



Poverty in the Midst of Plenty

An ARC Linkage project

ATNS Symposium 25th – 26th June 2013

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Agreements, Treaties and Negotiated Settlements Project
www.atns.net.au

Poverty in the Midst of Plenty: Economic Empowerment, Wealth Creation and Institutional Reform for Sustainable Indigenous and Local Communities

- This ARC Linkage project identifies and analyses **impediments to indigenous socio-economic development and well-being** in the context of **large-scale resource extraction projects** in proximity to indigenous and local communities.
- The interdisciplinary research draws on anthropology, geography, demography, law and public policy to study the **institutional, legal and policy reforms** required to **reduce** indigenous and local peoples' **poverty** and to **promote economic empowerment**.

CIs and Partners

- ARC Linkage Grant funded \$1.2m (2010-2013)
- Chief Investigators:
 - Prof Marcia Langton
 - Assoc Prof Maureen Tehan
 - Prof Miranda Stewart
 - Prof Lee Godden
 - Prof Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh
 - Prof John Taylor
 - Dr Lisa Strelein
- Partners: FaHCSIA, Rio Tinto Ltd, Santos, Woodside, AIATSIS, ANU, Griffith University, University of Melbourne

Background to the ATNS Project

- **2002 Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant**
 - Examined treaty and agreement-making with indigenous Australians
 - Included an audit of agreements, their purposes, status and outcomes.
 - ATNS database was created and launched.
 - Book: [Honour Among Nations? Treaties and Agreements with Indigenous People](#)

- **2005 ARC Linkage Grant**
 - Examined the process of implementation and the wider factors that promote long-term sustainability of agreement outcomes.
 - Ongoing database expansion.
 - Book: [Settling with Indigenous Peoples: Modern Treaty and Agreement-Making](#)
 - Special Edition: [Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law](#) (2008) 26 (1)

- **2010 ARC Linkage Grant**
 - Identifies and analyses the institutional, legal and policy reforms required to reduce indigenous people's poverty and to promote economic development for sustainable indigenous communities.
 - Book: [Community Futures, Legal Architecture: Foundations for Indigenous Peoples in the Global Mining Boom](#)
 - ATNS database upgrade.

The ATNS Database

- An **information gateway** capturing information on agreements between indigenous people and others in Australia and overseas.
- Aims to identify, among other things, **the range of characteristics, conditions and forms** of such agreements.
- While many of these agreements relate to **land**, others are non-land based agreements such as those made in the areas of **health, education, local government** and **research**.
- Does **not** include confidential information.
- Is the **only resource of its kind** that captures and demonstrates the range and variety of agreement-making occurring in Australia and in other parts of the world.
- **Currently**, over 1684 different agreements and over 3300 organisations and indigenous communities involved in agreement making.

The ATNS database

- www.atns.net.au
- A gateway to:
 - agreements
 - ATNS Project publications
 - current issues
 - references and related websites.



The screenshot shows the ATNS website homepage. At the top is the ATNS logo and tagline: "agreements, treaties and negotiated settlements project". Below this is a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT, PROJECTS, AGREEMENT MAKING, DATABASE, PUBLICATIONS, GLOSSARY, LINKS, CONTACT THE ATNS PROJECT.

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- ATNS DATABASE:** A brief description of the database as an online gateway to a wealth of information relating to agreements between indigenous people and others in Australia and overseas. It also lists features like background information on each agreement, links to related agreements, organisations, signatories and events; a glossary of relevant terminology as well as direct access to published and on-line resources. Below this are buttons for "Browse", "Search", and "Locate".
- LATEST NEWS:** A list of recent news items, including "ATNS Symposium 25th - 26th June 2013", "Native Title Tax Reform", and "Professor Marcia Langton's 5th Boyer Lecture".
- ATNS SITE TOUR:** A video player showing a site tour of the ATNS website.
- CURRENT ISSUES:** A list of current issues, including "Native Title and Tax", "Land Tiling Forms and Economic Development", "Developing Population Projections for Mining Regions", and "Managing Resource Revenues Generated by Mining Agreements".
- RECENT PUBLICATIONS:** A list of recent publications, including "Community Futures, Legal Architecture: Foundations for Indigenous peoples in the global Mining Boom", "Comparative Perspectives on Communal Lands and Individual Ownership", and "Settling with Indigenous Peoples".

At the bottom of the page, there are sections for "PARTNER ORGANISATIONS" and "PARTNER INSTITUTIONS". The partner organisations listed include the Australian Government (Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs), RioTinto, Santos, and woodside. The partner institutions listed include the Australian Research Council, AIATSIS (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies), ANU (The Australian National University), Griffith University, and The University of Melbourne.

Major finding of previous projects:

- Agreements are critical to providing opportunities for indigenous & local community socio-economic development through financial and other benefits eg. Lump sum or royalty payments, joint ventures generating revenue, employment & training, decision making, heritage control

Key contributors to indigenous well-being are:

- Good practice in relationships, negotiations, implementation of agreements & projects carried out by indigenous communities with others;
- Maximising benefits and providing diversity of opportunity

Current research and policy engagement on:

- the structural hurdles in overcoming reasons for indigenous disadvantage; and the development of models for sustaining economic empowerment.
 - Tax treatment and governance of the benefits of Native Title agreements
 - Legal entities and forms of governance in indigenous and local communities eg. proposed Indigenous Community Development Corporation (ICDC)

Relevance confirmed by a busy policy/reform landscape

- Close the Gap and recent discussion papers/reforms on:
- Tax reform for native title payments – Bill in parliament
- Indigenous Housing; Indigenous Economic Development Strategy; MRRT;

We gratefully acknowledge our Project Partners

RioTinto



Australian Government

Department of Families,
Housing, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Santos



woodside



AIATSIS
Australian Institute of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Studies





A Symposium on Indigenous Peoples, Economic Empowerment and Agreements with Extractive Industries

hosted by the Agreements, Treaties and
Negotiated Settlements Project (ATNS)
at the University of Melbourne, Australia
June 25th- 26th, 2013



www.atns.net.au

THANK YOU