



Yamatji Marlpa ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

United Nations Special Rapporteur visits Traditional Owners

MEDIA RELEASE: 27 August 2012

The Njama! people of the Pilbara region of WA welcomed a visit by United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, James Anaya on their country last week. Professor Anaya visited the site of a joint venture between the Njama! people and Fortescue Metals Group (FMG), the North Star Project.

The Njama! People and FMG entered into an agreement in December 2011 that will protect significant cultural sites and lead to the creation of a joint venture to run a mining operation on an orebody adjacent to FMG's proposed North Star mine. Professor Anaya had the opportunity to meet with the Njama! people and representatives of FMG to learn more about this unique land access agreement. He also visited significant Njama! heritage sites, including rock art complexes, and spoke with the Njama! people about the effect that mining has had on their community.

"I'm grateful to the Njama! people for the opportunity to meet with them on their country, along with representatives of FMG, and learn about a unique and potentially beneficial arrangement with the mining industry", Professor Anaya said.

Mrs Doris Eaton, a respected Njama! Elder, said "This trip was a good opportunity to show Professor Anaya and the wider community what the Njama! People have achieved through our agreement with FMG. It is important that people see the beauty of our country first hand so that we can all work together to protect our culture, heritage and stories."

Professor Anaya travelled to North Star after attending a roundtable hosted by the National Congress of Australia's First People in Melbourne. The roundtable included representatives from Indigenous communities, the federal government and mining companies.

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 20 native title claims, all with their own language, culture and traditions.

YMAC is a not-for-profit organisation, 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.

For interviews please contact:

Amy Cargill | Communications Specialist
P 08 9268 7014 | F 08 9225 4633 | M 0458 010 483 | acargill@ymac.org.au