

WA is now under native title claim much of it under multiple claim. The Premier added this highlights the need for a stronger registration test and amendments to the right to negotiate. (*ST*, 22 Feb, p7)

Mr Barker QC for the Mirriuwung and Gajerrong people argued in the Federal Court, the notion that East Kimberley Aboriginal people had to produce 'lost tribe' proposition before proving native title was wrong. (*WAus*, 31 Mar, p22)

South Australia

Aboriginal and civic leaders gathered in Port Adelaide to sign a document in support of native title and the Wik decision. The mayor Ms Johanna McLuskey said the Federal Government's 10-point plan would "promote a land grab" to the detriment of the Indigenous people. (*Ad*, 4 Feb, p10)

An attempt to stop construction of the Hindmarsh Island Bridge by Ngarrindjeri people is set for hearing in the High Court. (*WA*, 4 Feb, p24) The court will be asked to determine the right of the Commonwealth to make laws, which were to the detriment of Aborigines. This is regarded by some as a question critical to the Government's 10-point plan. (*Ad*, 4 Feb, p10)* The Australian people had unwittingly empowered the Federal government to pass racially discriminatory laws against indigenous Australians at the 1967 referendum, the Government told the High Court. (*SMH*, 7 Feb, p6)*

Victoria

Groups including the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Ethnic Communities Council and the Brotherhood of St Lawrence issued a joint statement condemning the Government's determination to push its 10-point plan through Parliament. They also called on Prime Minister John Howard to acknowledge the need for negotiation and cooperation, and ensure Crown land leased to pastoralists was not upgraded from leasehold to the equivalent of freehold title. (*HS*, 23 Mar, p16)

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