

June 2005

Two native title boundaries overlapping

Two native title claims involving the Port Lincoln City Council have been referred to the National Native Title Tribunal for mediation. This is because the Kokotha Native Title Claim and Barngarla Native Title Claim have an overlapping boundary dispute. Once resolved, the aim to achieve Indigenous Land Use Agreements will continue. If the Tribunal is unable to resolve the dispute, the Federal Court will hear the dispute during late 2006 or early 2007.

Port Lincoln Times, pg 6. 28-Jun-05

Outback grant the largest

Australia's largest native title settlement will be finalised during late June by Federal Court Chief Justice Michael Black. Justice Black will ratify the agreement in an open-air Federal Court hearing in Jameson, about 120km north-east of Warburton. The 188,000 sq km region near the South Australian border encompasses six smaller claims and represents about 250 holders.

Sunday Times, pg 20. 26-Jun-05.

Aboriginal body loses federal funding

The Queensland South Representative Body (QSRB) based in Toowoomba has lost the funding and backing of the Federal Government. Indigenous Affairs Minister Amanda Vanstone said alternative arrangements for a new native title body for the southern Queensland region were being put in place as a matter of priority.

Toowoomba Chronicle, pg 3. 24-Jun-05.

Parties invited to negotiate Far North Queensland applications

Two native title applications near Cairns have reached notification. The Olkola People's application covers a 3,992 sq km area around 210 km north-west of Cairns and falls within the areas administered by the Cook and Mareeba Shire Councils. The claim includes the Pinnacle, King

River and Kimba Pastoral Holdings and parts of the Mount Mulgrave and Yambo Pastoral Holdings. The second application is by the Western Yalanji People and covers a 753 sq km area around 160 km north-west of Cairns. The application falls within the area administered by the Cook Shire Council and comprises parts of the Palmerville and Mount Mulgrave Pastoral Holdings. Not all of the land and waters within the application's external boundaries are claimed.

NNTT Media Release. 15-Jun-05.

Tjurabalan sign deal

The Tjurabalan Native Title Aboriginal Land Corporation represented by the Kimberley Land Council has signed a landmark agreement with mining company Tanami Gold. The agreement covers mining and exploration over the 26,000 sq km of land located south-east of Halls Creek in Western Australia's Kimberley. Central to the agreement is a commitment to employment, training and business development opportunities for the Tjurabalan people.

Koori Mail, pg 60. 15-Jun-05.

Big win for Aboriginal claimants

Federal Court Judge Robert French ruled broadly in favour of a native title determination for the Bardi and Jawi People. The outcome ended over 10 years of debate over the 1037 sq km of land at the northern end of Dampier Peninsula. The claim primarily comprises Aboriginal reserves and unallocated Crown Land and contains a 5.5 km sea boundary. Justice French ruled that the Bardi and Jawi People had exclusive rights to the whole of the mainland as well as the right to hunt turtle and dugong in waters in the claim area and to take pearl shell for cultural purposes.

West Australian, pg 16. 11-Jun-05.

Cultural' victory on access to land

The Full Court of the Federal Court yesterday overturned a 2002 decision by Justice Maurice O'Loughlin that the

Yankunytjatjara People did not possess a spiritual connection with De Rose Hill Station. In the judgement, Justices Murray Wilcox, Ronald Sackville and Ronald Merkel said that the requirements of the Native Title Act had been satisfied. The court ruled that the group should be granted free access to the contested area, except for parts where improvements such as sheds, houses or airstrips have been constructed.

Adelaide Advertiser, pg 26. Independent Weekly, pg 4, 09-Jun-05.

Argyle agreement ensures recognition and prosperity

The Miriwung, Gidja, Wularr and Malgnin People represented by the Kimberley Land Council have signed an ILUA with Argyle Diamonds which is owned by Rio Tinto. The ILUA located in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia will provide employment along with other economic opportunities for the Indigenous groups. The agreement will allow for an underground mine at Argyle to be developed.

NNTT Media Release, 08-Jun-05.

Spotlight on Native Title at National Conference

This year's National Native Title Conference co-organised by The

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and the NSW Native Title Service will be in Coffs Harbour. Numerous Indigenous leaders from across the country are expected to attend and will include addresses from native title holders, claimants and researchers. The conference will commence with a smoking ceremony and dance performance by the local Gumbayngirr group. Senator Aden Ridgeway will conclude the conference by giving a keynote address on the economic impacts of native title.

ABC Online, ATSI Online - Message Stick, 02-Jun-05.

Another sundown point claim

Lance LeSage on behalf of the Manegin People has withdrawn his native title claim originally lodged in September 2000 over 132 hectares of land at Sundown Point. The group plan to re-lodge their claim in order to include a further 600 hectares of Crown land. The new claim will extend across Arthur Beach and in an easterly direction across Temma Road. Mr Le Sage stated that the State Government will face a compensation claim.

Circular Head Chronicle, pg 1. 01-Jun-05.