

**NATIONAL NATIVE TITLE TRIBUNAL**

**NOTE ON INTERIM DIRECTION FOR FUTURE ACT INQUIRIES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

As part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tribunal issued an interim direction on 24 March 2020, applying to all future act inquiries, including expedited procedure objections, in Western Australia. A revised version of the direction was issued on 22 May 2020.

The Direction recognises the difficulties all parties to future act inquiries, particularly native title parties, may face in complying with directions, in light of the measures in place around social distancing and access to remote communities.

No further action is needed once a statement has been provided under the Direction. The Tribunal will acknowledge once it has received such a statement and advise parties that the matter will be listed for case management at a later date.

For cases not covered by the Direction, the Tribunal may still consider extension requests in the ordinary way.

The Tribunal will resume issuing directions for objections lodged on or after 1 June 2020. In the interim, the Tribunal will continue to issue directions for new objections only where the future act notice has a closing date on or after 1 June 2020.

The Tribunal will continue to hold case management conferences and settlement lists, by teleconference. Adjustments have been made to ensure parties can continue to participate in case management, however parties are encouraged to contact the Tribunal if they are concerned about their ability to participate.