

## Largest parcel of Aboriginal freehold title in Queensland handed over

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The Newman Government made history this month with the largest single Aboriginal freehold deed issued since the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 was enacted.

Natural Resources and Mines Minister Andrew Cripps said the deed formally recognised Aboriginal ownership of more than 736,000 hectares of land on the western Cape York Peninsula at Aurukun, more than 200 kilometres south of Weipa.

"We have granted Aboriginal freehold title for lands contained within the Aurukun Shire Lease, nearby unallocated State land and some reserve land," Mr Cripps said.

"The Ngan Aak-Kunch Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) and the town area of Aurukun Shire Lease have been handed land contained within the Aurukun Shire Lease as well as some nearby unallocated State land.

"In addition, some reserve land has also been handed over to Aurukun Shire Council."

Mr Cripps said granting Aboriginal freehold title over this significant part of the Wik and Wik Way People's traditional lands was a great outcome for the approximately 1,200 members of the Aurukun community.

"Aboriginal freehold title allows the Wik and Wik Way Peoples, through the Ngan Aak-Kunch Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC, to manage, use and enjoy the land now and into the future," he said.

"Being responsible for the management of their land will play a vital role in the Wik and Wik Way Peoples realising the potential social, cultural and economic benefits for the Aurukun community."

Mr Cripps said hard work and a positive collaborative approach had been integral to the granting of Aboriginal freehold title

"The Wik and Wik Way Peoples and the Aurukun Shire Council have worked with dedication and commitment to provide advice to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to secure freehold title to their land," he said.

"They have shown real vision to consider both traditional and contemporary values and future opportunities for the people of Aurukun.

"This approach has been vital to achieving this historic outcome will give the Ngan Aak-Kunch Aboriginal Corporation and the Council the opportunity to create a positive future for the people of Aurukun."

Minister for Natural Resources and Mines  
The Honourable Andrew Cripps  
Tuesday 24th of September 2013