

CASE STUDY

Graduates from the **traineeship program** were invited to apply for 10 indigenous traineeships in coal mine operations.

Focus on indigenous employment and job creation

Curragh

During the second year of our Aboriginal Employment and Engagement Strategy the division focused on employment and job creation across Curragh, Premier Coal and the Brisbane office.

Curragh and its major mining contractor Thiess partnered with the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Industry (Indigenous Employment Initiatives Division) and the Salvation Army Employment Plus to offer a mining industry indigenous pre-employment and traineeship program. Graduates from this program were invited to apply for 10 indigenous traineeships in coal mine operations with four working with Curragh and six with Thiess.

Prior to being offered the traineeships applicants underwent interviews, medicals, pre-employment training and a three-week on-site accredited training program. As part of the program cultural awareness training was conducted on-site for supervisors and key appointments.

The program is proving to be very successful with the trainees now progressing through their traineeship toward the goal of achieving the necessary skills, qualifications and experience to work within the mining industry.



CASE STUDY

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Focus on indigenous employment and job creation

Jawun

In 2010 the division participated in the Jawun program for the first time by placing a secondee into the East Kimberley region. In 2011 the division expanded its commitment to Jawun with two secondees, Melissa Mumme from Premier Coal and Scott Purdie from Curragh, participating in the program. Melissa, who is the HSE Systems Administrator at Premier Coal, went to Shepparton for a four-week secondment based at the Kaiela Institute. The Kaiela Institute is a start-up public policy think tank that was formed by merging two existing community based organisations. Kaiela

Institute is a member of a thriving community of regionally focused Aboriginal NGO's in Shepparton. The project assigned to Melissa was to do research in the Shepparton community on the Aboriginal community's perceptions about the upcoming implementation of income management in the area. Melissa's research helped identify gaps in understanding of the concept of Income Management in the community. The research also gave the Institute some ideas on how to proceed with obtaining funding opportunities for service delivery organisations.

“For me personally, the experience was very positive and I would recommend anyone give it a go. It got me right out of my comfort zone and interacting with people from all walks of life,” Melissa said.

When asked about Jawun, Ronald Harrigan, Elder and Keeper of the Kuku Yalanji language, said “When (the older people) say ‘Who is this waybela (European) coming here’, I say ‘this is Jawun – friend and family. I talk to them, they come here and we all work together as a partner.’”

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Ngalang Boodja Enterprises Aquaculture Project achieved a **major milestone with the first commercial harvest** of marron from the Premier Coal's mining lease ponds.

Focus on indigenous employment and job creation

Ngalang Boodja Enterprises Aquaculture Project

After more than 10 years of research and development the Ngalang Boodja Enterprises Aquaculture Project achieved a major milestone with the first commercial harvest of marron from the ponds located on Premier Coal's mining lease.

In June Collie Valley Marron was officially launched in Perth and its shop doors opened for business in Collie. Marron not sold locally will find their way to some of the best restaurants in Perth while the rest of Australia can enjoy Collie Marron by ordering online.

A highlight for the Wesfarmers Indigenous Network group was tasting Collie Valley Marron grown at the Premier Coal mine prepared by Aboriginal celebrity chef Mark Olive at a function in Melbourne.

The event celebrated the achievements across the Wesfarmers group in supporting Indigenous employment.

Brisbane office

This year the Brisbane office continued its indigenous work experience program with its second work experience student Rebecca Price, a final year law student from Griffith University, working with our General Manager Legal to gain valuable experience in both the corporate and mining sectors.

As part of our commitment to preparing young indigenous people for the work place this year we established a new partnership with the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience or AIME.

AIME provides Mentoring Programs for Indigenous Australian students to access while undertaking their high school studies from Year 7 through to Year 12. As part of this partnership the division supported AIME's National Hoodie Day which is designed to promote conversations about reconciliation and indigenous success.

