

November 2004

Native title bid for fishing rights

A Court hearing on the South Coast of New South Wales may result in a native title right for Indigenous people to fish in accordance with traditional customs without adhering to any fishing regulations or bag limits. The hearing in Narooma Local Court before magistrate Paul Lyon arose after eleven Indigenous people from the Mogo area were charged with a range of fisheries offences, including taking undersized abalone. The case is currently adjourned with a date to be advised at the Sutherland Local Court. The hearing will resume next year with the Crown and defence counsel presenting their submissions.

28 Nov 2004, *Sun Herald*, pg 57.

Conrad mine may have New Year start

The potential development of the old Conrad mine south of Inverell may be back in operation soon, ending a delay of more than 12 months. Malachite Resources NL managing director Garry Lowder said drilling and sampling could soon be underway again. Mr Lowder stated the long delay was not due to disagreement, but rather reflected the slow administration of the issue.

23 Nov 2004, *Inverell Times*, pg 6.

Site Returned

The Walga Rock and Wilgie Mia mine site have been handed over to their traditional owners, the Wajarri People in a landmark agreement in Cue. The move is being recognised as a significant step forward for all Yamatji People.

19 Nov 2004, *Geraldton Guardian*, pg 13.

Step towards Ord Stage II

The Western Australian State Government and the Miriuwung Gajerrong People signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Kununurra. This agreement has been hailed as a major step forward for the development of the East Kimberley region. Under the MoU, native title and heritage issues over 65,000 hectares of land around Kununurra and Lake Argyle will be resolved and the land released for development.

18 Nov 2004, *Kimberley Echo*, pg 3.

Indigenous Land Use Agreements To Open South-West for Opal Mining

Two ILUA's located in the opal fields of south-west Queensland have been signed at a ceremony at

Parliament House. The South-West Queensland Small Scale Mining ILUAs were a result of four years of negotiations including the Boonthamurra People, Budjiti People and Mardigan People and opal miners over the 50,000 sq km of opal-rich lands.

17 Nov 2004, *Western Sun*, pg 7.

Rubibi issues are resolved

The Rubibi People and the Western Australian Government have signed a native title agreement. The agreement will allow for a residential development of 33ha of land near Cable Beach in Broome to be underway and will grant the Rubibi People compensation for the extinguishment of native title over the area by a package of cultural, economic and social benefits.

17 Nov 2004, *Koori Mail*, pg 13.

Victorian artefact dispute set for trial

The dispute over ownership of Aboriginal artefacts on loan from two British Museums, the British Museum and the Royal Botanic Gardens, is set for trial in the Federal Court on the 15 December. Museum Victoria had been due to return the items to the British Institutions by 30 September until they were prevented by a series of orders. The Dja Dja Wurrung native title group has laid claim to the artefacts.

17 Nov 2004, *Koori Mail*, pg 13.

Cook's O'Brien welcomes native title resolution

Jason O'Brien, member for the Queensland electorate of Cook, has said the five remaining native title determinations in the Torres Strait will be made by the end of the year. The Federal Court will visit the Torres Strait between the 7 -14 December for the making of consent determinations which will include the Kulkalgal People, Erubam Le People, Ugar People, People of Boigu and Yama Islanders/Tudulaig combined, Gebara Islanders and Badu Islanders.

10 Nov 2004, *Torres News*, pg 3.

N-W national leader in Indigenous employment

The Queensland State Government has stated the native title process was creating jobs and training for Indigenous people in the State, in particular the north-west through agreements. This statement comes after Premier Peter Beattie visited Zinifex Century mine and meet with representatives of the Waanyi People. For example, Zinifex Century has

employed approximately 100-120 Indigenous workers, which was around 20 per cent of total workers in their company.

10 Nov 2004, *North West Star*, pg 3.

Tribunal President takes native title to world peace summit

National Native Title Tribunal President Graeme Neate attended the 5th World Summit of Nobel Peace in Rome this year, which is now an annual event. At the Summit, Mr Neate outlined the challenges and opportunities Australia faces to recognise and protect the rights of Indigenous Australians in relation to their traditional lands and waters. In summary, Mr Neate has said that Indigenous peoples rights to land was now part of the legal and social landscape of the nation. He also stated that there was much to be done in Australia to recognise and protect Indigenous native title rights whilst still operating in the interests of governments, industries and the general public.

10 Nov 2004, NNTT Media Release, pg 11.

Elder's Exclusion Out of Line

The NSW Land and Environment Court has recently overturned a decision which had allowed the destruction of Indigenous sites in relation to the Lake Cowal gold mine project. Canadian owned Barrick Gold and NSW Country Energy were ordered to consult with the traditional owners. After the Court found that they had prevented a Wiradjuri elder from inspecting an area earmarked for a 115km electricity transmission line for the proposed mine. Wiradjuri elder Neville Williams lodged this complaint with the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation early this year.

06 Nov 04, *Weekend Australian*, pg 10.

Mapoon Saddened by False Claims

Mapoon Council, on behalf of the local community has strongly rejected claims made by traditional owner Mr Eddie Woodley, that it failed to act properly and legally in its use of community land, in particular the Community's Fishing Venture. The Council is reported to be saddened and baffled by the claims as they say Mr Woodley was involved in the process of establishing the Fishing Venture project as a Councillor.

5 Nov 04, *Weipa Bulletin*, pg 4.

Native Title Claim Made

The Single Noongar Claim Area 2 is currently in notification. The claim covers the Busselton, Augusta-Margaret River and Capel Shires and is

1770 sq km in area. The claim also overlaps to varying degrees with three other native title claims.

4 Nov 04, *Busselton Margaret Times*, pg 10.

Traditional Owners Outraged

The Wergaia people have labelled the Victorian Government's proposal of a waste dump on their lands as outrageous. The land, which is south of Mildura, near Raak Plain, is covered by two registered native title claims. Wergaia elder Florence Brabham said that the area needs to be preserved as the site was a place of significance.

1 Nov 04, *Sunraysia Daily*, p 3.

Land Agreement Reached in North West

The Waluwarra people recently travelled to Urandangie to discuss the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Australian Agricultural Company (AAC). The land over which the agreement relates covers certain areas of the Georgina River south-west of Mount Isa. Waluwarra Elder Marlene Speechley said the agreement with the AAC was an exciting venture for her people.

n.d-Nov-04 Qld, *Murri Views*, pg 14.