

Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation

Traditional Owners sign agreement to secure future

Friday, November 30, 2007

Traditional Owners in the Pilbara signed a landmark agreement yesterday with the State Government that delivers much needed housing, training, development and ongoing employment in the Port Hedland region.

The Kariyarra Mugarinya Joint Venture, a corporation that is run by the Kariyarra native title claim group and Mugarinya Community Association, and Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan, met at Parliament House to sign the agreement that allotted 12ha of residential land.

Kariyarra Traditional Owner, Raylene Gordon said the agreement was great news for her people and she was pleased with how quickly the agreement had happened.

“Today is just the beginning, now we can now start working to make a stronger future for Kariyarra people and our community,” Ms Gordon said.

As part of the agreement, Kariyarra Traditional Owners will assist to accelerate much needed housing availability in the region by providing native title clearances for other land development in the Port Hedland area.

Pilbara Native Title Service (PNTS), Executive Director, Simon Hawkins said that he was proud that PNTS assisted in representing the Kariyarra native title claim group in the negotiations with the State Government and looked forward to seeing solid outcomes for the group.

“The signing of this agreement is a significant step forward for the Kariyarra people in securing land for economic purposes and gives Traditional Owners the opportunity to own freehold land in the South Hedland area, which is on their traditional country,” he said.

“The partnership of the Kariyarra native title claim group and Mugarinya Community Association in signing this agreement demonstrates how a united community can achieve great economic and social benefits for their people.”

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