



- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised this statement contains the name and image of a deceased person.*
- *Family has approved media use of the name and attached image of Bakamumu Marika.*

3 August 2026

Vale Bakamumu Marika AM

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Bakamumu Marika AM, a highly respected Traditional Owner, elder and senior leader of the Rirratjingu Clan.

Mr Marika was a founder, long-serving chairman and current patron of the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation who was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2022 for his significant community service to North-East Arnhem Land.

As a steadfast advocate for land rights, Mr Marika continued one of the most significant legacies in Australia's Indigenous rights history, honouring and advancing the work of his forefathers.

A proud Rirratjingu man, cultural custodian and champion for his people, Mr Marika dedicated his life to advancing opportunities in education, community development, economic participation and cultural preservation.

His commitment to working collectively, guided by Yolŋu values and traditions, strengthened his community and inspired younger generations to take pride in their culture and identity.

We honour Bakamumu Marika's legacy and will forever be guided by his own words: *"We must continue to strive for a foundation that provides opportunity for our people. You will carry that responsibility along with my wish that unity and love continue to be the mark of the Rirratjingu people. I say to you, as my father said to me – 'stand strong like the rock, Mandula.'"*

- ENDS

