



Yamatji On-Country a chance to address issues and find solutions

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**Mr Peter Windie, Co-Chairperson – Yamatji, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation
at the 2021 Yamatji On-Country in Carnarvon.**

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Tony Buti has confirmed his attendance at the second annual Yamatji On-Country meeting.

To be held on Wednesday 3 August and Thursday 4 August in Geraldton, Yamatji On-Country is presented by the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) following the inaugural event in Carnarvon in 2021. It provides a platform for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the Mid West, Murchison and Gascoyne regions to have shared discussions about various issues and work on solutions together.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Aboriginal Corporations are invited and, alongside Minister Buti, several other parliamentarians and senior government representatives have confirmed attendance. These include Directors and senior staff from the Departments of Communities, Education and Planning, Lands and Heritage; WA Country Health Service, WA Police and National Indigenous Australians Agency.

The first day of the event is reserved for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander discussion with ministers and other invited delegates joining the conversation on the second day.



The agenda has a strong focus on community issues across the Yamatji region and will include updates on heritage protection laws and outcomes from last year's meeting.

Schools will be taking part for the first time, giving high school students in the Geraldton region a forum to highlight important areas of concern for youth in the area and engage with Commissioner for Children and Young People Ms Jacqueline McGowan-Jones.

From 5.30pm, 3 August, a family-friendly free barbecue with bush tucker, matched with a celebration of culture through various performances with several local musicians, will provide an informal setting for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to meet day two guests and talk about their communities.

On 4 August, a breakfast starts proceedings at 8am and a variety of community and information stalls will feature on both days.

YMAC Co-Chairperson – Yamatji Region, Mr Peter Windie, said the main aim of Yamatji On-Country was to provide a vital link for the Yamatji Community to connect with both State and Federal Governments on how to best address key issues together.

“This is an event that provides an opportunity for the Community to build important relationships through a platform for authentic engagement,” he said.

“The aim is for the Community to come together and become a strong regional voice and driver for change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the Yamatji region.

“By encouraging this form of participation, the Community itself will be leading discussions through facilitators, highlighting some of the most important issues affecting them, enabling people to have their various questions, concerns and suggested solutions heard and responded to by key stakeholders, politicians and government decision-makers.

“Yamatji On-Country is also a wonderful opportunity to highlight the positive accomplishments and contributions being made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders across the region.

“By having a yarn together, listening to each other and showing respect for one another, we can make a better future for everyone living in our region.”

Yamatji On-Country is being held at Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation, Eastward Road, Utaarra, Geraldton.

Updates and further details on the event will be available at www.ymac.org.au .

ENDS



Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



All quotes to be attributed to Mr Peter Windie, Co-Chairperson – Yamatji, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation.

Pronunciation Guide:

Yamatji – Yam-aht-gee

Marlpa – Marl-pah

Bundiyarra – Bun-dee-ya-rah

About Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for what are described as the Pilbara (Marlpa) and Geraldton (Yamatji) regions of Western Australia. YMAC is run by an Aboriginal Board of Directors, representing several native title groups, each of whom has their own language, culture, traditions, and protocols. YMAC provides a range of services, including native title claim and future act representation, heritage services, executive office, community, economic development assistance, and natural resource management support.

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