

# WATER FOR FOOD

## Mowanjum irrigation trial



The Mowanjum irrigation trial is a joint research and funding partnership between the State Government and Mowanjum Aboriginal Corporation, a 350 people strong community located on the outskirts of Derby.

While Mowanjum's 55 000 hectare pastoral lease contains large tracts of prime grazing land on the doorstep of Derby, it requires a dry-season feeding capability to realise its aspiration of reaching its initial target of 10 000 to 15 000 head.

Using local groundwater, an initial 38 hectare centre pivot irrigation area will be established for grazing and silage operation, with additional pivots being installed as Mowanjum's productivity increases.

As well as increasing numbers of its own branded cattle, the project will allow Mowanjum to run stock from nearby stations, which would otherwise be isolated from markets during the wet season.

The trial will also serve as a demonstration model for other Aboriginal pastoral stations in the Kimberley, and provide a host of social and economic benefits to the region.

- Groundwater investigation
- Development of stand and feed and silage farm model
- Pastoral station development and productivity gains
- Year round fattening of steers for live export markets
- Aboriginal education, training and employment opportunities
- Demonstration project for other Aboriginal stations

## Social and economic benefits

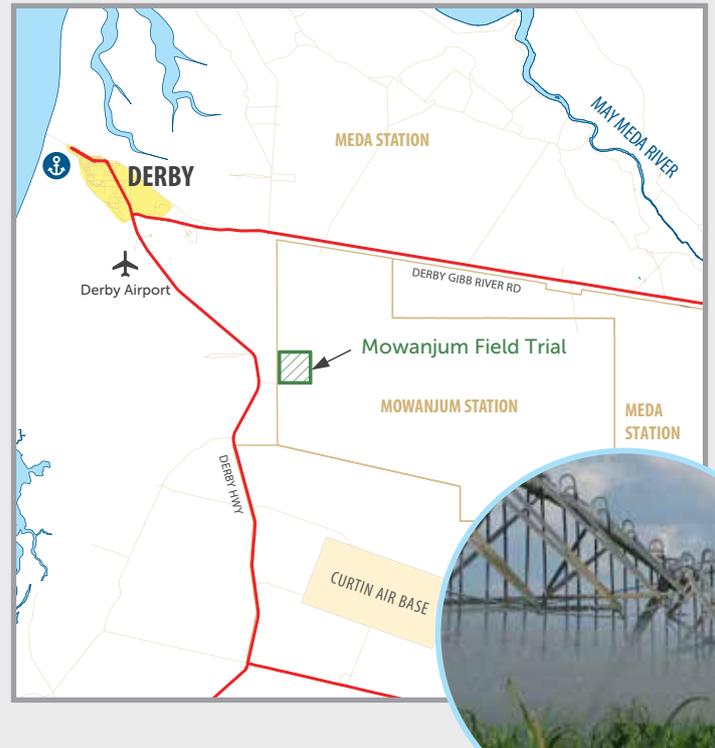
The intensive grazing operation resulting from the Mowanjum irrigation trial will provide sustainable economic growth and employment opportunities for both Mowanjum and Derby residents.

Working in collaboration with local education providers, the project will provide relevant training and meaningful work opportunities that will allow participants to be employable in the pastoral and irrigation industries.

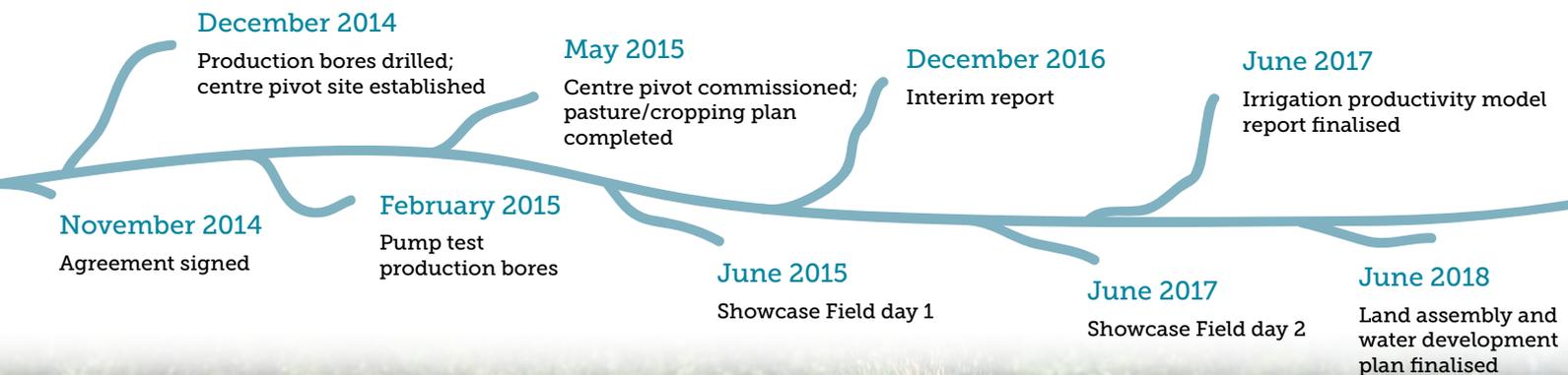
Training and employment opportunities resulting from the project will include:

- Stock management and animal husbandry
- Agronomics and land care
- Marketing and business administration
- Transportation logistics
- Mechanical skills
- Irrigation technology and fertilizer techniques
- Workplace occupational health and safety

## Mowanjum trial area



## Proposed Mowanjum timeline - The following program is planned for the Mowanjum trial:



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