



AIATSIS

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES

Native Title Research Unit

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NATIVE TITLE NEWSLETTER

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NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS June - July 1998

(Note: Where an item also appears in other newspapers, etc, an asterisk () will be used. People are invited to contact the Native Title Research Unit at AIATSIS if they want the additional references. As usual, NTRU will try to provide people with copies of particular newspaper articles on request.)*

Ad = Advertiser (SA)

Age = The Age

Aus = Australian

CM = Courier Mail (QLD)

CP = Cairns Post

CT = Canberra Times

Fin R = Financial Review

HS = Herald Sun (VIC)

KM = Kalgoorlie Miner

LE = Launceston Examiner

Mer = Hobart Mercury

NTN = Northern Territory News

Rep = The Republican

SC = Sunshine Coast Sunday

SMH = Sydney Morning Herald

Tel M = Telegraph Mirror (NSW)

WA = West Australian

WAus = Weekend Australian

THE NATIVE TITLE RESEARCH UNIT

The Native Title Research Unit identifies pressing research needs arising from the recognition of native title, conducts relevant research projects to address these needs, and disseminates the results. In particular, we publish a regular newsletter, an Issues Papers series and publications arising from research projects. The NTRU organise and participate in conferences, seminars and workshops on native title and social justice matters. We aim to maintain research links with others working in the field.

The NTRU also fields requests for library searches and materials from the AIATSIS collections for clients involved in native title claims and assists the Institute Library in maintaining collections on native title.

The NTRU has been instrumental in organising the Institute's second Seminar Series for 1998. The series is titled *Land, Rights, Law: Issues of Native Title*. A list of speakers and dates is included at the back of this newsletter.

CLAIMS

Queensland

Wulgurukaba People No.1 and No.2 [NNTT Ref#QC98/30, QC98/31]

The Gabulbarra Reference Group has lodged two native title claims over areas of Magnetic Island. The Reference Group is acting for the Wulgurukaba people of Townsville and the Manbarra people of Palm Island who are claiming the right to use, manage and enjoy the land in accordance with their laws. The first claim covers the national park and the Horseshoe Lagoon Environmental Park, while the second claim covers state land used as a buffer zone between the towns and the national park. Leasehold and freehold land as well as government land such as reserves for schools, fire and police stations, are excluded from the claims. Beaches and reefs, including the Nelly Bay project site, are also excluded. Townsville Mayor, Tony Mooney, said he has no information on the claim and would be seeking discussions with the major stakeholders on Magnetic Island. (*CM, 30 June, p6*)

Fraser Island

The Dalungbara, Batchala and Ngulungbara people of Kgarl have sought recognition of common law native title to lands and seas in the Fraser Island region. The State Government has applied to the Supreme Court to strike out the claim on the basis that it was hopeless and frivolous because the applicants could not prove a contemporary connection with the land. The claimants argued they were hampered in proving such a connection because of state policy that scattered their people throughout the state. The application has been adjourned to a later date. (*CM, 24 July, p6*)

Griffith University

An agreement arising out of a native title claim was signed yesterday. The agreement between Griffith University and traditional owners of its Gold Coast campus land, will see important aspects of Kombumerri culture incorporated into the University. The Kombumerri people will not oppose the transfer of land from the Queensland Government to the University and in return, Griffith agrees to the acknowledgement of traditional owners through naming of facilities, inclusion of Kombumerri history and culture in the curriculum and scholarships for Indigenous students. The University has also agreed to survey the flora and fauna as well as sites of significance in the area. The implementation of the agreement will be overseen by a steering committee. (*Aus, 29 July, p34*)

South Australia

Dieri Mitha [NNTT Ref#SC95/2]

The application by the Dieri Mitha people, lodged in 1995, has been referred to the Federal Court for resolution. National Native Title Tribunal registrar, Chris Doepel, said the Tribunal had tried to help mediate an agreement between various parties but had failed. (*Ad, 4 June, p14*)

Kuyani no.2 [NNTT Ref#SC95/4]

The mediation conference for the Kuyani no.2 application, covering 151,000 square kilometres stretching from Whyalla, South Australia, towards the New South Wales border, north to Marree and west to Woomera, is to be conducted in Port Augusta from 13-15 July. It will be one of Australia's largest mediation conferences on a native title application.