

# Editorial Policy Guide

## Native Title Research Unit AIATSIS



**AIATSIS**

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF  
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDER STUDIES

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## 1. About the NTRU

The [Native Title Research Unit](#) (NTRU) was established in 1993 through a collaboration between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies in response to the High Court decision in *Mabo v Queensland (No.2)* (1992). This was the landmark case in Commonwealth history that recognised the unique claim of Indigenous peoples rights to land under the legal concept of native title. The NTRU aims to produce independent, non-partisan research and policy advice for the native title sector in order to promote the recognition and protection of the native title rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The NTRU is well-positioned to provide research resources to assist the wide diversity of native title holders and claimants, including representative bodies, as well as the Commonwealth, state and territory governments. It is part of Australia's foremost Indigenous research and collecting institute, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, and employs leading experts in native title law, policy and practice.

## 2. Overview of Publications

The NTRU endeavours to publish a range of topics which are of critical and timely interest to readers and the publications are multi-disciplinary in nature. The NTRU publications aim to inform better practice, and situate Australian Indigenous land rights within international discussions that affect land justice, governance, sustainable development and human rights. NTRU publications provide information which is easy to access, but also deploy the formal tools and resources of academic scholarship that can be useful to specialists and as a part of broader institutional exchanges.

The NTRU publishes under the following six categories:

### [Native Title Newsletter](#)

The *Native Title Newsletter* contains news on developments in native title, including case law, the progress of applications, agreements and future acts. The *Newsletter* incorporates elements of [What's New](#) and [Native Title in the News](#) as well as including feature articles on current issues in the native title sector, contributions from NTRU staff about the Unit's activities and new acquisitions to the AIATSIS collections. The *Newsletter* is published every two months and is available both in hard copy and electronically.

### [Issues Papers](#)

*Land, Rights, Laws: Issues of Native Title* is a multi-disciplinary series of research papers that analyse emerging issues in native title research in a condensed and accessible short form. The series allows practitioners and researchers to provide arguments in the context of well-defined subject areas and research methods. Papers are anonymously peer-reviewed by at least two independent experts and are generally between 3,500 and 7,000 words in length, or 8, 12 or 16 A4 published pages.

### [Discussion Papers](#)

The *AIATSIS Research Discussion Paper* series contribute to a greater understanding of contemporary issues in Indigenous Studies introducing new research topics and innovative approaches. Discussion papers are of a high scholarly standard, are informed by relevant research and may locate the topic within policy frameworks. They are anonymously peer reviewed by at least two independent experts and are between 7,000 to 20,000 words in length.

### [Books](#)

NTRU books address topical themes in native title in a cohesive work of scholarship. They contain specialist analysis and review and integrate relevant research, which is sensitive to the cross-disciplinary nature of the field. The list of books includes edited volumes comprising single or multi-disciplinary papers and research volumes by single or joint authors. They are anonymously peer reviewed by at least two independent experts and are generally between 20,000 to 60,000 words in length.

### [Research Reports](#)

The results of NTRU workshops and research projects are communicated in our Research Reports. They cover a range of subject areas and themes such as: conflict management and decision making; land and water; legal developments in native title; taxation, trusts and the distribution of benefits; native title corporations; the management of connection materials; and other issues identified in the current [FaHCSIA NTRU Business Plan](#). Research Reports are subject to peer review. A limited number of hard copies are distributed to research partners and participants as well as being available online.

### **3. Submissions**

The NTRU welcomes submissions that reflect the diverse range of research methods and modes of theoretical and practical engagement with native title. The NTRU publication schedule aims to be responsive to current issues in native title. Papers can be submitted to the Publications Assistant for consideration. The Publications Assistant will also invite papers for submission.

Submissions are accepted for consideration for publication on the basis that the work is previously unpublished and has not been submitted elsewhere for publication. Possible exceptions to this can be discussed with the Managing Editor

Submissions should ideally conform to the requirements of the publication categories and the *NTRU Style Guidelines*. They should include a brief biography of the author(s) and an abstract of no more than 200 words.

Before a decision is made to send a submission to peer review, the submissions will be assessed by the Publications Assistant in consultation with the relevant content expert on the editorial committee or with other area specialists.

Authors will be notified in a reasonable amount of time about the status of their submissions. Once accepted, authors will be provided with a full range of editorial support to ensure the final text meets the NTRU's acceptable standards for publication.

### **4. Peer review processes**

Most manuscripts published by the NTRU are put through a peer review process that is coordinated by the Publications Assistant. The NTRU follows the regular conventions of academic publishing with identities of both the author(s) and the reviewer(s) kept anonymous and their assessments kept confidential to the Publications Assistant. Submitted papers should be well developed and authors may be asked to revise their work prior to it being sent for peer review. Once accepted, the manuscript will be submitted for evaluation by two or more experts chosen by the Publications Assistant.

If the peer reviews provide a qualified recommendation for publication, the author(s) may be required to revise their submission to respond to those comments. Author(s) may not need to accept every suggestion made by a peer reviewer; rather they can accept those they judge relevant, and leave aside those which they can otherwise justify. The author(s) will also at this stage receive editorial feedback from the NTRU Publications Assistant. Final acceptance for publication is at the discretion of the Managing Editor with advice, as necessary, from relevant content experts.

## **5. Publication**

The author(s) will be shown their final draft text for their approval prior to publication. The authors will also be required to sign and submit the AIATSIS author-publisher copyright form. Following publication, four free copies will be provided to the author(s). The NTRU will have sole discretion to determine all issues relating to the production, for example, back cover text, cover design, printing and distribution.

## **6. Rights Granted to the NTRU**

Material submitted to the NTRU is accepted on the basis that it is the original, uncopied work of the author. The publishing agreement requires the author to grant the NTRU an exclusive licence for the legal period of copyright to publish the material throughout the world, as well as the exclusive right to sub-license others. The forms of publication may include, but are not restricted to print, e-publishing, and through online databases or websites operated by third parties, or in translation. No royalties will be paid to the author, and all Copyright Agency Limited revenues earned from the work will be paid to AIATSIS. The Author is free to republish the article if the original publication is acknowledged, the appropriate citation employed and the NTRU is advised upon publication.