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AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL
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NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

February 2016

New South Wales (NSW)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
01/02/2016	NSW	Cultural Fishing	<p>On the NSW coast, discussions are occurring between Aboriginal fishermen and Fisheries officers from the NSW Department of Primary Industries about cultural fishing rights and the Fisheries Management Act. Meetings have been held to try to agree on a system that would allow authorities to control the total number of fish and crustaceans taken out of the sea, while still allowing traditional owners to practise their culture and feed their communities. The main issue in NSW is bag limits: the department wants them strictly applied; Indigenous fishermen do not. The Aboriginal Fishing Advisory Council says, 'that a native title right to fish, even commercially, shouldn't be regulated, and that the changes to the Act should commence without bag limits.'</p>	<p>Canberra Times, Australia, 01 February 2016</p>

Northern Territory (NT)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
08/02/2016	NT	Case seeks native title compensation	The Federal Court has recently visited the remote town of Timber Creek, in the Northern Territory, for a Federal Court hearing to 'decide how traditional owners will be compensated for the loss of native title.' This historic case is the first in Australia and will set a precedent for other native title groups.	ABC News , Australia, 8 February 2016 The Koori Mail, pg. 3, Australia, 24 February 2016

Queensland (QLD)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
28/02/2016	QLD	Native title claim driving Indigenous employment	In the Cape York Peninsula, the One Claim native title application 'has ensured that traditional owners have a right to negotiate activity on their country'. As a result Indigenous employees have been contracted to work on The Peninsula Development Road project. General Manger of Cape York Employment, Sonia Minniecon, said that this experience is providing Indigenous people with the opportunity to gain the skills needed 'to get a job anywhere in Australia.'	National Indigenous Times , Australia, 28 February 2016
28/02/2016	QLD	Adani closer to getting mining lease for Australian coal mine	Following the finalisation of a compensation deal with a local government body – Isaac Regional Council, the Adani group is getting closer to obtaining a mining lease, for its 'US \$6.5 billion coal mine project' in Queensland. Yet Adani still needs to finalise a deal for council infrastructure and with native title holders.	IFL , India, 28 February 2016

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
26/02/2016	QLD	Native title veterans fight 'racist' Qld mining law	A decision by the state government last year to sign an agreement with Swiss miner Glencore, over a rival bid by native title holders backed by a overseas consortium, sparked a case on racial discrimination. The case alleges racial discrimination under the Queensland's <i>Mineral Resource Act</i> , as it has a special section for Aurukun lands that excludes any objections or appeals against mining decisions made by the natural resources minister. The law dating from 2006 is the only one its type in the state. Barbara Bandicootcha, a Wik woman and director of Ngan Aak-Kunch native title body said 'We have this native title, but what does it mean? You know. We still don't have that right even though it was given to us'.	SBS , Australia, 26 February 2016
22/02/2016	QLD	Cape York leader warns of 'gravy train' rorting	Richie Ah Mat, Chairman of the Cape York Land Council and a member of the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council, is calling for tougher checks on Indigeneity. Mr Ah Mat stated 'that government jobs, contracts and benefits for Indigenous Australians are open to fraudulent behaviour because some land councils and native title groups (claiming to verify identity) 'don't have the resources to complete this task.'	The Australian , Australia, 22 February 2016
17/02/2016	QLD	Native title in Senator Canavan's sights	For Queensland's LNP Senator Matthew Canavan, resolving outstanding native title claims is a significant challenge that needs to be addressed for Northern Australia to reach its full potential in agricultural production, mining and development.	Farm Weekly , Australia, 17 February 2016

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
02/02/2016	QLD	Golden hopes for mining at The Palms-Glastonbury	Dia-Cot-Met Pty Ltd, a gold exploration company, has applied for a 13 square kilometre lease, situated 8 kilometres west of Gympie in 'the Palms and Glastonbury area.' Mine's Minister, Anthony Lynham, explained that whilst the government has an application for an exploration permit, 'the company and traditional owners will have to go through native title negotiations.'	The Gympie Times , Australia, 2 February 2016
02/02/2016	QLD	Adani mine clears environment hurdle	Mining company Adani has received the final environmental permit for their mining lease in the Galilee Basin of Queensland. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection 'said it had vigorously assessed the environmental authority application and acted on recommendations made by the Land Court'.	SBS , Australia, 2 February 2016 News.com.au , Australia, 2 February 2016
01/02/2016	QLD	Adani back in court over Carmichael mine	Adani has defended its decision in the Brisbane Federal Court for not providing the National Native Title Tribunal with all of its expert reports during an ongoing legal battle. Back in April 2015 the tribunal approved the \$16 billion Carmichael mine, preparing the state government to grant the mining giant a lease. Yet Adrian Burragubba from the Wangan and Jagalingou group is still fighting to overturn this decision.	Sunshine Coast Daily , Australia, 1 February 2016

South Australia (SA)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
10/02/2016	SA	Nora Creina development up for consultation	A Public Environmental Report on the multi-million dollar golf course and tourism resort planned near Nora Creina has been released. The report outlines infrastructure, design and operational plans as well as environmental impact and native title issues. Public comment on the report is invited until March 21.	Coastal Leader , Australia, 10 February 2016
04/02/2016	SA	Native Title spurs Kokatha job creation	The Kokatha were recently awarded native title over 30,000 square kilometres of country covering the Lake Eyre and Roxby Downs' region. Since their determination, Kokatha have created jobs within land management and set up the Kokatha Pastoral Company.	Australian Government – indigenous.gov.au , Australia, 4 February 2016 ABC News , Australia, 17 February 2016

Victoria (VIC)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
08/02/2016	VIC	Gruyere cements its viability	Gold Road Resources is aiming to start building the 5.6 million ounce Gruyere mine this time next year after the prefeasibility study confirmed it as one of Australia's best undeveloped project. A mining lease application has been lodged, but its grant is pending a native title agreement which is expected to be finalised in the June quarter.	Mining News.Net , Australia, 8 February 2016

Western Australia (WA)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
22/02/2015	WA	WA Supreme Court investigates election of board members of Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation	John Sandy, chairman of the breakaway group Wurlu Wurlu has challenged the way in which the Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) board was recently re-elected. It has been alleged that YAC members 'failed to get the 75 per cent majority required to elect a new board of directors'. The corporation's rule 'stating that a new board must be elected every year' has allegedly been overlooked since the incumbents have kept their positions.	ABC News , Australia 22 February 2016 ABC News , Australia, 23 February 2016

Australia

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
23/02/2016	Australia	Millions believe we should win' insists Bill Shorten	Bill Shorten has spoken about Labor's chances of winning this year's election, regardless of voters 'ranking Malcolm Turnbull as more capable of handling the economy, tax reform national security and asylum seekers.' Mr Shorten said the Coalition will challenge us with their 'scare and smear campaigns reflecting on native title in the 1990s and communist infiltration in the 1950s.'	The Australian , Australia, 23 February 2016

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
17/02/2016	Australia	EPBC Act: Guidance on Indigenous engagement for environmental assessments	The Commonwealth Department of Environment has recently published a new guideline entitled <i>Engage Early: Guidance for proponents on best practice Indigenous engagement for environmental assessments under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)</i> . The guideline sets out the best practice principles for engaging with Indigenous people in relation to projects that fall under the EPBC Act, particularly where those projects will be done in areas that 'could' be subject to a native title claim or determination in future.	Lexology , United Kingdom, 17 February 2016
07/02/2016	Australia	Native title lawyer to contest Tanya Plibersek's seat	On the 4 February Sylvie Ellsmore – a native title lawyer was chosen by the Green's party to 'contest Tanya Pilbersek's Federal electorate'. Ms Ellsmore was previously a Marrickville councillor and NSW Green's campaign co-ordinator.	The Sydney Morning Herald , Australia, 7 February 2016
05/02/2015	Australia	Metro Mining talks bauxite potential at Proactive's Spotlight CEO Sessions	Simon Finnis, the managing director of Metro Mining has recently joined Proactive Spotlight CEO Session's road show, to discuss 'Cape York bauxite province' and the proposed 'Bauxite hill's project. Finnis announced that native title has been finalised and a leading aluminium company has been secured for the area.	Proactive Investors , Australia, 5 February 2016

International

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
24/02/2016	International	Fong: Native Title Day, Ibaloy Day	The 23 February was International Native Title Day, which is a celebration shared with Ibaloy Day, on Luzon island in the Phillipines. Since 2010 the 'Unity of Ibaloy's' (Baguio people) have been leading the celebration. On the 28 September 2009 the Baguio local government declared the 23 of February as the date to recognise Mateo Cariño's struggle for legitimising native title in the US Supreme Court.	Sunstar Baguio , Phillipines, 24 February 2016

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