

Aboriginal Participation



Kariyarra Aboriginal Corporation representatives with trainee Robbie Turner

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

Kariyarra civil construction trainees

Two young, local Kariyarra men will work towards a Certificate in Civil Construction as part of the Hedland Road and Rail Safety Improvement project.

At the successful completion of the traineeship, the trainees will be qualified to undertake the role of a skilled operator working in civil construction, applying a broad range of skills including interpreting plans and job specifications, and operating small plant and equipment.

The project team met with local Aboriginal Elders and the families

of both trainees to ensure support and encouragement would be provided throughout their traineeship.

Jointly funded by BHP and the Commonwealth and State Governments, the project will construct two new 'road over rail' bridges, realign two major intersections and build two new roundabouts in the Hedland area.

Locally Aboriginal owned company, Kariyarra Corporation has provided its pink truck to Highways Construction, the first time it has provided machinery to a civil contractor.

A cultural awareness session was also delivered on site, providing the project team with a greater appreciation of the local Aboriginal culture and connection to the land.

Targets eclipsed for third year in a row

Main Roads has been named as one of the highest performing agencies for contracts awarded directly to Aboriginal businesses, along with the Public Transport Authority and Departments of Communities and Education.

In the 2020-21 financial year, Main Roads awarded 12 per cent of its contracts to Aboriginal businesses, contributing to the State Government's overall result of 6.5 per cent.

The proportion of contracts awarded to registered Aboriginal businesses has grown for the third year in a row.

Year	Target	Result Main Roads	Result Whole of Govt
18-19	1%	7.8%	4.7%
19-20	2%	16.1%	5.5%
20-21	3%	12.0%	6.5%

Since its introduction in July 2018, the State Government's Aboriginal Participation Policy (APP) has awarded 697 contracts to 209 Aboriginal businesses, with a combined value of more than \$476 million.

Now in its second term, the APP was expanded on 1 January 2022 to include Aboriginal participation requirements determining that certain government contracts need to meet Aboriginal employment or subcontracting targets. It also includes new targets (2021-22 = 3 per cent, 2022-23 = 3.5 per cent, 2023-24 = 4 per cent) for the percentage of contracts awarded to Aboriginal businesses.

The APP's purpose is to increase contracting opportunities for Aboriginal businesses and support employment and business opportunities for the Aboriginal community.

The 2020-21 APP Performance Report and summary of the first three years of the policy are available on the [WA Government website](#).

Future employment opportunities with Main Roads

Main Roads is embarking on a new and exciting journey that will see road maintenance being delivered 'in-house' by Main Roads staff.

Announced by the state government on 1 April 2022, the decision will see 660 permanent jobs created – 490 in regional Western Australia and 170 in the Perth metropolitan area.

After a comprehensive review of Main Roads' current contracting approach, road maintenance and some minor capital works will return to being delivered by road crews, supervisors and managers who are full-time employees of Main Roads.

The review highlighted that the new delivery model will provide major economic benefits and increased employment opportunities for regional Western Australia.

Employing people in regional towns will trigger increased regional economic growth, make existing regional communities more economically and socially sustainable and deliver a range of permanent job opportunities, particularly for Aboriginal peoples and businesses.



Premier Mark McGowan and Minister for Transport, Rita Saffioti announce that road maintenance activities will be brought back in-house at Main Roads.

Welcome to Whadjuk and Gnaala Karla Booja Countries

A traditional Aboriginal smoking ceremony signalled the official commencement of work on a section of Thomas Road, between Kwinana Freeway and Bombay Boulevard.

Traditional Owner Lyndsay Calyun, (representing the Whadjuk and Gnaala Karla Booja peoples) conducted the ceremony, welcoming the project team to Country.

Three hundred thousand dollars has been allocated for Aboriginal public art (plus an additional \$250,000 from Local Government) and \$100,000 towards training of Aboriginal peoples engaged for the project.



Aboriginal Traditional Owner, Lyndsay Calyun performing smoking ceremony

Noongar artwork a feature on High Street underpass

The two new pedestrian underpasses recently constructed as part of the High Street Upgrade project feature artworks from two prominent local Noongar artists –

the Peter Farmer Group and Lance Chadd. The large-scale murals tell traditional stories of the area.

At Forrest Street, Peter Jnr and Kayley Emery from Peter Farmer Group selected animals and plants representative of the Six Noongar Seasons, while at Montreal Street, Lance Chadd's artworks provides an interpretation of "Walyalup" – meaning the place of Walyo (Woylie) and is the traditional Bibbulmun Whudjook name for Fremantle.

Over a two-year construction period, the High Street Upgrade invested over \$5 million in Aboriginal businesses, while 9 per cent of the construction workforce identified as Aboriginal.



High Street underpass Noongar artworks