



# INFORMATION SHEET



The Indigenous Native Title Sector has been developing rapidly in recent times, and with more native title claims being resolved every day, it is time to ensure all parts of our sector are able to become properly involved in national dialogues, discussions and debates on the issues that affect us.

The native title system is creating a diverse range of body corporates, who have the ultimate responsibility to care for country and protect heritage and culture. The strength of such a diverse sector needs to be harnessed to provide a robust and collective voice that can shape the future of the sector. With over 300 native title claims still in the system the National Native Title Council (NNTC) is a flexible vehicle that can provide a space for every voice to be heard.

To assist this, the NNTC has changed its constitution to allow Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) and Traditional Owner Corporations (TOCs) to become members.

These changes, which provide dedicated places on the Board for PBC / TOC representatives, will enable all parts of the Indigenous Native Title Sector to come together to discuss major issues, set agendas and most importantly, map and carry out the action needed to tackle the big issues.

## Who is the NNTC

Originally formed as an alliance of Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRBs) and Native Title Service Providers (NTSPs), the NNTC was formed because there was no national voice representing the interests of native title and Traditional Owners.

In 2005, NTRB and NTSP CEOs started talking about ways to collaborate on issues that affected everyone across the country. While it started informally, the NNTC was incorporated in 2006 as a Company Limited by Guarantee. The NNTC is a public benevolent institution and has deductible gift recipient status.



The NNTC will establish a Council of members (the 'Council') which is a forum where representatives from all our members can meet to work through and discuss major

issues and develop strategies on how these issues should be worked through. PBCs and TOCs now have an opportunity to join the NNTC and participate in the national Council of our members.

## What does the NNTC do?

The main aim of the NNTC is to enable its members to collaborate, share information and tackle issues of national significance. It is an agenda setting, policy development and strategy forum which gives its members, through working together, a great deal of authority and influence.

Working at the national level, the NNTC has worked hard to break down barriers with Governments and Industry, to advocate for a better system and to improve the opportunities in native title for claimants and holders alike.

Some of the issues the NNTC has worked hard on over many years have been reform of the Native Title Act, clarifying the tax status of native title payments, land and tenure reform, the realisation of reform, the realisation of economic opportunities from native title, resources for Traditional Owner groups following determinations and many other things.

For further information on the NNTC and membership contact:

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The NNTC also develops national positions from its members on big policy issues. It has played a key role in developing these agendas by having membership on key Committees and Working Groups to make sure the interests of native title groups are heard and met.



The NNTC routinely develops submissions to key Government processes, submissions that are put together with the full input of members. This enables members to have their views heard on issues that matter to them even when they don't have the capacity to develop a submission themselves.

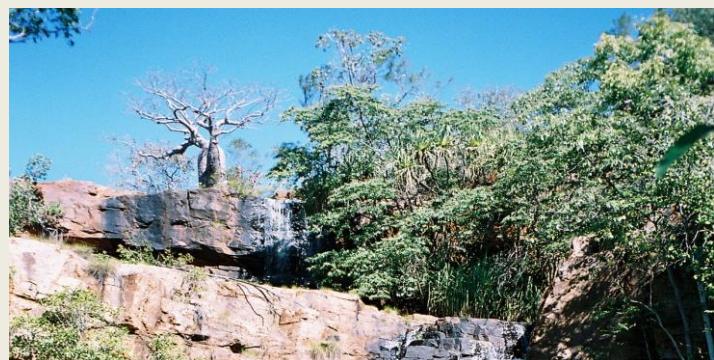
The NNTC has put in a lot of effort to develop good relationships with Industry parties, Business groups, Tertiary institutions and Government. Because of this, the NNTC has an excellent network across key sectors which provide opportunities for members and strengthen the NNTCs efforts in seeking positive reform.

### **NNTC Membership and Board of Directors**

The changes to the constitution create a new member class that will allow PBCs and TOCs to join. This means there will be two member classes, one for PBCs and TOCs and one for NTRBs and NTSPs.

This is a standard structure for peak bodies with different types of organisations in its membership and it will allow for a lot of flexibility in how the organisation is managed, with meetings able to be tailored for each member class and specific issues in addition to meetings of the Council of members for representatives from all NNTC members.

The structure of the Board of Directors has now changed with the NNTC having 8 Directors, 4 from the NTRB/NTSP member class and 4 from the PBC/TOC member class. This ensures that the Board represents the interests of all members of the NNTC.



***Join the NNTC today to help shape a strong organisation into the future***

### **What are the Benefits of NNTC Membership**

The main benefit of NNTC membership is that it provides a coordinated forum for members to meet and work together on issues of national significance.

Coming together in a forum of members allows for strong discussion on issues that affect members, but more importantly, for strong solutions and agendas to be developed and pursued.

It also allows members to have influence beyond what their individual strength might be, both by virtue of the relationships the NNTC has worked hard to develop and the fact that there is more strength in numbers. The NNTC is an evolving organisation and we need PBCs and TOCs to help shape our future.

Over the years, the successes of the NNTC have been clear and tangible, with positive and progressive policy agendas being pursued and secured. To that end, the NNTC provides an excellent opportunity for PBCs and TOCs to take part in and shape the national agenda.