



MEDIA RELEASE

McArthur River Mine Community Benefits Trust establishes a Legacy Fund for Gulf region

13 May 2018

The McArthur River Mine Community Benefits Trust has established a Legacy Fund to continue the long-term funding of community projects in the Gulf region after mining ends at MRM in 2036.

The Trust is a joint initiative of the Northern Territory Government, MRM and the people of the Gulf region centred on Borroloola.

MRM contributes \$1.25 million a year to the Community Benefits Trust, which is administered by an independent board comprising five community members and two directors each appointed by the Northern Territory Government and MRM.

The Trust Board's decision means that \$250,000 of the annual MRM contribution will now be set aside in the Legacy Fund, with the remaining \$1 million available for grants for community programs.

Announcing the initiative today, Trust chair Mike Reed said the fund would provide a lasting community benefit long after mining is due to finish in 20 years' time.

"The Board recognises that its current funding stream only lasts while mining continues, which is currently through until 2036," Mr Reed said.

"If we start setting aside money now, we can secure a long-term funding stream for the development of the Gulf region."

The MRM Community Benefits Trust has granted more than \$14 million to 93 local projects since its inception in 2007. Grants are focussed on six areas of community development - Culture and Arts, Enterprise and Job Creation, Social and Community Development, Education, Health and Environment.

In 2017, the Trust awarded its largest grant to date, with \$1.5 million awarded to Roper Gulf Regional Council to build a multi-purpose sports facility in Borroloola. Other major projects funded include \$1 million towards the construction of a crèche, a trade training centre at Borroloola School, a regional health study, dugong and dolphin conservation study, rock art protection and school breakfast programs.

It is anticipated the Legacy Fund could become self-sustaining by end of mining, which would generate enough interest for the ongoing support of community programs for the region.

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