

Four native title applications in relation to petroleum permits located in the Perth Basin involving Empire Oil and Gas, have been settled. This settlement is a legal requirement before the Western Australian Government can formally grant the permits. Empire has no more matters of concern in the Perth Basin region. Business News (WA), pg 26. 01 April 2004.

A senior Indigenous Goldfields Land and Sea Council member has warned Aboriginal unemployment would rise between 70 and 80 per cent if ATSIC was to be shut down. Mr Bryan Wyatt also said that there needed to be a forum available to promote interests and culture for Aboriginal people, and that ATSIC was the biggest employer of Indigenous people in the Goldfields region. Kalgoorlie Miner, pg 5. 02 April 2004.

Federal Heritage and Environment Minister, David Kemp, recently overturned a heritage claim, which will allow mining at Yakabindie, north of Leinster. Aboriginal groups were distraught at the announcement to allow WMC Resources \$10 billion nickel project to commence, which is likely to effect culturally sensitive sites in the area. Mr Kemp has

promised to release a report outlining his reasons. Kalgoorlie Miner, pg 3. 07 April 2004. Swan Coastal Plains group.

In a bid to clear a backlog of exploration and mining leases, the State Government has drawn up major changes to the Mining Act.1978 (WA). This backlog is holding up more than 12,000 applications for many years. This proposal will allow explorers to convert existing mining lease applications back to exploration licenses if they are not immediately seeking commencement of mining operations. West Australian, pg 79. 24 April 2004.

The Wadjari people of Murchison Gascoyne will have a collection of sacred objects returned to them. This is due to a grant to Geraldton's NgunhungurNgurra from the Western Australian Indigenous Affairs Department. Geraldton MP Shane Hill has said the sacred items will be returned from the Museum of WA to a storage site at the group's traditional land. This grant is among 12 community projects totalling \$54,820 to benefit from Indigenous heritage grants around Western Australia. Geraldton Guardian, pg 8. 28 April 2004.

APPLICATIONS LODGED

The National Native Title Tribunal posts summaries of applications that are lodged with them, on their website, <www.nntt.gov.au>. The following lodgements are listed for March/April.

Claimant Applications

| Date Filed | Application Name | State/ Territory | Tribunal File No. | Federal Court File No. |
|------------|--|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 19/04/04 | Amangu People | WA | WC04/2 | WG6002/04 |
| 23/04/04 | The Ngaanyatjarra Lands Native Title Claim | WA | WC04/3 | W6004/04 |

REGISTRATION TEST DECISIONS

The National Native Title Tribunal posts summaries of registration test decisions at <www.nntt.gov.au>. The following decisions are listed for March to April. If an application has not been accepted, this does not mean that native title does not exist. The applicants may still

pursue the application for the determination of native title. If an application does not pass the registration test, the applicant may seek a review of the decision in the Federal Court or re-submit the application.

| Decision Date | Application Name | State/Territory | Tribunal File No. | Federal Court File No. | Decision |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 05/03/04 | Mandandanji People #3 | QLD | QC01/21 | Q6019/01 | Not accepted |
| 11/03/04 | Jagera People #2 | QLD | QC03/15 | Q6014/03 | Accepted |
| 15/03/04 | Mapoon People | QLD | QC02/9 | Q6010/02 | Accepted |
| 17/03/04 | Town of Elliott | NT | DC01/45 | D6046/01 | Accepted |
| 22/03/04 | Angkamuthi People | QLD | QC02/08 | Q6008/02 | Not accepted |
| 23/03/04 | Mbara Ngawun (Woolgar) People | QLD | QC04/2 | Q37/04 | Accepted |
| 01/04/04 | The Yaegl People | NSW | NC96/38 | NG6052/98 | Not accepted |

APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY IN NOTIFICATION

| Closing Date | Application Number | Application Name |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10/05/04 | QC03/12 | Ayapathu and Olkola Peoples |
| 10/05/04 | QC03/14 | Olkola/Strathleven, King Junction |
| 23/06/04 | QC01/21 | Mandandanji People #3 |
| 23/06/04 | QC03/11 | Kudjala People #6 |

For further information regarding notification of any of the applications listed contact the National Native Title Tribunal on 1800 640 501 or <www.nntt.gov.au>.

RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE AIATSIS COLLECTION CATALOGUES

The following selected items relating to Native Title have just become available on Mura, the AIATSIS on-line catalogue. Please check Mura for more information on each entry, including annotations. In addition to the print and electronic sources given below, the Audiovisual Archive has recently listed three reels of film taken by Curtis Levy and John Von Sturmer in 1975 of the Hermannsburg outstation movement.

Archaeology

Bednarik, Robert G.
Title: First dating of Pilbara petroglyphs

Publication info: In *Records of the Western Australian Museum*
Vol.20, no.4 (2002), p.[415]-429, ill., map.

Gregory, Robin Louise.
Northern Territory University.
Title: *Aboriginal settlement patterns in the Ord-Victoria River region* [manuscript].
Publication info: 1998.

Brockwell, C. J. (Celia Jane)
Northern Territory University.
Title: *Archaeological settlement patterns and mobility strategies on the lower Adelaide River, Northern Territory* [manuscript]
Publication info: 2001.