

It's more than you think

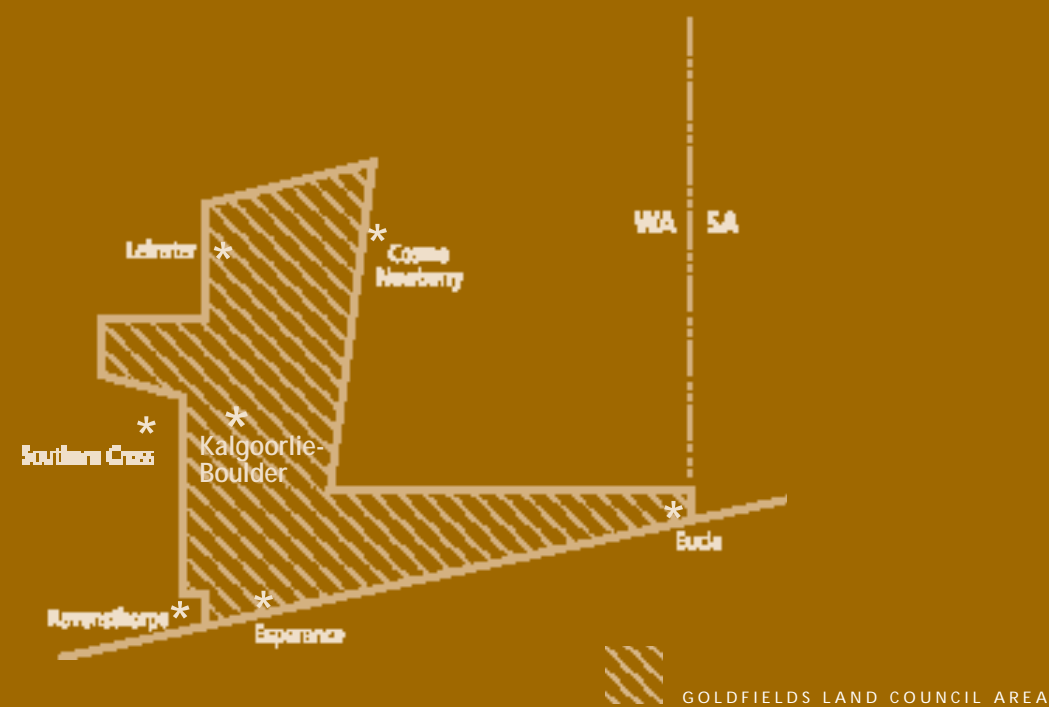
ABORIGINAL PEOPLE'S ROLE IN THE GOLDFIELDS ECONOMY



Prepared by the Goldfields Land Council

CONTENTS

REGIONAL OVERVIEW	2
Indigenous Profile	2
Population Growth	3
Economy	4
Mining	4
Agriculture	5
Industry Breakdown of Gross Regional Product	5
CENSUS DATA - GOLDFIELDS vs WA	6
INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION (GOLDFIELDS)	7
Aboriginal-owned Enterprises	7
PAYG Wage Earnings	8
Aboriginal Service Agencies	8
Community Development Employment Program (CDEP)	9
Unemployment Benefits	9
INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION (WA)	10
SOCIAL INDICATORS FOR GOLDFIELDS ABORIGINAL PEOPLE	11



THE GOLDFIELDS LAND COUNCIL (GLC) IS RECOGNISED UNDER THE FEDERAL NATIVE TITLE ACT AS THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY FOR MOST OF THE AREA COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE 'GOLDFIELDS'.



REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Indigenous Profile

The contribution of indigenous people to the Goldfields economy is too often underestimated. For example, how many people realise that indigenous people contribute more than \$60 million a year to the economy of Kalgoorlie-Boulder each year; or that some indigenous-owned enterprises have provided more than \$20 million in services in a single year to the operations of just one mining company?

Aboriginal people have a diverse involvement in the regional economy - as both employees and employers in an increasing number of indigenous-owned enterprises, ranging from farms and pastoral stations to service companies in the tourism and mining sectors.

There are 4,680 Aboriginal people living and working throughout Goldfields-Esperance*, comprising 8.4% of the total population (53,128 - ABS, 1996).

The employment rate for Aboriginal people showed an upward trend in the 10 years to 1996. In that period unemployment decreased from 47% to 43% in 1991 and 14% in 1996. The trend is a good indicator of Aboriginal people's enthusiasm for participating in the workforce and the regional economy.

The annual median income of Aboriginal people in the Goldfields was \$8,761 in 1996.

The Goldfields Land Council and individual Aboriginal communities are making concerted efforts to improve the overall contribution of indigenous people to the regional economy. This is being achieved in many ways, including:

- *Negotiated native title agreement claims* - in partnership with mining companies, claimants are being provided employment and training, and enterprise-building opportunities, in return for access to their traditional lands for exploration and mining.

*Most of the information in this regional overview was drawn from Goldfields-Esperance Development Corporation publications.



The Aboriginal Affairs Department recognises 22 discrete Aboriginal communities in the Goldfields.

- *Increasing the land estate of indigenous people* - in conjunction with the Indigenous Land Corporation and the Aboriginal Lands Trust, Aboriginal people are acquiring secure titles to land, on which new business enterprises might be established and economic independence achieved.
- *General support for indigenous economic activity* - eg. at the GLC's instigation the Goldfields Indigenous Primary Producers Aboriginal Corporation (GIPPAC) has been established, providing cooperative strength to indigenous-owned farms and pastoral stations in areas such as technology and marketing.

Population Growth

Population growth in Goldfields-Esperance is principally driven by employment. Projections by the Ministry of Planning suggest that the area would have a population (indigenous and non-indigenous) of 62,196 by 2001, increasing to 73,955 by 2011 and 79,452 by 2016.

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder is the region's principal economic centre and in June 1999 had a population of 31,939 or 54 per cent of the total.

continued next page...



Goldfields Lands Council Area

Population Growth and Distribution

City/Shire	1991	1996	1998	1999
Coolgardie	5,824	5,651	5,325	4,997
Dundas	1,754	1,653	1,565	1,489
Esperance	11,078	12,300	12,815	13,073
Kalgoorlie/Boulder	26,865	29,587	31,352	31,939
Laverton	1,702	1,214	1,207	1,185
Leonora	2,518	2,774	2,709	2,698
Menzies	268	354	343	343
TOTAL	50,009	53,533	55,316	55,724

REGIONAL OVERVIEW continued...

Esperance is the second major centre with a 1999 population of 13,073, or 22.2% of the regional total. The Shires of Dundas, Laverton and Coolgardie have had decreasing population numbers over the last 5 years, while the Shires of Menzies and Leonora have been relatively static. The Shire of Esperance and the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder all experienced growth in this period.

Economy

The Gross Regional Product (GRP) for Goldfields-Esperance was \$3.98 billion (at market prices) in 1998/99, with mining valued at \$3.09 billion (1997). Mining and agriculture/pastoral dominate the economy.

Mining

Mining is the predominant industry in the central and northern Goldfields, based mainly on the extraction and processing of gold, nickel, cobalt and lime.

Gold makes up more than three-quarters of the value of the Goldfields-Esperance minerals industry. The value of gold production fell from \$2.04 billion in 1998/99 to \$1.89 billion in 2000/01. Gold mining in Goldfields-Esperance accounts for 64 per cent of Western Australia's \$2.9 billion gold output. Gold ranks as the State's second most valuable resources sector, after petroleum.

Western Australia produces 99 per cent of Australia's nickel production, with 64 per cent of the State's production coming from mines within Goldfields-Esperance (\$1.12 billion in 1999/2000, including cobalt, palladium and platinum by-products).



INDUSTRY BREAKDOWN OF GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT (GRP) FOR GOLDFIELDS - ESPERANCE

	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
Agriculture forestry & fishing	3.8%	3.7%	4.3%	3.6%	3.6%	4.3%
Mining	62.2%	64.3%	65.7%	65.7%	65.4%	65.7%
Manufacturing	2.8%	2.7%	2.6%	2.6%	2.7%	2.6%
Electricity, gas and water	1.1%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%
Construction	5.3%	4.9%	4.8%	5.2%	5.6%	4.8%
Wholesale trade	3.2%	3.0%	2.6%	2.4%	2.3%	2.6%
Retail trade	2.6%	2.4%	2.3%	2.2%	2.1%	2.3%
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	0.9%
Transport and storage	3.1%	3.0%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%
Communication services	1.1%	1.0%	0.9%	1.0%	1.1%	0.9%
Finance, insurance and dwellings	2.8%	2.5%	2.2%	2.3%	2.4%	2.2%
Property and business	3.9%	3.9%	3.5%	3.7%	3.7%	3.5%
Gov't administration and defence	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%	1.3%	1.2%	1.3%
Education	1.8%	1.7%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Health and community services	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%
Cultural and recreational services	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Personal and other services	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Agriculture

There is a well-established agricultural sector in the southern and coastal areas and a pastoral industry in the central and northern Goldfields.

Goldfields-Esperance agricultural production was valued at \$322.2 million in 1997/98, comprised mainly of cereals, wool, grains and livestock. The number of establishments with agricultural activity was 1,468.

Aboriginal people are owners or occupants of 4 pastoral properties and 14 farm lots (in the Esperance area). There are also 2 community pastoral leases at Cosmo Newberry and Coonana.

CENSUS DATA

GOLDFIELDS vs WA

INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

GOLDFIELDS

CRITERIA	INDIGENOUS		NON-INDIGENOUS	
	GLC Area The 'Goldfields'	WA	GLC Area The 'Goldfields'	WA
Total persons	3152	50815	47504	1617407
0-14	1245	20241	11355	356211
15-44	1523	24088	25763	52677
45-64	298	5011	7939	339161
65+	86	818	2447	169358
Median age	20	18	29	30
Attending education institution	1087	17759	10759	1426484
Never attended school	61	1592	75	6739
Spks Aborig/TSI language 5+	499	8147	4	195
Spks English only 5+	2173	33344	41075	1315114
In labour force: Employed CDEP <small>As per ATSIIC, May 2001</small>	51 328	3044	0	0
In labour force: Employed other	598	8690	25767	748078
In labour force: Unemployed	180	2802	1528	63715
In labour force: Total	829	14536	27295	811793
Not in labour force	1019	14474	513	440027
Unemployment rate	21.7	19.2	5.6	7.84
Median individual income - /wk	191	1647	453	4026
Enumerated in private dwellings: separate house	2401	41074	36283	1328121
Enumerated in private dwellings: improvised	109	1216	56	2226
Enumerated in private dwellings: other private	365	6035	6927	233145
Enumerated in private dwellings: Total	2875	48325	43266	1563492
Enumerated in non-private dwellings	277	2456	4238	51101

ABS 1996 Census of Housing & Population (per ATSIIC)

Aboriginal people make a major contribution to the Goldfields economy, either directly as consumers, employees or employers of labour; or indirectly as the core clients of government and community service programs operating throughout the region.

In 1997/98 indigenous people contributed \$61 million to the Kalgoorlie-Boulder city economy alone. (Source: Department of Commerce and Trade)

Aboriginal-owned Enterprises

The provision of services to the mining industry is where indigenous-owned enterprises are most commonly involved in the regional economy.

On the occasion of the Goldfields Mining Expo 2000 the mining company WMC Resources estimated that indigenous companies were providing goods and services to WMC's operations in the region, totalling over \$24 million.

Examples of indigenous enterprises providing services to the Goldfields' mining sector include:

- **BYAC Contractors - Laverton**
Established 6 years ago and now employs 70 workers. A major customer is Anaconda Nickel's Murrin Murrin mine between Laverton and Leonora. Services range from truck driving to labouring and courier services for core sample bags.
- **Lakesands Corporation Pty Ltd - Boulder**
Provides mine site rehabilitation services, including drill hole plugging, and backfilling sumps, costeans and old mine shafts.
- **Champion Supply Services - Boulder**
Established in 1997, the company manufactures concrete drill hole caps in various sizes for use in mine site rehabilitation.
- **Yunguntjara Star Pty Ltd - Kalgoorlie**
Specialises in bore field installations, and supply of



Photo courtesy BYAC Contractors

pipes and pressure testing. Also provides trench digging and butt welding, plant and equipment maintenance, plant and crane hire and assorted civil works.

- **A - Z Auto Care Centre - Kalgoorlie**
Established 1970. An SGIO-approved Quality Repairer, specialising in all accident repairs, panel beating and paintwork.
- **SMC Vending Machines - Leonora**
Operates a retail store at Murrin Murrin and vending machines throughout the region. Core competencies include retail management, vending machine supply and operation, laundry systems and snack food catering.
- **Yamatji Bitja Aboriginal Bush Tours and Cultural Education - Boulder**
Conducts cross-cultural training seminars for industry and recreational and educational tours through traditional Yamatji country.
- **Carmody Consultants - Boulder**
Provides expert civil engineering services, including plant and plant operator hire to the mining industry.

continued next page...

INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Indigenous people contributed an estimated \$730 million to the State's economy in 1997/98 (Source: Department of Commerce and Trade). While this is a significant contribution, it only represents 1.3% of Western Australia's total economy, which was valued at \$55.2 billion in 1997/98.

If there were comparable rates of employment (non-indigenous vs indigenous) then Aboriginal people's contribution would have been \$1.4 billion in 1997/98. The disparity is attributable to the high unemployment rate and underemployment amongst indigenous people.

Indigenous people are also under-represented in the higher paid occupations. In 1996 indigenous people made up 2.3% of the State's population aged 15 and over, but only received 1.5% of the total income distributed to Western Australians.

Indigenous people in the mining sector contributed \$140 million to the State economy in 1997/98. Again, a rate of employment comparable to non-indigenous people would see that contribution double to almost \$280 million.



"Indigenous people are under-represented in the higher paid occupations"



Information provided in this section was drawn predominantly from the State Aboriginal Affairs Department (AAD).

SOCIAL INDICATORS GOLDFIELDS

Housing

Home ownership amongst Aboriginal people improved over the last 10 years with a decreasing reliance on rented accommodation. The proportion of rented dwellings increased slightly from 71% to 73%, while 20% of homes occupied by Aboriginal people were owned or being purchased in 1996.

Less reliance on improvised dwellings was evident over the last 10 years with the proportion falling from 16% in 1986 to 4% in 1996. This compares to less than 1% improvised dwellings for non-Aboriginal households.

School Participation

The school participation rate of Aboriginal children aged 6-12 in the Goldfields is 94%, compared to 100% for non-Aboriginal children in the same age group. However, the high participation rate of Aboriginal children in primary school is not sustained into secondary school.

According to the AAD, the Goldfields has the lowest participation rate for Aboriginal secondary school-aged students in WA, with 48% (almost 5-in-10) of Aboriginal children aged 13-17 years not attending school. The corresponding rate for non-Aboriginal children is 23%, or just over 2-in-10 not attending school.

continued next page...

SOCIAL INDICATORS

continued...

Employment

The unemployment rate for Aboriginal people in the Goldfields recorded an improving trend, decreasing from 47% in 1986 to 43% in 1991 and 14% in 1996. However, if the uptake of CDEP is included, the adjusted unemployment rate for 1996 would be 49%.

Income

The annual median income of Aboriginal people in the Goldfields increased slightly over the last ten years from \$5,365 in 1986 to \$8,262 in 1991 and \$8,761 in 1996. However, the median income of non-Aboriginal people has risen at a faster rate, resulting in a widening gap between the incomes of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the region.

In 1986, the Aboriginal median income was 48% of the non-Aboriginal income. This fell to 45% in 1991 and 37% in 1996.

The improvement in key social indicators such as home ownership and personal income, combined with increasing numbers of indigenous-owned/operated enterprises, augers well for the future of indigenous people in the Goldfields economy.

The involvement is deepening as the benefits of native title (legal ties to land, heritage protection, skills training, enterprise opportunities etc.) and increased land ownership (ILC and ALT programs) flow through to Aboriginal people and their communities.

Throughout, the Goldfields Land Council stands ready to promote and assist the region's indigenous population in securing access to their traditional lands and realising their full cultural and economic potential.



"The annual median income of Aboriginal people in the Goldfields increased slightly over the last ten years"



GOLDFIELDS LAND COUNCIL

67-71 DUGAN STREET

PO BOX 10006

KALGOORLIE WA 6430

TELEPHONE: (08) 9091 1661

FACSIMILE: (08) 9091 1662

EMAIL: glc@glc.com.au

WEBSITE: www.glc.com.au