



MEDIA ADVISORY

Thursday 28 May 2009

INVITATION TO ATTEND 10TH ANNUAL NATIVE TITLE CONFERENCE 3 - 5 JUNE 2009

Registrations are open for media representatives who wish to attend the upcoming 10th annual Native Title Conference, taking place at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne, on 3 – 5 June 2009.

The Wurundjeri people will host this annual conference, which is the largest national gathering of a broad range of key stakeholders on the issue of native title. Convened jointly by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and Native Title Services Victoria (NTSV), the conference will emphasise the first principles of Native Title through workshops, speeches and discussions under theme *Spirit of Country, Land, Water, Life*.

Media representatives are invited to register for the following sessions:

5.30pm – 7.00pm Wednesday 3 June - Wurundjeri Welcome and Conference Opening

9.00am – 11.00am Thursday 4 June - Opening Plenary

Featuring Welcome by Chair of AIATSIS and Australian of the Year, Professor Mick Dodson AM; Graham Atkinson, Native Title Services Victoria; Attorney General for Victoria, The Hon Robert Hulls

9.00am – 10.30am Friday 5 June – Plenary Session

* This session will begin with an extraordinary performance of the Torres Strait Indigenous Culture Group, Epe Karem Beizam, a group of 25 dancers from Mer (Murray) Island. The performance by Epe Karem Beizam will be led by the late Eddie Mabo's eldest daughter Betty Tekahika, and accompanied by traditional drumming and singing, the dancers will perform a selection of traditional Torres Strait dances including the Sacred "Malo Dance", which can only be performed by this group from Mer.

* Delivery of the 2009 Mabo Lecture by Mr Les Malezer, winner of the 2008 Human Rights Medal and Chair of the Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action (FAIRA)

* Keynote Address by the Commonwealth Attorney General, The Hon Robert McClelland.

HOW TO REGISTER - To register for one or more of the above three sessions during the Native Title conference please contact AIATSIS Director of Public Affairs, Suzi Clark, on (02) 6261 4254 or 0419 978 035 or suzi.clark@aiatsis.gov.au

WHERE TO FIND THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM -

<http://ntru.aiatsis.gov.au/conf2009/NativeTitleConferenceWebsite/index.html>

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES - After reviewing the conference program, if you have a particular interest in speaking with presenters or facilitators, please contact Suzi Clark on the above details.