

Start here.

b) The Mabo decision was an important event ~~of~~ the history of land rights movements. Before the Mabo case ~~of 1993~~, Aboriginal peoples were not able to claim native title over their land. ~~This~~ ^{The Mabo} decision had an impact ^{on} ~~of~~ Indigenous communities ~~in the~~ across Australia and also in the Hunter region ~~of~~ the territory of the Awabakal peoples.

The Meriam peoples, with leader Eddie Mabo fought a 10 year court battle to be able to gain these rights. Legislation following this case enabled Aboriginal peoples to claim Native Title.

There have been ^{many} claims in the Hunter region that have been unsuccessful but one notable claim that was passed was the claim of Wonaruaah land. This billion dollar claim was ~~on~~ won by the Local Aboriginal Land Council. ~~There were plans to build~~ There were plans to build a cultural centre, bush walking tracks and learning centre but unfortunately due to lack of funding from state and federal government - the land remains derelict and useless. The people of Lake Macquaire & the Wonaruaah peoples had plans to sell the land to raise funds to carry out the building of these facilities →

but this couldn't work due to zoning regulations.

2012 HSC - Aboriginal Studies

Band 4/5

Sample 3 Question 20(b)

In more recent times there has been a Native title claim on land in Hunter Street. In 2007 excavations on this land, to build ~~the~~^a new KFC, found that there ^{were} many Aboriginal artefacts and weapons etc, found deeply buried underground. These artefacts are from many years ago and show a definite connection ~~between~~^{to} people of this area ~~as~~ many years ago.

The success of the Mabo decision has led to many more ^{subsequent} ~~previous~~ successes across Australia. ~~and~~ The right to claim Native title has assisted the Aboriginal communities in regaining a connection with their land, politically, this therefore leading them to gaining sovereignty and a higher level of autonomy.

There were many varied responses to the claiming of land by Aboriginal peoples, from many different groups in society. This included the people in the street, farmers and pastoralists, tour operators and mining industries.

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The people in the street were affected by the portrayal in the media and herd opinions such as "lazy aborigines taking over my backyard".

The farmers and pastoralists were worried about their existence and so were the tour operators and mining industry. The mining industry offered money and negotiation to be able co-exist with the native title and land rights claims.

Despite the varied responses there have been very positive outcomes that have arisen post the Mabo decision and its effect on society has had a lasting impact in the Aboriginal communities across Australia and especially in the Hunter region of the Awabakal peoples.

← Tick this box if you have continued this answer in another writing booklet.