



Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Uranium workshops inform Traditional Owners

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Last week, Traditional Owners in the Pilbara and Mid-West attended a series of workshops to learn about uranium mining and radiation.

The events, held in Geraldton, Carnarvon and Karratha, were hosted by [Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation](#) and featured presentations by Dr Stephen Long, from the [Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency](#).

The workshops provided information on uranium and radiation, types of mining, environmental and health risks, regulations and rehabilitation of mine sites. Questions raised by Traditional Owners included concerns over water use in uranium mining, transportation of uranium from mine sites, impact on cultural practices and the long-term effects on flora and fauna.

Simon Hawkins, Chief Executive Officer, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said, "If uranium mining does go ahead in WA, our members need to know how it's going to affect their country, communities and families.

Uranium is an emotionally-charged issue and these workshops aimed to provide independent, science-based answers to Traditional Owners' questions. From here, we hope to engage with all stakeholders to increase the levels of information available.

Uranium mining is an entirely new industry in Western Australia. As an industry emerging 'post Native Title Act', we believe this provides a unique opportunity for Government and industry to get things right from the start," he said.

For those who were unable to attend the workshops, YMAC is producing a DVD and supporting information package which will be available in late 2009.

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