

## LYRICS to “Treaty”

Well I heard it on the radio  
And I saw it on the television  
Back in 1988, all those talking politicians  
Words are easy, words are cheap  
Much cheaper than our priceless land  
But promises can disappear  
Just like writing in the sand  
Treaty yeah treaty now treaty yeah treaty now  
Nhima djatpangarri nhima walangwalang  
(You dance djatpangarri, that's better)  
Nhe djatpayatpa nhima gaya' nhe marrtjini  
yakarray (You're dancing, you improvise, you  
keep going, wow)  
Nhe djatpa nhe walang gumurr jararrk gutjuk  
(You dance djatpangarri, that's good my dear  
paternal grandson)  
This land was never given up  
This land was never bought and sold  
The planting of the union jack  
Never changed our law at all  
Now two river run their course  
Separated for so long  
I'm dreaming of a brighter day  
When the waters will be one  
Treaty yeah, treaty now, treaty yeah, treaty  
now

Nhima gayakaya nhe gaya' nhe (You  
improvise, you improvise)  
Nhe gaya' nhe marrtjini walangwalang nhe ya  
(You improvise, you keep going, you're  
better)  
Nhima djatpa nhe walang (You dance  
djatpangarri, that's good)  
Gumurr-djararrk yawirriny' (My dear young  
men)  
Nhe gaya' nhe marrtjini gaya' nhe marrtjini  
(You improvise, you keep improvising, you  
keep going)  
Gayakaya nhe gaya' nhe marrtjini  
walangwalang (Improvise, you improvise, you  
keep going, that's better)  
Nhima djatpa nhe walang (You dance  
djatpangarri, that's good)  
Gumurr-djararrk nhe yã, e i, e i, e i i i, i i i, i i i,  
i i (You dear things)  
Treaty ma' (Treaty now)  
Promises disappear - priceless land - destiny  
Well I heard it on the radio  
And I saw it on the television  
But promises can be broken  
Just like writing in the sand  
Treaty yeah treaty now treaty yeah treaty now  
Treaty yeah treaty now treaty yeah treaty now  
Treaty yeah treaty ma treaty yeah treaty ma  
Treaty yeah treaty ma treaty yeah treaty ma

“Treaty” composed by Yothu Yindi in collaboration with Paul Kelly and Midnight Oil to protest against the failure of the Australian Government to honour the Prime Minister's promise to Indigenous Australians.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/read-the-lyrics-of-yothu-yindi-song-treaty>