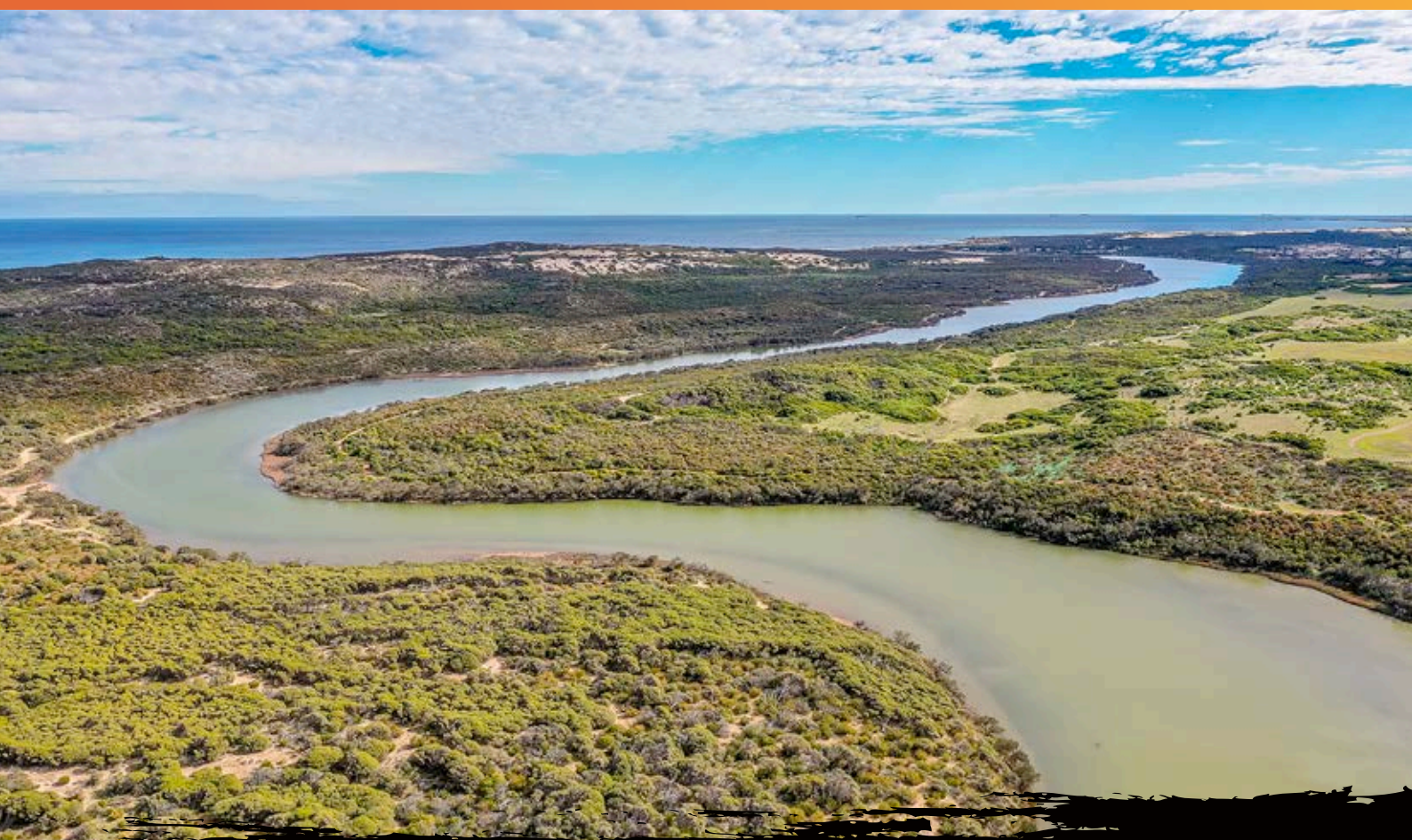


# YMAC NEWS

News from  
Yamatji  
Marlpa  
Aboriginal  
Corporation

ISSUE 42 | April 2021



**Save  
the  
Dates!**

**Yamatji On Country**  
Meeting postponed - dates to be announced

**On-Country Bush Meeting at Yule River**  
14 & 15 July 2021 - Yule River



**Yamatji Marlpa**  
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



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Cover : An aerial view of Greenough River. Photo credit: J Kalpers.

Warning: Aboriginal people are warned that this publication may contain images of deceased people.

## Hello & Welcome to the 42nd edition of YMAC News



Ms Natalie Parker,  
Co-Chairperson - Pilbara Region



Mr Peter Windie,  
Co-Chairperson - Yamatji Region

### In this edition we:

- update you on outcomes of our Annual Regional Meetings
- celebrate native title milestones in our regions
- do a round-up of current law reform and policy work affecting Native Title Holders
- acknowledge the 75th Anniversary of the Pilbara Strikes
- learn about Dual Naming Guidelines

Please send your story ideas to [editor@ymac.org.au](mailto:editor@ymac.org.au)

### YMAC ONLINE

YMAC posts regular updates on current news and issues affecting Native Title and Traditional Owners on our website. Visit [ymac.org.au](http://ymac.org.au) and stay up to date.



# News from the CEO

**Welcome to Issue 42 of YMAC News. As we finalise this issue, YMAC has been planning Yamatji On Country and the On-Country Bush Meeting at Yule River. These events aim to provide a forum for community members to discuss critical issues, such as the protection of Aboriginal heritage and language preservation.**



**Simon Hawkins,  
YMAC Chief Executive Officer**

These two meetings will be a great opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across YMAC's representative regions to meet and discuss solutions on issues affecting community with government stakeholders.

The first Yamatji On Country meeting was set to take place at Town Beach on Carnarvon Foreshore, in Carnarvon on 8 May. Unfortunately due to the current COVID-19 restrictions this meeting has been postponed until a later date.

YMAC is proud to support events like Yamatji On Country and the On-Country Bush Meeting at the Yule River Meeting Place in July, and we will endeavour to do all we can to ensure these meetings can continue to take place in the safest manner for community. We thank you for your patience as we work through these challenges. Visit [ymac.org.au](http://ymac.org.au) for more details.

In February YMAC submitted to the Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, for re-recognition as a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for the Pilbara and Geraldton (Mid West, Murchison and Gascoyne) regions. This process is regularly undertaken every 3 years, alongside other NTRBs across Australia. We hope to know the outcomes by July.

In November 2020, our Board of Directors endorsed YMAC's new 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. An overview can be found in the centre pages of this edition. While there remains significant native title claim work to be undertaken in our regions, we are also entering a new era, where the development and delivery of professional services for Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) and Aboriginal corporations sit alongside delivering on our functions as an NTRB.

Each group we work with is different. Each group has their own vision, values, and opportunities and challenges in caring for Country. YMAC's Strategic Plan aims to ensure we remain relevant to Traditional Owners, Common Law Holders and the corporations supporting them throughout their native title journey, whichever their circumstance. We aim to do this through native title and professional services, advocacy, education programs, and special projects; underpinned by strong governance and administration.

To inform how best to deliver our plan, YMAC is undertaking consultations with members, Traditional Owners, Common Law Holders and Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (RNTBCs) from within our regions. These consultations will provide a vital opportunity to listen to and learn from our most important stakeholder groups, gaining new information that will:

- provide further insight into key issues concerning Traditional Owners;
- inform how we can best deliver native title and associated services; and
- inform the development of new projects.

A continuing priority for YMAC is advocating for law reforms so that Traditional Owners can more fairly negotiate about what happens on Country. YMAC will continue to advocate to the new Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Stephen Dawson, MLC, on the need to address inadequacies in both current and draft Aboriginal heritage laws in Western Australia. Learn more on our current advocacy work on pages 12 and 13.

**Simon Hawkins CEO**



# Report from Yamatji Annual Regional Meeting



## **YMAC's 2020 Yamatji Annual Regional Meeting (YARM) for was held on Saturday 27 March 2021 in Carnarvon, on Yinggarda Country.**

Welcome to Country was undertaken by Renee Turner.

The YARM presents an opportunity for new members to become more involved via elections for regional committee positions. It is also when the committee votes in who will be the Yamatji Regional Committee Chairperson and Deputy-Chairperson, as well as directors of YMAC's Board for the coming 12 months.

Congratulations to the eleven members elected to join the Yamatji Regional Committee for a two-year period.

- Gail Belotti (new)
- Merle Dann (re-elected)
- Cicily Dowden (re-elected)
- Wayne Evans (new)
- Lucy May (new)
- Deborah Oakley (re-elected)
- Richard Oakley (re-elected)
- Ben Roberts (re-elected)
- Tracey Tonga (Edney) (re-elected)
- Albert Winder (re-elected)
- Peter Windie (re-elected)

**This year the Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations (ORIC) gave YMAC permission to hold our two Annual Regional Meetings (ARM) later than usual, due to challenges arising from COVID-19. The ARMs traditionally happen in November each year along with reporting required under the CATSI Act being filed by 31 December.**

# Report from Pilbara Annual Regional Meeting

## PHOTO LEFT:

Yamatji Regional Committee members after the YARM in Carnarvon on 27 March 2021.

Seated (L to R): Lucy May, Sharna Oakley, Cicily Dowden, Gail Belotti, Deborah Oakley, Tracey Tonga (Edney). Standing (L to R): Merle Dann, Albert Winder, Peter Windie, Wayne Evans, Ben Roberts, Richard Oakley.

Absent: Paul Baron, Glenis Little, June Pearce

These Committee members join existing members Sharna Oakley, Paul Barron, Glenis Little, and June Pearce, whose current terms conclude in November 2021.

YMAC thanks outgoing Committee Members Susan Oakley, Roberta Dann and Jason Windie for their contribution to the organisation.

Immediately following the YARM, a Regional Committee Meeting was held. At this meeting Committee members nominated the following representatives for the YMAC Board of Directors for a two-year term:

- Peter Windie (re-elected), also voted in as Chairperson – Yamatji Regional Committee
- Deborah Oakley (re-elected), also voted in as Co-Chairperson – Yamatji Regional Committee
- Cicily Dowden (re-elected)
- Richard Oakley (re-elected)
- Albert Winder (re-elected)

In being elected to these roles on the Yamatji Regional Committee, Mr Windie and Ms Oakley also retain their respective roles as Co-Chairperson – Yamatji Region and Deputy Co-Chairperson – Yamatji Region on the YMAC Board of Directors.

These elected YMAC Directors join Sharna Oakley as a YMAC Director.

## The Pilbara ARM for the 2019/20 period took place in South Hedland on Friday 12 March, 2021.

Welcome to Country was conducted by Mrs Lena (Gordon) Alone. The meeting was chaired by Mrs Natalie Parker, Chairperson - Pilbara Regional Committee. Mrs Parker presented her report to the members present, which was followed by presentations by Chief Financial Officer Nicholas Kimber and Chief Executive Officer Simon Hawkins.

Following the CEO presentation, those present discussed the proposed laws to replace the Western Australian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*, in particular the need to continue fighting for the right of veto over what happens on Country, and the importance of government continuing to consult with Aboriginal people as the writing of new laws progress. The meeting resolved to form a collective which will work together to identify ways in which Pilbara Aboriginal people can work together to advocate for stronger protections and rights in the draft *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill*. The focus of this group will be on protecting heritage and making sure the needs of Aboriginal people are met as the new Minister for Aboriginal Affairs recommences drafting and finalising the proposed new laws.



Natalie Parker, Chairperson - Pilbara Regional Committee presents at the Pilbara Annual Regional Meeting in South Hedland, alongside CEO Simon Hawkins



# Claim News



A photograph from the slope of Burringurrah / Mt Augustus on Wajarri Yamatji Country, with ex Mt Phillip in the background.

## Strong result for Wajarri Yamatji Traditional Owners

**Congratulations to Wajarri Yamatji Traditional Owners, who came together in Geraldton from 20 to 22 March 2021, to make important decisions to finalise one of the largest native title claims in Australia. In what was one of their largest native title meetings, 1,230 (440 on the busiest day) claimants from a number of land groups that make up the Wajarri Yamatji native title claim attended this three day meeting, coordinated by YMAC.**

Achievements included the group nominating a Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) to manage native title interests on behalf of the Wajarri Yamatji Common Law Holders. This means the previously conditional determinations can now be finalised, and the group will transition to working as a PBC in the coming months.

YMAC will continue to represent the group on resolution of its overlapping claim with Mullewa Wadjari.

## Yamatji Nation Claim Conclusive Registration

**On 26 October 2020 the Yamatji Nation Indigenous Land Use Agreement (Yamatji Nation ILUA) was conclusively registered. This achievement marked the end of the Hutt River and Southern Yamatji native title claims, which were being represented by YMAC.**

For members of the Yamatji Nation Claim this means the underlying claims have been combined with the Yamatji Nation Claim, and benefits from the ILUA have begun to flow to Yamatji Southern Regional Corporation Ltd (YSRC) and its subsidiary, Bundi Yamatji Aboriginal Corporation (BYAC).

There are many people who have been involved in the claim over the last 20 years. YMAC congratulates the involved Native Title Holders for this landmark achievement for your communities.

# SAVE THE DATES

MAY

**POSTPONED**  
Dates to be announced

## On Country Meetings returning for 2021

### First Yamatji On Country meeting postponed

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions YMAC management have made the decision to postpone the Yamatji On Country meeting.

The first Yamatji On Country meeting was set to take place at Town Beach on Carnarvon Foreshore, in Carnarvon on 8 May.

A new date to support the meeting proceeding will be announced as soon as possible.

We thank you for your patience as we work through these challenges so that we can ensure meetings can take place in the safest manner for community.

Visit [www.ymac.org.au](http://www.ymac.org.au) for more details or contact our Geraldton regional office on 9965 6222.

### About Yamatji On Country

YMAC's Yamatji Regional Committee is excited to be supporting critical discussions amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders across the Mid West Gascoyne and Murchison regions. Yamatji On Country is intended to provide a platform for communities to come together as one regional voice, talk about important issues and come up with grassroots solutions for change for presentation to government.

### 7th Annual On-Country Bush Meeting at Yule River

While the 2020 Yule River meeting unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to prioritise community safety, YMAC is again looking forward to supporting the Pilbara Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community through the 7th Annual On-Country Bush Meeting at Yule River.

The 2021 gathering is scheduled to be held in the second week of July school holidays on Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 July.

The format for 2021 will be different from previous years – with a focus on yarning circles and shared conversations. Day one is for the community to meet and discuss concerns and shared solutions. Day two will welcome Government officials to hear about and discuss the issues and workshop with community how these can be addressed.

Participation in events such as Yule River make sure the issues of importance remain highlighted for Government, and that working together to come up with solutions that involve Aboriginal people is vital.

JULY

14-15

**YMAC encourages participation by Yamatji and Pilbara-based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in these community meetings. If you are a PBC or Aboriginal Corporation wanting to get involved, please contact YMAC's regional offices for more details.**

# PBCs, Trusts and Membership

**YMAC staff are often asked by Native Title Holders how to find out if they are eligible for membership of a Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC), which is the corporation set up to manage or hold native title for a claim group following a positive native title determination.**

Eligibility for membership of a PBC is based on the how the Native Title Holders are described in the native title determination. If you are included in the claim group holders' description as laid out in the terms of the determination, then you are eligible for membership of the PBC, subject to the Rule Book.

All PBC Rule Books identify who can become a member of the PBC. This description will refer to the consent determination native title holders' description, and such things as the minimum age for membership.

If you are included in the native title holders' description for multiple native title consent determinations, then you may also be eligible for membership of each of the related PBCs managing or holding native title on their behalf, subject to the rules of the relevant PBC Rule Books.

What about Native Title Trusts? Trusts operate via a trust deed for the purpose of distributing financial or other benefits to eligible beneficiaries. Determining your eligibility to access benefits from trusts is separate from PBC membership, as they are a separate entity from the PBC. It is recommended Native Title Holders consult with the trustee and refer to the 'trust deed' to determine eligibility.

Note that some trusts have a rule that a person can only receive benefits from one trust only, even if you are eligible for membership of multiple PBCs.

Additionally, a Native Title Holder may be eligible to be a beneficiary of a trust without necessarily being a member of the related PBC, if they fit the consent determination native title holders' description and meet the trust eligibility rules.

You can find the contact details for PBCs through a search on the ORIC website – [oric.gov.au](http://oric.gov.au)





# – your questions answered

## 2021 changes to the *Native Title Act 1993* relating to PBC membership

In February 2021, the Australian Government passed the ***Native Title Legislation Amendment Act 2021***. This Amendment Act makes changes to the *Native Title Act 1993* and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (the CATSI Act).

The Government also made changes that affect PBCs in the *Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate Legislation Amendment Regulations 2021* to support the Amendment Act. PBCs are required to amend their rule books to reflect the changes to the law.

As outlined in the Information for PBCs on Changes to the Native Title Laws and Obligations Information Sheet, produced by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), “These changes include improvements to PBC membership decisions and rules relating to Membership. PBCs must now have eligibility requirements that provide for all common law holders to be represented within the PBC, either directly (for example, through personal membership of the PBC) or indirectly (for example, a single family member may become a member of the

PBC to represent an entire family group of common law holders).

The directors of PBCs must accept a membership application when the applicant meets the eligibility criteria in the rule book and the applicant applies in writing.

A PBC’s rule book must not provide for grounds or processes to cancel membership other than as provided for in the CATSI Act. PBCs cannot add their own grounds for cancelling memberships.

This means that all common law holders are represented by the PBC and their representation cannot be excluded. The changes seek to prevent a PBC from arbitrarily excluding some common law holders from membership.”

## Did you know?

Once a native title claim has been determined, the people who are part of the native title claim group are no longer referred to as the ‘native title claimants.’ They are referred to as Common Law Holders, or Native Title Holders – these two terms are interchangeable.

Some PBCs are set up solely for the purpose of holding native title post-determination. Alternately, a claim group can nominate / authorise an existing Aboriginal Corporation to be the PBC. In this instance, the corporation needs to amend its constitution (or rule book) to take on the additional role of PBC for the native title.

# YMAC Strategic Plan 2021 - 2025

## BRAND ESSENCE

Country is our mother, our provider and keeper of our cultural belongings.

**Culture and Country go together.**

You can't have one without the other.

## OUR VISION

Through connection to Country, Aboriginal people pursue and achieve economic, social and cultural goals and aspirations with strength and confidence.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1

**Deliver on our responsibilities to Traditional Owners, Common Law Holders and Country**

### Obtain and manage rights

- Ensure Traditional Owners and Common Law Holders understand their native title rights
- Ensure all Country is recognised
- Maintain strong governance
- Develop expertise in emerging areas of native title practice
- Leverage rights for the benefit of Traditional Owners and Common Law Holders
- Influence policy makers and drive the organisation's advocacy and reform agenda

2

**Build on a tradition of operational excellence**

### Operate with discipline

- Identify, refine and develop evaluation tools and measurements to improve service delivery
- Manage organisational risk
- Develop leadership ability and capacity
- Ensure financial stability
- Streamline and define core business processes to improve service delivery
- Improve productivity within and across teams

Our Values describe our principles and desired culture; serving as a

**Collaboration**

**Professionalism**



## OUR MISSION

For current and future generations, we work with and for Australian Aboriginal people to protect rights and manage Country and opportunities.

country  
culture  
people  
future

### 3 Foster a culture of connection across and beyond YMAC

#### Nurture relationships

- Enhance communication within and outside the organisation
- Recognise and manage the impact of negotiations
- Promote a learning culture with a focus on developing capacity and shared knowledge
- Support staff to feel safe, healthy and proud of their achievements
- Partner with clients to design solutions
- Maintain a high standard of accountability and transparency

### 4 Build capacity and mobilise opportunities

#### Champion change/ design resilience

- Diversify and grow revenue streams for the organisation
- Support Traditional Owner groups to identify new income streams and strengthen their capacity
- Maintain sector leadership

behavioural compass for Directors, Committee Members and staff.

Integrity Respect & Understanding



# Law Reform and YMAC Advocacy Update

Since January 2020 YMAC has prepared two submissions: To the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) on the proposed Voice Co-design Process, and to the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation in response to their National Indigenous Land and Sea Strategy discussion paper.

We are also following several government reviews of laws affecting Traditional Owners in recent years, which have continued to reach milestones since our last issue. In December 2020, the Joint Standing Committee on Northern Australia released “Never Again”, its interim

report for its Inquiry into the destruction of 46,000 year old caves at the Juukan Gorge in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The Inquiry continues into 2021, with the Joint Committee holding public hearings with stakeholders beyond Western Australia.



YMAC Deputy Co-Chairperson, Mrs Doris Eaton, on the steps of Parliament in 2014 with then Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Ben Wyatt MLA, and Hon Brendon Grylls MLA.

In February 2021, the Australian Government passed the *Native Title Legislation Amendment Act 2021*. This Amendment Act makes changes to the *Native Title Act 1993* and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*. Read more about it in the following pages.

The NIAA has also released the CATSI Act Review Final Report. It includes 72 recommendations on improvements to the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* to the Australian Government. For a copy of the report, visit [www.niaa.gov.au/resource-centre/indigenous-affairs/catsi-act-review-final-report](http://www.niaa.gov.au/resource-centre/indigenous-affairs/catsi-act-review-final-report)

## Further changes needed to the draft *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill 2020*

YMAC is committed to applying its knowledge and experience to support Indigenous Australians throughout the process of *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (and other legislative) reform.

We believe it is vital to legislate a clear, regulatory framework surrounding agreement-making, heritage decisions and project approvals.

The draft *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill* introduced by the McGowan Government in late 2020 requires further work and further consultation with Traditional Owners. We will continue to advocate this position to the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, the new Minister for

Aboriginal Affairs and Member for Mining and Pastoral Region in coming months.

YMAC encourages all Traditional Owners to contact their state representative about concerns with the draft *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Bill*, and to attend regional events such as Yamatji On Country and Yule River, so we can continue working together to tackle this and other significant issues for our communities.

## PBC Yamatji Regional Forum – watch this space!

YMAC is partnering with the National Native Title Council (NNTC) to hold a PBC Regional Forum in Carnarvon later this year (date to be announced). The purpose of the forum is to bring together PBCs from the region to consult with government regarding decision-making, community engagement, and working regionally together. The forum will also cover legislative changes to the NTA and CATSI Acts and how these will affect PBCs.

This will be an opportunity to communicate with government about the ambitions of PBCs in YMAC's representative region and the challenges they face. Further information will be shared on YMAC's website as it becomes available.

## Native Title Act 1993 Reforms – what does it mean for you?

On 3 February 2021, the Australian Government passed the *Native Title Legislation Amendment Act 2021*. This Amendment Act makes changes to the *Native Title Act 1993* and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*.

To support the Amended Act the Government also made changes that affect Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) in the *Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate Legislation Amendment Regulations 2021*.

The changes require PBCs to amend their rule books to reflect the changes to the law. The starting date for these changes is 25 March 2021, and PBCs have two years to amend their rule books.

The amendments fall into three broad categories:

- Measures that streamline PBC decision-making;
- Measures that increase the transparency and accountability of PBCs to common law holders; and
- Measures that assist with the management and resolution of post-determination disputes.

Among other things, these changes are intended to:

1. give greater flexibility to native title claim groups to set their internal processes;
2. streamline and improve native title claims resolution and agreement-making;
3. allow historical extinguishment over areas of national and state park to be disregarded where the parties agree;
4. increase the transparency and accountability of registered native title bodies corporate (RNTBCs); and
5. create new pathways to address native title-related disputes arising following a native title determination.

Information documents can be found on the NIAA website at [niaa.gov.au](http://niaa.gov.au)

You can also visit the Attorney General's Department website at: [www.ag.gov.au/legal-system/native-title/key-changes-native-title-act](http://www.ag.gov.au/legal-system/native-title/key-changes-native-title-act)

# Remembering the Pilbara Strikes

2021 marks the 75th anniversary of the landmark Pilbara pastoral strike, which is now recognised as Australia's longest strike. On May 1, 1946 around 800 Aboriginal workers and their families walked off stations across the Pilbara where they were being forced to work. This action was despite great danger and lasted for months following, to protest poor wages and living conditions, and their battle for justice.

They had been disinherited of their land by the squatters and government and forced to work for decades on the stations for meagre rations, and little or no wages; their lives subject to the whims of pastoralists, government agents and legislators.

Many strikers said they lived no better than slaves.

"We didn't live in houses or anything. We had to go down to the creek like kangaroos. We just want to be treated like human beings, not cattle." Nyangumarta woman and strike leader, the late Daisy Bindi, who led around 90 people in the walk-off from Roy Hill station.

**"We lived no better than the cattle but we worked all day for the right to do even that! We were skinny people back then, and we lived through plenty of starvation times. Things are different now but that's because of the fight we had... that bloody big battle."**

**Nyamal Lawman and strike leader, the late Peter Coppin.**

Large numbers of strikers joined the cause during the Port Hedland races weekend in August 1946, refusing to return to stations when the races finished. Peter Coppin had a gun pulled on him by a police officer during one stand-off. Another strike leader, Ernie Mitchell, was arrested but later released.

The idea to strike was first proposed by Don McLeod, a white miner and fencer who witnessed the treatment of Aboriginal workers and became increasingly disturbed by the inequality and exploitation. He made strong connections with the Aboriginal men working for him, and paid them good wages. Word spread among station workers about the difference in their treatment.

McLeod explained a strike concept to a large Law meeting held at Skull Springs in 1942. It was proposed to hold a mass station walk-off when the World War Two ended. May 1 was chosen as it was International Workers' Day. A plan was hatched to spread the strike date to the station workers. It was marked with a cross on hand-drawn calendars secretly delivered to the station workers by Lawmen and strike leaders, Dooley Bin Bin and Clancy McKenna.

For three years the strikers endured great hardship, physical danger, starvation, violence, and threats. There were chaining's and gaoling's of strikers, including Clancy McKenna and Dooley Bin Bin, and McLeod was fined for 'inciting natives.



**Members of the 1946  
Pilbara Strike take  
Native Affairs Minister  
S G Middleton and the  
ABC to court in 1958**

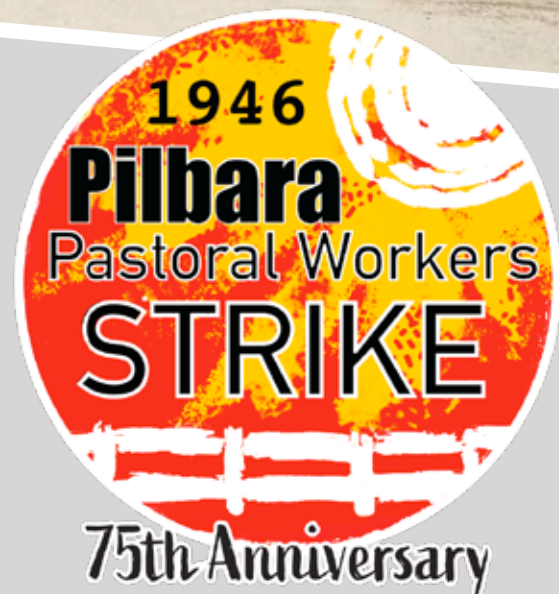


Camps were set up across the Pilbara, including at Two Mile, Four Mile, Twelve Mile (Tjalku Wara) and Moolyella, where families and groups lived. The strikers also questioned the laws that governed their lives; laws that meant they had no right to marry without permission from the 'Protector of Natives,' no right to demand wages for their work, no right to education, no right to enter towns after dusk, and no right to vote.

Strikers received moral and financial support for their cause from several organisations, the issue was also raised at the United Nations. Finally, the strike forced changes that helped initiate the restoration and recognition of their basic human rights.

While the Strike is recognised as concluding in 1949, there was no official ending. There are people who still claim to be on strike as they never went back to work on the stations.

**YMAC thanks Remembering the Pilbara Strike member, writer and playwright Jolly Read for her contribution to this story.**



## Want to know about Anniversary events?

Join the 'Remembering the 1946 Pilbara Strike' Facebook page, and visit [ymac.org.au/blog/](http://ymac.org.au/blog/) for event updates from the Pilbara.

Learn: [www.wangkamaya.org.au/pilbara-history-and-culture/01-the-1946-strike](http://www.wangkamaya.org.au/pilbara-history-and-culture/01-the-1946-strike) [www.pilbarastrike.org](http://www.pilbarastrike.org)

# New Crown Land Management Orders Released

**In Issue 40 of YMAC News, we talked about Crown Land management orders. YMAC's Land Services team have been negotiating with staff at the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) about the format of management orders over Crown Reserves to Prescribed Bodies Corporates (PBCs) and Aboriginal Corporations.**

Amongst YMAC's concerns was the onerous obligations and administrative requirements placed on Aboriginal Corporations under the management order and associated Deed.

Because of these negotiations, YMAC has been advised that a new management order and associated deed has now been developed by DPLH. The new orders are much easier to understand.

YMAC notes that the associated Deed still places a significant amount of liability on the Aboriginal Corporation. We recommend obtaining legal advice prior to accepting a management order from the State, to ensure that your corporation:

- 1) understands the conditions and the obligations of the management order and deed,
- 2) has the capacity to meet the conditions and obligations of the management order and the deed, and
- 3) is empowered in negotiations with the State about land tenure.

YMAC considers it important that Traditional Owners and their corporations are aware that if the conditions are not complied with, the State can undertake the works required to ensure compliance and charge your corporation for those costs and/or take the land (and management order) back.

If you want to find out more and discuss management orders or other land tenure options, feel free to contact Kylie or George at YMAC's Land Services section on 9268 7048 or by email [kwilliamson@ymac.org.au](mailto:kwilliamson@ymac.org.au) or [gpoppas@ymac.org.au](mailto:gpoppas@ymac.org.au)



A Burringurrah Ranger working on Country.

## What Are Management Orders?

A reserve with an accompanying management order is a common type of tenure that is issued to Aboriginal people. This does not provide land ownership but generally provides a low-cost, non-exclusive tenure option, sometimes with onerous obligations.



# Plan for Our Parks

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**In May 2019 the Western Australian State Government announced the Plan for our Parks initiative. Under Plan for our Parks the State aims to convert 5 million hectares of land and sea country to national and marine parks by 2024. This will increase Western Australia's Conservation Estate by 20%, and represents the single biggest increase to the Conservation Estate in our State's history.**

## **How can Aboriginal groups benefit from Plan for our Parks?**

Through this initiative the WA Government aims to boost Aboriginal jobs, biodiversity conservation, and tourism.

The State is proposing to enter into Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs), joint vesting and Joint Management Agreements (JMAs) with the different Aboriginal groups involved, to establish and manage these new conservation estates.

Joint management provides an opportunity for groups to negotiate a strategy to work together with government to care for their Country. These agreements can also support social, cultural, and economic aspirations for communities. Examples could include fee for service work for rangers and other community members, the establishment of tourism businesses, and the protection / management of important cultural sites.

## **What work is required to benefit from Plan for our Parks?**

The negotiations for groups involved with the State are expected to take up to two years; it is a multi-step process. The terms and conditions of agreements need to be examined, along with the benefits that will result for Traditional Owners. Given the complexity of this plan there can be a need to involve a range of specialist experts such as legal, land tenure, archaeology, anthropology, land and sea management spatial analysis to support strong outcomes for groups.

YMAC is in a unique position to act as a cost-effective, one-stop shop for the groups we represent, particularly in the Yamatji region where most of the Plan for Our Parks are located. We are pleased to be providing direct support to some groups from the YMAC representative areas that are involved in negotiations with the State.

**This spectacular section of the coastline is part of ex-Carrarang pastoral station on Malgana Country, which has been earmarked under 'Plan for Our Parks'.**





# Launch of the Aboriginal and Dual Naming Guidelines



Mt Augustus is traditionally known as Burringurrah, but it is not formerly recognised by its Aboriginal name. It is one of many WA sites that could apply for dual naming. If applied the feature name could potentially read Burringurrah / Mt Augustus.

## Aboriginal and Dual Naming Guidelines for naming Western Australian geographic features and places was launched by Western Australia's land information authority, Landgate in November 2020.

Traditional place names hold deep meaning to an Aboriginal group's understanding of its history, culture, rights, and responsibilities to the lands. The preservation and reinvigoration of Indigenous place names can help preserve Aboriginal language for many generations to come.

YMAC participated in the community consultation on these guidelines, which are a useful resource for communities across the State in identifying opportunities for Aboriginal place names, and providing pathways to implementing them.

Advice within the guidelines rightly includes emphasising engagement with Traditional Owners early on, to acknowledge their connection to Country.

Access the guidelines at [landgate.wa.gov.au](https://landgate.wa.gov.au), or call Landgate on 08 9273 7373.

**"Western Australia has a rich history that predates European contact. With over 90 Aboriginal languages, each language is deeply rooted to the land and offers an ideal opportunity to connect a name to a place".**

(Former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Ben Wyatt, at November 2020 launch event)

## What is Dual Naming?

Dual naming is the way government and people decide which names to officially call a place. Usually, one name is of Aboriginal language origin and the other is non-Aboriginal origin.

If a place currently only has a non-Aboriginal name, an Aboriginal name can be suggested to be used as the dual name.

When the names are used officially, the Aboriginal name will nearly always be placed first, followed by the non-Aboriginal name, e.g. Gujuwanna / Mount Ella

# 2021 AIATSIS Summit



AIATSIS



2021  
AIATSIS Summit

Footprints for the future  
Tracking our journey together

On 31 May – 4 June 2021, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) will be hosting a joint National Native Title Conference and National Indigenous Research Conference in Adelaide, South Australia.

The theme of the conference this year is Footprints for the future – Tracking our journey together, and the event will provide a unique space to discuss challenges and opportunities specific to First Nations peoples with the goal of supporting and strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, knowledge and governance.

Registrations to attend close COB 26 May 2021. Learn more at [aiatsis.gov.au/2021-summit](https://aiatsis.gov.au/2021-summit)

## Indigenous Cultural Heritage Conference 2021

The Taking Control of our Heritage – Indigenous Cultural Heritage Conference will be hosted at the Grand Hyatt Melbourne from Wednesday 27 – Friday 29 October 2021, providing Traditional Owners and their allies an opportunity to come together and explore ways to strengthen the management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Australia.

Traditional Owners, their organisations and those that work with them in the promotion, management and protection of Indigenous Cultural Heritage are encouraged to attend.

A compelling program of speakers will share exciting insights into Cultural Heritage management successes and emerging challenges, while facilitating discussions across a range of topics.

Learn more and register through the conference website: [kecreative.eventsair.com/ichc2021/registration](https://kecreative.eventsair.com/ichc2021/registration)



## Be counted to make a difference in the 2021 Census

Counting you will make a big difference to what happens in and for your community. The Federal Government is encouraging you to make sure you count yourself in on the 2021 Census.

Every five years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics counts every person and home in Australia. This is called the Census of Population and Housing. This year, the Census is on Tuesday 10 August.

The information you provide is used to inform important decisions by Government about transport, schools, health care, infrastructure and business.

It also helps Government plan local services for individuals, families and communities. For example, knowing the number of people living in regional and remote areas informs where doctors are needed, and understanding local births and languages spoken at home links Australians to the community services they need.

Find out more at: [www.abs.gov.au/census](https://www.abs.gov.au/census)

# Country, Culture, People, Future

## About us

**YMAC News is produced by Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation**

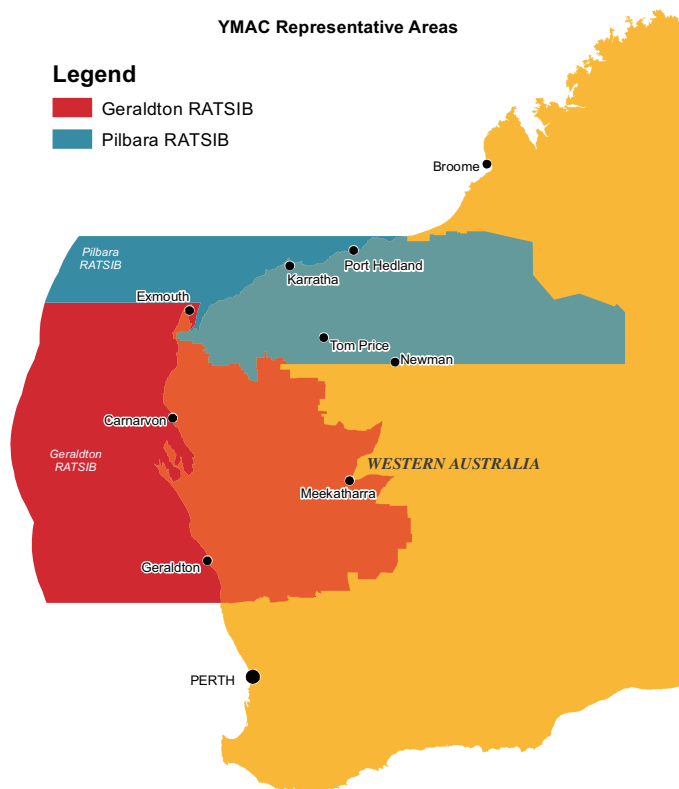
We are an Aboriginal Corporation and the Native Title Representative Body for the Mid West, Murchison, Gascoyne and Pilbara regions of Western Australia.

### YMAC Vision 2021 – 2025:

Through connection to Country, Aboriginal people pursue and achieve economic, social and cultural goals and aspirations with strength and confidence.

### Our Mission:

For current and future generations, we work with and for Australian Aboriginal people to protect rights and manage Country and opportunities.



**Contact us:** Send your questions, ideas, letters and photos to [editor@ymac.org.au](mailto:editor@ymac.org.au)

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