

Statement of reasons (obstacles)
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013

This statement of reasons (obstacles) regarding the entitlement to lease for lease application **14/89** by **Harry Matasia (deceased)** made pursuant to section 31 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013* ("the *Land Holding Act*") is made on **10 September 2018**.

DECISION

There is no practical obstacle to the grant of a lease to satisfy the lease entitlement.

DECISION-MAKER

Michael Coots, A/Principal Land Officer, Land and Native Title Services, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.

DELEGATION

Section 88(1) of the *Land Holding Act* provides that the Minister may delegate the Minister's powers under the *Land Holding Act* to the chief executive. Section 88(2) of the *Land Holding Act* provides that a delegation of the Minister's power to the chief executive may permit the subdelegation of the power to an appropriately qualified public service officer. I am authorised to prepare and give this Statement of Reasons (Obstacles) as delegate of the chief executive in accordance with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding (Ministerial) Delegation (No 1) 2018* and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding (Chief Executive) Subdelegation (No 1) 2018*.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Part 4 of the *Land Holding Act* establishes a process for examining each lease entitlement to identify practical obstacles that need to be resolved before a lease can be granted to satisfy the lease entitlement.

Section 29 of the *Land Holding Act* provides for what are practical obstacles –

- (1) *Without limiting what practical obstacles to satisfying a lease entitlement may be identified under this Act, the following could be expected to be identified as obstacles—*
 - (a) *that the location of the area of the lease entitlement land cannot be clearly identified;*
 - (b) *that the ownership of improvements on the lease entitlement land needs to be resolved;*
 - (c) *that competing interests in the lease entitlement land need to be dealt with.*
- (2) *However, the identification, or the need to obtain the agreement, of an interested person in the estate of a deceased holder of a lease entitlement is not a practical obstacle under this Act.*

Section 30 of the *Land Holding Act* requires the Minister to refer the lease entitlement notice to the Land Holding stakeholder reference panel for the trust area or the reference entity.

Section 31(1) of the *Land Holding Act* requires that the Minister to consider any information, advice or recommendation given to the Minister by the Land Holding Act stakeholder reference panel or reference entity under section 30 of the *Land Holding Act* and prepare a statement of reasons (obstacles) about satisfying the lease entitlement.

Section 31(2) of the *Land Holding Act* provides that the statement of reasons (obstacles) must -

- (a) *identify, to the extent known –*
 - i. *the practical obstacles that exist to the granting of a lease to satisfy the lease entitlement; and*
 - ii. *the affected persons for the obstacles; and*
- (b) *explain the Minister's reasons for identifying the obstacles and affected persons.*

Section 31(3) of the *Land Holding Act* provides that a statement of reasons (obstacles) may, if appropriate, state that no practical obstacles exist to satisfying the lease entitlement.

RELEVANT EVIDENCE

In making my decision, I took into consideration the following material –

- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013* – Part 4 – Identification of Practical Obstacles
- Lease application (Form 1) dated **27 April 1989**
- Lease Entitlement Notice dated **30 May 2014**
- Survey plan **SP274784**
- Stakeholder Reference Panel Advice and Recommendation Report dated **23 August 2018**.

FINDINGS ON QUESTIONS OF FACT

In arriving at my decision, I followed the legislative process in the *Land Holding Act* under Part 4 to identify practical obstacles that need to be resolved before the lease can be granted to satisfy the entitlement and made the following findings of fact –

- a. The location of the area of the lease entitlement, as provided for in the *Badu Island Land Holding Act ILUA* can be clearly identified as surveyed **Lot 333 on SP274784** which is suitable for the issue of a lease;
- b. The ownership of improvements has been resolved and will be owned by the lessee upon the grant of the lease
- c. Dealing 715599235, being a lease for social housing purposes to the *Torres Strait Island Regional Council* is registered over the lot subject to the lease entitlement. The lessee and lessor will be required to execute a surrender form so the lease is surrendered from the lot prior to the registration of the lease satisfying the lease entitlement.
- d. There is no practical obstacle to the grant of the lease.

DECISION

I have considered the evidence identified in this statement and I am satisfied that no practical obstacle exists to satisfying the lease entitlement.

Approved by:



NAME OF DECISION-MAKER Michael Coots
POSITION A/Principal Land Officer
Land and Native Title Services
Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

DATED 10 September 2018