

WAFIC CONGRATULATES THE NGARLA PEOPLE
ON THE CONSENT DETERMINATION OF THEIR NATIVE TITLE CLAIM

The Western Australian Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) congratulates the Ngarla People on the Consent Determination of their Native Title claim involving an area which extends from north of Port Hedland to the southern end of Eighty Mile Beach. The consent determination was formally delivered today at Port Hedland (May 30th, 2007) by Justice Annabelle Bennett.

WAFIC, representing the interests of the state's commercial fishing and pearling industry, was a party to the application, along with the Ngarla People represented by the Pilbara Native Title Service, the State and Commonwealth governments, mineral and mining interests and pastoralists and graziers.

The Consent Determination acknowledges that native title exists in the claim area to the lowest astronomical tide. The consent determination was achieved through mediation conducted by the National Native Title Tribunal.

"WAFIC is committed to negotiate resolutions to native title claims over marine and tidal waters through the mediation process. A positive environment was engendered through this process which allowed successful negotiations to occur between the Ngarla people and the fishing industry" said WAFIC, Executive Officer, Guy Leyland.

"The mediation process which produced today's Consent Determination was commenced in 2004, so it has been a long process, but it is gratifying to see a positive result reached by agreement between all parties to the application," commented Mr Leyland.

For further information:

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