

Profile

Chris Athanasiou
Barrister

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Tertiary Qualifications:

Bachelor of laws University of Queensland (1991)
Bachelor of economics University of Queensland (1987)

Professional Qualifications:

Admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland (1991).

Admitted as an unrestricted legal practitioner in the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory (1994).

Entered on the Register of Legal Practitioners of the High Court of Australia.

Admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland (1999).

Experience:

02/09/1999 –

At the private bar in Queensland practising in native title and Aboriginal cultural heritage matters, including:

- appearing in native title proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia (Qld and NSW);
- appearing in future act proceedings in the National Native Title Tribunal (Qld);
- advising on native title, prescribed bodies corporate, Aboriginal cultural heritage and related matters (Qld, NSW and WA);

- advising on and drafting agreements dealing with native title and Aboriginal cultural heritage (Qld, NSW and WA);
- negotiating infrastructure, mining, gas extraction and industrial development agreements dealing with native title and Aboriginal cultural heritage (Qld, WA and NSW);
- facilitating native title dispute resolution (Qld, NSW and WA);
- reviewing:
 - the State of Western Australia's native connection guidelines and its principles for the negotiation of consent native title determinations; and
 - decisions made by Native Title Representative Bodies ("NTRB"); and
- drafting submissions regarding legislative reform.

1996 – 1999 Manager and principal legal officer of the Central Land Council Native Title Unit in Alice Springs performing its NTRB functions in the southern region of the Northern Territory.

1994 – 1996 Native title solicitor at the Central Land Council in Alice Springs.

1991 – 1994 Employed solicitor in Brisbane.

Major Resource/Infrastructure Agreements:

2011 - 2016 Adviser and lead negotiator for Rio Tinto Iron Ore for country-wide settlements with 4 Traditional Owner groups in the Pilbara, WA, regarding mine and infrastructure expansion.

2006 – 2010 Adviser and negotiator for Rio Tinto Iron Ore for country-wide settlements with 5 Traditional Owner groups for mine and infrastructure expansion in the Pilbara, WA.

2003 – 2008 Lead negotiator for the State of Western Australia:

- Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement;
- Ord Irrigation Scheme Stage II Global Agreement; and
- Broome township expansion agreement.

1998 – 1999 Negotiator and adviser to the Central Land Council for the Alice Springs to Darwin Railway native title agreement with the Northern Territory and the Australasia Rail Corporation.

Articles, Reports, Presentations:

Practical Implications of the Good Faith Amendments presented to the 4th Annual Native Title Legalwise Seminar (June 2013);

Designing Culturally Appropriate and Effective Governance Structures, presented to the Joint Working Group on Indigenous Land Settlements Governance Workshop on Sustainable Benefits Management in Native Title Settlements convened by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department (April 2010);

Review of the Native Title Claim Process in Western Australia, Report to the Government of Western Australia by Paul Wand and Chris Athanasiou (September 2001);

Case Study on Negotiating Agreements Under the Native Title Act 1993: Alice Springs to Darwin Railway Agreement presented to the Native Title in the New Millennium Representative Bodies Legal Conference Melbourne (April 2000);

The Chronology of the Northern Territory's Legislation (Section 43A Scheme) (co-written with Greg Borchers) presented to the Native Title in the New Millennium Representative Bodies Legal Conference Melbourne (April 2000); and

Land Rights or Native Title: What's going on in the Northern Territory? Indigenous Law Bulletin, June 1998 (Vol. 4) Issue 12.