

## **Bularnu Waluwarra Wangkayujuru (BWW) People native title determination**

On Friday 23 May 2014 at 4pm, Justice Mortimer of the Federal Court of Australia handed down judgment for the Bularnu Waluwarra Wangkayujuru (BWW) People in their long running native title determination application. In the judgment the BWW People have been formally recognised as the native title holders to over 24 000 km<sup>2</sup> kilometres of country stretching from south west of Mount Isa across to the Northern Territory border.

The culmination of many years of struggle by the BWW People to achieve determination of native title will occur when Justice Mortimer travels to BWW country to hold a special ceremonial hearing of the Federal Court. The sitting will be held in the remote location of Moonah Creek Crossing, North Urandagi Road, at 11:00am on Tuesday 27 May 2014.

The Chief Executive Officer of Queensland South Native Title Services (QSNTS), Mr Kevin Smith said that the BWW People have worked long, hard and very diligently to achieve this successful result.

“For the BWW People the final judgment being handed down on their own country is a very significant achievement of their dedication and commitment to be recognised as the Traditional Owners of those lands and waters”, he said.

“Right through this process the BWW People have held their heads high, even when they were right at the cusp of achieving a consent determination in December 2011 and respondents joined the litigation asserting different rights, they showed integrity and determination to keep fighting”, Mr Smith said.

“To have worked with the BWW People to achieve this native title determination through the many struggles is an absolute honour for QSNTS” Mr Smith said.

Thelma Parker, a member of the BWW Applicant, said that it is very important that the BWW People have their history with the land, their customs and traditions recognised.

“I would like to thank and congratulate everyone who has helped us through the process of gaining recognition of our traditional lands and waters”, she said.

“It is a great honour to be formally recognised as the Traditional Owners, this decision gives us great pride” Ms Parker said.

QSNTS would like to congratulate the Bularnu Waluwarra Wangkayujuru People on their successful native title determination.

**Ends**

