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## **PRIME MINISTER**

### **WIK AND NATIVE TITLE ISSUES**

During last Friday and today I conducted extensive discussions with indigenous leaders regarding a possible Government response to the Wik decision and related native title issues.

Considerable progress has been achieved. However several important issues require more discussion. They have been referred to the Joint Government Indigenous Task Force. A further meeting between indigenous leaders and myself will take place on Thursday of this week to receive the report of the Task Force.

Also I propose to call an early meeting of State Premiers and Chief Ministers to discuss the whole matter.

The Government remains committed to an outcome which both respects native title and delivers security to pastoralists and the mining industry.

21 April 1997