Hamersley Ranges

Western Australia

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Introduction

The Tribunal’s Research Unit prepares bibliographies as a ready reference for anyone wanting to locate readily available, published material about Indigenous Australian people within a particular region or locality. The bibliographies are produced for general library use from reports prepared by the Tribunal for parties to native title mediations. The bibliographies are not exhaustive reference lists about any particular Indigenous group, nor is the published material necessarily an accurate or insightful report of Indigenous society. The Research Unit may update bibliographies from time to time, usually because a new research report has been reproduced for parties to mediation.

It should be noted that the contents and production of these reports are governed by time and resource constraints. They are often prepared in four to eight weeks by a single research officer with some input from a research assistant and Tribunal librarian. Generally most of the references sought for these reports are available only from the AIATSIS library, which in turn has limited resources available to supply material. Therefore care is taken to request only that material which appears relevant to the scope of a particular report.

Disclaimer: The bibliographies are a list of materials that have been used by the Research Unit of the Tribunal to provide background information for native title mediations. The Tribunal forms no view on the accuracy, completeness, or relevance of the reference material cited in these bibliographies. Most of this material is held at libraries and is available to the public. The Tribunal library may be able to assist in locating items.

Hamersley Ranges Report

This report was prepared by research staff of the National Native Title Tribunal to assist in the mediation of native title claims in the Hamersley Range region of the Pilbara, with particular focus on the area between Tom Price and Paraburdoo, and Rocklea and Turee Creek. Within this area there are two native title claims: Eastern Gurruma (WC97/89) and Innawonga Bunjima and Niapaili (WC96/61). Maps produced by linguists and anthropologists show three language/tribal names within this area: Kurama, Inawongga and Pandjima. The report, then, is based on publicly and readily available information on the Kurama, Inawongga and Pandjima peoples relevant to connection-to-land issues.

Research Method

The purpose of this report is to collect and review publicly available information that is relevant to the Hamersley Ranges region of the Pilbara, between Tom Price and Paraburdoo, and Rocklea and Turee Creek.

This report does not provide critical evaluation or conclusions on the particular merits of the material examined. Some comment may, however, be provided. For example, where the material is contradictory in nature (for example, in relation to the boundaries of the group) this may be noted to assist the reader's understanding of the sources. Apparent inconsistency within an author's work, for example, between a written description and a
map, or between an earlier and later work, may also be noted. Where a particular author's
work or their expertise has been called into question or subject to criticism by other
commentators, this may also be noted.

The research material reviewed in this report was based initially on a search of the
AIATSIS online catalogue using the following Geoscience Australia grid references in the
'place' field: SF50-11 (Mount Bruce), SF50-12 (Roy Hill), SF50-15 (Turee Creek) and
SF50-16 (Newman). In addition, the Environment Australia library catalogue was
searched using Hamersley and Karijini as keywords. These library searches were
restricted to printed material as sound tapes and film would be difficult to process within
the time constraints. Foreign language material and repetitions of the same material (for
example, different editions of the same work) were similarly excluded. The Research
Unit had previously completed reports on the Kurama, Inawongga and Pandjima peoples,
so material from these reports was also used.

Of the material which arrived within the time constraints, some was not cited in the report
because it did not specifically identify groups with locations.

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