



Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation

Prospectus 2022



Our story



Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation was set up in 2007 to manage the Ngurrara native title area in the Great Sandy Desert of Western Australia. We are a prescribed body corporate that models excellence—through our governance, our partnerships, our ranger program, and our capacity to create employment and training opportunities for Ngurrara people on country. Caring for country is at the heart of our work. Consistent with the vision of our old people, we ensure any impacts from development or tourism on our country are well-managed. We run a team of thirteen Aboriginal rangers (including ranger coordinators) and are proud project partners of the 10 Deserts Project, which integrates natural resource management with traditional ecological knowledge to build resilience across our desert home. We also manage a section of the iconic Canning Stock Route: an 1850 kilometre track stretching from Wiluna in the south, to Halls Creek in the north.

Official recognition of our native title, stating we could ‘possess, occupy, enjoy and use the land to the exclusion of all others’ and ‘enjoy the flowing and underground waters for hunting, fishing and other traditional activities’ was a momentous occasion. For Ngurrara people it took eleven years before our native title was officially recognised. In 2007, Justice Gilmour travelled to Pirnini, near Kurlku in the Great Sandy Desert, to deliver the court’s determination over Ngurrara A.

Pirnini was where our old people painted the famous Ngurrara canvas, which we used to prove our connection to country when battling for native title. The canvas was a collaborative work, a map of our country illustrating all the living water, all the freshwater jumu and jila across the desert. The only concession to Western mapping is the depiction of the Canning Stock Route. In 2012, native title was granted to Ngurrara B and Ngurrara C.

Vision



Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation has a vision to look after our country and cater to the needs of both current and future generations. Guided by a strong board of directors and cultural advisors, we are working together to keep and safeguard the identity of the Walmajarri, Mangala, Wangkajungka, Jawaliny and Mandinjarra (Martu) who collectively make up the Ngurrara native title group. Jila, jumu and waljirri lore and practice is a central and living part of family life and celebration. It's crucial to the way we manage country.

Our work is underpinned by traditional cultural values of inclusiveness, kindness, hospitality and friendship. We want to ensure that no Ngurrara people are left behind. It's vital that all Ngurrara people benefit from social and economic opportunities that arise from native title. Looking forward, we are seeking secure and reliable prosperity through public and private investments to strengthen the Ngurrara people and our organisation.



Photos provided by
Sam and Hamsini from
Environs Kimberley.

Research partnerships



Seeking expressions of interest for research partnerships

Our native title area stretches into the Great Sandy Desert, home to the threatened bilby and hopping mouse, hiding place of the elusive night parrot. It's one of the most remote cultural landscapes on earth. A key area of our work is managing jila and jumu - freshwater springs and soaks. We keep these sites healthy through burning, cultural maintenance, monitoring water quality, and weeding. As part of our work we collect data to help us measure the impacts of climate change on our country. We also practise right-way fire and analyse the impact this has on biodiversity.

Yanunijarra is currently seeking expressions of interest from universities and researchers eager to access our country. We have a team of rangers who can work closely with interested parties to facilitate permissions, logistical needs and a two-way learning environment. In this environment, Walmajarri people can share traditional ecological and cultural knowledge, and researchers can share Western scientific knowledge. To begin the discussion, please contact Peter Murray [peter@yanunijarra.org.au] or Kevin Tromp [countrymanager@yanunijarra.org.au].

Shell 2-way Learning Project

In 2018, Ngurrara wound up a three and a half year 2-way learning project with Shell Australia. The project involved measuring water quality and quantity in the Canning Basin and focused on pairing traditional knowledge about water (through tracing the living water in paintings and gathering stories from Ngurrara elders) with Western scientific knowledge.

Aboriginal employment

100%



5 schools from the Fitzroy Valley

*Over 100 Walmajarri
students*

Cultural Awareness Packages



What does a cockroach bush look like? What does it mean if we drop our eyes and go quiet? Why can't you take photographs at certain places on country? Yanunijarra has the answers to all these questions and more, which we share with participants in our exclusive cultural awareness packages.

These packages are uniquely tailored to meet the needs of local businesses, mining companies, police, health workers, school students, teachers, and other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people who live and work on the Ngurrara native title area.

We cover a lot of ground - from language, to songs, to art, to hunting, to bush medicine, and to important cultural protocols. Our rangers have worked closely with Ngurrara Traditional Owners to ensure all of our content is culturally sound.

Depending on the needs of participants, we can run 2-hour cultural awareness packages, right up to week-long cultural immersion experiences on country.

Please feel free to contact Peter Murray [peter@yanunijarra.org.au] or Kevin Tromp [countrymanager@yanunijarra.org.au] for more information.



Fee-for-service work



You would be hard pressed to find a bunch of people who love their jobs as much as our Ngurrara Rangers! We look after the Ngurrara native title area as well as the Warlu Jilajaa Jumu Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) in accordance with cultural protocols and guided by Ngurrara Traditional Owners. Our rangers are committed, industrious and available for **fee-for-service work**. We offer fencing, weeding and fire management for remote communities and pastoral stations on Ngurrara Country. We are skilled in undertaking **cultural heritage surveys** for proponents interested in pursuing exploration or development. Our rangers love engaging the local community and are always eager to foster new partnerships and to build new relationships.

In the last twelve months, we've worked with Environs Kimberley and the Indigenous Desert Alliance on biodiversity surveys, and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on bio-security surveys. We're committed to a two-way learning approach, where western science is paired with traditional knowledge. The hands-on practical work of our rangers—from fire management, to maintenance, to water monitoring—is complemented through formal and accredited training.

If you'd like to engage our services, Peter [peter@yanunijarra.org.au] or Kevin [countrymanager@yanunijarra.org.au] would love to hear from you! For more information about our 2021 ranger program, visit: <http://www.yanunijarra.com/rangers>.



10 Deserts Project



Yanunijarra is pleased to be an associate partner of the 10 Deserts Project (10DP) and to have our chief executive, Peter Murray, also serve as the Project's chair.

10DP, led by the Indigenous Desert Alliance, aims to build the capacity of Indigenous groups to look after country for positive economic, social, cultural and environmental outcomes. It integrates natural resource management best-practice with traditional ecological knowledge to build environmental resilience.

We became involved because we know our country—a unique desert ecosystem—is under increasing threat from several factors, including climate change. It's expected that we'll suffer from hotter days across all seasons and altered rainfall patterns, this in turn will have an impact on biodiversity. But we can potentially mitigate some of these impacts through implementing carbon farming and practising right-way fire.

Yanunijarra's involvement has allowed us to tap into a network of Indigenous-managed lands—one of the largest in the world! By doing so, we've been able to share knowledge, land management strategies and further build the capacity of our ranger team. All of this contributes toward our goal to look after country. For more information please visit: <http://www.yanunijarra.com/10-deserts-project>



For more information about Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation and how you can engage with the Ngurrara Traditional Owners please visit our website: www.yanunijarra.com.

You can also contact our Chief Executive Peter Murray on peter@yanunijarra.org.au or our Country Manager Kevin Tromp on countrymanager@yanunijarra.org.au.



Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation was established to manage the Ngurrara native title claim. The Registered Native Title Corporation ICN is 7478.