

## NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

### SEPTEMBER 2013

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
2/9/2013	Aus.	Coalition to reinstate funding	The Federal Coalition announced that it will reinstate legal representation funding for native title respondents if elected to Government. It is hoped that the reinstated funding will improve efficiency in the native title process as it will enable pastoral respondents to be collectively represented.	<a href="#">Daily Liberal</a> (Dubbo NSW, 2 September 2013)
3/9/2013	Qld.	Agreement reached on Gladstone Port	Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) and the regions native title holders, the Port Curtis Coral Coast committee, have reached an agreement on the further development of Gladstone Port. Under the deal, native title holders will receive 2 cents per tonne on all trade through the port in return for the GPC to bypass individual native title negotiations on current and future developments. The specifics of this agreement remain confidential.	<a href="#">The Observer</a> (Gladstone Qld., 3 September 2013)
4/9/2013	WA	Relief for Banjiima people	The Banjiima people have been formally recognised as native title holders by the Federal Court. Banjiima elder Alec Tucker said whilst it was a joyful occasion, it was also sad as a lot of elders have passed away in the 15 years since the claim was first lodged.	<i>Pilbara News</i> (Pilbara WA, 4 September 2013), 1 <i>North West Telegraph</i> (South Hedland WA, 4 September 2013), 25 <i>Koori Mail</i> (Lismore NSW, 11 September 2013), 9
5/9/2013	Aus.	Future of native title	After 20 years of operation, the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) will conduct a review into the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth). The ALRC is tasked to provide recommendations for law reform following consultations with stakeholders. The inquiry will be led by Professor Lee Godden from the University of Melbourne.	<a href="#">The Age</a> (Melbourne Vic., 5 September 2013)
10/9/2013	Tas.	Call for return of Aboriginal land	Traditional owners in Tasmania have called for a meeting with Prime Minister Tony Abbott to discuss how to return parcels of land back to Aboriginal people in Tasmania. Michael Mansell stated that discussion with the new Prime Minister should be centered on how best to return Crown land to traditional owners.	<i>Launceston Examiner</i> (Launceston Tas., 10 September 2013), 8

11/9/2013	Qld.	Poor health of harbour a concern	Members of Gladstone's Aboriginal community have met to discuss the poor health of Gladstone Harbour. Representatives of the groups have expressed concern about water quality, sea grass management and monitoring the effects of climate change on sites of cultural significance.	<a href="#">Gladstone Observer</a> (Gladstone Qld., 11 September 2013)
11/9/2013	Aus.	PM for Indigenous Affairs	The incoming Liberal Government is preparing to overhaul Indigenous Affairs throughout the country with many national departments to fall under Prime Minister and Cabinet. Following the federal election, Prime Minister Tony Abbott appointed Warren Mundine as head of the newly formed Indigenous Advisory Committee.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (Lismore NSW, 11 September 2013), 1
12/9/2013	WA	Hearing to delay payments	A native title hearing will delay millions of dollars being paid to traditional owners over the acquisition of land at James Price Point in Western Australia. Woodside Petroleum abandoned plans to develop a gas hub at James Price Point, however the State Government is pushing ahead with acquisition of the land. The acquisition would trigger a payment of \$30 million to be paid to the traditional owners, the Jabirr Jabirr Goolarabooloo people. Internal division between the group, however, has led to recipients splitting into two groups which will result on freezing of any payments until the matter has been resolved.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 12 September 2013)
12/9/2013	Aus.	Federal Government urged to adopt future fund	The Minerals Council of Australia has urged the incoming Federal Government and Prime Minister Tony Abbott to adopt a new tax-free community fund to help pull Indigenous Australians out of poverty. The move will also be aimed to increase economic opportunities for native title holders. The future fund was announced by former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, but has not yet been backed by the Liberal Party.	<a href="#">The Australia</a> (Canberra ACT, 12 September 2013)
13/9/2013	WA	Woodside formally withdraws	Woodside Petroleum has formally withdrawn from a deal to develop a gas hub at James Price Point in Western Australia. The withdrawal sees the deal to pay \$1.5 billion to the traditional owners abandoned. Traditional owners had argued that Woodside and its partners had a moral obligation to deliver the benefits package.	<i>The Australian</i> (Canberra ACT, 13 September 2013), 4 <a href="#">Business Spectator</a> (Melbourne Vic., 19 September 2013) <a href="#">The Australian</a> (Canberra ACT, 24 September 2013)
15/9/2013	WA	Karijini returns to Banjiima people	Karijini National Park in Western Australia's Pilbara region has been returned to the Banjiima people following their native title determination. The determination will mean that the Banjiima people will retain some of their rights over the National Park, though the specific arrangements are yet to be finalised.	<a href="#">The Stringer</a> (Fremantle WA, 15 September 2013)
17/9/2013	Aus.	'Sit-down' payments reviewed	The Federal Coalition will review 'sit-down' payments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator Nigel Scullion, said one of his first tasks would be to alter the failing welfare system.	<a href="#">The Australian</a> (Canberra ACT, 17 September 2013)

18/9/2013	Aus.	No changes to major policies	The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator Nigel Scullion, has downplayed any major changes to major policy areas, including native title. Senator Scullion said he was determined to build a relationship of trust between the incoming Coalition Government and Indigenous Australians.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 18 September 2013), 1
23/9/2013	Qld.	Native title recognised	The Warrungu people have been recognised as native title holders over lands south of Cairns, north-Queensland. The determination covers approximately 192,000 hectares of land around Cardwell and Mount Garnet. The determination will allow the Warrungu people to formally assist in the protection and preservation of lands and waters, including the protection of culturally significant sites.	<a href="#">Yahoo 7 News</a> (Sydney NSW, 23 September 2013) <a href="#">Ninemsn</a> (Sydney NSW, 23 September 2013)
24/9/2013	Qld.	Land returned to traditional owners	730,000 hectares of the Wik and Wik Way people's traditional lands in north-Queensland's western Cape York region have been handed back. The deed formally recognises the Wik and Wik Way people as the owners of the land at Arakun.	<a href="#">Herald Sun</a> (Melbourne Vic., 24 September 2013) <i>The Australian</i> (Canberra ACT, 25 September 2013), 2 <i>Illawarra Mercury</i> (Wollongong NSW, 25 September 2013), 12 <i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (Broken Hill NSW, 25 September 2013), 7 <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville Qld., 25 September 2013), 26 <i>Queensland Country Life</i> (Brisbane Qld., 26 September 2013), 14 <i>North West Star</i> (Mount Isa Qld., 26 September 2013), 5
24/9/2013	Qld.	Western Yalanji celebrate recognition	The Western Yalanji people have been recognised as native title holders over lands in Laura and north-west of Mount Carbine, north of Cairns. The Western Yalanji determination comes after more than ten years of negotiations.	<a href="#">Herald Sun</a> (Melbourne Vic., 24 September 2013) <i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns Qld., 25 September 2013), 9
25/9/2013	WA	Traditional owners seek to protect rock art	Traditional owners of Western Australia's Burrup Peninsula are seeking to protect rock art sites that may become endangered. Burrup Materials Pty Ltd proposes to quarry the underlying rocks for use in building a wharf for Woodside's Pluto offshore gas project.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (Lismore NSW, 25 September 2013), 7
27/9/2013	Qld.	Gunggandji to launch native title application	The Gunggandji people have launched a native title application over lands between Redlynch and Gordonvale in north-Queensland. The application is the third of which that has been launched over the area, with the Gimuy Qalubara and Irukandji people also applying for native title over the region.	<i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns Qld., 27 September 2013), 14
30/9/2013	NSW	Native title application to open way for marina	Boydton Pty Ltd lodged an application with the National Native Title Tribunal to determine that native title does not exist in the area where they propose to build a new marina. The application is for the Twofold Bay off the beach of Boydton beach in south-east New South Wales.	<a href="#">ABC South East NSW</a> (Bega NSW, 30 September 2013)