



**AIATSIS**

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF  
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDER STUDIES  
NATIVE TITLE RESEARCH UNIT

## NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2013/14

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
02/12/2013	NSW	Bandjalang People celebrate native title recognition	The Bandjalang People have formally been recognized as native title holders over a 2,750 square kilometre area. The area spans Evans Head, north-west to Casino, inland to Busby Flats and south to Junction Hill near Grafton. The Federal Court confirmed a consent determination that recognized the customary rights of the Bandjalang people, and the protection of sacred sites such as the Goanna Headland. The claim has been running for 17 years.	<a href="#">National Indigenous Times</a> (Malua Bay NSW, 2 December 2013) <a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 2 December 2013) <a href="#">The Northern Star</a> (Northern Rivers NSW, 2 December 2013) <a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 2 December 2013) <a href="#">ABC: Indigenous</a> (Sydney NSW, December 2013)
04/12/2013	NSW	Bega Valley 'Boydton' development	The owners of Boydton in the Bega Valley Shire have proposed a development which will extend the site. Developers have requested changes in zoning to eliminate native title claims in the part of Twofold Bay where they seek to establish a marina. The developer Bruce Lyons lodged a non-claimant application with the NNTT to determine the native title in the Twofold Bay area.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 4 December 2013)
04/12/2013	SA	Native title rights of the Wirangu, Kokatha, Mirning and Anangu peoples recognized in SA	The native title rights of the Wirangu, Kokatha, Mirning and Anangu people were recognized at a Federal Court hearing held at Lake Pidinga. The native title rights cover an area of nearly 76,000 square kilometres from the Western Australian border, to Tarcoola in the north and Streaky Bay in the south. The area includes several Aboriginal Lands Trust holdings such as Yalata and Koonibba communities where exclusive native title rights will be recognized. This is the culmination of 17 years legal process through the federal court.	<a href="#">West Coast Sentinel</a> (Ceduna SA, 4 December 2013) <a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 4 December 2013) <a href="#">ABC News</a> (West Coast SA, 4 December 2013)

09/12/2013	NSW	Lake Macquarie Council added as Respondent to the Awabakal and Guringai people native title claim	The Awabakal and Guringai people have made a native title claim over land which includes Lake Macquarie, Newcastle, Maitland and Cessnock local government areas, along with parts of the Central Coast and Sydney. Lake Macquarie Council has become a respondent to the claim in an attempt to seek protection for environmental interests, conservation land and open space.	<a href="#">Newcastle Herald</a> (Newcastle NSW, 9 December 2013) <a href="#">Lakes Mail</a> (Morisset NSW, 9 December 2013)
10/12/2013	NSW	Additional respondent added to Gomerioi native title claim	The Federal Court allowed Dean Phillips to be added as a respondent to the Gomerioi People's Native Title claim. The Attorney-General of NSW is named as the main respondent. More than 140 others, including 15 local councils, are now party to the proceedings. The Gomerioi people have claimed native title over land extending from the Upper Hunter to the Queensland border, incorporating the New England North West and parts of the Central West.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 10 December 2013) <a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 10 December 2013)
11/12/2013	WA	Fred Chaney: Aboriginals have to strive for cultural survival	The former deputy president of the NNTT claimed that many Australians have an 'assimilationist frame of mind'. Mr Chaney was speaking at an Equal Opportunity Commission event to mark the United Nations' Human Rights Day. He claims that assimilation will consume Aboriginal culture, and Aboriginal people have to fight for its survival.	<a href="#">The West Australian</a> (Perth WA, 11 December 2013)
11/12/2013	SA	Native title rights of the Wirangu, Kokatha, Mirning and Anangu peoples formally recognised	An official ceremony occurred at Lake Pidinga, formally recognising the native title rights of the Wirangu, Kokatha, Mirning and Anangu peoples. It was announced the state government had negotiated Indigenous Land Use Agreements over the parks in the area, as well as co-management agreements for Yumberra Conservation Park and the Nullarbor Wilderness Protection Area.	<a href="#">West Coast Sentinel</a> (Ceduna SA, 11 December 2013) <a href="#">West Coast Sentinel</a> (Ceduna SA, 11 December 2013)
13/12/2013	Aus.	Indigenous recognition in the constitution	The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda reports on the state of Indigenous issues in Australia and the progress being made towards closing the gap in his 2013 Social Justice and Native Title Report. He discusses the lack of progress made in addressing indigenous involvement in the criminal justice system. He calls for indigenous people to take more responsibility and control over their affairs.	<a href="#">World News Australia</a> (Sydney NSW, 13 December 2013)
19/12/2013	WA	Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC reach native title agreement with Rutila Resources Ltd	A native title agreement was reached between the Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC and Rutila Resources Ltd. The native title agreement is in regards to the Balla Balla VTi Magnetite Project and Export Facility. The Ngarluma People are the recognized native title holders over the land and waters within the Balla Balla project area.	<a href="#">Finance News Network</a> (Sydney NSW, 19 December 2013)

20/12/2014	Qld.	Closure of the Century Zinc mine expected in 2015	The Century Zinc mine near Mount Isa is projected to have extinguished its recoverable ore in mid-2015. A Native title agreement was reached between the mine owners and the native title holders, which secured employment for approximately 200 workers. The company is encouraging workers to redeploy to other projects.	<a href="#">The Courier Mail</a> (Brisbane Qld, 20 December 2013)
01/01/2014	WA	Buru Energy employee becomes head of a Yawuru Native Title Organisation	Neil McKenzie has become the head of the Yawuru Native Title Organisation. He had previously been employed as Buru's traditional owner liaison manager for 2 years. The Yawuru Native Title Organisation previously opposed Buru's plan to frack in the Kimberley.	<a href="#">The Australian</a> (Sydney NSW, 2 January 2014)
02/01/2014	WA	Federal Court confirms NNTT approach to future act determinations	The Federal Court determined in the case of <i>Watson on behalf of Nyikina &amp; Mangala v Backreef Oil Pty Ltd</i> [2013] FCA 1432 that the task of the NNTT is to apply the criteria set out in the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cwlth) to the specific evidence and information brought before it. The Court found that this underscores the need for parties to carefully address those criteria with detailed contentions and supporting materials.	<a href="#">The Lawyer</a> (London UK, 2 January 2014)
07/01/2014	NSW	Meeting of Wellington Valley region native title claimants	The Wellington Valley Wiradjuri native title claimants called a meeting for the 24 <sup>th</sup> of January with all eligible native title claimants for the Wellington Valley region. The purpose of the meeting is to authorize applicants for a new native title claim.	<a href="#">The Daily Liberal</a> (Dubbo NSW, 7 January 2014) <a href="#">Central Western Daily</a> (Orange NSW, 7 January 2014) <a href="#">The Wellington Times</a> (Wellington NSW, 8 January 2013)
09/01/2014	SA	Changes to government funding for respondents in native title claims will affect respondents in the Ngarrindjeri native title claim	The Murray Bridge and Coorong councils will join Victor Harbor and Yankalilla councils as respondents to the Ngarrindjeri claim covering River Murray, Lower Lakes and Coorong areas. Due to changes in government funding, they will no longer receive financial support from the Federal Government's Native Title Respondent Scheme.	<a href="#">The Murray Valley Standard</a> (Murray Bridge SA, 9 January 2013)
10/01/2014	WA	Grant of extended time to appeal a permit for petroleum exploration in Derby Block overturned	The Nyikina and Mangala traditional owners were granted an extension of time by the NNTT to appeal against the decision granting a permit to Oil Basins for petroleum exploration in the Derby Block of WA. The Derby Block comprises an area of approximately 5,063 square kilometres in the onshore Canning Basin. Oil Basins appealed this decision in the Federal Court. The Federal Court in Perth overturned the NNTT decision. Oil Basins is now waiting on the Western Australia Minister for Mines and Petroleum to issue the permit.	<a href="#">Proactive Investors Australia</a> (Sydney NSW, 10 January 2014)
10/01/2014	Aus.	NNTC is pushing for compulsory apprenticeships for Indigenous school leavers	The NNTC's CEO Brian Wyatt urges the use of compulsory apprenticeships for Aboriginal school leavers and has pushed the idea in a government review. He said the only way to combat these issues is to implement a compulsory apprenticeship program for Indigenous school leavers.	<a href="#">The Australian</a> (Sydney NSW, 10 January 2014) <a href="#">SBS News</a> (Sydney NSW, 10 January 2014)

10/1/2014	NT	Whitegate Traditional Owners are being urged to find alternate accommodation	Traditional owners and residents of Whitegate town camp in Alice Springs were granted non-exclusive native title rights over the area in 1999. The land has remained Territory Crown land. The Territory government has been urging the remaining camp residents to find alternative accommodation and move from the town camp, due to insufficient housing in the area. Whitegate missed out on funding from the federal government's transformation plan for town camps in 2009, and no houses have been constructed in the area.	<a href="#">Alice Online</a> (Alice Springs NT, 29 May 2011) <a href="#">SBS Podcast</a> (Sydney NSW, 26 July 2013) <a href="#">Centralian Advocate</a> (Alice Springs NT, 24 December 2013) <a href="#">ABC: Indigenous</a> (Sydney NSW, 3 January 2014).
10/01/2014	Qld.	Kalkadoon people celebrate anniversary of their native title recognition	The Kalkadoon People celebrated the anniversary of the Federal Court orders recognizing their native title rights over 40,000 square kilometres of land and waters in the Mount Isa region of North West Queensland.	<a href="#">The North West Star</a> (Mount Isa Qld, 10 January 2014)
10/1/2014	VIC	Lake Tyers shareholders threaten court action against Victorian Government over government administration of Lake Tyers Mission	The former Lake Tyers Mission was transferred to its residents as collective shareholding of freehold in 1971 and was managed by the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust. Following what the government called "a breakdown of authority, accompanied by violence" in 2005, the Government appointed an administrator. Since then, shareholders have not considered themselves appropriately represented. In January 2014, the Victorian Government announced that the Administrator will be replaced by a Government appointed Board of 7 people. Only 1 of the Board is a shareholder in the land. The Lake Tyers shareholders are threatening court action in response.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 10 January 2014) <a href="#">Green Left Weekly</a> (Broadway NSW, 10 April 2011) <a href="#">ABC: The Drum</a> (Sydney NSW, 18 March 2011)
13/01/2014	Aus.	ORIC and NQLC release an Information Sheet for PBCs	The Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) and the North Queensland Land Council (NQLC) published an Information Sheet mainly for prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs and RNTBCs) about the interaction between the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cwlth) and the <i>Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006</i> (CATSI Act).	<a href="#">ORIC Publications</a> (Canberra ACT, 13 January 2014)
15/01/2014	Aus.	Budina people sign ILUA with local pastoralists	ILUAs covering land use in Lyndon, Towera, Emu Creek and Middalya stations have been signed and registered by the Budina people and pastoralists. The ILUAs cover approximately 80% of the Budina people's native title claim land.	<a href="#">The Koori Mail</a> (Lismore NSW, 15 January 2014), 10
22/01/2014	Qld.	Official ceremony for the recognition of Girramay people's native title rights	The Federal Court recognized the native title rights of the Girramay people in 2009. The Girramay Aboriginal People Corporation will hold an ceremony acknowledging the hand over the land south of Cairns, in and around Cardwell.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 22 January 2014)
26/01/2014	WA	Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation withdraws objection to the Balla Balla vanadium titanium magnetite project	The Ngarluma Aboriginal corporation withdrew their final objection over Rutila Resources miscellaneous license tenement application over the Balla Balla vanadium titanium magnetite project and export facility on the Pilbara coast. This objection will allow the Rutila Resources miscellaneous license tenement application being granted.	<a href="#">The West Australian Regional</a> (Pilbara WA, 26 January 2014)

27/01/2014	WA	Ngadju people claim mining rights held by St Ives Gold Mining are inconsistent with the Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth)	The Ngadju people claim that aspects of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cwlth) were not followed in the granting of mining rights over some 250 tenements held by St Ives Gold Mining, a wholly owned subsidiary of South African company Gold Fields. The Federal Court will begin hearing the matter in March 2014.	<a href="#">Business Day Live</a> (Johannesburg South Africa, 27 January 2014) <a href="#">Mining Business Media</a> (Perth WA, 27 January 2014)
27/01/2014	Aus.	PM's Chief Advisor on Aboriginal Affairs proposes treaties with Aboriginal nations in order to conclude native title claims	PM's Chief Advisor on Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Mundine, proposes a plan for treaties with Aboriginal nations. He suggests that those who sign a treaty would receive formal recognition as a nation and the traditional owners of a defined area, thereby concluding native title claims. The opposition spokesman for Indigenous affairs claims this is unworkable, as there are sometimes several native title claimants over one area, making negotiations complicated and that the proposal would overlook the contested nature of native title and the involvement of 3 <sup>rd</sup> parties.	<a href="#">The Australian</a> (Sydney NSW, 27 January 2014)
31/01/2014	Qld.	Traditional owners of Badu Island granted freehold	Following negotiations between the Badulgal people and the State Government over several years, freehold title for 9,000 hectares of land is to be transferred on 1 February 2014 to the Badulgal people. The Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Andrew Cripps said that there will be economic opportunities presented to the people of Badu Island as a result of them gaining freehold title over the land.	<a href="#">ABC: Indigenous</a> (Sydney NSW, 31 January 2014)