

Unclaimed areas, undetermined areas, and active claims

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for the Geraldton (Yamatji) and Pilbara (Marlpa) regions of Western Australia.

As an NTRB, one of YMAC's functions is to identify the potential Native Title Holders in its regions¹. Most of YMAC's representative regions are covered by native title determinations. However, there are several areas that are not determined and are not covered by a native title claim (i.e. unclaimed areas).

¹ *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) s203BJ(b)



YMAC's Research Team in
the field on Wajarri Country
(Photo: José Kalpers)



Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



To identify the potential Native Title Holders in these unclaimed areas, YMAC's Research Team is undertaking further research and consultations to build on the substantial body of legal and anthropological knowledge the organisation has collected about its regions.

YMAC maintains ethical and cultural obligations to Traditional Owners by only using past information for unclaimed area research where permission from the relevant Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC)² or individual is granted.

Further, and where appropriate, YMAC liaises with relevant PBCs to ensure appropriate discussions and updates occur with those groups and, most importantly, that it consults with those persons who may hold native title in these areas.

If you wish to discuss an unclaimed area, including seeking assistance to lodge a claim or receive a research update, please contact YMAC's Research Team in our Perth office.

To view the most up-to-date information regarding native title claims and determinations in YMAC's representative regions, we suggest using the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) 'Native Title Vision' mapping tool, available at nntt.maps.arcgis.com.



YMAC Research Anthropologist Luke May in the field on Wajarri Country
(Photo: José Kalpers)

² The term 'PBC' is commonly used to refer to both Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) and Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (RNTBCs). The term 'RNTBC' refers to a PBC that has been officially registered with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) post-determination. Whereas the term 'PBC' may refer to a corporation that has been registered, or it may refer to a corporation in the pre-determination claim space that has not yet been registered. For simplicity, YMAC uses the term "PBC" in most publications to refer to both PBCs and RNTBCs. This is in line with terminology that is regularly used in the native title sector.

Photographs used in this fact sheet are done so with the appropriate permissions.

Current at June 2023. Please note, information in this fact sheet is provided by YMAC in good faith on an "as is" basis; it does not constitute any form of legal advice. YMAC believes this information to be accurate and current at the date of publication, however, inadvertent errors can occur and the applicable laws, rules, policies and regulations often change. YMAC will not be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever suffered as a result of reliance upon this information, or through directly or indirectly applying it.

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