

# Aboriginal Participation



Shipping container artwork done by Aboriginal artist Justin Martin and students from Queens Park Primary School

## Shipping container showcases Noongar Six Seasons

As part of the [Leach Highway and Welshpool Road Interchange](#) project, local Aboriginal artist, Justin Martin was engaged to create a piece of artwork with students from Queens Park Primary School.

Painted on a shipping container, the artwork features the Noongar Six Seasons, a topic that the students are learning about in class.

Justin's traditional lands stretch over the Perth metropolitan region

and a large part of the mid-west of Western Australia, making him part of the Noongar and Yamatji nations. He paints in a traditional style of dots and lines, the dots are his interpretation of Yamatji art and the lines Noongar art.

The artwork is one of many initiatives the project team is undertaking to increase cultural safety.

The shipping container will be placed on site for the duration of the project and used for storage.



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



Queens Park Primary School students

## Spotlight on Garli

Established in 2018, [Garli](#) is a majority Aboriginal owned and Supply Nation certified company specialising in project management, civil construction and technology solutions.

Since delivering its first project for Main Roads, a roadworks package with WBHO on the Muchea North project and subsequent overlay works, the company has continued to develop and refine its business model.

The company has recently completed the Port Hedland Spoilbank Marina Trucking Route project and is currently working on

the northern section of the Bindoon Bypass project.

Providing employment, training and development opportunities for Aboriginal businesses and peoples is a major focus for the company.

Managing Director, Darren Lundberg says that all projects have seen positive Aboriginal participation outcomes.

"Aboriginal participation rates of between 40 and 64 per cent have been achieved. We've also supported and helped facilitate a Civil Construction III traineeship, two supervisor positions and over 100 nationally accredited plant tickets".

"We're proud of the high levels of Aboriginal participation and career pathways we're creating for Aboriginal peoples".

Garli anticipates it will achieve ISO Certification (Safety, Quality and Environment) in July 2021 and is working towards Main Roads prequalification to enable it to tender for larger, more complex projects.



Port Hedland Spoilbank Marina Trucking Route project

## RAP released as part of National Reconciliation Week celebrations

Main Roads' new Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was officially launched during National Reconciliation Week.

Dr Richard Walley performed a Welcome to Country involving the crowd in his emotive didgeridoo performance.

Built on the pillars of Relationships, Respect and Opportunities, the RAP outlines the key initiatives that will be undertaken to foster positive reconciliation outcomes.

The RAP features artwork developed by Main Roads staff as part of their cultural awareness training program.

## BORR employment opportunities

The Bunbury Outer Ring Road (BORR) project has a strong focus on industry sustainability, Aboriginal participation and engaging Aboriginal businesses.

With a target of 60+ full-time equivalent Aboriginal employees throughout the life of the project, a \$20m spend target with Aboriginal businesses, and an array of targeted training programmes, the BORR project is well-positioned to create lasting change in the South West community.

The Infrastructure Ready Program, is engaging skill-seeking students in a six-week course both on-site and in the classroom to prepare them for work in the construction sector. Some members of the program have now gone on to find employment on BORR, providing



Main Roads RAP launch

opportunities to learn valuable skills for their future careers. The team is also continuing to actively work with the Aboriginal community through regular Aboriginal Employment Forums, where information about training programs and opportunities on the

project are shared in a collaborative platform.

As of 31 April 2021, over \$691k has been spent with Aboriginal businesses engaged on BORR, driving employment and industry sustainability in the local community. Spend with Aboriginal businesses is only set to rise as the project continues.



Most recently, the team has worked with Aboriginal organisation Roelands Village and seen an opportunity emerge to create a sustainable transplant nursery for the project. The nursery, managed by the Roelands Village team, will collect suitable plants and trees from the BORR project area before clearing takes place, and will reuse them to revegetate areas after the road is constructed.

## BORR JOB PORTAL

A specific job portal has been created for Aboriginal employment opportunities on the BORR project. It allows NOPs and sub-contractors to directly advertise positions on the project and job seekers to upload their resumes to a talent pool and subscribe for job alerts.

The portal can be accessed at:  
[aboriginalemploymentborr.com.au](http://aboriginalemploymentborr.com.au)

## Designs come to life

As highlighted in our last edition, two local Aboriginal artists Seantelle Walsh and Rohin Kickett designed the public artwork for the [Armadale Road to North Lake Road Bridge](#) project.

The artwork has now been installed on the project and features on the two underpasses, screen walls and two roundabouts.



**Moving through the seasons** – this piece highlights how Aboriginal peoples moved throughout the seasons. It also exhibits the 16 campsites found in Cockburn, the majority located on the fringes of Walliabup (Bibra Lake) and Coolbellup (North Lake).

**Constellation piece** – this artwork represents our night sky with the three circles and lines passing through, representing the Milky Way as well as our past, present and future. The emu in the sky is an Aboriginal constellation that is defined by dark nebulae visible against the Milky Way rather than by stars, and can be found to the

left of the Southern Cross. The artwork also features two large stars in remembrance of Midgegooroo and his son Yagan who were influential Noongar leaders of their home Country, Beeliar.

## Meet Stuart

Stuart Ugle, a Noongar man living in Laverton, completed the first training program undertaken by the Wongutha Way Alliance back in 2019.

Before joining the team, Stuart was working construction on Barrow Island on a FIFO roster. He says that one of the benefits of working on the [Outback Way](#) project is that he is close to home and his family.

During his traineeship, Stuart excelled and was nominated for Civil Contractor's Federation Trainee of the Year Award.

The first work package to seal Outback Way, also known as 'Australia's Longest Shortcut', is well underway with 20 of the first 40 kilometres now sealed.

Earthworks have commenced to prepare for sealing of the next 20-kilometre section.



Project development for the next work package has commenced which includes a 10-kilometre section near Warburton and a three-kilometre section near Warakuna. Construction is expected to commence in late 2021.

A future work package is also planned near the Cosmo Newberry Community, 84 kilometres east of Laverton.

## Smoking ceremonies mark commencement of works

Traditional smoking ceremonies have marked the commencement of several projects in metropolitan and regional areas.

## Coolgardie-Esperance Highway Upgrade

The significance of Emu Rocks to the Traditional Owners, the Gubrun people, was highlighted in a thought-provoking Welcome to Country presented by Traditional Owners Aunty Elizabeth and her daughter Gina Sambo.

Gina shared insights about the land of the Gubrun people and the importance of Emu Rocks. It was a poignant reminder about the



Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge Smoking Ceremony and Casting of the Sand

importance of the Aboriginal tradition, to welcome new people to the land, its history; and the respect that needs to be afforded to sites.

#### **Mitchell Freeway Extension**

Gum leaves were burnt during the project's Smoking Ceremony and staff walked through and took a handful of smoke. The leaves had a Eucalyptus fragrance and were used to cleanse and purify the land, to ward off the Warra Wirrin (bad spirits) and encourage the Kwop Wirrin (good spirits) to watch over everyone.

Steven Jacobs from IES Cultural and Heritage conducted the Ceremony and explained the historical use of the land. He told stories of the Aboriginal people digging out the limestone material and forming Gnamma holes for water storage.

#### **Leach Highway and Welshpool Road Interchange**

The Smoking Ceremony was run by local Noongar man Danny Ford, his wife Rose, and son Jonathon.

They explained that a Welcome to Country/Smoking Ceremony is similar to a site induction or getting your passport stamped. It means you have permission to be on the land, you are welcome to their Country and have been granted safe passage.

Danny explained that the Smoking Ceremony has a spiritual element, as it calls upon the spirits of the ancestors to watch over us and cleanses bad energy.

#### **Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge**

A unique Smoking Ceremony and Casting of the Sand (River Blessing) were held on Heirisson Island, prior to early investigative studies taking place at the site of the new Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge project.

The Smoking Ceremony, led by Professor Len Collard, Director of Moodjar Consultancy, encouraged all attendees to walk through smoke on the river bed, lit using leaves of gum, peppermint and balga trees, to ward off bad spirits

(Warra Wirrin) and ask for the blessing of good spirits (Kwop Wirrin) in preparation for the early site works.

The Sand Ceremony, a traditional Noongar ritual undertaken prior to accessing a body of water, was carried out by all participants, by holding some sand from the river foreshore, calling out "Kwop Wirrin" and releasing the sand into the water to let the Waugal know of their presence. This ritual is a show of respect and care for Country and the cultural landscape.

#### **Upcoming events**

- [NAIDOC Week – 4-11 July 2021](#)
- Main Roads Meet the Buyer and Supplier Forum – Date to be confirmed