



NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE CONFERENCE 2016...

strong **culture**, strong **country**, strong **future**

Registrations now open

SHIANE LOVELL Conference Manager AIATSIS

THE ANNUAL NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE CONFERENCE 2016 WILL BE CO-convened by AIATSIS and the Northern Land Council (NLC), on the traditional lands of the Larrakia people in Darwin, Northern Territory. The conference will be held at The Darwin Convention Centre from Wednesday 1 to Friday 3 June 2016.

The conference is a significant event for the native title sector in Australia and remains a key forum for discussion of native title policy and practice. At the 2015 conference in Port Douglas, Queensland, 830 delegates attended over three days, including over 180 speakers.

The conference brings together people affected by the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) either as native title claimants and holders, their Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs), State and Commonwealth government agencies, native title representative bodies and service providers (NTRB/NTSPs), politicians, academics and the Courts. As it enters the post-determination era of native title, the conference also attracts practitioners, policy makers and researchers engaged in managing Indigenous lands and seas for a range of social, cultural, economic and environmental outcomes.

The conference promotes public debate about native title and Indigenous peoples' interests in land and waters; fosters knowledge acquisition in this dynamic area of native title law, agreement making and natural resource management, and provides an opportunity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to share information and experiences.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

This year's title '**strong country, strong culture, strong future**' is reflected in the following themes:

- Being on country
- Practising and learning culture
- Holding title; being sovereign
- Community and commerce
- Just recognition; just settlement

*Pre conference
National PBC meeting*

A National PBC Meeting will be held on Tuesday 31st May (the day before the conference) at the Darwin Convention Centre. This meeting is open to PBC directors, members and staff only.

*DAY 1:
NTRB & PBC PROGRAM*

The conference begins with the NTRB and PBC Program on Wednesday 1 June. This program is for NTRB/NTSP and PBC staff, native title claimants and holders and Indigenous people only.

*DAY 2 & 3:
PUBLIC PROGRAM*

The public program is open to all delegates. This program includes keynote speeches, dialogue forums, workshops and papers.

AIATSIS and the NLC would like to thank everyone who submitted a proposal.

MABO LECTURE



We are pleased to announce that Melissa George, Chief Executive Officer of the North Australian Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance Ltd (NAILSMA) will present this year's Mabo Lecture.

Melissa George is a Wulgurukaba Traditional Owner with traditional connections to Magnetic Island and the greater Townsville region, Far North Queensland.

Melissa has a background in Cultural Heritage and Protected Area Management and as a saltwater woman is passionate about the environment, particularly focusing on critical issues relating to sea country and its management. She is actively involved in protecting and managing land and sea through the empowerment of traditional owners cultural lore and obligations to care for country.

The Mabo Lecture is a dedication to the late Eddie 'Koiki' Mabo, and the historic legacy of the Mabo case that established native title under Australian Law. The Mabo Lecture

aims to provide a contemporary commentary of native title issues in the context of Indigenous peoples' struggles for recognition and control over their country and their lives.

The inaugural Mabo Lecture was delivered by Noel Pearson at the 2001 National Native Title Conference which was held in Townsville. Since the 2003 National Native Title Conference, the Mabo Lecture has become an annual event. Past presenters of the Mabo Lecture are Noel Pearson (2001 and 2003), John Borrows (2004), Aden Ridgeway (2005), Galarrwuy Yunupingu (2006), Mick Dodson (2007), Joe Williams CJ (2008), Les Malezer (2009), Marcia Langton (2010), Kerry Arabena (2011), Neil Sterrit (2012), Professor Robert A Williams, JR (2013) Dr Wen-Chi Kung (2014) and Mick Gooda (2015).

INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE



The conference hosts international speakers who deliver keynote addresses relating to the international experience of native title, land rights and Indigenous justice issues. This year, Professor Taiaiake Alfred will deliver the international keynote.

Professor Taiaiake Alfred is Professor of Indigenous Governance

and Director of the IGov program at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. He specialises in studies of traditional governance, restoration of land-based cultural practices, and decolonisation strategies.

Taiaiake's current research examines the effects of environmental contamination on Indigenous cultural practices, with a focus on the Mohawk community of Akwesasne. He works with Indigenous communities to assess cultural injury due to contamination of the natural environment, and to design land-based cultural restoration plans.

The conference has seen many inspiration international speakers, including Dr Wen-Chi Kung (2014), Robert A. Williams, Jr (2013), Neil Sterrit (2012), Andrew Leach (2011), Lars-Anders Baer, Chief Judge Joe Williams (2008) and Professor Dr Erica Irene Daes (2004),

To register or for further information on the conference please visit our website:

www.aiatsis.gov.au/nntc2016

Contact us

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Co-CONVENORS



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