

On-country carbon proposal

TOM ZAUNMAYR

Tjiwarl traditional owners would welcome carbon farming if the private sector were to come forward with on-country conservation projects.

WA Environment Minister Stephen Dawson this week announced Wanjarrri Nature Reserve would be a focus of efforts to partner with the private sector in carbon farming on reserves and national parks.

The reserve, about 100km north of Leinster, was identified among seven sites in regional WA as a prime candidate for carbon stor-

age. That plan seeks to engage the private sector on conservation projects which could lead to employment in the Tjiwarl native title area.

Tjiwarl Aboriginal Corporation chairman Brett Lewis said traditional owners would be keen to talk with companies about carbon farming opportunities.

"It is our home, our country, our story lines are all in that area and around it," he said.

"We are very strong on heritage and culture and trying to get back and look after the country and carbon farming is a way to do that.

"To do this carbon farming, to get it fenced off and stock-proofed ... and have rangers look after it would be a good start."

Mr Lewis said carbon farming would boost restoration of the reserve which had been ongoing since the 1970s when it was a pastoral lease. Mr Dawson said proposals would only proceed with support of traditional owners.

"Private sector investment in Carbon for Conservation has the potential to deliver benefits that go beyond carbon credits and enhanced social licence to operate," he said. "It has the potential to

support on-country jobs for Aboriginal people, enhancing already successful partnerships with traditional owner groups and leveraging other initiatives such as the Aboriginal Ranger Program and Plan for Our Parks.

"The potential environmental benefits of Carbon for Conservation are wide-ranging, with enhanced management of our national parks and reserves to increase carbon stores through improved native vegetation cover, re-vegetation, weed and feral herbivore control and other targeted measures."

TAC chief executive Greg Ryan-Gadsden said on-country work held more benefits than just an income.

"It is restoring the country and who better to manage that than Tjiwarl native title holders," Mr Ryan-Gadsden said.

"In that area there are limited opportunities for employment — you have mining and not a huge amount of other things so this is another option for people and for those who like to be outside managing country.

"It can really make a difference to their family."



MLG Oz managing director Murray Leahy says he never envisaged such corporate growth. Picture: Jason Mennell

JASON MENNELL

A Kalgoorlie-Boulder-based family run company this week toasted a notable milestone when it took delivery of its 100th new road train.

Driven by MLG Oz's most loyal employee Randyn Scott — who joined the then start-up nearly two decades ago — the truck's arrival at MLG Oz's West Kalgoorlie headquarters on Tuesday marked a defining moment for the company.

MLG had humble beginnings in 2001 as a one-man contractor providing silica mining and haulage services to BHP Billiton.

It has since grown its footprint across WA and into the Northern Territory employing about 700 people.

Providing bulk haulage and crushing and screening to the mining and civil infrastructure industries, MLG also boasts a sizeable fleet of road trains, 250 earth-moving machines and six big crushing plants.

That is something MLG boss Murray Leahy said he never envisaged when he started.

But Mr Leahy told the Kalgoorlie Miner now the company had reached that size, he could see it growing bigger yet.

"I think we've been very fortunate

to have had the Kalgoorlie community behind us and it's enabled our business to grow to the success of everyone," he said.

"As people join the journey along the way everyone contributes a little bit and I guess our success has really been a true reflection of all the people that have shared our path with us.

"I could never have anticipated it getting this big but now that we're here I can actually see it becoming substantially bigger.

"That's really just testament to the people we've employed and have been part of our journey."

Mr Leahy said there had been a slight downturn during the peak

of the coronavirus pandemic in WA, but the business had bounced back strongly.

"We had to react to our customers' requirements and every customer was slightly different in the way they wanted us to react to them," he said. "Just getting back to that team that flexed to each of those individual customer requirements and it got us back on track pretty quickly.

"We've been backed by a really strong customer base and I'm fortunate to have a great team of people and I think that there's nothing that's impossible now, it's about how far do we really want to push it."

Foreshore upgrade on the agenda

INDIANA LYSAGHT

Plans to develop a world-class youth precinct on the Esperance foreshore could become concrete next week, with the council to consider endorsing final concept designs estimated to cost more than \$3 million.

The foreshore upgrade focuses on the extension of the existing skate park, but could be home to a climbing wall, table-tennis tables, trampolines and nature play as a part of plans developed by youth space contactor Convic.

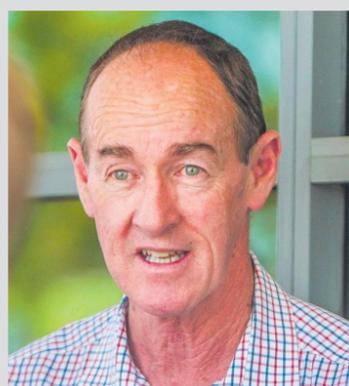
The draft plans underwent community consultation in May, and the final concept will be returned to the council for endorsement at next week's ordinary council meeting. The final concept design focuses on the extension of the existing skate park in Bow Park, which lies close to additional youth infrastructure such as the Adventureland precinct and Esperance Scout Hall.

The focus on the skating facilities is in response to the community feedback sought through the draft plans, according to a report in the meeting agenda, and has a \$1.4 million estimated cost.

Additional works are estimated at almost \$1.9 million, making for a total of almost \$3.3 million.

"The proposed Youth Precinct will form the southern-most end of the recently redeveloped and successful foreshore, creating a highly activated culmination to the foreshore esplanade," the report stated. "Based on the usage of the current skate park and community consultation it is evident that the youth community has outgrown the current skate facility which is testament to its success since opening in 2016."

If endorsed on Tuesday night, the council will then move towards budgeting for the upgrades.



Data sharing key to combat child abuse, MP says

JASON MENNELL

State Member for Kalgoorlie Kyran O'Donnell says data sharing between agencies and people having the courage to speak up could help reduce levels of child sexual abuse and violence.

Mr O'Donnell, left, last week tabled a 146-page report in State Parliament's Lower House after a

three-year-plus inquiry aimed at improving child safety in WA.

Chaired by State Member for the South West Dr Sally Talbot with Mr O'Donnell as deputy chair, the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People made 65 findings and offered 19 recommendations.

The recommendations includ-

ed priority be given to an oversight body to assist child-safe approaches, and a focus on achieving better safety outcomes for children as a "crucial part of child-safe reform".

Another recommendation suggested sharing information with other statutory oversight bodies.

Titled From Words to Action: Fulfilling the Obligation to Be

Child Safe, Mr O'Donnell said the heading of the report was "very apt" in Parliament on Thursday.

Mr O'Donnell told the Kalgoorlie Miner data sharing between agencies was one way of keeping abreast of child abuse.

"We just have to be vigilant and we also need to stand up and speak out if we come across it," he said.