



The South West Native Title Settlement

Noongar Recognition Act

The South West Native Title Settlement (Settlement) is a landmark native title agreement negotiated between the Noongar people and the Western Australian Government (WA Government). The Settlement commenced 25 February 2021.

The Settlement, involving six Noongar Native Title Agreement Groups, and covering 200,000 square kilometres of land, represents significant social and economic investment in the Noongar community and the shared future of Western Australia.

For the latest Settlement information visit wa.gov.au (the WA Government website).

Noongar Traditional Owner Recognition through an Act of Parliament

The Noongar (Koorah, Nitja, Boordahwan) (Past, Present, Future) Recognition Act 2016 (the Act) formally recognises the Noongar people as the Traditional Owners of the South West of Western Australia.

The Act, proclaimed on 6 June 2016 coinciding with WA Day 2016, recognises the important relationship that the Noongar people have with their traditional lands, and the significant and unique contribution of Noongar people to the heritage, cultural identity, community and economy of Western Australia.

Map of Settlement Area



What does the Act recognise?

Through the Act, the Noongar people are now formally recognised as the Traditional Owners of Noongar Lands in the south-west region of Western Australia.

The Western Australian Parliament acknowledges and honours the Noongar people as Traditional Owners of the land and recognises:

- The living cultural, spiritual, familial and social relationship that the Noongar people have with the Noongar lands; and
- The significant and unique contribution that the Noongar people have made, are making, and will continue to make, to the heritage, cultural identity, community and economy of Western Australia.

The purpose of the Noongar Recognition Act is to recognise the Noongar people as Traditional Owners of the South West. The Act has no effect upon any civil claim, action or proceeding, or any right of review of an administrative decision, and cannot conflict with any other State or Commonwealth law

Where can I find copies of the Act, the historic second reading speech and further information?

For an Information Pack, visit wa.gov.au (the WA Government website):

- *Noongar (Koorah, Nitja, Boordahwan) (Past, Present, Future) Recognition Act 2016*
- Explanatory Memorandum – an aid to Parliament’s consideration of the legislation
- Second Reading Speech to Parliament – Extract from Hansard: Assembly – 14 Oct 15

Further information

Further information about the Settlement, including the six ILUAs made in compliance with the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993*, can be found on the website of the WA Government

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/south-west-native-title-settlement>