



If you are a native title practitioner or researcher and would like to contribute to the on-going native title podcast series, please contact the [ntru@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:ntru@aiatsis.gov.au)

## First Glance: Native title podcast

By Dora Bowles, Wiradjuri,  
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*A lot of people don't understand native title... but they do understand Country.*  
– Wynston Shovellor-Sesar

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Native title is often perceived as a technical and legal process that is far removed from the majority of Australia and largely inaccessible from a conceptual, social and policy perspective. Native title is a translation of Indigenous laws and customs and is at the intersection of a property and intellectual law system, access to resources and the control of community livelihoods amongst many other things. As a compromise and poor reflection of Indigenous connections to Country, native title can easily be confusing.

AIATSIS recently recorded an interview with Dr Virginia Marshall, a Wiradjuri woman, on her book, *Overturing Aquanullius: Securing Aboriginal Water Rights*.<sup>1</sup> Dr Marshall's research is deeply focused on the state of First Nations' water rights and the ability of our legal framework to recognise these rights. In the interview we discussed the current state of water legislation and policy, including the National Water Initiative and the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

In the interview, Dr Marshall called attention to how water policy has the potential to make a practical difference in the everyday lives of First Nations' people - if done right. The interview will become a podcast that provides an explanation of water rights, policy and legislation and demystifies some of the complexities of the Australian water system. Her interview offers insight and expertise to the intensifying politics of water.

As a part of the planned podcast series, AIATSIS also spoke to Emeritus Professor Nicolas Peterson. As the director of the National Centre for Native Title Anthropology, Professor Peterson broke down the often complicated role of anthropologists in native title claims. In the interview he shared his perspective on the relationship between claimants and anthropologists and the potential future of the discipline in the native title space.

The Native Title Research Unit (NTRU) has been producing a podcast series on emergent issues and reflections on both the technical and the lived processes of native title. This series is intended to act as easily-accessible online seminars on topical issues in the native title sector. The podcast is a series of interviews with practitioners working in native title and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy. We touch on areas including: the Australian First Nations' economy, land management, return of native title materials and what it takes to run a PBC. The interviews with Dr Marshall and Professor Peterson are just two of the discussions to be released as a part of the podcast series.

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<sup>1</sup> Marshall, V 2017, *Overturing Aquanullius: Securing Aboriginal Water Rights*, Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra.