

Gurang People [NNTT Ref# QC99/20]

The native title claim by the Gurang People has passed the registration test. The claim covers areas of Gladstone and Calliope. (*Observer (Gladstone)*, 4 Feb, p5)

Western Australia

Wongatha People [NNTT Ref# WC99/1]

The Wongatha People's native title claim will have to undergo the registration test for the second time following the State Government's successful Federal Court challenge. The passing of the registration test last year has been set aside and referred back to the National Native Title Tribunal registrar. The State Government challenged the registration of the claim on the grounds of denial of natural justice. (*KM*, 14 Jan, p5)

MINING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Western Australia

Conquest Mining reported that exploration areas in the Bow River and Ellendale areas of Western Australia are now free of native title objections following discussions with the Kimberley Land Council and the Aboriginal Legal Service. A heritage survey of the Bow River is still to be completed. Ground exploration is due to start in April 2000. (*Aus*, 17 Jan, p43)

AGREEMENTS

Queensland

Cairns City Council, the Yirrganydji People and the Gimuy Yidinji People have signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement to allow for the development of the site for the Cairns Esplanade. The agreement has resulted in 3 jobs for Aboriginal people and recognition of the rights of traditional owners in the area, stated a Yirrganydji elder. A spokesman for the Gimuy Yidinji People said a precedent had been set whereby native title legislation could benefit all parties negotiating a land use agreement. (*CM*, 20 Jan, p7)*

An Indigenous Land Use Agreement between Telstra and the Ewamian People in Queensland has been registered. The agreement covers a Telstra radio facility in Etheridge Shire in Far North Queensland and allows the grant of a 20 year lease over the area and the construction of a radio communications tower and ancillary equipment on a fenced site. (*NTN (Qld)*, Jan 2000, p1)