



Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Pilbara Traditional Owners announce Pipeline Agreement with Chevron



Above: Neil Finlay, KM community member; Colin Beckett, General Manager Greater Gorgon; & Cyril Lockyer, KM community member.

Media Release: Thursday, 24 June 2010

The Kuruma Marthudunera (KM) people are this week celebrating the conclusion of negotiations with Chevron Australia for the future construction of a domestic gas pipeline from Barrow Island through the KM's native title claim area.

KM country covers approximately 15,759 square kilometres of land in the west Pilbara region and comprises part of the Fortescue River and the complete river system of the Robe River, in the most westerly part of the Hamersley Range.

The agreement was officially endorsed at a meeting held in Point Samson last Friday, 18 June, and was attended by KM community members and Chevron representatives.

The project involves the construction of a single gas pipeline to connect a processing plant on Barrow Island with the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline. The purpose of the pipeline is to supply a portion of the output from the gas project to domestic gas users in Perth and elsewhere.

KM spokesperson, Cyril Lockyer, praised the good working relationship between his people and Chevron and highlighted the need for other companies to follow suit in regards to respecting Aboriginal country and culture.

“When we were surveying our country with the company we came across several important sites in the designated construction area. After talking with Chevron the result is that the company will build the pipeline around these areas and not destroy these sites. This type of good working relationship between ourselves and the company will help us to continue to preserve our heritage for future generations.”

Simon Hawkins, Chief Executive Officer, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said, “This agreement is a perfect example of a resources company negotiating in good faith with Traditional Owners and reflects the good-will of all involved. We hope this agreement creates enduring relationships and a strong future for KM people.”

On behalf of the Gorgon Venture Joint Participants, Chevron has been negotiating with KM since mid 2009 to secure their support for the construction of the pipeline. The agreement provides for the payment of compensation to the KM people for the impact on their native title rights and interests and upholds their continued rights to access the area under their traditional laws and customs.

The agreement paves the way for an ongoing relationship between Chevron and KM, with the parties agreeing to meet during the next four years to discuss KM’s participation in the Gorgon project, including employment, training and business and community development opportunities.

“The KM people are looking forward to the opportunities that the agreement could bring to the community, including employment in the gas project,” said Cyril.

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About Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

[Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation \(YMAC\)](#) is the native title representative body for native title claims in the Pilbara, Mid West and Gascoyne regions 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.

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