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Historic Quandamooka land rights agreement on North Stradbroke Island

Redland City Council has signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the Quandamooka People of North Stradbroke Island following an historic Federal Court sitting on the island today announcing the recognition of native title for the Quandamooka people.

The consent determination by the court officially granting native title to the Quandamooka people, is the first such agreement in Southern Queensland.

It recognises the continuous connection of the Quandamooka people to the land and waters surrounding the island for millennia prior to white settlement.

The Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) signed between Redland City Council and representatives of the Quandamooka people, follows extensive negotiations over the past two years and completes a process first begun in 1995.

One of three separate agreements being negotiated by the Quandamooka people, the ILUA agreement with Council ensures continued community access to public lands and facilities on the island and outlines the terms of compensation to the Quandamooka people for the alienation of their traditional lands and rights.

Congratulating the Quandamooka people on their historic achievement, Mayor Melva Hobson acknowledged the leadership, compromise and generosity of spirit the Quandamooka people have shown in their long struggle and negotiations for land right recognition.

"These negotiations have been both long and at times hard, but they have always been guided by strong mutual respect and the principle of fairness," Mayor Hobson said.

"I invite the Redlands community to join with the Quandamooka people in celebrating this decision which will strengthen the enduring and living cultural heritage of the Island communities."

The ILUA agreement with Council is one of three Indigenous Land Use Agreements negotiated by the Quandamooka people as part of native title claims on North Stradbroke Island.

Native Title claims will not affect freehold land, or the use of public reserves, roads or public access to the foreshore on North Stradbroke Island.

All future planning decisions on Native Title land will be done in cooperation between Council and the Quandamooka people and in accordance with state and local planning requirements.

Division 2 Councillor Craig Ogilvie participated in the ILUA negotiations along with the Mayor and Council officers and acknowledged they had been long, with a lot of effort put in by many people.

"The whole community should be proud to see this recognition and respect afforded to the Quandamooka people and relieved to see a legal resolution to a long standing matter," Councillor Ogilvie said.

"A lot of work remains in coming months and years to implement and build on the cultural and historic recognition of the Quandamooka people as part of a positive future for North Stradbroke Island."

The next stage of the land rights process will involve formal registration of the ILUAs and community forums to help explain the historic agreements.