

Anonymous 2

Submission contents:

I have been supporting Yanyuwa families, the Sea Ranger Unit and Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Indigenous Corporation for over five years. Over this time I have become intimately aware of families priorities and program capabilities through operational reviews and capability support activities, and plans including Indigenous Protected Area plan review and re-write. During this time relevant staff and committees have not raised Blue Carbon once as a priority.

The key to Yanyuwa being a strong community is that they determine their priorities and lead the processes on their Country . Self determination is essential, including the timeframes of any project that happens on their Country.

This process does not meet best practice for Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). If anything the way that this group has gone about this is to the detriment to Yanyuwa and their aspirations and current priorities. I know this as I have been supporting individuals that are now significantly personally impacted, and that this is impacting their work and overall program confidence.

Yanyuwa has good working relationships with scientists and other trusted advisors, but adequate time is needed to facilitate a true consultation process. Family members have signed papers that they don't understand what they are about. For this to happen in 2023 is absolutely unacceptable.

This project and the way that it has been managed to date is having detrimental effects on staff and members of the community, distracting and dividing family members and groups.

In summary:

1. The process of Free Prior Informed Consent needs to meet Yanyuwa expectations
2. The project needs to adhere to Yanyuwa families consultation and decision making protocols
3. The project if determined as a priority by families needs to align with yanyuwa timeframes and not those set by Government or business
4. This project is having negative impacts on the Yanyuwa families and is dividing families

This project should not be approved for further development.