

current manner all evidence of traditional practices and spiritual connections will be destroyed. (*Manjimup Bridgetown Times, 14 July, p5*)

## **Northern Territory**

UNESCO's World Heritage Committee has decided not to list Kakadu National Park on the 'in danger' list. The decision follows lobbying from environmental groups, traditional owners, Opposition parties and Energy Resources Australia. A spokesperson for the Mirrar people, Ms Jacqui Katona, stated that the Government was required to report to the World Heritage Committee by April 2000 on how the Jabiluka Mine could proceed without damaging Mirrar cultural values. An 18 month delay before the development of the mine allows time for an inquiry into Aboriginal heritage issues and the development of a cultural heritage management plan. (*SMH, 14 July, p4*)\*

## **AGREEMENTS**

### **General**

Graeme Neate, President of the National Native Title Tribunal has urged Australian mining companies, governments, pastoralists and other land users to take advantage of new measures to settle native title issues in areas under claim. Addressing the Australian Mining and Petroleum Law Association conference Mr Neate said that new native title laws made it possible to strike legally binding land use agreements which allowed developments to proceed while protecting the interests of native title holders. The NNTT has prepared a kit to assist companies work out what sort of agreement suited their needs and to ensure any agreement complied with the law. The kits are available through the Tribunal. (*NNTT Media Release, 29 July*) (See recent publications section, this issue).

Four Indigenous Land Use Agreements have been registered nationwide and another four agreements have been lodged for registration. (*NNTT Media Release, 25 Aug*)

### **New South Wales**

NSW Mineral Resources Minister Eddie Obeid had advised companies to negotiate Indigenous Land Use Agreements as the long-term answer to the future of mining land where native title exists. (*Newcastle Herald, 3 Aug, p18*)

### **Victoria**

Victoria's first Indigenous Land Use Agreement has moved into a three month public notification period to enable any potential native title holders to the area, who may not have been identified, a chance to come forward. The agreement is

between BHP Petroleum Pty Ltd, the Framlingham Aboriginal Trust, the Kirrae Whurrong Native Title Group and the Victorian Government and covers land access for the proposed Minerva Gas Field Development in south-west Victoria. The agreement provides heritage protection and management, employment opportunities and financial benefits to local Aboriginal people and does not extinguish native title. *(NNTT Media Release, 14 July)\**

## **Queensland**

An Indigenous Land Use Agreement between Telstra Corporation and the Ewamian People has been lodged with the NNTT. The agreement covers an area of 4 hectares near Forsayth and Georgetown in Far North Queensland which is the area of the current native title determination application of the Ewamian people (QC99/13). *(QNT, July 1999, p1)*

A confidential agreement has been reached between the Kangoulu and Ghungalu People in Central Queensland to a right to negotiate process in relation to the Togara North mine project. *(QNT, July 1999, p1)*

The NNTT has registered Queensland's first two Indigenous Land Use Agreements under the new Federal native title laws. 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. The agreements were placed on the Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements after a 3 month notification period had passed without any formal response from other native title applicants. *(NNTT Media Release, 25 Aug)*

## **Northern Territory**

The Northern Territory's first (and Australia's second) Indigenous Land Use Agreement has been given final approval by the NNTT. No objections were received during the three month public notice period. The agreement involves the Jawoyn native title holders agreeing to the extinguishment of native title rights and interests over land known as the 'Venn Blocks' and 'Warlangluk' to enable subdivision of the land by the Northern Territory Land Corporation for horticultural projects. In return the Warlandluk Aboriginal Corporation received freehold title to a 16 hectare site to be used by the Kalano Community Association for an alcohol rehabilitation facility and other community purposes. *(NNTT Media Release, 11 July)\**