This dialect is retained by von Brandenstein who calls it a 'brother' to Kariera and Ngarluma, so is retained here.

von Brandenstein has checked a number of manuscripts from last century, especially in Ngarluma and Jindjibarndi and has found no change in the last hundred years in pronunciation, grammar or vocabulary.

Taking the phonemes of Kariera-Ngarluma as representative, there are 21 consonants which include both laminal series and retroflexion, 4 lateral phonemes and the usual 3 semi-vowels and 3 vowels, (the latter sometimes with length).

Well defined sound changes link Jindjibarndi and Ngarluma. As outlined by von Brandenstein these include lenition, attraction, assimilation (leading to gemination) and selection, and sound harmony. In practical terms this includes loss of *C₂, assimilation of V₁ to V₂, Ngarluma rg = Jindjibarndi rr, and lenition of reduplicated initial consonants.

The group has been well surveyed by von Brandenstein and Jindjibarndi and Ngarluma studied in depth.

Wurm's comment is that Garuma, Jindjibarndi, Kariera and Ngarluma show active-passive transforms with the simultaneous absence of an ergative (or agentative) marker with nouns (shared by languages of the Tangic Group, Cape of Carpentaria).

50.1 Ngarla
Area round mouth of de Grey River from a little E. of Port Hedland to Pardoo Creek, inland to about Mt. Grant (from von B's map)

Gnalla (DB, Clement), Ngarla (AC, AIAS, SAW, von B, Brown, O'G, 'RLS'), Ngurla (C), Ngerla (T), Wanbarda (O'G) means 'west' - (Hudson)

Ngarla shares 65% cognates with Njamal (O'G-K), the language it is lexically closest to. It appears to have lost an earlier lamino-dental or lamino-interdental series of stops.
Distinguishing features:

1st. p.: ngaya/ngayi
past tense: -n
present tense: -ngkaya

Has been surveyed by von Brandenstein who found fewer than 10 speakers remaining.

(Comments in 'RLS' relating this dialect to Ngaala-warngga are incorrect – see 50A.2c*)

(50.2 Njamal See Inland Ngayarda, 50A.1a*)
(50.2b Widugari See Inland Ngayarda, 50A.1b*)
(50.3a Baljgu See Wati Subgroup, 56.1lb*)
(50.3b Bandjima See Inland Ngayarda, 50.2a*)

50.4a Gurama South of Fortescue River W20 (AIAS W36) to South of Rocklea in the east and Wyloo in the west (from von B's map)

Means 'highlanders' (von B)


von Brandenstein has surveyed this dialect and reports about 50 speakers. The shared cognate density with Jindjibarndi is 78%.

50.4b Jindjibarndi Fortescue River W24a (AIAS W37)
(central reaches)
(bounded by Yule River in E. and in
W. by coastal
Mardudhunira boundary

Bun-ge-pan-ty (DB), Ingibandi (Clement), Injibandi (T), Jindjibandji (AC, 'RLS', orig. AIAS), Jindjibarndi (AIAS), Jindjiparndi (von B), Yindjibarndi (SAW)