



12 February 2013

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of
Change*

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Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via Email: atsia.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

Supplementary Submission to the House Standing Committee Inquiry into the Native Title Amendment Bill 2012

The National Native Title Council (NNTC) wishes to provide supplementary comments following the House Standing Committee Inquiry hearing into the Native Title Amendment Bill 2012 held in Redfern on Friday 8 February 2013.

The NNTC wishes to provide clarification to comments made towards the end of the hearing whereby Mr Frank Russo, Deputy Registrar of the National Native Title Tribunal, stated that *"since the 1998 amendments when the ILUA provisions came into effect, we have had over 720 ILUAs registered. Only three ILUAs have not been accepted for registration, none of which, I believe, were certified ILUAs; they were all authorised ILUAs. So material had been supplied to the registrar of the tribunal with respect to them, but certainly ... with respect to certified ILUAs, none of them have been prevented from being registered, but the objection process allows a platform for discussion between the objector and the native title party to that particular ILUA."*

The NNTC wishes to point out that as there has been no successful objection to a certified ILUA points to the merit in the proposal to amend the Act so as to remove objection to certified ILUAs. Such a course will not unfairly disadvantage any stakeholder but it will significantly expedite the certified ILUA registration process to the benefit of both native title parties and proponents.

The NNTC also notes that certain individuals from a private law firm made a number of allegations questioning the integrity of the actions of unspecified NTRBs particularly in relation to the certification of ILUAs. As noted by the NNTC representative at the hearing the fact that these individuals declined to particularise their allegations makes any response to them impossible. In the event that some particularity is provided the NNTC would be glad to provide a response. If not the NNTC believes that the Committee should attach no weight to the allegations by these individuals or any inferences that were attempted to be drawn from them.

The NNTC believes that the representations by those individuals draw into focus the need to examine the issue of consumer protection as highlighted on page 14 of the NNTC submission, provided in conjunction with Native Title Services Victoria.

Yours sincerely

Brian Wyatt
Chief Executive Officer