

Aboriginal Participation



Opening of Broome Cape Leveque Road project

Broome Cape Leveque builds solid foundations

Transport Minister Rita Saffioti officially opened the Broome Cape Leveque Road project on 26 November 2020 after the last 90 kilometres of road was sealed.

The project saw unprecedented participation rates of Aboriginal employment, with 54 per cent of all hours worked on the project delivered by Aboriginal peoples. Of those hours, 85 per cent were completed by local people from Broome and the Dampier Peninsula.

On-the-job training programs were set up as part of the project and

have created a local workforce equipped with the skills, knowledge and experience to undertake road construction and maintenance activities long into the future.

An additional \$20 million has been committed to reseal the first 14 kilometres of the road, along with the Kooljaman Resort Access Road art Cape Leveque and Ardyaloon Hatchery Access Road at Ardyaloon.

It is hoped that the local trained work force will return after the wet season to undertake this additional work and gain further experience.

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



Sealing Broome Cape Leveque Road



Garli team

Early works contract provides opportunities

Following their recent work on the Great Northern Highway Muchea North project, Aboriginal owned and operated company Garli have been engaged by Lend Lease to deliver early works for the Bindoon Bypass project.

Packages of work have been identified on the Bindoon Bypass project that fit the skill levels and experience for Garli and other similar Aboriginal companies to assist in growing their skills base and provide continuity of work to their employees. A number of workers have transitioned over from the Muchea North project after becoming competent at roles such as plant operator, all-round operator, leading hand, supervisor and serviceman.

Bindoon Bypass will create a new 66 km link between Chittering Roadhouse and New Norcia, allowing road trains to travel south to Muchea, connecting into the new North Link WA Northern Section.

Garli are undertaking construction of the three kilometres of new highway from Calingiri Road to

North Road including site establishment, clearing and topsoil stripping, fencing and road construction.

While the procurement process to secure companies to design and construct the Bindoon Bypass will not begin until mid-2021, this early works contract was awarded to provide continuous work for local people and the opportunity to expand their skillset in the civil construction industry.

Meet the Buyer and Supplier Forum – we want to hear from you!

Main Roads is proposing to hold a Meet the Buyer and Supplier Forum later in 2021 to provide a central meeting point for Aboriginal businesses to connect with current construction contractors.

The Forum will give participants the chance to discuss their products, services and capabilities as well as upcoming contracting opportunities.

We encourage you to complete an online [survey](#), designed to gather feedback to help us design the Forum and develop an agenda for the day.

Spotlight on STM

Swan Traffic Management (STM) is an Aboriginal business that is passionate about the buying/hiring local philosophy.

Founded in Kununurra in 2017 by Nathan and Julianne Swan, the company secured contracts with Main Roads Kimberley and with WBHO on the Great Northern Highway Upgrade – Maggie’s Creek to Wyndham project.

STM helped WBHO exceed their Aboriginal participation targets and provided employment for Aboriginal peoples in the small Aboriginal community called Guada, which the project passed through.

“There are just 10 houses in this area so I’m really proud that we hired five Aboriginals from this community. That still makes me smile today,” Nathan said.



STM team members

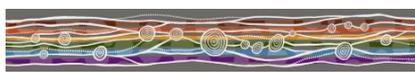
STM's proven track record has secured them repeat business from councils, civil construction companies and government departments and agencies. As a result, they now have branches in Karratha and Katherine in the Northern Territory.

Local Aboriginal artists develop designs

Two local Aboriginal artists have developed detailed designs for the public artwork on the Armadale Road to North Lake Road Bridge project.

Seantelle Walsh of Kardy Kreations has designed the two underpasses and screen walls to illustrate the six Noongar seasons, while Rohin Kickett of Dushong Art used his experience as a former concreter to create earthy-coloured aggregates and textures to design the two roundabouts.

The designs below were presented to the Construction Reference Group and received strong endorsement.



Installation will commence in early 2021 with both Seantelle and Rohin supervising the works for their respective designs.

Wilco's 20 by 20 goal achieved

Wilco Electrical (Wilco) has achieved its goal of creating 20 electrical apprenticeships for



Aboriginal men and women by the end of 2020.

Becoming a first-time business owner in 2015, Wilco Director and proud Whadjuk Nyoongar man Frank Mitchell, reflected on his own journey and how it all started with someone believing in him and giving him a chance. This led him to create his 20 by 20 pledge.

In total, 12 electrical, three construction and three admin apprenticeships were created along with three trade assistant positions.

Frank said, "if you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together."

Fostering business with LWA RAP Alliance partners

The Leach Welshpool Alliance (LWA) has engaged Jessica Moody on its Leach Highway and Welshpool Road Interchange project. Jess works with Aboriginal company ARRA Group as a business lead and joined LWA to help support engagement and onboarding of Aboriginal subcontractors.

Jess helped strengthen LWA's relationship with ARRA Group,

growing LWA's local talent and getting men and women into apprentice roles across the project. Developing the partnership with LWA and ARRA also provided an opportunity for Jess to work closely with the internal team to help build ARRA's capability.

Over the past 12 months LWA has entered into a service level agreement for ARRA Group Pty Ltd. ARRA Group is a majority owned Aboriginal business based in Perth, who believes in themselves and their workers, providing both professional and blue collar jobs to construction, oil and gas, and mining clients.

Working with LWA provides ARRA group a great opportunity to embed themselves in the project, providing expanded capability to hire, train and retain good talent in construction, helping to close the gap.

Denny rail recruits

METRONET is not just about building train lines – it is about building communities and creating opportunities.

Part of METRONET, the Denny Avenue Level Crossing Removal project is providing opportunities

for Aboriginal peoples and businesses.

Proud Aboriginal man, Jarrad Oakley Nicholls is a former AFL footballer who has now set up his own business, and secured work on the project. He in turn is employing Aboriginal peoples, giving them the opportunity to develop transferable skills and gain experience in the rail construction industry.

One of those people is young Aboriginal father of four, Travis Bellotti who was previously one of WA's long term unemployed. Mr Bellotti said it is great to wake up and have a job to go to and he feels proud of what he's achieving.

Local employment for Emu Rocks

Representatives from the Coolgardie-Esperance Highway project at Emu Rocks attended a Civil Works Industry and Aboriginal Engagement information session in January 2021 to speak about work and training opportunities on the project and meet job seekers.

The project will upgrade 30 kilometres of Coolgardie-Esperance Highway, between Emu Rocks and the railway level crossing south of Widgiemoooltha, to improve road safety and travel times.

The 80-week construction period provides sub-contracting and employment opportunities for Aboriginal businesses and peoples.

Jobs include plant operators, water cart, haulage, traffic controllers (through Advanced Traffic Management), cleaners and demolition.

Two traineeships, that include a Certificate III in Civil Construction, have been offered. One has been accepted by a young man who previously worked on the Great Eastern Highway Duplication – Anzac Drive to Gatacre Drive project.

In addition, the project has identified Aboriginal businesses, organisations and Traditional Owners to engage with and has developed an Aboriginal engagement strategy.

Policy extended

The state government's Aboriginal Procurement Policy has been extended for a further three years after a review found the policy has been a success in increasing government departments contracting with Aboriginal businesses.

The targets for the next three years will move progressively from three per cent in year four, to 3.5 per cent in year five, and four per cent by the end of year six.

The updated policy will be released in July 2021 after the current policy expires.

Upcoming events

- National Reconciliation Week – 26 May-2 June 2021
- Main Roads Meet the Buyer and Supplier Forum – 2021



Representatives from Indigo Mining Services, TAFE and Aboriginal job seekers