



Yamatji Marlpa ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

World Rallies to Stop the Community Closures

MEDIA RELEASE: 30 April 2015

Friday, 1 May, communities are joining together in protest against the Barnett Government's forced closure of Aboriginal Communities.

This marks the second wave of rallies organised by the group SOS Blak Australia. The protests will occur world-wide including in Los Angeles, London, Berlin, Christchurch and throughout Australia.

Rallies will take place in Perth and regional Western Australia, including Roebourne, Newman, Port Hedland and Geraldton.

Angela Wilmot, Newman rally facilitator says "These rallies are not about my political views, not about my values, not about my agenda; they are about walking alongside Traditional Owners, elders and members of the Aboriginal community."

"It's in the sharing of story that forge relationships and relationships smash through stereotypes, bring down barriers and close the gap," she said.

Simon Hawkins, CEO YMAC says "the State Government announced in November 2014 that it intended to close up to 150 Aboriginal Communities in Western Australia. Five months later, the Government has still not engaged in discussion with Aboriginal people on this issue."

The Barnett Government has not identified the location of Communities under threat of closure and has not identified what will happen to those who live in the Communities following the closure.

To view the complete list of planned action visit:

<https://medium.com/@occupySYDNEY/may-1st-sosblakaustralia-stop-closure-of-remote-communities-rallies-a-z-61d18b904ee1>

Geraldton

Contact Charmaine Green
Commencing at 10am at Edith Cowan Square

Newman

Contact Angela Wilmot 0423 681 075
Commencing at 10am at ANZ Park

Port Hedland

Contact Ashley Councillor 0407 008 789

Commencing at 1pm at the front of South Hedland Courthouse

Roebourne

Contact Tyson Mowarin 0409 674 911

Commencing at 10am at Roebourne School oval

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:

Leanne Alberghini | Senior Communications Officer

P 08 9268 7000 | **F** 08 9225 4633 | **M** 0439 978 060 | lalberghini@ymac.org.au