



Native Title Services Victoria Ltd

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Ground breaking meeting on Indigenous land justice

An historic meeting of Victorian traditional owners to be held in Melbourne this week will call on the State Government to take substantive steps to achieve Indigenous land justice.

Native Title Services Victoria Ltd* is facilitating the meeting to be attended in part by the Attorney-General, Rob Hulls, and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Gavin Jennings.

The meeting is historic because it signifies the first time in Victoria that the first nations have met together to discuss matters of concern with regard to land justice and other issues.

The Chairman of NTSV, Graham Atkinson, said a State-wide initiative must be pursued by the State Government to deliver justice to traditional owners.

“The State must recognise the human rights of traditional owners that are affected by the way in which land and resource management occurs.”

The meeting of representatives of about 20 traditional owner groups will be held on 17-18 February in Melbourne.

Mr Atkinson said measures to deliver land justice must be negotiated with traditional owners and proceed with their informed consent.

“Among other things, land justice for traditional owners must mean the return of ownership of land and resources, control of their cultural heritage and a real say in the management of State lands, waters and resources.

“We have held several meetings with both Ministers and we intend to work hard with them to achieve real outcomes for traditional owners this year.”

To arrange media interviews, contact Paul Conroy 0418 371099

*Native Title Services Victoria Ltd was formed in August 2003, for the specific purpose of providing high quality professional services to native title claimant groups in Victoria. As such, it performs the functions of a Native Title Representative Body, as set out in the Native Title Act (Cth)1993.