



Yamatji Marlpa ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Yinhawangka People reach native title agreement with Rio Tinto

MEDIA RELEASE: 5 February 2013

The Yinhawangka People of the Pilbara region of Western Australia have today announced a major agreement with Rio Tinto. The Yinhawangka People are the native title claimants and traditional custodians of approximately one million hectares of land and waters in the central Pilbara, including the mining town of Paraburdoo.

The agreement covers Rio Tinto's existing, current and future iron ore mining operations within Yinhawangka country and, importantly, establishes protocols for the protection of homeland communities and areas of special significance, including the exclusion of an area of outstanding cultural significance to the Yinhawangka People.

The agreement is similar to a series of five agreements reached in the Pilbara by Traditional Owners and the mining giant in 2011. It provides a range of economic and non-economic benefits for the Yinhawangka People, including significant financial benefits from mining on their traditional country; special treatment of areas of high cultural significance; employment and training opportunities; support for Pilbara Aboriginal business development and contracting; and a collaborative approach to environmental and cultural heritage management.

The financial benefits which flow to the Yinhawangka People will be used by the community for charitable purposes, including the creation of a future fund, and individual and communal wealth creation. Strong governance measures have been put in place which mirror those set up under the 2011 agreements.

Yinhawangka Traditional Owner, Darren Injie, said it had taken over twenty years of hard work for the Yinhawangka People to establish their homeland communities and reach today's milestone. "I want to acknowledge a lot of important people whose leadership contributed to this agreement, and who are no longer with us today. This wasn't the work of one or two people, it's been a community effort.

I also thank Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation; we would not have an agreement with this kind of scope and integrity without their ongoing support."

Michael Meegan, Principal Legal Officer, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said, "Rio Tinto has recognised the Yinhawangka People as the traditional custodians of their land. We acknowledge their efforts to create strong relationships and negotiate in good faith."

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 non-government, 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