Our Gnarla Biddi Strategy aims to weave Noongar culture throughout the METRONET projects. To help shape this a METRONET Noongar Reference Group has been formed with nominated representatives from both the Whadjuk Working Party and the Gnaala Karla Booja Working Party.

The Group has already met three times to provide input advice and support to the METRONET Office, METRONET Lead Agencies and Contractors with the Noongar Cultural Recognition and Noongar Cultural Input into Place Making engagement streams as outlined in the Gnarla Biddi Strategy.

The Group will verify various Noongar Cultural Context Documents which are currently being prepared by Consultants for the METRONET team, and they will also guide programs related to Cultural Awareness Training and Cultural Recognition activities.

During the various project design phases, the Group will provide cultural input into relevant design elements, which can include but is not necessarily limited to landscaping, art and urban design.

We welcome the following nominated representatives:

Trevor McMahon, Roger Pickett, Doreen Nelson and Marion Collard - Whadjuk Working Party Representatives

Ted Hart, Geri Hayden, Peter Michael and Lera Bennell - Gnarla Karla Booja Working Party Representatives

Check out WA Jobs board jobs.wa.gov.au for government employment opportunities.

The Yanchep Rail Extension and Thornlie-Cockburn Link alliance tender shortlist has been announced with METROconnex (Coleman Rail, Clough & Georgiou Group) and NEWest Alliance (CPB Contractors and Downer) moving into the Alliance development phase (details at www.metronet.wa.gov.au)

The Denny Ave and Bayswater contracts are being released soon, which are more great opportunities to partner with major design and construction companies to help deliver these transformational projects. These contracts will be advertised on tenders.wa.gov.au
We are excited to welcome Mark Bateman as the Public Transport Authority’s Aboriginal Engagement Coordinator. Mark is a Noongar man who grew up in the Wheatbelt town of York and he enjoys fishing, archery and trapp shooting.

Mark started his working career at 17 when he joined the Australian Regular Army, serving at Townsville Qld Second/Fourth Battalion Royal Australian Regiment and Swanbourne barracks SASR. His post military work was mostly in the field of Indigenous employment, training and small business development for various not for profit NGO’s.

Mark’s most recent employment experience involved working for BHP Billiton as the Indigenous Specialist for the Major Expansion projects in the Pilbara. He also previously worked for Western Power as the Diversity Coordinator and  the National Disability Coordination Officer for the Pilbara, Kimberly and Midwest/Gascoigne regions of WA.

METRONET are very pleased to have Mark and his wealth of knowledge join our team.

A STREAM IS BORN

In each upcoming edition of this update we will feature the creation of each engagement stream icon as told by Dr Richard Walley.

The Gnarla Biddi engagement streams collectively help allow for cultural, business, job and land access outcomes for the Aboriginal community.

Individually each stream outlines the minimum engagement requirements with Noongar and other Aboriginal Stakeholders during planning and delivery of each METRONET project.

To identify each stream Dr Richard Walley created a special artwork icon, each with its own story. In this edition we look at what the Noongar Cultural Recognition icon represents.

“The Joondalup Line extension is going up into the Yanchep National Park in that vicinity, so it lends itself to very simply representing these pathways that are taking you up into that area. Of course, you know the park in Yanchep is quite well known for the reeds, good healthy reeds, and good healthy water. Whilst the path goes through there, it also represents the reeds.”

– Dr Richard Walley