

The Native Title Market



David Ritter

ISBN

9781921401169

PRICE

\$19.95 Pb

THE NATIVE TITLE MARKET

by David Ritter

Reconciliation efforts with Indigenous Australians could be one of the casualties of the global financial crisis, warned native title analyst David Ritter.

The author of the newly released political critique *The Native Title Market* (UWA Press, June 2009, \$19.95) says that there is substantial anecdotal evidence to suggest that the economic gloom is already impacting agreements with Aboriginal groups.

As Ritter explains, with the finances required by resource companies to make agreements with Indigenous groups now in shorter supply, a different environment is emerging.

“The growth in agreements between the resource sector and Indigenous people occurred in an environment of skyrocketing shares and commodity prices,” he said.

“Today we are seeing exploration programs and new mining operations being canned or scaled back, meaning there are fewer employment opportunities for Aboriginal people and less negotiations taking place.”

In his new book, Ritter critiques the popular and convenient myths that have emerged about native title agreement-making. He argues for example that negotiations between mining groups and Aboriginal people do not necessarily equate to reconciliation.

As a genuine insider, Ritter participated in some of the largest native title deals in Australia and worked within the system for more than a decade. *The Native Title Market* is the first book to challenge the accepted orthodoxy about native title negotiations and agreement making.

The Native Title Market is now available in all good bookstores.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Ritter has been working in the law, particularly, focused on native title for the past 14 years. A commentator and analyst, he is currently working in London.

INTERVIEWS, EXTRACTS, IMAGES, REVIEW COPIES are available.

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