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## Media Release

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### **MINGULLATHARNDU COMMUNITY CELEBRATES OFFICIAL OPENING OF PILBARA INDIGENOUS NURSERY**

The Mingullatharndo (Five Mile) Community in Roebourne is celebrating the official opening of its first community owned and operated business, the Pilbara Indigenous Nursery.

The Woodside-operated North West Shelf Venture has supported Mingullatharndo Community to become economically self sufficient through the creation of locally owned and managed businesses.

The Pilbara Indigenous Nursery, the first of the businesses to be launched by Mingullatharndo Community has the capacity to produce up to 750,000 native Pilbara seedlings annually and has already started supplying local businesses and organisations.

Community leaders Marshall and Beth Smith have lived in the community for 20 years and are committed to improving the economic capacity of Mingullatharndo.

"We want to create long term opportunities for our community so we identified enterprises which could be operated and staffed by local Indigenous people," said Mr Smith.

"To turn our concepts into reality we needed assistance so we approached Woodside who've worked with us to help develop the businesses."

Woodside Executive Vice-President Eve Howell has keenly followed the journey of the nursery which began when she was then the head of the North West Shelf business unit.

"Although I'm no longer directly involved with the North West Shelf operations I continue to have a genuine interest in the Pilbara community and have been especially impressed by the positive outcomes and opportunities that are being created at Mingullatharndo," said Ms Howell.

"The unique and innovative approach adopted by the community will ensure that meaningful employment and training opportunities for local Aboriginal people will be provided over the long term, and that Mingullatharndo residents can continue to build a vibrant community for future generations," Ms Howell said.

The community works hard to provide a safe environment for its residents and is an important and widely respected deliverer of services to Aboriginal people in the local area.

With the Pilbara Indigenous Nursery now operational the community will continue to develop its other business enterprises. Station skills including horse handling training will be taught at the rodeo arena which is well underway. A workshop which will produce local Aboriginal artefacts for sale is also in construction. In the longer term, the community will look to develop further enterprises which could include accommodation and other tourism attractions.

"Exciting times lie ahead for the Mingullatharndo Community and we're focused on running the nursery and completing the remaining projects. We hope the Shire of Roebourne community will help support our innovative enterprises," said Mr Smith.

For more information on the Pilbara Indigenous Nursery or any of the Mingullatharndo Community enterprises please contact Beth Smith on 0400 248 942 or Marshall Smith on 0427 473 729.



Pilbara  
Indigenous  
Nursery

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