



## Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja

ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

### Tribunal win for Traditional Owners

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Traditional Owners in the Pilbara region are this week celebrating a win in the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) over mining giant Fortescue Metals Group (FMG).

Members of the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura native title claim group and the Wintawari Gurama Aboriginal Corporation have successfully proved that the mining giant failed to negotiate in good faith and fulfil its obligations under section 31 of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

The matter was over a proposed mining tenement application, 65 kilometres west of Tom Price encompassing 4,320 hectares of traditional land and waters. The area covered part of Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura's native title application area and the approved native title determination area of the Wintawari Gurama Aboriginal Corporation.

Donna Meyer, Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura Traditional Owner, said that the decision that was handed down was a hard fought battle, but that her community was ecstatic.

"This is not only a win for our community, but for all Aboriginal people. We are constantly being pushed and pulled by the whims of mining companies and I feel this is not only a victory for our country and people but for our ancestors who handed us this land to take care of," said Donna Meyer.

Pilbara Native Title Service (PNTS), representatives of Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura native title claim group, said it was pleased that the group had stayed strong and successfully proved that FMG did not negotiate in good faith.

"I hope this win sends a message out to mining companies to come to the table in good faith and negotiate a fair outcome with the Traditional Owners of that country," said PNTS Chairperson Doris Eaton.

The next step for Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura native title claim group and Wintawari Gurama Aboriginal Corporation is to meet with Fortescue Metals Group and begin negotiations towards an agreed outcome. **ENDS**

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#### Notes for Editors

Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation is the native title representative body for the Traditional Owners of the Pilbara, Murchison and Gascoyne regions of Western Australia. In the Murchison and Gascoyne we are called **Yamatji Land and Sea Council**. In the Pilbara we are **Pilbara Native Title Service**.

We represent 24 different groups, all with their own culture, language, and traditions. Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation's (YMBBMAC's) representative area covers over 1 million square kilometres. We have been in operation since 1994 with offices in Geraldton, South Hedland, Karratha, Tom Price and Perth.

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