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## **PRIME MINISTER**

### **Native Title Issues**

Arrangements have been made today for a meeting in Sydney on Wednesday morning with State Premiers and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory to discuss native title issues in the wake of the High Court decision in the Wik case.

At my request, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Senator Herron, has spoken to ATSIC Chairman Gatjil Djerrkura with a view to arranging a meeting between myself and a representative group of Aboriginal leaders so that I can obtain their views on the same issue.

Representatives of the mining and pastoral industries will also be asked to participate in discussions with me in the days ahead.

The views obtained in all these discussions will be taken into account by the Government. This is a complex issue which requires a commonsense response in the national interest.

20 January 1997