

BUILDING BUSINESS & COMMUNITY GrowLocal

Karratha & surrounds

Grow Local Helping local businesses

Signswest Karratha

Sue Lee & Tamara Heckingbottom - December 2020

Q: Tell us a bit about your business?

Established in 1997, the business has grown to cater for the ever-changing Pilbara business landscape. We are a full-service sign company, from concept and design, through to production, manufacture, and installation. We provide high quality signage to the mining, construction, marine, Government, and private sectors within the Pilbara and have done so for many years. Signswest have been recipients of multiple awards including Small Business Awards for various categories in Karratha & Port Hedland & Silver Medalist in the Australian Sign Industry Awards, but that does not stop us working constantly to improve and become a better business. We are major supply partners to Pilbara Iron (Rio Tinto), Roy Hill, BHP, Dampier Salt & Pilbara Ports Authority.

Q: How did you find out about Grow Local?

Through our KDCCI partnership.

Q: Why did you decide to participate in the program?

To gain useful information to help our business continue to grow and keep up to date with changes that effect small business. We are also attending to support the program. There has always been information we have come away with that we can use in the business.

Q: What have you gained from our workshops?

Information that aligns with local and small business in the Pilbara. It is easy to underestimate or overestimate your business, the workshops give you the tools to look a little deeper into your business.

Q: Why would you recommend us to other businesses?

Highly recommend this program to all businesses and we are lucky to have this platform available to us in the Pilbara, where quality information and guest speakers are available. I recommend sending key employees in your business to these workshops as part of their professional development.

Q: What do you have planned next for your business?

We have just completed our new policies, procedures, and OH&S manual, which we will roll out in January to all staff in all locations. This is a great example of how Grow Local and the workshops have directly contributed to our business. We also expect to expand our employee base in early 2021.

Q: Is there anything else that you want to tell us about your experience with Grow Local?

We encourage all businesses to take the time to attend the Grow Local workshops, they provide a platform for both businesses and employer/employee's professional development. The workshops do not cost and are open to all businesses.



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Green group claims win after Subsea 7 pulls out

CAITLYN WATTS

An environmental group is claiming victory after an engineering giant withdrew its plan to pull pipe bundles through the Exmouth Gulf.

In a statement issued last week, Subsea 7 announced it would end investment in the proposed Learmonth Pipeline Bundle Fabrication Facility near Exmouth.

"Having reviewed the evolution of the market and the economics of this investment, and with availability of alternative technical solutions to execute our projects in Australia, Subsea 7 has taken the decision to no

longer pursue the development of the proposed Learmonth Pipeline Bundle Fabrication Facility," it said.

The proposal involved the construction of pipeline bundles at an onshore facility in Learmonth, 35km from Exmouth, with each bundle containing lines, cables and wires.

It was planned the bundles would then be towed through Ningaloo World Heritage areas for use by the offshore oil and gas industry.

The project had been the subject of environmental scrutiny since being proposed and was currently under review

by the Environmental Protection Authority.

Subsea 7 said it would now be withdrawing the referral assessment under review by the EPA.

Environmental group Protect Ningaloo had been campaigning for two years to stop the proposal which it claimed would harm the gulf.

Protect Ningaloo director Paul Gamblin said this was "a victory for nature, for the community, for common sense and for the future".

But he said the campaign to stop industrial development was not over and the group would continue to fight other proposals.

Protection for Ningaloo coast

ALEXANDER SCOTT

A new conservation area covering almost 50,000 hectares of the Ningaloo coastline will be managed with the help of traditional owners.

The Nganhurra Thanardi Garrbu Aboriginal Corporation will look after the 215km reserve as part of a joint venture management agreement with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Parks and Wildlife Service.

The land includes 26km of the Cape Range formation from Winderabandi Point

to Janes Bay and the Ningaloo Marine Park and Cape Range National Park.

The management plan will focus on rehabilitating tracks and degraded areas around camping spots and implement strategies to protect cultural sites.

Environment Minister Stephen Dawson said the addition of the new conservation and recreation reserves was a real milestone for the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area.

"These new reserves are the culmination of work done by successive State

governments since the 1970s, and it's wonderful to celebrate this achievement and commitment to protect this coastline today in 2020," he said.

"As well as being a tourist destination, the coastline is brimming with diverse marine and terrestrial wildlife, as well as countless cultural sites that must be preserved and protected."

The conservation land is part of the State Government's Plan for Our Parks initiative that aims to increase the conservation estate by five million hectares over five years.