



## Native Title roundtable: charting a course for future reform

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs is holding a roundtable hearing as part of its inquiry into the Native Title Amendment Bill 2012. The hearing will include representatives of the National Native Title Council, the Human Rights Commission, Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation, the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, the Minerals Council of Australia, the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies, Fortescue Metals, the National Farmers Federation and a range of other native title experts and stakeholders.

The Chair of the Committee, Mr Shayne Neumann MP, said 'this is a rare opportunity to have such a range of organisations at the table together to discuss the current measures to improve the Native Title process. The Committee will take this opportunity to have a discussion about how the native title process can be reformed for the future for the betterment of all who seek to enjoy rights and interests over land.'

The Native Title Amendment Bill 2012 reforms three areas of the Native Title Act:

- it clarifies the meaning of negotiating in 'good faith' and makes associated amendments to the 'right to negotiate' provisions
- it allows parties to agree to set aside the historical extinguishment of native title in areas set aside for the preservation of the natural environment, such as parks and reserves, and
- it broadens the scope and streamlines processes for voluntary Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs).

The roundtable hearing will be held on **Friday 8 February 2013**, at the National Centre for Indigenous Excellence in Redfern, Sydney. The Committee will be seeking evidence on:

- whether a sensible balance has been struck in the Bill between the views of various stakeholders, and
- proposals for future reform of the Native Title process.

### Program

10.00am – 12.15pm	The Native Title Amendment Bill 2012
12.15pm – 1.00pm	Lunch
1.00pm – 3.00pm	Future reform of the Native Title process

The hearing will be broadcast live via: <http://www.aph.gov.au/live>.

For more information about the inquiry, visit the Committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/nativetitle](http://www.aph.gov.au/nativetitle) or contact the committee secretariat on **(02) 6277 4559**.

Submissions to the inquiry will be available on the Committee's website from 12:30pm on Thursday 7 February 2013.

**For media comment**, please contact the Committee Chair Mr Shayne Neumann on (07) 3201 5300. **For background information**, contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 62774559 or [atsia.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:atsia.reps@aph.gov.au)