

## NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

APRIL 2013

DATE	PLACE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
1/4/2013	Aus.	Concerns expressed over cost of native title negotiations	<p>The Western Australia (WA) government has warned that the cost of complying with Aboriginal heritage obligations has surged from 1 to 10 per cent of exploration spending in the state, backing similar warnings by miners that they are spending hundreds of millions of dollars to pay for a 'significant industry' of anthropologists, archeologists and native title representatives.</p> <p>The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies has also expressed concerns that only 10-15 per cent of costs associated with heritage surveys are being received by traditional owners. But the National Native Title Council – the peak body for Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRBs) – has disputed this figure saying there was a recent example in the state indicating that more than 60 per cent of funds end up with traditional owners.</p> <p>Costly delays have been cited as a source of the problem with about 450 native title claims still outstanding, about half of which have been in the system for more than a decade. The WA government has also warned that the main recipients of Commonwealth funding to assist native title claimants – NTRBs – have become reliant on raising money from managing Aboriginal heritage surveys and negotiating over proposed mines, and this was in conflict with their primary task of finalising claims before the Federal Court.</p>	<p><i>The Australian</i> (Canberra ACT, 1 April 2013) 1  <i>The Australian</i> (Canberra ACT, 12 April 2013) 8</p>
2/4/2013	Vic.	Dja Dja Warrung and state government reach native title settlement	<p>The Victorian state government and the Dja Dja Warrung people reached a settlement formally recognising Dja Dja Warrung as traditional owners over lands in central Victoria. Graham Atkinson, Chair of the Dja Dja Warrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, said the deal provided certainty and the opportunity to determine their sustainable future.</p>	<p><a href="#"><i>The Northern Times</i></a> (Kerang VIC, 2 April 2013)  <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 10 April 2013) 14</p>

5/4/2013	Qld	Indigenous groups considers legal action	The Port Curtis Coral Coast Native Title Claim Group is considering legal action to recover compensation for the destruction of sacred sites within the native title claim area. Gurang Land Council representative Cherissma Blackman, stated that cultural sites have been interfered with in the process of establishing three coal seam gas (CSG) to liquefied natural gas plants on Curtis Island. Gas company QGC says the allegations are baseless because when the site was surveyed no Aboriginal cultural heritage sites were found.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 5 April 2013) <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 10 April 2013) 4
10/4/2013	Qld	Concerns raised over native title claim on Facing Island	Residents have raised concerns over a native title claim lodged over lands on Facing Island. The Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mining will continue to carry out public consultations in relation to the claim.	<a href="#">The Observer</a> (Gladstone QLD, 10 April 2013) <a href="#">The Observer</a> (Gladstone QLD, 17 April 2013)
10/4/2013	Aus.	Alice Springs to host native title conference	This year's National Native Title Conference will recognise the 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the <i>Native Title Act</i> . The Conference will be held in Alice Springs from 3–5 June 2013.	<i>The Koori Mail</i> (Lismore NSW, 10 April 2013) 10
11/4/2013	Qld	Native title negotiations continue over Gold Coast	The Gold Coast Native Title Claim Group (NTCG) is considering its position in an ongoing native title claim over parts of the Gold Coast, including Broadwater and Wavebreak Island, the proposed site of a cruise ship terminal, casino and hotel development. The Gold Coast NTCG has indicated that it intends to withdraw its current claim to enable the registration of a new claim in 12 months that takes in the wider Gold Coast region and represents more Indigenous families, including those in Beaudesert.	<a href="#">Gold Coast Bulletin News</a> (Gold Coast QLD, April 11 2013) <a href="#">Gold Coast Bulletin News</a> (Gold Coast QLD, April 29 2013)
12/4/2013	WA	Woodside shelve gas hub project	Woodside Petroleum announced that they will not proceed with the controversial gas hub project at James Price Point. The announcement came as native title holders were considering their position on the agreement signed with Woodside concerning the development. Woodside Petroleum have ruled out making additional payments to traditional owners who signed a social benefits package for the now shelved gas hub project. Woodside Chief Executive Peter Coleman said that the agreement was based upon the successful investment decision at James Price Point.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 12 April 2013) <a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 12 April 2013) <a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 12 April 2013) <i>The Weekend Australian</i> (Canberra ACT, 13 April 2013) 1 <i>The Australia</i> (Canberra ACT, 15 April 2013) 1 <a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 15 April 2013) <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 17 April 2013) 1 <i>Koori Mail</i> (Lismore NSW, 14 April 2013) 7 <a href="#">Sydney Morning Herald</a> (Sydney NSW, April 24 2013)
17/4/2013	NSW	Native title settlement needed for sale of hospital	Resolution of a native title claim is needed before the old Walcha hospital in New South Wales can be sold. Scott MacDonald MLC, stated when asked about the rehabilitation work to be carried out at the site of the old hospital that 'if the claim is successful, it needs to be handed over in a rehabilitated state, so [rehabilitation] work will proceed'.	<i>The Northern Daily Leader</i> (Tamworth NSW, 17 April 2013) 12

18/4/2013	NSW	Groups consider native title claim	Indigenous people throughout the Hunter Valley and Central Coast regions north of Sydney are considering a native title claim throughout the region. The claim would be significant in that it would require resolution between different groups and land councils before proceeding.	<i>Newcastle Herald</i> (Newcastle NSW, 18 April 2013) 15
23/4/2013	NT	Concerns raised over possible CSG exploration	Traditional owners from the Roper River and Mataranka regions of the Northern Territory have expressed concerns about the possibility of CSG exploration and fracking in the region. Jacaranda Minerals are currently holding negotiations with the Northern Land Council regarding the concerns of Indigenous people in the region, including potential damage to natural underground water springs as well as sacred sites.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 23 April 2013)
27/4/2013	Qld	Mandingalbay Yidinji in talks to become party to native title claim	The Mandingalbay Yidinji people have commenced talks with the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji people to become party to a native title claim covering the Cairns area in North Queensland. Mandingalbay Yidinji elder Vincent Mundraby said becoming a party to the claim was the first step in a lengthy process to reach an agreement.	<i>Cairns Weekend Post</i> (Cairns QLD, 27 April 2013) 14