

MEDIA RELEASE

UNTIRI PULKA CONSENT DETERMINATION OF NATIVE TITLE

On 27 July 2020, the Honourable Justice Griffiths of the Federal Court of Australia, sitting by video link from Sydney, handed down his reasons in a consent determination of native title for the Untiri Pulka native title claim.

The court hearing for this consent determination was organised by video link to comply with COVID-19 restrictions, which meant that the usual practice of holding the hearing 'on-county' could not be undertaken. Instead, the Untiri Pulka native title holders, based mostly in the remote community of Tjuntjuntjara in the Great Victoria Desert of Western Australia, were able to link into the hearing as well as receive a video recording of the hearing.

The Untiri Pulka native title claim was filed on 19 September 2019 and covers approximately 65,000 square kilometres of land and waters and is located over the Nullarbor Plain and part of the Great Victoria Desert. The Untiri Pulka native title holders acknowledge the traditional laws and customs associated with the broader 'society' known as the Western Desert Cultural Bloc and have been able to maintain a continuous connection with the area, notwithstanding the extremely harsh conditions that exist there.

Central Desert CEO Jo Lanagan congratulated the parties on reaching a consent determination in less than a year, in difficult COVID-19 circumstances:

"Central Desert congratulates the Untiri Pulka native title holders on the recognition of their native title rights and interests by the Federal Court, over the land they and their ancestors have held a continuing connection to since time immemorial. Central Desert acknowledges the generosity of the stories Untiri Pulka have shared to make their native title claim strong and succeed in a little over 10 months, overcoming substantial COVID-19 related obstacles along the way".

Jo Lanagan

Chief Executive Officer

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