

MEDIA STATEMENT

24 October 2017

GOLDFIELDS LAND & SEA COUNCIL
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Mirning People - Native Title Determination

After a 22-year process, the Mirning People will have their native title recognised by the Federal Court of Australia at a native title determination ceremony to be held at a site near Mundrabilla on the Great Australian Bight.

On 24 October 2017, Justice Alan Robertson of the Federal Court will formally acknowledge native title over an area of approximately 33,000sqkm, 1,400kms east of Perth, of which almost 22,100sqkm will be the highest form of native title - exclusive possession.

The determination recognises the native title rights and interests of Aboriginal people of the area who are known as the Mirning People – the third recognition of exclusive rights to country in the Goldfields Region for Aboriginal people.

In addition to the native title rights and interests conferred by the determination, once a Prescribed Body Corporate has been set up, the Mirning People will receive tenure to a number of land parcels through an Indigenous Land Use Agreement that was registered in 2013.

The CEO of the Goldfields Land and Sea Council, Mr Hans Bokelund, said the “The exclusive nature of the native title rights and interests of this determination confirms the Mirning People’s connection to country and will allow them to protect and enhance their traditions, culture and heritage over these lands and manage them for future generations. It has been a long hard struggle and I commend the Mirning People for the perseverance that they have shown to reach this milestone.”

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