

MG CORPORATION News

Issue 4: April 2018

EXECUTIVE CHAIR REPRESENTS MG PEOPLE AT FEDERAL MEETINGS



Federal Ministers and Indigenous Reference Group meet in Canberra to set the agenda for Ministerial Forum on Northern Development

L to R: Hon Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs; Peter Yu, CEO Nyamba Buru Yawuru; Hon Michael McCormack MP, Deputy Prime Minister; Donna Odegaard, CEO Aboriginal Broadcasting Australia; Colin Saltmere, Associate Professor, University of Queensland; Cr Vonda Malone, Mayor Torres Shire Council; and Lawford Benning, Executive Chair, MG Corporation.

GUIDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Lawford Benning and fellow IRG members met with senior executives, key stakeholders and Federal Ministers earlier this month to discuss the future of the North and set the agenda for the Ministerial Forum taking place in Kununurra later this month.

Representatives from across the country met in Brisbane and then Canberra to discuss northern development options and consider how best to tackle ongoing challenges to development in the region.

With a clear focus on Indigenous advancement and the participation of Aboriginal people in the northern development agenda, the IRG is well placed to advise Ministers on how best to achieve the desired outcomes.

In Canberra, Minister Scullion acknowledged the critical role the IRG plays in advising the Commonwealth on all issues facing social and economic advancement in the North and welcomed the opportunity to continue discussions with the IRG at the Ministerial Forum.

INTRODUCTION TO THE IRG

The Indigenous Reference Group was established in 2017 and is made up of senior Indigenous leaders from across the nation's North.

The group strengthens the voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the development of Northern Australia and ensures that the northern development agenda is inclusive of Indigenous interests and provides tangible benefits for Indigenous land owners, workers and businesses.

MG Corporation's Executive Chair, Lawford Benning, is an inaugural member of the IRG and has been able to use his position to ensure that the Ministerial Forum on Northern Development takes place in Kununurra in April 2018.

This is a major coup for MG Corporation, MG people and the region and will ensure that the rightful native title holders are represented at all levels of decision-making regarding the future of the North.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

MINISTERIAL FORUM ON NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

17-18 April

ANZAC DAY

25 April

ORD VALLEY MUSTER

11-20 May

REPATRIATION CEREMONY FOR ABORIGINAL HUMAN REMAINS

22 May

NATIONAL SORRY DAY

26 May

MG GROUP BOARD MEETINGS

11-14 June

NAIDOC WEEK

8-15 July



**BECAUSE OF HER,
We Can!**

8-15 JULY 2018

SITTING DOWN WITH LAWFORD BENNING, NEW MG EXECUTIVE CHAIR

Following his recent appointment as Executive Chair of MG Corporation, MG Corporation News sat down with Lawford Benning to talk about his priorities and aspirations for MG people.

Lawford, congratulations on your recent appointment. Could you let us know what your priorities are?

Thanks. I can tell you that my highest priorities are economic development, land management and the achievement of social outcomes for MG people.

I want to develop economic independence and security for MG people and to turn our land into riches without surrendering our native title.

How do you plan to further engage with your members?

I'm keen to listen to my members and have received excellent feedback from my senior elders. I am pleased to announce, on the basis of this advice, I am looking into developing the governance of MG Corporation through portfolios for MG directors, increasing accountability and focus.

How do you think that establishing an Executive Chair position changes things at MG?

I am very proud to have been appointed as Executive Chair by my people. To me, it means that we can move forward as a group and open the gate for young Aboriginal people to further themselves and take on more responsibility.

Any last personal comment, Lawford?

I would like to thank my members for appointing me and working with me as we improve ourselves in areas we need to and to create opportunity in areas we are able to.



BOARD VACANCIES

Positions are currently available on the boards of MG Developments Pty Ltd and MGC Building and Maintenance Pty Ltd.

Applications should be submitted to Sharyn Howard, Executive Officer, by calling (08) 9166 4801 or e-mailing eo@mgcorp.com.au by **no later than 11 May 2018**. MG people with an interest in joining an MG board are also encouraged to contact Sharyn to express an interest in other positions as they become available.