



CENTRAL DESERT NATIVE TITLE SERVICES

MEDIA RELEASE

Agreement between the Gibson Desert People and State Government of Western Australia

On Wednesday 28 October 2020, in a remote setting in the Gibson Desert about 1300 kilometres east of Perth, a momentous occasion took place. An Agreement between the Gibson Desert People the State Government of Western Australia (the State) and Central Desert Native Title Services was signed by all parties.

The joy of the traditional owners as they danced Ministers Ben Wyatt and Stephen Dawson on to country was palpable. Mr Fred Ward sang a traditional song about Mina Mina, the place in the desert where the signing ceremony was held.

The Gibson Desert People have had many hard knocks along the road to this Agreement, and although at times some of the hardships were disheartening and hurt people they never gave up. From the moment the Gibson Desert People commenced discussion with the State they worked with strength and conviction to reach the outcome that was executed by all parties today.

The Agreement renames the Gibson Desert Nature Reserve to “Pila” Reserve giving the landscape its Aboriginal name, meaning rolling plains. The Agreement includes funding for the Gibson Desert People to jointly manage their country with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions for at least the next ten years. It also allows people to manage their own corporation to hold other benefits that flow from the Agreement and to improve infrastructure at the Patjarr Community.

Central Desert congratulates the Gibson Desert People and the State on reaching an Agreement that will have a substantial impact on the wellbeing of future generations of Gibson Desert People.

Jo Lanagan

Chief Executive Officer

Central Desert Native Title Services Ltd

Contact: (08) 9425 2000