

Western Australia

Hutt Lagoon, near Geraldton

The Nanda and Naaguja people have negotiated a native title agreement with biotechnology company, Betatene Pty Ltd. The agreement covers the use of Hutt Lagoon for an aquaculture project, which will expand the company's algae farm from 250ha to 500ha. The company has agreed to recognise Nanda and Naaguja people as the traditional owners and will also pay compensation. All parties are pleased with the agreement, which is backed by the Yamatji Land and Sea Council. (*WA, 29 Aug, p52*)

AGREEMENTS

New South Wales

Newtons Beach, Wonboyn

Local Aboriginal people have negotiated access to Newtons beach, which is located within a 19,000 ha wilderness area near Wonboyn. Access to the beach was blocked in July 1997, in order to protect the wilderness area. Eden Local Land Council chairperson, Ben Cruse, says his people will access the beach for cultural purposes including ceremonies and educational camps. (*Time, 31 Aug, p74*)

An agreement over the use and management of 10 hectares of land in Beacon Hill was signed yesterday. The agreement was between the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, the Warringah Shire Council and the Brookvale Valley Community Group. (*SMH, 11 Sept, p2*)

Queensland

Charters Towers District

Negotiations between RGC Thalanga Highway-Reward mining personnel and the Kudjala people has resulted in agreement for Aboriginal artifacts found on the site to be professionally removed. (*Northern Miner, 11 Sept, p1*)

Western Australia

Regional Forest Agreement

The Western Australian and Federal Governments have been asked to widen their consultation process and speak to more Aboriginal people before they come to a decision regarding future logging in the South-West forests. Prominent Aboriginal people have called for the Regional Forest Agreement process to be stalled until important members of their community are consulted. (*WA, 29 Aug, p45*)

Northern Territory

Traditional owners have agreed to hand over areas of land that are needed to build the Alice Springs to Darwin railway. Under the agreement, the owners will be compensated through a package that includes remuneration and compensation for sacred sites as well as community development. It is estimated that the railway will cost \$1 billion. (*Ad, 14 Sept, p7*) (*NT, 15 Sept, p6*)*