



Media release

The Honourable Andrew Cripps MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Mandingalbay Yidinji-Gunggandji People's Native Title rights recognised

The Federal Court of Australia has today recognised the Combined Mandingalbay Yidinji-Gunggandji People's Native Title rights and interests over approximately 82 square kilometres of their traditional land in far north Queensland.

Natural Resources and Mines Minister Andrew Cripps said the determination covered the southern part of the Yarrabah Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT), including Gunjurra Island, and part of the Malbon Thompson Conservation Park which was previously part of the Yarrabah DOGIT.

"The Federal Court has formally recognised the Combined Mandingalbay Yidinji-Gunggandji People's exclusive Native Title rights to access, hunt, fish and gather within the determination area in accordance with their traditional laws and customs," Mr Cripps said.

"Today's determination reaffirms the Combined Mandingalbay Yidinji-Gunggandji People's enduring spiritual connection to their land and its natural and cultural values.

"As part of the negotiations with the State, three Indigenous Land Use Agreements for the ongoing management of cultural heritage and future activity have been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal."

Mr Cripps said today's determination finalised a process that began in 2001.

"Today's decision brings the number of Native Title determinations in Queensland to 74 and the number of determinations by consent to 68," Mr Cripps said.

"The consent determination was the result of extensive negotiations between the claim group, Queensland Government, Yarrabah Shire Council and other parties and demonstrate all parties' deep commitment to the native title claim process.

"I congratulate the Combined Mandingalbay Yidinji-Gunggandji People for their significant achievement and all involved in the process for their hard work in achieving this consent determination."

Mr Cripps said the Queensland Government was committed to towards resolving more Native Title outcomes in the future.

"Consent determinations can pave the way to a range of economic, cultural and social benefits for traditional owners," he said.

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