



30 November 2010

The First Assistant Secretary
Social Inclusion Division
Attorney-General's Department
3-5 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

By email: native.title@ag.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Leading practice agreements: maximising outcomes from native title benefits

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (AMEC) is the peak industry body for mineral exploration and mining companies within Australia.

AMEC's strategic objective is to secure an environment that fosters mineral exploration and mining in Australia in a commercially, politically, socially and environmentally responsible manner.

AMEC therefore provides the following comments in relation to the government discussion paper: '*Leading practice agreements: maximising outcomes from native title benefits*'.

AMEC supports efficient and effective governance structures and transparency protocols (subject to any confidentiality agreements) in relation to native title payments, particularly if they result in the funds being applied for the purpose for which they were provided; and ensure that the final recipient is the intended beneficiary. It is however, not AMEC's role to describe the nature or structure of those governance mechanisms.

AMEC also supports the proposed streamlining of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) process; and that relating to the native title determination process.

In further support of these comments AMEC has recently forwarded a comprehensive submission to the Federal Attorney General on these and other broad issues of concern to the mining and minerals exploration sector. A copy of that submission is **attached** for your consideration.

Implementation of these improvements and recommendations will contribute towards enhanced clarity and certainty for the investment and business decision making processes, and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of resource development throughout Australia.

Thank you for the opportunity of providing comment on this review. If you would like expansion or further clarification on these comments please do not hesitate to contact me direct.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Bennison', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Simon Bennison
Chief Executive Officer

cc Katherine Jones, First Assistant Secretary, Attorney General's Department