

Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

• RESOURCES SECTOR •
AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Golden Gecko and Community Partnership Awards



2019 AWARDS CEREMONY

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION
ACROSS WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S RESOURCES SECTOR.

From the Minister



Without mining and energy, our world could not function.

Western Australia's resources sector, valued in 2017-18 at more than \$114 billion, continues to be the backbone of our economy.

Western Australia is a leader in the resources sector and the place to do business.

We have the highly skilled workforce, supported by world-class education and training facilities.

Our State's environmental policies and requirements are streamlined and easy to understand and our well-documented environmental, economic, and social requirements all create a positive experience for investors.

The pace of change in WA's resources sector is gaining speed thanks to technologies that are now commonplace but would have seemed farfetched only 10 years ago.

The finalists tonight demonstrate that the advances of our resources sector are not just limited to new technology, they include innovative thinking, research and conservation strategies, and new methods of community engagement that aim for sustainable outcomes.

By sharing these projects, the department is encouraging others in the resources sector to continually improve and be at the forefront in social and environmental outcomes.

On behalf of the McGowan Labor Government, I applaud all the entrants of the 2019 Resources Sector Awards for Excellence. Congratulations on demonstrating the ability to push the boundaries and strive for excellence to safeguard and improve our State. They are a credit to the resources sector.

The Hon. Bill Johnston MLA
Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy

The Awards



Now in its fourth year, this award publicly recognises Western Australian community groups and resources industry organisations that show outstanding achievement and leadership in building partnerships, creating mutually beneficial relationships and achieving positive outcomes that extend well beyond gaining a social licence to operate creating more cohesive communities.



Since 1992, the Golden Gecko Awards have recognised environmental excellence demonstrated in the mining and petroleum industry. The award winning projects have raised best practice standard and demonstrated the continual adoption of innovative techniques and skills across industry. Applicants continue to develop innovative and remarkable solutions to address modern challenges and regulatory requirements.





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The Alcoa Sustainability Fund Partnership

Shires of Harvey and Waroona and Alcoa of Australia



The Alcoa Harvey Waroona Sustainability Fund was designed to ensure Alcoa and the communities of Harvey and Waroona succeed together.

From an initial investment of \$400,000 from Alcoa in June 2008, this unique partnership has supported 50 individual groups in the Harvey and Waroona communities undertake about 60 diverse projects.

A key strength of the Sustainability Fund is that it has provided seed funding that has encouraged other donors to confidently partner in support of the Harvey and Waroona communities' aspirations. From \$2.3 million in Sustainability Fund allocations, more than \$11 million has been leveraged to allow bigger visions to be realised.

The prosperity and longevity of the Sustainability Fund is assured through Alcoa's commitment to contribute funds annually based on alumina production from its nearby Wagerup Refinery. In addition, a minimum of half of all funds contributed must be retained as a long-term reserve. Of the \$4.7 million contributed by Alcoa to date, \$3.2 million remains held for future use.

The impact of the Sustainability Fund reflects the enthusiasm, pride and resilience of the local communities with a strong legacy for future prosperity forged through this mutually beneficial partnership.

Shooting Stars Program

Glass Jar Australia and Sandfire Resources NL



Glass Jar Australia partnered with Sandfire Resources NL (Sandfire) in 2017 to deliver the Shooting Stars Program at Meekatharra District High School. The partnership continues today, with Sandfire funding enabling Shooting Stars to grow its impact.

Shooting Stars aims to improve school attendance and educational outcomes for Aboriginal girls in Meekatharra. The program rewards school attendance and behaviour by offering participants the opportunity to participate in leadership development activities, health and wellbeing workshops, cultural and sports excursions, reward camps and award nights.

Shooting Stars and Sandfire overcame barriers to identify and employ local Aboriginal women to drive the program and mentor Program Coordinators. Shooting Stars engage a strong Steering Committee comprised of community stakeholders and collaborate with local service providers.

Funding for girls' programs is limited, and without completing Year 10 Aboriginal Australians have just 18 per cent chance of obtaining gainful employment. In 2018, 25 girls in Years 3-10 participated in the program. Attendance improved by 28 per cent overall and 50 per cent of participants maintained average attendance above 80 per cent. The program provided a training and employment pathway for former participant Tilly Kyanga, who is now the Program Assistant. Together Shooting Stars and Sandfire are empowering the local community to lead generational change.

Plan 2day 4 2morrow (P242) Program

The Wirrpanda Foundation and Shell Ltd



The Plan 2day 4 2morrow (P242) Program is a partnership between Wirrpanda Foundation (WF) and Shell, connecting long-term unemployed Aboriginal job seekers with employment opportunities through pre-employment training and individualised mentoring support for both job seeker and employer. The program provides Western Australian employers with a pool of job-ready Aboriginal candidates to recruit from.

The partnership originated in Broome in 2012 when Shell approached WF to support the creation of opportunities for Aboriginal job seekers through the Prelude project supply chain. It was recognised by both parties that this would require a longitudinal approach when ensuring severely disadvantaged Indigenous job seekers gain sustainable employment.

The pre-employment component of the program includes weekly activities aimed at improving physical fitness, self-confidence and networking opportunities. Employers and service providers present at these sessions weekly. Aboriginal Mentors work with individuals and employers to create sustainable employment opportunities by the job-matching of participants based on a behavioural competency model. Since inception the partnership has resulted in 561 jobs and in 2018 the program placed 173 people in jobs with a retention rate of 80 per cent.

The partnership is hands on, with both organisations communicating weekly to identify employment opportunities with Shell and its supply chain, and creating volunteering opportunities for Shell employees with the Wirrpanda Foundation.

Sensory Nature Play Space

Hannans Primary School Parents and Citizens Association and Evolution Mining



Children and adults learn best through real-world experiences which engage and integrate the senses. In a constructed environment, children do not need to use their senses - surfaces are stable, corners, edges and even distances are predictable.

To really invigorate the senses, children need opportunities to interact with less predictable surfaces, such as those in a natural play space. This is a safe way for students to discover and apply their senses.

The Hannans Primary School Nature Play Space is the first of its kind in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and allows children to play in a natural, enriching environment that stimulates all the senses and delivers evidence-based behavioural and learning outcomes.

Teachers at Hannans reported improved classroom behaviour, communication skills and creativity from the students, as well as improved motor and problem-solving skills. These link to improved educational outcomes. Similar improvements were observed in children from Full Circle Autism Centre who use the space as part of their ongoing therapy. Navigating the equipment also enables students to assess risks and build confidence as they play. An unanticipated outcome of the new play area is the increased interaction between students from Hannans and those from Full Circle Autism Centre.

Woombooriny Amboon Angarriya Partnership Initiative (WAAP I)*

Save the Children and Woodside Energy



The Woombooriny Amboon Angarriya Partnership Initiative (WAAP I) is a place-based, community-led approach to improve the early childhood outcomes of Aboriginal children living on the Dampier Peninsula in the Kimberley.

Rather than delivering a prescribed program, the Project's emphasis is on bringing stakeholders together and building capacity and strong local leadership in the four Aboriginal communities of Ardyaloon, Beagle Bay, Djarindjin and Lombadina.

The communities are united via a common agenda, which sees family language groups and kinship systems reflected in the Project's cultural governance model. Key decisions are being driven by the community, rather than a funder, partner or service provider.

Recently, WAAP I received additional support from local businesses, philanthropists and government (Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and Department of Communities).

Woodside's funding for the project is through the Woodside Development Fund, which is focused on improving outcomes for children aged 0-8 years. The Fund has an emphasis on collaborative partnerships and a commitment to robust measurement and evaluation.

It recognises that to contribute to systems change in very complex issue areas, a community-led, long-term approach to funding is required. This is an innovative approach for a corporate organisation and sits alongside Woodside's more traditional portfolio of social investment programs.

**The name means 'All People Moving Forwards Together' in the local Bardi and Nyul Nyul languages.*



Community Infrastructure and Services Partnership

City of Karratha and Rio Tinto Iron Ore



The Pilbara mining boom created a convergence of desired community outcomes between local government and major private sector players. The City of Karratha needed to provide key infrastructure and services to keep up with rapid growth and Rio Tinto needed these projects to be delivered in order to attract and retain staff to roles in the area.

Originally working together under a traditional sponsorship arrangement, it quickly became clear that by revisiting this approach and pooling both human and financial resources, Rio Tinto and the City of Karratha would be able to bring together the best of private and public sector knowledge and experience to create what would be a transformational formal partnership agreement.

The Community Infrastructure and Services Partnership has at its core, a clear focus on delivering the best outcomes for local community. The City of Karratha and Rio Tinto are equals in collaboration to identify and meet community needs and they do so in a strategic and efficient manner involving integrating resources and service delivery. This all-encompassing approach has led to the delivery of an exceptional suite of facilities and services throughout the City of Karratha, achieving superior outcomes while delivering workflow efficiencies and internal cost savings.

Drill Bit Recycling Program

Australasian Mining Services Pty Ltd



Australasian Mining Services Pty Ltd (AMS), a manufacturer and supplier of drilling products, made a conscious effort to reduce their environmental footprint and advance their corporate social responsibility and that of their customers, in establishing the drill bit recycling program.

In partnership with their customers, AMS facilitates the collection of used drill bits to extract and recycle tungsten carbide components. Specifically working with Fortescue Metals Group and Roy Hill Holdings, the proceeds from recycling are passed on to community groups such as the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Roy Hill Community Foundation.

The program involves participation from a number of AMS departments. AMS representatives organise transport of the drill bits in specialised cages back to Perth, AMS warehouse staff coordinate delivery of the full and empty cages to the recycling facility and back to site and AMS administrators finalise payment to the community groups.

Since the program's inception in 2016, AMS has recycled a total of 133,279 kilograms of steel and donated a total of \$97,857.33 to community groups. This initiative creates a forced removal of scrap material from mine sites with focus on recycling a manufactured material at a cost lower than the production of new materials.

The DeGrussa Solar Project

Sandfire Resources NL



The DeGrussa Solar Project, located at Sandfire Resources' DeGrussa Copper-Gold Mine, 900km north-east of Perth, is a global pioneer for the adoption of renewable energy in the mining industry.

The facility comprises 34,080 solar photo-voltaic panels and generates approximately 21GWh per annum for the DeGrussa mine site (17-20 per cent of the total power requirement), making it the largest integrated off-grid solar and battery storage facility in Australia, and reportedly the world.

Since commencing operations in 2016, the project has reduced Sandfire's carbon emissions by 30,789 tonnes and offset the use of 11 million litres of diesel.

The DeGrussa Solar Project has provided a blueprint for the adoption of renewable energy at other mine sites and remote communities around the world.

The Project has been visited by mining companies and government representatives as well as universities and schools. It has been showcased around the world to educate the global mining industry about how to transition to renewable energy.

This pioneering venture has made a substantial contribution to Australia, becoming what some commentators have described as a "global centre for renewables for mines" (RenewEconomy, 27 April 2018), with several major and mid-tier miners since committing to off-grid renewable energy projects.

Dredging Science Node

The Western Australian Marine Science Institution



The \$19 million Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) Dredging Science Node has delivered one of the largest single issue environmental research programs in Australia. This world-class research will vastly improve the planning and regulation of major dredging operations in Western Australia, nationally and internationally.

The potential impacts on the sensitive marine environment of dredging associated with construction and expansion projects in the mining, energy and port sectors, has been subject to much public debate over the past decade.

The Dredging Science Node has been a remarkable collaboration between industry, government and research resulting in the unprecedented sharing of hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of environmental monitoring data. Using in depth analysis and applied science the project has delivered outputs that will be directly applied to improve the social, environmental and financial outcomes of major marine dredging activities.

The outcomes are already finding valuable applications in the assessment of current marine dredging proposals in Western Australia and elsewhere, leading to greater certainty for government and industry and delivering practical and real ways to better protect and manage our marine environment.



Exmouth Integrated Artificial Reef

Subcon, BHP, National Energy Resources Australia (NERA), Recfishwest, Curtin University



The \$1 million Exmouth Integrated Artificial Reef (EIAR) project brings together world leading engineering solutions and science based habitat enhancement to benefit the environment and recreational fishing. Located near the Exmouth Boat Harbour inside Exmouth Gulf, the EIAR is providing the community with new, safe and accessible fishing opportunities.

The reef structures built in Exmouth provide local jobs during the construction along with ongoing employment opportunities related to recreational fishing, recreational diving, tourism and research.

The reef was installed in the Exmouth Gulf and now provides safe, accessible and enjoyable fishing and diving experiences. Located between the town and Bundegi boat ramps, it is sheltered from the strong winds on the west side of the cape.

Engineered reefs have been scientifically shown to be very productive and typically support 20 times more fish than the surrounding reef ecosystems. Examples at Port Coogee, Rottne Island, Mandurah, Bunbury and Dunsborough have been very successful.

This project is allowing scientists from Curtin University to investigate methods of reef restoration which are critical to understanding how to address bleaching events.

About the Award Trophies

The Community Partnership Resources Sector Award



The Community Partnership Resources Sector Award celebrates communities, young and old, who work with the resources sector to grow lasting relationships and outcomes that benefit future generations.

The logo for this award represents the cohesive relationship between the sector, communities and the environment. The tree represents the growth that meaningful partnerships can create for a region or community.

Ian Dixon from Perth Art Glass designed the original Community Partnership Resources Sector Award. Anne Sorensen has created the 2019 Community Partnership Resources Sector Award trophies.

Anne is an independent studio artist, working in Bouvard, Western Australia. With 28 years of experience working with glass, Anne has developed her own distinctive style. Whether working with glass powders or casting glass she uses which ever techniques are needed to realise her ideas.

The Golden Gecko



Geckos are a barometer of a healthy environment, as they are often among the last animals to return as an ecosystem recovers from disturbance. Geckos are sensitive to change and have specific habitat requirements, so their return to areas after disturbance, such as mining, indicates that the ecosystem is becoming healthy, functional and resilient.

Recipients of the Golden Gecko Award receive a Golden Gecko Sculpture, designed and made by Western Australian artist George Kosturkov since 1997.

Mr Kosturkov carves each gecko in polystyrene and then casts it in bronze, meaning no two Golden Gecko Awards are ever the same.

Recipients of the award often ask Mr Kosturkov to make them additional Awards so that they can display the Golden Gecko around their operations in Western Australia.

The perpetual trophies, with the names of all the previous recipients, are displayed in the foyer at DMIRS, Mineral House, 100 Plain Street, East Perth.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety**

Where can I find more information?

More information about the Resources Sector Awards for Excellence is available on the department's website at www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/excellenceawards.

Any questions about the awards can be directed to:

Golden Gecko Awards Coordinator –
golden.gecko@dmirs.wa.gov.au

Community Partnership Awards Coordinator -
communitypartnerships@dmirs.wa.gov.au

Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Government of Western Australia
Mineral House, 100 Plain Street
East Perth, Western Australia 6004
Tel: +61 8 9222 3333
Fax: +61 8 9222 3862
Website: www.dmirs.wa.gov.au
Email: dmirs@dmirs.wa.gov.au

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