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State Records  
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# Identifying Documents which may be relevant to Native Title Claims

## Guideline

February 1999

Version 1.3

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## **Introduction**

This document is to be used as a guide for identifying records that may be relevant to native title claims. It is by no means an exhaustive list but is illustrative of classes and types of documents that may be relevant.

Actual relevance is a matter to be determined by officers of the Crown Solicitor's Office.

## Records relating to land tenure

These are records that deal with ownership or control of land by various types of landholder. They may also record changes in ownership of pieces of land.

Actual records may include:

- Certificates of Title
- leases
- licences
- survey plans

Land tenure records may relate to any of the following:

- acquisition
- alienation
- easements and rights of way
- freehold title or land grants
- leases and surrender of leases
- licences
- national parks
- reserves
- resumption
- transfers

## Records relating to land usage

Records that deal with how and by whom the land is used and for what purposes. Relevant records are those that contain information about the use of the land including the identification of:

- administrative actions
- agreements
- applications and rights to use the land for a particular purpose
- authorities
- consents
- environmental reports
- general correspondence
- leases
- licences
- permissions
- permits
- survey plans
- the land
- tourism

Land use records may relate to any of the following:

- agriculture
- aquaculture
- car parks
- cemeteries
- dams, bores, reservoirs
- fishing
- forestry
- harvesting and use of indigenous flora and fauna
- hospitals
- housing
- industry
- irrigation
- land for other special purposes which may include reserves for Aboriginal people
- mining
- national parks
- pastoral
- public works / maintenance
- railways
- recreation

- roads and highways
- schools
- telecommunications facilities

Examples:

- a field note book from a surveyor who held a conversation with a local Aboriginal person and recorded it in his/her notebook
- a mining report detailing minerals located
- documents detailing any ventures that may have been set up on the land by farmers eg camel farming or the establishment of a hotel
- records detailing the exploration and location of water in the desert

## Records relating to land management

They are records containing information about:

- administrative actions
- general correspondence
- plans
- proposals
- studies about the potential alienation and use of the land for various purposes

Land Management records may include the following:

- building approvals
- development plans
- environmental impact statements
- irrigation
- licence and lease applications
- pastoral land management
- pipelines
- records dealing with the management of indigenous flora and fauna
- regional development applications
- roads and bridges
- town planning schemes
- evaluation records

Examples:

- Primary Industries SA - brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication campaign
- Assessments of the land degradation or soil depletion
- Natural disasters eg floods
- The construction of fences

## Records relating to Aboriginal occupation or use of the land

These are records containing information about:

- Aboriginal language groupings and usage
- Anthropological evidence
- Archaeological evidence
- Continuing and contemporary occupation or use or connection with the land from 1836 to the present
- Family/kinship relationships with a claimant group
- Sacred or secret sites of traditional significance
- Traditional/customary practices

Types of records may include:

- administrative files including Births, Deaths and Marriages
- court records
- demographic report
- departmental policy documents
- employment agreements
- employment records including details of wages
- files detailing the establishment and maintenance of reserves for Aboriginal people
- files detailing the removal of Aboriginal people from particular areas of land
- government ration station / mission records
- housing records
- personal files
- police records
- records dealing with indigenous flora and fauna
- registers or documents recording exemptions
- social history files
- welfare files

Examples:

- Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Office - certificates, notifications, records of no record
- Correctional Services - files, registers
- Education, Training and Employment - school journals, registers of students, principal diaries
- Family and Community Services - personal/client files, welfare files, Aboriginal protector records
- Police Department - station journals

- documents recording Government policies which may have impacted on Aboriginal people

## **Indexes and registers**

These are an aid to searching material

## **Maps, charts and plans**

These records may include details of the following:

- boundaries
- geographical names
- topography

## **Other mediums of recording material**

These may include the following:

- audio tapes
- computer disks
- diagrams
- graphs
- microfiche
- microfilm
- photographs
- sketches
- slides
- sound recordings
- video tapes