

# Native Title Conference

Geraldton, Western Australia

3–5 September

2002

Outcomes  
and  
Possibilities

Major Sponsor



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Yamatji Land  
and Sea Council



Australian Institute of  
Aboriginal and Torres  
Strait Islander Studies

## Welcome

The Yamatji Land and Sea Council has joined the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies to convene *The Native Title Conference 2002: Outcomes and Possibilities* in Geraldton. We invite you to attend this conference that marks ten years since the High Court *Mabo* decision.

The conference will provide a report card on the developments in native title over the last ten years and a forum for discussing the opportunities for the years ahead. Particular emphasis will be placed on governance of native title lands, the impact of native title on communities, as well as recent legal and policy developments.

We are keen for representatives from Indigenous communities to raise the successes or failures of the native title process within their community, and to foster discussion of these experiences with representatives from the institutions involved in native title, thus creating a valuable opportunity for critical reflection of the native title processes as they are currently structured.

In addition to the main conference program, this year's conference boasts a specifically designed workshop for Aboriginal field officers and forum for NTRB executives and administrators.

The conference is the successor to the 2001 Townsville conference and the 2000 Melbourne conference and we expect it to be the peak native title event for the year.

We hope you can join us in Geraldton.



Lindsay Councillor  
YLSC Chairperson

## Conference Conveners

### Yamatji Land and Sea Council

The Yamatji Land and Sea Council (YLSC) was established in 1994 under the *Native Title Act* and was originally recognised as the native title representative body for the Yamatji region in 1994. It was re-recognised in 2000 for the Yamatji and Pilbara regions. The YLSC covers the Murchison and Gascoyne regions of Western Australia and has set up the Pilbara Native Title Service as an operational arm in the Pilbara. The YLSC has six offices in Geraldton, Roebourne, Karratha, South Hedland, Tom Price and Perth.

### Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

AIATSIS is an independent Commonwealth government statutory authority. It is Australia's premier institution for information about the cultures and lifestyles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. For more information see <[www.aiatsis.gov.au](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au)>. AIATSIS has maintained a Native Title Research Unit since 1994.

## Conference Program

### Key note speakers include

Geoff Clark, Chair of ATSIC  
Mick Dodson, Chair of AIATSIS  
Justice Robert French, Federal Court of Aust.  
Prof Marcia Langton, University of Melbourne  
Graeme Neate, President of NNTT  
Noel Pearson (tbc), Cape York Partnerships  
Darryl Williams QC, Attorney General  
Hal Wootten AC QC

Plenary themes to be held each morning:  
*Report card on the first ten years*  
*Key issues for the next ten years*  
*Latest developments: Ward and Yorta Yorta*  
*Prescribed Bodies Corporate*  
*Good leadership and governance*

Two streams will run concurrently each afternoon

### **Law and Policy**

*Sea rights beyond Croker*

*Native title in public policy*

*The durability of consent agreements*

*Compensation*

*New frontiers of litigation*

*Administering native title representative bodies*

### **Research Developments**

*Native title in a community development context*

*The juridification of Aboriginal life*

*Academic rigour and discipline boundaries in expert reports*

*The political economy of native title*

*The new history of Aboriginal Australia*

*Divisions between claimants*

*Aboriginal liaison skills*

A program with speakers and topics will be posted on the conference website <[www.aiatsis.gov.au/rsrch/ntru/](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/rsrch/ntru/)> before the conference. The program is subject to change without notice.

## **NTRB workshops**

The Native Title Conference 2002 was endorsed by a meeting of native title representative body (NTRB) executives. In addition to the general conference streams, to ensure that the conference addresses the broad audience of NTRB staff with effective outcomes for all, parallel workshops will be held on each afternoon of the conference and will be restricted to specific native title representative body staff/representatives.

### **Aboriginal Field Staff training**

The University of Western Australian will be running a unique program specifically for Aboriginal field staff who work with NTRBs. The workshops will take place on the afternoon of

each day during the break-out session of the conference. The workshops will offer practical tools for field staff working within NTRBs. There will also be the opportunity to discuss issues raised in the plenary sessions. The Aboriginal Field Staff training will be held at the African Reef Resort Hotel, and it is recommended that participants stay at this hotel.

*This workshop is only open to Aboriginal field staff of NTRBs. These delegates must indicate on their registration forms that they wish to be a part of this break-out session.*

### **NTRB Executive workshop**

The YLSC has organised a workshop specifically designed for the executive and administration staff of NTRBs. The workshop will take place each afternoon during the break-out session of the conference. The workshop is designed to tackle the logistical issues associated with running a NTRB, to encourage the formation of strategic alliances across states and to generally increase the capacity of NTRBs within the constraints of scarce operating resources. This workshop will be held at the Mid West Development Corp room, and it is recommended that participants stay at the Batavia Motor Inn or nearby at the Geraldton Motor Inn.

*This workshop is only open to executive and administration staff of NTRBs. These delegates must indicate on their registration forms that they wish to be a part of this break-out session.*

Sponsors of Law/Policy  
and Research Development



# Conference Details

## Venues

*Plenary sessions:* Queens Park Theatre, Cathedral Avenue, Geraldton

*Law and Policy:* Ocean Centre Hotel, Cnr of Marine Terrace and Cathedral Ave, Geraldton

*Research Developments:* Ocean Centre Hotel, Cnr of Marine Terrace and Cathedral Ave, Geraldton

*Aboriginal Field Officers:* African Reef Hotel, 5 Broadhead Avenue, Tarcoola Beach

*Executive and administration staff:* Mid West Development Corporation Conference Room, SGIO Building, Cnr of Cathedral Avenue and Chapman Road, Geraldton

Transport will be provided to and from the plenary sessions, the afternoon break-out sessions and all social functions.

## Social Program

Welcome drinks and the conference dinner are provided for in the cost of registration. The Seafood night and Cultural night are optional and must be paid for separately.

## Welcome drinks

Monday 2 September 6:00pm – 8:00pm

An informal welcome to the conference and the presentation of the inaugural Industry Awards will be held at one of Geraldton's famous pubs, The Freemasons Hotel.

## Seafood night

Tuesday 3 September 6:30pm – 11:00pm

Local DJ Leigh Harris will entertain us as we enjoy a fantastic seafood smorgasbord. Cost for meal is \$60 (inc. GST) and includes alcohol. Numbers are limited so please book on your registration form.

## Cultural night

Wednesday 4 September 7.00pm – 1.00am

Featuring various Indigenous dance groups and entertainers with an informal, traditionally cooked buffet, all to be provided by the local community. This was a highlight of last year's conference in Townsville, and participants are strongly encouraged to attend. Cost for meal and transport is \$40 (inc. GST).

## Conference dinner

Thursday 5 September 7.00pm – 12.00pm

We are delighted to announce that the guest speaker is Ernie Dingo. A smorgasbord meal will be provided at the Geraldton Entertainment Centre. The cost of dinner is included in the full registration package is \$70 (inc. GST) for additional guests.

## Travel and Accommodation

Geraldton is 450km north of Perth on the west coast of Western Australia. Interstate conference participants can fly to Perth and then choose to fly, drive or catch a bus to Geraldton. Conference participants are encouraged to book early so they can secure their preferred travel option.

We are pleased to announce that Qantas has been appointed official airline for The Native Title Conference 2002. A special conference fare has been negotiated for conference participants — a discount of up to 40 percent off the economy fare (excluding taxes), subject to availability in the Group Class.

### **To take advantage of these great fares:**

Contact the Qantas Association Sales 1800 684 880, toll free anywhere in Australia, and quote the Association Profile Number — 2932153, destination and date of the conference when making your reservation.

*The discount is available for domestic travel within Australia only and is subject to payment and ticketing conditions. International delegates can contact their local Qantas office for the best available fare.*

It may be useful to make inquiries regarding fly/drive packages offered by Qantas when booking your airfares.

Flights from Perth to Geraldton are available through Sky West. A special fare has been negotiated for conference participants.

### **To take advantage of this fare:**

Contact either Sky West's regional office on 131300 or the Perth office on 08 9478 9999, and mention the special group booking code –

YTGRP20 and say you are travelling to the conference organised by Yamatji Land and Sea Council.

For other car hire and bus information, contact the Perth Convention Bureau on 08 9324 3355.

### **Extend your stay**

Geraldton is a short drive from the Kalbarri Gorges or a boat trip from the Abrohlos Islands. If you are thinking of staying for a weekend after the conference, September is also the time of year to enjoy the wild flowers of the Murchison, or take a bus trip to see the dolphins of Monkey Mia.

### **Accommodation**

Conference participants attending the main conference program are advised that the Ocean Centre Hotel is the most conveniently located accommodation. Those conference participants attending the NTRB staff workshops may prefer to stay at hotels located closer to those workshops – refer to the specific workshop for more information. We have secured special rates and reserved rooms for conference participants. All accommodation bookings for NTRB staff and all other delegates must go through the Conference Coordinator, Natalie Barton 08 9964 5645.

## Registration

Participants are strongly recommended to register as early as possible as this is the peak native title event for the year and places are limited. Registrations close on Friday 23 August 2002.

### **Registration check-in times**

The Registration desk at the conference will be open as follows:

Tuesday 3 September  
8:00am – 9:00am  
Foyer, Queens Park Theatre  
Wednesday 4 September  
8:00am – 9:00am  
Foyer, Queens Park Theatre

### **Cancellation policy**

Cancellations of registration must be made in writing to the Native Title Research Unit, AIATSIS. A refund of 50 percent off the registration fee will be made on or before 31 July 2002. No refund will be made after 31 July 2002.

Cancellation of any other aspect of the conference must be made in writing to Natalie Barton at Yamatji Land and Sea Council. Any available refunds will then be arranged.

### **For more information contact**

Natalie Barton  
Conference Coordinator  
Phone: 08 9964 5645 or 0414 936 058  
Fax: 08 9964 5646  
nbarton@yamatji.org.au

Yamatji Land & Sea Council  
PO Box 2119  
GERALDTON WA 6530

### **For registration contact**

Sarah Arkley  
Phone: 02 6246 1161  
Fax: 02 6249 7714  
ntru@aiatsis.gov.au

NTRU, AIATSIS  
GPO Box 553  
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### **Additional sponsorship**

