

Aboriginal enterprise supports Coral Bay land agreement

Media Release: 26 October 2010

An agreement signed today between the Baiyungu Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) and Lands Minister Brendon Grylls, will allow for the development of much-needed housing for permanent workers and business owners in Coral Bay.

Involving the transfer of 30ha of land near the town centre, the agreement will enable the BAC to develop workers' accommodation for people who live and work locally. The BAC has also agreed to lease a portion of the land back to the State Government, for the new seasonal staff facility in Coral Bay.

BAC Project Director, Noel Bridge, said it had taken several years of quality and focused work by the Corporation to reach a successful outcome. He commended the Minister for his understanding of the project's needs and his genuine support for the Baiyungu people.

"Today's event is the major milestone towards securing a better future for Coral Bay, its visitors, residents, workers and the Baiyungu people," he said.

"Coral Bay is a stunning tourism destination, but the development of infrastructure has not kept up with demand. The lack of quality housing for workers and business owners has made it very difficult to attract and retain staff.

This agreement is an outstanding model of how the Royalties for Regions program can facilitate regional initiatives for board community benefit, while supporting the aspirations of Aboriginal people to be involved in real enterprise and land development," he said.

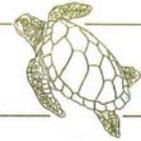
Mr Bridge said the BAC had received support from the Gnulli Native Title Working Group and Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, and had worked effectively with the WA Department for Regional Development and Land to reach this successful outcome.

"We have worked for several years to provide a solution that delivers benefits to all stakeholders. We are thrilled to see steps taken today which will finally allow the real work of the project to begin."

Paul Baron Gnulli Working Group Chairman said the agreement would allow Traditional Owners to maintain their connection to their land, create jobs, economic development, and enhance the local community.

"These types of projects have the added advantage of giving visitors the chance to share Baiyungu land and culture," he said.

"By working together, we are creating the opportunity for sustainable employment and skills development for our people and delivering better infrastructure for all who visit, work and live in Coral Bay," he said.



Simon Hawkins, CEO, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, said the agreement was a practical example of native title delivering real economic opportunities. “We are proud to represent the Gnulli native title claim and congratulate Baiyungu Aboriginal Corporation for their innovative approach to regional development.”

About the Baiyungu Aboriginal Corporation

Baiyungu Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) represents the Baiyungu people and provides a range of services. Its office is located in Carnarvon, in the Gascoyne region of Western Australia

About Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the native title representative body for native title claims in the resource-rich Pilbara, Murchison and Gascoyne representative areas of Western Australia.

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