

MG CORPORATION News

BUMPER EDITION

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JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION PRIVATE CONSULTATION WITH MG CORPORATION

Members of the Joint Select Committee on Constitutional Recognition relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples met with MG Corporation directors and staff on 11 June 2018.

The Committee, comprising eleven politicians from different parties and across the country, met with MG Corporation to discuss the next steps towards the constitutional recognition of Indigenous people in Australia. The Committee is chaired by Kimberley Labor Senator Pat Dodson and Liberal Julian Leeser.

Appointed in March 2018, the Committee is due to produce an interim report by 30 July 2018 and a final report by 29 November 2018. Whilst it will consider previous recommendations made regarding constitutional reform—such as the Uluru Statement from the Heart—Senator Dodson made it clear at the meeting that the Committee will focus on new consultations with Aboriginal people and their reactions to current recommendations. “We need to understand what a voice to Parliament would look like if it was legislated” Senator Dodson advised.

MG Corporation directors welcomed the opportunity to discuss the issue with the Committee and welcomed further dialogue with the group regarding the subject of constitutional recognition.



MG PBC DIRECTORS SITE VISIT



MG PBC directors joined Sue and Daryl Smith from Ivanhoe Farms for a site visit on 29 June 2018 to consider their agricultural proposal for Unallocated Crown Land along Ivanhoe Road.

Directors considered the native title implications of utilising the proposed site as well as exploring possible agricultural uses for the land and the location of nearby water sources. The application will now be referred back to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage for processing, with the negotiation of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement likely in the future, subject to further negotiation between the parties.



JAWUN SECONDEES



MG Corporation is proud to be working in partnership with the Jawun program and recently welcomed two secondees to the organisation: William Usher from KPMG in Melbourne and Zane Richter from the Department of Communities in Perth.

William assisted MG Corporation develop its 5-year strategic plan, which identifies immediate, short, and medium term objectives. During his project he got the opportunity to speak with a range of MG Corporation staff, MG people, and other prominent members of the East Kimberley community.

William really enjoyed speaking with everyone, hearing about their role in the community, experiences, and involvement with MG Corporation. Together with Zane he made the most of every second of free time, camping, hiking, and fishing at any opportunity. "Thank you to everyone for making my time in Kununurra an incredible experience" he said.



Zane is an Urban Designer from the Department of Communities – Housing.

He was seconded to MG Corporation to work on the Development Pathways and supporting internal procedures for land held in the MG Dawang Land Trust. This body of worked focused on establishing and outlining how to facilitate the planning and development of the lands by MG people or potential commercial ventures for MG Corporation to effectively manage or develop the land it holds in trust on behalf of the MG people in a clear and transparent manner.

Zane really loved the people he met, the country they showed him and the adventures made the secondment an unforgettable experience of a lifetime.

MGCBM BRINGS HOME MASTER BUILDERS AWARD



A big congratulations to the MGCBM team for bringing home the under \$1M multi residential developments award for its project at Carbeen Street.



The company travelled to Perth to accept the award with Kurt McCartney and Alex Ripps in attendance. Congratulations also to Alex who was nominated for an award in the apprentice category. A real achievement: well done Alex!

MG CORPORATION SECURES 100+ JOBS CONTRACT

Working in partnership with Binarri-binyja yarrowoo Aboriginal Corporation, as well as other organisations in the East Kimberley, MG Corporation will be working towards jobs for over 100 Aboriginal people in the region.

Funded by the Commonwealth and Western Australian Governments, the project will reduce welfare dependency and increase economic independence whilst ensuring that project participants have strong culture, strong purpose and a good job. The project will also create a skilled workforce that supports regional development. Well done to everyone involved in getting the project up and running.

MG ATTENDS NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE CONFERENCE

The theme of the conference was *Many Laws: One Land* with a focus on legal and political co-existence.

MG Corporation directors, committee members and staff attended the conference, which took place at Cable Beach in Broome, from 5—8 June 2018. MG Corporation Chief Executive Officer, Allan Wedderburn, and Senior Legal Counsel, Dominique Reeves, presented at the conference as part of the NTRB/PBC program, highlighting MG people’s achievements to date and showcasing MG Corporation’s work now and into the future. Other notable presentations at the conference included an update on PBCs and State policy from The Hon Ben Wyatt MLA, a 25 year snapshot of native title law from Greg McIntyre and a discussion on the current status of water rights from a group operating in the Murray-Darling Basin. MG people were proud to be represented by the Mirima dancers—organised through KALACC—at the opening ceremony who brought the house down with their rousing performance.



MG GROUP UPDATE

The MG Group held its quarterly meetings from in June 2018. Key outcomes from the meetings include:

MG Dawang Land Trust: is in the final stages of developing its Land Distribution Policy for all undeveloped MG land. MG DLT directors approved the next phase of the policy to be extensive consultation with all Dawang groups to ensure that the policy is clear and provides guidance to all MG people seeking land tenure. The work conducted by Zane Richter also informed some changes to the policy, including planning and development requirements and the creation of templates for use by MG people when putting in any applications for land.

MG Community Foundation: approved a Dawang distribution for FY 2017/2018. Distributions will be taking place in August/September 2018. MG CFT directors are also looking in detail at the existing portfolio to consider ways to capitalise on its investments.

MG Corporation: directors approved a part restructure of the MG corporate group so that MG Developments Pty Ltd and the MG Developments Trust may be wound up. The winding-up exercise will be relatively straightforward given that MG Developments Trust has no assets other than a share in MGCBM which will be transferred to MG Corporation. The transfer will have no effect on the day-to-day operations of MGCBM. MG Corporation directors will consider the draft strategic plan provided by Jawun secondoe, Will Usher, at a workshop and agreed with his recommendation to close the Social Task Force. Whilst acknowledging the valuable contribution of the task force to date, including all members attending a domestic violence conference in Darwin, the Board agreed that an advisory committee is no longer required to provide the Board guidance regarding social issues and that holistic decisions can best be made by the Board.

MG PBCs: approved a number of applications including: exploration licence applications from Ord River Mining, Kingmaker Exploration and West Australian Resource Development; an application from OVAHS to regularise its tenure at the renal unit in Nulleywah; SWEK's landfill site plans just off the Victoria Highway; and applications for Aboriginal heritage clearances for East Kimberley Diamond Company and Boral Resources.

MGCBM: directors reviewed current activity and noted the progress of the building company and its North West Aboriginal Housing projects to date. Its projects at Zamia Link and Bluegrass Avenue are particularly far advanced.



MG ATTENDS NAIDOC

MG Corporation and people central to NAIDOC Celebrations taking place 8—15 July 2018

This year NAIDOC celebrates Indigenous women and the essential role that women play as active and significant role models at community, local, state and national levels. The theme of the week is "Because of Her, We Can!".

There will be more information about the NAIDOC celebrations in the next edition of the MG Corporation newsletter.



MG ATTENDS KIMBERLEY MOON

MG representatives attend the Kimberley Moon on 19 May 2018

For the first time ever, MG Corporation commanded a table at the Kimberley Moon with MG representatives also sitting at the Seafarms table.

The State Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Ben Wyatt, joined the group together with Minister for Tourism, Paul Papalia, and Member for the Kimberley, Josie Farrer, to discuss all that is great about the Kimberley region and to consider how best to progress other commercial opportunities in the area.