

# PILBARA NATIVE TITLE SERVICE

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## **Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi People Burrup Negotiation Media Release 6 June 2002**

The Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi people are concerned about recent reports in the media and feel the need to explain to the community the facts:

1. The Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi people are the Traditional Owners of the Burrup Peninsula. The Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo and the Yaburara people are part of the Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi people. We are not in dispute with them. They are our people.
2. The Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi people are deeply concerned about the effects of the proposed development on the Burrup Peninsula. As the Traditional Owners, we have a spiritual connection given to us by *Mingkala* (God) and a responsibility handed down to us by our ancestors to ensure that the cultural heritage values of the Burrup are protected for future generations.
3. The Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi people recognize that their right to negotiate under the Native Title Act is not a right of veto. We cannot stop the development by withholding our consent to it.
4. The Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi people have used their right to negotiate in an attempt to minimize the negative impacts of the proposed development on the Burrup, and to save what's left of the Burrup from future development.
5. The Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi people have not reached agreement with the Government. We are in negotiation at the present time.
6. We share the concerns of the people of Karratha about the impacts of the proposed development on the cultural heritage and the natural environment. That is why we are doing all we can to protect the remainder of the Burrup.
7. We have explained to the Shire of Roebourne that our aim is to protect the Burrup, not to exclude people from visiting there. Up to now the Shire of Roebourne has not been successful in protecting the Burrup.
8. Non-Indigenous people come and go from the Pilbara as industry requires. The Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi people were here before anyone else, and

we will still be here when everyone else has left. We only ask that people respect our love of our country, and our attachment to it.

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