Mirning People Area and Identity

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 produced.

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.

Disclaimer: The bibliographies are lists 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 lending or locating items.
Mirning Location Report

This Report was prepared by research staff of the National Native Title Tribunal to assist in the mediation of the Mirning People's native title application (WC01/1). The aim was to describe the naming of the group/s within the claim area, and the language/tribal boundaries as they have appeared in the historical literature.

The content of the report is based on publicly and readily available source materials, and should be read in conjunction with the Customary Practices Report, and the Indigenous/European Contact History Report (in preparation).

Research Method

The content and production of these reports are governed by time and resource constraints. They are usually prepared by a single research officer with some input from a research assistant and a Tribunal librarian.

The material is derived largely from a search of the AIATSIS on-line catalogue. As this library has limited resources available to supply material care is taken to request only that material which appears relevant to the scope of a particular report. The Tribunal Library also has substantial holdings of reference material which is used where appropriate. In this report the following general references were used:
• Capell, 1963, *Linguistic Survey of Australia*;
• Curr, 1886, *The Australian Race*;
• Horton, 1994, *Aboriginal Australia*;
• Oates and Oates, 1970, *A revised linguistic survey of Australia*;
• O'Grady, Wurm and Hale, 1966, *Aboriginal Languages of Australia: A Preliminary Classification*;
• Tindale, 1940, 'Distribution of Australian Aboriginal tribes: a field survey';
• Tindale, 1974, *Aboriginal Tribes of Australia*; and

This report contains summaries of information that is publicly available and relevant to the traditional location of the Mirning peoples, the naming of indigenous groups within the native title application area, and any discussion or description of the language/tribal boundaries which appear in the literature.

The AIATSIS catalogue was searched using Mirning in the Language Group field and resulted in a list of 103 of which 20 were filtered out. Eleven additional sources were obtained by using the GeoScience Australia grid references in the 'place' field. A Department of Environment and Heritage library search, using both the language group and/or the names of places such as Eucla, Nullarbor, and Eyre resulted in three more publications being consulted.

Each record was examined to determine its likely relevance or usefulness. Materials with access restrictions
were omitted as were foreign language materials, obvious duplications, apparent cataloguing errors, microforms, audio material and material that appeared to deal with technical aspects of language or education curricula.
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