



ADMINISTRATIONS END IN TWO QUEENSLAND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CORPORATIONS

Two Queensland corporations registered under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act) had their special administrations finalised on 30 June 2008.

The Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, Mr Anthony Beven, said that in each case the special administrators had restored the operations of corporations to good order and it was appropriate for them to be returned to their directors.

‘I am confident the corporations now have strong corporate governance processes in place.’, he said.

‘They will be able to continue providing the valuable assistance and support services to the people living in their communities.’

The corporations were all required to adopt a new rule book which complies with the CATSI Act at a recent general meeting.

At that meeting, directors were elected to take control of the corporation once the special administration ends.

Helping Indigenous corporations run properly, according to their own rules and culture is very rewarding for everyone involved and helps to make stronger communities.

‘I would like to thank everyone involved for working together to achieve these great outcomes. I would particularly like to thank all the special administrators who have worked with the corporations and my office.’ said Mr Beven.

Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

The corporation, registered on 27 April 1984, has a wide range of activities including the promotion of opportunities for Aboriginal people to return to and settle on their traditional homelands in the Gulf of Carpentaria region. The corporation also promotes and preserves traditional Aboriginal language and culture.

The corporation was a native title representative body and received public grant funds. The corporation had serious governance problems which meant that the committee could not function properly.

The Registrar decided to appoint Mr Tony Grieves of the Canberra-based firm of WalterTurnbull as administrator effective from 3 July 2006.



Since then, Mr Grieves has ensured that the corporation's main function as a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) was carried out up to 30 June 2008. The corporation is no longer a NTRB but will deliver native title services to the lower gulf region from 1 July 2008.

In April 2008 members voted in favour of a new rule book and have elected directors for the corporation to take office once the special administration is finalised. The incoming directors were elected based on one representative from each of the recognised language groups within the region.

The Registrar terminated the special administrator's appointment on 30 June 2008.

Bumma Bipperra Media Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation

The corporation, registered on 6 December 1990, provides an Aboriginal owned and controlled media service and facilities for the Aboriginal community. Its main function is the operation of an Indigenous radio station out of Cairns in Northern Queensland.

An examination in March 2007 found a substantial number of breaches of the corporation's rules and the Act as well as a series of financial irregularities.

The Registrar appointed Mr Glen Walker of the Queensland based firm of Walker Reid Accountants as an administrator on 14 June 2007.

Mr Walker's main priority was to ensure that good operational order was restored and to secure ongoing funding for the corporation, which he has done.

The Registrar terminated the appointment of the special administrator on 30 June 2008.

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