

MG CORPORATION News

BUMPER EDITION

October 2018

MINISTER FOR HOUSING PETER TINLEY VISITS MG COUNTRY

Housing Minister Peter Tinley visited Kununurra on 26 September 2018 to meet representatives from MG Corporation and to review the houses constructed by MGC Building and Maintenance under the North West Aboriginal Housing Fund

Other Aboriginal organisations involved in the NWAHF were invited to join Minister Tinley at a morning tea which took place at MG Corporation. MG director Ted Carlton welcomed the contingent to MG country and MG directors Louise Mengil and Duck Chulung spoke to the group about the importance of the project and the great work that MGC Building and Maintenance has done in completing the works to date: on time and on budget.

MGCBM was contracted by the WA State Government in April 2018 to help deliver 50 houses in the East Kimberley under the NWAHF, a \$200 million program. Two houses being built by MGCBM have recently been completed, with two more scheduled to be completed in November 2018, seeing the direct employment of six Aboriginal apprentices.



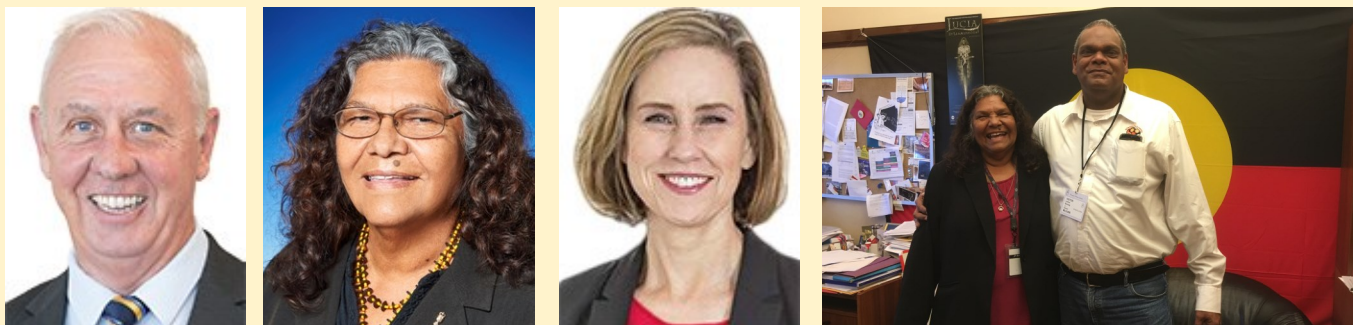
JOINT VENTURE OPPORTUNITIES : AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL LAND

MG Corporation's call for EOIs from potential joint venture partners to develop agricultural and pastoral enterprises on its land in the East Kimberley has met with an impressive and exciting response so far. For further information, contact Debra Pearce at kimberleyboab@gmail.com or Dominique Reeves at d.reeves@mgcorp.com.au.

EOIs must be submitted by COB on Friday 2 November 2018.

MG CORPORATION TAKES THE LEAD ON REGIONAL YOUTH ISSUES

Following a call from the local community to take action against juvenile justice issues in Kununurra, MG Corporation has met with Ministers in Perth to seek support for its Youth Wellness Initiative



L-R: Fran Logan, Josie Farrer, Simone McGurk and Lawford Benning, with Josie in her office at Parliament House

The private meeting took place at Parliament House on 18 October 2018 and was hosted by Simone McGurk, the State Minister for Child Protection, and Fran Logan, the State Minister for Corrective Services and Member for the Kimberley, Josie Farrer. Ms. Farrer had shown her support for the program earlier in the year at a meeting with the Premier at MG's office in Kununurra. The MG team—comprising Executive Chair Lawford Benning, Independent Director Tom Stephens and MG Senior Legal Counsel Dominique Reeves. The meeting was also attended by senior representatives from each Minister's office, as well as other State Government departments.

Lawford opened the meeting with a clear expression of MG's offer to help the State Government in the co-design of a program responding to the juvenile justice issues that exist in Kununurra. He explained that MG's Youth Wellness Initiative provides a good foundation for further discussion between the parties and that a local program dealing with local children can only work if designed, managed and run by local people. The Ministers welcomed the leadership stance taken by MG Corporation and agreed that a unique opportunity exists in Kununurra for the State and MG leadership to work together. The party also discussed some additional responses around safe houses and increased involvement by Aboriginal families in the provision of foster care. Lawford explained in response to Minister McGurk that MG is evidence-focused and is already working with Matt Tyler at CEI Global to evaluate the effectiveness of other programs in the area and that there is an opportunity for this collaboration to be extended to the juvenile justice co-design work.

MG's Key Messages to the State:

- One child at Banksia is one too many
- A program for local people tackling local issues must be designed and run by local people
- The MG PBCs are the only member-based organisations officially representing MG people
- A unique opportunity exists for MG leadership and the State to work together
- MG is evidence-focused and working with CEI Global to evaluate the effectiveness of local programs
- An opportunity exists for this collaboration to be extended to the juvenile justice co-design work

MG PRESENTS AT EKCCI BAH EVENT

MG Corporation presented its Youth Wellness Initiative to the business community on 26 October 2018

The East Kimberley Chamber of Commerce and Industry held a Business After Hours event to update members on joint strategies to address social issues affecting Kununurra.

MG Corporation took centre stage, presenting its Youth Wellness Initiative and updating members on its discussions with Ministers in Perth to promote the program. MG Executive Chair, Lawford Benning, also took the opportunity to speak about MG's continuing work as part of Operation Orange Sky.



MG EXECUTIVE CHAIR APPOINTED TO APAF



The APAF meets with Chris Dawson, the Commissioner of Police. Photo courtesy of WA Police.

Building on his apology to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in July, WA Police Commissioner Chris Dawson has announced the creation of a new Aboriginal Affairs Division. The division's primary role is to build, foster and sustain better relationships with Aboriginal people in each region. To complement the work of the AAD, the Commissioner has also established the Aboriginal Police Advisory Forum, which aggregates the experience and leadership of the police executive and eight Aboriginal leaders from across WA. The APAF will meet quarterly to provide high-level policy advice and information on historical and environmental factors affecting WA Police's relationship with and service delivery to Aboriginal people. The inaugural members of the APAF are:

Lawford Benning, a Miriuwung man and Executive Chair of MG Corporation and member of the Indigenous Reference Group on Northern Development

Maureen Kelly OAM JP, a Yinjabarndi and Ngarluma elder, Chair for the Pilbara Meta Maya Regional AC and a director of the Aboriginal Family Law Service

Professor Juli Coffin, a Nyangumarta woman, director of Nulungu Research Institute Aboriginal Research Programs

Dorinda Cox, a Noongar woman and Research Consultant at the UWA Law School

Trevor Henry Donaldson JP, a Ngadju man and Native Title Manager with the Goldfields Land & Sea Council

Adjunct Professor Dennis Eggington, a Noongar man and former CEO of the WA Aboriginal Legal Service

Professor Colleen Hayward AM, a Noongar woman who holds numerous senior positions at Edith Cowan University

Glen Robert Caton, a Kalkadoon/South Sea Islander man working at the Department of Justice

MG LEADS ON JUSTICE ISSUES

In a ground breaking move for MG people and the Kununurra township, Lawford Benning was the first Aboriginal person to play a role in the recruitment of a new Officer in Charge for Kununurra Police Station.

Lawford sat on an interview panel with Commander Jo McCabe and Superintendent Allan Adams (pictured right).

MG Corporation is also working closely with the WA Police to implement 'Operation Orange Sky', a range of programs being delivered in the area to target kids on the street, alcohol abuse and domestic violence. MG Corporation has received funding from the State to support some of the programs available, including extension of the Youth Hub hours at weekends.



MG CORPORATION ROLLS OUT 100+ JOBS PROGRAM



L-R: Beth Rutter, Rica Ward, Carol Hapke and George Hamilton—the 100+ Jobs Team

Following a comprehensive co-design phase, MG Corporation opened its doors to participants for its 100+ Jobs employment program on 1 October 2018

Working in partnership with the Commonwealth and Western Australian Governments, BBY Aboriginal Corporation and other key organisations in the East Kimberley, MG Corporation has completed the preliminary design phase and rolled out its 100+ Jobs program in Kununurra. In alliance with the project goals, the program design will evolve as the program develops and the 100+ Jobs team learns what the cohort wants from the initiative, what works and what doesn't and what outcomes employers and participants would like to achieve.

39 people registered as participants with the program on its opening day, with an additional 5 people registering since then. Attendance has been steady amongst participants since that time.

Activities to date include 1:1 intensive case management with Employment Coordinators, including referrals to wraparound support services, sessions with guest speakers and role models, and resumé writing workshops. The most well-attended and received session was an industry visit to MGC Building and Maintenance, where participants spoke to Dean about what it takes to be a builder and visited one of the houses currently being built by MGCBM. The participants were amazed by what MG people working for MGCBM were able to achieve.

Wraparound support services have also been really receptive to the program—with OVAHS, KGT, Waringarri Arts, and KWAC participating at different levels. Over 30 employers have engaged with the initiative, including Aboriginal Corporations, private and public-sector businesses, confirming that they are open to employing a participant when they are ready to enter the workforce.

SAVE THE DATES

MG Quarterly Meetings: Monday 19—Thursday 22 November 2018

MG Rangers 10 Year Celebration: Thursday 23 November 2018

MG Corporation and MG PBCs AGM: Thursday 28 November 2018