

# strong culture, strong

## NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY 1–FRIDAY 3 JUNE 2016

SHIANE LOVELL Conference Manager AIATSIS

**W**E ARE PLEASED TO announce the National Native Title Conference 2016 'strong country, strong culture' will be co-convened by AIATSIS and the Northern Land Council (NLC), hosted by the Larrakia people on their traditional lands in Darwin, Northern Territory.

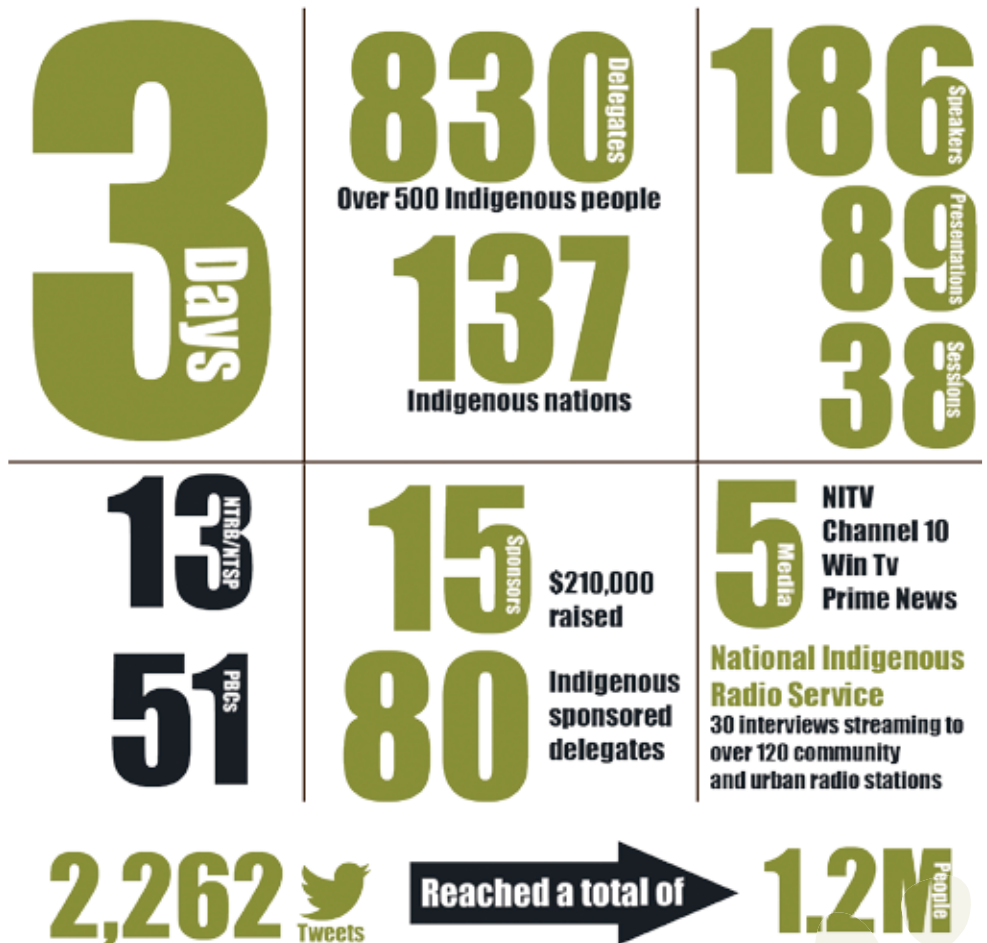
The conference will be held at The Darwin Convention Centre from **Wednesday 1 – Friday 3 June 2016**.

The National Native Title Conference seeks to highlight the challenges and opportunities of native title in the broader context of Indigenous people's aspirations for their lands, waters and communities. The conference aims to promote public debate, build networks, and foster knowledge sharing between native title holders and other parties. It is the leading annual event for professional development for NTRB/NTSP staff, government bodies, native title practitioners and academics.

Each conference is strongly supported by native title representative bodies, native title claimants and holders, their legal counsel, native title practitioners such as anthropologists, government institutions and departments, politicians, judges, academics and others.

The 2015 Conference attracted a record number of participants, including Indigenous leaders, government ministers and community organisations from across Australia.

### A quick snap shot National Native Title Conference 2015 Leadership, legacy and opportunity



# country, strong future

## 2016 Conference Themes

**T**HE 2016 CONFERENCE WILL COMPRISE ONE DAY OF CLOSED WORKSHOPS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THEIR NATIVE title representative bodies (NTRB and PBC Day) followed by a two-day public program. The dynamic cultural program will include a Welcome to Country ceremony and closing dinner.

The 2016 conference 'strong culture, strong country, strong future', is reflected in the following themes:

### Being on country

- Having access to opportunities, resources and infrastructure to be back on land and sea country is a critical part of strengthening culture as well as health and wellbeing. *Being of Country* focuses on pathways for being back on country and the multiple ways in which traditional owners are reasserting culture and community.

### Practising and learning culture

- Reconnecting younger generations with the knowledges of senior elders is a key priority for many traditional owner groups. *Practising and learning culture* focuses on cultural transmission and practice as not only a key native title right but also a way of strengthening connection to family and country.

### Holding title; being sovereign

- As we move into the post-determination era questions are being asked about what holding native title means in the context of competing legal and policy regimes. Holding title; being sovereign is about strengthening the ability of traditional owners to assert their rights and interests through everyday practice.

### Community and commerce

- Native title is both a commercial opportunity and a non-commercial bundle of rights. An emerging challenge is how commercial opportunities can be pursued in a way that is consistent with traditional owner priorities and aspirations. *Community and commerce* focuses on the innovations that traditional owners have pursued in order to bring economic benefit to their communities.

### Just recognition; just settlement

- As momentum builds toward a referendum on constitutional recognition, Indigenous peoples are also seeking local and regional recognition of their cultural, social and economic aspirations. *Just recognition; just settlement* explores how First Nations and the Australian people can reach a just settlement and forge a respectful coexistence.

## We are now calling for papers

Proposals for papers, panels, workshops, dialogue forums and Indigenous Talking Circles are invited for consideration by the conference convenors.

If you would like to submit a proposal to present at the National Native Title Conference 2016, please complete our 'call for papers' application which can be found on the AIATSIS website [www.aiatsis.gov.au](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au)

Please send your completed application to AIATSIS no later than Tuesday 1 March.

For more information please contact:

Shiane Lovell  
Conference Manager  
P: 02 6246 1108  
E: [Shiane.Lovell@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:Shiane.Lovell@aiatsis.gov.au)



**AIATSIS**  
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL  
AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES

