



ACN 144 786 747

## **Media backgrounder**

### **New port and industrial land on Ngarluma country at Anketell**

*The Western Australian State Government plans to develop a new port, strategic industrial areas and service corridor at Anketell on 4300ha of Ngarluma traditional land. Negotiations between the Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC and the State Government to agree an outcome for the Ngarluma people have been finalised and officially announced on 23 April 2014.*

#### **The Ngarluma people**

The Ngarluma people are the original inhabitants of the coastal and hinterland areas around Roebourne (West Pilbara, Western Australia).

Archaeological surveys have revealed continuous occupation and ancestry stretching back more than 30,000 years giving the Ngarluma people a deep historical and spiritual connection to the land, waterways, rivers and the sea.

They hold very strong and close associations to traditional country. The Ngarluma people are obliged to manage and protect their traditional lands that must be looked after and respected at all times, and in return it will look after them.

Today, most Ngarluma people live in the Roebourne area but others are spread throughout other towns and communities in the Pilbara.

The Native Title process began for the Ngarluma people in the 1990s. Native Title was granted on 2 May 2005.

The Ngarluma Native Title Determination Area covers the area southward from Point Samson, Cossack, Wickham, Roebourne, to the northern boundary of Millstream-Chichester National Park and, from the east side of the mouth of the Maitland River to the west side of the Peawah River near Whim Creek, including the towns of Dampier and Karratha.

#### **The Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation**

The Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation (NAC) is the registered native title body corporate required by the Federal Court to hold Native Title on trust for the Ngarluma people. It was set up in June 2005 following the granting of Native Title.

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It has the responsibility of managing and protecting Native Title land and also to make social and economic opportunities available for the Ngarluma people. It works to achieve this by creating employment and training opportunities, restoring and looking after language and culture, and helping to keep the robust sense of pride and purpose of the Ngarluma people.

Much of its focus is on improving the quality of life for the Ngarluma people through the establishment of programs and projects such as the provision of land for a new residential aged care facility in Roebourne.

The NAC oversees a number of business operations for the benefit of the Ngarluma people.

### **The land for the proposed port and industrial areas**

The State Government intends to develop a new port, strategic industrial areas and transport and service corridor at Anketell requiring a total of 4300ha of Ngarluma traditional land. The Ngarluma people are the traditional owners of that land and hold "Native Title" to the great majority.

Construction of the port and its associated infrastructure will restrict and in some areas, terminate access to many coastal areas for all members of the local community, not just the Ngarluma people.

### **The Ngarluma's traditional uses of this land**

The Ngarluma people have a deep historical and spiritual connection to the land, waterways, rivers and seas and the region contains a number of important cultural sites.

The Ngarluma are historically a coastal people, and the waterways and sea are a vital component of their culture.

This land has deep cultural, ceremonial, food gathering and other uses stretching back over millennia and stretching forward for millennia.

Many Ngarluma people continue to live a traditional way of life, hunting, fishing and collecting bush tucker and managing Aboriginal sites, and the Anketell coastal land and access to the coast is important for that reason.

The Ngarluma have a distinct connection to their Country at the proposed Anketell Port, which is the last remaining access to this coastline in the Roebourne and Wickham areas. The Burrup, Dampier and Cape Lambert, and Karratha townsites along this coastline have now been developed as large-scale industrial, commercial and resources sites.

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