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Shire of **Ngaanyatjarraku**
ON A JOURNEY

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Shire finalises Indigenous Land Agreement with Aboriginal Corporations for Road Care and Control



Caption: Indigenous Land Use Agreement to be formalised, enabling Shire to manage and maintain local roads.

The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku has finalised an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with three Aboriginal corporations for existing roads within an agreed area of land within the Shire's boundaries. This agreement provides the Shire with a legal agreement to manage the roads, including maintenance and renewal, and be eligible for ongoing government grants to fund road works and maintenance.

The agreement has been in development for over 3 years. The Shire has worked closely with the Yarnangu Ngaanyatjarraku Parna, trustee for the Ngaanyatjarra Lands Common Law Holders, the Ngaanyatjarra Land Council, and the Ngaanyatjarra Council (Aboriginal Corporation) in the development and finalisation of this agreement. The Ngaanyatjarra Lands Common Law Holders are the common law holders of native title in relation to the land area within the agreement, which includes Crown Reserves for the use and benefit of Aboriginal inhabitants and leases.

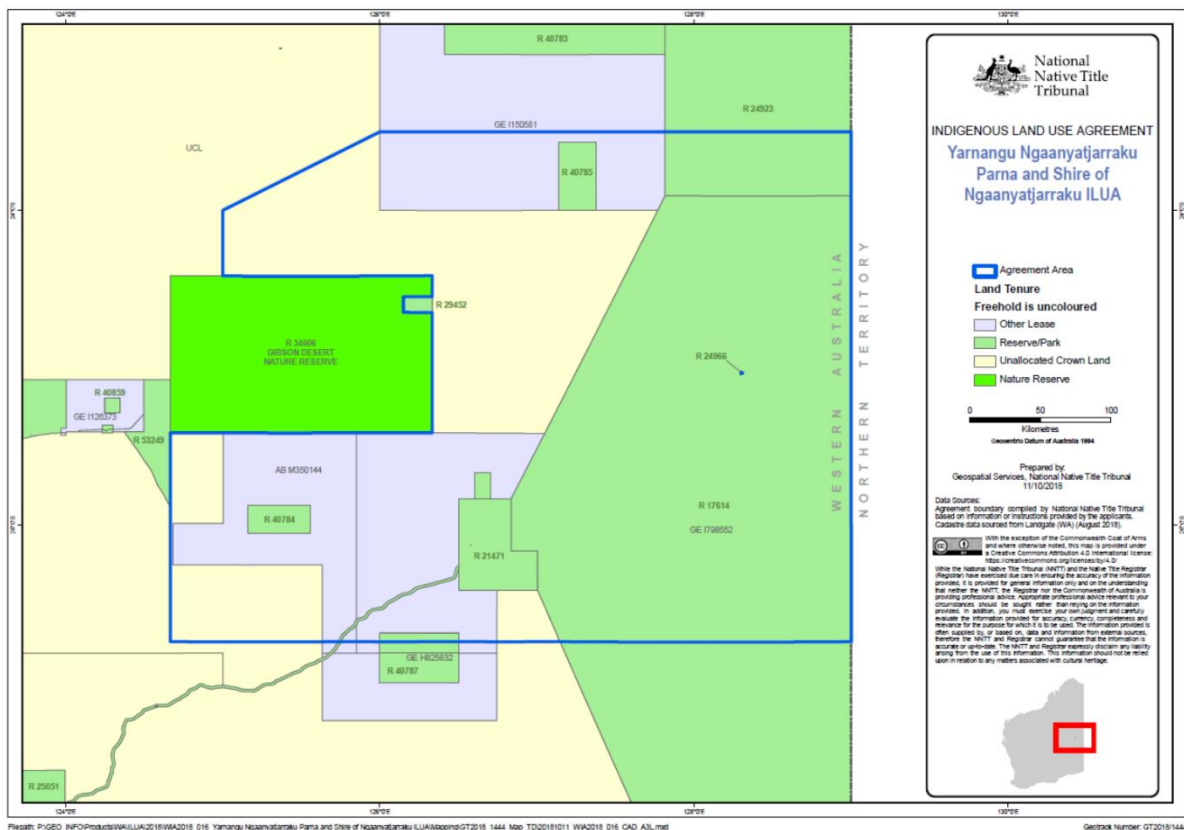
Local Government Shires are normally eligible for government grants for road networks within their boundaries as the land is usually owned by the State Government and Gazetted as a public road. There are 3 main areas to qualify the Shire as a road owner: care, control, and maintenance. The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku differs from other Shires in that its roads are situated on lands that have native title on

them and leased by Aboriginal communities from the State Government. As a result, the roads are classified as private roads even though they are under Shire control.

“The Indigenous Land Use Agreement allows the Shire to provide maintenance and care for roads, which is important for the community and public safety,” says Shire President, Damian McLean.

“This legal instrument can now ensure the communities roads will be looked after,” he said.

The agreement has been advertised for a month prior to its formal registration. The Shire is not expecting any objections and the agreement is expected to be formalised by the end of May.



Caption: Indigenous Land Use Agreement nominating agreed area of land for road maintenance.

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