



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 17 April 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Indigenous Land Use Agreements

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.56 am): Last Wednesday in Wujal Wujal I was honoured to join with the Eastern Kuku Yalanji People, the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, the member for Cook, the Cape York Land Council and local councillors at a ceremony to celebrate the signing of 15 Indigenous land use agreements. I table supporting documentation.

Tabled paper: Report, dated 11 April 2007, by the Cape York Land Council and Queensland Government titled 'Eastern Kuku Yalanji People and the State of Queensland Indigenous Land Use Agreement Celebration' and two maps.

I seek leave to incorporate details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

These agreements cover thousands of hectares of some of the most beautiful and environmentally important country in our nation.

I want to pay tribute to the original native title claimants from the Eastern Kuku Yalanji People, the Cape York Land Council, local Aboriginal and Shire Councils and all the Government officials involved in the complex and at times very difficult process.

These agreements are the most significant ever struck in Queensland.

Covering some 230,000 hectares of beautiful, unique and precious Cape York land—this is a milestone in our history.

In addition to recognizing the rights and ownership of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people—the Queensland Government is also protecting 79,000 hectares of land as new national park.

The Eastern Kuku Yalanji People will work co-operatively with the National Parks Service to manage parks in the region.

We and the Yalanji People want their community to have direct, practical input into the protection of these significant lands—a region of spectacular biodiversity and precious and rare animals including cassowaries and tree kangaroos.

Some 64,000 hectares of land will become Aboriginal freehold land and the Yalanji have agreed that much of that land will be under a conservation agreement to protect its values.

The existing national park estate—some 80,000 hectares plus the new 79,000 hectares—will be managed by the government in cooperation with the traditional owners.

This is a great outcome for all Queenslanders—and of course nothing in these agreements changes anyone's ability to get into our national parks and enjoy them.

I want to thank the Eastern Kuku Yalanji People for working with us through this long process and I look forward to working with them in the protection of this beautiful and important region of Queensland.