
MURUJUGA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

STATEMENT OF INTENT

29 FEBRUARY 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation (**MAC**) is the authorised cultural representative to speak on behalf of Murujuga Country, which consists of five traditional owner and custodian groups, the Ngarluma, Yaburara, Mardudhunera, Yindjibarndi, and Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo. MAC is working in partnership with the WA Government and in collaboration with the Commonwealth Government and other stakeholders in advancing the World Heritage nomination of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape.

Murujuga has been nominated as a Cultural Landscape, as an outstanding example of creative genius, an exceptional living cultural tradition and for balanced management of a dynamically changing landscape and seascape for over 50,000 years. At the core of the nomination is Aboriginal agency, decision making and land and sea management.

To obtain World Heritage status, the nomination must demonstrate the area is of Outstanding Universal Value. The Murujuga Cultural Landscape has been nominated for the following criteria:

- + a place that represents a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- + a place that bears unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living, or which has disappeared; and
- + a place that provides an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land or sea use which is representative of a culture, or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.

Critically, the nomination has been written to demonstrate that the Murujuga Cultural Landscape is more than just a rock art gallery. It is a continuous landscape that was created in the Dreaming and continues to be managed according to Lore and Law as it has been for thousands of generations.

It is a requirement that MAC meets the conditions of integrity, authenticity and can demonstrate there is an adequate protection and management system to ensure MAC can safeguard Murujuga. Accordingly, MAC intends to undergo a strategic agreement making process with the relevant stakeholders to ensure the protection and longevity of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape.

The Strategic Head Agreement (**Agreement**) will provide a framework for the parties to enter into negotiations, in good faith, for the purpose of engagement between MAC, Industry and Government in relation to all matters regarding Murujuga Country. Specifically, the Agreement intends to establish values-based partnerships which set out principles and processes in relation to the management, protection and conservation of the relevant area.

The Agreement will involve the following parties who all have respective interests (current or pending activity) on Murujuga Country:

Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation

Commonwealth Government

Western Australian Government

Yara Pilbara Pty Ltd

Woodside Energy Ltd

Perdaman Industries Pty Ltd

Rio Tinto Iron Ore

Horizon Power

City of Karratha

This statement of intent sets out the guiding principles on which the parties agree to come together to negotiate the terms of the Agreement. The principles espoused within the Statement of Intent are derived from the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP)*, the Dhawura Ngilan and Terri Janke's True Tracks.

The statement of intent is also informed by the consultation process undertaken by Deloitte in their 'Murujuga Cooperative Management Agreement: Scoping Report and Framework of Matters' dated May 2022.

In coming together for Country, this statement of intent guides the desired attitudes, expectations, and objectives for engaging in the strategic agreement-making process.



STATEMENT OF INTENT

“Ngayintharri Gumawarni Ngurrangga” - We all come together for Country.

The parties agree to participate in negotiations about the Agreement with the following intent, to:

- 1 Engage in good faith for the purpose of a respectful negotiation in a manner that is transparent, honest and promotes open communication.
- 2 Recognise the universal right of MAC to self-determination and freedom from discrimination (UNDRIP, Free Prior Informed Consent, Dhawura Ngilan and Terri Janke’s True Tracks).
- 3 Acknowledge and learn from mistakes of the past to move forward together and evolve towards ethical outcomes.
- 4 Be equipped with the relevant knowledge (including appropriate cultural training), expertise, resources and authority to engage and communicate effectively in agreement-making.
- 5 Act in a cooperative and fair manner amongst all parties.
- 6 Commit to making available individuals with the required level of decision making authority to represent organisations in negotiations to allow for proper and robust negotiation and decision making.
- 7 Ensure that these individuals act cooperatively in scheduling meetings and negotiations, arrive prepared and able to progress outcomes and actions promptly as to not cause delay to the delivery of the Agreement.
- 8 Build positive relationships based on respect and equality for the purpose of fostering longevity.
- 9 Afford equal opportunity for all parties to participate and for all voices to be heard.
- 10 While recognising contributions made under existing agreements, to collectively find innovative approaches for equitable sharing of economic benefit derived on Country to support MAC to build capacity and support cultural, economic and social outcomes.
- 11 Commit to the principles of environmental sustainability, protection of cultural heritage, valuing Cultural Authority and MAC’s Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) particularly recognising and incorporating Indigenous knowledge and ways of working with landscapes and people.
- 12 Recognise the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the Murujuga Cultural Landscape and the significance of a United Nations World Heritage Listing.
- 13 Strive towards a mutually beneficial outcome which reconciles the respective interests and rights of all parties and creates values-based partnerships.

SIGNATURES

Peter Hicks
Chairperson
Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation

Hon Tanya Plibersek MP
Minister for the Environment
and Water

Hon Roger Cook MLA
Premier of Western Australia

Hon Reece Whitby MLA
Western Australian Minister
for Environment

Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA
Western Australia Minister
for Aboriginal Affairs

Laurent Trost
General Manager
Yara Pilbara Pty Ltd

Meg O'Neill
Chief Executive Officer
Woodside Energy Ltd

Vikas Rambal
Chairman and Managing Director
Perdaman Industries Pty Ltd

Simon Trott
Chief Executive Iron Ore
Rio Tinto Iron Ore

Stephanie Unwin
Chief Executive Officer
Horizon Power

Virginia Miltrup
Chief Executive Officer
City of Karratha