

MINING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

National

Expenditure on defending native title claims will be able to be written off as a tax deduction by mining companies. (*DT, 22 Sept, p7*)*

Mr Dick Wells, chief executive, Minerals Council of Australia, cited confusion on native title issues, low commodity prices and uncertainty over taxation changes as reasons for a fall in expenditure on minerals exploration (*FinR, 21 Sept, p6*)*

Queensland

The Queensland Mining Council has criticised delays by Federal Attorney-General, Mr Darryl Williams, in the handling of Queensland's native title legislation. The legislation must be considered by an Indigenous working group for 3 months before going to the Senate. The mining industry had hoped the Act would be in operation by January 2000 to enable 1,700 mining leases and exploration applications to be cleared. (*FinR, 15 Oct, p19*)

Northern Territory

Traditional owners have given approval for the next stage of negotiations with the French Government owned Cogema Australia Pty Ltd in relation to the Koongarra uranium deposit in the Alligator Rivers area, 30 kilometres south of the Ranger uranium mine in Kakadu National Park. (*Age, 23 Oct, p14*)

AGREEMENTS

Victoria

An agreement has been reached with the Dja Dja Wurrung people covering two mining leases on crown land east of Kingower and near Moliagul. The agreement also provides for commitments to protect the environment and possible employment opportunities for the Aboriginal community. (*Bendigo Advertiser, 16 Sept, p3*)

Queensland

The NNTT has registered Queensland's first two Indigenous Land Use Agreements under the amended *Native Title Act*. The agreements are between four local Aboriginal groups, the Queensland Government, Mackay Surf Life Saving Club and Mackay City Council. They relate to the construction of a new

surf lifesaving club and the gazettal of land for a park in the Mackay Harbour Beach area of North Mackay. (*Qld Country Life*, 9 Sept, p14)

The Queensland Government signed a right to negotiate agreement with opal miners and native title claimants that will allow the granting of a number of mining leases and mining claims in the Winton opal mining district. Negotiations for a number of Indigenous Land Use Agreements covering future grants of similar mining tenures in the Winton district are proceeding. (*QNT*, Oct 1999, p3)

Recent publications

The publications reviewed here are not available from AIATSIS. Please refer to individual reviews for information on obtaining copies of these publications.

Our Culture: Our Future, Report on Australian Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights. Janke, Terri. 1999. Michael Frankel & Co., solicitors, AIATSIS, ATSIC. Mick Dodson described this benchmark publication saying, 'It will continue to shape our thinking for many years to come.' The text follows under three parts. Part 1, The Nature of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property, defines the terms of the discussion and Indigenous concerns and rights. Part 2, Protection Under Australian Legal Framework, summarises pertaining property and cultural heritage laws and other related documents, notably the communal basis of land ownership under the *Native Title Act 1993* and international conventions. Part 3, Developing Strategies for Protection, recommends changes to particular instances of law and practice. It includes a chapter on research ethics. Native title receives specific mention in the recommendation 15.1, 'Support should be given for native title actions which test and expand the meaning of native title and interests to other areas of Indigenous cultural heritage, including stories, biodiversity knowledge and cultural objects.' Of the five appendixes those listing commonwealth and state Indigenous cultural heritage laws and proposing model laws for protection are particularly valuable. The report is available at <http://www.icip.lawnet.com.au>

Compensation for native title, Issues and challenges The National Native Title Tribunal has produced a collection of papers presented at 2 workshops held by the National Native Title Tribunal and the Australian Property Institute in 1997. Contributors include John Sheehan (Australian Property Institute), Graham Neate (President NNTT) and Daryl Kickett (WA Indigenous Working Group). The book looks at the question of compensation from Indigenous,