



May 7, 2020

Media Release

MRM Community Benefits Trust approves \$659,000.00 in funding at latest board Meeting

The MRM Community Benefits Trust (CBT) was pleased to support over \$659,000.00 in community grant applications at its February 2020 Board Meeting. These commitments add to the \$16 million in investments the CBT has provided since its inception in 2007. Beyond its grants program, the CBT is leading a range of other initiatives that will provide immediate and longer-term benefits to communities and businesses in the Borroloola region, Northern Territory.

Projects approved by the CBT at the February 2020 Board Meeting include:

- **Artback NT Remote Arts and Culture Program 2020-2023** - Extension to the Traditional Indigenous Dance Program established in 2013, production of the annual Malandarri Festival and expanded local arts and culture programming throughout the year over three years (\$400,000)
- **Vulcana Women's Circus** - Youth Circus and Drama program to build empowerment, leadership and confidence in young people from Borroloola and Robinson River, town camps and outstations (\$29,000)
- **Waralungku Arts** - Specialist art materials and supplies to support the growing success of the Waralungku Arts Centre in Borroloola and support artists' work in Robinson River; and, commission of a Four Clans' Artwork to be created collaboratively by senior artists from the Gurdanji, Garawa, Yanyuwa and Mara clans (\$30,000 and \$9,600)
- **National Trust of Australia** - Fencing, security and storage at Borroloola Police Station Museum to support infrastructure development and operations (\$15,000)
- **Mabunji Li-Anthawittiyarra Sea Ranger Unit** - Support for Li-Anthawittiyarra and Yuga Manji Sea Rangers to undertake Fauna Monitoring on Maria and North Islands in the Sir Edward Pellew Islands group in the NT Gulf waters over three years, working with young people from Yanjuwa and Mara clans (\$110,000)
- **Monash University Visualisation of Songlines** - Instigated by senior Yanyuwa Elders the project will produce one of the most important Dreaming stories for the South West Gulf of Carpentaria in 3D animation as a process of preserving intangible cultural heritage in the region (\$66,000)

The high quality of these projects reflects the CBT Board's commitment to supporting applicants to develop sustainable projects and outcomes with high community benefit; prioritising projects that reflect community aspirations identified annually through broad community engagement; ensuring local directors provide high levels of input and advice; and, providing resources to support applicants and project implementation via its project officers.

CBT Chairperson Mike Reed commends all the applicants. 'We're excited by the high quality of these projects and the significant local contributions they will make while promoting broader knowledge and understanding of this unique region - the CBT is proud to fill the gaps and support local community aspirations'.

Impacts from Covid-19

While some communities in the region have been locked down amid the pandemic, the CBT remains committed to our programs and are working with grant recipients and the community to ensure programs can be delivered as soon as

practicable, and are regularly engaging with our stakeholders to provide direct investments if required to support communities during lock down. We are committed to the safety of all community members as our current priority.

CBT Initiatives outside of Grants Program

In addition to its longstanding grants program, the CBT is proactive in its initiatives and investments that often fill the gap in funding and programs in the remote region. Current and longer-term CBT initiatives include:

- **CBT Future Fund** - established in 2018, the Future Fund seeks to build investments that will provide extended support to the region following the cessation of mining in the future
- **Economic analysis and social assessment of the region** to understand gaps in services provision to inform strategic, longer-term investments in land and economic development, and brokerage of services for community and economic benefit
- Taking a holistic view of the needs of our **young people** in the region via engagement, research and planning to guide investments, funding approaches and establishment of holistic service delivery to young people. Supporting young people's needs is the highest priority of the majority of community members. Working in partnership with the CBT, McArthur River Mine has been highly proactive in providing training and employment pathways at the McArthur River Mine through the MRM Youth Mentoring Network to support some young people's aspirations for employment at the mine
- **Community Bus Service** - funding to support a local organisation or business to deliver a community bus service commencing in 2020, to address local accessibility to services and employment and support community connectedness
- **CBT Publications** - encouraging authors to document important parts of local culture and Indigenous and non-indigenous history in the region through funding, and development of publication and copyright guidelines, to enable this important knowledge to be reproduced and available to territory and national libraries and archives
- **Attracting additional investments** - using our resources to broker additional funding to the region, including federal government investments for major projects via CBT co-contributions
- **Purchase and installation of video conferencing hubs for Robinson River and Borroloola**- to be available to all groups and ensure communities remain highly connected
- **\$1.4m funding toward raising of the Rocky Creek Bridge**, in partnership with Roper Gulf Regional Council and Northern Territory Government (NTG), to raise the bridge and reduce community isolation during flooding events
- **\$1.4m to the Borroloola Sports Courts project** - indoor sports courts and category 4 community cyclone shelter to support young people's needs and community safety during major weather events, in partnership with Roper Gulf Regional Council and NTG
- **Working with health service providers** - to help better understand and address chronic community health issues in a culturally appropriate way

Background to the Community Benefits Trust (CBT)

The MRM Community Benefits Trust is a unique partnership between McArthur River Mine, the Northern Territory Government and the local community. It commits \$1.25 million a year to projects that support culture and art, enterprise and job creation, social and community development, education, health and the environment.

The CBT's area of influence extends to the communities bounded by Robinson River in the south-east, the Sir Edward Pellew Islands, the Limmen Bight River in the west and Balbirini Station in the south. The township of Borroloola sits at the heart of this region.

All funding decisions are ratified by the CBT Board of Directors, which include one representative from each local language group (Gurdanji, Garawa, Yanyuwa and Mara), one representative of the local community, one representative of Glencore, one representative of the NT Government and two independent directors appointed by MRM and the NT Government. Plan C, an urban planning, community development, design and land development company that works across Northern Australia have supported the CBT as Project Officers since 2018. Deloitte provides finance management services to the CBT.

The CBT is committed to its vision to support a vibrant, thriving, healthy region and encourages partnerships to assist us in delivery of this vision.

Ends.

Further information

Web: www.mrmcommunitytrust.com

Facebook: McArthur River Mine Community Benefits Trust

Instagram: mrm_cbt

Media enquiries

Jim Gleeson
MRM Community Benefits Trust
Project Officer
E. cbt@planc.com.au
M. 0422 794 072

Contact Jim for photography and further information about projects

Tracy Jones
Community and Corporate Affairs Superintendent
McArthur River Mine
E. tracy.jones@glencore.com.au
M. 0418 251 774