



Maddocks advises on Australia's biggest native title settlement

26 February 2010: A native title agreement worth almost \$200 million was signed yesterday afternoon between the Western Australian State Government and Broome's Yawuru traditional owners. This is likely to be Australia's largest native title compensation package.

Following a 13 year court battle and a further three years of negotiation with the Western Australian State Government, the Yawuru, the State and the Shire of Broome have entered two agreements which transfer to the Yawuru \$56 million to be paid over five years and 2000 hectares of land worth around \$144 million.

The agreements provide the Yawuru with just terms compensation for loss and impairment of native title rights and interests, the opportunity to develop their economic and commercial capability, economic independence and opportunities for social and cultural maintenance and enrichment. The agreements provide to the State and local government resolution of native title issues in the claim area.

The Yawuru are pro-bono clients of law firm Maddocks and Commercial Consultant Miriam McDonald advised on the corporate structure which will manage the land and funds for the benefit of approximately 3,500 Yawuru people.

Ms McDonald has also advised on a range of tax concession, charity and governance issues, has assisted with business planning and will continue to advise the newly established corporate group.

Maddocks Construction partner Greg Campbell and Senior Associate Simone Holding have also advised on property and construction issues.

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