



Yamatji Marlpa

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Native title recognised in the Pilbara

MEDIA RELEASE: 2 September 2015

Today the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura (PKKP) People celebrated the legal recognition of their land and culture at a Federal Court hearing recognising their native title rights.

Justice Neil McKerracher made the consent determination recognising the PKKP People's non-exclusive rights to the land. The PKKP native title determination application was filed in 2001 and covers approximately 9,500 sq kms of land in the Shire of Ashburton in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

The PKKP People, along with representatives from government, mining and pastoral industries attended the Court hearing, held on-Country at House Creek, near the homestead on Mt Stuart Station, about 200 kilometres northwest of Paraburdoo. The determination area is directly north of the Jurruru people's determination, which was handed down on Tuesday 1 September.

Mitchell Drage, PKKP Traditional Owner, said "We're all one family, and now this journey has finally ended. We've always known who we are and where our Country is, but now we've been formally recognised by the Court. This gives us an opportunity to move forward as a family."

Simon Hawkins, CEO, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said it was a great day for the PKKP people.

"Today is very significant for the Traditional Owners of this Country. After 14 long years I am very glad that this could finally be settled with the State Government's consent, rather than having to go through a stressful and expensive trial.

"I look forward to more consent determinations, so native title groups can move on to the next stage," he said.

The PKKP native title claim is made up of two separate but related language groups, the Puutu Kunti Kurrama People and the Pinikura People, who together claim rights and interests within the claim area.

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 | A/Director of Corporate Communications

P 08 9268 7000 | M 0439 978 060 | lalberghini@ymac.org.au