
ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITY RELATIONS

CREATING A STRONGER FUTURE TOGETHER,
PROFILE DOCUMENT



WHITEHAVEN COAL

MESSAGE FROM PAUL FLYNN

MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CEO,
WHITEHAVEN COAL

This document supports Whitehaven's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Strategy to build on and develop relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities within the region.

By listening, learning, understanding and initiating actions that can support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, we now have a number of projects and partnerships that will deliver opportunities and assistance in areas of greatest need.

As a proudly Australian company that calls the Gunnedah Basin its home, Whitehaven values local communities and is keen to ensure benefits flowing from Maules Creek accrue locally - including to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Around 100 people have been engaged to advise on cultural heritage aspects of the construction phase.

Whitehaven's goal is that within five years of Maules Creek commencing production, 10% of the 400 plus strong workforce will be local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples. Our strategy includes local training programs and a requirement that contractors engaged at Maules Creek involve Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples in the work they undertake.

These are small but important steps on a journey towards the creation of shared values, and we look forward to continuing to work towards this goal with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

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PAUL FLYNN
MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CEO

DEREK TALBOTT'S STORY

Derek started work on the Maules Creek project working on the cultural heritage assessment.



He was then able to secure work with Leighton Contractors on the Maules Creek site. Derek was flying in from Brisbane, where he was living with his wife and children.

Derek was born in Gunnedah and lived in the local area for most of his life until the search for work took him further North.

His job working with Whitehaven has given him the opportunity to come home. "I'm enjoying it," said Derek, "it gets me back home. Work has been scarce around here, but I'm really pleased to be able to come back home and take full advantage of the opportunity Whitehaven has given me. My whole family including Mum and Nan are ecstatic about me securing a career in the mining industry."

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DEREK TALBOTT



EDUCATION

Our approach focuses meaningful engagement and programs that can address issues affecting Aboriginal people within the region. We believe that the best way we can assist to improve the lives of local Aboriginal people is by offering the opportunity of stable, long-term employment and by supporting access to education from kindergarten through to university and mature age.

// CASE STUDY

WINANGA-LI WAS THE FIRST OF NINE ABORIGINAL CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRES TO OPEN ITS DOORS IN NSW WHEN IT BEGAN OPERATION A YEAR AGO.

The centre brings together a range of family, early childhood and health services for the region, catering for 35 children from birth to eight years of age and their families.

Whitehaven Coal has donated \$40,000 to the Winanga-Li Aboriginal Child and Family Centre for the purchase of the centre's existing mini-bus, which had previously been leased. This enables families with no adequate transport to get their children to preschool, a vital logistic component in the early education of Aboriginal children in Gunnedah.

Whitehaven Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director Paul Flynn visited the centre to mark the donation with local Aboriginal Elder and centre manager Wayne Griffiths and see first-hand the modern facility and the work being done there.

Wayne Griffiths expressed the appreciation of staff and families connected to Winanga-Li for Whitehaven Coal's generous support.

"This is a very kind and generous donation and the benefits derived from now owning the bus can't be measured," Mr Griffiths said.

"The bus is used to collect children and bring them to the centre, helping parents who may not have a vehicle."

"Learning at playgroup and pre-school are the first steps children take in their education and it is vitally important.

"We are very grateful to Whitehaven Coal for this support as the bus is essential to our work here."





LOCAL ABORIGINAL WOMEN

Local Aboriginal women were given a taste of mining at a workshop in Gunnedah.

Whitehaven hosted the 'Aboriginal Women in Mining' day at Winanga Li Centre, where participants were offered career insights into what the industry has to offer.

Around 10 local Aboriginal women attended with activities including a training pit and simulator, courtesy of training partners Skilled and Tessa. Discussion on the day included child care and flexible working priorities.

Bob Sutherland, Aboriginal Community Relations Officer, said the event was organised both to promote Whitehaven as a major local employer and also to provide local Aboriginal women with an insight into a potential career.

"The day was about providing the local women enough information in an informal and relaxed way to allow them to make an informed choice as to whether mining is a career for them," he said.



CULTURAL AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

// CASE STUDY

Ronny Long is a local Gomeri Artist that has exhibited widely with many of his painted murals and sculptures located throughout the township of Gunnedah. He has strong cultural and family ties to the Gunnedah region. Ronny has recently had a number of exhibitions which have focussed on his use of inks which have received positive reviews.

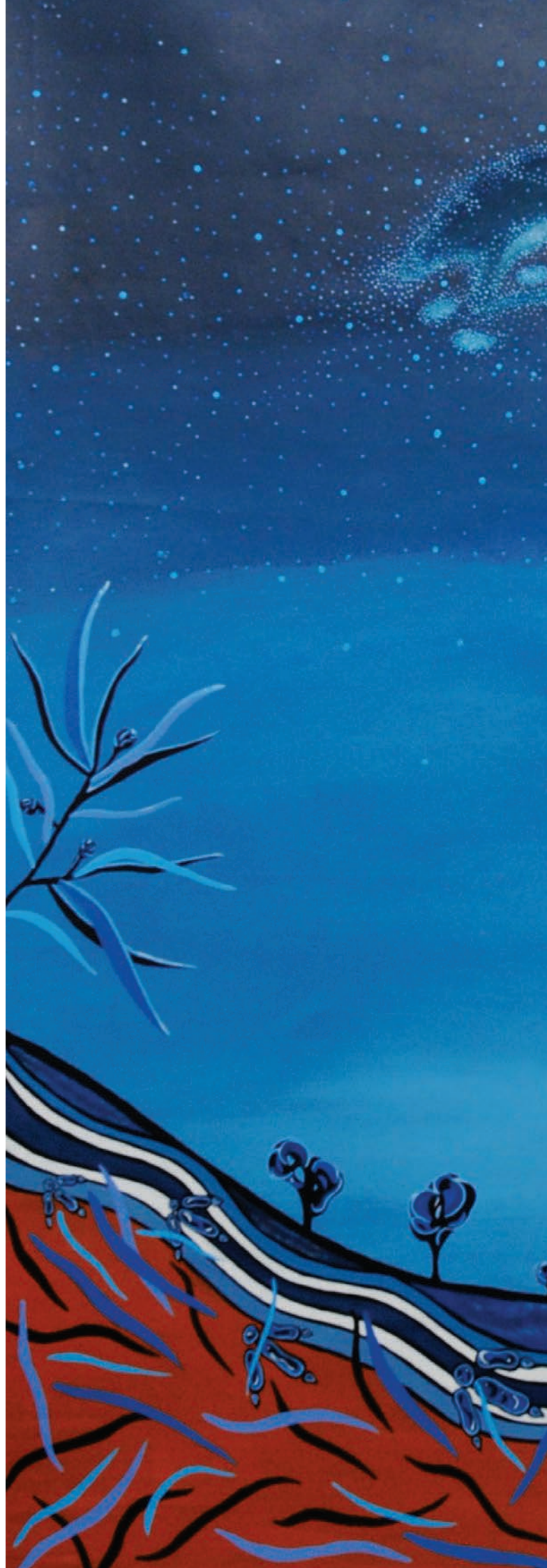
The three art works completed in ink and have images that are iconic to Aboriginal people in the area. The hand stencils, the emu and kangaroo footprints and lastly the Emu (Dhinawan) which has an important story to tell on the land and in the sky.

The Emu has special place in Aboriginal lore and stories. The story about the Emu in the Sky (Gawurragiil) is well known to the local Aboriginal people. This emu appears in the night sky in May and is located in the Milky Way. As the emu neck slowly moves down in the night sky is an indicator to Aboriginal people that the male emu is on the nest taking care of his eggs. When it is time the emu chicks emerge from their eggs. The father will be the main provider and their protector and will work with the mother to raise their chicks.

A selection of Ronny's commissioned art is featured throughout this document.



Bob Sutherland, Whitehaven Coal's Aboriginal Relations Officer, with Gunnedah artist Ronny Long and one of the pieces of art commissioned by Whitehaven Coal.



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Whitehaven Coal is the emerging force in the Australian coal mining industry and the leading coal producer in NSW's Gunnedah Basin. Listed in 2007, our vision is to become Australia's leading independent coal company.

Whitehaven operates four open cuts mines and one large underground mine. Our Maules Creek project is one of Australia's largest, lowest cost open cut mines. Our other mining operations are at Narrabri, Werris Creek, Tarrawonga and Rocglen with a centralised washing plant at Gunnedah.

We currently employ more than 650 people which will increase to more than 1100 in the next five years. Currently 75% of the workforce is drawn from local communities surrounding our mines.

Whitehaven values local communities and is keen to ensure benefits flowing from our operations accrue locally – including to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Around 100 people were engaged to advise on cultural heritage aspects of the construction phase at Maules Creek.

Whitehaven's goal is that within five years of Maules Creek commencing production, 10% of the 400 plus strong workforce at the mine will be local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples. Our strategy includes local training programs and a requirement that contractors engaged at Maules Creek involve Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples in the work they undertake.

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