

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

22 March 2017

**GOLDFIELDS LAND & SEA COUNCIL**  
**Aboriginal Corporation (Representative Body)**  
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### **Goldfields Land and Sea Council welcomes Senate Committee Report on the Native Title Amendment (Indigenous Land Use Agreement) Bill 2017**

The Goldfields Land and Sea Council welcomes the report and recommendations of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on its examination of the Native Title Amendment (Indigenous Land Use Agreement) Bill 2017.

Mr Hans Bokelund, Chief executive Officer of the GLSC, said that the Bill was critical to the sustainability of the provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), and without its proposed amendments we would see a huge number of Agreements, struck in good faith, rendered invalid. He noted that at least one significant Indigenous Land Use Agreement in the Goldfields region would be affected if the Bill did not proceed, and that there were many more in this position across the country.

“The GLSC urges the Parliament to accept the recommendations of the Committee on the Bill and pass it into legislation. This will give all parties to Indigenous Land Use Agreements across the country, including developers, pastoralists, miners and other sectoral interests, the reassurance that their agreements will remain valid. It will also ensure that there is no unintended impediment to the making of new agreements under the Act” Mr Bokelund said.

Mr Bokelund noted that the Committee’s rationale for excluding a number of provisions from its recommendation was reasonable (suggesting they be brought back as part of a broader Bill dealing with the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission in their entirety). He also noted, however, that this should be sooner rather than later, in the interests of all concerned with the operations of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

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