

First transfer of land to Kariyarra people

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Photo: Standing (L-R) Hon. Ben Wyatt (Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Energy, Aboriginal Affairs), Hon. Rita Saffioti (Minister for Transport, Planning, Lands), Kevin Michel (Member for Pilbara), Simon Hawkins (CEO, YMAC); Seated (L-R) Kariyarra Signatories Cyril Gordon, Donny Wilson, Kerry Robinson, Diana Robinson-Brown

The Kariyarra people are proud to announce that the State Government has approved the transfer of two lots of unallocated Crown land as part of the historic Kariyarra and State of Western Australia Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) that was signed in September 2017. Key benefits to be delivered under 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, and
- financial benefits.

The transfer of this land is the first parcels of land to be transferred under the Agreement to the Kariyarra.

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) Chief Executive Officer Simon Hawkins said “After many years of negotiation, the transfer of lots 258 and 259 is the first phase of delivering land benefits to the Kariyarra people”.

“This agreement shows the genuine cooperation between the Kariyarra people and the State, and by working together positive outcomes were able to be achieved that will benefit the community to create a better future for their people,” Mr Hawkins said.

“The Kariyarra People set a positive, dignified example during the negotiations and this first delivery of benefits is evidence of what can be achieved if the communities, government and supporting organisations such as YMAC collaborate on projects,” he said.

All quotes to be attributed to Mr Simon Hawkins, CEO Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation.

About Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the native title representative body for the Pilbara, Murchison, Mid-West and Gascoyne regions of Western Australia. YMAC has a representative area of over one-third of WA 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 of Directors 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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