



Yamatji Marlpa ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Banjima People enter land use agreement with Rio Tinto

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After 13 years of negotiation, the Banjima People and Rio Tinto Iron Ore have signed a Claim Wide Participation Agreement (CWPA). This CWPA covers the entirety of the Banjima People's determined native title claim area.

The agreement, which will be registered as an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), provides a comprehensive framework for cooperation with Banjima Traditional Owners.

Recognised in the agreement are Rio Tinto subsidiaries Hamersley HMS, Robe River Mining, Rangers Management Company, Mount Bruce Mining and Hamersley Iron.

The Banjima People have also opted in to the Regional Framework Deed, an arrangement between Hamersley Iron and the Puutu Kunti Kurrama Pinnikura, Kuruma Marthudunera, Ngarlawangga, Nyiyaparli, Ngarluma, Yinhawangka and Yindjibarndi peoples. The deed allows the participating groups to collectively organise, form corporations and negotiate future agreements.

Slim Parker, chairman of Banjima Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (BNTAC) says this has been a hard and long negotiation involving a lot of different parties.

"The rights and interests of the parties were considered in a way that provided for the best possible outcome for the members of BNTAC in terms of the agreement that was reached," he said.

Simon Hawkins, YMAC CEO, says agreements like this are the foundation for a future of powerful outcomes for Traditional Owners.

"This deal allows the Banjima people to negotiate alongside other Traditional Owners in the future. Partnerships like these demonstrate what can be achieved when those with an interest are sitting at the table together," he said.

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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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