

# MG CORPORATION News

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## MG CORPORATION CO-HOSTS MINISTERIAL FORUM ON NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT IN KUNUNURRA, 17-18 APRIL 2018

**Federal and State Ministers, the Indigenous Reference Group (IRG) and the Northern Australian Advisory Council (NAAC) meet in Kununurra to discuss Northern Development.**

The forum took place over two days, starting with a tour of the Goomig Farm Area by Ministers and officials co-hosted by MG Corporation whilst members of the IRG and NAAC met separately. A stakeholders' function and Ministerial dinner at the Pumphouse restaurant completed the first day. Day 2 began with a welcome to country smoking ceremony for all forum attendees at Mirima National Park. Ministers and IRG members attended the forum following the ceremony, whilst NAAC members visited Carlton Hill Station as part of a tour arranged by Waringarri Arts. All parties completed the forum with a tour of local Indigenous businesses organised by MG Corporation.



## MINISTERIAL FORUM OUTCOMES

### For MG Corporation:

The MG Corporation Board capitalised on the opportunities created by the Ministerial Forum and met with The Hon Alannah MacTiernan to discuss continued operational funding for the MG Group and the future of its economic development agenda.

- **McGowan Government facilitates transfer of land parcels in the Goomig Farm Area to MG Corporation**

Minister MacTiernan presented MG Corporation Executive Chair, Lawford Benning, with a letter from the Premier advising that Lot 16 within the Goomig Farm Area will be transferred to MG Corporation for a peppercorn payment.

- **Financial contribution to MG Corporation to support moves to become self-sustainable**

The Minister also advised that the State has agreed to allocate \$500,000 to MG Corporation over two years to support the organisation's path to financial sustainability.

Minister MacTiernan advised: *"MG Corporation is an important stakeholder in the development of the Ord and has already demonstrated a willingness to work with other partners to progress opportunities. We want to work with MG to explore creative agricultural expansion to add to the critical mass of the Ord horticultural industry"*.

### For Indigenous representation:

Ministers attending the Ministerial Forum supported recommendations made by the IRG to accelerate Indigenous economic development in the North.

The IRG presented practical recommendations to help overcome barriers to economic participation. The recommendations aim to overcome barriers to get people into jobs; get the right support for entrepreneurs; and help Traditional Owners realise the economic potential of their land. At the same time, the IRG's recommendations embrace the essential work that Traditional Owners are doing on their traditional estates on behalf of the nation and look to enhancing outcomes from natural resource management and Indigenous rangers.

Further information on the IRG recommendations may be found online or by contacting the MG Corporation office.

## HEMP TRIALS BEGIN

Minister MacTiernan was delighted to hear of MG Corporation's existing agricultural investigations into Indigenous flora and invited key representatives to Perth to discuss the use of hemp in building materials.

A delegation from Kununurra including MG Corporation directors Lawford Benning and Duck Chulung travelled to Perth to meet with hemp growers and State representatives to discuss the future of hemp in the Ord region.

