



Yamatji Marlpa
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



Media Statement

Pilbara Solar Pty Ltd

Aboriginal Corporation acquires ownership in Pilbara Solar

25 November 2020



Photo: (Stock image) Pilbara Solar aims to create opportunities for equity ownership for Aboriginal people in renewable energy projects

Traditional Owners now have strengthened opportunities to participate in WA's burgeoning renewable energy sector, with Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation's (YMAC) new ownership deal in Pilbara Solar.

The not-for-profit organisation has acquired 50 percent ownership of WA renewable energy development and social impact company, Pilbara Solar Pty Ltd (PS). YMAC is run by an Aboriginal Board of Directors, with Aboriginal members – and provides legal, professional and administrative services to Traditional Owners across WA's Pilbara, Mid West and Gascoyne regions.



PS's purpose is to develop commercial, utility-scale renewable energy solutions, in partnership with Traditional Owners. The company also aims to provide power to the mining industry, remote communities, government, businesses, and energy retailers in long-term, competitive and fixed price agreements.

PS drives the economic empowerment of Aboriginal people by creating an equity partnership business model that allows Aboriginal organisations to have the opportunity to participate and share in the wealth generated from the renewable energy industry. The company also prioritises Aboriginal and local contracting in all its projects.

PS Managing Director, Kylie Chalmers congratulated YMAC for their commitment and ongoing support.

“As a company, we are at an exciting phase of our development – moving from being a start-up to scaling-up our activities, and we have recently become a registered Aboriginal supplier with Supply Nation. This new growth period is critical to our operations. We are confident that with the right support, we will be able to achieve the delivery of high-quality, renewable energy products to meet industry needs – and at the same time, deliver important social outcomes,” Ms Chalmers said.

“Western Australia is recognised as having some of the best solar resources on the planet, we are ready to tap into this market, while also creating commercial opportunities for Aboriginal people to ensure that they also reap the rewards,” she added.

The remainder 50 per cent share of PS is owned by three renewable energy experts, who were the company's founding Directors. Samantha Mella (project leader of the prefeasibility study, *Evaluating the potential to export PS resources to the proposed ASEAN grid via a subsea high voltage direct current interconnector*); clean energy consultant, Dr Geoff James who is a thought leader with over 25 years of multidisciplinary research experience with government and private sector clients; and renewable energy developer and private consultant, Dr Richard Finlay Jones.

For more information contact YMAC Communications Manager Jane Mitchell,

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About Pilbara Solar

Pilbara Solar develops commercial renewable energy projects in which Aboriginal enterprise, communities and Traditional Owners have the opportunity to own equity. It strives for sustainable economic development that benefits Aboriginal people, business, government and the community, with a low carbon footprint and high Corporate Social Responsibility. Pilbara Solar is developing a range of utility scale renewable energy projects in Western Australia to provide power to industry and the community. Pilbara Solar supports the development of sustainable local supply chains and preferentially engages local and Aboriginal businesses wherever possible. . Pilbara Solar is 50 per cent owned by the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) and is Supply Nation registered.

About Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation

Proudly celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2019, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) is the native title representative body for the Pilbara, Mid West and Gascoyne regions of Western Australia. YMAC has a representative area of over one-third of WA and represents over 20 Traditional Owner groups - all with their own language, culture and traditions. YMAC is a not-for-profit organisation run by an Aboriginal Board of Directors and provides a range of services to its members including native title claim and future-act representation, heritage protection services, community and economic development, and natural resource management.