



Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



Highlights 2018/19



Hello,

On behalf of the Board of Directors we are delighted to share with you some of Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation's (YMAC) highlights from the 2018/19 financial year, and selected achievements to September 2019.

It is good to reflect on the hard work being carried out for YMAC's members, native title claim groups and the Aboriginal Corporations for whom we provide services.

The Board is proud of all the effort and accomplishments of the YMAC team. Their dedication contributes to Yamatji and Marlpa peoples having greater access and control over their land as well as creating a legacy for future generations.

We are particularly proud to have reached our 25th Year Anniversary and it has been heartening to be able to celebrate this amazing milestone in the second half of this reporting period.

Thank you to our members, and to our government and community stakeholders for your support in this very successful year.

Overview

YMAC is run by an Aboriginal Board of Directors to protect Yamatji and Marlpa Country. This is achieved by providing a range of professional services to our Traditional Owners clients, including:

- Legal representation and research to assist with native title claims;
- Negotiating land use and native title agreements;
- Support services for Prescribed Bodies Corporate and Aboriginal Corporations;
- Cultural heritage protection services;
- Land management support services; and
- Community, economic and environmental projects.

In the 2018/19 financial Year, YMAC represented 24 native title claim groups and supported a further 17 Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) and related entities; all with their own language, culture and traditions.

YMAC operates under the *Native Title Act 1993* (NTA), and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act).

For further details on highlights and more, refer to YMAC's 2018/19 Annual Report at ymac.org.au

PETER WINDIE

Co-Chairperson – Yamatji Region
YMAC Board of Directors

NATALIE PARKER

Co-Chairperson – Pilbara Region
YMAC Board of Directors



Consent determinations, agreements and project achievements this financial year

- Nyiyaparli and Nyiyaparli (Part A)
- Nanda (Part A)
- Malgana (Part A)
- Wajarri Yamatji (Part C)*
- Kariyarra
- Jurruru People #3
- Palyku (Part A)*
- Thiin-Mah Wariyangka Tharrkari Jiwarli

*subject to nomination of a Registered Native Title Body Corporate to hold native title trust for the native title holders.

- Assisted with the certification and registration of ten (10) Indigenous Land Use Agreements.

Wedge-tailed eagle on
Baiyungu Country, Gnulli claim area

Alternative settlement agreements

Progression continued to be made on the Yamatji Nation Southern Regional Agreement (YNSRA), with the State Government and the Traditional Owner Negotiating Team (TONT) reaching in-principle agreement for a comprehensive native title settlement over 48,000 square kilometres of land in the region, including Geraldton. YMAC has been proud to support the TONT to achieve the best possible outcome for Traditional owners in the region.

YMAC Governance

- Finalist in the 2018 Reconciliation Australia National Indigenous Governance Awards.
- 16th consecutive clean audit.
- Successful completion of a review by the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC).
- Improvement in staff conditions and strong staff retention rate.
- Increased funding from the Commonwealth through positive variations and achievement of variations and achievement of milestones.



Land and Sea Management

- Nyangumarta Ranger Program: increase in Aboriginal employment and secured grants for Aboriginal people.
- Supported implementation of the Malgana Aboriginal Ranger program based in Denham, partnering with the Malgana Aboriginal Corporation.
- Jointly secured funding with the Meenangu Wajarri Aboriginal Corporation to create an Aboriginal Ranger Program focusing on the protection of cultural assets and traditional knowledge in the Burringurrah (Mt Augustus) complex.
- Promoted the Conservation Estate following the WA Premiers announcement of 'Plans for Our Parks' initiative, which will expand the State's conservation estate to create five million hectares of new parks over the next five years. Seventy percent of the proposed parks and reserves occur within YMAC's representative area.

PBC and Aboriginal corporate services

- Provided legal, corporate services and other support to 17 Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) and Aboriginal Corporations, including strategic planning, Executive Office, finance and administrative services, land and property services, and Heritage services.
- Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation (WDLAC) – YMAC provided Executive Office support to WDLAC. YMAC CEO Simon Hawkins stepped down from the role of Acting CEO in January 2019 when Tony McRae was appointed to this position.

Pilbara Solar

- Celebrating its 2nd birthday in September 2019, Pilbara Solar renewable energy company is 25% owned by YMAC and gives Traditional Owners the opportunity to equity share in business.
- Pilbara Solar is keen to scale up the development of renewables in the Pilbara
- In April 2019 Pilbara Solar received a Regional Economic Development (RED) grant from the Pilbara Development Commission.
- In August 2019 Pilbara Solar gained distribution rights to the Gilghi solar powered transportable water treatment unit, which will improve access to clean drinking water for people living and working in remote areas.

YMAC Joint Committee celebrating YMAC's 25th anniversary



Policy

- 5th Annual on-Country Bush Meeting at Yule River 11 & 12 July 2018.
- 6th Annual on-Country Bush Meeting at Yule River 24 & 25 July 2019.
- Recognition and endorsement of the Pilbara Aboriginal Voice (PAV) (*Kakurrka Muri*) by both Federal and State government representatives at both 2018 and 2019 Yule River meetings.
- Planned for first Yamatji On-Country meeting in Geraldton (postponed to early 2020 due to Sorry Business).
- Continued to support 'Uluru Statement from the Heart' and Constitutional Recognition
- Supported a meeting with BHP CEO Andrew MacKenzie and the PAV prior to BHP's announcement that it will endorse the 'Uluru Statement from the Heart'.
- Collaborated and co-hosted joint Centre for Native Title Anthropology-YMAC conference in May 2019, 'Native Title in a time of change.'
- Met with Senator Patrick Dodson, Senator for Western Australia, at YMAC's Geraldton Office to discuss regional voice and unity; community issues, amendments to *Native Title Act 1993*.
- YMAC representation on the Western Australian Interim Aboriginal Working Group on Closing the Gap.
- Participated in Indigenous Economic Development Summit in Darwin, 15 and 16 May 2019
- Attended the National Native Title Council Conference: Land, Rights and Recognition, Melbourne, 3-4 June 2019 (staff and committee members).
- Presented at the 9th Annual Native Title Law Summit, Thursday, 13 June 2019 in Perth.
- Participated in the Wadjemup (Rottnest Island) Aboriginal burial ground memorial consultation.
- Contributed to NNTC Compensation Fact Sheet.

Submissions and Advocacy

Prepared submissions on policy and advocacy issues, including:

- State Government proposal for a new independent office for An Office for Advocacy and Accountability in Aboriginal Affairs in Western Australia
- Proposed amendments to proposed *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (AHA) Consultation Phase Two
- Joint Standing Committee on Northern Australia - Inquiry into the Opportunities and Challenges of the Engagement of Traditional Owners in the Economic Development of Northern Australia (also contributed to National Native Title Council submission)
- Joint Select Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- National Native Title Tribunal Review of Expedited Procedure in Western Australia
- Response to the Inquiry into the *Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Income Management and Cashless Welfare) Bill 2019*
- The National Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy
- Draft Position Statement on Protecting the Value of the Land to the Culture and Heritage of Aboriginal Persons to the Conservation and Parks Commission.

Community

- Participated in various NAIDOC Celebrations in both Yamatji and Marlpa regions 2-9 July 2018 and in July and September 2019.

Burringurrah (Mt Augustus)



YMAC is the Native Title Representative Body for Traditional Owners in the Pilbara, Mid West, Murchison, and Gascoyne regions of Western Australia.

Legend

Native Title Determinations (by year determined)

- 2000-2005
- 2006-2010
- 2011-2015
- 2016-2017
- 2018
- 2019
- YMAC Representative Area (681,723km²)
- Geraldton and Pilbara RATSIBs (1,242,304km²)
- Native Title Determinations YMAC didn't represent
- Native Title Claims in YMAC Representative Area

