

**BHP**



**Pilbara News**

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Issue 6 2021

## Working together to make a difference

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# A message from Brandon Craig, Asset President WA Iron Ore

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## We have over 3000 people living in the Pilbara, many with their families. It's a great place to live and work.

The challenges of life in the Pilbara for our employees and the broader community remains at the forefront of our minds and we are focused on developing social and cultural benefits such as childcare, better education options, and supporting local business and Indigenous culture.

Some of the highlights of our recent investments in the Pilbara include our \$6.6 million investment in the Pilbara Education Partnership and our \$300 million investment in improving air quality in the Pilbara over the next five years.

Our newest operation, South Flank is on track to reach first ore in the coming weeks, the biggest iron ore hub in the world. South Flank will deliver 80 million tonnes of high quality iron ore every year, employing around 9000 direct and indirect jobs during the construction period. More than 600 operational roles will be required for the life of the mine, expected to be more than 25 years.

This project contains about US\$3.6 billion of work – a third of which has been based in the Pilbara.

**We've maintained our focus on creating and growing social value in our local communities – through training and employment, meeting our commitments to improve air quality, and donating to the bushfire relief fund.**

It's great to be a part of a big company that can make a difference and deliver social value, sustainably.

**Stay safe,  
Brandon**

# BHP unveils proposed wind fence at Finucane Island

## BHP has unveiled plans to construct the first Australian wind fence of its kind at Finucane Island, as part of the Pilbara Air Quality Program.

**The fence will be unique to Australia and has been specially designed to suit the Pilbara's unique weather conditions.**

BHP Port General Manager Nilson Davila said BHP recognised its shared responsibility to address dust issues at Port Hedland.

**"The wind fence will be constructed using global best practice dust management and air quality control technology," Nilson said.**

"This planned investment forms part of our Pilbara Air Quality Program and demonstrates our commitment to improve air quality in the area and contribute to the revitalisation of the West End.

"Subject to government approvals, the 30m high fence supports our intention to improve and build on our existing dust control measures as we continue to increase production towards 290 Mtpa in the medium term."

The fence is planned to be on the western side of BHP's Finucane Island port operations and will include mesh panels designed to reduce wind speeds, shielding the stockyard and reducing the potential for dust lift-off.

The system has been designed to deal with the extreme wind conditions often experienced in Port Hedland. As the wind speed reaches a certain limit, the mesh curtain opens, to let the air flow through the fence.

**"We continue to work closely with government, industry and the local community to further improve air quality controls at our operations and for the communities in which we operate," Nilson said.**

The project is subject to all necessary internal and State Government approvals.



**For more information about the Port Hedland Wind Fence watch this video.**



# Partnership prepares students for big opportunities

## Students across the Pilbara are set to benefit from a three-year extension to the BHP Pilbara Education Partnership worth \$6.6 million.

Partnering with the Department of Education, the initiative was established more than 15 years ago to expand education services and improve outcomes in public schools in Newman, Port Hedland and surrounding communities.

It has enabled the community access to resources and support for children to finish school and successfully transition to the workforce, with more than \$23 million contributed.

The latest extension to the partnership means the program is now also accessible to students at Onslow Primary School.

WA Minister for Education and Training, Sue Ellery welcomed the announcement.

**“It’s fantastic BHP has committed to fund this valuable Pilbara Education Partnership for the next three years,” Ms Ellery said.**

“Education is the key to setting young people up to live successful lives and this partnership provides schools and families with the skills, tools and resources to prepare students.”

The funding will support two new research-led programs for students across the Pilbara, including:

- **Early Years program:** a community-based approach to prepare children for their first years at school, through the provision of family services and early interventions to address any areas of concern.
- **Pathways program:** providing students with support to identify and successfully complete their desired educational pathway throughout secondary school, into training or further study, and ultimately to obtain employment in their career of choice.



Learn more about the partnership at [bhp.com](https://www.bhp.com)



For more information about the Pilbara Education Partnership watch this video.

  
**\$6.6m**  
over three years



**\$3m**

on community approach  
to Early Years (0-8) better  
preparing children for school



**\$3m**

to provide pathways from  
primary to secondary school -  
into training, study, jobs



**Supporting schools**  
in Newman, Port Hedland,  
Onslow and remote  
communities



**Education is the  
key to setting  
young people up to  
live successful lives**



# Shevaun leads the way to improve Newman air quality



## BHP has been working collaboratively across industry, government and community in Newman for many years to address dust management and air quality.

We are working closely with the Bureau of Meteorology to deepen our understanding around the natural contributors and factors that add to background dust in Newman, informing the initiatives being put in place in the short, medium and long term.

“To accelerate our efforts, we’ve established our own Air Quality Roadmap to identify the highest priority initiatives in Newman over the next three to five years,” General Manager of Newman Operations Marie Bourgoin said.

“This includes spending up to \$230 million in operational and capital expenditure over the next five years to implement dust mitigation work across our Eastern Ridge and Whaleback sites and research and development into new dust control opportunities.”

Late last year, BHP appointed a new Air Quality Lead, Shevaun Cottrell, who has lived in Newman with her family for the past 15 years.

“At a mine site, dust can come from a lot of different sources – from digging, tipping, crushing and stacking the ore to also driving trucks on haul roads,” Shevaun said.

**“To combat this, we are spending \$80 million a year on dust controls across our sites in Newman and we’ve already seen some success through these investments, including a year on year reduction of dust exceedances.”**



Watch this video to find out why our Air Quality lead at Newman Operations is excited about her new role.



You can read more about BHP’s Air Quality commitments [here](#).

# Local Indigenous businesses awarded greening contract

## Indigenous owned and operated nursery IBN Services will provide more than 5000 locally-grown plants to trial a West End vegetation barrier as part of BHP's Pilbara Air Quality Program.

Port Hedland-based IBN Services will provide a range of indigenous plants that grow in challenging soil conditions and capture dust.

Greening Australia has also appointed Indigenous-owned landscaping company, Yurra, to do the on-ground works.

"Research supports the use of vegetation to capture dust. We believe vegetation barriers could be used across the West End and other key locations in Port Hedland," BHP General Manager Port Operations, Nilson Davila, said.

"We are pleased to partner with Greening Australia, IBN Services and Yurra on the first phase of the vegetation barrier, which is an important step in our \$300 million Pilbara Air Quality Program.

"This contract is also another example of our commitment to create opportunities for local Indigenous businesses."

Greening Australia's Chief Operating Officer, Ian Rollins, said they were glad to have IBN Services' and Yurra's knowledge and skills in growing regional species and landscaping locally for the project.

**"The plants we use will be key to the success of our science-led, practical approach to create vegetation barriers as physical and visual screens for the Port Hedland community, improving air quality and local amenity," Mr Rollins said.**

Planting is due to commence in May 2021 along Wilson and Anderson streets.

"BHP is committed to ensuring Port Hedland remains a great place to live and work, having spent A\$400 million on dust related control measures over the past decade," Nilson said.

"Our Air Quality Program continues that work and will engage local businesses and create local jobs as we look to further improve dust levels across our supply chain."



# Bobbi builds her business at the Bungalow

**As a kid, Bobbi Lockyer remembers sitting in her grandad's yard with her cousins, eating the sweet, juicy mangoes from the tree above them.**

Now a working mum living back in Port Hedland, Bobbi used the memories from her experience to create one of her favourite paintings.

**"Its called Moore Street Mango Trees and it's about my childhood growing up on Moore Street here in Port Hedland. In my grandad's yard, he had all the mango trees and, so it's about my childhood with my cousins and my aunties and uncles, just sitting under the mango tree, climbing the mango trees and eating the delicious, juicy mangoes."**

Bobbi is the newest Port Hedland businesswoman to take up residence at the Bungalow on Edgar, a retail space where Port Hedland's creative community can thrive.

An artist, graphic designer and photographer, Bobbi has a strong affiliation with the Bungalow building, with her mother having lived there while pregnant with Bobbi.



BHP and the Port Hedland Chamber of Commerce opened the Bungalow on Edgar in 2020, providing a space where small and micro businesses can grow and have their own storefront.

"The space is designed to foster opportunities for growth of the micro businesses of Port Hedland through provision of equal opportunity for all home based and or micro businesses. Thanks to the support of BHP, the PHCCI have been able to support 12 businesses through the Bungalow on Edgar, this building has bridged a vital gap in the community for the micro & small business sector and we look forward to watching it flourish." PHCCI chief executive Claire Boyce said.



**You can visit the Bungalow on Edgar at:  
12 Edgar St, Port Hedland**

# Marine manager mum paves the way in Port Hedland

**Congratulations to Kirsty Timbury, Marine Manager at BHP's Port Hedland Towage Services, who was awarded the Women in Shipping and Maritime Logistics Award as part of the 2020 Daily Cargo News (DCN) Awards.**

Mum to 10-year-old Lexi, Kirsty manages her busy workload at Port with the demands of motherhood in Port Hedland.

And with more than 17 years' experience in the marine industry, Kirsty has an impressive track record when it comes to making organisational and cultural change.

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**"Kirsty has led numerous organisational change initiatives such as implementation of a specifically designed scheduling roster and championing cultural change within the Port marine team," the judges said.**

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"With the onset of the ongoing global pandemic, under Kirsty's direction the towage fleet saw a significant uplift in the movement of contractor groups and their families to Port Hedland.

"Kirsty's leadership, attention to detail, problem solving and engagement paved the way for a dynamic, safe and quick response."

BHP has 68 per cent women across marine operations and 6.6 per cent working on-board tug boats.

**Congratulations Kirsty.**



# South Flank drives towards first ore



**Around 9000 direct and indirect jobs have been created during construction and more than 600 ongoing operational roles will be required during the life of the mine.**



South Flank's Ore Handling Plant rises 30m above the stockyard

## More than three years since the first contracts were let, and two years since construction began, the South Flank project is nearing completion.

Despite the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the US\$3.6 billion development is more than 90 per cent complete and remains on track to feed first ore into the BHP rail network in the next couple of months. From there, it will progressively ramp up to its full design capacity of 80 million tonnes per year, eventually completely replacing output from the Yandi mine, as it reaches the end of its productive life.

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**Around 79 per cent of the investment content of the project has been Australian-based, including 33 per cent that is Pilbara-based and 43 per cent based in the rest of Western Australia (at December 2020).**

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South Flank is a once-in-a-generation, technologically advanced mega project, and will grow the established ore processing and storage area at Mining Area C into the world's biggest iron ore hub. The neighbouring mines are slated to reach a combined output of 145 Mtpa, underpinning BHP's ore offering for decades to come.

It's also a project with a fistful of firsts. As well as record-breaking hub output, South Flank will employ the world's biggest diggers and haul trucks in its pits (see more p14) and the biggest stackers and reclaimers in its storage yard. Some 26km of high-tech, energy efficient conveyors will transport primary crushed ore to the central handling plant from two main pits as far apart as Fremantle and Perth Airport.

Around 9000 direct and indirect jobs have been created during construction and more than 600 ongoing operational roles will be required during the life of the mine.

Finally, ore from South Flank will enhance the average quality of BHP's production in Western Australia, adding value by helping to lift the average iron grade from ~61 per cent to ~62 per cent, and the overall lump yield from ~25 per cent to ~30-33 per cent.



One of the world's biggest rail-mounted bucketwheel reclaimers, under construction at South Flank

# Vital Resources Fund supports the Pilbara



**\$50m**

Vital Resources Fund

**\$18m**

provided to WA

**\$8m**

donated to the Pilbara

## **BHP has provided more than \$18 million in community funding across Western Australia, and more than \$8 million in the Pilbara over the past year via the Vital Resources Fund.**

The \$50 million Vital Resources Fund was established to help support regional Australian communities surrounding its operations manage the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Healthcare organisations, Indigenous communities, and businesses were supported through the Fund, Western Australia Iron Ore Asset President Brandon Craig said.

“We stand side by side with the communities in which we operate. Over the past year we have provided over \$18 million to organisations across WA. This has included critical services such as local healthcare and mental health, business and financial support and Indigenous communities,” Brandon said.

“The funding has helped regional communities navigate the challenges of the previous year and will set them up for continued success.”

The Western Australian Council of Social Service (WACOSS) received over \$1 million to help fund prevention and support programs for family and domestic violence across the Pilbara.

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**“The funding has enabled us to establish new programs across the Pilbara, specifically in South Hedland and Newman,” WACOSS chief executive Louise Giolitto said.**

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“This includes the establishment of a behaviour change facility, the development of a family and domestic violence strategy for primary prevention, the roll-out of culturally-safe, trauma-informed training to support our social services and the investment in strategic coordination of the sector.”

The Royal Flying Doctor Service also benefitted, receiving \$2 million towards the purchase of a new Pilatus PC-12 aeromedical aircraft.

With one in four retrievals on a RFDS plane being from a mine site the donation facilitated an enhanced service to regional communities who needed urgent medical attention.

“2020 was an extraordinary year for the RFDS with record levels of activity – on average 785 retrievals per month. Our service is more important than ever and we are grateful to BHP for their support,” RFDS WA chief executive Rebecca Tomkinson said.

# New family friendly services in the Newman neighbourhood

## BHP has provided over \$600,000 in funding for a Well Women's clinic at the Newman Neighbourhood Centre.

The funds will allow women and families to access services and programs designed specifically for women's health and wellbeing.

"As a mother and a resident of Newman, I know how important it is for the community to have access to vital services they need to live and flourish," General Manager of Newman Operations, Marie Bourgoin said.

"This much-needed funding will help the Newman Neighbourhood Centre create positive opportunities and outcomes for families in Newman."

As part of the partnership, the Centre's Community Health Nurse will provide health and wellbeing programs for families in Newman, including a new parents group, information sessions delivered in conjunction with Ngala and referrals to other health professionals.

**These services are in addition to the Centre's existing offerings, which include an onsite creche funded by BHP as part of the BHP Family Friendly Flexible Work Centre. The creche offers places for both community and BHP employees.**



To learn more about their services or to make a booking, visit the [Newman Neighbourhood Centre](#) at 2 Mackay Street or call them on 08 9175 1516



"This much-needed funding will help the Newman Neighbourhood Centre create positive opportunities and outcomes for families in Newman."

**Marie Bourgoin**  
General Manager of  
Newman Operations

# Planes, trains and automobiles



## Community Fares to and from the Pilbara down to \$299 one way.

Community airfares to and from the Pilbara will be cheaper thanks to a BHP community commitment.

One-way tickets between Perth and Port Hedland or Newman will be capped at \$299 through our Community Fare program with Alliance Airlines. This is a fully flexible fare and changes can be made until 24 hours before takeoff. There are no sale or blackout periods and the cost is fixed.

BHP's Community Airfares are available to Pilbara residents as well as visiting friends and family who don't live in Newman and Port Hedland, helping to connect the outside world to the Pilbara.

These fares will also support small businesses and not for profit organisations in the Pilbara where contractors are needed to fly in to assist business operations.



## New locos arrive in the Pilbara

If you work and live in the Pilbara, you may have already seen our new locomotives in action.

We recently welcomed six new locomotives to our rolling stock fleet. Specifically designed to withstand the Pilbara heat, the locomotives were manufactured in the USA before embarking on the four-week journey to Australia.

The locomotives are responsible for transporting iron ore from our mines across the Pilbara to our port facilities in Port Hedland.

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**With some of our trains being 2.5km long, it can take half an hour to walk from one end of the train to the other.**

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## Final haul truck delivered to South Flank

**Komatsu has completed manufacture of the 41st and final 930E-5 haul truck for South Flank's mining fleet, bringing the delivery phase of the contract to a close.**

The ultra-class diesel electric drive machines are so big that the chassis, wheels and tray were transported from Perth to site separately on dedicated low-loaders and floats, before final assembly and commissioning on the build pad.

Standing at more than 8m tall, the dumping height sees the tray reach more than almost 14m. Already, 21 of the trucks in the fleet are in operation at the South Flank operation, which is due to output its first ore in coming months.



The Community Fares can be booked directly through the [Alliance Airlines website](#).

# Indigenous business awarded West End cleaning contract

**As part of BHP's \$300 million Pilbara Air Quality program, local business Boodarie Contracting has been awarded a contract for cleaning services in the West End of Port Hedland.**

Boodarie will provide cleaning of infrastructure and local amenities for the next two years. The contract will include regular cleaning of footpaths, shopfronts, and signs, as well as public seats, playgrounds, and parks.

**"We are pleased to partner with Boodarie Contracting for BHP's West End cleaning program," BHP General Manager Port Operations, Nilson Davila said.**

"The program is an important part of our integrated approach to dust management in Port Hedland, and follows recent announcements on the building of a wind fence at Finucane Island and the creation of a vegetation barrier to collect dust in the West End.

"This contract is another example of our commitment to create opportunities for local and Traditional Owner businesses."

Boodarie Contracting, Director and Karriyarra Traditional Owner of Port Hedland, Kerry Robinson said his team was looking forward to partnering with BHP to provide the important service.

"I'm happy to be securing long term opportunities for my business on-country, and providing employment opportunities for Karriyarra people," Kerry said.

BHP is committed to ensuring Port Hedland remains a great place to live and work, having spent A\$400 million on dust related control measures over the past decade.



# Supporting the early educator sector to thrive

## We're helping train up more early childhood educators to work at daycares in the Pilbara.

With childcare places few and far between in the Pilbara, BHP understands the importance of developing the sector with the communities which host our Pilbara operations.

Creating and nurturing a sustainable early learning educator workforce is critical to ensuring a thriving community.

In partnership with Child Australia, BHP is funding the Thriving Futures work readiness program, providing potential early learning educators with a 12 week immersive experience into the sector.

Following successful completion of the program, Academy graduates will be offered full scholarships to obtain the skills and qualifications alongside their career in early learning in a participating centre in Port Hedland or Newman.

"As a regional employer we recognise the importance of early years education across the Pilbara. The Academy will provide career entrants with a pathway to engage in a challenging and rewarding career, and it will create a sustainable, qualified workforce," BHP WA Manager Communities, Chris Cottier said.



The Academy is open to all applicants, specifically encouraging the Indigenous community, school leavers, parents re-entering the workforce, and mature-age workers looking to reinvigorate their careers.

Child Australia CEO Tina Holtom said the Academy immersion experience is about empowering those interested in establishing their career in the early years.

**"Working with children in their early years is possibly one of the most rewarding careers, but it requires a high level of commitment and passion."**

"The educator role is multi-faceted and critically important, so it is essential that we nurture candidates right from the start, to be their absolute best when working with children and families."

## Jinali and Letisha's big splash



**At 17 years old, Letisha Parker has achieved her goal two years in the making – to become the first Aboriginal woman from Roebourne to qualify as a senior pool lifeguard.**

And 16-year-old Jinali Bin Saad is well on her way to reaching her long term aim – to get a job in the Pilbara's resources sector.

Letisha and Jinali recently graduated from Royal Lifesaving WA's Pool Lifeguard course through the Talent Pool program.

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**Supported by BHP, Talent Pool is a youth employment program that works to empower youth across Western Australia, with a focus on the Pilbara. It engages youth in training programs, focused largely on skills suitable for the aquatics industry, to ensure they have an opportunity to build their future careers.**

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Both young women completed their senior first aid and pool lifeguard course over two days, learning advanced senior first aid, management of spinal injuries, and how to respond to a range of complex and challenging rescue scenarios.

BHP is proud to support this program and joins with Royal Life Saving WA in wishing Jinali and Letisha a bright future.

# Helping Pilbara kids hear their way to a brighter future



## Indigenous children have 10 times the rate of ear disease compared to non-Indigenous children.

**Left untreated, middle ear disease can have life-changing impacts on a child's ability to not only listen but to learn and reach their full potential.**

Through the support of BHP, the Earbus Foundation is now able to provide their outreach program to the Newman and Jigalong communities in the Pilbara.

Through the provision of a fully equipped mobile Earbus, children in Newman and Jigalong can be treated earlier and provided with the care they need to avoid preventable hearing loss and the associated issues.

Earbus Foundation CEO Paul Higginbotham said the bus would allow the Foundation to help regional children.

**The artwork on the Newman Earbus was created by students from South Newman Primary School, giving it a distinctive local identity and making it instantly recognisable.**

"For children to be able to hear stories passed down from their elders and to access the school curriculum, being able to hear properly is vital. Creating an opportunity where our most vulnerable children have support to learn, be healthy and have a brighter future is the greatest gift we can afford our children," South Newman Primary School Principal Katie Wallace said.

# Funding keeps pantry doors open for most vulnerable



## More than 5000 Port Hedland community members are expected to use a local support service which has received a funding boost from BHP.

The Bloodwood Tree Mini Mart provides staple pantry items to struggling individuals and families at a fraction of their usual cost.

The additional \$200,000 will allow the service to continue operating during 2021 giving much needed funds to purchase additional storage space, helping it become more sustainable.

The service began in June 2020, with initial funding provided by BHP, through its Vital Resources Fund, which was created to support regional communities during COVID-19.

“Without suitable storage, it has been difficult to do the donation drives and gather the donations from the community effectively,” Bloodwood Tree Association chief executive Kelly Howlett said.

**“This funding enables us to install dedicated storage and then we can truly gather all the donations and support the community wants to help those in need.”**

BHP General Manager Port Operations Nilson Davila said the funding would ensure the long term sustainability of the Mini Mart.

“We’re proud to stand beside Bloodwood Tree and to continue to support the most vulnerable members of our Hedland community, significantly assisting to alleviate food security challenges locally.”

**The service has already helped more than 1200 people, with 5000 expected to receive assistance from the Mini Mart this year.**



## New family friendly services in Newman

Newman families can access a range of health and wellbeing services thanks to the new Well Women's Clinic at the Newman Neighbourhood Centre.

Read more about the Well Women's clinic on page 13.

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## Do you have an issue with our operations?

Call **1800 421 077**

If you notice something is not quite right and you think it may be linked to our port, mining or rail operations then BHP has a Pilbara Community Contact line that offers a 24 hour service, 7 days a week to register your concern.

For more information

Contact Corporate Affairs on 6321 0151 or email [pilbaraca@bhp.com](mailto:pilbaraca@bhp.com)

[bhp.com](http://bhp.com)