

Kariyarra People and State of Western Australia Indigenous Land Use Agreement

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Photo: Kariyarra People celebrate the signing of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the State of Western Australia. Hon. Rita Saffiotia (standing far right), Minister for Transport, Planning, Lands and Hon. Ben Wyatt (seated far right), Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Aboriginal Affairs were in attendance.

YMAC congratulates the Kariyarra People and the State of Western Australia on the signing of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA), which occurred this morning in Port Hedland. This is a landmark occasion deserving of celebration.

Since 2011, the Kariyarra People have been engaged in negotiations with the State of Western Australia regarding compensation for the expansion of the Port Hedland Port and a residential area in South Hedland; acts which occurred within the Kariyarra native title claim.

The Kariyarra Working Group members (on behalf of the Kariyarra People) were represented by YMAC, and have been working with expert consultants and government staff across many departments to achieve this landmark ILUA. The agreement offers benefits to empower Kariyarra People to end intergenerational poverty and help their families get ahead. The State of Western Australia approved the Kariyarra-State ILUA in Cabinet on 31 July 2017. Key benefits of the ILUA include:

- houses in South and Port Hedland
- management Order for several reserves for the use and benefit of Aboriginal people, both town based and further away in the claim area
- freehold lots
- financial benefits

The Kariyarra Working Group negotiated a strong ILUA which will benefit all Kariyarra members by:

- relieving poverty
- generating income from assets
- providing pathways for business development and
- allowing access to get back on to Country

Diana Robinson, Kariyarra Elder states, “The ILUA negotiation has been a long, challenging journey that has changed the way we see ourselves and empowered us to create a better future for our people.”

YMAC CEO Simon Hawkins states, “YMAC’s goal is to empower Aboriginal people take a leadership role in their communities to achieve the outcomes they want for themselves. We support our stakeholders to live and work towards a dignified, self-reliant life. On behalf of the staff and Directors of YMAC, I congratulate the Kariyarra and the State of Western Australia, and celebrate with them on this historic occasion.”

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 one million square kilometres and represents over 24 native title claims, all with their own language, culture and traditions.

YMAC is a not-for-profit organisation run by an Aboriginal Board. It 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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