

## **Full statement by Mardudhunera Traditional custodian Raelene Cooper, 7 September 2023**

“Yesterday, I received information that Woodside has given 48 hours’ notice to myself and my legal team that they plan to commence seismic blasting in waters where marine life is abundant and within migration routes for marine animals, especially the whales. These majestic and graceful marine mammals carry our Songlines from one part of Country to another, they are documented on our munda (our rocks), they are our dreaming stories I hold. Today, I have forwarded instructions for my legal team to ask the court for an Injunction on Woodside's Scarborough Project, requesting the Federal Court to pause the seismic blasting until further notice.

“The risks and the impacts of such destructive activities and the consequences of these actions will be life threatening for these species of marine life. These seismic blasts interfere with our Songlines and the ability of whales to sing and hear their songs. We have seen the prime example of what happens when whales lose their way with the near 100 that beached themselves in the South of WA, in the Albany area, where they ALL PERISHED, despite the attempts to help them by onlookers and humans with big hearts. They have no voice, our animals, we are their voice, and without these magical creatures we lose a part of the circle of life.

"Once an animal species, whether land or water, is endangered and/or becomes extinct this impacts everything we know and becomes a domino effect. Our planet and our world is being attacked; we humans are being attacked; my ancient culture is being attacked; and I and those who carry and hold Songlines are being attacked.

"We are all responsible and we are all accountable. Open your eyes and wake up Australia, wake up world - if we don't act, then we too face the same fate as those majestic animals who beached themselves to get out of the water. We humans are killing them slowly, and each other.”

Love and light

Raelene Cooper Mardudhunera Traditional custodian