



Yamatji Marlpa ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Aboriginal Heritage Act Amendment Bill is unjust

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Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation is once again, disappointed that the Barnett Government intends to proceed with the Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Bill, despite the Bill being undebated for 12 months.

The Aboriginal Heritage Act Amendment Bill has been unanimously rejected by Traditional Owners, Elders and the wider community due to its lack of procedural fairness, and that it does not address the fundamental inequities held within the Act.

Simon Hawkins, CEO of Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said that by passing a motion to restore the Bill to the Notice Paper, the WA Government is again trying to silence Aboriginal people.

“From the very beginning this Amendment Bill has been doomed. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has not consulted with Traditional Owners. We have invited him on several occasions to attend on-Country bush meetings, where over 300 Aboriginal people gathered, and both times he rejected the invite.

“At the very core of it, the Amendment Bill is unfair and unjust, and simply put, does not protect Aboriginal heritage.

“When will Minister Collier realise that Aboriginal people are not stakeholders when it comes to the protection of their heritage?” says Mr Hawkins.

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.

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