



Native Title and You



**By National
Native Title
Tribunal
Member
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Co-operation leads to deal

THROUGH goodwill, good planning and co-operation, groups can achieve successful native title outcomes in local government areas that respect everyone's rights and interests.

The Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul people and the Ipswich City Council demonstrated this on 30 January when they signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) over the whole of the Ipswich City Council region, which is covered by the group's native title claim in south-east Queensland.

The ILUA is the result of two years of negotiations triggered by the native title claim lodged in 2003.

The groups had to work out how the Ipswich region could move forward and develop while ensuring the native title claimants' rights and interests were respected and protected.

Faced with sorting out native title, cultural heritage, future infrastructure and community relations, they chose to take a staged and measured approach to the negotiations.

During initial negotiations, mediated by the National Native Title Tribunal, the groups reached a memorandum of understanding, which established the framework for the development of the ILUA.

Just over a year later the parties signed the ILUA, establishing how they would manage land in the city council

region that is affected by native title.

As a result, the entire community will

benefit from better planning and better protection and management of the land as well as from the stronger community relations that developed during the negotiation process.

The agreement is a milestone for the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul people as they work towards attaining legal recognition of their native title rights in south-east Queensland.

Under the ILUA, the group will also have involvement in a consultative committee and some employment opportunities with the Ipswich City Council.

The council now has certainty about how they will proceed with future planning and infrastructure. It is one of many local governments around Australia that has

worked through land-management issues with the traditional owners in their area to reach an agreed outcome.

The Tribunal has registered 312 ILUAs around Australia and of these about 30 have involved a local government authority as an applicant or a party. The majority of these agreements have been reached in Queensland.

By taking a co-operative approach to native title, development and land-management issues, traditional owners and local governments across Australia are achieving outcomes that benefit everyone in their local government areas and build stronger communities.

The ILUA between the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul people and the Ipswich City Council is a shining example



Koori Mail
27/02/2008
Page: 22
General News
Region: National Circulation: 8572
Type: Magazines Lifestyle
Size: 412.28 sq.cms
Fortnightly



of what can be achieved through mutual respect and co-operation.



The Nunukal Yuggera Aboriginal Dancers performed a cultural dance at the agreement signing ceremony.