



**Australian Government**  
**Indigenous Business Australia**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Ngarda Civil & Mining secures 5 year contract with BHP**

Chairman of Indigenous Business Australia (IBA), Mr Joseph Elu congratulates Ngarda Civil and Mining on being awarded a 5 year mining contract expected to exceed \$300 million for BHP's 'Yarrie mine' in the Pilbara of Western Australia.

"This contract is the largest ever secured by Ngarda and signifies a major step forward for Indigenous participation in the Mining sector," Mr Elu said.

Ngarda Civil & Mining was formed to provide Indigenous people of the Pilbara region an opportunity to access economic development in the mining industry.

This has been a highly successful joint venture between the Ngarda\* Foundation, which holds 25% equity, IBA which holds 25% equity and Leighton Contractors Pty Ltd which holds 50% equity.

Since beginning operation 6 years ago Ngarda Civil & Mining has become an industry leader in the mining and construction sector with regards to Indigenous employment.

They provide a total mine service including drill and blast, load and haul, processing, train loading infrastructure and facilities management.

Mr Elu said there are currently 200 employees and approximately 130 are aboriginal. This contract allows for a substantial additional commitment to Indigenous employment.

"I am advised that the workforce needed for this new contract is an additional 200 staff and Ngarda plan to employ another 130 Indigenous workers.

"This means the Indigenous workforce will be around the 65% mark and will deliver long term benefits to the Indigenous communities.

"Ngarda's position in the Pilbara has gone from strength to strength in 2007 following the 5 year extension to an existing contract in Port Hedland and the awarding of a \$100 million contract in Karratha.

"Ngarda is a shining example of Indigenous economic and employment development; I congratulate the Board of Ngarda Mr Brian Hughey, General Manager, and Mr Barry Taylor, Executive Chairperson, for their visionary leadership.

"IBA is proud to be a partner in this dynamic and groundbreaking venture," concluded Mr Elu.

Ngarda\* is the Yindjibarni word for Aboriginal people.

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