

# NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

## DECEMBER 2014

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
31/12/2014	WA	Mining royalties may save WA's remote Indigenous communities from closure	If the Western Australian cabinet agrees to a proposal from Terry Redman, remote Indigenous communities in WA may be saved from closure. Mr Redman proposes to use the \$1bn Royalties for Regions fund to provide municipal services for 180 of the state's 275 remote Indigenous communities.	<a href="#">The Guardian</a> , Australia, 31 December 2014
30/12/2014	WA	Explorer in talks over Pilbara rail and port project	Rutila Resources and Todd Corporation are negotiating with the Western Australian Government to construct a private railway, linking the Balla Balla Port with Flinders Mine, near Tom Price. The project has received environmental approval and access from most native title participants, pastoralists and tenement holders.	<a href="#">The Australian Business Review</a> , Australia, 30 December 2014 <a href="#">Yahoo 7 Finance</a> , Australia, 30 December 2014
26/12/2014	Overseas	Ancestral land rights in the Philippines	The Inquirer's article states that the improvident issuance of ancestral land title is occurring in Baguio City under the <i>Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act</i> . The article makes a plea to ensure that only bona fide ancestral land title claims are made	<a href="#">Philippine Daily Inquirer</a> , Philippines, 26 December 2014
21/12/2014	WA	BURU Energy – Fracking on Yawuru Lands without Permission	Yawuru Traditional Owners are seeking that Buru Energy leave Country. With approval from WA's Department of Mines and Petroleum, Buru Energy is establishing a network of seismic lines and test fracking wells on Yawuru lands in the Canning Basin. Yawuru man Micklo Corpus comments that 'this was carried out in fundamental breach of the Yawuru' rights because the company failed to properly consult or gain Free, Prior and Informed Consent. Also, Robin Chapple MLC is calling for Buru's fracking operations to be halted until a proper and thorough environmental assessment of its activities has been conducted.	<a href="#">IC Magazine</a> , USA, 21 December 2014

21/12/2014	Overseas	A New Revolution in Australia	This Al Jazeera article discusses the Productivity Commission's 'Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage' report, the National Freedom Summit for Aboriginal People and the planned sit-in at Canberra on 26 January 2015. The article references commentators and activists such as Utopia resident Rosalie Kunoth-Monks, activist Tauto Sansbury and National Congress of Australia's First People board member Tammy Solonec.	<a href="#">Sudan Vision, by Al Jazeera</a> , Sudan, 21 December 2014
18/12/2014	Australia	Native Title Ministers' Meeting	At a meeting in Brisbane today, Commonwealth, state and territory ministers responsible for native title continued discussions about improving the native title system. The meeting followed upon the decision of ministers to renew discussions about the operation of the <i>Native Title Act</i> in Darwin in August 2014.	<a href="#">Indigenous.gov.au</a> , Australia, 18 December 2014
17/12/2014	QLD	'It's like spiritual genocide': CSG miner faces fresh fight to drill Indigenous heritage site	Djungan clan leaders are joined by the Greens and Katter's Australian Party in a plan to fight environmental impact of planned Coal Seam Gas extraction on land west of Cairns. Djungan clan leaders say there was no 'informed consent' because environment risks were not explained.	<a href="#">The Guardian</a> , Australia, 17 December 2014
17/12/2014	QLD	Olkola celebrate return of country	The Olkola people of south-central Cape York were celebrating last week after 739,000 hectares of ancestral country was returned to them as Aboriginal freehold land. The Olkola started negotiating for the return of lands nearly 30 years ago.	The Koori Mail, Australia, pg. 26, 17 December 2014 National Indigenous Times, Australia, pg. 14, 17 December 2014
17/12/2014	WA	Council warns on heritage changes	The National Native Title Council has warned that if the Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Bill is passed by the Western Australian Parliament it will place protection of Aboriginal heritage in 'serious peril'.	The Koori Mail, Australia, pg. 5, 17 December 2014
17/12/2014	WA	Colin Barnett's plan to forcibly move First Peoples off their Country is 'ethnic cleansing': Eggington	The Chief Executive Officer of the Aboriginal Legal Services WA, Dennis Eggington has labelled the push by the Western Australian Government to close down the majority of remote homelands as 'ethnic cleansing'.	National Indigenous Times, Australia, pg. 7, 17 December 2014
17/12/2014	WA	Native Title rights of Western Australia's Pilki People formally recognised	The Pilki People of Western Australia had their native title rights formally recognised in a decision handed down last week by the Federal Court of Australia. The determination granted the Pilki People exclusive possession Native Title for 24,400 square kilometres of land in the Great Victorian Desert.	National Indigenous Times, Australia, pg. 13, 17 December 2014
17/12/2014	WA	The trauma of Oombulgurri's demolition will be repeated across Western Australia	The process that was done in the community of Oombulgurri will be repeated with the Government's plan to close 150 remote communities across the state.	National Indigenous Times, Australia, pg. 21, 17 December 2014
16/12/2014	NSW	Native Title: Sorting through the puzzle of a scrambled Aboriginal history	This article explains the process of native title from the point of view of Cabbage Tree Island native title applicants. It includes explanation about Indigenous Land Use Agreements, the impact of lost knowledge on native title and the impact on the community.	<a href="#">ABC North Coast NSW</a> , Australia, 16 December 2014

15/12/2014	NT	Green groups, Northern Land Council protest water allocations ahead of Supreme Court appeal	The Northern Land Council and Northern Territory green groups have held a joint protest outside the NT Supreme Court.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia, 15 December 2014
14/12/2014	NT	Indigenous groups band together to stop fracking on their land	Remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory have united to create the NT Frack Free Alliance, to oppose hydraulic fracturing projects on their land.	<a href="#">Yahoo 7 News</a> , Australia, 14 December 2014
12/12/2014	QLD	Australia's largest native title claim lodged for Cape York Peninsula	On Thursday 11 December 2014, the Cape York land council lodged a claim on behalf of 9 traditional owners. The application covers over 14.6m hectares of land, taking in all the areas of the cape not already under native title.	<a href="#">The Guardian</a> , Australia, 12 December 2014 <a href="#">The Australian</a> , Australia, 12 December 2014 <a href="#">Brisbane Times</a> , Australia, 12 December 2014 <a href="#">Business Insider</a> , Australia, 12 December 2014 <a href="#">BCC News Australia</a> , Australia, 12 December 2014 <a href="#">Canberra Times</a> , Australia, 12 December 2014 The Koori Mail, Australia, pg. 4, 17 December 2014 National Indigenous Times, Australia, pg. 13, 17 December 2014
12/12/2014	WA	Gold Fields appeals St Ives native title ruling	In July 2014, the Federal Court accepted the submissions by the Ngadju People that 210 mining tenements, including many granted to Gold Fields, a subsidiary St Ives Gold Mining Company, were invalid because the right to negotiation requirement of the <i>Native Title Act</i> were not upheld. Final orders were made on 21 November 2014 and, on 12 December 2014; Gold Fields said it will vigorously pursue its appeal.	<a href="#">Mining Weekly</a> , Australia, 12 December 2014 <a href="#">Ventures Africa</a> , Africa, 12 December 2014
12/12/2014	Qld	Quandamooka high court challenge	This article discusses the Quandamooka people's existing appeal to the High Court and discusses the background and provides comments about the introduction of legislation to potentially extend sand mining on North Stradbroke Island.	<a href="#">The Stringer</a> , Australia, 12 December 2014

11/12/2014	NT	Scullion defends review as NT traditional owners sound alarm on Northern Australia development	The Northern Land Council accused Senator Scullion of breaking an election promise not to review land rights laws in the Northern Territory. Senator Scullion made clear he does not want to amend the <i>Land Rights Act</i> but he does see some land councils as hindering the economic prospects for Indigenous people.	<a href="#">ABC PM</a> , Australia, 11 December 2014 <a href="#">Australia Times</a> , Australia, 11 December 2014 <a href="#">Yahoo 7 News</a> , Australia, 12 December 2014 <a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia, 12 December 2014 <a href="#">News.net</a> , Australia, 12 December 2014 <a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia, 13 December 2014
11/12/2014	WA	Yued elder confident Turquoise Coast native title deal to protect iconic sites	South-West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council CEO Glen Kelly said the agreement between the Yued People and Norwest Energy was a good result for the traditional owners of the land. The agreement focuses on protection of agreed heritage sites, educational opportunities and permission for activities relating to oil extraction.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia 11 December 2014
11/12/2014	WA	Oilex gets state approval to convert its special prospecting authority to an exploration permit.	Oilex has three 100% owned exploration areas encompassing approximately 11,900 square kilometres in the Canning Basin. Any future pipelines from the Canning Basin to the main export terminals at Port Hedland and Karratha would have to pass through the newly approved Exploration Permit area.	<a href="#">RigZone</a> , Australia, 11 December 2014
11/12/2014	Australia	Warren Mundine: Treaty needed with each first nation	In a speech in Qld on Wednesday 10 December 2014, Warren Mundine said he would be writing to NSW Premier Mike Baird to request that the <i>NSW Land Rights Act</i> be amended so that the Land Councils reflected traditional nations.	<a href="#">The Australian – National Affairs</a> , Australia, 11 December 2014 <a href="#">Crikey</a> , Australia, 15 December 2014
10/12/2014	WA	Farming on Australia’s largest woodland ‘would release 40m tonnes of carbon’	The Great Western Woodlands, ranging from the wheatbelt west of Kalgoorlie to Esperance and stretching toward the Nullarbor is the largest remaining area of temperate woodland in the world. About 60% of the woodland is made up of unallocated crown land, which is covered by native title. The governing body of the area’s Indigenous Land Use Agreement has not yet been formally established and, therefore, traditional owners have not yet been consulted.	<a href="#">The Guardian</a> , Australia, 10 December 2014
08/12/2014	Qld	Gungarri People’s native title rights recognised	The Federal Court of Australia today formally recognised the Gunggarri People's native title rights and interests over 136 square kilometres of land and waters in south-west Queensland.	<a href="#">Queensland Government Department of Natural Resources and Mines - News</a> , Australia, 8 December 2014 <a href="#">PSNews Online</a> , Australia, 11 December 2014 National Indigenous Times, Australia, pg. 13, 17 December 2014

08/12/2014	WA	Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation celebrates 20 years, telling the story of Pilbara elder Doris Eaton	This article discusses a commemorative book marking 20 years of YMAC, which sets out the story of former NAIDOC female elder of the year Doris Eaton	<a href="#">Perth Now Sunday Times</a> , Australia, 8 December 2014
08/12/2014	WA	WA Pastoralists receive new pastoral leases	After more than a year of drafting, based on updated legislation, modernised wording and extra conditions, updated leases were challenged on the basis that there was a lack of consultation between the government and industry. However, in light of the possibility of triggering a future act, and on the basis of legal advice, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association is suggesting that pastoralists sign their original leases.	<a href="#">ABC Rural</a> , Australia, 8 December 2014
07/12/2014	Overseas	“Indigenous Peoples are the Owners of the Land” say activists at COP20 in Peru	In the 12-day conference in Lima, Indigenous organisations are demanding that UN member states include indicators on biodiversity, the health of native peoples, land titling, and ancestral knowledge in the reports on safeguards that they have to present to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.	<a href="#">Upside Down World</a> , Latin America, 7 December 2014
05/12/2014	QLD	Gunggari people to be granted native title over land along Maranoa River	The Federal Court granted the Gunggari people native title over a parcel of land in Queensland's southern inland. The determination covers more than 14,600 hectares along the Maranoa River and its tributaries.	<a href="#">ABC Indigenous</a> , Australia, 5 December 2014
05/12/2014	WA	Barnett strips dreaming of heritage status	The Swan River faces losing Aboriginal heritage protection under a controversial interpretation of the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i> by the Barnett government.	<a href="#">Fremantle Herald</a> , Australia, 5 December 2014
05/12/2014	TAS	Park rangers join forces with Bruny Island Aboriginal community on land care	The Weetapoona Aboriginal Corporation and the Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife Service are joining forces on land management and economic opportunities in south-eastern Tasmania.	<a href="#">Yahoo 7 News</a> , Australia, 5 December
04/12/2014	NT	Traditional owners target Minerals Council	About 30 traditional owners and family members drove over 1400km to Darwin to protest mining on their lands. Conrad Rory, a Yanyula and Garrawa man said the MacArthur River Mine near his community was having a detrimental impact on the tidal river, with 90 per cent of fish caught downstream of the mine exceeding maximum permitted concentrations of metals and isotopes.	<a href="#">Yahoo 7 News</a> , Australia, 4 December 2014 National Indigenous Times, Australia, pg. 7, 10 December 2014 The Koori Mail, Australia, pg. 6, 17 December 2014
04/12/2014	WA	Gathering storm: Blog	Aboriginal people began to move back into remote communities or outstations on their traditional lands in the early 1970s. This move has been largely supported by federal governments since 1973. Then why, after more than forty years is Western Australian Premier Colin Barnett planning to close 150 of his state's communities?	<a href="#">The Monthly</a> , Australia, 4 December 2014

04/12/2014	QLD	Aboriginal group takes Newman Government to United Nations over fracking in the Lake Eyre Basin	The Mithaka people of Queensland's southwest say they've asked the UN's Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to investigate the Queensland government's 'ongoing failure' to consult with them about oil and gas exploration and fracking on their lands.	<a href="#">Yahoo 7 News</a> , Australia, 4 December 2014 <a href="#">Brisbane Times</a> , Australia, 4 December 2014 <a href="#">The West Australian</a> , Australia, 4 December 2014 <a href="#">ABC AM</a> , Australia, 4 December 2014 <a href="#">News.com.au</a> , Australia, 4 December 2014 <a href="#">Echo Netdaily</a> , Australia, 5 December 2014 National Indigenous Times, Australia, pg. 9, 10 December 2014 The Koori Mail, Australia, pg. 13, 17 December 2014
03/12/2014	SA	APY concerns spark action	The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Ian Hunter has proposed amending the <i>Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981 (APY Act)</i> to give him powers to suspend the APY Executive Board and appoint an Administrator. Mr Hunter said the changes were "in response to ongoing and escalating concerns over the governance and administration of the APY".	The Koori Mail, Australia, pg. 19, 3 December 2014 National Indigenous Times, Australia, pg. 5, 3 December 2014 <a href="#">PSNews Online</a> , Australia 4 December 2014 National Indigenous Times, Australia, pg. 1, 10 December 2014 The Koori Mail, Australia, pg. 9, 17 December 2014
03/12/2014	Australia	A wet season road to the deep north	The president of the Northern Territory Farmers Association admits he is weary of politicians talking of visions, dreams, food bowls and endless fields of rippling irrigated crops planted from Cairns to Karratha whenever debate turns to developing northern Australia. The ANZ Bank's economic research team found forecasts of land and water availability in northern Australia had been grossly over-estimated, that dreams of a future food "dining boom" replacing the financial returns of the dwindling mining boom for the nation were farcical, and that large-scale new irrigated cropping schemes in the north would not be profitable for at least another 20 years.	<a href="#">The Australian - News</a> , Australia, 3 December 2014

03/12/2014	Australia	Indigenous communities 'have no right to fight closures'	Constitutional law expert George Williams says Indigenous people will have no rights to fight the forced closures of their remote townships if the South Australian and West Australian governments can no longer afford to maintain their upkeep.	<a href="#">The Australian – National Affairs</a> , Australia, 3 December 2014
03/12/2014	QLD	Quandamooka seek native title	The Quandamooka people have lodged a native title claim in the federal Court for parts of Mulgumpin (Moreton Island) in Queensland.	Koori Mail, Australia, pg. 31, 3 December 2014
03/12/2014	NT	Nuclear dump rejected	The recent Central Land Council meeting at Alpururulam ended without the traditional owners nominating a site for a nuclear waste management facility.	Koori Mail, Australia, pg. 28, 3 December 2014
03/12/2014	WA	Government blasted for closure plans	The Barnett Government of WA has been condemned for forcing thousands of people from their homes and homelands due to its plan to close up to 150 remote communities.	Koori Mail, Australia, pgs. 8, 23, 3 December 2014
03/12/2014	NSW	NSWALC welcomes gas plan changes	Last week, the NSW Aboriginal Land Council welcomed changes to the NSW Gas Plan that protects its interest in becoming a gas miner.	Koori Mail, Australia, pg. 7, 3 December 2014
03/12/2014	NSW	Anti-gas protest in Narrabri	About 400 Gomeroi people from NSW have joined an anti-gas protest in Narrabri NSW to protest the NSW Government's gas plan and mining company Santos' Narrabri Gas Project in the Pilliga forest.	Koori Mail, Australia, pg. 7, 3 December 2014
03/12/2014	WA	WA delegation fights for heritage	Last month more than 70 traditional owners travelled from the Kimberley, Western Desert, Yamatji and South West to the WA Parliament to show the State government that Aboriginal heritage and culture is still alive and strong and cannot be destroyed.	Koori Mail, Australia, pg. 5, 3 December 2014
03/12/2014	WA	Dodson's dire warning: close communities and our People will be refugees in their own country	Eminent Elder Patrick Dodson has said the proposal to close 150 communities will make Aboriginal People refugees in their own country and threaten ancient living cultures.	National Indigenous Times, Australia, pg. 11, 3 December 2014
03/12/2014	Australia	ACCC investigates heritage survey industry	The ACCC is now investigating allegations of 'cartel conduct' by mining companies and Aboriginal heritage service providers.	National Indigenous Times, Australia, pg. 13, 3 December 2014
02/12/2014	WA	New Regime for Aboriginal Heritage	The WA Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Peter Collier, proposed "modest changes" to ensure Western Australia's Aboriginal heritage could be properly protected more effectively and efficiently.	<a href="#">PSNews Online</a> , Australia, 2 December 2014

02/12/2014	Australia	Mick Gooda is worried the centralisation of Aboriginal policy has set back work. A report from the government's commissioner is sobering.	In his <i>Social Justice and Native Title Report</i> , Mick Gooda says the transfer of responsibility for 26 programs from eight federal agencies to the Prime Minister's Department has caused "immense anxiety" among Indigenous Australians. The drastic machinery-of-government changes have brought about 2000 new employees into the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, along with responsibility for over 150 separate initiatives and services, some 3000 funding contracts and relationships with about 1440 organisations.	<a href="#">The Mandarin</a> , Australia, 2 December 2014 Koori Mail, Australia, pgs. 1, 5, 3 December 2014 National Indigenous Times, Australia, pg. 7, 3 December 2014 <a href="#">PSNews Online</a> , Australia, 5 December 2014 <a href="#">The Conversation</a> , Australia, 15 December 2014 <a href="#">Christian Today</a> , Australia, 17 December 2014
02/12/2014	WA	Marcia Langton lashes out at future fund silence	Indigenous academic Marcia Langton says the Abbott government is failing Aboriginal people by refusing to endorse a new tax-exempt future fund under which native title payments could be spent on business and economic development in impoverished communities.	<a href="#">The Australian – National Affairs</a> , Australia, 2 December 2014
02/12/2014	WA	As iron ore price plunges, Marcia Langton urges Aboriginal businesses to diversify	In her key speech at an Indigenous business conference at the University of Western Australia, Marcia Langton discussed the plunging price of iron ore and urged Aboriginal businesses involved in mining to urgently diversify into oil, gas and construction.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia, 2 December 2014
01/12/2014	WA	Land trust 'failing Aborigines', says Ben Wyatt	The vast quantities of land held in trust for Aboriginal Australians is testament to the failure of governments to force the issue of Aboriginal opportunity, the West Australian opposition says. State Labor indigenous affairs spokesman Ben Wyatt will tell the Indigenous Business, Enterprise and Corporations Conference to be held at the University of Western Australia in Perth this week that divesting some of the 24 million hectares — about 10 per cent of the state — held by the Aboriginal Lands Trust is needed to allow some communities to benefit from economic opportunities.	<a href="#">The Australian – National Affairs</a> , Australia, 1 December 2014
01/12/2014	Australia	Fred Chaney, retiring Reconciliation Australia head, hopes future Indigenous policies will not threaten 'world's oldest living cultures'	In his speech, Fred Chaney stated "I think there's an enormous challenge in getting us away from a totally assimilationist mindset and understanding that a continuing part of Australia is the Aboriginal tribes and nations that are such an important ongoing part of the fabric of Australia."	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia, 1 December 2014 <a href="#">The Australian – National Affairs</a> , Australia, 2 December 2014

**Disclaimer:** The views and opinions expressed in the articles linked to and mentioned in this document do not necessarily reflect those of AIATSIS, and the Institute accepts no responsibility for them. Some of the links in this resource may lead to subscription only news items.