



## PRIME MINISTER

10/94

### STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP THE POLITICAL CYNICISM OF MR COURT

Last year, the Federal Parliament passed the historic Native Title Act. The legislation is sound, workable, and balanced.

It provides justice for indigenous Australians following the High Court Mabo decision. It provides certainty for investors and land managers, and protection for existing title holders.

It provides a national system, dealing in a fair and reasonable way with a national issue.

The action of Richard Court in challenging this national legislation has all the hallmarks of political high cynicism and parochial mischief. He is apparently still putting what he thinks are his political advantages and "States' rights" interests ahead of the national interest, when Western Australians enjoy the benefits of Commonwealth legislation as Australians.

As Premier of Western Australia, Mr Court has a responsibility to participate in a national system to deal with this national issue in a manner that is sensible and just. That is what the Commonwealth legislation does.

The Commonwealth Government is currently holding constructive discussions with other States in regard to cost-sharing and implementation of the national system to identify and grant native title rights. The way remains open for Mr Court to change his attitude and participate in these discussions.

CANBERRA  
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