



## Yamatji Marlpa ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

### Pilbara mining deal finalised over cultural land

Media Release: 15 April 2009

After twelve months of negotiations, the Kuruma Marthudunera (KM) native title group today announced the finalisation of its commercial agreement with CITIC Pacific Mining (CPM).

Under the agreement, the KM people agree to provide support to CPM's iron ore project, including consenting to the grant of future titles required for the purpose of infrastructure.

The KM people have traditional rights to a large area of the Pilbara, south-west of Karratha. The Cape Preston area in particular is culturally significant, with a high density of sites and artifacts. The majority of KM people now reside in Roebourne, Wickham, Onslow, Karratha or Tom Price and retain a strong connection to their country.

The commercial agreement with CPM provides financial compensation to the native title group by way of milestone and annual payments. The agreement also includes positions for a minimum of 10 full time employees with the company, and business and training opportunities. Clear processes are currently being developed to carefully manage heritage in the area.



*Kuruma Marthudunera representatives: Joan Evans, Leanne Evans, Naomi Bobby, Matthew Sampi, Georgina Bobby, Neil Finlay, Jean Lockyer, Elaine James and Valerie Alexander*

To ensure the agreement works in practice, the KM and CPM have formed a Relationship Committee, to meet regularly and review progress. Specific areas of discussion for the committee include employment, training and business opportunities, matters of cultural heritage, environmental and land access issues.

KM Elder, Elaine James, said, "This benefits the whole group and will let us look after our old people. It's good that we've come to an agreement, but also sad that many of our old people

are no longer around to see this. The most important part is that companies have started to recognise the importance of working with our Elders.”

Simon Hawkins, Chief Executive Officer, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said, “CITIC Pacific Mining approached negotiations with sensitivity and respect. The Kuruma Marthudunera people appreciated the company’s willingness to sit down and negotiate with the group. The next step is to build on this relationship and see the agreement successfully implemented.”

Barry Fitzgerald, Chief Executive, CITIC Pacific Mining said, “We are pleased to have signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the three native title claimant groups in the area, including the Kuruma Marthudunera people. From very early on it was important for us to spend time talking with each group about working together. I’m pleased to say seven of the 40 indigenous people we already have working with us on the project are from the KM group and we look forward to continuing this important relationship.”

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### Notes for Editors

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.

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.

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