

## Western Desert people vote to improve operations Q and A document

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### **WHY WAS THE MEETING CALLED?**

The WDLAC Board of Directors called the SGM to look at improving operations after an investigation into a complaint received in 2016 uncovered further mismanagement. The findings were sent for independent advice and there is a request before the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) in relation to further investigation of the discovered issues.

### **WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THE MEETING?**

Changes to the rules regarding eligibility to be a member Director were carried with an 88 per cent majority and will now be reviewed by ORIC.

### **IT'S BEEN SUGGESTED BY SOME PEOPLE THE MEETING WAS NOT LEGAL. IS THIS TRUE?**

No. Members who feel that the conduct of the corporation's affairs are oppressive (CATSI s 166) or that the meeting was invalid (CATSI s576-15) can either exercise their rights as members to notify the corporation of a dispute (rule 25.1) or seek their own independent legal advice on their options.

### **IT'S BEEN SUGGESTED BY SOME PEOPLE THE MEETING SHOULD HAVE BEEN CANCELLED. SHOULD IT HAVE BEEN?**

Once a meeting has been called it cannot be cancelled. The meeting must proceed even if members feel sufficient notice wasn't given. ORIC cannot declare a meeting invalid, as this power was given to the Court under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (the CATSI Act). The corporation's rule 8.14 also advises that a meeting is not invalid simply because of a failure of providing notice.

### **IT'S BEEN SUGGESTED BY SOME PEOPLE THAT SOME VOTES WERE INCORRECT. IS THIS TRUE?**

To ensure reasonable opportunity for members to participate, the board called for the meeting to be held via teleconference with meeting sites at Bidyadanga, Punmu, Parnngurr, and Fitzroy Crossing. Attendees were provided with extensive information including clear information about the voting process, and clear information on the ballot paper. It is up to each individual to decide how to vote and their vote is final.

### **WHAT CAN I DO IF I AM CONCERNED?**

If you require further information please feel free to contact ORIC on 1800 622431.

### **WHAT IS YMAC'S ROLE?**

Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is a not-for-profit organisation run by an Aboriginal Board of Directors which provides a range of services including Native Title claim and future-act representation, heritage protection services, community and economic development and natural resource management. YMAC provides Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) services

to WDLAC to hold and manage native title in accordance with the objectives of the group; and in managing stakeholder interest in access, or regulation of native title land and waters, by providing a legal entity to manage and conduct the affairs of the native title holders. It is YMAC's mission to work with Aboriginal people to pursue recognition and acceptance of culture in Country, and a strong future for people and Country. Our focus at YMAC is apparent in everything we do – in ensuring enduring heritage and culture, resolving native title claims, and seeking outcomes that provide a strong legacy for Aboriginal people, through respect, professionalism, integrity and collaboration.

### **WHAT IS MY ROLE?**

- Value WDLAC
- Show a big interest in WDLAC
- Keep making the Board and common law holders stronger
- Attend WDLAC meetings
- Support WDLAC Board members and talk to them about what Martu people want.

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### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

WESTERN DESERT LANDS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (WDLAC) IS THE PRESCRIBED BODY CORPORATE FOR THE MARTU PEOPLE OF THE CENTRAL WESTERN DESERT REGION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

On behalf of Martu People, WDLAC holds native title rights and interests, including the right to exclusive use, occupation and possession, which includes the right to control access, of 136,000 square kilometres of land within the Central Western Desert region. WDLAC works for the cultural, social and economic benefit of the current and future generations of Martu.

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