



Premier McGowan presented with open letter of disappointment from Traditional Owners

MEDIA RELEASE: 19 November 2021

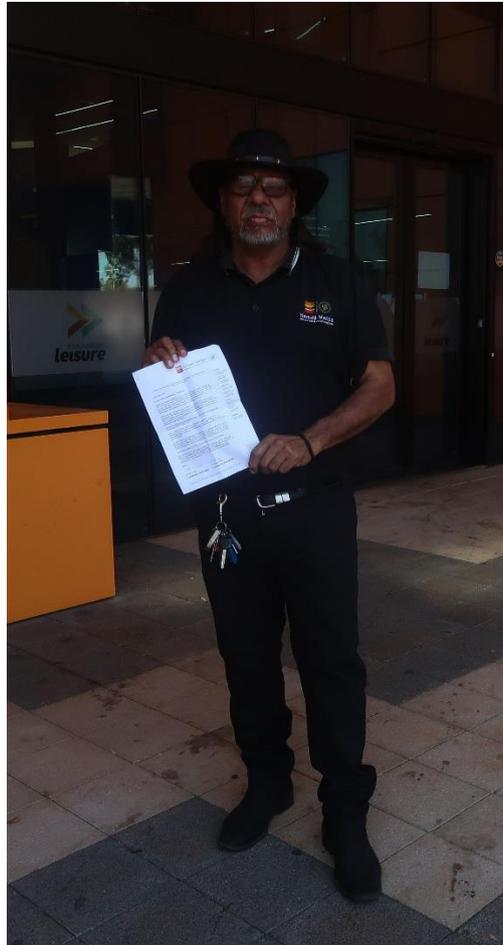


Photo: YMAC Pilbara Regional Manager, and Kariyarra Traditional Owner, Donny Wilson, holding the letter from Traditional Owners presented to Premier McGowan earlier today

Pilbara Traditional Owners presented Premier McGowan with an open letter today while he was visiting Port Hedland. The letter describes their disappointment that his government chose to introduce the controversial *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill 2021* (ACH Bill) into Parliament this week, despite ongoing concerns being raised by Aboriginal people from across the state. It also implores the State Government to work with Aboriginal people in partnership when it comes to matters affecting *their* cultural heritage.

The Premier was in Port Hedland to meet with a select number of community members as part of the new 'Keeping Culture Safe and Strong' COVID vaccination program. As far as YMAC is aware, the Premier did not have any plans to meet with local Aboriginal people to discuss the ACH Bill; however, his visit coincided with YMAC's Pilbara Annual Regional Meeting (PARM), also being held in Hedland today.



Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



Not wanting to miss this opportunity, attendees at the PARM sent a delegation – including Kariyarra Traditional Owners and YMAC representatives, Raylene Button and Donny Wilson – to where the Premier was holding his meeting to hand-deliver the letter.

We encourage you to please read and share a copy of the letter presented to Premier McGowan today, available [here](#).

To read more of YMAC's responses about the ACH Bill and related matters, please visit the [publications](#) and [law reform](#) pages on our website.

For more information about the current campaign YMAC is involved in, please visit www.ProtectAboriginalHeritageWA.org.au

About Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for what are described as the Pilbara (Marlpa) and Geraldton (Yamatji) regions of Western Australia. YMAC is run by an Aboriginal Board of Directors, representing several native title groups, each of whom has their own language, culture, traditions and protocols. YMAC provides a range of services, including native title claim and future act representation, heritage services, executive office, community, economic development assistance, and natural resource management support.

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