

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 679

asked on Tuesday, 22 May 2007

MRS SULLIVAN ASKED THE MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND WATER AND MINISTER ASSISTING THE PREMIER IN NORTH QUEENSLAND (MR WALLACE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to Queensland's proud record on Indigenous land issues—

How does Queensland compare with other Australian States when it comes to the resolution of Native Title consent determinations in the Federal Court?

ANSWER:

My Department's performance on native title issues is the best in the country. Queensland leads the way in the development and implementation of native title processes for future development which benefits indigenous parties, industry and the State.

Currently, of the 56 consent determinations of native title across Australia, 35 are in Queensland representing over 60 per cent of the total. This is to be compared with 1 consent determination each for the Northern Territory and South Australia, 2 determinations in New South Wales, 4 in Victoria and 13 in Western Australia.

I would also like to highlight that the State has established 57 Land Trusts since the start of the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991*. These land grants to the Land Trusts constitute 1.34 million hectares of land that has been handed over as inalienable freehold to aboriginal grantees.

This year, the State and native title parties reached agreement on the resolution of six native title claims, and approximately 25 claims throughout Queensland have been substantially progressed.

In January, I handed over 137.2 hectares to the Darumbal people at Mt Wheeler, near Rockhampton. A ceremony was held on country where I presented the Darumbal people with a deed of grant to land to be known as Gawula.

In April, I attended a ceremony on Great Keppel Island where five parcels of unallocated state land, totalling 171 hectares, were handed over to the Woppaburra People.

Also in April, the State completed the signing of 15 Indigenous Land Use Agreements with the Eastern Kuku Yalanji People.

In Australia, there are currently 264 registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements. Of these agreements, 138 have been negotiated and are being implemented in Queensland. This is over 50 per cent of the whole country's agreements. Again Queensland is leading the country and we will continue to do so into the future.