

Purpose

To establish a framework for NTS Goldfields Ltd (NTSG) to provide funding to third parties under the facilitation and assistance functions described in s203BB of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

Objectives

This policy outlines the Schedule of Costs payable to support external legal services who provide representation to claimants/constituents that NTSG has agreed to fund under its facilitation and assistance function.

This policy details the **maximum** costs that NTSG will fund. NTSG has set reasonable limits on expenses payable to comply with guidelines for appropriate use of funds. The policy also outlines expected appropriate activities for consultants engaged in native title related activities.

Schedule of Fees and Costs

NTSG will only fund up to the maximum set out in the table below.

Consultant Rates¹

Junior Lawyer	\$1,200
Senior Lawyer	\$1,800
Barrister	\$2,300
Senior Counsel	\$3,500
Anthropologist	\$900
Senior Anthropologist	\$1,500 (Court Rate \$1,650)
Administration Support / Paralegal	\$650

Parties can, at their own expense, pay higher rates for consultants depending on individual preferences and budgets.

To ensure parity between parties seeking assistance and that the maximum value for money is achieved with Facilitation and Assistance funding, NTSG will apply a standardised maximum rate for dealing with native title matters.

The table below outlines the types of activities which will be funded for specified consultants. Variations will only be agreed by NTSG in exceptional circumstances.

¹ Maximum daily rate. Daily cap of 6 hours applies to all professional fees.

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Consultant	Types of activities
Junior Lawyer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and provision of legal advice • Preparation and drafting of legal documents • Gathering of and collation of evidence • Dealing with day to day legal matters • Attending meetings with clients • Representation of clients in mediation, negotiation and Court proceedings.
Senior Lawyer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and provision of legal advice • Preparation and drafting of legal documents • Gathering of and collation of evidence • Dealing with day to day legal matters • Attending meetings with clients • Representation of clients in mediation, negotiation and Court proceedings. • Court advocacy.
Counsel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist legal advice • Court advocacy (trial and hearings where Counsel representation is appropriate due to the nature of the matter).
Anthropologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and preparation of anthropological reports. • Preparation of expert reports • Participation in Court proceedings as an independent expert.
Paralegal / Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minute taking • Meeting set up • General research assistance

Travel Expenses

Travel and travel related expenses may take the form of:

1. accommodation expenses;
2. air travel;
3. motor vehicle hire; and
4. taxi fares.

Travel should be planned in advance and undertaken in a manner to achieve the best value for money outcome considering reasonable alternatives. Travel and travel-related expenses will only be payable where the travel and related expenses are consistent with the budget and purposes of the grant.

NTSG will refund or purchase economy class air travel, using the most cost-effective rate, considering the need for flexibility.

Accommodation Expenses

Reasonable accommodation expenses can be claimed if there is a requirement to be away from home on business overnight.

Travel and accommodation

NTSG will only fund up to the limits set out in the table below.

Air travel – Perth to Kalgoorlie Return – economy class seat	\$1200 max
Air travel – interstate return – economy class seat	\$1,800 max
Accommodation Goldfields region	\$250.00 per day
Meals and incidentals	\$130 per day
Accommodation Perth	\$200.00 per day

Parties can, at their own expense, pay for higher cost travel and accommodation depending on individual preferences and budgets.

Constituent Travel Allowance

As per the NTSG Travel Assistance Policy (GP408).

In all instances any claim for reimbursement must be supported by an itemised tax invoice.

References

GP408 Travel Assistance Policy
Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)