



LAND TRIBUNAL

Annual Report

FINANCIAL YEAR

2023/2024

ESTABLISHED UNDER THE ABORIGINAL LAND ACT 1991



LAND TRIBUNAL

Office of the Chairperson

4 September 2024

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The Hon. Yvette D'Ath MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
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Email: attorney@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Attorney,

Re: Land Tribunal Annual Report 2023-2024

As required by s 245(1) of the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, I present my report on the operations of the Land Tribunal.

Yours sincerely,

Peta Stilgoe OAM
Chairperson (appointed after end of reporting period)

Chairperson's Overview

My appointment as Chairperson of the Land Tribunal on a part-time basis was approved by the Governor on 25 July 2024 for a period of 12 months. This report covers the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, prior to my appointment.

Last year's report

The following is from the annual report for 2022/2023 by Acting Chairperson, Fleur Kingham reproduced in full because, in this financial year, no claims have been referred to the Tribunal and no action has been taken to resolve its future.

***"Background:** The Aboriginal Land Act 1991 established the Land Tribunal on 21 December 1991 to receive and hear claims made by groups of Aboriginal people to areas of claimable land. The Act contained a sunset clause, which provided no new claims could be lodged after 22 December 2006. A hearing is initiated by a claim under the Act being referred to the Tribunal. All claims referred to the Tribunal have been determined. The last claims determined were the Boodjumulula (Lawn Hill) National Park claims, which were determined by Chairperson McDonald on 24 August 2016.*

The Land Tribunal's costs for this financial year were \$0.00.

***The future:** Some claims under the Act were lodged with the Department of Resources but have not been referred to the Tribunal.*

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Department of Resources are in consultation about the outstanding claims and the future process for accessing records of the Tribunal.

The Tribunal's files are a valuable record of First Nations Peoples history and culture as well as colonial and post-colonial land use.

The Statement of Commitment, which initiated the Pathway to Treaty, includes principles to reframe the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Queensland Government. These include respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, shared responsibility, and empowerment.

I have committed the Tribunal to work with the Queensland State Archives to develop a culturally appropriate process for both recording and providing access to the evidence given in claims hearings by First Nations Peoples.

I wish to acknowledge the assistance of the Principal Registrar and staff of the Land Court in securing and organising the Tribunal's records in preparation for that project."

Summary

I have committed the Tribunal to continuing its work with the Queensland State Archives as outlined by my predecessor. I also wish to acknowledge the continued assistance of the Principal Registrar and staff of the Land Court.



Peta Stilgoe OAM
Chairperson