

## Media Release **No. 567**

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### **KULKALGAL PEOPLE TO BE GRANTED EXCLUSIVE NATIVE TITLE RIGHTS OVER ZUIZIN**

A Consent Determination of Native Title for was held today, granting the Kulkalgal people exclusive Native Title rights and interests over the uninhabited island of Zuizin in the Torres Strait.

His Honour, Justice Andrew Greenwood of the Federal Court of Australia, made formal orders at the Thursday Island Magistrates Court, appointing Kulkalgal (Torres Strait Islander) Corporation RNTBC as the Registered Native Title Body Corporate for the claim.

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) legally represented the Kulkalgal People at the hearing. A ceremony was held at the Gab Titui Cultural Centre after the court proceedings to mark the event.

The TSRA Chairperson, Mr Joseph Elu, said with addition of the Zuizin determination, there are now 22 determinations of Native Title in the Torres Strait region.

“Being awarded the rights over Zuizin is another important milestone for Torres Strait Islanders as we work towards finalising Native Title matters in our region,” Mr Elu said.

“This comes just weeks after Mabo Day 2014 where we celebrated the High Court’s historic decision in 1992, which inspired Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginals to fight for Native Title rights.”

Mr Elu said the TSRA acts as a representative body for Traditional Owners seeking Native Title Rights, and Native Title Holders who require assistance in negotiating Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs).

“While these processes can take time, our Native Title Office has negotiated over 55 ILUAs and other agreements in relation to land and waters in the Torres Strait region to date,” Mr Elu said.

“The majority of these ILUAs were entered into by native title claimants to facilitate the making of consent determinations of Native Title.

“We anticipate that all remaining Native Title matters will be finalised by the end of 2015.”

**ENDS**

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