



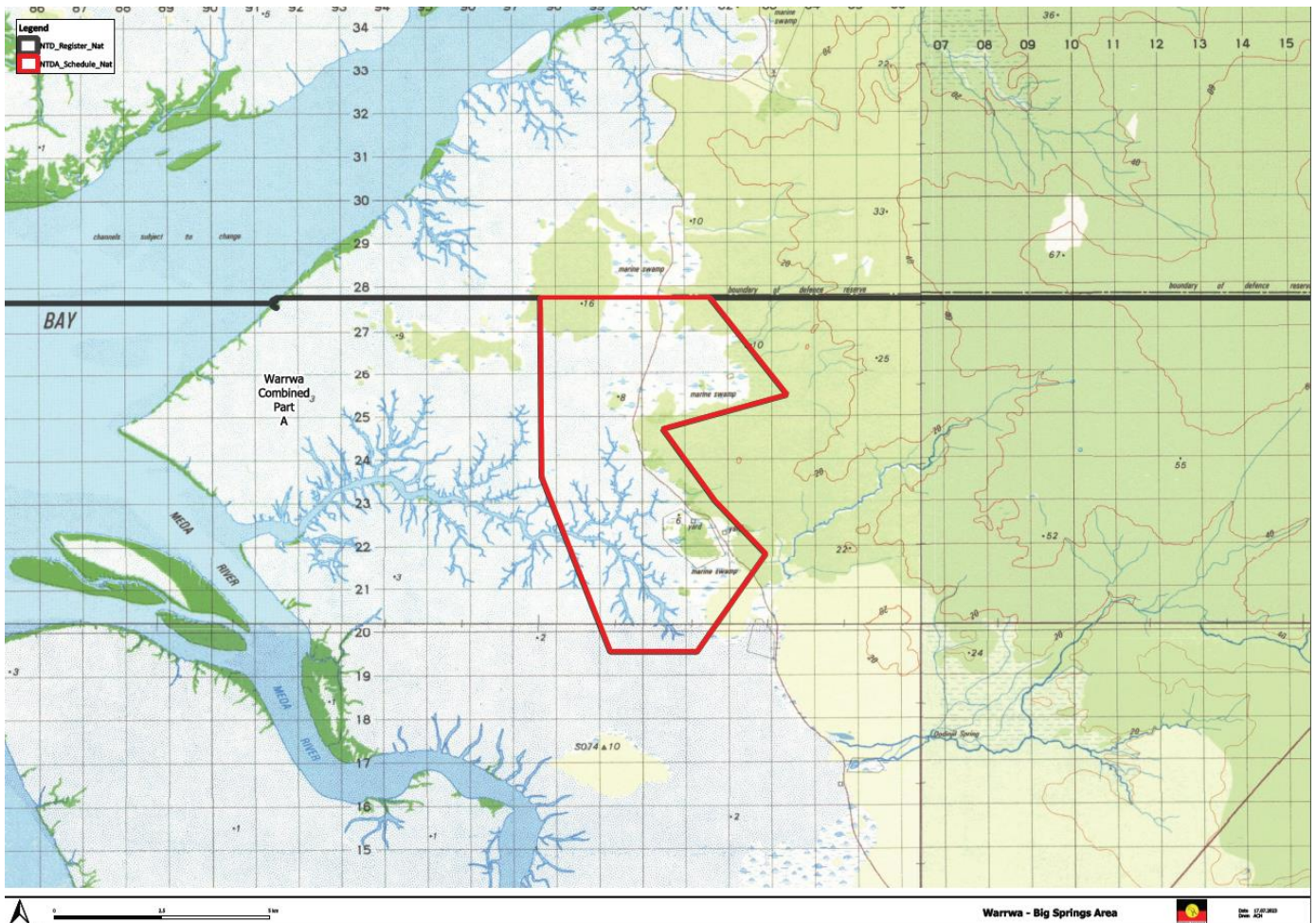
KIMBERLEY  
LAND COUNCIL

# NOTICE OF AUTHORISATION MEETING

## Big Springs Area

**WHERE:** Mowanjum Hall, Mowanjum Community  
**WHEN:** Wednesday 1 May and Thursday 2 May 2024  
**TIME:** 8:30AM – 4:30PM (Registration from 8:00AM)

This is an important meeting for the members of the Warrwa Combined native title claim group (WAD 33/2019) and any persons who assert native title rights and interest in the area known as Big Springs, outlined in red below, including the Worrora people described below. This area is currently the subject of Part C of the Warrwa Combined Native Title Claim (WAD33/2019).



Travel assistance to attend the meeting will be provided from points of departure within the Kimberley. For travel assistance to attend the meeting please contact **Scott Cox** on 0417 810 910 before 24 April 2024. For questions about the meeting please contact **Scott Howieson** (Senior Legal Officer, KLC) on 0437 672 780.

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING?

This meeting is being held for Warrwa and Worrora people to make a decision whether to lodge a new native title claim and enter a consent determination of native title over the Big Springs area, that would recognise both Warrwa and Worrora people as native title holders for the area. This meeting is also for the purpose of nominating a prescribed body corporate (**PBC**) or separate PBCs for the area.

### Background

The Big Springs Area, also referred to as “Winjidabil” or “Radawal”, outlined in red on the map is currently part of the Warrwa Combined Claim (WAD33/2019 Part C) (**Warrwa Claim**), originally filed in 2012.

The Big Springs area was excluded from the determination of native title made over a significant portion of the Warrwa Claim in 2020 (the **Warrwa Part A Determination**). The Big Springs area was excluded from the Warrwa Part A Determination on the basis of anthropological research undertaken by the Applicant in the Warrwa Claim which suggested that, in addition to the rights claimed by Warrwa people, Worrora people may also have connections to the Big Springs area.

### Proposed Process for native title recognition in Big Springs

At a meeting held in Derby in July 2023, Warrwa and Worrora representatives met to discuss the resolution of native title over the Big Springs area. At that meeting, the Warrwa and Worrora people present agreed that both Warrwa and Worrora people should be recognised as native title holders in the Big Springs area..

The KLC has spoken to the State, the Court and the other parties to the Warrwa Claim, and worked out a proposed process to have native title recognised for Warrwa and Worrora people in the Big Springs area. The process involves:

- a) discontinuing the Warrwa Claim over the Big Springs area;
- b) authorising a new Applicant to lodge a new native title application over the Big Spring area on behalf of Warrwa and Worrora people;
- c) authorising the Applicant to enter into a consent determination of native title over the Big Springs area; and
- d) Warrwa and Worrora native title holders nominating a PBC or separate PBCs to manage the native title.

This meeting is for the Warrwa and Worrora people who assert rights and interests in the Big Springs area to decide whether to agree to the proposed process to have native determined over the Big Springs area.

## WHO CAN ATTEND THIS MEETING?

The meeting is for all Warrwa and Worrora persons who assert native title rights and interests in the Big Springs area. The Warrwa and Worrora persons who have been identified, through anthropological research and consultation, as holding native title rights and interests in the Big Springs area are below.

The members of the **Warrwa native title claimants** are those Aboriginal persons who are:

- 1 the biological or adopted descendants of:
  - (a) Topsy Mouwudjala;
  - (b) Gudayi and Bobby Ah Choo; and
  - (c) Nani; or
- 2 recognised by the people in [1] as having traditional rights and interests in the area under traditional law and custom.

The members of the **Worrora native title claimants** are those Aboriginal persons who are:

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- 1 the biological or adopted descendants of:
  - (a) the three brothers Gaana, Ganbalya and Charlie Ganbalya; and
  - (b) Jangara; or
- 2 recognised by the people in [1] as having traditional rights and interests in the area under traditional law and custom.

## WHAT DECISIONS WILL BE MADE AT THIS MEETING?

The following decision will be considered by **Warrwa native title claimants only**:

1. Whether to withdraw Part C of the Warrwa Claim over the Big Springs area.

The following decisions will be considered by **Warrwa and Worrora native title claimants (new claim group)**

2. Whether there is a traditional decision-making process that must be followed in making the decisions that will be made at the meeting.
3. If there is no traditional decision-making process that must be followed, what is the agreed and adopted decision-making process for the decisions to be made at the meeting.
4. Whether to authorise and lodge a new native title claim over the Big Springs area on behalf of the Warrwa and Worrora people.
5. Which members of the new claim group are authorised to be the Applicant for the native title claim.
6. Whether to authorise the terms of a consent determination of native title which recognises the native title of the Warrwa and Worrora people in the Big Springs area (**Consent Determination**).
7. Nomination of the PBC/s to hold the native title rights and interests outlined in the Consent Determination for the native title holders. Note: separate PBCs can be nominated for each of the Warrwa and Worrora native titles.

### QUESTIONS AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

If you have any questions about the meeting please contact Scott Howieson, Senior Legal Officer, at the KLC on 08 9194 0100.

For **TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS** for within the Kimberley region and to confirm your attendance for catering purposes, please contact **Scott Cox** at the KLC on **08 9194 0100** or **scott.cox@klc.org.au** as soon as possible.

**Deadline for travel assistance requests is 24 April 2024.** Please note that requests for travel assistance made after this date will not be accepted. Further, in accordance with KLC policy, no assistance will be provided to persons who live outside the Kimberley to travel to the Kimberley except in exceptional circumstances. Travel assistance will be provided from points of departure within the Kimberley.