



Australian Government

National Indigenous Australians Agency

The Senate
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

To whom it may concern

I wish to respond to evidence heard by the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee (the Committee) which the Committee has identified as adversely reflecting on me. These comments were made about me by a witness appearing before the Committee during a public hearing in Kalgoorlie on 11 March 2020. I note the hearing was conducted as part of the Committee's inquiry into the Native Title Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.

The Australian Government makes funding available to a national network of native title representative bodies and services providers. It is a matter for native title claimants, claim groups and native title holders to decide whether to engage these organisations to assist and represent them in relation to native title matters, as provided in Part 11 of the *Native Title Act 1993*. I note a number of native title groups in the Goldfields region have engaged Native Title Services Goldfields for this purpose.

With regard to the decisions leading to the replacement of Goldfields Land and Sea Council (GLSC) as the native title service provider for the Goldfields region, I note the GLSC availed itself of the opportunity to seek a review of related administrative decisions. On 27 November 2019, the Federal Court dismissed the GLSC's application for an injunction in the matter of Goldfields Land and Sea Council Aboriginal Corporation v Minister for Indigenous Affairs [2019] FCA 2010. The full transcript of the court's judgement is available on Federal Court website (File number: WAD 243 of 2019).

At all times I endeavour to conduct myself in a manner consistent with the professional standards expected of Commonwealth public servants and as required by the Code of Conduct and Values described in the *Public Service Act 1999*. I personally hold myself to the highest standards of professional conduct, probity and integrity and reject any imputation to the contrary.

Yours sincerely

Dr Wayne Beswick
Branch Manager – Land
Economic Policy and Programs

5 June 2020