

Aboriginal Participation



Yaka Dandjoo graduates on site

Positive outcomes continue on BORR

The [Bunbury Outer Ring Road \(BORR\)](#) project is now over 25 per cent complete and continues to deliver positive outcomes in the Aboriginal participation and engagement space.

The Yaka Dandjoo 'Sustainable Employment' program has now had 74 graduates across six cohorts, with 36 graduates gaining employment and 25 directly employed on BORR. In total, there are 58 Aboriginal peoples employed on the project across a broad range of on and off-site disciplines.

Five dedicated Aboriginal industry briefings with more than 100 attendees and 10 meetings with the project's Aboriginal Participation Advisory Group (APAG) have ensured that engagement with businesses stays on the right track and constant improvements are made.

To date, 27 Aboriginal businesses have transacted with the South West Gateway Alliance, with 15 of these businesses working on contracts over \$50,000.

The Aboriginal spend target was increased in May 2022 from \$20 million to \$30 million and the Alliance is well on the way to

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

hitting the target with \$15.7 million (52 per cent) committed to date.

The team has also been working closely with the Aboriginal Heritage Advisory Group, to execute the Urban Design and Landscaping Strategy which includes three dedicated commissioned art opportunities for local Noongar artists.

Melissa Riley, a local Noongar artist from Daylellup, was awarded the first artwork commission for BORR earlier this year. Melissa's artwork will be featured on the Paris/Clifton Road interchange. Her artwork, 'Djilba' (Spring) will welcome visitors to the South West as they transition to the BORR from Forrest Highway.

The Alliance recently invited Melissa to visit the pre-cast yard where the panels for the bridge were being constructed.

"I was so excited to see the first panel reveal. Seeing part of the Songline stamped in the concrete forever was more than I expected, and I am definitely looking forward to the end result. If one panel can make such an impact, I can only imagine what the end results are going to be!"

Artwork will be installed on bridge abutments and noise walls with a minimum of three of the seven selected locations to be completed by Aboriginal artists.



Melissa Riley and her mother, Jennifer Riley



Lunch and yarn at Balgo

Tjurabalan communities get ready to work close to home

The Main Roads Tanami Road Upgrade project team hit the dirt road and presented to the Tjurabalan communities of Bililuna, Mulan and Balgo. The local communities gathered to hear about the project and how they can "get ready to work close to home".

The information sessions were promoted as a "lunch and yarn" in partnership with the Shire of Halls Creek and East Kimberly Job Pathways (EKJP).

Deswyn Cox and Kaylene Tchooga, from the Ringer Soak and Yiyili communities, spoke in language about their experiences on the Duncan Gordon Downs Road project. They talked about working conditions, the great atmosphere at workers camp and team comradery.

Opportunities are available in traffic management, culvert crews and as camp attendants. These entry level roles can lead to other roles such as roller operators and truck drivers.

Emu Rocks provides opportunities for locals

Active recruitment of local Aboriginal peoples was undertaken throughout delivery of the Coolgardie-Esperance Highway Upgrade project.

During the first half of 2022, seven Aboriginal peoples were in full-time roles, comprising five plant operators and two traffic controllers. Two Aboriginal trainees were identified through liaison with the Midwest Employment and Economic Development Aboriginal Corporation and Central TAFE. Overall, 34 Aboriginal persons were employed, with 14 per cent of total workforce hours comprising local Aboriginal personnel.

A series of Buy Local packages were nominated for construction materials, water, haulage, waste management, sealing aggregate and plant equipment, with over \$1.5 million spent with local Aboriginal businesses. The project directly engaged four local Aboriginal businesses.

Delivered by Highway Construction, on behalf of Main Roads, the project was recently opened to traffic following the 30km upgrade at Emu Rocks.

Smoking ceremony marks commencement of Smart Freeway

An Aboriginal Smoking Ceremony was held for the [Smart Freeway Mitchell Southbound](#): Reid Highway to Vincent Street project, marking the commencement of works.

The ceremony was conducted by Rev Mitchell Garlett, a Whadjuk Ballardong man, with his son Lorenzo. Mitchell acknowledged all Elders past, present and emerging, as well as non-Aboriginal Elders of this land.

Whilst explaining the significance of smoking the leaves of the Red Gum tree, and how they have healing properties, Mitchell said the smoke clears the air and cleanses the area of any bad spiritual problems. He spoke of boiling the leaves to create healing balms for scrapes and sores, or for internal healing.

Mitchell also spoke of the importance of Noongar language, and that sharing the language among Aboriginal people is integral to their culture. He explained that "listening with your ears and listening with your heart" is key.

As the leaves smoked, the project team were invited to walk through the smoke and be cleansed.

Garli completes first section of Bindoon Bypass

The first 7km section of the [Bindoon Bypass](#) was opened earlier in 2022 including 7km of new highway north of Calingiri Road, extending to Seven Mile Hill (south of Mogumber-Yarawindah Road).



Smoking Ceremony for the Smart Freeway Mitchell Southbound project

Aboriginal owned and operated business Garli completed the work in conjunction with network contractor Service Stream. They are currently seeking accreditation to be eligible to undertake further works independently.

[Hear from the project team.](#)

2021-22 targets exceeded

All three Transport Portfolio agencies exceeded the Aboriginal Procurement Policy (APP) targets for 2021-22.

The Department of Transport (DoT), Main Roads and the Public Transport Authority (PTA) awarded more than 3 per cent of contracts to Aboriginal businesses, the target set in the APP.

Agency	A	B	C
DoT	13	159	8.18%
Main Roads	40	450	8.89%
PTA	12	352	3.41%

A – Number of contracts awarded to Aboriginal businesses

B – Total number of contracts awarded

C – Percentage of contracts awarded to Aboriginal businesses

The 2021-22 APP Performance Report and summary of the first four years of the policy are available [here](#).

AAG becomes TP-ABEAG

A review of the Aboriginal Advisory Group (AAG) has been undertaken with a view to expanding its governance across the whole Transport Portfolio.

Now called the Transport Portfolio Aboriginal Business and Employment Advisory Group (TP-ABEAG), members have been expanded to include senior representatives from the Department of Transport, Public Transport Authority, METRONET and WESTPORT.

Further information will be provided in the coming months.