

22 October 2007

Information Day on Local Aboriginal Employment

Over 35 people turned up to the Kooraming Centre in Narrogin on Monday 22 October to find out about local Aboriginal employment opportunities at the Boddington Gold Mine and in the Peel Region. The information session was coordinated by the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) with the Department of Indigenous Affairs and Boddington Gold Mine (BGM).

The session provided an opportunity to hear from SWALSC and the BGM about the soon to be operational Goldmine and the positions that will be available in the mine over the next few years. The day also provided an opportunity to hear updates on the new Peel Regional partnership Agreement which SWALSC is currently negotiating.

The Gnaala Karla Boodja people and the Mine have entered into a Community Partnership Agreement. Part of this agreement provides a range of training and employment opportunities for local Aboriginal people at the Mine site.

Mr. Glen Kelly, CEO of the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council said, "The Community Partnership Agreement that the Gnaala Karla Boodja people signed with Boddington Gold Mine provides a great framework for indigenous employment in the area. Through the agreement Boddington have committed to employing at least 100 local Aboriginal people in the Mine..

Mr. Kelly Added, "These positions include already skilled employees as well as employment and training to up skill semi-skilled as well as full training for unskilled workers through traineeships".

The Mine is expected to employ over 600 people and will be fully operational by late next year. Some traineeships are due to start by December.

The South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council is a representative body for the traditional owners of the South West of Australia, the Noongar People. SWALSC's main role is to work with its members to find resolutions for Native Title Claims in the south west as well as advancing the Noongar culture, language and society.

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