

NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

AUGUST 2014

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
30 August 2014	WA	Laying claim to a legacy when native title lost	The Federal Court is currently assessing a rare compensation claim brought by a few hundred traditional owners who are seeking a valuation on the 18,000 square km Gibson Desert Nature Reserve in the Western Australian Desert to alleviate the loss of native title, which the state government is not prepared to grant due to the claim area being a class a nature reserve.	The Australian , Australia (30 August 2014)
28 August 2014	Australia	Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council meeting Communique	The Council met in Canberra on 28 August to discuss details of <i>Creating Parity – The Forrest Review</i> , as well the review of social welfare reform, constitutional recognition, and the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.	Prime Minister and Cabinet , Australia (28 August 2014)
28 August 2014	WA	Noongar native title deal 'to be sealed by year's end'	Nearly 18 months after making its final offer, the Western Australian Government hopes that a \$1.3 billion native title deal with the state's Noongar people will be finalised by the end of the year.	ABC Indigenous , Australia (28 August 2014)
27 August 2014	QLD	Aquis in call to all tribes for submissions over land use	Developers of the \$8.15 billion Aquis integrated resort plan at the Yorkeys Knob site are calling for submissions from parties to an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA)	The Cairns Post , QLD (27 August 2014)
27 August 2014	VIC	\$500,000 for Right People for Country	Expression of interest for the Right People for Country Program is open with the Victorian Government until September 26. The Victorian Government has allocated \$500,000 for its Right People for Country program which supports traditional owner groups to reach agreements on traditional country boundaries.	Koori Mail, Australia, p 35 (27 August 2014)
27 August 2014	TSI	Islands now in system	The owners of the Warraberalgahl and Porumalgah Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) in the Torres Strait have celebrated its recognition as part of the National Reserve System, Australia's network of protected areas.	Koori Mail, Australia, p 18 (27 August 2014)

27 August 2014	QLD	Thaypan people get land	The transfer of 38,000 hectares of land to the Thaypan people will give the traditional owners in central Cape York more economic opportunities and greater control of their future says the Queensland Government.	Koori Mail, Australia, p 13 (27 August 2014)
27 August 2014	NSW	Native Title rights to Gumbayngirr	The Federal Court has settled one of NSW's longest running native title claims, ending a two-decade-long struggle	Koori Mail, Australia, p 13 (27 August 2014)
26 August 2014	NT	Dugong deaths on par with whales: activist	Australian wildlife activist Colin Riddell said dugongs were at risk of extinction because the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and the Native Title Act give indigenous people the right to hunt and kill these animals without restriction.	NT News , NT (26 August 2014)
23 August 2014	Australia	Former Japanese PM warms traditional owners on nuclear dangers	Former Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan will talk with traditional Indigenous land owners during his visit to Australia as he believes the best place for uranium is in the ground "it is not possible for human beings to control nuclear technology".	SBS online , Australia (23 August 2014)
20 August 2014	WA	Do Martu really want uranium mining?	Western desert-living Martu Elder, Thelma Rawlins said many Martu people remain opposed to the "go-aheads" given to for uranium mining on Martu Country.	National Indigenous Times, Australia, p 19 (20 August 2014) Reward Minerals LTD , Australia (19 August 2014)
20 August 2014	NT	Minister admits Muckaty nuclear dump process "a disaster" as Giles says no more without Traditional Owners' consent	The Federal Industry Minister, Ian MacFarlane has said attempts to nominate Muckaty Station for a nuclear waste dump were "a disaster" but there was interest from Aboriginal land owners elsewhere in the Northern Territory,	National Indigenous Times, Australia, p 13 (20 August 2014)
20 August 2014	Australia	Women-power to take on the Federal Government!	A group of Aboriginal women from Victoria are planning to march from Melbourne to Canberra to renounce their Australian citizenship and demand the Federal Government produce "formal, written documents" to show the Commonwealth of Australia has legal title and jurisdiction over this land.	National Indigenous Times, Australia, p 7 (20 August 2014)
20 August 2014	Australia	Dispossession, disempowerment: The Forrest "solution" for first Australians	The Communist party of Australia claims that the mining magnate Andrew Forrest's "Creating Parity" report is for the sole benefit of mining corporations. It will wipe out Native Title, clear outback Indigenous communities off their land and give private sector control of their lives and assimilation.	CPA The Guardian , Australia (20 August 2014)
19 August 2014	NT	Native title owners don't want nuke dump, have brawl over land	An email from Lhere Artepe (LA), an organisation of the town's native title holders, says the proposal to establish a nuclear dump on Irlpme land does not have support from LA.	Alice Springs News Online , NT (19 August 2014)
19 August 2014	NT	Minister Scullion: Gunbalanya one step closer to lease agreement	The traditional owners in the remote Northern Territory community of Gunbalanya have reached a significant milestone in negotiations for a 99 year township lease, with the signing of an Agreement in Principle with Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion. The Agreement in Principle acknowledges that agreement has been reached on key terms of the proposed township lease.	Indigenous.gov.au , Australia (19 August 2014)
18 August 2014	NT	Township lease on the way for Gunbalanya	The Northern Territory township of Gunbalanya in West Arnhem Land will be the latest of a handful of indigenous communities to sign a 99-year township lease.	Yahoo7 News , Australia (18 August 2014)

15 August 2014	Australia	Native Title Ministers' meeting – communiqué	For the first time since 2009, the Commonwealth Attorney-General, and the Commonwealth Minister for Indigenous Affairs co-hosted a meeting of the Commonwealth, state and territory ministers responsible for native title. The group met to renew and reinvigorate discussions about the operation of the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> . Ministers discussed challenges for the future acts regime; opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of claims resolution; and the role and future directions of native title organisations.	Attorney-General for Australia, Australia (15 August 2014)
15 August 2014	NSW	Native Title win: Gumbaynggirr people celebrate Nambucca Heads claim after 17-year fight	During a special open-air sitting at Nambucca Heads, south of Coffs Harbour, the Federal Court has approved the native title claim by the Gumbaynggirr people on the New South Wales mid-north coast. More than 100 people stood and cheered after Judge Jayne Jagot handed down her ruling.	ABC online, Australia (15 August 2014) The Coffs Coast Advocate, NSW (16 August 2014) Nambucca Guardian News, NSW (18 August 2014) Our Mob, Australia (18 August 2014)
14 August 2014	NSW	Hearing for Gaagal Wanggaan native title claim	On Friday, the Federal Court is set to convene in Nambucca Heads to settle one of NSW's longest running native title claims brought by the Gumbaynggirr people.	The Coffs Coast Advocate, NSW (14 August 2014)
13 August 2014	Australia	Minister seeks inquiry into Aboriginal corporations	Federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion has ordered an inquiry into the financial dealings of two key indigenous corporations, including one whose directors spent almost \$1 million in 30 days.	The Age, Australia (13 August 2014) National Indigenous Times, Australia, p 10 (20 August 2014)
12 August 2014	Australia	Federal Court deems almost 300 mining leases invalid: lessons learnt from Graham v State of Western Australia	The Federal Court in <i>Graham v State of Western Australia</i> , on 3 July 2014, determined that nearly 300 mining leases in Western Australia are invalid due to native title issues. As a result, traditional owners across the country are now looking at resources permits to see if a legal challenge is justified.	Lexology.com, Australia (12 August 2014) Mondag, Australia (12 August 2014)
12 August 2014	NSW	Group looking after Aboriginal interests	Now called the Three Rivers Regional Assembly (TRRA), the assembly is made up of representatives from 12 communities all over north west Wiradjuri Country. The communities include Bathurst, Orange, Wellington, Dubbo, Parkes, Narromine, Gilgandra, Peak Hill, Mudgee, Trangie, Nyngan and Warren.	Nyngan Observer, NSW (12 August 2012)
12 August 2014	WA	Indigenous recruiting group Karlka secures work for 1,000 people at major food services company	A national Indigenous employment business, the Karlka Recruiting Group (which is a joint effort between Kalka Nyaparli Aboriginal Corporation and the Australasian Recruiting Group) will partner with Traditional Owners Australia wide to train and place Aboriginal people in jobs they may not previously had access to.	ABC Rural, Australia (12 August 2014)
11 August 2014	WA	Aboriginal people to guide heritage regulation	During the drafting of regulations for the amended Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972, the State Government today announced plans to further engage with Aboriginal people and other stakeholders.	Government of Western Australia, WA (11 August 2014)

11 August 2014	WA	Analyst says Kimberley gas fracking company suffering at the hands of traditional owners and environmentalists	Buru Energy has sacked 30 per cent of its workforce and delayed its fracking program as the company's share price sinks to less than one-fifth of its all time high. Industry analyst Peter Strachan says "Uncertainty surrounding traditional owner approvals is the main drag. The company has said that it will do nothing without community support."	ABC Kimberley , WA (11 August 2014)
10 August 2014	Australia	ASADA submission references sexual misconduct, native title and deported drug dealer cases	Native title rights in Western Australia will be a part of the 58-page submission that the Australia Sports Anti-doping Authority will rely on when they meet on Monday.	The Wagin Argus , Australia (10 August 2014)
8 August 2014	Australia	Self-determination key to Indigenous governance	At a forum in Canberra last week, Professor Mick Dodson, Chairperson of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) said he believes the challenge and key to good Indigenous governance is self-determination.	AIATSIS , Australia (8 August 2014) National Indigenous Times, Australia, p 7 (13 August 2014)
7 August 2014	WA	80 Mile Beach traditional owners sign second ILUA	The Ngarla people have signed a second Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) to allow for joint management of the 80 Mile Beach Marine Park and the surrounding nature reserve.	ABC online , Australia (7 August 2014)
7 August 2014	VIC	Coalition protects Aboriginal heritage	To strengthen the protection of Victoria's Aboriginal cultural heritage, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Tim Bull today released an exposure draft of proposed Aboriginal heritage legislation.	Premier of Victoria Denis Napthine , VIC (7 August 2014)
6 August 2014	NSW	Traditional Owners want explanation for Scar Tree desecration	The group of Gomeroi Traditional Owners is calling on the Office of Environment and Heritage to explain why the centuries old Scar Tree near Mullaley was cut down. The Traditional Owners say that this shows cultural heritage issues aren't being taken seriously.	ABC Message Stick , Australia (6 August 2014)
6 August 2014	SA	One of SA's oldest Native Title claims to be finalised	One of the oldest Native Title claims in South Australia's northern regions, the Kokatha Uwankara claims, are set to be determined by Chief Justice Allsop on September 1 at Andamooka homestead.	National Indigenous Times, Australia, p 12 (6 August 2014)
5 August 2014	WA	Aboriginal Heritage Act: Proposed changes 'discriminatory', should be dumped says KLC	Proposed changes to Western Australia's Aboriginal Heritage Act have been labeled discriminatory. The KLC say the amendments would disenfranchise Indigenous people and should be dumped and the act rewritten.	ABC online , Australia (5 August 2014) Koori Mail, Australia, p 17 (13 August 2014) National Indigenous Times, Australia, p 6 (20 August 2014) The Conversation , Australia (21 August 2014)
5 August 2014	WA	Sirius Resources sign native title agreement	Sirius Resources have signed a native title agreement with the Ngadjju people for its Nova nickel project.	Ferret , Australia (5 August 2014)