



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

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NATIVE TITLE (QUEENSLAND) STATE PROVISIONS AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Mr BLACK (Whitsunday—ONP) (11.02 p.m.): Native title is an issue of paramount importance to Australia today. This issue has resulted in heartache, uncertainty and fear and, in its most basic form, it makes no sense. Once again it illustrates the stupidity or cunningness of some of the supposed leaders of the country. How many times have we seen gutless politicians swaying in whatever direction gives them the most votes, causing widespread fear, upset or suffering within our community? For too long in this country we have let the crying of the do-gooders and the civil libertarians direct our path. For too long, through international agreements and treaties, the leaders of other nations have had a say in the rights and freedoms in our own country. We have let the guilt-ridden minority attempt to make themselves feel better by trying to push the rest of us into feeling guilty and apologetic.

Especially of late, in our society cries of racial equality have rung repetitively and loudly. Everyone from the Lord Mayor to the Prime Minister is speaking of tolerance and an end to division, and for years every media outlet in the country has preached anti-racism. Many members of this House have done the same, yet today we find ourselves debating the Queensland provisions for native title in the mining industry. We are debating provisions, which are allowable by Commonwealth legislation, that are aimed specifically at one race only. That legislation has ground industry to a halt, cost jobs, created immense uncertainty and fear and further divided our community into indigenous and non-indigenous groups. Yet this wonderful piece of legislation was the result of the efforts of Mr Keating and the Labor Party, and was completed by Mr Howard and the Liberal/National coalition. Those are the same people who, on the one hand, are so quick to point the finger and call names while, on the other hand, they create division at every turn.

One of the One Nation founding philosophies is equality for all. We have always pursued the removal of racial divisions within Australian society and the end of all race-based policies of Government. We have been the only party to have the guts to speak out against the absurdity of native title.

I am quite sure that anyone with enough intelligence would clearly understand the devastation to Australia that native title has only begun to cause. However, the Commonwealth Government's increasing control over State matters and powers means that there is little that we can do. We cannot change many of the ambiguities of the Commonwealth Native Title Act. The requirements to become a native title claimant seem quite shallow. One only has to have an association with the land to be a claimant. Industry must consult or negotiate with native title claimants—not only determined native title holders but also claimants. Once again we see one particular race being treated differently from another.

The Native Title (Queensland) State Provisions Amendment Bill, which the Premier introduced into the House in the last sitting of Parliament, attempts to reduce the impact of native title on industry to some degree, but it still leaves provisions of hindrance to industry. Of course, if we had the power to do so, we would extend the removal of the right to negotiate provisions from all industry activity, reduce the rights of native title claimants as defined in the Commonwealth Native Title Act to nothing and reduce the rights of native title holders to the same as that of other landowners or lessees.

Unfortunately, through a lack of good Government, we are left with a native title mess that extends beyond the boundaries of the ridiculous. Although we are not able to repeal the native title

legislation through the workings of this Parliament, at every turn we will attempt to even it up. We will look at all native title issues with the interests of Queensland and Australia at heart and we will attempt to make changes wherever necessary to pursue equality and a fair go for all.
