

Western Australia

A group of Aboriginal native title claimants encompassing the Williams and Riley families has signed a historic agreement with a farmer to allow the development of a gypsum mine in the Lake Chinocup nature reserve in WA's south-west. Farmer Paul Shiner made the deal with the Noongar Land Council representing the group and it is believed to be the first agreement of its kind in Australia involving farmers and crown land (*WA, 8 June, p6*)*

AMENDMENTS

Northern Territory

It has been suggested that Senator Brian Harradine may disallow the Northern Territory's proposed native title regime. The regime that seeks to replace certain provisions of the NTA, has been scrutinised by the Senate after the Commonwealth Attorney-General, the Hon. Daryl Williams, tabled a declaration that the legislation complies with the requirements of the NTA. This was the first state-based native title regime to come before the Commonwealth Parliament. (*FinR, 27 May, p1*)

Senator Brian Harradine decided not to give notice at this stage to disallow the Northern Territory alternative negotiations scheme because he did not wish to interfere with or preempt the outcome of current discussions between stakeholders. The Northern Territory Government, the Central Land Council and the Northern Land Council are all involved in the discussions. (*Senator Harradine, Media Release, 27 May*)*

ACT

The ACT Government has tabled the Native Title Amendment Bill 1999 in the ACT Legislative Assembly. Debate on the Bill has been deferred. The Bill seeks to enact the validation and extinguishment provisions of the *Native Title Amendment Act 1998* in the ACT particularly the NSW list of extinguishing tenures in the Commonwealth Act that relate to the ACT. (*ANTar Action Alert, 30 June*)