



**Yamatji Marlpa**  
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



## Nyangumarta Rangers showcase event highlights achievements

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**MEDIA RELEASE: 24 May 2018**

The Nyangumarta Rangers and Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) today celebrated the official opening of their office space in Broome. The event also highlighted the Nyangumarta Warrarn Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) – a land and sea management initiative – and the activities undertaken by the Nyangumarta Rangers over the last three years.

Since the Nyangumarta IPA dedication in July 2015, the funding available for this program has increased ten-fold, mainly thanks to Federal funding through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) and the national IPA program. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, also recently announced a three year funding extension for Indigenous Rangers from 1 July 2018 until 30 June 2021. The Commonwealth has also indicated that the IPA would benefit from a funding extension of 5 years after 1 July.

The Nyangumarta IPA and ranger program, supported by YMAC, also benefits from great partnerships with the State of Western Australia, for instance through joint management and joint vesting arrangements for areas that overlap with the IPA, but also through training opportunities, fee-for-service work and specific conservation and land management projects under the umbrella of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

YMAC Chief Executive Officer, Simon Hawkins said “it’s great to see the Government continuing to support Indigenous Ranger Programs such as the Nyangumarta IPA. Involving Traditional Owners in the management of their land and sea country is important so the knowledge can be used to manage and care for natural and cultural assets, and be passed down to future generations.”

“The Nyangumarta IPA is an excellent example of this, and contract extension to three years from the Federal Government will provide a level of longer-term security for the Nyangumarta Rangers to continue their activities such as feral animal control, fire

management, fauna and flora monitoring, cultural heritage protection and tourism,” Mr Hawkins said.

Nyangumarta Senior Cultural Advisor and Nyangumarta Warrarn Aboriginal Corporation CEO Nyaparu Rose said “the program has not only generated employment opportunities for Aboriginal people, but it has also created a sense of community as we work together to care for our country. That’s why continued support from the government is important to ensure this program continues to reach its full potential.”

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Ben Wyatt said “the social, cultural and economic benefits from employment of ranger programs cannot be underestimated, and the Nyangumarta Rangers are an excellent example of this in practice.”

“The Nyangumarta rangers do an amazing job of managing their country and help to make it relevant and meaningful to the broader Western Australian community,” Mr Wyatt said.

Mr Hawkins said backing from the State and Federal governments showed commitment to the development of ranger programs. “This support is critical for the Nyangumarta IPA and other Indigenous Ranger Programs in order to grow and flourish to become sustainable and well-resourced programs that continue their essential conservation work.”

He said these programs also created training and development, as well as employment opportunities for Aboriginal communities so that they no longer had to rely on government income support.

In the past three years, the program has grown to become a strong and capable land and sea management initiative. There are currently 17 rangers employed by the Nyangumarta IPA and Ranger Program in casual, part and full-time positions, three part-time school based trainees, and 14 elders are employed on a casual basis as cultural advisors, making a total of approximately 10 FTE Indigenous positions. As a result of the initiative, all but three rangers have successfully transitioned from the Community Development Program into casual, part or full-time employment.

The Nyangumarta IPA covers about 28,420 square kilometres and is managed by the Nyangumarta Rangers. This includes the joint management and protection of a section of

Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park and Walyarta Conservation Park– one of the most important sites for migratory shorebirds in Australia.

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

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#### **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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