



Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Traditional Owners sign agreement to protect Indigenous heritage

Traditional Owners today signed an agreement with Rio Tinto's Dampier Salt to protect Indigenous heritage in WA's Midwest.

The signing ceremony between the Gnulli native title claim group and Rio Tinto took place at Dampier Salts Lake Macleod operation, some 100 kilometres north of Carnarvon.

The agreement signed between the two parties establishes guidelines on the protection of Indigenous culture, and importantly, the consultation of Traditional Owners on all heritage matters in the area.

Lake Macleod is of special cultural significance to the Gnulli people, whose traditional country covers approximately 87,876 square kilometers of land and sea; including the towns of Carnarvon, Coral Bay and Exmouth. Lake Macleod is the westernmost lake in Australia and recognised as a wetland of national importance due to the abundance of birdlife and the fact that the lake is periodically inundated by freshwater.

Baiyungu Traditional Owner and Gnulli chairperson, Paul Baron, is pleased to see agreement reached between his people and Dampier Salt.

"The Gnulli native title group has been working for some time to establish the protection of Indigenous heritage surrounding the Dampier Salt operation and were happy that this agreement will formalise the safeguard of our cultural heritage."

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC), who represents the Gnulli native title group, is looking forward to both parties developing a mutually beneficial relationship into the future.

"Today's agreement between the Gnulli community and Rio Tinto signals the beginning of an important step in the relationship; one of developing a respectful connection that will flourish. Maintaining a positive relationship with Aboriginal people on traditional lands is important for companies wanting to do business on country and we look forward to further long-term outcomes in relation to employment, training and contracting opportunities for the

development and advancement of local Indigenous people,” said YMAC CEO, Simon Hawkins.

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