

# Aboriginal Participation



Murdoch Drive Connection Project – Noise wall construction

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

## Building blocks to success

The noise wall in Leeming, part of the Murdoch Drive Connection project, was delivered by a local Aboriginal contractor, Arra Group, in partnership with the Metropolitan Road Improvement Alliance (MRIA).

Through this joint venture arrangement, the project was able to up-skill a local Aboriginal workforce, building industry capacity and capability.

Arra Group Managing Director, Shaz Rind and MRIA Aboriginal Participation Manager, John Mallard sat down to talk about the joint venture.

“It is about providing Aboriginal men and women with the confidence to work, succeed and hopefully bring more people into the workforce.” – Shaz Rind.

“Some of these young people wouldn’t have the opportunity for employment in this space if it wasn’t for the joint venture. It is more than just a target; it is about having a true commitment towards improving the circumstances of Aboriginal people. This project is testament to how we can bring about those goals.” – John Mallard.

Here more from Shaz Rind, John Mallard and some of the Aboriginal work crew in the [Aboriginal opportunities on Murdoch Drive Connection video](#).





Minister at Aboriginal Advisory Group meeting

## Minister meets AAG

Transport Minister Hon Rita Saffioti MLA met with our Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG) to reflect on achievements and discuss what can be done to further improve Aboriginal employment and participation in the transport sector.

AAG member Barry McGuire opened the meeting with a Welcome to Country and spoke about the importance of place for Aboriginal peoples.

A/DGT and chair, Peter Woronzow highlighted the results we have achieved over the last two years with over \$80 million spent with Aboriginal businesses and over 700,000 hours worked by Aboriginal peoples.

The Minister thanked everyone for their commitment to advance Aboriginal participation and said she is extremely proud of what has been achieved over the last few years. She also emphasised the number of upcoming projects being developed and delivered within the Transport portfolio and the opportunities it presents for Aboriginal businesses.

The Minister was keen to hear directly from the AAG members and took away some key insights and recommendations from the group.

The AAG is part of our overarching Aboriginal engagement and participation framework. It includes well-respected Aboriginal business representatives from across Western Australia who are advocates for positive change for Aboriginal peoples.

## Maarli helps keep the Wheatbelt litter free

Maarli Services are collecting litter on the highways in the Wheatbelt region for the second year running.

One hundred per cent Aboriginal owned, Maarli provides a wide range of engineering, construction, maintenance and project management services.

Last year the same crew spent three months collecting litter on Great Eastern Highway between El Caballo and Meckering and on the Great Southern Highway between the Lakes and York.

Maarli has established a working partnership with Main Roads' Wheatbelt Rural Network Contractor Lendlease Services and has delivered contracts worth \$1.6m across traffic management, litter collection and plant hire services.

Main Roads Customer Services Manager, Cathy Morey caught up with Neil Cole and Peter Hayden from Maarli while they were on the road. They had just picked up 10 bags of litter in less than two kms.



Neil Cole and Peter Hayden – Maarli Services

Neil said motorists often wave, toot their horns and get on their two-way radio to let them know they are doing a good job.

Fortunately, Neil has only had to collect one nappy so far however, he has come across a snake. Peter has had more luck finding a \$50 note.

Cathy said the team have a great work ethic and are enjoying the role.

### Focus on local trainees

Main Roads is directly managing the Duncan Road and Gordon Downs Road upgrade project on behalf of the Shire of Halls Creek.

Leveraging off this, the Shire of Halls Creek launched a trainee program in July with seven local Aboriginal residents commencing a Certificate 3 in Civil Construction.

The program, run by North Regional TAFE comprises four weeks of theory followed by 12 weeks in the field learning traffic control and obtaining a HR licence and other plant tickets.



Albert Clifton – Warrimbah Watercart Services

The initiative will run for three years and is expected to provide up to 60 traineeships over the period. The aim is for the trainees to become work-ready and take advantage of current and planned projects within the Shire of Halls Creek over the next five to seven years.

### Warrimbah Watercart Services – A family affair

Local Nyul Nyul man, Albert Clifton left his mining job in the Pilbara region to join the Broome Cape

Leveque Upgrade project team and be closer to his family.

Albert set up Warrimbah Watercart Services providing water suppression services for the project. His wife Renee helped set up the business and now manages the bookkeeping.

“The project gives Indigenous people the opportunity to work and to have businesses on the project and to work on Country.

My watercart business is something that I feel comfortable I can do, with the right people to guide me at work. It is an amazing project because very rarely do you get projects like this, which is so big and with so many Indigenous people working on it - different ages, young people, and people with more experience.” – Albert Clifton.

Main Roads Kimberley Region staff have worked closely with Renee, providing support and guidance with contractual and administrative requirements and processes.



Trainees learning theory before field training – Duncan and Gordon Downs Road upgrade project

## Better together

CMB Services Paramount Earthmoving Joint Venture (CPJV) was formed in September 2019 to build capacity within each business and create a proven business relationship.

Engaged by lead contractor MACA Civil, CPJV provided bulk haulage and dust suppression services for Stage 3 of the Karratha-Tom Price project.

CPJV complimented its truck fleet with onsite mechanical support and a fully equipped workshop ensuring productivity KPIs were met.

Managing Director CMB Services, Barry Taylor and General Manager Paramount Earthmoving, Mr Adrian Hughes visited the project site in March 2020.



Barry Taylor and Adrian Hughes – site visit

## BCL update

Transport Minister, Hon Rita Saffioti and Acting Director General Transport, Peter Woronzow visited the Broome Cape Leveque Road upgrade project in August and were impressed with the progress that has been made and high standard of work.

The project team continues to work closely with the local communities. Having traditional and local ties to the Dampier Peninsula and Broome areas, Project Safety Officer, Carla Davey has been actively connecting locals with contractors and training opportunities. Carla helped local Shane Wright undertake a roller operator course, which led to him

undertaking this task on his following swing.

The team is also collaborating with local community radio stations, Goorlarri and PAKAM to broadcast important traffic and safety alerts.

## Martu people help deliver Wiluna Road project

Aboriginal graduates from a specialist regional road industry were team members on the pilot project to seal a five-kilometre stretch of the Goldfields Highway between Wiluna and Meekatharra.

The Martu workers took part in comprehensive training at the Martu-ku Yiwarra Training Centre, designed to provide pathways to employment in the road construction industry, which many Martu people had identified as a preferred area to work.



Carla Davey (second from left) and Shane Wright (middle)

Main Roads and DM Roads engaged with key stakeholders in the Wiluna area to plan the delivery of the Goldfields upgrade project and maximise the employment of local Aboriginal businesses and people as part of project planning.

A key component of the pilot project was the training of Martu students at the Wiluna Martu-ku Yiwarra Training Centre through Central Regional TAFE, with input from Martu Elders, the Shire of Wiluna, local industry supporters and other community leaders.

### Stories of the local Whadjuk Noongar people shared

Aboriginal artwork is a major feature of the Reid Highway Dual Carriageway project; ensuring stories of the local Whadjuk Noongar people are celebrated and shared for generations to come.

The artworks and design concepts for the project were developed in

consultation with the Reid Highway Whadjuk Noongar Reference Group comprising members of local Whadjuk Elders including representatives from the Bropho, Coruuna, Garlett, Wilkes, Warrell and Jacobs families, whose time, knowledge and contribution is greatly appreciated.

The artworks feature on underpasses, screens, abutments, noise walls and as cultural marker points throughout the project site.

### Closing the gap

On 30 July 2020, the new [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#) was launched.

This ambitious ten-year commitment by the national Coalition of Peaks, the Australian Government, all State and Territory Governments and the Australian Local Government Association, aims to improve life outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander citizens.

The National Agreement will be framed by four Priority Reform Areas:

1. Shared decision-making
2. Building the community-controlled sector
3. Improving mainstream institutions
4. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led data

It is the first National Agreement to be developed in genuine equal partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, through representatives on the national Coalition of Peaks.

The National Agreement closely aligns to the work we are doing within Main Roads and the transport industry, to improve Aboriginal participation.

### Upcoming events

- [NAIDOC Week: 8-15 November 2020](#)
- Main Roads "Meet the Buyer and Supplier" Forum – Early 2021



Aboriginal artwork – Reid Highway Dual Carriageway project