



# Isaac finds niche in mining role with Indigenous company

ISAAC Burns is a young Indigenous man doing his best to make his mark on the world, and to make his community and family proud.

As one of the many Indigenous people working for Aboriginal-owned and Capalaba-based contracting firm RBY Projects, Isaac says he has found his niche working with Indigenous and non-Indigenous co-workers to build an Aboriginal company operating in the mining sector.

He had previously worked on machinery at the Belgian-owned Sibelco mine at Minjerrabah (North Stradbroke Island), Isaac's island home where his family are traditional owners.

Since coming to work for an Indigenous company, Isaac's understanding of his place and contribution has changed.

"At RBY, I get to talk to the owner and that's just great for me. I feel like I'm working for my own mob.

"One of the older Aboriginal guys here said we've got to be proud of what we do, and we've got to do it better than everyone because we're representing our mob in what we do."

Isaac had some conflict in his early life, with his father heavily involved in opposing the operations of the mine at Minjerrabah because of the damage it was doing to traditional sites and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

"But I thought that it was better for me to be there than for a non-Aboriginal person because at least then

I could watch what they were doing, and I'd rather it be one of us walking the land and doing that work than someone else.

In the past few weeks, Isaac and other RBY workers have identified several cultural heritage objects during their work in the coal seam gas fields and have taken steps to ensure the objects are identified and protected by the local Aboriginal people.

After working with Sibelco since finishing high school, Isaac needed a

change and took a position with RBY Projects' contract in the Spring Gully region, west of Roma.

"I definitely don't want to be driving machines for the rest of my life, I'd like to move to a leadership role."

RBY Projects has contracts with Origin Energy's coal seam gas ventures in the Bowen Basin, and with Queensland Gas Corp central west region.

As an Aboriginal-owned contractor, it prioritises Indigenous workers and running rosters which facilitate Aboriginal cultural needs.



ISAAC Burns is making his mark with the Aboriginal owned Capalaba-based contracting firm RBY Projects.