What are past acts?

A past act is an act that took place either:

• before 1 July 1993 if that consisted of the making or amendment of legislation; or
• any other act that took place before 1 January 1994 over an area where native title existed.

Some kinds of past acts extinguish native title. Other kinds of past acts, the non-extinguishment principle applies and native title may continue to co-exist with other rights and interests.