



Sunil Sivarajah | Associate, Government and Native Title
Brisbane

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Sunil Sivarajah has both legal and non-legal experience. He completed his degrees in Arts and Law in 1996. He joined MacDonnells Law in January 2009 and is involved in various native title, cultural heritage, land access and government matters.

Prior to joining MacDonnells Law, Sunil Sivarajah worked with a large national firm where he provided advice on native title, mining act, liquor licensing, local government and real estate (major project) matters. Prior to that, Sunil Sivarajah was the acting regional senior legal officer, Pilbara (WA), at the Pilbara Native Title Service (PNTS) where he coordinated legal services through out the Pilbara (Tom Price, South Hedland and Karratha offices) and advised a number of native title claim groups in their energy and mining agreement negotiations, land access matters and the progression of their federal court applications. In particular, he was part of a negotiation team that concluded a landmark compensation agreement with a global iron ore miner.

Sunil's area of expertise includes land access, native title agreements and mining matters, with a particular focus on iron ore, petroleum and associated infrastructure like port and rail. He has appeared in the National Native Title Tribunal on many occasions. He also provided advice on the establishment and operation of various financial vehicles such as trusts and corporations. He has also provided advice on other real estate matters such planning development, land acquisition.

Sunil has considerable non-legal experience gained within the publishing industry. After finishing his arts and law degrees in 1996, he worked for, and also established, several publishing initiatives. In 2004 he received a Bell Award (Australian Publishers' Association) for Best Small Publisher and was the founding publisher of another business title, which was subsequently short listed for best Australian B2B magazine of the year.

Areas of Practice

- Land Acquisition
- Native Title
- Aboriginal Heritage
- Exploration and Mining licence applications and disputes
- Mining and Exploration law including uranium land access matters

Experience

- Published in the AMPLA journal 2009 – *miscellaneous licence objection in the Warden's Court case summary*
- Delivered a presentation to a FAHSCIA in 2007 on native title litigation
- Provided advice and acted for (among others):
 - Electricity Distributor – land access agreements and negotiations in relation to miscellaneous licence matters and Warden's Court objections
 - A uranium explorer – land access matters
 - A junior iron ore explorer – land access matters, drafting agreements
 - Local governments – native title, land access, heritage agreements, statutory interpretation, governance
 - Government departments - native title negotiations and land access matters
 - Native title parties – land access, native title agreements establishment of trusts and corporations and aboriginal heritage matters

Qualifications & Memberships

- Previously a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors – 2000-2005
- Member of the Western Australian Law Society and Queensland Law Society
- Admitted to practice law, April 2006
- Grad Dip College of Law, 2005
- Bachelor of Laws and Arts, 1996