



Yamatji Marlpa

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Native title recognised for Jurruru people

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The Jurruru People today celebrated the legal recognition of their land and culture at a Federal Court hearing to recognise their native title rights.

Justice Neil McKerracher made the consent determination recognising the Jurruru People's non-exclusive rights to the land. The Jurruru native title determination application was filed in 2000 and covers approximately 10,500 sq kms of land in the Southwest Pilbara region.

The Jurruru People, along with representatives from government and pastoral industries attended the Court hearing, held on-Country at Perrys Flat, near the Kooline pastoral station, west of Paraburdoo.

Ivan Smirke, Jurruru Traditional Owner said, "Native title is not a lease or a title of ownership of land but recognition, respect and acknowledgement of the wider Australian community and its leaders of our nation that the laws, culture and heritage of our ancestors still exist".

Simon Hawkins, CEO, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said it was reassuring to see the Jurruru people gain official recognition through a consent determination.

"Today is a great day for the Jurruru people. It's positive to see a consent determination take place, rather than the intense pressure a trial places on Traditional Owners and elders.

"I hope to see the State move toward many more consent determinations," he said.

The Jurruru people have established an Aboriginal Corporation to administer their business.

About Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the native title representative body for native title claims in the Pilbara, Murchison and Gascoyne areas of Western Australia. The organisation has a representative area of almost one million square kilometres and represents over 20 native title claims, all with their own language, culture and traditions.

YMAC is a not-for-profit organisation, 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 interviews please contact:

Leanne Alberghini | A/Director of Corporate Communications



P 08 9268 7000 | M 0439 978 060 | lalberghini@ymac.org.au