

## **Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation**

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### **New Chairperson for Pilbara Native Title Service**

**Media Release: 15 May 2008**

Pilbara Native Title Service (PNTS) today announced the appointment of Mrs Doris Eaton as chairperson of its Executive Committee.

Njama Traditional Owner Mrs Eaton is the first woman to chair the Executive Committee, which acts as an advocate for Traditional Owners in the Pilbara region. Mrs Eaton is joined by Mrs Natalie Parker, a Nyiyaparli Traditional Owner, as deputy chairperson.

Pilbara Native Title Service is facing unprecedented volumes of work as the WA mining boom continues to grow at extraordinary levels. As well as acting on behalf of Traditional Owners in the resolution of native title claims, the organisation is currently negotiating agreements with Rio Tinto, BHP and other major players in the Pilbara mining boom.

Simon Hawkins, Chief Executive Officer, said both Mrs Eaton and Mrs Parker bring strong leadership experience and a wealth of traditional knowledge.

"Pilbara Native Title Service is fortunate to have a strong committee of Traditional Owners dedicated to serving their community. The next twelve months are vitally important for the Pilbara in terms of both the resolution of native title claims and mining agreements. Mrs Eaton and Mrs Parker's knowledge and leadership will be of great benefit to our clients, the Traditional Owners of the Pilbara," he said.

Pilbara chairperson, Mrs Eaton said that she is proud to represent PNTS and hopes to soon see Traditional Owners gain rightful recognition of their culture and land.

"I want to see my people have their country recognised, and share the knowledge and stories of their rivers, land and sea with future generations. I want to be part of the solution that finds a balance between the mining boom and traditional Aboriginal culture," said Mrs Eaton.

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