

May 2005

Another delay for Wongatha

The Federal Court decision in relation to the Wongatha Native Title claim has been further delayed, and is not expected before 10 June 2005. The claim which was lodged more than a decade ago, covers approximately 160,000 sq km in the Goldfields region. A spokesman for the Federal Court said all parties involved had been informed that Justice Kevin Lindgren intended to publish his judgement on the eight native title claims involved in the Wongatha matter in instalments. The first 100 pages of the reasons for judgement will be made public on June 10 2005.

Kalgoorlie Miner, p. 3. 26-May-05.

Native title claim lodged for N-W

The Gangalidda and Garawa Peoples have lodged a native title claim over almost 14,000 sq km of land in Queensland's north-west. The claim area extends from the Queensland/Northern Territory border to Burketown in the Gulf region. The claim falls within the local government areas of Burke Shire and Doomadgee Council and excludes private freehold land. The claim includes some areas of sea. Any person or organisation with an interest in the claim has until 14 September 2005 to apply to the Federal Court to become a party.

North West Star, pg 7. 19-May-05.

Four native title applications in the Northern Territory

Four claims in the Northern Territory have been notified, calling for interested parties. The applications vary in size and are over land outside Katherine, Adelaide River, Alice Springs and 90 kilometres south-east of Darwin. The claim names are Edith River, McKinlay River, West Ban Ban #2 and South West Glen Helen. Closing date for responses is 31 August 2005.

NNTT Media Release, 18-May-05.

Strait has radar role

Badu and Duaun Islanders in the Torres Strait have negotiated ILUA's including the Department of Defence and the Australian Customs Service. These agreements will allow high-frequency surface wave radars to be situated on the Islands which will enable 24-hour wide-area surveillance of aircraft, ships and boats travelling in the Strait. The radar receiver will be situated on Duaun Island, whilst the transmitter will be located on Koey Ngurtai (Pumpkin) Island, which is administered by the nearby Badu Island, in the middle of the Torres Strait.

Koori Mail, pg 27. 18-May-05.

Parties invited to negotiate native title in the mid-west

The Amangu and Widi Binyardi native title claims in the mid-west of Western Australia are in notification. The Amangu People's application covers about 27,390 sq km of land and water near Geraldton and falls within the City of Geraldton and the Shire Councils of Carnamah, Chapman Valley, Greenough, Irwin, Mingenew, Morawa, Mullewa, Northampton, Perenjori, Three Springs and Yalgoo. The Widi Binyardi application covers approximately 27,290 sq km and sits about 100 km east of Geraldton. It extends from the towns of Pindar, Mingenew, Three Springs and Pithara in the west to the boundary of the Balimia People's native title application in the east. Those with an interest in the claim area have until 31 August 2005 to respond by writing to the District Registrar of the Federal Court. For further information contact the NNTT on freecall 1800 640 501.

NNTT Media Release, 18-May-05.

Agreements over NT national parks an Australian first

Native title issues have been settled over 27 national parks and reserves in the Northern Territory, in the biggest simultaneous negotiations of Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) in Australia. A total of 31 ILUAs will be negotiated paving the way for co-operative planning and co-management

between Indigenous groups and the Northern Territory Government. The first four agreements will be notified by the National Native Title Tribunal during mid May by form of advertisement.

NNTT Media Release, 17-May-05.

Coal seam search gets land owners' blessing

The Western Queensland Wakka Wakka people have signed an agreement which will grant the Queensland Gas Company an exploration permit over 10,000 sq km of land and allow them to explore a coal seam. Group Spokeswoman for the Western Wakka Wakka Native Title applicant group Trish Hall said signing the agreement would allow Aboriginal people to participate in further deals and benefit from them. The agreement was signed under the Queensland Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003.

Toowoomba Chronicle, pg 10. 14-May-05.

Native Title claim mediation continues

The Gunditjmarra native title claim is not likely to be resolved before a directions

hearing ordered by Justice Tony North for 08 June. This will see the claim enter litigation. In the interim, additional mediation meetings have taken place with all parties asserting that progress is being made. The area covers 20,000 sq km of land and waters from the South Australian border along the coast to Yambuk, past Hamilton in the north-east and to the southern perimeter of Casterton in the State's west. Not all of the area within the application's external boundaries are claimed.

Portland Observer, pg 5. 09-May-05.

Historic land deal

A landmark native title ruling by the Federal Court has brought an end to almost 10 years of negotiations between two Pilbara Aboriginal groups and the Western Australian Government. Federal Court Justice Robert Nicholson was recently in Roebourne for the determination ceremony to finalise the claim involving the Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi peoples. The Court found both groups possessed non exclusive rights over parts of the 25,000 sq km claim area within the shires of Roebourne, Ashburton and East Pilbara.

Pilbara News, pg 1. 04-May-05.