

30 October 2019

## **Kwinana Industries Council welcomes students to the 2019 iDIVERSITY Project**

A group of 14 local high school students are set to begin a whirlwind adventure as they embark on the Kwinana Industries Council (KIC) 2019 iDIVERSITY Project.

The iDIVERSITY Project has been specially designed to engage the participating students from local high school education support centres with industry.

The six-day program, which will allow the group of students to step inside the gates of the Kwinana Industrial Area (KIA), caters for students with special educational needs.

Through workshops and site tours into industry, including a day of work experience or volunteering work, the students will get an insight into the industrial area that collectively generates more than \$16 billion in export products each year, and they'll meet the employees who help contribute to the success of the WA economy. This year students will do work experience at Autobahn Kwinana, Media Engine, The Sound Telegraph, Kwinana Industries Council or volunteering with Coastcare in the KIA.

KIC Director Chris Oughton said this project opened up doors for students like no other programs available, and was pleased that the KIC had the chance to open up a world of new possibilities for them.

"We believe that students who are given these types of opportunities are lifted up because they have the chance to explore in greater depth the range of employment opportunities that can be available to them," Mr Oughton said.

"The Western Trade Coast (WTC), which is Western Australia's premier industrial area delivers more than 11,000 direct jobs and as it stands, more than 60 per cent of workers employed live within the surrounding areas."

"This program aims to create further awareness about job possibilities and to continue growing those relationships with commerce and industry's future workers."

Mr Oughton said the iDIVERSITY Project had become so successful because it provided a friendly environment for students with special learning needs, and opened them up to the prospect of careers they hadn't previously been aware of.

Covalent Lithium has jumped on board as the Partner this year, after being inspired by the possibilities this program offers to students with special needs.

“We are excited to assist students to understand the career opportunities available in Kwinana and the skills and training required to position themselves for future employment as we develop the next generation in careers that contribute to enabling clean energy for a sustainable and greener future”, said Mr Colyn Louw, General Manager Organisational Development, Covalent Lithium.

Students will have the opportunity to share their experiences with friends, family and their school educators, in a special ceremony held on the final day of the 2019 iDIVERSITY Project.

**END**

Pic attached separately

Caption to read:

KIC Director Chris Oughton (L) and Covalent Lithium General Manager Organisational Development Colyn Louw (R) welcome this years KIC iDIVERSITY students

