



Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Ngarlawangga People and Montezuma Sign Agreement South of Newman

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The Ngarlawangga native title group today announced the signing of an agreement with Montezuma Mining Company Ltd (Montezuma) for the Butcherbird manganese project over 23,000 hectares of their traditional country, south of Newman, as well as consents to future mining in the area.

The agreement has seen Traditional Owners and Montezuma develop a framework for how they will continue working with each other, including assisting Ngarlawangga people into employment, agreed processes and timeframes by which heritage clearances will take place and support for tendering for new contracts for community businesses.

The signing includes an agreed process should the mining company apply for permission to disturb heritage sites, which provides both parties with a guaranteed consultation process under the Aboriginal Heritage Act (WA).

Ngarlawangga Traditional Owner Dianne Limerick said, "The discussions with Montezuma went well - we're now hoping for jobs and business contracts to develop from this agreement."

Montezuma Mining Company Ltd Managing Director Justin Brown responded, "Achieving an agreement in just over four months has demonstrated a willingness by both parties to truly negotiate in good faith and we feel the resulting agreement genuinely supports the aspirations of the Ngarlawangga People to establish and develop community businesses".

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) CEO Simon Hawkins said, "This agreement took just over four months to reach and puts in place practical measures for the two parties, based on their specific goals for the coming years."

"Montezuma listened and responded to the community's needs throughout the process. In turn, the Ngarlawangga people were able to reach agreement quickly, giving the company certainty. Both parties are particularly focused on supporting new and existing Ngarlawangga contracting companies to benefit from this project, including incentives for community businesses."

About 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 20 native title claims, all with their own language, culture and traditions.

YMAC is a not-for-profit organisation, 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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