



Yamatji Marlpa ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the native title representative body for native title claims in the Pilbara, Murchison and Gascoyne areas of Western Australia. The organisation has a representative area of almost one million square kilometres and represents over 23

native title claims, all with their own language, culture and traditions. We have been in operation since 1994 with offices in Geraldton, South Hedland, Karratha, Tom Price and Perth.

YMAC is run by an Aboriginal Board and provides a range of services to its members including claim and future-act representation, heritage protection services, community and economic development and natural resource management.

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Recent News from YMAC

The Kariyarra native title group announced a native title agreement with Hancock Prospecting on 28 August 2010. The agreement covers the company's proposed heavy haulage railway corridor to carry iron ore from its Roy Hill Project to Port Hedland.

The agreement provides a range of financial and non-financial benefits to the Kariyarra people, aimed at protecting cultural heritage and promoting economic development. The Kariyarra people will continue to have a say in protecting their heritage sites throughout the planning and development of the project.

"As Kariyarra People we do everything we can to protect and look after our country," said Donny Wilson, a Kariyarra elder. "We're glad to have entered into an agreement with Hancock to try to make sure that their railway doesn't go through any of our important places."

Under the agreement, Hancock will make sure that its employees go through cultural awareness training, and will develop an Aboriginal Employment Policy which takes into account the needs of Kariyarra People. They will also build an Aboriginal art centre in the Port Hedland area in consultation with the Kariyarra people.

Simon Hawkins, Chief Executive Officer of Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, said, "This native title agreement, like many others, gives Aboriginal people the chance to participate in the real economy in the Pilbara, by providing training and business development opportunities.



Hancock Prospecting's Tad Watroba with Kariyarra Elders Lena Alone and Elsie Williams. Photo courtesy of YMAC.