



National  
Native Title  
Tribunal



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**Prescribed Body Corporate**

Patta Aboriginal Corporation  
c/o Central Land Council  
PO Box 879  
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Telephone (08) 8962 2343

**For a copy of the judgement  
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*After the historic Federal Court sitting in Tennant Creek an indigenous land use agreement was signed by Member for Barkly Elliot McAdam, Northern Territory Chief Minister Clare Martin, Central Land Council Chair Lindsay Bookie and CLC executive member Maxie Ray.*

# Patta Warumungu Peoples' native title determination

3 September 2007  
Northern Territory

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This is provided as general information and should not be relied upon as legal advice for a particular matter.  
Any words and phrases not defined in this information have the meaning given to them in the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth).

*Resolution of native title issues over land and waters.*



# The Patta Warumungu Peoples' native title determination

On 3 September 2007 the Federal Court recognised the native title rights of the Patta Warumungu people over 27sq km of land in the Northern Territory town of Tennant Creek.

As native title holders the Patta Warumungu people have various native title rights over the land, including the right to use and enjoy the land and waters in accordance with their traditional laws and customs.

As part of the agreement, native title has been surrendered in parts of the town to provide for future residential and commercial development.

This determination of native title was made with the agreement of the native title claimants, represented by the Central Land Council and the Northern Territory Government. It also involved consultation with Tennant Creek Town Council and various mining companies.

## Tennant Creek celebrates

On the grounds of the Nyinkka Nyunyu Arts and Cultural Centre Justice Mansfield recognised the Patta Warumungu peoples' native title rights over areas of land in the Northern Territory town of Tennant Creek.

This agreement is the first native title determination in the Northern Territory to be fully reached through a negotiated agreement rather than litigation.

**"Today...is a significant day in the history of the Patta Warumungu peoples and the history of the Northern Territory."**

— Justice John Mansfield

The native title claimants and the Northern Territory Government worked towards reaching agreement on more than just the usual native title issues by including wider town issues in discussions.

Native title issues for towns have been difficult to resolve across the country but in this case they were able to come to agreement on such things as how the past extinguishment and present surrender of native title rights is to be compensated and the commencement of negotiations in good faith toward the creation of a park over the Devil's Pebbles, a sacred site 18 kilometres north of Tennant Creek.

As part of the agreement, native title has been surrendered in parts of the town to provide for future residential and commercial development.

**"This is not just for native title holders, but everyone who calls Tennant Creek home will benefit."**

— Francine McCarthy, chair of the Patta Warumungu Aboriginal Corporation.

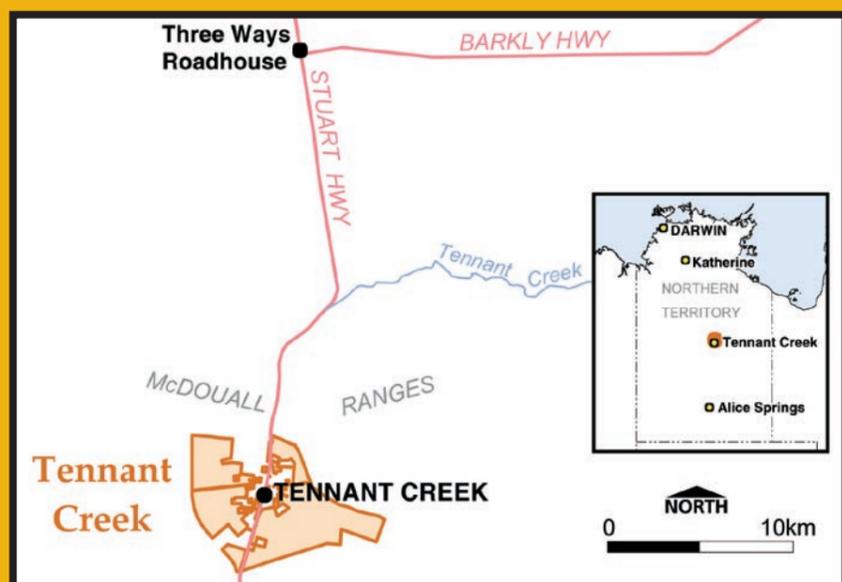


*On the day:* Northern Territory Chief Minister Clare Martin and Tennant Creek native title holders Kathleen Fitz Nappanangka and Evelyn Crafter Nappangarti cut a cake to mark the occasion.

## Determination and ILUA areas

The court recognised the Patta Warumungu people as having native title rights over 27sq km of land and waters in the Town of Tennant Creek.

As part of the agreement, native title has been surrendered in parts of the town to provide for future residential and commercial development.



**Case name:**  
*Patta Warumungu People v Northern Territory of Australia* [2007] FCA 1386

**How to say the claim name:**  
PART-A WARU-MUNG-GOO

## Stepping stones

<b>September 1999</b>	First native title application over the town lodged with the National Native Title Tribunal.
<b>June 2004</b>	Federal Court referred the claim to the Tribunal for mediation.
<b>November 2006</b>	Agreement-in-principle reached between the Northern Territory Government and native title claimants.
<b>September 2007</b>	Federal Court consent determination recognising the Patta Warumungu peoples' native title rights and the signing of the indigenous land use agreement.

### Rights to coexist:

The consent determination identifies and acknowledges others who have co-existing non-native title interests in the recognition area.

Native title rights are subject to the laws of the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth of Australia.

The determination will not affect existing rights to use and access the area, whether under leases, licenses or permits issued by government or as rights of public access held by all members of the community.

### Parties to the application:

After the claims were originally lodged, the Native Title Registrar notified people with an interest in the claim area, inviting them to become parties and have involvement in discussions.

The Northern Territory Government chose to do so.

