



Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



YMAC WELCOMES PREMIER'S PLANNED EXPANSION OF THE CONSERVATION ESTATE

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Photo: Malgana Country. Photo by Jose Kalpers from YMAC, with the permission of the Traditional Owners.

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) welcomes today's 'Plan for Our Parks' announcement by the Hon. Mark McGowan MLA, Premier of WA, which confirmed the State's conservation estate will be expanded to create five million hectares of new parks and reserves over the next five years.

The expansion will go hand-in-hand with the principle of jointly managing, and in some cases jointly vesting, these new reserves with Traditional Owners.

YMAC's Chief Executive Officer Simon Hawkins said, "Conservation and management of Country is a high priority for Traditional Owners because it maintains their ongoing connection to Country and provides valuable training and employment opportunities.

The Plan represents a tangible benefit for Traditional Owners, as it requires direct input regarding the management of their lands, with strong conservation benefits and potential economic outcomes, for example through ranger programs and ecotourism.

YMAC is proud to already be assisting such ranger groups, through the Nyangumarta and Malgana land and sea management programs.”

This new commitment should better enable other groups who are establishing or want to establish similar land and sea management programs, as it offers a new means for them to work with State Government to achieve their goals.

YMAC looks forward to assisting with the consultation process associated with Government’s Plan for Our Parks and will strongly encourage Traditional Owners to get involved.

To view the Plan visit: pws.dbca.wa.gov.au/planforourparks.

Premier McGowan’s media statement can be found here: www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2019/02/McGowan-Government-unveils-visionary-conservation-plan.aspx

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

About Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

Proudly celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2018, 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 20 Traditional Owner groups - 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.

For interviews please contact: Jane Mitchell, Communications Manager, email jmitchell@ymac.org.au or telephone: 0427 463 796