



MG CORPORATION NEWS



Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney, centre, with representatives from MG Corporation, Wunan Foundation and KNX Community Hostel.

FEDERAL MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS VISITS KUNUNURRA

MG Corporation welcomed Linda Burney, Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, to Kununurra for an inspection of KNX Community Hostel alongside Wunan Foundation.

During the visit, Ms Burney met with participants of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) Jobs, Land, and Economy Program.

Ms Burney also consulted with MG Corporation and other local organisations on the Federal Government's new \$707 million Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) program, which will replace the Community Development Program. Investment in the program, which is set to commence later this year, aims to create 3,000 jobs in remote Australia that provide proper wages and decent

conditions, while reducing reliance on fly-in, fly-out workers.

As part of this program, communities will be able to decide what jobs or sectors receive funding support.

MG Corporation thanks Ms Burney for visiting us in Kununurra to ensure our voice is considered in the delivery of this program.

STRONG FOUNDATION FOR KIMBERLEY COTTON INDUSTRY

Foundations have been completed at Kununurra's under-construction cotton gin, with MG Corporation accompanying WA Premier Roger Cook, Regional Development Minister Don Punch and Kimberley MP Divina D'Anna on a site inspection.

Located on MG Country, this project is forecast to deliver a \$250 million boost to the East Kimberley economy, which MG Corporation will benefit from through its participation in the Kimberley Cotton Company.

The multi-user facility is on track for completion in time for the start of

the mid-2025 harvest, with an initial processing capacity of 110,000 bales of cotton per year.

The completed gin will be serviced by 100 per cent renewable hydroelectric power generated at nearby Lake Argyle.

The progress on the cotton gin builds on the momentum generated by the March announcement of a development lease for the Knox farmlands near Kununurra to support the next phase in a sustainable cotton industry in the region.

The 5,400-hectare agreement granted to Kimberley Agricultural Investment

to cultivate fertile land for agricultural production will deliver Native Title benefits as negotiated by the Miriuwung Gajerrong peoples under the Ord Final Agreement.

Kimberley Cotton Company is also exploring the possibility of using cotton seed as a livestock feed to yield greater environmental and economic benefits to the region.

MG Corporation welcomed the opportunity to share its vision for a strong economic future with WA Government leaders while on MG Country.

Kimberley MLA Divina D'Anna, centre left, Premier Roger Cook, centre, and Regional Development Minister Don Punch, centre right, with Kimberley Cotton Company representatives.

KUNUNURRA YOUTH HOSTEL BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE

MG Corporation, in collaboration with Wunan Foundation, unveiled a revitalised Kununurra Youth Hostel, transformed into the KNX Community Hostel to better suit the needs of our community.

After months of negotiations with Aboriginal Hostels Ltd, the 42-bed facility has been reclassified to allow it to function as a training centre.

These changes allow it to accommodate more First Nations services and programs after years of being underutilised, providing support for young people entering employment or training in the form of affordable accommodation.

The re-opening event was a huge success, showcasing not only the

physical space, but the capabilities of local Indigenous trainees.

Assisted by WA Food Ambassador Don Hancey and Activated Hospitality's Mark Attard, trainees from Lily Lagoon Resort Kununurra served up delicious canapes for guests.

Since the re-opening, the KNX Community Hostel also hosted the Kimberley Spirit Football Program Basketball League during the Kununurra Colts Championships.

The KNX Community Hostel transformation was an initiative delivered under the memorandum of understanding between MG Corporation and Wunan Foundation.



WA Food Ambassador Don Hancey, centre, with Lily Lagoon Resort trainees at the re-opening event.



Cambridge Gulf, where MG Rangers conducted a mud crab survey in 2023.

MUD CRAB FISHERY SCUTTLES ON

MG Corporation welcomes the next step in the development of a Kimberley Aboriginal mud crab fishery with the expansion of mud crab surveys across the region.

A mud crab fishery in the Kimberley would create more economic opportunities and diversified enterprises across the region.

However, more information on the biology, species distribution and abundance of the mud crab is needed before any industry is established

to ensure sustainable management of the species.

MG Corporation's MG rangers were among the First Nations groups that assisted with a three-year project funded by the Australian Government's Fisheries Research and Development Corporation.

As part of this process, MG rangers conducted a survey of mud crabs in Cambridge Gulf alongside Balangarra rangers in 2023.

The plans for additional mud crab surveys were announced in response to growing interest in the research, which is based on a sharing of cultural and western science.

In this latest round of surveys, King Sound and Cambridge Gulf will be re-surveyed, along with new locations in the broader Kimberley region.

MG CORPORATION SIGNS MOU WITH WUNAN FOUNDATION

In a landmark collaboration, Wunan Foundation and MG Corporation entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) delivering essential services in the East Kimberley.

This strategic alliance aims to maximise opportunities and drive positive social, economic, and cultural impacts, ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for all Aboriginal peoples in the region.

The two Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations currently provide social services and leverage economic opportunities to enhance the lives of Aboriginal people in the East Kimberley.

As part of this collaboration, one of MG Corporation's property assets in Kununurra is set for a new life as an early learning centre to service the local community.

The Pindan Childcare Centre will commence operation in late-2024, funded by the Community Child Care Fund Restricted (CCCFR) Expansion (Closing the Gap) program.

MG Corporation signed a lease agreement with the Wunan Foundation and One Tree Community Services to establish the Pindan Early Education and Care Centre on our property.

The centre will eventually accommodate up to 38 children, with priority places reserved for children in the most disadvantaged circumstances.

MG Corporation is proud to see its property being used to meet a community need and to have MGC Building and Maintenance contracted to carry out the refurbishment.

HOME STRETCH FUNDING SECURES FUTURE FOR MG YOUTH

MG Corporation welcomes the WA Government's continued support for the Home Stretch program through a \$46.3 million funding package in this year's State Budget.

Home Stretch is an important program designed to support young people as they transition from out of home care into independent living.

MG Corporation has been delivering the Home Stretch WA program across Kununurra, Wyndham and surrounding communities in partnership with the Department of Communities.

This additional funding will assist MG Corporation, eight other Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and three Community Service Organisations to deliver the program across Western Australia over the next four years.

ENERGY PARTNERSHIP FUNDING SENDS STRONG SIGNAL

MG Corporation is a step closer to unlocking new economic and employment opportunities for MG people with the East Kimberley Clean Energy Project hitting a key milestone.

The Federal Government awarded the project \$1.6 million towards a feasibility study to attempt to determine the operation of the green hydrogen project through its Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) funding.

The East Kimberley Clean Energy Project is being proposed by the Aboriginal Clean Energy Partnership, a joint effort between climate change investment company Pollination, MG Corporation, Balangarra Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC and the Kimberley Land Council, to deliver green energy projects for domestic and export markets.

The proposed green hydrogen and ammonia hub has a projected value of about \$3 billion, producing 250,000 tonnes per annum of renewable hydrogen and ammonia.

It would also be Australia's first 100 per cent renewable energy hydrogen and ammonia hub, which also puts Traditional Owners at the forefront of the development of our land.

As the Traditional Owners for Lake Argyle, MG Corporation will be heavily involved in delivering the feasibility study and de-risking the project to help bring this project to life.

The project also received international recognition recently, with Pollination awarded the 2023 Terra Carta Seal for its work on the Aboriginal Clean Energy Partnership.

MGCBM MARCH QUARTER UPDATE

MGC Building and Maintenance (MGCBM) has been hard at work this quarter, having commenced work on the refurbishment of the Pindan Child Care Centre in Kununurra.

This project is due for completion around the end of May this year.

MGCBM is also preparing to begin refurbishments of 44 dwellings in nearby communities of Mirima and Nulleywah.

This project will provide long-awaited improvements to the standard of living for residents.

Lake Argyle, which will supply provide clean power generation for the project.

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WEBSITE LAUNCH TO BENEFIT MG PEOPLE, PROJECT PARTNERS

MG Corporation has launched a new website for the organisation that is easier to navigate and makes it easier to keep informed of the organisation's activities.

For MG Corporation members, the website provides a central place for those not on social media to stay up to date on organisation notices, job notices, announcements and other activities.

The new design also makes it simpler to locate information on MG Corporation's social programs and economic developments, plus a record of significant milestones in the organisation's history.



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