



## Yamatji Marlpa ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

# Western Australian Support for Native Title Changes

Media Release: 6 June 2012

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) has welcomed today's announcement by the Commonwealth Attorney-General, Nicola Roxon, of a package of reforms and additional funding to improve the efficiency of the native title system.

In particular, YMAC is pleased that the Government has committed to put forward amendments to incorporate criteria for good faith negotiations into the Native Title Act. This is in line with suggested amendments YMAC put to the Government in 2009, following *FMG Pilbara Pty Ltd v Cox* (2009).

Simon Hawkins, CEO, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said, "The High Court's decision resulted in our push for these 'good faith' amendments, to set out clear expectations and certainty for all parties.

Importantly, these changes will require companies to discuss substantive issues within the six-month negotiation period, rather than stalling on preliminary matters such as protocols and timetables. These reforms have been under discussion for several years and we are very pleased to see the Government now moving towards design and implementation."

The announcements at the National Native Title Conference in Townsville also included:

- Proposed amendments to allow parties to reach agreement over the historical extinguishment of native title over parks and reserves.
- The Government has agreed that financial payments to native title parties as part of agreements won't attract income tax or Capital Gains Tax. This will guarantee that compensation paid for the impairment or loss of native title rights will be treated like other forms of compensation.

Jenny Macklin, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs also addressed the conference, announcing a long-awaited review of the roles and functions of Native Title Representative Bodies. YMAC hopes this review demonstrates the extensive work Native Title Representative Bodies are doing to support native title groups as they move into a post-determination environment.

## 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 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 further information, high res-images and interviews contact:

**Amy Cargill | Communications Specialist**

---

### Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

Level 2, 16 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000

PO Box 3072, 249 Hay St, East Perth WA 6892

**P** 08 9268 7014 | **F** 08 9225 4633 | **M** 0458 010 483 | [www.ymac.org.au](http://www.ymac.org.au)

Stay up to date with our latest news:

Follow our blog: <http://yamatjimarlpa.blogspot.com.au/>

Subscribe to our e-news here: [YMAC e-news](#)