



Yamatji Marlpa ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Aboriginal Heritage under threat

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Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) will continue to lobby and fight for the Aboriginal Heritage Act (AHA) Amendment Bill currently before Parliament, to be and re-drafted.

Following a two-day meeting of WA Alliance of Aboriginal Land Councils (Alliance), representatives agreed the amendments must include the voice of Aboriginal people. The Premier declined to attend the meeting.

YMAC Co-Chair Doris Eaton said Aboriginal people are still not being consulted on matters concerning their heritage and culture.

“We as Aboriginal people still practice our culture and traditions on-Country. We still speak our language. The Minister should be ashamed. It’s taken over 40 years for the Act to be amended, and this is what we are offered? Aboriginal people need to be involved in the protection of our heritage,” Mrs Eaton said.

“We are not saying no to mining. We are asking for the Act designed to protect our heritage, to be fair for all people. We are ready to assist the government in coming to an acceptable position in reforming the AHA,” she said.

Simon Hawkins, CEO, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation said the current amendment bill does not address the fundamental inequities contained within the Act.

“The Government continues to use smoke and mirrors in the Amendment Bill. There are subtle changes contained within it that look innocuous enough, but could have a detrimental effect when it comes to protection of Aboriginal Heritage.

“The Amendment Bill before Parliament is a vastly watered down approach and we are urging the government to consult and re-drafted,” Mr Hawkins said.

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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