

Waardi recognised under ratification agreement

The Traditional Owners of Jabirr Jabirr country have welcomed the recent ratification of the Browse LNG Precinct Project Agreement signed off by the Western Australian Premier Colin Barnett.

Its new administration body, Waardi Ltd, is now a recognised party to the Browse LNG Agreement.

Waardi Ltd has been set up by the Traditional Owners to manage future benefits arising from the Browse LNG project at James Price Point. It replaces the Traditional Owners' Negotiation Committee.

Waardi's new chairperson, Warren Greatorex, said today that the inclusion of Waardi Ltd as the administration body through the ratification process was an important step for the Traditional Owners.

"It is a crucial time for our claim group and Waardi provides us with a strong, autonomous organisation that will be looking after our future financial and social interests arising from the Browse project," he said.

"This recent ratification means we can now begin developing the necessary administrative and commercial structures to manage and take full advantage of those benefits for our people over the lifetime of the project. It also means that we are a party to the Agreement and a legally recognised representative body for the GJJ Claim Group by Woodside and the State Government.

"We look forward to establishing positive relationships with key stakeholders under the Agreement and the broader community.

"We believe that Waardi sets a benchmark for Indigenous people to control and manage their economic interests within developments that occur on their traditional land."

The signatories to the Browse LNG Precinct Ratification Deed were the State of Western Australia, Woodside Energy Ltd, the Goolarabooloo Jabirr Jabirr Peoples, the Broome Port Authority, Waardi Ltd and Landcorp. It was signed by Premier Barnett on July 4 2012.

Mr Barnett welcomed the formal ratification of the Waardi Administrative Body and the Guumbarr Corporate Trustee, and congratulated the Traditional Owners.

Woodside Senior Vice President, Browse, Michael Hession, also congratulated the Goolarabooloo Jabirr Jabirr peoples on the establishment of Waardi Ltd.

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“It is a significant milestone for the Traditional Owners and the proposed Browse LNG Development,” Dr Hession said.

*Waardi is a Jabirr Jabirr word meaning people of the north.

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