



MEET TONY MCRAE

THE NEW CEO OF IBN



This week I joined IBN as your new CEO. IBN is a great organisation, with staff and communities working together to create new opportunities for the IBN people across the Pilbara. It is an exciting time to join IBN and a privilege to build on the foundation laid by Grant Bussell and many others. I will be working to ensure IBN serves our communities for generations to come.

I will be travelling throughout the Pilbara to meet as many IBN people as possible over the coming months and I look forward to meeting with you. I have a simple approach – that is to listen to and consult with people as we build a corporation that is supportive, sustainable and strong. In the meantime I'd like to share some of my personal story.

I come from the Wiradjuri/Ngunawal high country of NSW and first came to the Pilbara in 1980 working in Newman as an electrician. In 1986 I left for Perth to work with Minister/Premier Peter Dowding and by the early 1990s, I was studying for my first degree and working for the Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi people on their first native title application.

In 1995 I was Director, Research & Information at the National Native Title Tribunal. Whilst there I developed the research for mediation that provided Aboriginal stories and histories to all the parties - an important step to ensure native title is dealt with fairly by governments, miners and other land users. Working for the Tribunal gave me a good understanding of the complexities of native title and I hope this experience will benefit IBN people.

In 2001 I was elected to the West Australian Parliament and held a number of positions, including Chair of the Economics and Industry Committee, Acting Speaker, Parliamentary Secretary and Minister for Disability Services, Environment & Climate Change, and Multicultural Affairs.

Since leaving politics in 2008, I've been back in Roebourne working on the Ngarluma housing project and worked in Timor-Leste on a national training plan to get Timorese people the new skills they need to build their country. Since 2013 I have been running SMYL College, a school in Rockingham for students needing a new chance at high school. While doing these things, I was also doing more study - doing a PhD and contributing to Curtin University research on Aboriginal participation in 'green' technologies.

It's great to be living in the Pilbara and sharing its beauty with my family. I will be visiting Karratha and Roebourne next week, and Paraburdoo, Tom Price, and our other communities soon after. I look forward to meeting as many IBN people as possible.

It is my pledge to use all of the skills from my work and life experience for the benefit of the IBN Community. I know that together, we can achieve great things.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tony McRae'.

Tony McRae
CEO, IBN.