

## **Community groups benefit from Karara Community Farm bumper season**

The Morawa Winter Sports Group is set to cash in on a predicted bumper season from the first crop planted on the Karara Community Farm.

Karara Mining Limited (KML) Chief Executive Officer Mr Steve Murdoch said good winter rainfall and prime growing conditions meant the community group, which represents football, hockey and netball, would be able to pocket more than \$100,000 from the exercise. The money raised is expected to go towards the development of a new Recreation Centre housing a function centre and change room facilities.

The Karara Community Farm was launched by KML earlier this year where 600 acres of prime farming land owned by the company is provided to Mid West community and sporting groups for fund raising purposes. The community groups are required to supply the seed, fertilizer and labour (usually through donations) and then keep all proceeds following the sale harvested crop.

An average season would expect to generate around \$70,000 in profits, while this year's optimal conditions have put the farm on track to generate around \$120,000. Mr Murdoch said applications for use of the farm for next year would open in the next month, and he encouraged Mid West community groups to participate. Applications are assessed by the Board of the Community Farm.

"Many community organisations traditionally struggle with standard fund raising activities where people are being asked to contribute cash," Mr Murdoch said. "The Community Farm provides an opportunity for fundraising through a business model and using the expertise of the community. It is a perfect example of how mining and agriculture can coexist to build community spirit and provide a more diverse and robust economy for the benefit of all community members."

Mr Murdoch said the Mid West region should have started to see the tangible benefits arising from the development of the Karara Iron Ore Project through jobs, local business opportunities and community initiatives. To date KML has engaged with approximately 250 businesses and suppliers from the Mid West and spent more than \$115 million in the local economy.

The company recently launched two new charter flight services between Geraldton and Karara, providing a greater incentive for workers based in the Mid West region to consider employment opportunities at the Project. The University and High School Scholarships Program launched last year is also aimed at providing long term career opportunities for people based in the Mid West.

Mr Murdoch said KML was also working on initiatives regarding community health and housing, which would be launched shortly.

**ENDS**

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