Native Title from Mabo to Akiba: A Vehicle for Change and Empowerment?

Sean Brennan, Megan Davis, Brendan Edgeworth and Leon Terrill (eds)

This edited collection brings together some of Australia’s foremost experts in native title to provide a realistic assessment of the achievements, frustrations and possibilities of native title, two decades since the enactment of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), and after the most significant High Court decision on native title in more than ten years, Akiba v Commonwealth, which confirmed the existence of commercial native title fishing rights. The Indigenous and non-Indigenous authors come from a variety of disciplines and perspectives, and include academics and practitioners from the fields of law, economics, anthropology, history and community development.

The book consists of two parts. The first examines the way in which Australian law has defined and often constrained the scope of this newly recognised property right, with particular focus on legal issues, while the second section provides an overview of the contribution made so far by native title and the prospects for future empowerment. Uniting the book is a concern that native title make a real impact on the economic and social circumstances of Australia’s Indigenous communities.

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