

South Australian Indigenous Land Use Agreement Statewide Negotiations

MEETING PROTOCOL

Between the:-

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM)

South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF)

South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME)

South Australian Fishing Industry Council (SAFIC)

Seafood Council

Local Government Association (LGA) (SA)

The South Australian Government (State)

This meeting protocol was developed by the SA ILUA Statewide negotiating parties and accepted by the Main Table in December 2001 and amended in December 2004, January 2006 and June 2006

SA Indigenous Land Use Agreement Statewide Negotiations

Background	3
Tone of the discussions	4
Effect of the discussions	4
Scope of the discussions	4
Status of parties	4
Form of discussions and steps	5
What the discussions will produce	6
Teams	6
Issues for discussion	7
Difficult issues, disputes, impasses	7
Confidentiality, public information, openness, consultation	7
Funding and resources	7
Timing	8
National Native Title Tribunal	8
Appendix 1 Priority Issues identified at the Main Table	9
Appendix 2 Terminology	10
Appendix 3 Statements from Parties with Relationship To Land	12

MEETING PROTOCOL

Between the:-

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM)
South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF)
South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME)
South Australian Fishing Industry Council (SAFIC)
Seafood Council
Local Government Association (LGA) (SA)
The South Australian Government (State)

Background

- 1) The ALRM is the Representative Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander Body (under the NTA) for native title claims in South Australia.
- 2) The SAFF represents the interests of farmers and pastoralists in the State.
- 3) The SACOME represents the interests of the mining and petroleum industries in the State.
- 4) The SAFIC and Seafood Council (SA) represent the interests of the fishing industry in the State.
- 5) The LGA represents the interest of Local Councils in the State.
- 6) In this protocol the ALRM, SAFF, SACOME, SAFIC, SCSA, LGA and the State are called **the parties**.
- 7) Each of the parties and their constituents have a strong, long-term relationship to land, and an interest in how it is used and enjoyed now, and how future generations use and enjoy it.
- 8) Each of the parties has developed a statement of the relationship that it and its constituent have to land for the purposes of building a shared understanding about these relationships to land. Those statements are included in Appendix 3 to this protocol.
- 9) Each party recognises and respects the relationship of the other parties to land and aims in the ILUA negotiations to reach agreements that take those relationships into account.
- 10) For some time, officers of the parties¹ have held formal and informal meetings to discuss the best approach to resolve native title issues in South Australia. The parties agree that, since the amendments to the NTA in 1998, it is worth trying to resolve these issues by holding discussions aimed at achieving a number of ILUAs that apply to farmers, pastoralists, explorers and miners, fishers, local government, native title claimants, the State and others who occupy, work, use or have access to land and water covered by native title claims.
- 11) This protocol sets out the structure of the discussions, and the rules governing them, so that they will proceed in an orderly, respectful and focussed way.
- 12) The parties agree to proceed on the basis of the protocol, and to comply with it.
- 13) The parties can agree to change what is in this protocol at any time.
- 14) This protocol uses a number of technical terms and acronyms. Some are explained above. Others are set out in Appendix 2 at the back of this protocol.

¹ SAFF, SACOME, the State Government and ALRM have been meeting since 2000 and were joined by LGA, SAFIC and the SCSA in 2003

Tone of the discussions

- 15) The parties have established a good working relationship in past discussions about native title. They want to build on this relationship and carry out these ILUA discussions in the same atmosphere of mutual respect, courtesy, understanding and trust.
- 16) Each Party will enter into negotiations with an open mind and genuine desire to reach agreement. Discussions at the negotiation table will be inclusive to all parties. If during negotiations a party is requested and agrees to provide documents to the other parties, it will do so promptly and without exclusion.

Effect of the discussions

- 17) The parties have entered into the discussions voluntarily and willingly.
- 18) They will discuss and explore issues openly, and will try to see the discussions through to their agreed conclusion.
- 19) However, any of the parties may suspend its participation in, or withdraw from, the discussions at any time.
- 20) If a party -
 - a) does not comply with this protocol,
 - b) suspends its participation in the discussions,
 - c) withdraws from the discussions,none of the other parties has a claim against that party as a result.
- 21) The parties do not intend to create legal relations between them by entering into or continuing discussions. Anything said, or any position taken, by a party is "without prejudice" to any position to be taken by the party in any other forum.

Scope of the discussions

- 22) To start with, the discussions will cover issues relating to the following land and water covered by registered native title claims in South Australia:
- 23) Land covered by pastoral leases;
 - a) National parks, conservation parks, regional reserves and other reserves;
 - b) Other Crown land and land tenures which the parties agree should be included.
 - c) and any other native title areas where the parties agree.
- 24) The sea, inland, inshore or offshore waters.

Status of parties

- 24) Each of the parties has a number of constituents. The parties work for those constituents. The constituents establish the policy and procedures under which the parties operate. The parties must consult their constituents from time to time in accordance with their requirements and traditional or preferred practices. This might include meetings with constituents in particular places or groupings.
- 25) During the discussions, the parties will make reasonable allowances for the requirements that each of them will have to consult with and involve their constituents from time to time.

SA Indigenous Land Use Agreement Statewide Negotiations

- 26) The parties understand that there are other groups with an interest in the native title claims who will know about these discussions. The parties may agree to invite such groups to be part of the discussions.
- 27) The parties represent their constituents and will bring to the discussions as much authority as possible to deal with and reach agreement on issues. However, they recognise that each of them may have limits on that authority and may need to refer points to their constituents for decision or guidance.
- 28) The representative structure that sits behind ALRM is based upon the requirements of the *Native Title Act 1993*. Native Title Management Committees (NTMCs) are appointed by the native title claimant groups to manage their respective claims, as part of the certification process required to be undertaken by ALRM. NTMCs have the authority to speak for and make decisions on native title matters. The Congress of NTMCs (Congress) comprises all NTMCs in South Australia. Congress has formed a smaller 'Working Group' of two representatives from each NTMC to discuss and decide relevant native title matters within the limits authorised by Congress. The Congress and Working Group and individual NTMCs are the 'constituents' that the ALRM is not only obliged to consult, but to act in accordance with instructions they give.

Form of discussions and steps

- 29) The parties understand that -
 - a) there are a number of issues relating to native title that are common to all or many native title claims,
 - b) their constituents need to be directly involved in decision making,
 - c) their constituents differ widely in their level of understanding of native title issues, and of the technicalities involved in resolving them,
 - d) some sensitive issues can only be discussed or decided on by land users and others directly involved at the local level, not by people outside the local area.
- 30) Recognising this, the parties want to hold discussions at a number of levels, sometimes with them occurring at more than one level at a time.
- 31) At one level, there will be direct discussions between the parties to identify and agree issues. Generally, these meetings will be held in Adelaide. Sometimes, all the parties' teams will meet as a group to review progress, ratify and confirm what has been agreed, and confirm the next steps. These are called **Main Table meetings**. The Main Table has developed a strategic planning and reporting process.
- 32) More often, all or some of the parties' team members will meet less formally to discuss and develop particular issues. These are called **Side Table meetings**. No party has to be represented at side table meetings, but any party may be represented if it wishes. Side Tables have been convened to address specific sector issues such as pastoral, minerals exploration, fishing and aquaculture, local government, parks and outback areas. Issues based side tables have also been convened to address heritage and relationship to land and water.
- 33) The parties may agree to an independent chair to assist with the discussions.
- 34) There are too many issues to be discussed all at once. For convenience, the parties will try to deal with issues - or closely related groups of issues - one by one. Once they have discussed an issue or related group of issues, they will record the result and put it to one side while they deal with other issues. However, the parties recognise that resolving native title issues will need an intertwined package of measures that depend on each other. Therefore, once all the issues are resolved individually, the parties will review how they fit together as a package before accepting the total package. Unless the parties agree to implement one element of the package prior to assessing the whole package, the parties will be bound only when they have agreed to the whole package.
- 35) The parties may agree to discuss particular issues on the ground in one region, with an aim of gaining practical experience. The parties have agreed to participate in a series of such discussions,

SA Indigenous Land Use Agreement Statewide Negotiations

referred to as the **Pilot ILUA Negotiations**. Each Pilot ILUA Negotiation involves one or more specific native title group/s.

- 36) The aim of the Side Tables is to develop sector specific ILUA templates/models covering those issues referred to in Appendix 1 and tested out on the ground in geographic areas in Pilot ILUA Negotiations. With the consent of relevant parties, in accordance with relevant decision making processes, the principles of template ILUAs can be applied more broadly in the negotiation process.
- 37) At another level, all or some of the parties will meet their constituents to explain the process to them, to seek their directions on what needs to be done, to involve them in the discussions, and to get decisions on issues that need to be settled. Sometimes, constituents might also attend main table meetings and side table meetings at the invitation of a party and with the agreement of all parties. Meetings involving constituents will, as far as possible, be held in places and at times that best suit the constituents. If a party and its constituents agree, one or more of the other parties may attend these meetings to help build the constituents' understanding of all the parties and build their trust in the process.
- 38) In deciding the location and physical requirements of meetings, the parties will take into account the special needs of any of the meeting participants, and will try to meet those requirements.
- 39) The parties will agree how meetings will be chaired (if at all), and how decisions and proceedings will be recorded.

What the discussions will produce

- 40) Overall, the parties want the discussions to support the resolution of native title in South Australia to the satisfaction of all the parties and land users. They want to do it in a way that -
 - a) creates greater understanding and recognition of each other's positions and needs,
 - b) builds trust and respect between land users in the State, and
 - c) forms a strong basis for future dealings and harmony between the parties and land users.
- 41) The parties have prepared a separate document called "Reasons for ILUA negotiations" that sets out in more detail what they aim to achieve from the discussions.
- 42) The parties have agreed (at the Main Table meeting October 2004):
 - a) That ownership and use of all existing intellectual property developed by the parties as part of the Statewide ILUA negotiation process, including templates, documents or negotiations will reside with the parties and or the signatories to the particular documents.
 - b) That ownership and use of future material created as part of the Statewide ILUA negotiations will also reside with the parties and or the signatories to the particular documents.
 - c) That where no existing arrangements are in existence between parties and their representatives regarding ownership of intellectual property, then it is up to the individual parties to negotiate the assigning of rights to any work created to the parties who have engaged their services on the basis that suitable acknowledgement is provided in the existing documents as to the contribution of the respective advisers.

Teams

- 43) Each of the parties has assembled a team to take part in the discussions.
- 44) As far as practicable, the parties will keep the same team members throughout the discussions.
- 45) If a party needs to change its team membership, it will give the other parties as much advance notice as possible.

Issues for discussion

- 46) The parties have agreed a list of issues for discussion and, eventually, agreement. The list is attached to this protocol.
- 47) The list may be added to or changed during the discussions.
- 48) The fact that an issue has been listed for discussion does not necessarily mean that any of the parties will finally agree that something needs to be done about it.

Difficult issues, disputes, impasses

- 49) Many of the issues to be discussed are complex and it might be difficult for the parties to make progress themselves. If the parties agree, they can appoint an independent mediator or technical expert to assist.
- 50) The parties will try to avoid disputes or impasses in the discussions by keeping an open mind as far as possible. If a dispute or impasse happens, all parties will try to work together to resolve it, even if they are not part of the dispute directly. If that does not succeed, they may agree to appoint an independent mediator or technical expert to try to resolve it.

Confidentiality, public information, openness, consultation

- 51) Throughout the discussions, the parties will need to provide information to their constituents, and consult and get information from them.
- 52) To avoid confusion, a party's team will only hold meetings or discussions with the constituents of any other party on issues being discussed if invited to do so. As far as possible, a party will inform another party of any contact with the other's constituents on matters relevant to the discussions.
- 53) The parties expect that there will be considerable public interest in their discussions. They recognise, however, that sensational publicity or controversy will hinder the discussions. They agree to avoid public comment (especially comment to the media) about the discussions, other than comment that is general and positive in nature, and which is not critical of the other parties or the positions they are adopting.
- 54) For similar reasons, meetings between the parties, whether or not they include parties' constituents, will generally not be open to the public or to the media.
- 55) The parties may agree to issue joint statements on issues to the public or to the parties' constituents.
- 56) If a party provides confidential information or material during the discussions, the other parties will respect that confidentiality and not reveal the information or material more widely unless the first party agrees. The parties may agree to enter into separate confidentiality agreements to protect any confidential information.
- 57) All communications between the parties and the NNTT in relation to these discussions will be "without prejudice" to the positions adopted by any of them in any proceedings before the NNTT. The parties (other than SAFF) have entered into a 'Without Prejudice Deed'

Funding and resources

- 58) As far as possible, each party will obtain its own funding and other resources for its part in the discussions.

SA Indigenous Land Use Agreement Statewide Negotiations

- 59) The State will support applications by other parties for funding from Commonwealth sources. The State will also consider submissions by other parties for State funding support where funds are not available from other sources. If the State provides such funding, it will not be conditional on the party receiving the funds adopting a particular position or direction.
- 60) The State will, where possible, provide administrative support for the discussions, including arranging meeting venues.
- 61) All or some of the parties may agree to jointly fund research, expert consultancies or other tasks that they consider would be relevant or useful to the progress of the discussions.

Timing

- 62) The parties started main table meetings in early 2000. Since then, they have had a number of main table and side table meetings where issues have been identified and developed.
- 63) The parties understand that the pace at which they progress will be set by their constituents. As the parties provide more information to their constituents and involve them more in the process, timeframes will become clearer.
- 64) The parties will regularly review the process to ensure that progress is being made. A major review of progress will be undertaken from time to time.

National Native Title Tribunal

- 65) The parties acknowledge the statutory role and function of the NNTT. They will maintain regular contact with the NNTT to ensure that the NNTT is aware of the progress of the discussions, and that the parties are aware of the activities and any valid requirements of the NNTT.
- 66) A representative of the NNTT may attend main table meetings as an observer. If asked by the parties, the NNTT may also provide suitable persons to act as mediators on difficult issues at times.

Appendix 1 Priority Issues identified at the Main Table

This list of substantive issues to be addressed were identified at the Main table. The issues are not listed in order of importance. The parties may add to or alter this list from time to time. Inclusion of an issue on this list does not necessarily mean that any party is committed to agreeing a result on it.

- Access
- Aboriginal Heritage Clearances
- Exploration Template Agreement
- Relationship to Land
- Local Government
- Future Acts
- Security Of Tenure
- Terminology
- Section 47 Access

OTHER ISSUES

- Compensation (Benefits Package)
- Agreement Issues
- Environment Issues
- Management of Natural Resource Assets
 - National parks
 - Aboriginal involvement
 - Native Vegetation Act
- Crown Tenure Administration
- Geographical Scope Of Negotiations
- Enforcing ILUAs
 - Review and dispute resolution procedures
- Recognition of native title
- Achievement of sustainable and meaningful benefits for aboriginal people in the state.
- Non-extinguishment of native title
- Negotiations must involve the native title claimants
- The negotiations process itself should produce beneficial outcomes
- Service delivery to remote and rural communities
- Recognition of ownership of native flora and fauna
- Water rights in relation to land
- Intellectual property ownership
- Equality under the law

ADDITIONAL ISSUES FROM 3 MARCH 2000 MEETING

- Artefacts
- Burial
- Community Housing
- Non-native title claimants
- Validation of past acts
- Full recognition of tribal origins of Aboriginal people
- Filming the land
- Aboriginal content in TV and radio
- Primary School Curriculum

Appendix 2 Terminology

Some words and terms used in this protocol but not already defined in it

WORD/TERM	MEANING	EXPLANATION
constituent	The governing council, board or other body to which a party is accountable in its activities, and also the members of that body. In the case of the ALRM, members of native title claim groups are included as constituents in this protocol.	This recognises that a team in the discussions answers not only to the party's governing body, but also to the members of the body. Both the governing body and the members need to be involved in the discussions.
discussion/discussions	All aspects of discussions between the parties, either as a whole group or between two or more of them. Includes any agreement that is reached between all the parties in the course of discussions. Includes any documents or other materials produced by parties for consideration as part of the discussions.	The discussions will identify and develop issues, and where possible reach an agreement on each issue and the overall package of issues. The parties understand that agreement can only be reached on substantive issues with the fully-informed consent and participation of their constituents. Where the parties need to agree on a matter, all of them need to agree.
explorer	A person who is entitled to explore for minerals or petroleum on land.	
Government/State	Government of South Australia	Includes departments and other agencies of the Government, as well as the Executive processes of the Government.
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement as defined and described in the <i>NTA</i> .	
(inland), inshore or offshore waters	As defined in the <i>NTA</i>	
land user	A pastoralist, farmer, developer, explorer, miner, native title claim group or other person or body that owns, leases, occupies, or has access to or responsibility for, land. Includes the South Australian or Commonwealth Government, and local governments.	As the term is used in this protocol, a land user is usually a constituent of at least one of the parties.
miner	A person who is entitled to mine for minerals or produce petroleum from land.	
national parks, conservation parks, regional reserves, other reserves	As defined in the South Australian <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i>	
national parks, conservation parks, regional reserves, other reserves	As defined in the South Australian <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972</i>	
native title claim	a claim in an application for a determination of native title under the <i>NTA</i>	
native title claimant	a person or group of persons that has lodged a native title claim that has been registered by the NNTT	

SA Indigenous Land Use Agreement Statewide Negotiations

WORD/TERM	MEANING	EXPLANATION
	under the <i>NTA</i>	
native title claim	a claim in an application for a determination of native title under the <i>NTA</i>	
native title claimant	a person or group of persons that has lodged a native title claim that has been registered by the NNTT under the <i>NTA</i>	
NNTT	The National Native Title Tribunal established under section 107 of the <i>NTA</i>	
native title claim	a claim in an application for a determination of native title under the <i>NTA</i>	
native title claimant	a person or group of persons that has lodged a native title claim that has been registered by the NNTT under the <i>NTA</i>	
NNTT	The National Native Title Tribunal established under section 107 of the <i>NTA</i>	
NTA	The Commonwealth <i>Native Title Act 1993</i>	Includes the 1998 amendments
pastoral lease	A pastoral lease under the South Australian <i>Pastoral Land Management and Conservation Act 1989</i>	A pastoralist is the lessee under a pastoral lease

Appendix 3 Statements from Parties with Relationship To Land



INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATION **STATEMENT FROM THE ABORIGINAL LEGAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT** **RELATIONSHIP TO LAND**

Aboriginal people's relationship to land is central to their wellbeing and their continuous connection to the religious, emotional, spiritual and human world. The way the land is connected to Aboriginal people is based on the way the Dreaming and the Law is seen giving permission for this to occur.

From the Dreaming and the Law people are given authority to speak for and make decisions about particular areas of land for which they have a direct association. The land provides a medium for the continuation of culture, customs and tradition through language, art, artefacts, songs, dance, stories, medicine, food and cultural knowledge (traditional pursuits). Without regular access to the land or recognition of Aboriginal people's relationship to land, there is potential ill health to their sense of wellbeing and their continuing identity as Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal people have been given responsibility to do a range of activities in maintaining their relationship to the past, present and future in caring for land. How this is done is based on the Dreaming and the Law. From a practical perspective Aboriginal people want recognition and acknowledgement and to be assured regular access to country to visit areas of significance to them and to carry out customs and traditions to ensure their past is linked with the present, and provide for the future.

Aboriginal people have recognised non-Aboriginal people's relationship and association with the land and how the land is defined for specific uses and interests. For example, history and today's attitude have determined the close relationship between pastoral leases and Aboriginal groups, governments and the wider community. Recognition for each other was based on how they valued each other and by the parameters of government policies and social values of the wider community.

The wellbeing of Aboriginal people has been affected by this relationship in one way or another and has lead to the loss of genuine recognition and acknowledgment of each other's interest in land.

Indigenous Land Use Agreements provide the potential for negotiated parameters to improve relationships by acknowledging and giving due recognition to each other and for each other's interest in land.



**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
FARMERS FEDERATION**

INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

STATEMENT OF THE FARMERS FEDERATION

RELATIONSHIP TO LAND

Pastoralists have a strong relationship with, commitment to and custodianship of, the Land over which they hold tenure and on which they reside and earn their living. In some cases, this relationship goes back for many generations on the same property. Because pastoralists rely on the Land for the ongoing existence, of both themselves and future generations, it is in their best interest to respect and protect the Land, its biodiversity and ecological processes, and to repair any past damage.

Apart from the commercial interest, most pastoralists also have a strong spiritual relationship with the Land. They have special places that they visit from time-to-time with their families and friends for relaxation and reflection. These places often play an important role in the early education of their children, giving them valuable insights into the plants and animals that inhabit the Land and the interaction between these things. Some members of pastoral families are artists or photographers and reproduce what they see on canvas or as prints. Many pastoralists are buried on the Land and this provides another part of the close relationship with the Land experienced by later generations.

The older pastoralists also pass on stories of their youth and of their ancestors to the young people. These yarn-telling sessions pass on the lore and knowledge accumulated by previous generations.

The above activities have similarities to those carried out by Aboriginal people prior to European settlement. The activities may differ slightly, but the basic relationship to land is similar.



INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATION
STATEMENT OF THE RESOURCES INDUSTRY'S
RELATIONSHIP TO LAND

The Resources Industry is committed to the sustainable and responsible development of land in carrying out its exploration and production activities.

The industry's activities extend to two main stages. Exploration involves looking for minerals or petroleum on land or under waters. If economic quantities of minerals or petroleum are discovered, mining of minerals or production of petroleum follows.

Exploration, mining and production are all undertaken by the industry in a sustainable way. The industry is committed to carrying out its operations in an environmentally responsible manner.

The Resources Industry also recognises that other persons have legitimate and significant interests in relation to land or waters on which industry activities may take place.

In particular, the Resources Industry recognises and respects the special interests held by Aboriginal people in relation to land and waters. Many agreements have been reached between industry members and Aboriginal communities which protect these special interests and regulate exploration, mining and production activities. These agreements often also provide opportunities for cross cultural training and employment, thus building positive relationships between Aboriginal communities and the industry.

The Resources Industry provides vital and substantial economic benefits to South Australia and its community. It not only generates significant export and royalty revenue, but also contributes substantially to employment and regional development for the benefit of all South Australians, including generations to come.



INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

STATEMENT OF THE STATE'S

RELATIONSHIP TO LAND

Land (including waters) within the borders of the State underpins the economic development, prosperity and well-being of all citizens of South Australia. In many real ways, it sustains the State, its citizens and their cultural and commercial activities. Without land, the State would not exist as a State.

The State's system of property law (which now includes native title as a recognised legal interest in land) is designed to make sure that people who live on, use or have other links to land can exercise their legal rights with certainty and confidence.

The State has a responsibility to make sure that land and resources that exist on the land or come from it (including animals, plants, water and energy resources) are used in a way that strikes the best balance between the need to progress and create prosperity, and the need to allow for regrowth and replenishment for future generations.

As well as having a general responsibility to put in place and enforce a legal system that achieves the best balance for all persons with valid land interests, the State has a special interest in the 20% of the State that is Crown land (including National Parks, Conservation Parks and Regional Reserves). The State is directly responsible for managing these areas so that their conservation and other special characteristics are maintained for all South Australians.



INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATION

STATEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONSHIP TO LAND & WATER

Land (including waters) within Local Government areas of the State underpins the economic development, prosperity and well-being of all communities. While local Councils exist for the benefit of those communities, land provides the fundamental boundaries for our system of Local Government.

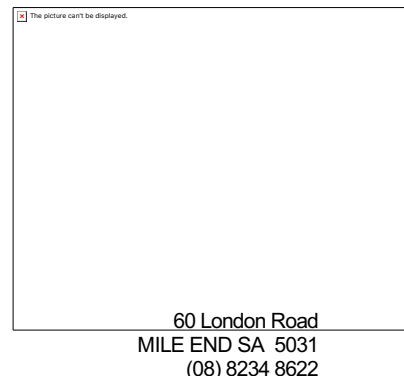
Local Government's principle role is to represent and govern its communities and to plan for, provide services to and encourage the improvement of the quality of life of those communities. Its functions include provision of infrastructure, development and conservation of the environment and the development and management of public areas vested in the Council. Its objectives include requirements to seek to co-ordinate and plan with other governments and to contribute to setting public policy. The Local Government Act also requires Councils to manage their resources fairly and to undertake consultation with communities.

Councils own land on behalf of their communities some of which is dedicated as community land and other areas of which are used (or bought and sold) for operational purposes. There are large areas of Crown Land in the care, control and management of Councils. All public roads in Council areas are vested in the relevant Council. Councils manage such land to preserve open space, to provide community facilities including playgrounds, sporting facilities, cultural centres and to allow for community access to beaches and other areas.

Local Government is also jointly responsible with the State Government for the regulation of land use under the Development Act – under which no development can take place without approval. Councils are also restricted to one form of taxation, based on the value of land and improvements to land – Council rates.

Under the Local Government Act Councils have a responsibility to represent all sections of the community including indigenous citizens and their special relationship to the land is recognised in Local Government Association policy and by many individual Council policies or 'reconciliation' agreements.

Local Government's responsibility to understand the policies and objectives of other governments and to seek to work with them is given practical expression in a State/Local Government Relations Agreement between the SA Premier and the Local Government Association and through an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Commonwealth, all State/Territory governments and the Australian Local Government Association.



INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATION

STATEMENT OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY'S RELATIONSHIP TO LAND & WATER

The relationship between commercial fishers and the waters from which they derive their livelihood is a strong and vibrant one. The solitude and isolation in which they work often fosters a strong bond and sense of stewardship between fishers and their environment. Often, this bond has been forged over generations, with knowledge, skills and respect for the environment being passed from one generation to the next ensuring the survival of an iconic Australian industry.

Fishers are committed to sustainable resource use and the principal of guaranteeing the viability of future generations within the industry. It is not just the means to earn a living but offers a way of life full of satisfaction and enrichment.

This strong bond often extends beyond the water and encompasses the coastal environment in which most fishers reside and choose to bring up their families. The link to these unique coastal locations instils the same sense of stewardship and ensures that the economic and employment benefits generated from the industry remain in the regional communities and economies which rely so heavily upon it. This is particularly crucial where the local community is a small one, as in these cases fishing is the key industry generating economic, social and employment benefits without which the community, and a range of services, could not survive.

Over the generations fishers have developed a strong relationship to both the land and water.