

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation Annual on Country Yule River Bush Meeting

Summary Calls to Action

**Summary Report from workshops undertaken in
Newman, Karratha, Roebourne and Port Hedland
in April 2024,
ahead of the July 2024 on Country Bush Meeting**

This Summary was prepared for the
Yule River Call to Action Working Group in preparation for the
On-Country meeting in July 2024.

The Calls to Action information within it will be presented as DRAFTS to
Pilbara Aboriginal community members on Day 1, to be discussed and
agreed upon / amended. An updated copy will be presented to
Government on Day 2.

Government agency responsibility for the community's priority actions
will be determined following agreement on the final list.

The more detailed 2023 Yule River Call to Action and April 2024
Workshops Report will also be made available for people wanting to
read the more detailed documents.

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Introduction

The Annual Yule River on Country Bush Meeting is for Pilbara-based Aboriginal people to come together to discuss and agree upon place-based solutions to issues affecting them. It is an important opportunity to discuss our issues, and to meet directly with government and call for action to make positive change.

The 2024 meeting will take place on Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 July 2024. In the lead up, in April 2024 a series of community meetings across the Pilbara were held to give Aboriginal community members an opportunity to revisit, talk about, and update the Calls to Action (CTA) presented to government at the 2023 Yule River On-Country Bush meeting.

The CTA Working Group, elected by attendees at an April 2023 pre-event workshop to work with YMAC in the lead up to and at the July On-Country meeting. They have worked across the past year to finish the CTA to make sure it contained community's updates discussed at the July 2023 on-Country meeting. The Working Group was the driving force behind the 2024 pre-Yule River community workshops to change and update where required, the 2024 CTA to be presented at the 2024 meeting.

2024 pre-event workshops held included:

- Tuesday 23 April Newman.
- Friday 26 April Karratha and Roebourne.
- Tuesday 30 April Port Hedland.

Further Considerations

While the workshop's participants confirmed that the Calls to Action reflect Aboriginal peoples' experiences in Pilbara communities beyond Port Hedland, they also allowed for some fine tuning and extra considerations for the community to discuss at the coming July 2024 Yule River meeting.

At each community workshop participants were asked to reflect on the current CTA statements and provide input and feedback on the 2023 CTA and identify any local issues and/or solution gaps (because of not being able to attend 2023 meetings).

There was a strong message that these CTA demonstrate the importance of the Pilbara Aboriginal community coming together and wearing 'one hat' (Mrs Eaton). It also demonstrates the Working Group's commitment to working with government and sharing the importance of understanding the two worlds that many Aboriginal people walk in; one based on *Lore* (cultural ways) and the other based on *Law* (Western ways and paperwork).

Reframing and summarising the Call to Action

Based on feedback obtained across all Pilbara meeting locations, an alternate way of presenting the CTA is suggested and has been drafted for consideration by the Yule River Working Group. This reframing provides a format that is accessible to a broader audience base and outlines very clearly the Pilbara Aboriginal community's expectations of the CTA across a short, medium, and long term trajectory. It also synthesises the CTA into a higher-level summary overview.

Following is a summary version of the CTAs and Solutions Roadmaps.

Systemic Reform: *Your System – Done Our Way*

Our Systemic Reform Call to Action for government is telling them that we need them to:

1. Work with Pilbara Aboriginal people and communities to find solutions that work for us.
2. Fund and build the capacity of Pilbara Aboriginal organisations to start running services that are currently being run by other organisations.
3. Make sure they are not funding organisations who are black cladding.
4. Include local people in service design and decision making for contracts across the region (local and place-based decision making).
5. Work with the Aboriginal community so that we better understand government systems.
6. Make sure they have funding to support the participation of Aboriginal people to advise them through a local and/or regional reference group or voice.

Solutions Roadmap – our priorities (examples, community to determine on Day 1)

Short term (6 months)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
Immediate resourcing for a Pilbara Aboriginal leadership group and associated work that will arise at Yule River.		30/06/2024

Medium term (18 months)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
Pilbara District Leadership Group to work with Pilbara ACCOs on the implementation of the State Government's ACCO Strategy, with a focus on ACCO Commissioning.		30/6/2025
Plan for recommissioning services in the Pilbara		31/12/2025

Long term (18 months +)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
Recommissioning of current services from mainstream to ACCO providers		2027
Pilbara Hub support secured and planning underway.		

A note on the Pilbara District Leadership Group (DLG):

According to the State Government's website, the primary role of DLGs across the State is to:

- Identify shared local priorities.
- Develop collective strategies to address local priorities.
- Deliver collaborative initiatives to address local priorities.
- Provide a consultation and feedback forum for State Government and other place-based initiatives, including the provision of timely and accurate local information to government and other stakeholders.
- Consult with local communities, coordinate services, measure impact and share expertise and resources in their region.

Education: *Not Just Schooling – Teaching Our Way*

Our Education Call to Action tells government the education matters are important to us, and that we need them to:

1. Work with Pilbara Aboriginal people and communities to find solutions that work for us.
2. Fund Aboriginal Organisations to start running programs that involve parents and Elders to engage students, like, for example what used to be known as the Aboriginal Supporting Students Parents Association (ASSPA).
3. Talk to us about what putting the Department of Education's Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework into practice looks like in the Pilbara.
4. Share with us who your Aboriginal Advisory Body is, what they are working on and arrange for us to meet with them to talk about the Call to Action.

Solutions Roadmap – our priorities (examples, community to determine on Day 1)

Short term (6 months)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
School bus, breakfast and lunch program at all Pilbara schools		31/12/2024

Medium term (18 months)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
Re-establish an Aboriginal Student Support and Parent Awareness (ASSPA) Committee		31/12/2025

Long term (18 months +)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
Local Education hostels		

Health: *Looking After Our Body and Mind*

Our Health Call to Action states what health-related matters need to be acted on, and tell government that we need them to:

1. Work with Pilbara Aboriginal people and communities to find solutions that work for us.
2. Urgently work with us to put Dialysis chairs into all our communities, as well as places for families to stay when dialysis is needed.
3. Work with us to develop health education programs that our people understand because this can stop them getting sick in the first place.
4. Talk to us about PATS because we want to fix this system which currently is not working for many Pilbara people.
5. Put some Mental Health services in the Pilbara, step up and step down, and locally based residential.
6. Co-design lifestyle Mental Health programs with Pilbara people that can be delivered here in our own communities by our own agencies.
7. Put more dental services in the Pilbara.
8. Employ more Aboriginal Health Workers trained in the community.

Solutions Roadmap – our priorities (examples, community to determine on Day 1)

Short term (6 months)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
Commence planning for Renal services <i>throughout</i> the Pilbara		31/12/2024
Commence planning for widespread Mental Health services – step up and step down		31/12/2024

Medium term (18 months)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
Mental Health programs to be co-designed (human-centred design processes) in community and with community across the Pilbara, and then funded		30/06/25
Dental services (including prevention programs) be planned for the Pilbara		

Long term (18 months +)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
New Renal services start being established		31/12/2025
New Mental Health services start being established		31/12/2025

Housing: *Maya That We Need – Our Way*

Our Housing Call to Action tells government what housing-related matters that need to be acted on. We need government to:

1. Understand that urgently addressing housing is CRITICAL to ensuring ALL the Calls to Action contained within this plan can truly have an impact. Without adequate housing, our people will continue to face disadvantage.
2. Work with Pilbara Aboriginal people and communities to find solutions that work for us.
3. Develop a Pilbara Housing Strategy that includes:
 - a. Audit of what housing (social, GROH and other forms within the government's remit) is available.
 - b. What is needed based on proper population numbers.
 - c. What is needed for town and what is needed for remote communities.
 - d. How to have maintenance done better, and by local people.
4. Build an aged care home in Port Hedland and other Pilbara locations to care for our old people.
5. Work with us on bringing Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation (ASSA) to the Pilbara.
6. Develop and improve policies around how you charge for rent in Social Housing.
7. Show how the North-West Aboriginal Housing Fund is helping in the Pilbara.
8. Build more crisis accommodation, including increasing capacity of women's refuges.

Solutions Roadmap – our priorities (examples, community to determine on Day 1)

Short term (6 months)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
Commission development of a comprehensive Housing Strategy for the Pilbara		31/12/2024
State Government Election commitment for DoCs to progress a Pilbara Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation (ASSA)		28/02/2025

Medium term (18 months)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
Commence reviewing social housing rental policy		30/06/2025
GROH housing policy to be reviewed and updated to allow Pilbara people who are employed locally to access GROH housing.		30/06/2025

Long term (18 months +)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
Planning for Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation (ASSA) in the Pilbara underway		31/12/2025

Wellbeing: *Strong Spirit, Strong Mind, Strong Mob*

Our Wellbeing Call to Action shows the wellbeing-related matters that need to be acted on. We are telling government we need them to:

1. Work with Pilbara Aboriginal people and communities to find solutions that work for us.
2. Have all services actively engage with Aboriginal Traditional Healers and have them as a standard part of how they work.
3. Change the way contracts are written so that service providers can do what they need to – let them support families or individuals in the best way for their healing.
4. We need children in out of home care to have proper cultural planning, and to make sure they are connected with family and culture.
5. Work with us to develop and then fund mental health and other lifestyle programs that are working – we can tell you which ones and how, through a co-design process.

Solutions Roadmap – our priorities (examples, community to determine on Day 1)

Short term (6 months)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
Revisit Policy around use of Aboriginal Healers		31/12/2024

Medium term (18 months)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
Planning for the establishment of an <i>Aboriginal Representative Organisation</i> for the Pilbara		31/12/2024
Work with community to develop Men's Healing Programs, and plan for funding them		31/12/2025

Long term (18 months +)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
Planning for Pilbara based step up / step down mental health facility		31/12/2025

Community Safety: *Looking After Our People*

Our Community Safety Call to Action tells government the community safety-related matters that need to be acted on. We are telling government we need them to:

1. Work with Pilbara Aboriginal people and communities to find solutions that work for us.
2. Work with our Community to establish on-Country alternatives to Prison for our young people.
3. Work with community to look at the best way to support young mums and bubs, and people with disabilities.
4. Fund local Aboriginal organisations who are doing the work with our young people.
5. Fund the establishment of a safe place for young people.
6. Review eligibility and other participation criteria for Target 120 to better support our young people at risk.

Solutions Roadmap – our priorities (examples, community to determine on Day 1)

Short term (6 months)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
Commitment to re-open Hostel in Port Hedland		31/12/2024
That WA Police commence reviewing their Missing Person's criteria and review current Missing Person's cases across the Pilbara.		31/12/2024

Medium term (18 months)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
Work with community to develop Men's Healing Programs and plan for funding them		31/12/2025

Long term (18 months +)

Action item	Responsibility	Reportable by
Fund hostel for young people		30/06/2026

Conclusion

This report contains findings from a series of workshops across the Pilbara to reflect on, update where required, and strengthen the community resolve around the Calls to Action to be discussed, ratified, and where possible, responded to and/or actioned by Government at the July 2024 Yule River on Country Bush Meeting.

The Working Group, who have been the driving force behind the 2024 pre-Yule River community workshops, can present these Calls to Actions them at the 2024 on-Country meeting across Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 July 2024.