
Insights into the successful resolution of native title issues in central australia – the way forward

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Abstract

Problems were encountered by exploration companies at the introduction of the Native Title Act passed in 1993. The purpose of this paper is to examine the nature of the delays imposed on the Oil and Gas Industry by the provision and administration of the Native Title Act.

The results of the investigations will be presented in order of their importance and conclusions are drawn from unquestionable premises and based upon adequate data.

The Native Title Act, and indeed the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, appeared, on the evidence and experience, to be unworkable in respect of its exploration and development provisions.

This paper discusses the way in which solutions to the problems of delays, uncertainty and added costs of exploration on land subject to Native Title can be found, and the way in which Central Petroleum has successfully negotiated agreements and its willingness to participate in the social and economic development of Central Australian Aborigines by way of community sporting grants and a tree planting project.

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