

Media Release

Monday 14 August 2017

Western Cape Communities Trust awards contract to Far North Queensland Company for new administration centre in Weipa

Western Cape Communities Trust has awarded a contract to Far North Queensland Company, Laurie Lindner Constructions to build a new administration Centre in Weipa.

The Centre will provide a modern, contemporary space for the Western Cape Communities Trust Administration Team and a meeting place for Traditional Owners that form the Western Cape Communities Trust, the Western Cape Communities Coordinating Committee and the sub-committees that operate under the Western Cape Communities Co-existence Agreement. These Trusts and Committees work to deliver development and employment opportunities, training, community assistance, Community Development and projects that enhance Aboriginal Culture of the Western Cape region.

Chair of the Western Cape Communities Trust Board, Loyla Chevathen, said, "The new administration centre was designed by AECOM Australia to combine the artwork and totems of the eleven Traditional Owner Groups involved in the Western Cape Communities Co-existence Agreement and will provide office space for more than 12 staff, state-of-the-art board room facilities, an Elders room and storage area for important documents, photos and artefacts."

"The Administration Centre is the first stage of the Western Cape Communities Trust redevelopment of the Achimbun area into a significant Cultural Precinct for all Australians that showcases Aboriginal Culture. Future stages will include the upgrade of the Western Cape Cultural Centre, including a café, retail facility, Aboriginal Arts centre, Cultural Park and a new stage for Cultural events."

Western Cape Communities Trust Executive Officer, Geoff Fahey said "This is the largest construction project awarded outside of the mining lease in Weipa for a number of years and Western Cape Communities Trust is pleased to award this project to Laurie Lindner Constructions." (LLC). The new Administration Building has been a long held aspiration of Elders from within the Traditional Owner Groups that I serve and I am delighted that we have been able to bring this to fruition.

"I am also very glad to see this significant construction contract go to a company with such strong ties to Far North Queensland and a commitment to working closely with Aboriginal communities."

The project has been awarded to Cairns based Laurie Lindner Constructions, which has a longstanding reputation for building high-quality commercial and residential projects, on time, on budget and often in remote locations.

Construction of the new administration centre will begin in September 2017 and is expected to finish by May 2018.

Owner of LLC, Laurie Linder said "Having operated in Far North Queensland for more than 25 years, we are excited to be part of a project that will help ensure there is a strong future for the region."

Weipa Town Authority Chairman Michael Rowland said the project reinforces the Western Cape Communities Trust commitment to developing Weipa and to furthering the aspirations Aboriginal people from Western Cape Communities.

The Western Cape, centred on Weipa, is the fastest-growing remote region on the western coast of the Cape York Peninsula. The Western Cape Communities Trust administration centre

and Cultural precinct will be a hub for commercial and community activities in the Western Cape.

About Western Cape Communities Trust

The Western Cape Communities Trust was established to administrate, invest, allocate and manage the funds and annual contributions made by Rio Tinto Aluminium (previously known as Comalco) and the Queensland Government under the Western Cape Communities Co-existence Agreement (WCCCA) that was signed on 16 March 2001.

The Agreement was signed by eleven Traditional Owner groups, (Ankamuthi, Taepadhighi, Tjungundji, Warranggu, Yupungathi, Alngith, Anathangayth, Peppan, Thanikwithi, Wathayn and Wik and Wik Waya) four Indigenous Community Councils (Aurukun, Napranum, Mapoon and New Mapoon), Rio Tinto Aluminium (previously known as Comalco), the Cape York Land Council on behalf of the Native Title Parties, and the Queensland Government. The Agreement was registered as an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the National Native Title Tribunal, under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) (the NTA).

Photo Opportunity

Date: 14th August 2017

Time: 11 am

Attendees: Loyal Chevathen, Geoff Fahey, Ernest Madua and Corine Matasia

Description: Looking over the model of the new WCCT Administration Building are from Left: Ernest Madua, Chair of the WCCT Investment Committee, Corine Matasia Chair of the WCCCA Coordinating Committee, WCCT Executive Officer Geoff Fahey and Loyal Chevathen Chair of the WCCT Board of Directors.

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