

Queensland Government Native Title Work Procedures

Annexure 8.4

Queensland Native Title Representative Bodies and Areas

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Queensland Native Title representative bodies and areas

Introduction

Queensland is divided into five native title representative areas each of which is looked after by a native title representative body or a native title service delivery agency. In Queensland, there are three native title representative bodies (NTRBs) and two native title service delivery agencies (NTSDA).

| Representative area | Representative body | NTRB / NTSDA |
|--|---|--------------|
| Torres Strait Region | Torres Strait Regional Authority | NTRB |
| Cape York Region | Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation | NTRB |
| Gulf of Carpentaria Region | Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation | NTSDA |
| Northern Queensland Region | North Queensland Land Council Native Title Representative Body Aboriginal Corporation | NTRB |
| Southern and Western Queensland Region | Queensland South Native Title Services Limited | NTSDA |

What is a native title representative body?

A native title representative body ('NTRB') is a regional organisation, which represents Indigenous Australians in native title issues in a particular region.¹ A NTRB is determined by the Commonwealth Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, under the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* (NTA). The NTRB must give priority to the protection of the interests of native title holders and may carry out a number of different functions, which **include** -

¹ National Native Title Tribunal. 2000. 'List of Terms'. *Native Title Facts*. August.

- facilitation and assistance – research and prepare native title applications, assist registered native title bodies corporate, native title holders and persons who may hold native title in consultations, mediations, negotiations and proceedings in relation to native title applications, future acts, indigenous land use agreements, rights of access and any other matter relating to native title or to the operation of the NTA
- certification – certify, in writing, applications for registration of indigenous land use agreements or applications for determinations of native title, relating to areas of land or waters wholly or partly within the area in relation to the NTRB's area
- notification – to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable that notices that are given to the representative body and that relate to land or waters wholly or partly within the NTRB's area, are brought to the attention of any person who the NTRB is aware holds or may hold native title in relation to the land or waters, where the NTRB considers that the notices would be unlikely to come to the attention of the person by some other means
- agreement making – a NTRB may be a party to an indigenous land use agreement; etc.

A media release in 2001 from the Commonwealth Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs noted the following in relation to Native Title Representative Bodies -

'Aboriginal people...have a body to advocate their interest in the protection and recognition of native title rights... [G]overnment and industry...have a body with which they can deal in seeking to reach agreements...'²

What is a native title service delivery agency?

A native title service delivery agency (NTSDA) is an *alternate* to a NTRB and provides professional services to native title parties in a particular representative area in accordance with the NTA. A NTSDA is a private corporation and receives funding under the NTA from the Australian government to perform the majority of functions of a NTRB, and has the same obligations and powers in relation to those functions as a NTRB.

Contact details and representative area maps

QNTIME

Search QNTIME for contact details for Queensland's NTRBs and NTSDAs and to see the boundaries of the representative areas.

If you do not have access to QNTIME, please visit the National Native Title Tribunal website for information.

² Media Release by Senator John Herron, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. *Native Title Representative Body for Cape York*. Received by email 15 January 2001.