

NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

OCTOBER 2013

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
1/10/2013	SA	Native title compensation deal remains confidential	The Yunkuntyjatjara people in South Australia have been awarded the first consent determination in a compensation claim, but the terms of the agreement remain confidential. The compensation concerns damages to sites of cultural significance prior to native title being granted. Chief Executive of South Australian Native Title Services (SANTS), Keith Thomas, says it is an historic achievement after such a long struggle.	SBS News (Sydney NSW, 1 October 2013) ABC News (Sydney NSW, 2 October 2013) The Lawyer (London UK, 7 October 2013)
15/10/2013	NSW	Native title claim lodged	A native title claim has been registered over lands and waters from Newcastle to Sydney's northern beaches. The claim groups include the Awabakal and Guringai people of Newcastle and the Central Coast. A spokesperson from the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) says that areas currently under other Aboriginal groups' jurisdictions will be exempt from the claim. Public notification and submissions close in January 2014.	ABC News (Sydney NSW, 15 October 2013) <i>Newcastle Herald</i> (Newcastle NSW, 10 October 2013), 17
18/10/2013	Qld.	Controversy surrounding pipeline expansion	Members of the Port Curtis Coral Coast Native Title Claim Group have expressed concern over an area of land cleared for the expansion of a pipeline. The group claims a number of sites of cultural significance have been desecrated by a contractor. Santos has acknowledged that a contractor did clear areas around the pipeline without a cultural heritage officer present.	Gladstone Observer (Gladstone Qld., 18 October 2013) ABC News (Sydney NSW, 18 October 2013) SBS News (Sydney NSW, 21 October 2013) Ferret Online (Chatswood NSW, 21 October 2013)

18/10/2013	Qld.	Sand mining lease extended amid controversy	The Queensland Government has insisted that proposed changes to the <i>North Stradbroke Island Sustainability Act</i> do not breach native title agreements with the Quandamooka people on North Stradbroke Island. The agreements will allow mining on the island to continue after 2019. Quandamooka Yulluburrabee Aboriginal Corporation chief executive Cameron Costello contests the Governments claim that existing Land Use Agreements do not have to be altered.	Bayside Bulletin (Cleveland Qld, 18 October 2013) SBS News (Sydney NSW, 30 October 2013) The Guardian Australia (Sydney NSW, 30 October 2013) Courier Mail (Brisbane Qld, 30 October 2013) Ninemsn (Sydney NSW, 30 October 2013)
18/10/2013	SA	Aboriginal Elders ask for postponement of meeting	Mirning Elders have presented a petition to South Australian Attorney-General John Wau, to postpone a native title meeting in the States far west. The group claims they have evidence that the Mirning clans are the traditional custodians of tens of thousands of hectares of land from Fowler's Bay to the WA border. The group has asked that their evidence be considered before any decision about native title is made.	Perth Now (Perth WA, 18 October 2013) West Coast Sentinel (Ceduna SA, 30 October 2013)
25/10/2013	WA	Noongar leadership program receives boost through grant	The South-West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) has received a \$749,000 grant from Lotterywest to further develop its unique Noongar leadership program. Western Australia's Aboriginal Affairs Minister Peter Collier said the program aims to provide important training and development programs to help Noongar people take advantage of opportunities arising from native title settlements	Bunbury Mail (Bunbury WA, 25 October 2013)
29/10/2013	Aus.	Call to amend <i>Native Title Act</i>	The Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) has called on the Federal Government to amend the <i>Native Title Act (Cth)</i> in order to safeguard payments to Indigenous communities. The call from the MCA comes amid fears that benefits of land access agreements negotiated through native title are not reaching the people they are designed to help.	The Australian (Canberra ACT, 29 October 2013) SBS News (Sydney NSW, 29 October 2013)
29/10/2013	NT	Native title decision handed down	A native title claim over more than 11,000sq/km southwest of Mataranka in the Northern Territory has been handed down by the Federal Court. Federal Court Justice John Mansfield presided over the ceremony recognising the decision. Northern Land Council Chairman Wali Wunungmurra said 'Traditional owners will stand to gain practical and financial benefits in the event of mining or other development on the land covered'.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin NT, 29 October 2013), 7
29/10/2013	Vic.	Land use deal takes effect	A native title deal in central western Victoria has now come into effect. The Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) between the Dja Dja Wurrung native title group and the Victorian Government was signed in March but has now been officially approved by the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT). The ILUA gives the Dja Dja Wurrung hunting, fishing and gathering rights and also makes way for joint management of six national parks and reserves in the region.	ABC News (Sydney NSW, 29 October 2013) Bendigo Advertiser (Bendigo Vic., 31 October 2013)

30/10/2013	Aus.	Reinstatement of respondent funding	Pastoralists have welcomed the Federal Government's decision to reinstate the Native Title Respondent Funding Scheme. The Scheme helps fund the legal and financial needs of landholders responding to native title claims. The Scheme was scrapped under the former Federal Government.	ABC Rural (Sydney NSW, 30 October 2013)
30/10/2013	WA	Native title claimants change legal teams	The Mantjintjarra Ngalia native title claim group has asked Central Desert Native Title Services (CDNTS) to be their legal representatives after their claim had been represented by the Goldfields Land and Sea Council (GLSC) since 2006. The native title claim covers areas of land 130 kilometres east of Wiluna in central Western Australia.	ABC Goldfields (Kalgoorlie WA, 30 October 2013)