



Media Release

Banjima and Yindjibarndi Join Forces to Shape the Pilbara's Energy Future

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Banjima Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (BNTAC) and Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC), through their respective commercial entities Banjima Pty Ltd (BPL) and Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation (YEC), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to explore renewable energy and transmission opportunities on Banjima Country.

The agreement establishes an exclusive framework for collaboration to investigate a pipeline of projects that could support the Pilbara's energy transition.

The MOU reflects a shared commitment by Banjima and Yindjibarndi organisations to explore renewable energy and transmission opportunities on Banjima Country and create long-term benefits for their people.

The partnership aligns with the objectives of the Pilbara Energy Transition Plan, including supporting regional decarbonisation, increasing Aboriginal participation in the energy transition, and enabling the development of common-use infrastructure to strengthen the Pilbara energy system.

Banjima has already secured \$2.5 million through the State Government's Clean Energy Future Fund to support the development of a renewable energy project on Banjima Country. This collaboration provides an opportunity to bring together Banjima's aspirations for Country with YEC's renewable energy development and commercial capability.

BNTAC Chair Paula White said the agreement represents an important opportunity for Traditional Owner groups to work together on matters that will shape the future of the Pilbara.

"The energy transition presents significant opportunities for Traditional Owner people across the Pilbara. By working together, we can explore opportunities that align with our shared values, protect Country and create lasting benefits for future generations."

"This partnership means we can advance our first major renewable energy project on Banjima Country which is backed by a \$2.5m State government Clean Energy Future Fund grant."

Yindjibarndi Group CEO and YEC Director Michael Woodley said collaboration between Traditional Owner groups would be critical to ensuring First Nations people are active participants in the energy transition.

"As Traditional Owners, we have a responsibility to think about the long-term future of our people and our Country. This agreement provides a foundation for Banjima and Yindjibarndi organisations to explore opportunities together and ensure our voices are part of the conversations shaping the Pilbara's future."

"We want to see Traditional Owners not only consulted on major energy developments, but actively participating in and benefiting from them."



While the MOU establishes a framework for cooperation, it does not commit either party to the development of specific projects or investment decisions. Any future opportunities identified through the collaboration will be subject to further assessment, commercial considerations and relevant approvals.

Background

Banjima Pty Ltd

Formed in 2024, Banjima Pty Ltd (BPL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Banjima Native Title Aboriginal Corporation, the prescribed body corporate representing Banjima traditional owners. Banjima Country spans more than 10,000 square kilometres of the central Pilbara region of Western Australia.

Banjima Country is some of the most impacted by mining in Australia although few benefits have flowed through to Banjima people. Almost one third of Australia's iron ore riches come from Banjima country.

BPL is progressing the first major renewable energy project on Banjima Country, with plans to develop a 103 MW solar and 51.5 MWh battery storage project in the Central Pilbara that will create jobs, drive economic participation and deliver long-term benefits for Banjima people.

Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation

Formed in 2023, Yindjibarndi Energy Corporation (YEC) is one of Australia's largest Indigenous led renewable energy initiatives. YEC is a partnership between Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) and ACEN Corporation, a leading renewable energy company in the Asia Pacific region.

YEC aims to develop a portfolio of up to 3 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity within approximately 13,000 square kilometres of Yindjibarndi Ngurra, supporting decarbonisation, electrification and new industries in the Pilbara and delivering enduring economic and social benefits for Yindjibarndi people.

YEC's development strategy is structured around two key renewable energy hubs: the Western Development Zone Renewable Energy Hub and the Eastern Development Zone Renewable Energy Hub. Together, these hubs form the backbone of YEC's more than 1.5 gigawatts of wind, solar, BESS and related infrastructure projects currently in development in Western Australia.

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