



Yamatji Marlpa ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Land Access Deed signed with Innawonga Bunjima and Iron Ore Holdings

Media Release: 24 June 2009

Pilbara native title group Innawonga & Bunjima People (IB) today announced an agreement with Iron Ore Holdings Ltd (IOH), allowing the company to take another step toward the granting of mining tenements over their project area on Bunjima country.

The Innawonga & Bunjima People native title claim covers approximately 19,567 square kilometres of land in the central Pilbara region, and includes part of the iconic Karijini National Park. The Bunjima name for the Hamersley Ranges is Karijini, and evidence of early occupation in the area dates back more than 20,000 years.

The full agreement outlines details for compensation in the form of up-front payments and royalties on ore mined from the area. There are also inclusions for future exploration on IB Country and agreed heritage protection processes. IOH will also work with IB representatives to develop an employee Cross Cultural Awareness program and workshop.



Above: Bunjima Elder Alice Smith signs the agreement with Iron Ore Holdings.

To ensure the agreement works in practice, IB and IOH have formed an Implementation Committee to meet at least twice per year to discuss project progress, employment, contracting, education, training and any other matters related to the Land Access Deed.

Alec Tucker, Innawonga & Bunjima representative said, "It's good that this agreement will provide benefits to look after our country and people."

Simon Hawkins, CEO, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said, "We have been proud to represent the Innawonga Bunjima People and hope the relationship between Traditional Owners and Iron Ore Holdings continues to strengthen. Ongoing, respectful relationships between parties are essential to ensure the benefits flowing from native title agreements are fully realised."

Commenting on the announcement, IOH Managing Director Matt Rimes said, “The agreement with the Innawonga & Bunjima People Native Title Group is a very positive step forward for both parties and represents a genuine ‘win-win- outcome.’”

“We have developed a very strong and open relationship with the IB and we look forward to working with them as a fundamental stakeholder in the development of our iron ore projects in the Central Pilbara region.” Mr Rimes continued.

Notes for Editors

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the native title representative body for native title claims in the resource-rich Pilbara, Murchison and Gascoyne areas of Western Australia.

The organisation has a representative area of almost one million square kilometres and represents over 25 native title claims, all with their own language, culture and traditions.

YMAC is run by an Aboriginal Board 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 further information and interviews contact:

Amy Cargill, Public Relations and Communications Specialist

P 08 9268 7014 | M 0407 645 646 | acargill@yamatji.org.au | www.yamatji.org.au