INVITATION

NATIVE TITLE AND INDIGENOUS EMPOWERMENT

A PANEL DISCUSSION AND BOOK EVENT

Hosted by the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law and the Indigenous Law Centre

Tuesday 24 November 2015
5.30pm-7.00pm with a drinks reception to follow

Gilbert + Tobin Lawyers,
Level 37, 2 Park Street Sydney

Has the recognition of native title brought Indigenous political and economic empowerment? More than 20 years on from Mabo and the Native Title Act, this remains a vital question for Australian society.

Please join us for a panel discussion that will consider this important topic and mark the publication of a new book called Native Title From Mabo to Akiba: A Vehicle for Change and Empowerment? The panel will feature Jason Behrendt, one of Australia’s leading native title and land rights lawyers, and Dr Valerie Cooms, a full-time member of the National Native Title Tribunal who has held senior leadership roles in several Indigenous organisations, together with the book’s editors, Sean Brennan, Megan Davis, Brendan Edgeworth and Leon Terrill.

Native Title From Mabo to Akiba is published by Federation Press and features leading Indigenous and non-Indigenous academics and practitioners from the fields of law, economics, anthropology, politics, history and community development. It was described by Michael Dillon in his review essay for Inside Story as a collection of ‘sophisticated and diverse essays’ whose ‘seventeen chapters resonate with ideas and analysis ... offering much to interested bystanders as well as to participants in the native title system’. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the event.

The event is free but online registration by Wednesday 18 November is essential for catering purposes at www.eventbrite.com.au/e/native-title-and-indigenous-empowerment-tickets-19179337916?utm_term=eventurl_text

Registration inquiries should be addressed to Belinda McDonald, Administrator at the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law on 9385 2257 or gtcentre@unsw.edu.au
**PANEL BIOGRAPHIES**

**Jason Behrendt**, Legal Executive, Chalk & Fitzgerald Lawyers & Consultants

Jason has acted for many years as an external adviser to Aboriginal land councils and representative bodies across the nation. He has extensive knowledge and experience in relation to land rights, native title law and natural resources law.

Highlights of his career have included his involvement in:
- many successful Aboriginal land claim appeals in NSW, including the first appeal to be dealt with by the High Court;
- the successful Wellesley Islands native title (seas) claim; and
- the successful native title claim made on behalf of the Githabul people of north-eastern NSW.

Jason is a board member of the Law and Justice Foundation and Chair of the Indigenous Issues Committee of the Law Society of NSW.

**Dr Valerie Cooms**, Full-time Member, National Native Title Tribunal

Dr Cooms belongs to the Nunukul people of North Stradbroke Island. She has extensive experience leading Indigenous affairs organisations in the community and government sectors including as a Director of Indigenous Business Australia, Chief Executive Officer of Queensland South Native Title Services and Chairperson of the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, the prescribed body corporate for Queensland’s Quandamooka people.

Dr Cooms has a doctorate in political history from the Australian National University, and is an Adjunct Professor at Griffith University and University of the Sunshine Coast.

The panel will also include the editors of *Native Title From Mabo to Akiba: A Vehicle for Change and Empowerment*?

**Sean Brennan** is an Associate Professor and Director of the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law, UNSW Law.

**Megan Davis** is a Professor and Director of the Indigenous Law Centre, UNSW Law.

**Brendan Edgeworth** is a Professor at UNSW Law and author of several books on property law and legal change.

**Leon Terrill** is a Lecturer at UNSW Law and author of *Beyond Communal and Individual Ownership: Indigenous land reform in Australia* (2015).

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