



Ref: NP/ILIC

Mr Peter Hallahan
Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Hallahan,

NATIVE TITLE AMENDMENT BILL 2009

Thank you for the invitation of the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs to provide submissions in relation to the *Native Title Amendment Bill 2009* (the Bill).

The Law Council of Australia is the peak body for the Australian legal profession, representing around 60,000 lawyers through the State and Territory Law Societies and Bar Associations and the Large Law Firm Group Ltd. The Law Council speaks for the profession on a range of issues, including matters affecting the legal rights of Indigenous Australians.

The Bill has been considered by the Law Council's Indigenous Legal Issues Committee, which is comprised of legal experts in a range of disciplines including native title. On the basis of that Committee's advice, the Law Council supports the amendments proposed in the Bill. The Bill will establish a broader, more flexible approach to the settlement of native title claims, which is welcomed by the Law Council.

If the Senate Committee has specific concerns about the Bill, the Law Council would be pleased to consider and respond to any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Grant
Secretary-General

14 April 2009