

Yulluna People celebrate native title victory at Osborne Mine Site

On Friday 28 March 2014 the Yulluna People were recognised as the native title holders to over 10,000 square kilometres of lands and waters in a remote area of northwest Queensland.

A special hearing of the Federal Court was held at the Osborne Mine located 240 kilometres southeast of Mount Isa and operated by Chinova Resources Osborne Pty Ltd, (recently acquired by China-based Shanxi Doughui Coal Coking & Chemicals Group Co. Limited).

Justice John Dowsett delivered his judgment before a large audience comprised of Yulluna Traditional Owners, State Government officials, local Mayors, QSNTS Chair and Deputy Chair, QSNTS staff, Chinova Resources staff, pastoralists and supporters. The orders were made by consent of the parties.

Following the hearing, Chinova Resources CEO Brent Jiang congratulated the Yulluna People on their historic win.

“Chinova Resources looks forward to their future working relationship with the Yulluna People,” he said.

“For a long time Chinova Resources have been strong supporters of the Yulluna People and have actively sought to identify and protect important cultural heritage sites,” Mr Jiang said.

Mr Jiang told Queensland South Native Title Services (QSNTS) “This is a special situation where a large mining operation and the Traditional Owners of the land we are working on can co-exist in such a positive light,” he said.

“Chinova Resources has also had the opportunity to work with the Yulluna People to provide job opportunities or work experience to assist with future employment prospects,” Mr Jiang said.

QSNTS Lawyer Craig Reiach had been working with the Yulluna People since original lodgement (four years ago) of their now successful claim over the remote area.

“Since sovereignty, these remote lands and waters have been visited by relatively few Australians, however it has been the home to members of the Yulluna People for countless millennia,” he said.

“These rivers, creeks and waterholes helped to sustain countless generations of Yulluna People through dry times and wet times, through times of scarcity and times of abundance,” Mr Reiach said.

“It was an absolute honour and a privilege to appear at the hearing, on behalf of the Yulluna people,” he said.

QSNTS would like to congratulate the Yulluna People on their successful native title determination.

Ends

