



MEDIA STATEMENT

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MG Corporation welcomes KAI with cautious optimism

MG Corporation Chairperson Edna O'Malley said she was hopeful that the selection of a private Chinese entity as the preferred proponent to farm newly-opened irrigated land in the East Kimberley would help improve the lives of current and future generations of Miriuwung and Gajerrong (MG) peoples.

Ms O'Malley attended today's announcement in Perth by Western Australian Premier Colin Barnett confirming the Shanghai Zhongfu group – trading as Kimberley Agricultural Investments – as the preferred proponent for new Ord Phase 2 lands.

“We welcome this announcement and look forward to working closely with KAI to ensure outcomes which will provide long-lasting social and economic benefits for MG peoples,” Ms O'Malley said.

“However, it can't be forgotten that traditional owners waived their hard-fought Native Title rights to the relevant developed country so our expectations will always be high.”

Ms O'Malley said the current Aboriginal Development Package (ADP) with the WA Government had led to a sharp spike in local Aboriginal employment, training and business development and MG Corporation was keen to work closely with the preferred proponent to ensure future ADPs met the needs of local traditional owners.

“We are looking to build a long-term relationship with KAI which is mutually beneficial and also drives regional development in the East Kimberley.”

Ms O'Malley downplayed recent media reports that the NT Government and KAI were in talks regarding possible development of MG lands which lie to the east of the Western Australia-Northern Territory border.

“It's all well and good for governments and potential proponents to talk up future development of MG lands in the media, but the reality is that the traditional owners and Native Title holders have not been consulted,” she said.

“Before any conversation regarding future development of Aboriginal lands can gather momentum, the wishes, needs and aspirations of the relevant traditional owners must be met.”



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About MG Corporation

MG Corporation is the leading indigenous organisation that receives and manages the entitlements and benefits transferred under the Ord Final Agreement (OFA) to the Miriuwung and Gajerrong people, the native title holders over their country in the East Kimberley.