



MG CORPORATION NEWS



COTTON GIN FUNDING A GREAT START TO 2021

ORDCO's Deb Pearce, KAI's Jim Engelke, Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan, Premier Mark McGowan, and MGC's Ted Carlton and Lawford Benning at the announcement.

MG Corporation is pleased plans for establishing a cotton gin in Kununurra have taken another step forward after the State Government committed \$4 million in funding.

The funding will be used to upgrade the electricity supply infrastructure to support a gin, as well as to progress preliminary design work and approvals for the project.

MG Corporation has been working with the Ord River District Cooperative (ORDCO) and Kimberley Agricultural Investment (KAI) for more than two years to progress plans for the gin.

Premier Mark McGowan and Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan announced the news alongside MG Corporation's Lawford Benning and Ted Carlton, and ORDCO and KAI representatives.

MG Corporation Executive Chair Lawford Benning said the gin would support the establishment of a commercial cotton growing industry in the Ord River Irrigation Area.

"It is very exciting for us to see our dream of producing high quality cotton, grown on our traditional lands, start to become a reality," he said.

"We are proud that traditional owners, farmers and investors have been able to come together to work toward the common goal of developing a commercial cotton growing industry in the East Kimberley."

Mr Benning said establishing a gin in Kununurra would mean future crops would not have to be transported across the country, reducing costs.

Planning has already started for the MGC and Cubbie Farming Joint Venture's next cotton crop, which is expected to be planted at Goomig Lot 16 in February.

RETURN OF COUNTRY TO MG PEOPLE

MG Corporation has welcomed the approval to transfer 107 hectares of MG country in Kununurra to MG Dawang Land Trust.

The transfer will combine three parcels of land into a new reserve located on Weaber Plains Road, which will be managed by MG Corporation.

Lands and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ben Wyatt travelled to Kununurra to meet with MG Corporation and announce the transfer of the land.

MGC Executive Chair Lawford Benning said traditional owners would be consulted on the best approach for use and conservation of the land.

“Having this land under our management enables MG Corporation to now start exploring economic opportunities for our country which will benefit our people,” he said.

“We welcome this return of country, and thank the State Government for working with us to secure this transfer.”

The Mirima community located south of the new reserve will not be affected by the transfer.



MGC director Ted Carlton, Lands Minister Ben Wyatt, Kimberley MP Josie Farrer, MGC executive chair Lawford Benning and director Carol Hapke.



Kimberley MP Josie Farrer, MGC's Ted Carlton, Lawford Benning, Carol Hapke, David Newry and Tom Stephens.



A sign detailing the history of the dam near the viewing platform.



Lawford with sons, niece and mum listen as Minister Ben Wyatt addresses the crowd at the naming ceremony.

GRASSHOPPER DREAMING RETURNS TO LAKE ARGYLE REGION

MG Corporation welcomed Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ben Wyatt to Lake Argyle to announce that a special landmark was being restored to its traditional name – Bilbiljim, which means ‘the place of grasshopper dreaming’.

Named Mount Misery by a European explorer, the restoration of Bilbiljim’s ancestral name is of great significance to the local Miriwoong people.

Bilbiljim is located on the traditional lands of the Miriwoong ancestors of

the Ward family, who were present at a special ceremony held on Lake Argyle attended by Minister Wyatt.

MGC Executive Chair Lawford Benning thanked Minister Wyatt and the State Government during a speech at the event about the significance of the renaming.

“This event marks a very enjoyable and emotional occasion for the Mirriwoong people and we are proud to have naming of our sacred significant place officially restored to its rightful

Mirriwoong name, Bilbiljim,” he said.

“This is not a place to feel sad or miserable, this is not the place where one should feel lonely.

“Welcome back to the grasshopper.”

Mr Benning also thanked the Shire council, the Mirima Dawang Woorlabgerring Language and Culture Centre, the Geographic Names Committee, the local community and MG people who worked together to secure the name change.



MG CORPORATION
Yawoorroong Miriuwung
Gajerrong Yirgeb Noong Dawang

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