



# Yamatji Marlpa

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

## Traditional Owners ignored

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**MEDIA RELEASE: 27 November 2014**

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is disappointed that the Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Bill 2014 has been introduced into State Parliament today.

Simon Hawkins, CEO of YMAC says Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Peter Collier assured Traditional Owners at a recent meeting that the Bill would not go before Parliament until early 2015.

“The changes will be detrimental to Aboriginal cultural heritage and the protection of sites. It will allow the CEO of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to have the final say on site destruction. There has been no surety that Traditional Owners will be involved in these important decisions.

“I am disappointed that the Minister has introduced the amendment Bill on the last sitting day of Parliament,” says Mr Hawkins.

“Any amendments to the Aboriginal Heritage Act must include meaningful discussions with Traditional Owners. This has not happened.

For further information visit [www.aboriginalheritage.net.au](http://www.aboriginalheritage.net.au)

### **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.

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### **For interviews please contact:**

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