

[NativeTitle@nousgroup.com](mailto:NativeTitle@nousgroup.com)

nousgroup.com

ABN 66 086 210 344

## Participant information sheet

### Project title: review of Native Title Representative Bodies and Service Providers

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#### THIS IS FOR YOU TO KEEP

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Nous Group lead: Penny Gregory

#### What are Native Title Representative Bodies and Service Providers?

The *Native Title Act 1993* provides a framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to have recognition for the land and seas they traditionally own. Native Title Representative Bodies and Service Providers (NTRB-SPs) aim to help native title claimants acquire and manage their native title claims for current and future generations.

#### What is this review about?

This review aims to understand how well thirteen NTRB-SPs perform their functions as they relate to native title. It will inform the National Indigenous Australians Agency's (NIAA) future decision-making and help improve the performance and operation of NTRB-SPs.

#### Why have I been invited to participate?

You have been invited to participate to share your views on an NTRB-SP in your role as:

- A native title claimant or holder who engages or has engaged with an NTRB-SP
- A member of a Prescribed Body Corporate or Registered Native Title Body Corporate
- A community member or other stakeholder
- An employee or contractor of an NTRB-SP
- A member of a government agency that engages with NTRB-SPs.

We would like to hear about your experiences with your associated NTRB-SP(s).

## **What will I be asked to do?**

We will invite you to participate in an 'interview'. This will be a conversation held at a place that is convenient for you. If you want, you can talk to us by phone or MS Teams instead. We will talk with you for up to one hour.

At the start, one of the review team will explain how the interview will work. They will confirm that you want to do the interview, let you know what questions we will ask, explain that you can leave or stop at any time before or during the interview and explain how we can help you if you feel comfortable during the interview.

You can respond however you like. You could tell a story about your experiences, just answer the questions we ask or not respond at all. You might prefer to share in a group or one-on-one. It's up to you. You won't be asked for any personal information, just your thoughts about the North Queensland Land Council (NQLC).

## **Will I be identifiable in anything coming from this Review?**

No personal or private information will be collected in the interview. Information that we collect for our reports will always be confidential (unless the law requires us to identify you). In our reports, we won't name anyone, and we won't use quotes unless we are sure they can't be tracked back to the person who shared their story.

A review team-member will take notes during the interview. These notes will be safely stored and destroyed after five years. Only Nous Group staff and contractors involved in the review will have access to them.

Aboriginal knowledge and cultural heritage belongs to the participant and will be acknowledged in the findings and reports of this research.

## **What benefit will I gain from being involved in this review?**

The research is a chance for you to share your thoughts. It will give you an opportunity to have your say about the NQLC, including what you think is working right now and what you think could improve. This will help to make the NQLC better.

## **Are there any risks or discomforts if I am involved?**

We have planned the interview so that you feel as safe as possible. We don't expect there to be any discomforts or risks. You do not have to take part in the interview or answer any questions during the interview if you do not want to. You can ask us to stop at any time – you don't have to tell us why and this will not affect your involvement with NQLC or any other NTRB-SP. We ask everyone to keep what they or others tell us during interviews to themselves.

## **How do I agree to participate?**

It's up to you whether to participate. You are free to withdraw from the project without consequences right up until the analysis is finalised and the report is published – just contact the review team (at [NativeTitle@nousgroup.com](mailto:NativeTitle@nousgroup.com)). They will remove your comments from the information collected. A consent form is attached to this information sheet. If you agree to take part, please read and sign the form. A researcher will explain this form to you.

## **How will I see the outcome of my interview?**

Once we've written up our final reports, they will be published online for the wider community and public to access.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet. We hope that you will accept our invitation to be involved. If you have any questions, you can talk to the review team who are involved.**

If you have concerns or complaints about the research, or you would like to talk to someone other than the Nous team named here, or some other matter has caused you stress, you can email us at: [NativeTitle@nousgroup.com](mailto:NativeTitle@nousgroup.com).