

## **Northern Territory**

A native title agreement has been reached between the Northern Land Council and US exploration company, Phillips, operator of the Timor Sea-based Bayu-Undan natural gas field. The agreement allows Phillips to build a reception and processing plant on Larrakia land at Wickham Point, Darwin Harbour. Phillips Australia Darwin area manager, Jim Godlove, stated that a plant could be required as soon as the Bayu-Undan reserve was ready to supply gas, in about 2004. (*NTN, 20 Nov, p6*)

## **COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

The newly formed Commonwealth Association of Indigenous Peoples was officially launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November in Durban, South Africa.

A meeting of Indigenous people from various parts of the Commonwealth, held at the University of London in July 1999, supported the formation of an organisation to progress the interests of Indigenous peoples in the Commonwealth. CAIP was formed following this meeting. Fifteen Indigenous People's organisations from across the Commonwealth are founding member organisations.

CAIP's objectives are:

- to provide and promote links between Indigenous Peoples of the Commonwealth;
- to advocate the interests of Indigenous Peoples within Commonwealth fora;
- to promote understanding and education of the identity and status of Indigenous Peoples within the Commonwealth;
- to strengthen information exchange, research and publicity on a pan-Commonwealth basis on Indigenous issues;
- to promote the elimination of racial discrimination against Indigenous peoples;
- to assist in the development of sustainable solutions to land rights conflicts arising over shared territories; and
- to develop recognition of the unique contributions Indigenous peoples make to the family of Commonwealth nations.

Membership is open to Indigenous peoples organisations from within the Commonwealth whose objectives and functions are consistent with the objectives of CAIP. (LRQ, Dec 99)

Further information is available from Shane Hoffman, Secretary, CAIP, FAIRA, C/- doCip, 14 Avenue Trembley, 1209 Geneva, Switzerland.

### Recent publications

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

**Guide to the design of native title corporations.** Christos Mantziaris and David Martin. 1999. National Native Title Tribunal.

Native title corporations, or prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs), are the Federal Parliament's answer to the legal and organisational question of how native title is to be held and managed. PBCs are required by the *Native Title Act 1993* and by the Native Title (Prescribed Bodies Corporate) Regulations to be the trustees or agents of native title holders - once their native title rights have been recognised. This guide sets out to identify the difficulties for native title claimants of these legislative requirements, and to promote awareness of the options available to claimant groups. The authors have looked at the range of purposes for which PBCs may be established and the various circumstances that may provide the impetus for the creation of such a body. The legal framework for the holding and management of native title is covered in the guide and draws on concepts from the law of trust, agency and corporations. The intricacies of the current legislative scheme and its implications are explained and critiqued. The guide is intended for Indigenous communities and their representatives, administrators and other non-legally trained parties who have an interest in the design of PBCs. It is the shortened 'plain English' version of a book entitled *The design of native title corporations: a legal and anthropological analysis* which is also published by the NNTT. The guide is available from the National Native Title Tribunal, Freecall 1800 640 501, or GPO Box 9973, Perth, WA 6001.

**Environmental and Natural Resources Management by the Maori in New Zealand.** Discussion Paper 6 by Gary D. Meyers and Catherine M. Cowan. 1999. University of New South Wales and Murdoch University

The University of NSW and Murdoch University are currently producing a series of papers addressing the question of 'fit' between traditional forms of Indigenous land 'ownership' and control, and the non-Indigenous legal system.