



## Yamatji Marlpa ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

### Njamal people enter joint venture partnership

**Media release: 21 December 2011**

The Njamal community and Fortescue Metals Group (Fortescue) are proud to announce a new joint venture for the Northern Star tenements project on Njamal people's traditional country. The agreement was finalised at a ceremony in Port Hedland on Tuesday, 20 December 2011.

The joint venture forms part of a native title agreement over the mining project area, and comes at the end of nearly two years of negotiations. Instead of providing royalties or other ongoing payments for iron ore extracted from their native title claim, Fortescue has agreed to enter into a 50:50 joint venture with the Njamal people's corporation for a mine on one of Fortescue's tenements.

Under the agreement, the Njamal people will act as the mine manager for a project producing 100 million tonnes of iron ore. The agreement represents a new direction for the Njamal people in their approach to native title negotiations. As well as providing commercial opportunities and a base for economic self determination the agreement puts in place exclusion zones to protect sites of cultural importance to the Njamal community.

"Culture comes first for us. The old Njamal people who have left us who worked hard to get us here would be proud of this agreement. This agreement is our future for the next generation," said Njamal elder, Doris Eaton.