

**5 August 2004**

**Mr Jonathan Curtis  
Secretary  
Parliamentary Joint Committee on  
Native Title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Fund  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600**

Dear Jonathan

**Parliamentary Joint Committee Inquiry into Native Title Representative Bodies**

I am pleased to forward the National Native Title Tribunal's submission to the above inquiry.

The Tribunal works closely with Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRBs) to assist their Indigenous clients to resolve native title applications through mediation and to make various types of agreements that recognise all parties' interests in land and waters.

The Tribunal believes that NTRBs are a fundamental component of the native title system and are vital in providing Indigenous people with a means to establish their substantive rights and to exercise their procedural rights under the Act.

The Tribunal has a keen interest in the proceedings of this inquiry. Should you have any questions regarding our submission or wish to arrange for the Tribunal to address the committee, please contact me on (08) 9268 7259.

Yours sincerely

**Marian Schoen  
Acting Registrar**

**Attachment**