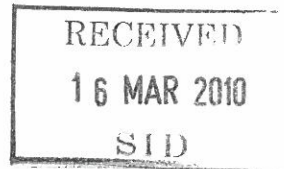


Ms Karlsson  
H 17/3



11 March 2010

Ms Katherine Jones  
First Assistant Secretary  
Social Inclusion Division  
Attorney-General's Department  
Robert Garran Offices  
National Circuit  
BARTON ACT 2600

16/3/10 19 → TH

Dear Ms Jones

### ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT CONSULTATION PAPER

#### Proposed amendment to enable the historical extinguishment of native title to be disregarded in certain cases

I refer to the Attorney-General's Department's Consultation Paper on the proposed amendment to enable the historical extinguishment of native title to be disregarded in certain cases. The Western Australian Fishing Industry Council ('WAFIC')<sup>1</sup> supports the resolution of native title claims by comprehensive negotiated outcomes. Consequently, WAFIC is broadly supportive of any proposed amendments to the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) which it believes will help to facilitate the shift away from litigation to mediation.

It is our view that the proposed amendment to enable the historical extinguishment of native title to be disregarded in certain circumstances will itself have limited, if any, impact on the commercial fishing, pearling and aquaculture industries. As such, WAFIC does not object to the amendment, but wishes to be consulted further if there are subsequent changes or any additional amendments proposed.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed amendment. If you require any further information or wish to discuss, please contact our Native Title Officer Katie Phillis on telephone (08) 9492 8888.

Yours sincerely

Anna Cronin  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

<sup>1</sup> The Western Fishing Industry Council (WAFIC) is the peak body representing the commercial fishing and pearling industry in Western Australia in all native title claims seaward of the high water mark and aquaculture interests on crown land (in WA)

