

# Aboriginal Participation



Left to right: Jaime-Rose Smith, Carliona Dowding, Brenton Turner, Brianna Shadworth, Dennis Kickett, Stephen Grech, Michelle Forrest, Connie McDonagh

## Aboriginal Engagement and Participation team

Led by Principal Advisor Aboriginal Engagement, Dennis Kickett, our Aboriginal participation team is helping facilitate increased Aboriginal participation in our projects and maintenance contracts.

The team works collaboratively across Main Roads, the Public Transport Authority, Office of Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery and METRONET building effective relationships internally and externally with local Aboriginal businesses and suppliers across the state.

The team's focus is to develop effective strategies which enable Main Roads to embed opportunities for Aboriginal businesses and peoples through our projects and partnerships with our major contractors.

We are also lucky to have Marion Chalker as our Aboriginal Employment and Diversity Advisor. Marion has an infectious enthusiasm for progressing initiatives, plans and frameworks that benefit her Aboriginal community and our Reconciliation journey. She is dedicated and focused on direct employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with Main Roads.

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



Marion Chalker



## Last call!

Registrations will be closing soon for Aboriginal businesses wanting to attend our Meet the Buyer and Supplier Forum.

**Date:** Wednesday, 20 October

**Time:** 10:30am – 4:30pm

**Venue:** RAC Arena, 700 Wellington Street, Perth

**Cost:** Free

**Register at:**

[www.buyerandsupplierwa.com.au](http://www.buyerandsupplierwa.com.au)

To be opened by the Minister for Transport, Hon Rita Saffioti, this free event will provide information on current and future work opportunities, pathways for engagement and an interactive Q&A session.

This will be followed by an exhibition style networking session allowing Aboriginal businesses and contractors operating in the road and rail construction and maintenance sector to connect.

Former WA Treasurer and Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Ben Wyatt, will be the Master of Ceremonies for the plenary session and several industry and business leaders will form our Q&A panel.

For more information please go to [www.buyerandsupplierwa.com.au](http://www.buyerandsupplierwa.com.au)

## MFE yarning circle

Long grass trees and materials that required clearing for the Mitchell Freeway Extension (MFE) project have been reused to create a Yarning Circle at Quinns Rocks Primary School.

A Yarning Circle is a meeting place used in Indigenous cultures for generations to encourage conversation and resolve conflicts. It will be used by the school for oral language activities and provides them with an open environment to share cultural knowledge, communicate and problem solve as teams, and teaches the importance of listening and respecting the ideas and opinions of others.

Gravel, mulch, logs, rocks, cycads and 12 mature grass trees from the MFE site were used to create the circle. The school gardener added a pathway to look like a stream flowing into the circle, that would carry children to the Yarning Circle. The school's year 6 students helped create the space by spreading mulch, varnishing and rolling logs into place.

The school held an assembly to officially open the Yarning Circle and Noongar Elder Steven Jacobs performed a smoking ceremony to ward off Warra Wirrin or bad spirits, and invite Quop Wirrin or good spirits, to watch over the school. He explained the rocks found on the land were historically used as gifts, tools and hunting equipment, and were archaeological evidence of Aboriginal presence on the land.



Noongar Elder, Steven Jacobs with Quinns Rocks Primary School students and MFE project team members

## Greater Connect Alliance celebrates NAIDOC Week

Greater Connect Alliance (GCA) held its NAIDOC Week celebrations from 1-3 September. During the week, its foyer was transformed into a pop-up art exhibition showcasing some Aboriginal emerging artists across Perth. A morning tea was also held together with a performance from a local Noongar dance group.

Comprising Laing O'Rourke, AECOM and Arcadis, the GCA has been engaged to develop, design and construct two major interchanges on Great Eastern Highway Bypass at Roe Highway and Abernethy Road, the extension of Lloyd St and new bridge over Helena River.



GCA NAIDOC Week celebrations

## TGA teams with Nudge

The team at Tonkin Gap Alliance (TGA) has partnered with Nudge Foundation to recruit several Aboriginal trainees on the Tonkin Gap and Associated Works Project.

So far, two trainees have been employed to undertake a Certificate III in Technical Engineering, with another seven currently being recruited.

To be able to provide so many opportunities, the team went one step further by engaging with sub-contractors and offering to pay the Nudge Foundation sourcing and mentoring fee.

This industry-leading initiative will not only provide opportunities for Aboriginal peoples but will help



Jackie – one of the project's newest Aboriginal trainees

build capabilities within the construction industry.

## Broome Clontarf Group

Boys from the Broome Clontarf Academy, were out on Gibb River Road, helping to clear up litter. 21 students and four staff picked up litter at parking bays between the Derby end of the Gibb River Road and the Lennard River Bridge.

Main Roads provided vests, hats and gloves and gave a short induction. The Clontarf kids were extremely well mannered, with many delighted that they could keep the Personal Protective Equipment. This initiative has been an annual tradition for approximately five years (except for last year due to COVID restrictions).

The Clontarf Foundation exists to improve the education, discipline, self-esteem, life skills and employment prospects of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and by doing so, equip them to participate more meaningfully in society.

## Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony – Great Eastern Highway Bypass project



### Welcome to Country ceremonies

Welcome to Country ceremonies, were recently held for two of our major projects.

The ceremony for Stage 2 of the Great Northern Highway Upgrade project at Ord River North was conducted by local Aboriginal Elder Patrick Mung and his family.

An Elder from the Warmun Community in the East Kimberley, Patrick possesses deep knowledge of Country and family history.

Ord River, near Kununurra, is one of Western Australia's most significant waterways. The Aboriginal meaning for the word Kununurra is "big waters" or the "meeting of the waters".

The Traditional Owners are the Miriwoong Gajerrong peoples who have inhabited the area for thousands of years and referred to the Ord River as Goonoonoorrang.



Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony – Great Northern Highway Upgrade Ord River North Stage 2

### Upcoming events

- [Transport Portfolio Meet the Buyer and Supplier Forum – 20 October 2021](#)
- [Aboriginal Business Expo – 27 October 2021](#)