

20 May 2022

## Heads of Agreement a forward step

The PKKP Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC has signed a non-binding Heads of Agreement (HOA) with Rio Tinto which will guide the ongoing development and finalisation of co-management of mining for the lands of the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura peoples.

The HOA outlines the commitment of both parties to create and implement best practice cultural heritage management in the wake of the destruction of sacred rock shelters at Juukan Gorge in May 2020.

PKKP Chairman Burchell Hayes said the last two years had been, and would continue to be, incredibly painful for the PKKP people, but there had also been ongoing effort to rebuild a relationship with Rio Tinto.

“This agreement provides clear acknowledgement that Rio Tinto accepts that the destruction of the rock shelters should not have happened and makes clear that it is absolutely committed to listening, learning, changing and co-managing country,” Mr Hayes said.

“While the agreement is non-binding, we believe it is a clear signal of intent from Rio Tinto and one that will ultimately be tested in the co-management agreement that is reached.”

Mr Hayes said the HOA outlined the key principles for co-management to ensure the future protection and preservation of heritage sites on PKKP country.

These principles include providing greater control and involvement by PKKP traditional owners over mining activities on their land; communication between both parties on equal terms; and clear delineation of mine areas for which the various PKKP people speak.

*\*Note to media: The Corporation will not be providing any further comment and only the PKKP can and should speak on behalf of their land.*

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