



# Yamatji Marlpa

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

## NATIVE TITLE AGREEMENT PAVES THE WAY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN PORT HEDLAND

**MEDIA RELEASE – EMBARGOED UNTIL: 4.00pm, 8 August 2011**

A significant agreement has been signed today between the Kariyarra people and the WA State Government which will pave the way for much needed residential and commercial development of land in the Town of Port Hedland. The agreement will provide the Kariyarra people, whose native title claim includes Port Hedland, with a significant stake in the future development of the town.

The Department of Regional Development and Lands (DRDL) has agreed to transfer a number of parcels of land to the Kariyarra people, in exchange for their consent to the release of land within the South Hedland townsite and port of Port Hedland. Under the agreement, a total of around 5,000 hectares of land will be transferred to the Kariyarra people.

Key features of the agreement include the transfer of 10 hectares of freehold land in South Hedland suitable for residential development and land at 12 Mile for rural residential development. The Kariyarra people will also share in the profits from the sale of lots developed within the broader agreement area.

The Kariyarra people will also gain management of several extensive reserves, which include important cultural sites. Kariyarra Elders Kerry and Diana Robinson said "This agreement will finally give us a say over what happens on our country in line with our traditional customs. There is the potential to build housing and investments and new opportunities for our young people to benefit into the future. The agreement will also mean that we can practice our law and culture on country."

Under the agreement DRDL will undertake a full due diligence report to ensure that development of the land is viable over the long term and ensure maximum benefits flow directly to current and future generations of Traditional Owners.

The Kariyarra people have also secured a commitment from DRDL to commence further negotiations within the next six months on a comprehensive agreement for future residential and commercial land developments in the port area and in South Hedland. This future agreement promises to provide a more effective long term strategy for regional development, cultural heritage protection and natural resource management.

### Geraldton

171 Marine Tce  
Geraldton WA 6530  
PO Box 2119  
Geraldton WA 6531  
T (08) 9965 6222  
F (08) 9964 5646

### Karratha

Units 4 & 5  
26-32 DeGrey Place  
Karratha WA 6714  
PO Box 825  
Karratha WA 6714  
T (08) 9144 2866  
F (08) 9144 2795

### South Hedland

3 Brand Street  
South Hedland WA 6722  
PO Box 2252  
South Hedland WA 6722  
T (08) 9172 5433  
F (08) 9140 1277

### Tom Price

Shop 2a, 973 Central Road  
Tom Price WA 6751  
PO Box 27  
Tom Price WA 6751  
T (08) 9188 1722  
F (08) 9188 1996

### Perth

Level 2, 16 St George's Tce  
Perth WA 6000  
PO Box 3072 Adelaide Tce  
Perth WA 6832  
T (08) 9268 7000  
F (08) 9225 4633

YMAC CEO Simon Hawkins said, "We are very pleased that the State has agreed to negotiate a comprehensive deal with the Kariyarra people over residential and commercial development in Port Hedland. We look forward to negotiating an agreement that builds on this fantastic outcome to ensure the speedy release of land in the future, recognising that the Kariyarra people have an interest in the development of the town. This will be a platform for the community's economic security and growth into the future. YMAC is very proud to have helped deliver this outcome to the Kariyarra people."

This agreement is evidence that Traditional Owners are actively working with the State Government to help develop new affordable housing options for all residents.

### About Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

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

The organisation has a representative area of almost one million square kilometres and represents over 25 native title claims, all with their own language, culture and traditions.

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.

**For further information, please contact:**

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**Christina Colegate, Communications Officer**

**M: 0409 606 993 | E: [ccolegate@ymac.org.au](mailto:ccolegate@ymac.org.au)**