The program is run in the metropolitan area every six weeks and one is being scheduled in Geraldton later this year.



Tuition fees are free for eligible students.

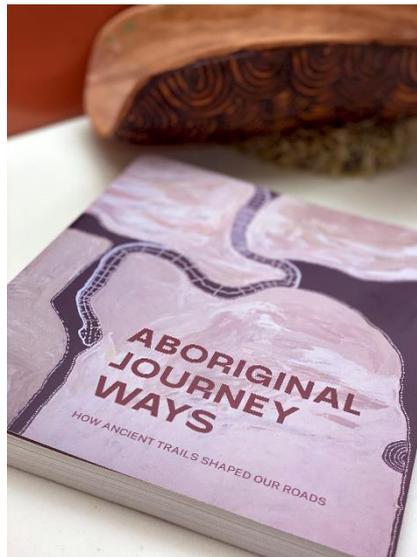
For more information head to the [Central Regional TAFE website](#) or email info@crtafe.wa.edu.au

Aboriginal Journey Ways

The Aboriginal Journey Ways book was officially launched on 22 June 2022 at Government House.

The book explores the relationship between ancient Aboriginal trails throughout Western Australia, and how they shaped the location of today's roads. It is a significant part of our reconciliation journey acknowledging the marginalised and sometimes invisible histories that have shaped our roads and the significant contributions of the Aboriginal workforce in the development of the state's road network.

The book is the result of a collaborative research initiative between Main Roads and



Kurongkurl Katitjin (Centre for Australian Indigenous Education and Research at Edith Cowan University).

Led by Dr Francesca Robertson and Dr Noel Nannup, the initiative investigated and documented traditional Aboriginal journey ways, tracks and places aligned to the Main Roads road network across Western Australia.

Copies of the book will be distributed to public libraries, universities, museums, Aboriginal language centres and local government offices around the state.

Yoodininy Moort

In preparation for the future growth of our rail network, the new Public Transport Operations Control Centre will be built 100 metres north of the Public Transport Centre.

The new centre's hoarding, pictured below, is titled Yoodininy Moort (binding people) and celebrates our diverse community. The artwork by Marcia McGuire depicts Whadjuk women, men, and people gathering from all walks of life to journey together.

The colours, shapes, and forms of the artwork reference human motivations to care for each other, to make positive change within the community, and to help each other on our journeys.

The state-of-the-art facility will house the infrastructure and personnel needed to manage the day-to-day operations of Perth's expanding public transport network, and will include a centralised signalling equipment room, network control space and additional office accommodation.

Work is expected to commence in mid-2022 with expected completion in late-2023.



Hoarding at the site of PTA's new Public Transport Operations Centre
Artwork title: Yoodininy Moort

Mid-West Aboriginal Business Forum

The Mid-West's first-ever Aboriginal Business Forum was held on 9 June 2022 to showcase Aboriginal businesses and promote contracting opportunities.

Officially launched by Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Tony Buti and Regional Development Minister, Alannah MacTiernan, the event attracted more than 200 people from local Aboriginal businesses, state agency buyers, head contractors and local industry.

The event supports the further implementation of the Aboriginal Procurement Policy by creating potential contracting opportunities for Aboriginal businesses with state agencies. It also delivers on broader economic development opportunities with the local building industry.

Main Roads hosted a booth to provide information on contracting opportunities in the road construction and maintenance industry.



Jamahl Kickett – Bindoon North project site

Bindoon North

A major milestone was recently reached with the first 7 kilometres of new highway completed from north of Calingiri Road to Seven Mile Hill. The works included site establishment, clearing and topsoil stripping, road construction, fencing, drainage and culvert construction.

Garli, an Aboriginal owned and operated business, completed the works in conjunction with Main Roads' Region Network Contract

contractor, Service Stream. By partnering up with Service Stream, Garli were able to develop their road construction experience while minimising risk by leveraging off an experienced construction company.

Garli achieved 53 per cent Aboriginal employment, over 90 per cent expenditure by Aboriginal businesses and 11 Aboriginal businesses procured during the project. A number of workers benefitted from the project by undertaking training to enhance their skillset and take up new roles within the team.

The contract engagement enabled Garli to obtain prequalification level R1/B1/F2 under the National Prequalification Scheme. They are currently seeking Federal Safety accreditation to be eligible to undertake further works independently.

The Bindoon Bypass will deliver a new 64 kilometre section of Great Northern Highway from Chittering Roadhouse to New Norcia, to increase freight productivity and efficiency.



Main Roads representative, Stephen Grech at the Mid-West Aboriginal Business Forum

Matagarup Elders Group meet again

The [Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridges](#) project hosted its second Matagarup Elders Group (MEG) meeting on Country at Matagarup (Heirisson Island) in late May.

Commencing with a Welcome to Country delivered by Matagarup Elders Group member Neville Collard, a minute of silence was held to remember Elders who have passed on.

Facilitated by Bill Bennel from Aboriginal Land Services, the Causeway Link Alliance (CLA) team members were introduced to the Elders, including those who will be involved in aspects such as architectural design, landscaping, way finding and heritage interpretation elements.

Taking the opportunity to describe areas of importance, the MEG members provided their feedback and explained the significance of certain elements within CLA's concept design.

The group nominated a number of Elders to participate in the project's design advisory group to ensure culturally significant aspects are captured during the design phase.

Following the meeting, a site walk was undertaken to a marked-up area on Heirisson Island, indicating where the bridge landings and connecting path will be located.

As part of the stakeholder engagement strategy, CLA will develop a template guideline for Aboriginal stakeholder engagement, for use on our future infrastructure projects.

This project will be used as a case study for the template, given Aboriginal Elders have been engaged throughout the planning, design and development phases, and CLA will continue to seek the Elders input and feedback throughout construction of the bridges.

National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC celebrations

Events were held across the Transport Portfolio to celebrate National Reconciliation Week (27 May-3 June) and NAIDOC Week (3-10 July).

It was a time to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

AAG update

Our Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG) met on 24 June. Key outcomes from the meeting were:

- Consider holding another Meet the Buyer and Supplier Forum in 2023
- Explore Aboriginal participation opportunities throughout the supply chain
- Look at other ways to share Aboriginal Journey Ways stories
- Acknowledgement that the AAG now represents the Transport Portfolio
- Research Aboriginal cultural and intellectual property and how this applies to the Transport Portfolio

For more information about the AAG please head to the [Our Community](#) page on the Main Roads website.

The next meeting is scheduled for 30 September.



NAIDOC Week celebrations with Gina Hill