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MEDIA RELEASE

THURSDAY 25 JUNE 2015

Boonthamurra People named Native Title Holders in south-west Queensland

In a remote sitting near Cunnamulla today, the Honourable Justice Mansfield of the Federal Court has granted recognition to the Boonthamurra People as native title holders over more than 23,400km² of land and waters in Queensland's south-west region.

The consent determination hearing was held on country at the Eromanga Town Hall, which falls within the boundaries of the Boonthamurra People's traditional country over which they first claimed native title in November 2006.

The claim area is located in the Quilpie and Barcoo Shire Councils, spanning south from the Cheviot Range to the land between Cooper Creek and the Grey Range to encompass the headwaters of the Wilson River to the Conbar Outstation in the south.

As is custom among Indigenous Australians, the formal Federal Court hearing was preceded by the traditional smoking ceremony to ward off bad spirits and welcome guests to country.

Attendees at the hearing included Councillor Stuart Mackenzie, Mayor of Quilpie, respected Elders among the Boonthamurra People and Queensland South Native Title Services Principal Legal Officer Tim Wishart, who says today's determination is an achievement for the Boonthamurra People.

"The Boonthamurra People's connection to their traditional land is an integral part of their cultural identity, and the determination of this application is the recognition in Australian law of their traditional laws and customs," Mr Wishart says.

"Documented since the 1860s, the traditions of the Boonthamurra People have prevailed throughout history, and their connection to country has remained steadfast through the European settlement of historical pastoralists the Duracks and the Costellos.

"After more than eight years pursuing recognition as Traditional Owners, today's determination is a reflection of the Boonthamurra People's commitment to their culture.

"QSNTS congratulates the Boonthamurra People on their commitment and diligence in gaining recognition of their native title rights with today's consent determination."

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MEDIA BACKGROUND – BOONTHAMURRA PEOPLE

Claim History

The Boonthamurra People first filed their native title claim with the Federal Court of Australia on 2 November 2006, which was then registered by the National Native Title Tribunal on 30 July 2007.

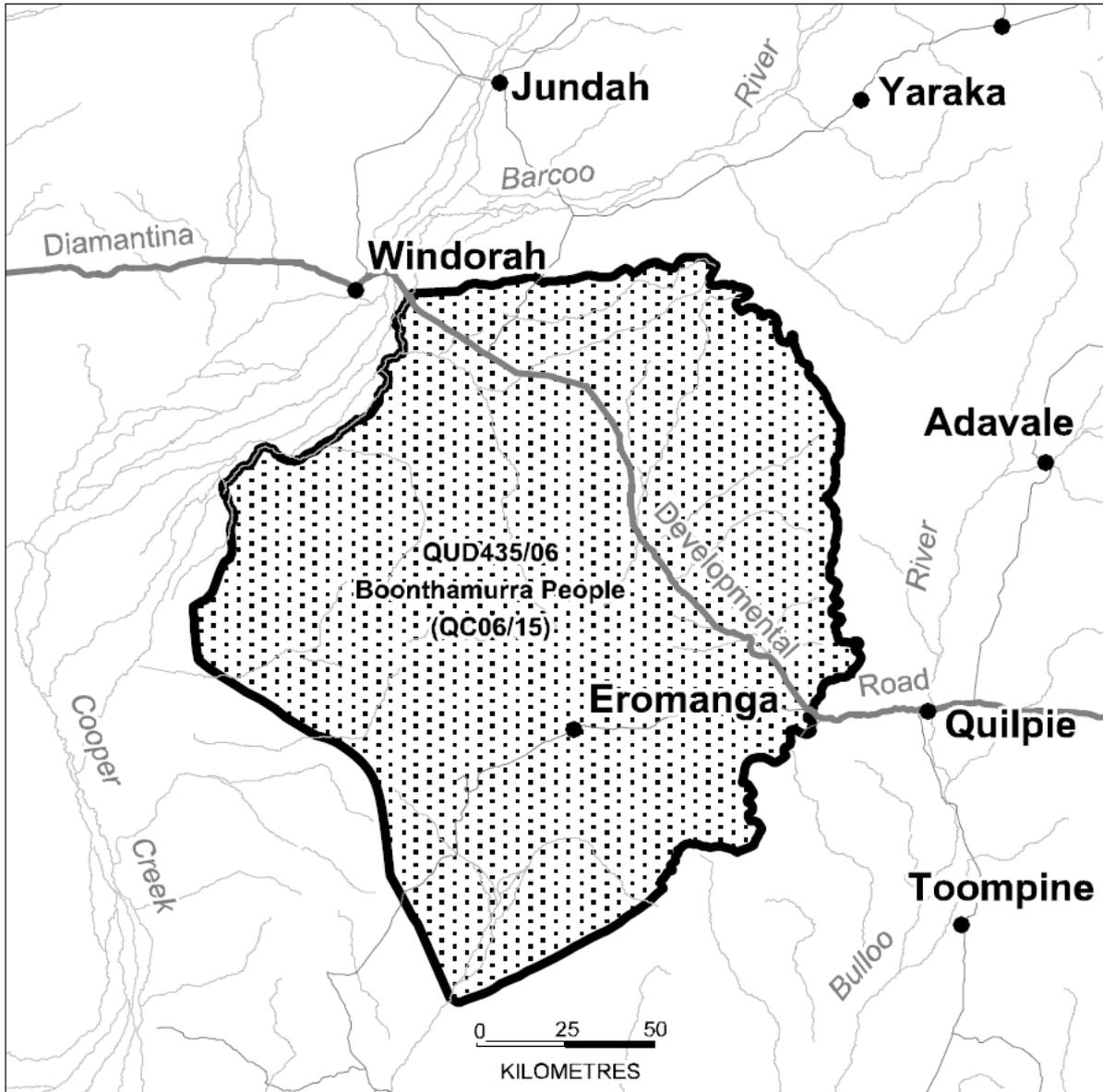
The primary parties to the claim include:

1. The State of Queensland;
2. Quilpie and Barcoo Shire Councils;
3. Ergon Energy Corporation Limited;
4. Telstra Corporation Limited; and
5. Several mining proponents (including but not limited to):
 - a. Santos (in its various entities);
 - b. Beach Petroleum Limited (in its various entities);
 - c. Origin Energy Resources Limited; and
 - d. Icon Energy Limited.

Key Dates

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| 2 November 2006: | Native title determination application filed; |
| 30 July 2007: | Native title claim entered on Register by the National Native Title Tribunal; |
| 8 September 2011: | State accepted connection of Boonthamurra People to country and were prepared to enter into negotiations, subject to the resolution of some matters; |
| 14 April 2015: | Key claim group authorisation meet held, resulting in the agreement to enter into Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) with Council, Pastoralists and other parties; |
| 8 May 2015: | Boonthamurra Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (ICN 8273) registered; |
| 25 June 2015: | Consent determination hearing held at Eromanga before Justice Mansfield of Federal Court of Australia, recognizing native title rights of Boonthamurra People. |

Claim Area Map:



Connection to Country

The claim area covers 23,406km² in Queensland's south-west region, falling within the Quilpie and Barcoo Shire Councils and encompassing the town of Eromanga, approximately 1,100km west of Brisbane.

The western boundary of the claim area is marked at Cooper Creek and the eastern boundary at Grey Range, while the northern boundary is identified by the Cheviot Range. In the south, the claim area also includes the Wilson River headwaters and the Conbar Outstation.

The Boonthamurra People are described as the descendants of Kangaroo and Dick Ray and their connection to country has been well-documented since the 1860s, at which time pastoralist families the Costellos and the Duracks herded cattle through the area and settled significant landmarks, including Thylungra Station.

The Boonthamurra People are documented to have assisted the development of the pastoralist industry in the area, and as such, their Indigenous customs and traditions are well-recorded. The State of Queensland accepted the Boonthamurra People's connection to country on 8 September 2011.

Thylungra

Thylungra was home to a corroboree ground, a large camp site and a watering hole used for fishing by the Boonthamurra People. Many *mura*, or Dreaming stories and lines of song, originated from Thylungra, including the story of the Travelling Emu.

Trinidad Station

Trinidad Station features a significant rock art site. According to Boonthamurra Applicant Barbara Olsen: "Trinidad is where a big rock shelf comes out, and there's paintings all the way out there. Down there, there's a big rock pool." She described the paintings as hand stencils and paintings of kangaroos.

Kyabra

Kyabra is home a large ceremonial ground used by the Boonthamurra People. It also features a watering hole used for fishing by the Traditional Owners.

Native Title Rights and Interests

Achieving a native title determination protects the rights and interests of the Boonthamurra People in their traditional lands and water. The non-exclusive rights and interests contained within the Boonthamurra People's native title determination agreement include the right to:

1. access, be present on, move about on and travel over the area;
2. camp, and live temporarily on the area as part of camping, and for that purpose build temporary shelters;
3. hunt, fish and gather on the land and waters of the area for personal, domestic and non-commercial communal purposes;
4. take, use, share and exchange natural resources from the land and waters of the area for personal, domestic and non-commercial communal purposes;
5. take and use the water of the area for personal, domestic and non-commercial communal purposes;

6. conduct smoking ceremonies and dance on the area;
7. hold meetings on the area;
8. teach on the area the physical and spiritual attributes of the area;
9. maintain places of importance and areas of significance to the native title holders under their traditional laws and customs and protect those places and areas from physical harm;
10. light fires on the area for domestic purposes including cooking, but not for the purpose of hunting or clearing vegetation; and
11. be accompanied onto the area by certain non-Boonthamurra people, being:
 - a. immediate family of the native title holders, pursuant to the exercise of traditional laws acknowledged and customs observed by the native title holders; and
 - b. people required under the traditional laws acknowledged and customs observed by the native title holders for the performance of, or participation in, ceremonies and dance.