

**Parliamentary Joint Committee on  
Native Title and the Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander Land Fund**

***OPERATION OF THE NATIVE TITLE ACT***

**Inquiry Into The Effectiveness Of  
The National Native Title Tribunal**

**Submission No:8**

**Mr David Wragge**

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# CENTRAL QUEENSLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



Maureen Weeks  
Secretary,  
Parliamentary Joint Committee on  
Native Title and the Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander Land Fund

Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Weeks,

I refer to your letter of 11 September, 2002 in relation to the inquiry into the effectiveness of the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) and offer the following comments :

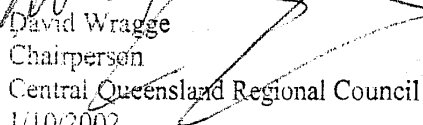
. I believe the NNTT is a duplication of resources and efforts. Funds allocated to maintain and administer the Tribunal could be used to strengthen and streamline Native Title Representative Bodies or to support Traditional Owners groups (TO).

. The courts and the State's mechanisms could be used to settle claims or disputes involving native title. The tribunal is seen as an additional layer traditional group have to contend with.

. There is a perception among the Indigenous Community that existing Native Title mechanisms are time consuming and very costly particularly in terms of legal fees. Expensive litigation processes are often fruitless and do not lead to actual acquisition and development of land.

. The NNTT is seen to be ineffective in terms of achievements and outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

  
David Wragge  
Chairperson  
Central Queensland Regional Council  
1/10/2002

