



Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Support for Attorney-General's Changes to Native Title System

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Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation (YMBBMAC) has supported Attorney-General Robert McClelland's announcement that the Federal Court will assume a more central role in the management of native title claims.

The new system, which will be introduced to Parliament in 2009, aims to encourage more negotiated settlements. It will see the Court determining which native title claims should be referred for mediation, when mediation should occur and which body, whether the Court or the National Native Title Tribunal, should mediate.

YMBBMAC's Chief Executive Officer, Simon Hawkins said, "Many claims have now been in the system for up to fifteen years and YMBBMAC supports any initiative that will see native title resolved more efficiently.

We hope the Federal Court's new role in mediating claims will encourage the State and other respondents to move towards consent determinations at a faster rate. YMBBMAC's policy has always been to encourage negotiated settlements over litigation and it is hoped that all parties will continue to support this process. ENDS

Notes for Editors

Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation 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 two divisions: the **Pilbara Native Title Service (PNTS)** and the **Yamatji Land and Sea Council (YLSC)**. YMBBMAC has a representative area of almost one million square kilometres and represents 24 native title claims.

YMBBMAC 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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