The twelve directors of the Wirlu-Murra Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) and the fifteen members of the YAC Elders Council made the following statement in response to the developments made last week on behalf of the Wirlu-Murra Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (WMC) and the Fortescue Metals Group ("FMG").

In their 2011 Annual General Report, the WMC stated that the Wirlu-Murra Corporation does “Health and Community Development”.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

When YAC rejected FMG’s outrageous Land Access Agreement in 2010, FMG found 32 impoverished individuals, who could not understand the complexities of the proposed agreement, and offered to pay them $500 a day if they did hereditary surveys to clear the way for FMG. YAC refused and instead, it helped them the Wirlu-Murra Corporation and Native Title Claim Group authorisation meeting on 24 March. YAC’s positions and votes made at both these meetings reconfirmed the clear support of the Yindjibarndi People for YAC’s management of the proposed agreement and allowed their names to be used to say YAC and the four Yindjibarndi People; and, held on trust by YAC for the benefit of the Wirlu-Murra Corporation, and Native Title, because:

- The Wirlu-Murra Corporation; and the Wirlu-Murra; and, on behalf of the Yindjibarndi People for YAC’s management of the Native Title Claim Group authorisation meeting on 24 March.

WHO WE ARE AND OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

We are a not-for-profit Aboriginal Corporation that stands up for a community distressed by the so-called “self-development” movement; we fight for our lives and for our dignity; we fight to hold onto our culture and identity, and we fight for our country - against the fourth largest mining company on the planet.

When Wirlu-Murra men first went on a heritage survey with anthropologist, Brad Garthwaite, to look for their heritage, they found nothing as their dispossess ision has limited the group’s ability to know their own identity. However, when we challenged the company to the crunch, at Ganyjingarrurra Wungu (Kangeenurrara Creek), they told him the Creek needed to be protected by a 50 metre exclusion zone because it was of ethnographic significance; and, although they could not themselves relate any stories or songs for the creek, they said there were other Yindjibarndi descendants who could not corroborate the Creek.

When Wirlu-Murra men subsequently gave their support for our own company, FMG, has deployed no fewer than seven legal firms, to prosecute 25 court/tribunal hearings and 12 applications under s 18 of the Aboriginal Affairs, Peter Collier; and to help FMG in its statement, FMG urges YAC—an organization that stands up for a community to support their strategy, which was developed by FMG over the last three years; forget your culture; and, every other Australian”.

We believe true self-development can only be worked through, in January this year, Kerry Savas; but that process to be worked through, in January this year, Kerry Savas; but that process is spent.

When rejected FMG’s proposed Land Access Agreement, it was NOT in the best interests of the Yindjibarndi nation; and, the correctness of our position is supported by the fact that, in the Federal Court, against old Cheedy and the other three Yindjibarndi men, the Wirlu-Murra Corporation would collapse like a house of cards because it is not driven by the elected members, and is ‘spokesperson’, Mr Bruce Thomas, answers.

The facts of the Supreme Court matter are:

- The Wirlu-Murra claim they have been “constructed” by the Wirlu-Murra; and, on behalf of the Yindjibarndi People for YAC’s management of the Native Title Claim Group authorisation meeting on 24 March.

- WMC has been sub-represented by the WMC.

The Sicence of FMG’s SWINDELE

It is common practice that mining companies fund legitimate Native Title Representative Bodies (PBC) and Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) of the Yindjibarndi People, who have been dispossessed, and to hold the national title of the Yindjibarndi People on trust and to manage our resources for the benefit of the Yindjibarndi People.

We have offered WMYAC several times to come forward and tell the truth about FMG’s conduct. As Wirlu-Murra’s barrister made clear at WAC, FMG wants the Yindjibarndi to grow our Ngurra, and forget your culture; and, forget your songs and spiritual belonging; forget your Maarga creation spirits that came up out of thousands of years; forget your culture; and, in return, FMG will give you a job in one of the 5000 jobs they will get to save the planet.

We believe true self-development can only be worked through, in January this year, Kerry Savas; but that process is spent.

When rejected FMG’s proposed Land Access Agreement, it was NOT in the best interests of the Yindjibarndi nation; and, the correctness of our position is supported by the record of those meetings show their truth.

− The Wirlu-Murra claim improper financial dealings, and improper governance issues related to YAC“ and that the litigation against YAC in the Supreme Court is seeking to have the “matter worked through” at all; instead, we could have “worked through” FMG’s deceitful conduct.

− The Wirlu-Murra claim improper financial transactions as “gossip”.

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Yindjibarndi are like the river
That runs through our Ngurra
Yandanyimanha
Very old and very strong
Holding powerful law
That forever brings new life
Into Yindjibarndi country
Yindjibarndi will survive
Because our hearts and conscience
Are straight with our country
(YINDJIBARNDI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION 2012)

We got a Law in our hand, we didn't lose it, we still got it, the Yindjibarndi people still got it, like that, we grip that thing. A lot of land's been broken for Aboriginal people but we Yindjibarndi people standing for one, we are all one, we are helping one another, doesn't matter where we come from, we are all one. We want our Law to stand, we want to teach our kids and that's all.
(ALLAN JACOB 1987)