



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

17 January 2007

Our Ref: 05-043-01-0001 AH/SB

Senate Legal & Constitutional Affairs Committee
C/- legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister,

NATIVE TITLE AMENDMENT BILL (NTAB) 2006

The WA Local Government Association (WALGA) has reviewed the *NTAB 2006* and provides the following general comments for your consideration.

Firstly, I would like to commend the Government for initiating amendments to improve the performance of the Native Title System. The current framework is complex, costly and time consuming. Changes to the system enabling claims to be dealt with more expeditiously are welcomed.

With respect to the specific schedules of the Bill I advise:-

Schedule 1

Supported. Ensuring the capacity of representative bodies to adequately perform, the required functions are imperative if the system is to function effectively and in a timely manner.

Schedule 2

Supported. The Association believes the amendments contained in *Schedule 2* will have significant impact in reducing the delays and duplication inherent in the current framework.

Schedule 3

No comment.

Schedule 4

Strongly supported. Increased assistance and funding will facilitate the development of land use agreements and expedite the resolution of Native Title.

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The Voice of Local Government



Yours sincerely

Cr W (Bill) Mitchell JP
President