



Yamatji Marlpa ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Banjima people successful against State's appeal

MEDIA RELEASE: 12 June 2015

The Banjima people are once again celebrating after the Federal Court dismissed the State's appeal over part of their Native Title determination.

The State appealed on two areas with the main appeal over the Banjima people's connection to the northern portion of the claim area (around 25% of the total claim). The State has also appealed on the issue of exclusive possession.

Simon Hawkins, CEO of Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation says this appeal was unnecessary, and is a further example of the State Government's litigious nature when it comes to native title.

"The Banjima appeal was a complete waste of taxpayer money. Today's decision is a defining moment for the future of native title claims in the Pilbara region," he said.

The Banjima people lodged their first native title claim in 1998 and have been in litigation with the WA State Government since 2011. Native Title was determined in August 2013. The State appealed a section of the determination in March 2014.

Banjima country includes areas around Karijini National Park and the asbestos mining town of Wittenoom. Banjima country extends west towards Tom Price, and east towards the town of Newman.

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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