

It has been argued before the Federal Court that only some of the parties to the Yorta Yorta native title action can claim descent from the original owners of the contested Murray Valley land. Counsel for the Victorian Government Michael Wright challenged the claim by the Yorta Yorta people that their ancestors were the original owners of the land on the NSW/VIC border, at the time of white settlement. The Yorta Yorta people are claiming about 400 sq km of crown land, this includes state parks and forests along the Murray, Goulburn, Ovens and Edwards rivers. (*Age*, 5 August, pA2) Mr Wright suggested that the Government could show that last century various sub-groups held entitlement to use the land and water at issue. Therefore, native title did not reside with the Bangarang tribe, who is related to the Yorta Yorta, or any wider group. (*HS*, 5 August, p14)\*

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*A Practical Guide to Choosing Consultants for Native Title Claims*, by Paul Burke

*Native Title Newsletter* (published bi-monthly)

Our email address is: [ntru@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:ntru@aiatsis.gov.au).

*This newsletter was prepared by Lisa Strelein and Terie Williams*

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