



MEDIA RELEASE

MINERALS COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA VICTORIAN DIVISION

Victorian Native Title Settlement Framework

Statement from Chris Fraser, Executive Director, Minerals Council of Australia – Victorian Division

The Victorian Government's new Native Title Settlement Framework is a welcome step forward for resolving native title in Victoria and will facilitate agreement making between the minerals industry and traditional land owners.

The framework offers a viable alternative mechanism for resolving native title claims in Victoria through negotiation rather than litigation.

The Victorian minerals industry has well developed land access agreements with many of the native title holders in Victoria. The new approach will build on these arrangements by providing the certainty industry requires and the benefits and recognition all traditional owners deserve.

This framework represents an opportunity to streamline the process so benefits start flowing to traditional owners without the need for lengthy court hearings.

The Minerals Council of Australia looks forward to working closely with the Victorian Government and the traditional owners to develop the detail of the proposed principles.

We also congratulate Professor Mick Dodson who chaired the Native Title Settlement Framework Steering Committee, the Victorian Traditional Owner Land Justice Group, Native Title Services Victoria, the Victorian Attorney-General and Deputy Premier Rob Hulls and the government officials who assisted in the development of the Framework.

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