



Sunset beyond the river gums on the Murray River, VIC. Credit: Jessica Weir

REVIEW OF THE ROLES & FUNCTIONS OF NATIVE TITLE ORGANISATIONS

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It is now 20 years since the *Native Title Act* was introduced and established the regulatory and legal context for the operation of native title organisations across Australia. Since this time, a number of significant changes have occurred, impacting the context in which these organisations operate. Perhaps most significantly, over 100 native title determinations have now been achieved, with a corresponding number of registered native title bodies corporate established.

The growth in the number of determinations and several other changes with associated implications for the evolving needs of native title holders has created a situation in which it is now timely to assess the roles and

functions of native title organisations. Accordingly, the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) has initiated a Review to address these matters.

Specifically, the Review has been designed to ensure that native title representative bodies and native title service providers continue to meet the evolving needs of the system and are well positioned to respond to the needs of native title holders after claims have been resolved.

Deloitte Access Economics has been contracted to undertake the Review and is being assisted in this task by a Reference Group, selected by the Minister to provide guidance and sector

specific insights. The Review Team is led by Dr Ric Simes and includes Bill Gray AM, Dr Jeff Harmer AO, Roland Breckwoldt and Deloitte staff. The Review will be conducted and concluded in the calendar year of 2013.

In order to inform the Review's finding, extensive public engagement will be undertaken. This public engagement will primarily be based on submissions made in response to a public discussion paper, scheduled for release in June, which will outline the issues being considered in the Review. The Review's success will depend in large part on the strength of the submissions, making it essential that interested parties engage in this process.

Further details of the Review, including the Review's Terms of Reference and information on the Reference Group, are available at:

www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/indigenous-australians/programs-services/native-title-organisations-review-0