

**Address by the Honourable Kim Beazley AC  
Governor of Western Australia**

**South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council/  
DPC Aboriginal Engagement Unit  
Signing of the South West Native Title Settlement**

**Monday 29 March 2021**

*The South West Native Title Settlement signing ceremony for the landmark South West Native Title Settlement was held at Government House on Monday 29 March 2021. Recognised as the most comprehensive Native Title agreement negotiated in Australia, the Settlement involves around 30,000 Noongar people and covers approximately 200,000 square kilometres of the south-west region. Following is the welcome address delivered by the Hon Kim Beazley AC, Governor of Western Australia at the signing.*

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Thankyou Dr Richard Walley for the Welcome to Country, I acknowledge and pay tribute to the Noongar Whadjuk People and their Elders, past and present, the Traditional Custodians of the Land (Boodjar) on which we meet today. This acknowledgement extends to all Noongar People who will all be impacted by the significant event here today, giving effect to the Noongar Boodja Trust.

Today is certainly a hugely momentous occasion for the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and I am privileged to host you all here at Government House to sign the South West Native Title Settlement.

Although it has taken a decade and a half to come to fruition, this agreement is a fine example of what can happen when the government and the traditional owners of our south-west region collaborate and negotiate a win-win outcome for all parties.

A particular acknowledgement to the elders with us today who have been integral in getting us to this milestone today.

I do not have to tell you that this is the most comprehensive Native Title agreement negotiated in Australian history. What I will tell you though, is that I am enormously proud of this outcome. It is a significant step forward in our history. It allows the Noongar people to be recognised as the Traditional Owners of the south west region. It allows the Noongar peoples' strong relationship with the Noongar lands (Noongar boodja) to continue.

And hopefully, through the provision of sustainable assets and options for developing Noongar interests, will allow the six south-west Noongar Agreement Groups – the Ballardong, Gnaala Karla Booja, Wagyl Kaip & Southern Noongar, Whadjuk and Yued groups - to flourish, both socially and economically.

Thank you again for letting me be a part of this tremendous occasion, I would like to welcome the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, to speak.

**ENDS**