



Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Traditional Owners sign Rail Agreement with Hancock Prospecting



Hancock Prospecting's Tad Watroba with Kariyarra Elders Lena Alone and Elsie Williams.

Media Release: 27 August 2010

The Kariyarra native title group today announced a native title agreement with Hancock Prospecting. The agreement covers the company's proposed heavy haulage railway corridor to carry iron ore from its Roy Hill Project to Port Hedland.

The agreement provides a range of financial and non-financial benefits to the Kariyarra people, aimed at protecting the Kariyarra people's cultural heritage and promoting their economic development. The Kariyarra people will continue to have a say in protecting their heritage sites throughout the planning and development of the project. Hancock has committed to working with the Kariyarra people to try to avoid damaging any cultural heritage sites.

"As Kariyarra People we do everything we can to protect and look after our country," said Donny Wilson, a Kariyarra elder. "We're glad to have entered into an agreement with Hancock to try to make sure that their railway doesn't go through any of our important places."

Under the agreement, Hancock will make sure that its employees go through cultural awareness training, and will develop an Aboriginal Employment Policy which takes into account the needs of Kariyarra People. They will also build an Aboriginal art centre in the Port Hedland area in consultation with the Kariyarra people.

The successful conclusion of the negotiations was celebrated with a barbeque in South Hedland with members of the Kariyarra group and Hancock employees.

Simon Hawkins, Chief Executive Officer of Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, said, “This native title agreement, like many others, gives Aboriginal people the chance to participate in the real economy in the Pilbara, by providing training and business development opportunities.

This partnership between Hancock Prospecting and the Kariyarra native title claimants will ensure that both parties have an interest in the economic success of the Roy Hill project, while providing for the respectful protection of Kariyarra culture.”

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 23 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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