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AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL
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NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

April 2016

New South Wales (NSW)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
07/04/2016	NSW	Indigenous owners call for faster ministerial appointments	The Aboriginal Joint Management Custodians model, which allows Indigenous owners to lease national parks back to the state government while retaining management control, is suffering from delays to ministerial appointments. Delays taken in the time for national parks boards of management to be elected is causing frustration for local Indigenous owners keen to begin parks business.	ABC News Australia, 7 April 2016

Northern Territory (NT)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
15/04/2016	NT	Inland prawn farm seeks ways to accelerate development	Northern Territory prawn farm, Project Sea Dragon is aiming to be 'investment ready' by the end of 2016, and is working to fast-track an initial 2,160 hectares of production ponds. The Seafarms group responsible has stated that they are operating on a no-surprise basis and are giving as much information to Indigenous land owners and the Northern Land Council as available.	ABC News Australia, 15 April 2016

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
14/04/2016	NT	No ban for climbing Uluru	The Turnbull government has decided against banning tourists from climbing Uluru. Despite pressure from Anangu owners of the area and declining numbers of climbers over the past few decades, Environment Minister Greg Hunt has stated that there are no plans to stop people climbing the rock. Anangu expressed dismay at the continued allowance of climbers on Uluru.	Sydney Morning Herald Australia, 14 April 2016 SBS Australia, 14 April 2016
06/04/2016	NT	Native title recognition for NT pastoral stations	A non-exclusive native title consent determination was recently handed down for almost 15,000 square kilometres covering areas from both Neutral Junction and Stirling Station, north of Alice Springs. The determination was awarded to 14 different landholding groups from the region. The Eynewantheyne Aboriginal Corporation will become the Registered Native Title Body Corporate.	Central Land Council Australia, 6 April 2016
04/04/2016	NT	NLC surprised by NT Government's new plan for the Ord irrigation scheme.	The Northern Land Council (NLC) is 'baffled' by the NT Government's new change in direction for developing the third stage of the Ord Irrigation scheme. According to NLC CEO Joe Morrison, Indigenous owners had participated in lengthy discussions with the NT Government previously but were not suitably consulted about the most recent proposals.	ABC News Australia, 4 April 2016

Queensland (QLD)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
07/04/2016	QLD	Developments in negotiations between Adani and Wangan Jagalingou owners	<p>Last month Wangan and Jagalingou land owners rejected an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with Adani for the third time and planned to continue with the Federal Court appeal to seek a judicial review of the decision by the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) that Carmichael Mine proposal could proceed as a future act agreement.</p> <p>This month, at a meeting on the 16 April, Wangan and Jagalingou owners voted in favour of the ILUA for the construction and operation of the Carmichael Mine, but some from the claim group have labelled the vote a 'sham.' The Guardian Australia have named applicants who received sitting fees for meetings with Adani, although the context of the provision of sitting fees remains unclear.</p> <p>Some community members are actively protesting the mine. Wangan and Jagalingou representatives against the coal mine had said the Queensland mines minister Anthony Lynham had betrayed native title holders under pressure from Adani by agreeing to the lease earlier this month although a letter released in Oct 2015 stated Lynham 'would consider the mining lease application after all legislative requirements were explored.'</p>	<p>The Australian Australia, 5 April 2016</p> <p>The Australian Australia, 6 April 2016</p> <p>SBS News Australia, 7 April 2016</p> <p>The Australian Australia, 8 April 2016</p> <p>Sydney Morning Herald Australia, 13 April 2016</p> <p>Mining Australia Australia, 14 April 2016</p> <p>South Burnett Times Australia, 14 April 2016</p> <p>Live Mint Mumbai, 14 April 2016</p> <p>Fraser Coast Chronicle Australia, 16 April 2016</p> <p>News.com.au Australia, 16 April 2016</p> <p>The Guardian Australia, 16 April 2016</p> <p>Echo Net Daily Australia, 18 April 2016</p> <p>The Australian Australia, 18 April 2016</p>

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
06/04/2016	QLD	Native title awarded to FNQ owners	Native title was recently awarded over the 54,000 hectare area known as Sandstone East, north west of Cooktown. Minister Curtis Pitt handed over the deed to the Binthii, Balnaggarr, Nhirrbanh, Wundall and Wunuurr clans marking the end of the 22 year process. Included in the determination was an annual funding agreement of \$100,000 for land management in the area.	Brisbane Times Australia, 18 April 2016

South Australia (SA)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
02/04/2016	SA	Changes to SA Heritage Act approved in parliament	After a long period of inactivity, the draft bill to amend the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988</i> (SA) was introduced into state parliament last month. On March 22, having passed through the Legislative Council, the House of Assembly agreed to the bill without any amendment. Green Left Weekly questioned the level of appropriate consultation and notice, as well how the proposed changes will affect the rights of traditional owners in agreement making.	Green Left Weekly Australia, 2 April 2016

Victoria (VIC)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
24/04/2016	VIC	Budj Bim heritage site closer to UNESCO bid	<p>The Budj Bim Gunditjmara heritage site in south-west Victoria has moved one step closer to UNESCO World Heritage listing with the Victorian Government announcing \$8 million to improve visitor facilities at the site.</p> <p>Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation chairman Damein Bell said he was excited to share their land with more people, 'as Gunditjmara we believe if we share the story we help protect the story of the landscape.'</p>	<p>ABC News Australia, 24 April 2016</p>

Western Australia (WA)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
28/04/2016	WA	Draft Land Administration Amendment Bill 2016 released	<p>The draft Land Administration Amendment Bill 2016 was released on 5 April 2016 and has shed further light on the proposed land tenure reforms that were approved by the Western Australian Cabinet earlier this year.</p> <p>The 'centrepiece' is the introduction of rangeland leases, meaning native title holders will mostly likely have to negotiate an ILUA as part of the conversion process from pastoral to rangeland leases and this may involve rent increases.</p>	<p>Clayton Utz Australia, 28 April 2016</p>

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
20/04/2016	WA	YAC votes in new board	The Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) have elected a new board and voting rules. The Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) visited the Pilbara to assist Yindjibarndi people elect 12 new board directors during a meeting of 200 people at Roebourne, east of Karratha.	ABC News Australia, 20 April 2016
14/04/2016	WA	Protestors calling for more public housing	In response to the removal of homeless people from the tent embassy at Heirisson Island, Perth, residents took to the streets to protest against the lack of public housing, as well as objecting to the WA state government's \$1.3 billion native title offer to the Nyoongar people, the closure of remote communities and removal of traditional land rights.	WA Today Australia, 14 April 2016

Australia

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
11/04/2016	Australia	Wik decision and 'judicial activism'	With the 20th anniversary of the Wik decision this year, Lecturer Tania Josev explores the history of the term 'judicial activism.' From use of the term in the presidential campaigns of the 1970s and 80s in the United States to the public discourse around the Wik decision, where the High Court was accused by some as engaged in 'non-judicial behaviour'— favouring non-mainstream litigant or interests.	The Conversation Australia, 11 April 2016

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
05/04/2016	Australia	Native title lawyer finalist in partner of the year awards	Jennifer Humphris, Macdonells Law, has been named a finalist in the Lawyers Weekly Partner of the Year Awards. Last year, Humphris successfully negotiated or managed the negotiation of over 10 Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) for her government clients to resolve the relationship between the exercise of government and native title interests.	Lawyers Weekly Australia, 5 April 2016

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