

## MEDIA RELEASE

### LAPPI LAPPI & NGULUPI CONSENT DETERMINATION OF NATIVE TITLE

On 24 October 2018, the Federal Court of Australia sat at Ngulupi Station a remote location approximately 120 kilometres south-east of Balgo in the Central Desert region of Western Australia, to recognise the native title rights and interests of the Lappi Lappi & Ngulupi people. The claimant application was filed with the Federal Court on 15 February 2018 and registered on 24 April 2018, it is being determined 6 months to the day from registration date.

The matter was presided over by the Honourable Justice Barker, who handed down the Consent Determination, recognising the native title holders' right to possession, occupation, use and enjoyment of the determination area to the exclusion of all others.

The Lappi Lappi & Ngulupi claim was an island in a surrounding sea of determinations, the determination today is the final area in the Northern part of the Central Desert region to be determined.

The Lappi Lappi & Ngulupi determination area covers approximately 6,072 square kilometres of land and waters, its Eastern boundary runs along the Western Australia and Northern Territory border. The area is comprised of part of the Balwina Aboriginal Reserve and part of the Central Australia Aboriginal Reserve.

The Lappi Lappi & Ngulupi native title holders acknowledge the traditional laws and customs associated with a broader 'society' known as the Western Desert Cultural Bloc (**WDCB**), and as such are considered members of the WDCB. Many of the individual Lappi Lappi & Ngulupi Claimants also hold native title rights in at least two of the surrounding determinations.

*"It was emotional, very moving. I wish our mothers and fathers that lived at Lappi Lappi were here today to receive this."* Peter Tex

#### **Ian Rawlings**

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