

Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation

Achievements for Yamatji Land and Sea Council Amid Resources Boom

Media Release: Monday, February 11, 2007

Native Title Representative Body, Yamatji Land and Sea Council (YLSC), announced at its annual general meeting in Geraldton on Saturday that despite huge pressures from the resources boom, the organisation made significant progress for the native title claims it represents.

The meeting, held at the Geraldton Streetworks Association, was attended by approximately 80 traditional owners from the Mid-west region of Western Australia.

The purpose of the meeting was for native title claim members to receive reports on the Council's work and to elect new members to the YLSC Executive Committee. Roy Bellotti was elected as the Chairperson for both the Yamatji Executive Committee and the Board of the Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation, with Boyo Mitchell as Deputy Chairperson of both.

Chief Executive Officer, Simon Hawkins said that despite dealing with emerging issues such as uranium and geothermal exploration in the representative areas, the organisation is making significant progress for native title claim groups in the region.

"Some of the highlights during 2007 included the Thudgari connection report being accepted by the State Government; Badimia signing a heritage agreement with Mount Magnet South; and strategic economic planning for Wajarri Yamatji, Amangu and Naaguja claim groups. 2008 will see further progress on connection work and, we hope, the start of a number of claim resolutions," he said.

In 2008 the Land Council is also reviewing its constitution as a result of Federal changes to the structure of Native Title Representative Bodies.

"Members will participate in the constitutional reviews which have come about as a result of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres straight Islander) Act. We will focus on ways the organisation can best assist traditional owners today and for the future; in native title claim work and future act negotiations as well as providing additional services such as economic and community development, heritage protection and post-determination planning," he said.

For more information contact:

Amy Cargill, Public Relations and Communications Specialist

T (08) 9268 7014

M 0407 645 646

acargill@yamatji.org.au