

Carol Martin, Labor MP for the Kimberley has mentioned there may be resistance from traditional owners if a canal project proposed by Western Australia's Opposition Leader Colin Barnett is given the go-ahead. Ms Martin has said the Indigenous communities had not been consulted about the Liberal State Government promise to build a \$2 billion, 3700 km canal to channel water from the Fitzroy River to Perth, and that the project made a mockery of native title provisions. Mr Barnett stated that the canal is the only realistic solution to Western Australia's sparse water supply. *The Australian*, pg 7. 09-Feb-05.

The Kimberley Land Council (KLC) is opposed to the West Australian Opposition Leader's plan to build a canal from the Fitzroy River to Perth. Executive Director Wayne Bergmann said that the Indigenous communities needed to be consulted in relation to any future development. West Australian Premier Dr Geoff Gallop said that examination of the implications of a project needed to be completed and a tender process needed to take place. National Native Title Tribunal Deputy President Fred Chaney stated the canal plan had major native title and heritage implications, and that communities along the route would need to be consulted. *Koori Mail*, pg 6. 09-Feb-05.

The Karajarri people, native title holders over thousands of sq kilometres in the Kimberley, have said they will oppose Colin Barnett's plan to build a water canal through Western Australia, if he wins office. The Karajarri people were awarded exclusive possession over an area south of Broome in September 2004. There are around 20 claim groups in Western Australia that the proposed canal will affect. *Western Australian*, pg 7. 22-Feb-05. Karajarri people.

The Western Australian Government recently announced that the largest native title settlement in the nation's history had been reached. Involving 188,000sq km of land in the State's central desert region, Deputy Premier Eric Ripper and the Ngaanyatjarra Council finalised the agreement which included the settlement of six simultaneous applications. The claim stretches from the Gibson Desert nature Reserve to the South Australian border. It recognises exclusive possession native title over most of the claim area, including special leases, reserves held in trust for the use and benefit of Aboriginal people and unallocated crown land. Non-exclusive possession native title is recognised over the Warburton Range Stock Route. *Murri Views*, pg 18. N.D Feb-05. Ngaanyatjarra claims.

APPLICATIONS LODGED

The National Native Title Tribunal posts summaries on their website of applications that are lodged with them, www.nntt.gov.au. The following lodgements were listed for January/February 2005.

Claimant Applications

Date Filed	Application Name	State/Territory	Tribunal File No.	Federal Court File No.
06/01/05	Western Yalanji #7	QLD	QC05/1	QUD3/05
14/01/05	Bindurma People	WA	WC05/1	WAD8/05
01/02/05	South West Glen Helen	NT	DC05/1	NTD2/05

Non-Claimant Applications

Date Filed	Application Name	State/ Territory	Tribunal File No.	Federal Court File No.
05/01/05	Woromi Local Aboriginal Land Council and Administrator Peter Hillig	NSW	NN05/2	NSD12/05
06/01/05	The Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council	NSW	NN05/1	NSD23/05
20/01/05	Anthony Kelly MLC Minister assisting the Minister for Natural Resources (Lands) for the State of NSW as the State Minister under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cwth)	NSW	NN05/3	NSD0084/05
14/02/05	Brady	NSW	NN05/4	NSD201/5

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 January/February 2005. 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
02/02/05	Western Yalanji	QLD	QC05/01-1	QUD3/2005	Accepted
02/02/05	Edith River	NT	DC04/3-1	NTD20/04	Accepted
23/02/05	Yam Islanders /Tudulaig Combined	QLD	QC02/15-2	QG6052/98	Accepted

APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY IN NOTIFICATION

Closing Date	Application Number	Application Name
14/03/05	QC04/7	Budjiti People
14/03/05	QC04/5	Gangalidda and Garawa Peoples
14/03/05	WC04/6	Rubibi #17