

New Victorian Alternative Settlements Framework

This information is extracted from a Victorian Government media release.

On Thursday, 04 June 2009 at the Annual Native Title Conference Deputy Premier and Attorney-General Rob Hulls announced its intention to implement a new way of settling native title claims which would save taxpayers money and lead to better outcomes for Indigenous communities.

Under the new Victorian settlements framework, traditional owner groups could choose to negotiate directly with the state to settle their native title claim rather than go through the courts. It is expected that the new framework will result in a quicker resolution of claims, stronger partnerships with Indigenous Victorians and better outcomes including increased economic opportunities.

Traditional owner groups asserting native title rights and interests would still need to demonstrate their connection to their predecessors at the time Victoria was settled, that they were an inclusive group representative of all traditional owners for the area, and that they had sufficient organisational capacity.

The final step in the development and implementation of the framework is securing funding from the Commonwealth Government.

Further information about the framework is available from the Department of Justice, Victoria website: <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/DOJ+Internet/Home/Your+Rights/Indigenous+Victorians/Native+Title/USTICE+-+The+Native+Title+Settlement+Framework>

AIATSIS and NNTT Native TitleVision

Native TitleVision, produced by staff of the geospatial unit of the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT), gives registered users access to an interactive map of Australia with layers of information relevant to native title, such as ILUAs, mining leases, or determinations.

This June, the NNTT added the 1:250,000 map sheet boundaries to its Native TitleVision program. These boundaries, or grid references, are useful in locating native title claims. MURA, the AIATSIS online catalogue, includes these grid references for most of the items held in the Library and the Audiovisual Archive.

Once a user registers with the NNTT for access to Native TitleVision, it will be possible to get the 1:250,000 grid references for any claim on the NNTT maps. These can then be used to query the AIATSIS catalogue. For example, if a claim in the Northern Territory is within the SF53-06 area, a search on MURA using that exact term will show all of the print and audiovisual materials held at AIATSIS from that grid area. For information on how to register for Native TitleVision, enter the NNTT website at <http://www.nntt.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>, scroll down to "Quick links" and click on Native TitleVision now available.

