

## FORUM

### **WIK: THE AFTERMATH AND IMPLICATIONS**

#### FOREWORD

The object of *Forum* is to encourage thoughtful and intelligent debate on issues relevant to the law. Vigorous argument and analysis of current legal affairs is for the most part impossible in the general media, and it is hoped that the provision of a separate arena such as *Forum*, devoted to discussion of legal matters by the legal community, will promote better awareness and understanding of such issues within academic, professional, judicial and other circles.

The merit of devoting this edition's *Forum* to the *Wik* decision is evident. It is hoped that a logical and coherent debate can redress much of the misinformation and fear in the community about the implications of the High Court's judgment. The articles published in this issue present a number of different viewpoints, the opinions expressed being those of the authors.

I am grateful to Professor Garth Nettheim for his advice throughout the project, to Lynn Hoggard for her invaluable technical expertise, and to the members of the Editorial Board for their assistance in all aspects of this publication. It is my sincere hope that you find the debate contained in *Forum* both stimulating and engaging.

Tony Abrahams  
General Issue and *Forum* Editor

For ease of reference, the following global citations apply to articles in *Forum*.

<i>Wik</i> = <i>Wik Peoples v State of Queensland</i> (1996) 141 ALR 129	NTA = <i>Native Title Act</i> 1993 (Cth)
<i>Mabo</i> = <i>Mabo v Queensland [No 2]</i> (1992) 175 CLR 1	RDA = <i>Racial Discrimination Act</i> 1975 (Cth)