



Brahman bull on Coorumburra Station.

COORUMBURRA STATION

A joint venture cattle enterprise on Coorumburra Station involving Barada-Barna-Kabalbara-Yetimarala (BBKY), Darumbal and Jetimarala peoples commenced on 1 January 2001. It has operated successfully for over 6 years and continues to make very good progress.

The cattle enterprise is run by the traditional owner (TO) groups through Coorumburra Rural Enterprises Pty Ltd (CRE), which was established in 2001. It has a Board of eight Directors.

BBKY: Frank Budby, Norman Brown, Derek Willie.

Darumbal: Doug Hatfield, Trevor Hatfield, Billy Mann.

Jetimarala: Randolph Powder, Davina Tilberoo.

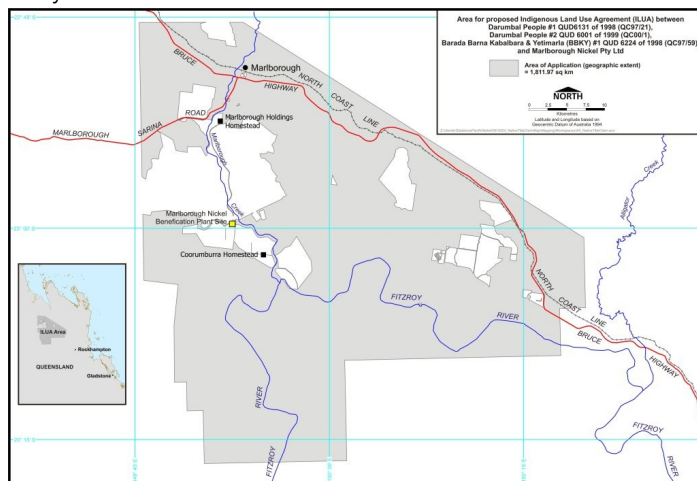
Coorumburra is 11,030 hectares in area and is approximately 135km by road from Rockhampton—25km south of Marlborough. A lease on the property was part of the Marlborough Nickel Project Native Title Agreement. Freehold ownership will be transferred to the TOs after mining is completed. Business advice and support is also provided by Mark Lewis, of MLCS Corporate.

Income has mainly been directed back into cattle operations—e.g. employing staff, purchase of plant and equipment, property maintenance, etc. Profitability through purchase and sales of stock is expected to increase as CRE progressively develops its own herd, while a longer term goal is to acquire other properties with the profits.

Currently Coorumburra has around 840 of its own cattle, while other cattle are also being agisted. There are up to 2,000 head on the property at any given time. By all accounts cattle do very well on the property.

MARLBOROUGH NICKEL PROJECT

Marlborough Nickel Pty Ltd (MNPL) is seeking to establish a nickel and cobalt mine near Marlborough north of Rockhampton. MNPL is currently working through the processes involved in providing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the government to enable them to commence mining. The EIS is required to demonstrate that proposed mining activities meet acceptable environmental and social impact standards. They also need to prove the feasibility of the mining venture. These project objectives need to be achieved prior to securing the substantial financial resources required for the project.



Marlborough Nickel Project ILUA (grey area) was registered with NNTT on 16 July 2007.

The Darumbal, BBKY and Jetimarala peoples recently signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) covering the area where the proposed mining activities are likely to occur in the future (see above). The ILUA was registered by the National Native Title Tribunal on 16 July 2007. It will provide some financial and other benefits to the TO groups as and when the project goes ahead and mining occurs. This is a very positive



MNP Liaison Committee—Darumbal and BBKY representatives with Peter Matheson of Marlborough Nickel Pty Ltd.

outcome for both the TO groups and the mining proponents, which provides a level of certainty to MNPL insofar as their ability to establish their mining venture is concerned. Indeed a win-win situation for all concerned.

Discussions have also taken place in relation to a second ILUA regarding a proposed slurry pipeline extending from the mine site to the refinery site near Gladstone. Initially MNPL are looking to transport ore to Marlborough by road and then

onto Gladstone by rail, but at some point in the future it may look to construct a pipeline to carry partly processed slurry from the mine site to the refinery site near Gladstone. Positive discussions have been taking place with a Cultural Heritage Management Plan already agreed and a positive outcome on the ILUA expected to be concluded in due course.

Furthermore, the MNP Liaison Committee, which is made up of mining company and TO group representatives, has been meeting on a quarterly basis since the 1999 native title agreement was signed. All parties enjoy an open and positive relationship and TO groups have demonstrated a positive commitment to assisting the mining proponent in developing the project.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Darumbal Enterprises was established to take responsibility for the commercial business interests of the Darumbal community.
- It seeks to achieve positive outcomes while working with industry proponents to advance their interests.
- It focuses firmly on the long term interests of the Darumbal.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Darumbal Enterprises was established by Darumbal Native Title Applicants (QC97/21) on 10 May 2005 to take responsibility for the commercial business interests of the Darumbal community—i.e. commercial business relating to native title, cultural heritage management, and so on.

It has been developing a corporate structure and formal business procedures to advance the communities business interests. It is one part of a wider business structure (see page 2). Economic development is one of the primary objectives of the Darumbal—this entity was set up to advance that and other objectives.

A Board of Directors administers the business and is made up of the Darumbal Native Title Applicants from the QC97/21 claim—i.e. Warren Malone, Vanessa Ross, Billy Mann, Bob Muir and Doug Hatfield.

Business relates mainly to new developments in the Rockhampton and Capricorn Coast region. As development proponents work to ad-

CEMENT AUSTRALIA—MT ETNA ILUA

Cement Australia is in the process of closing down its limestone mining operations at Mt Etna, which is to the north of Rockhampton. Mining operations occurred from 1966 through to 2004. Limestone is used in the production of Quicklime and cement. Cement Australia is currently endeavouring to close the mine in accordance with statutory regulations to ensure the area is left in a safe and environmentally sound condition.

Part of the area is intended to be converted to national park. Other areas will be set aside for the



Marlborough Nickel Project ILUA—Darumbal signed an ILUA with the developers in May 2006.

vance their projects, they are often required by legislation to manage cultural resources and deal with the traditional owners in relation to native tile.

The enterprise endeavours to achieve positive outcomes for the community while working with industry proponents to advance their interests. It focuses firmly on the long term interests of the community.

It has been involved in a number of industrial projects including: the proposed Enertrade Gas Pipeline (Moranbah—Gladstone); Marlborough Nickel Project; Mt Etna mine closure, and other smaller developments.

benefit of local stakeholders for conservation, farming, and other purposes.

There are two parcels of unallocated state land (USL) at the site. Native title continues to exist on these areas. Cement Australia is seeking to develop an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the Darumbal people to deal with this matter. A process of consultation will take place and a Darumbal community meeting is expected to be held in early December to seek community endorsement for the agreement.

CORPORATE STRUCTURE

Darumbal Enterprises was established as part of a larger formal business structure to undertake business relating to native title and Aboriginal cultural heritage. Darumbal Charitable Trust is another part of this structure—it was established as a non-profit charitable organisation to assist disadvantaged and needy people in the community. It will also hold and administer deeds, leases, native title benefits, etc. Toonooba Darumbal Ltd, another related entity, was established to be the Trustee of the Trust. These entities were registered on 10 May 2005.

The Directors are: Vanessa Ross, Billy Mann, Bob Muir, Warren Malone, Doug Hatfield. Pauline Cora is an honorary member.

Darumbal Enterprises also administers the Darumbal interests in:

- Coorumburra Station cattle enterprise;
- Marlborough Nickel Project (MNP) Native Title Agreement and the MNP Liaison Committee.

Business advice and support has been provided by the company's accountant and commercial adviser, Mark Lewis, of MLCS Corporate—an Adelaide-based accounting firm with many years experience working with Aboriginal groups throughout Australia.



Vanessa Ross, Billy Mann, Bob Muir, Warren Malone, Pauline Cora, Doug Hatfield, Trevor Hatfield (Coordinator) (21 Sept 07).

Board meetings are generally held at three month intervals, with staff and the accountant. Operational and financial reports are presented at the meetings. To date the company has conducted business with a minimum of resources—initially commencing with no finances. It acquired some operational funds by undertaking cultural heritage work for development proponents. Income has been directed back into business operations—e.g. employing staff, purchase of equipment, engaging professional support, and so on. The Directors are committed to advancing the long term interests of the community. Primary objectives include: economic development, formal recognition of traditional rights to country, resettlement of Darumbal into traditional homelands,

reacculturation, and so on.

Darumbal Enterprises is a self-sustaining private enterprise which has been operating for over two years independently of government or other such support. It operates within a relatively difficult and complex business environment. It provides a clear example of Aboriginal people conducting a successful commercial enterprise which meets statutory and contractual obligations and widely accepted commercial and ethical business standards.

One of its more significant achievements is the development of an effective business structure and associated business procedures. The skills and experience gained through this enterprise can be used to develop other similar enterprises to advance further towards economic development and independence. It is also one example of how we can achieve self-determination—another long term objective.

MANAGING CULTURAL RESOURCES

Another primary objective of Darumbal Enterprises is the management of cultural resources in the traditional Darumbal estate. This objective is based in the traditional relationship that the Darumbal have with “country”, and is a continuation of responsibilities held in traditional laws and customs.

Traditionally country is viewed as a cultural landscape—it's a living thing. Laws and customs are held by the country, and it is the source of all things required for existence—including our cultural existence. It is there-

fore important to preserve the cultural resources that exist in the landscape.

Darumbal Enterprises has a great wealth of skills and experience and the technical and cultural expertise to manage these resources appropriately. The work is undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner, and in accordance with provisions of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, and other statutory requirements.

Numerous small and large scale cultural



Core used for manufacture of stone tools and stone axe head.

heritage projects have been undertaken by Darumbal people over the past 14–15 years or so. One such project involved scientific research on islands off the

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NATIVE TITLE

The Darumbal have been actively pursuing recognition of traditional rights to country through native title since 1993.

There are currently two Darumbal claims:

- Darumbal People (NNTT: QC97/21) registered on 5/07/2000; and
- Darumbal People #2 (NNTT: QC99/1) registered on 23/02/1999.

The claims encompass the Rockhampton and Capricorn Coast region of Central Queensland. They extend from around Ogmoo in the north, and include the Stanage Bay area, down to the mouth of the Fitzroy River near Port Alma, and to the west to Gogango. They also include offshore islands and marine areas along the Capricorn Coast.

Progress on the claims has been very slow and has extended over a long period of time. The processes involved are very legalistic, and the National Native Title Tribunal, the Federal Court, and other government organisations, require lengthy and arduous administrative and legal processes to be undertaken prior to the formal recognition of traditional rights to country.

A Connection Report is currently being prepared with the assistance of Gurang Land Council. This will define who the Darumbal people are, and the traditional connection that Darumbal have with country.

MANAGING CULTURAL RESOURCES (CONTINUED)

Capricorn Coast—i.e. Collins, High Peak, and Otterbourne Islands. This involved collecting research materials such as charcoal and bone fragments from test pits to carry out widely accepted scientific research techniques (i.e. carbon dating) to determine the age of those materials.

Carbon dating determined that one site on Otterbourne Island dated back around 5,000 years. This research provides valuable information on Aboriginal use and occupation of the region. Some sites pre-date



Darumbal NT claimants and advisers and ZeroGen representatives during ILUA negotiations (16 Oct. 2007).

The Connection Report will then be passed on to the state for assessment, and if they are satisfied that we have maintained a traditional connection, they will enter into discussions with us to agree the terms of a consent determination of native title, which may eventually recognise the Darumbal people's traditional interests in country. They may then proceed to deal with the community in relation to settling various native title issues that exist in relation to industry and community developments, and other such activities.

However, these are long and arduous processes and it will be some time before real outcomes are achieved in that respect. In the mean time the Native Title Act makes provision for native title parties and developers to negotiate native title agreements.

For example, an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) is in the process of being devel-

oped between the Darumbal and ZeroGen Pty Ltd (see photo). ZeroGen is planning to develop a clean coal demonstration project at Stanwell that will use available technology to produce environmentally cleaner power—60–80% cleaner. It will then take carbon dioxide gas (CO₂) which is normally produced in the generation of electricity in power stations, and transport it to the Northern Denison Trough in the Sprinsure area, via a pipeline where it will be pumped deep underground. The project is designed to reduce harmful emissions and help fight climate change. Approximately 40 kilometers of the pipeline will run through Darumbal country.

The ILUA provides compensation for use of areas affected by the project and management of cultural heritage resources. A process of community consultation is being undertaken to seek the Darumbal people's support and endorsement for this ILUA.

Cement Australia is also seeking to sign an ILUA with the Darumbal in relation to the closure of its mining operations at Mt Etna in the near future (see page 1).

many well known ancient structures—e.g. the Egyptian pyramids, Stonehenge, the Great Wall of China, and so on.

Archival research has also uncovered information and materials which offer insight into the more recent history of the Darumbal people. The photo on the right shows two Darumbal women—Melba and Sarah McPherson (on left)—during the early part of 20th century (circa 1920). This research provides valuable information which allows us to understand our more recent history.

