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

NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

JULY 2013

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
2/7/2013	NT	Native title recognised in NT	The Federal Court considered two native title claims over cattle stations in the Northern Territory in a ceremony held at Laramba Community Living Area, 210kms north-west of Alice Springs. The determinations recognised the native title rights and interests of both the Anmatyerr and Arrente people.	ABC News Rural (Sydney NSW, 2 July 2013) Koori Mail (Lismore NSW, 17 July 2013) 28
3/7/2013	WA	Native title recognised in Kimberley	Mervyn Street, a Gooniyarndi native title holder, spoke about his people's native title determination over more than 1.2 million hectares of lands and waters in the Kimberly. Mr. Street said, 'We have waited a long time for this and, sadly... many of our old people have passed away'.	Koori Mail (Lismore NSW, 3 July 2013) 13
6/7/2013	WA	Noongar settlement lifted to \$1.3b	The Government of Western Australia has increased an offer to settle native title claims over Perth and the south-west. The agreement being considered by the Noongar people includes a contribution of \$50 million to be paid annually into a trust for economic, cultural and social programs for an estimated 35,000 Noongar people.	The West Australian (Perth WA, 6 July 2013) The Australian (Canberra ACT, 6 July 2013) Daily Telegraph (Sydney NSW, 6 July 2013) The Stringer (Fremantle WA, 6 July 2013) Herald Sun (Melbourne Vic, 6 July 2013) ABC News (Sydney NSW, 8 July 2013) 7 News (Sydney NSW, 8 July 2013) WA Today (Perth WA, 8 July 2013) Green Left Weekly (Sydney NSW, 13 July 2013) Independent Media Centre Australia (16 July 2013)
8/7/2013	Aus.	Mabo remembered	Each year Mabo Day is a chance to reflect on the legacy of the Mabo High Court decision that resulted in the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> . This year, former Chief Justice of the Federal Court Michael Black and Professor Kerry Arabena led a discussion about the relevance of the decision and subsequent legislation in matters of Indigenous health, land rights and other critical issues.	The Age (Melbourne Vic, 8 July 2013)

10/7/2013	NSW/SA	Native title claim to proceed	After a meeting held in Broken Hill, the Malyangapa people will proceed with a native title claim over lands and waters between Lake Frome in South Australia and the New South Wales border. Representatives have acknowledged that the average time for a native title claim is 15 years, however they are hopeful that the claim can be processed within the next 2-3 years.	ABC News (Sydney NSW, 10 July 2013)
10/7/2013	Qld	Quandamooka people mark anniversary of determination	Two years have passed since the Quandamooka people were acknowledged as the native title holders of North Stradbroke and surrounding Islands. The anniversary was celebrated with a community gathering of elders and families through the area.	Bayside Bulletin (Cleveland Qld, 10 July 2013)
11/7/2013	WA	Broome Shire refuses exemption on rates	The Shire of Broome has refused an application on behalf of the Yawuru native title holders for an exemption on rates. The Broome Shire Council refused the application 'as the properties are not being used exclusively for charitable purposes'.	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome WA, 11 July 2013) 11
11/7/2013	SA	Native title claim lodged	The Narungga people have lodged a native title claim over the York Peninsula, north east of Adelaide in South Australia. The claim area covers the entire peninsula as well as surrounding Islands. Chair of the Narungga Nations native title group Tauto Sansburry said the claim was significant for the Narungga people and will hopefully pave the way for economic and employment opportunities.	ABC News (Sydney NSW, 11 July 2013) <i>Yorke Peninsula Country Times</i> (Kadina SA, 16 July 2013) 3
13/7/2013	NSW	Traditional owners picket mine	Gomerioi traditional owners have formed a picket line at Whitehaven Coal near Gunnedah in north-west New South Wales to protest the decision to approve mining at Maules Creek. The protest comes amid concerns by traditional owners that the company has not conducted thorough cultural heritage surveys throughout the area, as well as the lack of consultation.	Green Left Weekly (Sydney NSW, 13 July 2013)
16/7/2013	Qld	Claimants unsure of land use arrangements	Descendants of the Butchulla native title claim group are unsure as to the intentions of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) regarding plans to bring parts of their operations to Fraser Island National Park. The Butchulla people's native title claim is currently before the Federal Court. Native title claimant Damien Aidon said that the application by the ADF was lodged under Commonwealth security legislation and as such, native title claimants are not privy to information regarding the application.	Fraser Coast Chronicle (Maryborough Qld, 16 July 2013) <i>News Mail</i> (Bundaberg Qld, 17 July 2013) 9
17/7/2013	Vic.	Dja Dja Warrung confident in Land Use Agreement	The Chair of the Dja Dja Warrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation in central Victoria, Grahame Atkinson, has described an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) that was signed with the State Government as a 'strong foundation' on which to build an economic and cultural future. Mr. Atkinson responded to concerns that the ILUA would extinguish native title by stating that 'we believe that it will be the benchmark for other Traditional Owner groups to aspire to'.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 17 July 2013) 15

17/7/2013	SA	Cultural artifact display opened	An Aboriginal cultural artifact display from Olympic Dam was officially opened in Port Augusta. The display centre is part of the Olympic Dam agreement between BHP Billiton and native title groups. The collection consists of over one million artefacts and is believed to be the largest cultural heritage project undertaken anywhere in the world.	The Transcontinental (Port Augusta WA, 17 July 2013)
19/7/2013	Qld	Native title claims filed	Two native title claims have been filed in central Queensland. The claims made on behalf of the the Western Kangoulu and Bidjara People stretch over the Gemfields region and surrounding country. Residents within the claim area have shown concern about the impact of the application and have been given until 30 October 2013 to register their interests with the Federal Court.	CQ News (Emerald Qld, 19 July 2013)
19/7/2013	Qld	Native title holders concerned about mining leases	The Quandamooka people have expressed concern that extending sand mining leases on North Stradbroke Island may impinge their native title rights. The concerns were raised following reports that the Queensland Government was considering a proposal by Sibelco Australia Ltd. to extend its mining lease.	Herald Sun (Melbourne Vic, 19 July 2013) SBS News (Sydney NSW, 29 July 2013) Bayside Bulletin (Brisbane Qld, 22 July 2013) National Indigenous Times (Malua Bay NSW, 24 July 2013) 3
19/7/2013	WA	Native title and Aboriginal heritage policy launched	The Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia (CME) has launched the Western Australian resource sector's policy on native title and Aboriginal heritage. The policy was developed after consultation with its members and stakeholders. The policy will assist Aboriginal people, organisations, governments and external stakeholders to engage with the state's minerals and energy sector.	CME (Perth WA, 19 July 2013)
19/7/2013	Aus.	Concerns raised over negotiation process	Concerns have been raised with regards to the negotiation process between Indigenous communities and mining companies. Professor Jon Altman stated that 'Indigenous people are in a very weak position in relation to native title'. These concerns come on the back of statistics that show that if agreement is not reached between Indigenous people and a mining company, the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) is almost certain to favour miners.	WA Today (Perth WA, 19 July 2013)
22/7/2013	Qld	Representatives meet with review panel	Deloitte Access Economics has met with representatives of Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (RNTBCs), commonly referred to as PBCs, on Horn Island. The meeting comes as part of the ongoing review of the roles and functions of native title organisations, including Native Title Representative Bodies (NTRBs) and Native Title Service Providers (NTSPs)	Torres News (Thursday Island Qld, 22 July 2013) 13
29/7/2013	Aus.	AgForce seeks reinstatement of native title respondent funding	Queensland's peak lobby group for graziers and pastoralists, AgForce, has lobbied the Federal Government to reinstate funding for native title respondents. AgForce is concerned that without Federal funding, many native title respondents will have to withdraw from native title claims because they cannot afford legal representation.	ABC News (Sydney NSW, 29 July 2013)

30/7/2013	WA	Native title recognised at Wiluna	Native title rights and interests in Western Australia's Goldfields region were recognised by the Federal Court in a ceremony at Wiluna. The claim covers almost 50,000 square kilometres and was first launched in 1998. The decision comes amidst advanced plans for a uranium project near the town of Wiluna.	ABC News (Sydney NSW, 30 July 2013) Yahoo 7 (Sydney NSW, 30 July 2013) The West Australian (Perth WA, 30 July 2013)
31/7/2013	SA	Agreement to better protect cultural heritage	An Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) between the Kurna people and Unley Shire Council is aimed at better protecting Aboriginal heritage in the area. Unley's elected members voted to accept the ILUA which contains provisions to notify local Aboriginal people in a 'uniform, mutually agreed and meaningful way' on any development initiatives that may impinge on Aboriginal heritage in the area.	<i>Eastern Courier Messenger</i> (Adelaide SA, 31 July 2013) 13