



Yamatji Marlpa ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Marapikurrinya Yintha finally re-instated as an Aboriginal Site

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YMAC is pleased to note the Port Hedland Port, known as Marapikurrinya Yintha has finally been re-instated as an Aboriginal Site.

However, it is unclear as to why it has taken the Department of Aboriginal Affairs over 12 months to come to this decision.

Simon Hawkins, CEO of YMAC, says he is not surprised that this is yet another example of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs putting non-Aboriginal interests ahead of Aboriginal interests.

“The Minister has failed Aboriginal people again. He has failed to attend any Yule River on-Country Bush meetings, he has failed to meet with Aboriginal people to discuss the protection of their heritage, he has failed to include procedural fairness into the Aboriginal Heritage Act Amendment Bill, and he has failed to respond to a petition with over 1500 signatures, presented on the step of Parliament in November 2014.

“When will the Minister realise Traditional Owners are not stakeholders in their own heritage?” says Mr Hawkins.

“Whilst the re-instatement of Marapikurrinya Yintha is a great step for Traditional Owners, when will the Minister address the other Aboriginal heritage sites which have been removed from the heritage register for no reason? It’s time for the Minister to listen to the needs of Aboriginal people.”

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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