

Traditional Owners disappointed with McArthur River mine decision



Above: Traditional owner Harry Lansen talks to the press outside the Federal Court in Darwin

Traditional Owners from Borroloola have expressed disappointment with a decision by the Australian Government to give final approval to divert the McArthur River for a mine expansion.

NLC Chief Executive Kim Hill today said that traditional owners are disappointed with the announcement by the Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett to approve the expansion of the McArthur River mine, near Borroloola.

However, the NLC welcomes new stringent environmental monitoring requirements on McArthur River Mining (MRM), and Minister Garrett's recommendation that MRM pursue 'a more active engagement with local stakeholders, including Traditional owners.'

"Traditional owners are deeply disappointed the Federal Environment Minister, Peter Garrett, is giving the go-ahead for a diversion of the McArthur River in order for Swiss mining company Xstrata to expand its zinc mining operations," Mr Hill said.

"There has never been a negotiated agreement between the mining company and traditional owners, and a workable outcome would be the development of an agreement that would provide tangible benefits to local Aboriginal people."

Mr Hill said traditional owners would obtain legal advice regarding the decision, and as to possible avenues for compensation.

Traditional owners have had numerous cultural and environmental concerns about the mine's impact on marine life in the McArthur River and offshore, and important cultural sites," Mr Hill said.

The NLC calls on McArthur River Mining (MRM) to negotiate an agreement with Traditional Owners, and calls on the Northern Territory Government to mandate provisions to ensure all mining companies make public their Mining Management Plan, so that the environmental impact of mining operations is known to the local community.

The decision follows a Federal Court ruling in December 2008 forcing Xstrata to close the mine because the previous Environment Minister's approval for the mine's expansion did not take into account the impact on threatened species and migratory birds.

Warlpiri show how it's done



Film makers Maxwell Japanangka Tasman and Shane Jupurrurla White.

A group of young Warlpiri filmmakers involved in the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) Youth and Media program have made a video that explains what WETT is and what WETT projects are happening on the ground.

The film is made by Warlpiri for Warlpiri in Warlpiri language (with English subtitles) and uses lots of creative and colourful ways to get the WETT story across.

The DVD will be distributed widely to Warlpiri community members, schools, libraries, community organisations, government departments and other Aboriginal groups looking to use royalty monies for community benefit projects.

WETT was set up in

2004 to support the education and training of Warlpiri in four Warlpiri communities - Lajamanu, Yuendumu, Nyirripi and Willowra.

Each year Newmont mining company pays extra royalties into a special trust account for education and training programs.

WETT programs include Community Learning Centre program, Early Childhood Program run in partnership with World Vision, funding for schools

to involve elders in school activities and take kids on country visits, production of bilingual resources and support for secondary students.

Many thanks to Maxwell Japanangka Tasman, Shane Jupurrurla White, Annan Cadden, Verona Nungarayi Jurrrah, Kathleen Doolan and Marlene Nangala Robertson for translations. For a copy of the DVD call Georgie Stewart at CLC on 89516246 or email to georgie.stewart@clc.org.

CAAMA boost for RIBS

Remote Indigenous broadcasters in Central Australia are taking advantage of the very latest technology to reach their bush audiences according to CAAMA RIBS coordinator Steve Hodder.

"We've got a whole new digital system, whole music libraries on PC and you can voice it and create a whole show but we have to get trained up. Basically you can put a two hour playlist on a PC and just back announce each song," he said.

Steve started the RIBS job at CAAMA at the end of last year.

"I came in towards the end of last year which wasn't the best timing - there was the Christmas break and ceremony and law going on but now we're getting on track.

"We're getting more new trainees.

"Raphael Ronson will broadcast from Ltyentye Apurte, Warren H Williams



Above: Steve Hodder at CAAMA

has been filling in on the Ntaria slot from here in town but that will probably be broadcast live from Hermannsburg hopefully.

"At Areyonga Jonathon Doolan is back so that's good.

But we still have to hook up with Papunya and get them back in the mix," Steve said.