Aboriginal Engagement Strategy Overview

Since the Koondarm (our creation) our ancestral pathways have guided us through Noongar Boojar (our land) from significant place to significant place from one water body to another.

Now we work together to strengthen Gnarla Biddi (our pathways) the way that people travel and connect to places. Still linked to our shared history and culture.

Our commitment

“The METRONET Office acknowledges the People of the Noongar Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters on which the METRONET Program of Projects is located. We pay our respects to their Elders, both past, present and emerging, and thank them for their continuing connection to country, culture and community.”

“The METRONET Aboriginal Engagement Strategy (the Strategy) outlines the WA State Government commitment to embed genuine engagement with the Aboriginal community across the METRONET program.”
Guiding Our Journey

The Strategy outlines five streams of engagement running through each stage of the project life-cycle, with minimum targets to meet.

ENGAGEMENT STREAM ONE:

Noongar Cultural Recognition

This stream aims to recognise the traditional and ongoing connection of Noongar people to country, while educating and raising awareness of Noongar culture within the workforce of people working on METRONET projects and the broader community.

Targets

- 100% of METRONET Office, METRONET Lead Agency and METRONET Project Delivery Contractor personnel undertake cultural awareness training within three months of appointment.
- Welcome to/acknowledgement of Country to occur at all appropriate METRONET events in accordance with advice provided by the appropriate Noongar Working Party, through the METRONET Noongar Reference Group.

ENGAGEMENT STREAM TWO:

Noongar Cultural Input into Place Making

This stream provides a structured approach to ensuring Noongar stories and culture is represented in the infrastructure that is designed and built as part of the METRONET program.

Targets

- METRONET Noongar Reference Group and operational Terms of Reference developed by the METRONET Office with the relevant Noongar Working Parties during the project planning phase for input into each METRONET project.
- A Noongar Cultural Context Document developed by the METRONET Office with input from the METRONET Noongar Reference Group for each METRONET project prior to the commencement of the project design development phase.
- METRONET Project Delivery Contractor to incorporate information contained within the Noongar Cultural Context Document within the final Project design, in liaison with the METRONET Noongar Reference Group.
ENGAGEMENT STREAM THREE: Aboriginal Procurement

METRONET is committed to requirements outlined in the recently released Aboriginal Procurement Policy (WA) 2017. These requirements are passed on to METRONET Contractors as a best practice measure to increase Aboriginal participation.

Targets
- 3% of the number of awarded State government contracts above $50k to be awarded to registered Aboriginal businesses by the end of 2021 and beyond.
- 3% of the number of awarded METRONET Project Delivery Contractor contracts above $50k awarded to registered Aboriginal businesses by the end of 2021 and beyond.

ENGAGEMENT STREAM FOUR: Aboriginal Employment

This stream aims to present opportunities for Noongar and Other Aboriginal people to direct employment and career development opportunities.

Targets
- Minimum two Aboriginal employees employed within the METRONET Office and/ or PTA as the METRONET Lead Agency for Transport Infrastructure projects.
- Aboriginal employees to make up >3% of total hours worked by METRONET Project Delivery Contractors

ENGAGEMENT STREAM FIVE: Land Access and Sites Management

This stream acknowledges existing processes in place to protect Aboriginal Heritage sites and aims to comply with: (legislation).
- Native Title Act 1993
- PTA Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement (NSHA)
- Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972
- Noongar Recognition Act 2016
- The South West Native Title Settlement

Targets
Compliance with relevant legislation, licences and agreements.

How? Strategy Implementation

METRONET Project Delivery Contractors are required to prepare an Aboriginal Engagement and Participation Plan prior to contract award that outlines how each contractor intends to embed these 5 engagement streams into their project delivery processes, toward achieving targets set.
Creating a Conversation

To create the beginning of a conversation between Noongar Representatives and METRONET project teams, the METRONET Office will coordinate Noongar Cultural Context Documents for each project. This will bring together publicly available information and oral stories and information that has shaped each place’s physical, cultural and emotional qualities.

The document will be shared with the lead contractors who will incorporate this information where possible into the project’s design, with input from Noongar Representatives.

Working Together

The Noongar Reference Group will guide the METRONET Office, the lead delivery agency and the lead contractor design teams.

The Group will provide input into the Noongar Cultural Recognition and Placemaking Engagement Streams. This includes:

- Advising on elements of cultural recognition and awareness activities
- Review Noongar Cultural Context Documents
- Feedback on various elements of a project’s design

Though this Reference Group will be METRONET’s first point of contact it does not exclude consultation with other groups throughout the program’s life.

Where to now?

Noongar Business

- METRONET is managing a capability Register and is seeking Aboriginal Business to provide details of business capability to pass on to successful contractors. Go to the Industry and Jobs tab on our website to register your business.
- Opportunities for business engagement will come when the strategy is finalised and implemented by the METRONET Office. Lead Agencies and Contractors. Keep an eye out for advertised opportunities

Noongar Job Seekers

- Aboriginal Employment opportunities will come when the strategy is finalised and implemented by the METRONET Office. Lead Agencies and Contractors. Keep an eye out on for advertised opportunities

STAYING INVOLVED

For more information on communications and engagement opportunities, and to register for updates, please visit the METRONET website at: www.metronet.wa.gov.au or email info@metronet.wa.gov.au or call +61 8 9326 3666.