

MG Corporation NEWS

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MIRIUWUNG ANCESTORS FINALLY LAID TO REST IN COUNTRY

After almost a decade of negotiations, seven sets of Miriuwung ancestral remains have finally been laid to rest.

A repatriation ceremony was held for the remains on 22 May at the Kununurra cemetery and was well attended by the local community.

Many of the remains, which were taken from parts of Miriuwung country including around Kununurra, the Keep River and south of Lake Argyle, had been stored in the WA Museum and Museum of Victoria since the early 1900s. Some of the remains were collected as recently as 1972.

MG Director Teddy Carlton said the remains had been collected by a variety of sources over the years, including by those seeking to advance industrial development in the area despite the obvious cultural significance of the sites.

“Regardless of any good intentions, moving the remains showed an indifference to Miriuwung culture, and it’s hoped that this repatriation goes at least some way to healing this transgression,” said Mr Carlton.

After nearly 10 years of negotiations by the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre, the remains were returned to Fitzroy Crossing in 2010 and were collected by two MG elders just over a year ago. After deliberations, it was decided the remains would be re-buried together at the Kununurra cemetery.

“Elders from our past, you are now at home. Rest in Peace,” said Member for Kimberley Josie Farrer.





MG MEETS WITH STATE GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC AGENDA

MG recently welcomed Treasurer Ben Wyatt and Attorney General John Quigley to the Kimberley to discuss its economic agenda for the future.

Senior representatives from MG, including directors Lawford Benning and Duck Chulung, were in attendance for the ministerial meeting on 18 May, which was held in Mirima National Park to provide the ministers with an appreciation for MG country.

The focus of the meeting was on MG's economic agenda, with attention on the agricultural developments at Goomig, Knox, Mantinea and Ord West Bank. MG was also able to highlight its positive collaboration with Kimberley Agricultural Investments in the region.

The meeting offered a chance for MG to recognise the State Government's recent assistance, such as its agreement to waive the \$272,000 payment for Lot 16 at Goomig and a financial contribution of \$500,000.

MG made special note of the efforts of the Treasurer and Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan in assisting MG with these agricultural and economic goals, and looks forward to continuing to work closely with the State Government in the future.

