

## Native Title Conference 2012



# ECHOES OF MABO:

Honour and Determination

NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE CONFERENCE 2012

**By Jennifer Jones, Native Title Conference Manager, NTRU, AIATSIS.**

The annual National Native Title Conference is only weeks away and will be held at the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre from 4-6 June 2012. The conference will be co-convened by AIATSIS and the North Queensland Land Council on the lands of the traditional owners of the greater Townsville region.

Speakers that have been confirmed include:

- The Attorney General for Australia, the Hon. Nicola Roxon.
- Mr Neil Sterritt, one of the principal architects of the *Delgamuukw v Queen* Aboriginal title court case, which was decided by the Supreme Court of Canada in 1997.
- Mr Mick Gooda, Social Justice Commissioner.
- Professor Michael Dodson AM, Chairperson of AIATSIS.
- The representatives from native title representative bodies and service providers.
- Professor Marcia Langton.

The theme "Echoes of Mabo: Honour and Determination" was selected to honour and recognise the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Mabo* decision. In line with our theme, we have chosen the artwork of Alick Tipoti for our logo. Mr Tipoti is a Torres Strait Islander artist and is well known throughout the Townsville and Torres Strait Islands region.

The Townsville community is holding the Reconciliation Festival to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Mabo* decision. This festival will be held on the weekend prior to the conference. Part of this festival will be 'March along the Strand' on Saturday 2 June, where traditional games, food, performances and storytelling will take place. There will also be guest speakers and trade stalls. On Sunday 3 June, the community will hold a *Mabo* decision 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration ceremony at the Mabo monument, Victoria Bridge, Townsville. A program detailing the festivities can be found on our website. AIATSIS is proud to be part of these festival celebrations.

The conference will conclude with a dinner to be held at the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre. There will be entertainment from local Indigenous bands and great food. Don't forget to include the dinner when you register.

A reminder as well that Townsville will be very busy before and during the conference. It is strongly recommended you register for the conference as soon as possible. When you do register, please also book your accommodation. Our accommodation provider, In House Event Solutions has negotiated good prices for rooms throughout the city and you don't want to miss out!

For more information visit the conference website at: <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/ntru/NTC12.html>

## Forthcoming publication by the Native Title Research Unit

The NTRU has been preparing a special book for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Mabo* decision. *The Limits of Change: Mabo and Native Title 20 Years On*, edited by Toni Bauman and Lydia Glick, will be launched at the AIATSIS Native Title Conference in Townsville in June.

Introduced by Mick Dodson, the volume consists of 34 chapters by those who were close to the *Mabo* case, or the negotiations leading up to the enactment of the *Native Title Act*, or who for the past two decades have helped shape native title outcomes. The volume includes perspectives from native title claimants and holders, community, political and corporate leaders, legal practitioners, researchers and government administrators. To purchase this book please email [lydia.glick@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:lydia.glick@aiatsis.gov.au). All early orders for the book (before 31 May) will be sold at a discounted price of \$20.00.