



MEDIA RELEASE

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MRM INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE OPENS DOORS FOR 40 JOBSEEKERS

McArthur River Mining (MRM) will surpass a commitment to double its traineeships, through an innovative indigenous employment partnership with Mission Australia and Federal Government funding.

MRM committed in its Public Environment Report for the \$110 million open pit development to increase traineeship numbers from 10 to 20 per annum. Under a new indigenous employment initiative MRM will appoint 40 trainees from the Borroloola region within one year.

The initiative which commences this month is supported by more than \$400,000 provided by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations Structured Training and Employment Project (STEP) program and more than \$100,000 from MRM.

MRM General Manager Mr Brian Hearne said MRM would work with Mission Australia, the Job Network provider in Borroloola, to identify 40 local jobseekers who will undergo on-the-job training with the offer of ongoing employment following the training period.

"The initiative will be delivered in four groups of 10 participants appointed between August 2007 and May 2008. The rolling starts will ensure dedicated training and mentoring can be achieved," Mr Hearne said.

"Mentoring and personal support will be a key part of the initiative to ensure each participant is reaching their full potential."

Mr Hearne said the initiative demonstrated the mine's long-term commitment to building a strong community.

"The initiative is a part of a revamp of our traineeship program which more than 200 people have gone through over the past 12 years. It will focus on delivering sustainable employment outcomes for local indigenous people from Borroloola and surrounding communities," Mr Hearne said.

"Participants will be employed full time by MRM while they complete the 12-month program. They will be given on-the-job support and mentoring and the chance to learn while they work.

"Our aim is to ensure all employees are provided with the appropriate training and career pathways to build a future with the company."



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The initiative follows MRM's recent announcement that it will provide in the order of \$32 million to deliver economic and social benefits to the Borroloola region over the life of the mine via the MRM Community Benefits Trust. The Trust was established through agreements signed with the Northern Territory Government in July 2007. It will fund local initiatives in the areas of enterprise and job creation, environment, arts, culture, health, education, social and community development. This includes MRM's commitment to achieve 20 percent indigenous workforce participation at the mine and increased local purchasing.

Mission Australia State Director for the Northern Territory, Jane Lawton said the STEP initiative was a huge boost for the local communities.

"The STEP funding for MRM means more people from Borroloola and surrounding communities have a better chance of sustainable employment," Ms Lawton said.

"Through our Job Network service in Borroloola, Mission Australia will work with MRM to deliver project modules including mining administration, milling, machinery maintenance and environmental and community awareness.

"While working at MRM, STEP participants will have the ongoing support of Mission Australia to help them successfully complete the training.

"Once the 12-month training is complete, participants will have the potential to move into job opportunities in administration, mining operations, maintenance and community relations."

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For more information

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