



# Class Notifications

*...for the doing of future acts under the Commonwealth  
Native Title Act 1993*

The State approves many land and resource dealings daily. Where these dealings are acts that affect native title ("future acts") the State provides native title parties with the relevant procedural rights under the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* (NTA). These procedural rights often consist of a notification and an opportunity to comment on the doing of the future acts.

Under the NTA, there are two ways in which the State can notify native title parties. The State can either provide a notification for -

- **specific future acts.** In this case, the State has received an application seeking approval for a specific land or resource dealing. For example, Mr Bill Bloggs has applied to the State for the grant of a fishing permit for all Queensland waters under the *Fisheries Act 1994*;

OR

- **a class of future acts.** Where the State is aware that it will receive numerous similar applications for a land or resource dealing during a certain period, it can provide advance notification of those dealings by way of reference to a class of future acts ("class notification"). For example, the State could provide a notification for the proposed grant of 400 fishing permits within the next 12 months under the *Fisheries Act 1994* for all Queensland waters.

The use of a class notification results in one notification for a number of future acts of a certain class instead of a notification for every specific future act. This reduces the number of notifications received by native title parties and the processing time for applications. However, class notifications will not be suitable for every type of land and resource dealing the State approves.

Once the maximum number of future acts in that notified class has been reached or the timeframe has lapsed (eg. the State has granted the 400 permits or it has now been longer than 12 months), that particular class notification can no longer be relied upon. For any new future acts of that class the State wishes to approve, it will need to carry out a new class notification.

The State will continue to consider all comments made in relation to a class notification. Where relevant, the State may be able to condition each future act in that class to take into account relevant comments.