

MG CORPORATION News

No deals done on Northern Territory MG land

MG Corporation has been quick to inform its traditional owners that “no deals have been done” to expand the Ord Irrigation Project across the border into the Northern Territory.

At a recent community information meeting held at the MG/GT administration building, traditional owners were told that nothing could happen on NT lands for which they hold Native Title unless they agreed.

MG Corporation lawyer Dominique Reeves told the meeting that while the West Australian, Northern Territory and Federal governments all had visions of developing irrigated farmland on MG lands in the NT, they must first speak to the relevant traditional owners.

“It’s all well and good for governments to sign papers saying they want to take the Ord to the Northern Territory, but they’ve got to talk to the traditional owners and find out if they want this to happen before they can go any further,” Ms Reeves said.



Traditional owner Button Jones makes a point during the recent MG Corporation land release information session. (Picture: Guy McLean)

New MG Corporation Chairperson Edna O’Malley said further meetings with traditional owners would be held in coming weeks and months to get an understanding of what their wishes are for the MG country in the NT which has been identified for possible development.

“It’s really important that MG Corporation gets a clear vision of what these traditional owners want so we can relay that to governments and other interested parties,” Ms O’Malley said.

“It’s really important that the voice of

traditional owners is heard loud and clear – whether they’re keen on seeing irrigated farming happen on their lands or not.”

The Northern Land Council is the Native Title representative body for MG Native Title lands in the Northern Territory. The NLC said it would hold its own information sessions with MG traditional owners in the New Year, while the NT Government is keen to hold talks.

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In other news, a private Chinese-owned company is likely to be given the go-ahead to develop and farm Ord Stage 2 land.

Kimberley Agricultural Investments (KAI) was announced as the government's "preferred proponent" at a recent media event in Perth, which was attended by MG directors and senior staff late last year.

The government and KAI have entered into a six month commercial negotiation period for both parties to decide if KAI's plan to grow sugar and build a sugar mill for processing are commercially viable.

Representatives of KAI also recently visited Kununurra for the official opening of the M2 Channel, which was constructed as part of the Stage 2 works.

Education assistance available

If you are an MG parent with school age kids, or an older MG person thinking of studying at TAFE or university next year, MG Corporation can help.

We currently offer a comprehensive school grants and scholarships from kindergarten right through to university degree level.

Kindergarten to year three grants are worth \$300 per student, with \$500 for students in years four to seven.

High school grants (KDHS) are \$1000 a year. This year, KDHS grants are to be administered by MG from our new offices at 12 Bluegrass Drive.

School grants cover uniforms and shoes, books, excursions, tutoring and school bags and equipment.

We also offer grants to students attending boarding school, TAFE and university.

If you would like more information, please call in and see Priscilla or Peter at MG Corp.

MG staff contribution recognised

MG Corporation recently honoured three of its own MG employees for their continued service and dedication to the corporation.

MG Corporation office manager/accounts assistant Priscilla Hill and senior employment support officers Warren Gerrard and Gaelene Chulung all received gift vouchers for local businesses as a symbol of appreciation from their employer.

Director Teddy Carlton said he was personally delighted to see MG people thriving while employed by their own corporation and praised all three for being role models for their families and community. "It's really important to see MG people working and growing their skills within their own corporation," Mr Carlton said.



Above: MG Staff member Priscilla Hill

Mr Carlton said the initiative to reward MG employees would be expanded to not only apply to those working within MG Corporation, but also MG people working on the Ord development and those in town-based employment.

"Supporting and encouraging MG people to improve their lives through meaningful employment was a key ambition set out in the Ord Final Agreement and initiatives like this from MG Corporation are important in helping us all to achieve this goal."

For further information on the MG employment incentive initiative call MG Services on 08 9166 4800.

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