



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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Hansard 13 September 2001

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Kalkadoon Indigenous Land Use Agreement

**Hon. P. D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 a.m.), by leave: In the last sitting week I informed honourable members of the actions my government has taken to deal with the mineral exploration backlog. Later this morning, I will be signing the first indigenous land use agreement—ILUA—to begin freeing this backlog.

This historic native title agreement with the Kalkadoon people will significantly enhance exploration opportunities in the Mount Isa region and generate jobs within months. This exploration agreement opens the door for new mines and the hundreds of new jobs that those mines create, delivering long-term returns to the state. The state, the Kalkadoon people and a representative group of explorers have negotiated the agreement with the help of the National Native Title Tribunal. I thank the Minister for Mines, Stephen Robertson, for his assistance.

Under the agreement, the Kalkadoon people consent to the granting of about 90 backlog exploration permits over a 12-month period subject to native title conditions. This agreement should allow for permits to be granted as early as next year, once the agreement is registered. The Kalkadoon agreement is the first step towards getting exploration moving again in Queensland, and the government will soon be seeking to finalise further agreements with native title claimants in other parts of the state to deal with the remaining 900 backlogged applications.

Queensland is once again leading the nation in making native title work for indigenous communities, making native title work for the mining industry and making native title work for the state as a whole. This agreement applies to the Kalkadoon people's claim and excludes an area covered by an overlapping native title claim. Once the National Native Title Tribunal—the NNTT—registers the ILUA, the exploration permits may be granted progressively according to an agreed schedule. Companies in the explorer group that participated in negotiations are Anglo-American Exploration (Aust) Pty Ltd, Matrix Metals Ltd, MIM Holdings Ltd, Noranda Pacific Pty Ltd, Pasminco Ltd and Western Metals Ltd.

An indigenous land use agreement—ILUA—is a voluntary agreement about the use and management of land, made between a native title claimant group and other people. This exploration ILUA allows people to use a standard process for the 90 backlogged exploration permits within the area and avoids having to conduct a new negotiation on the process for dealing with each individual permit. It is about saving time and money for explorers and native title claimants and letting exploration happen so that new mining resources can be discovered. Exploration leads to new mines and leads to new jobs and opportunities, particularly for disadvantaged indigenous communities.

I thank the Kalkadoon people, the exploration companies and all those involved in the negotiation of this agreement, including the native title unit in my department and Shaun Drabsch, my senior economic adviser, who played a key role. I look forward to delivering more such agreements to get exploration moving right across the State.

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