

NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

OCTOBER 2014

| DATE | STATE | SUBJECT | SUMMARY | SOURCE |
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| 31 October 2014 | QLD and TSI | Minister Scullion: \$2 million to strengthen compliance powers of Indigenous rangers | The Indigenous rangers in Far North Queensland and the Torres Strait will be able to strengthen their compliance and enforcement powers when the Australian Government is investing \$2 million over two years to establish a Specialised Indigenous Ranger Programme. | Indigenous.gov.au , Australia (31 October 2014) |
| 30 October 2014 | QLD | Traditional owners granted native title over tip of Cape York | On Thursday, the Federal Court granted native title over 680,000 hectares on the tip of the peninsula of Queensland's Cape York to the Gudang Yadhaykenu people, along with the Atampaya and Seven Rivers Angkamuthi Peoples. | 9News.com.au , Australia (30 October 2014) SkyNews.com.au , Australia (31 October 2014) |
| 27 October 2014 | Australia | Aboriginal cultural heritage survey industry under scrutiny | The ACCC is investigating allegations of "cartel conduct" by mining companies and Aboriginal heritage service providers. Scott Franks, a registered 'Wonnarua' native title claimant and Tocomwall company director, said there were indigenous "blow-ins" without knowledge or qualifications, who were hired by mining companies. | Australian Mining , Australia (27 October 2014) |
| 25 October 2014 | QLD | Son says Aunty Olga's spirit sure to be smiling | Glen Miller said his mothers spirit, Aunty Olga Miller, was sure to be smiling over Friday's proceedings, He said "Mum filed the first native title claim on Fraser Island 18 years ago and the Butchulla clan filed a year later. We've been waiting 18 years for this decision, so it's a pretty historic day." | Fraser Coast Chronicle , Queensland (25 October 2014) |
| 24 October 2014 | WA | Once Upon a Time in the West: exploring Aboriginal stories from life on Pilbara pastoral stations | An exhibition called 'Marlbatharndu Wanggagu: Once Upon A Time in the West' is a collaboration by Western Australian art group FORM and the IBN Group. The exhibition explores the untold stories of Aboriginal people who have lived and worked on some of the region's pastoral stations. Lorraine Inje from the IBN Group said "These are the stories of Banyjima, Innawonga and Nyiyaparli elders from the central Pilbara. Some of the stories are sad, they talk about their hardships and challenges, particularly at a time when there was a lot of segregation in the Pilbara". | ABC Rural , Australia (24 October 2014) |

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| 24 October 2014 | QLD | Fraser Island returns to traditional owners | The Federal Court of Australia has recognized the native title rights of the Butchulla tribe of Fraser Island by granting them the native title rights. Queensland South Native Title Services said the determination recognised the ongoing traditional laws and customs of the Butchulla people, while also specifying native title rights and interests over about 1640sq km of sandy dunes, age-old sub-tropical rainforests and pristine lakes. | Fraser Coast Chronicle , Queensland (24 October 2014) Indigenous.gov.au , Australia (24 October 2014) Courier Mail , Australia (25 October 2014) ABC News , Australia (26 October 2014) Yahoo 7 News , Australia (26 October 2014) Gympie Times , Australia (29 October 2014) |
| 24 October 2014 | Australia | \$2bn indigenous land fund next on agenda | Dawn Casey, the chairwoman of the Indigenous Land Corporation will lobby politicians to support a \$2 billion land account' to be managed by the Future Fund to make the land account more secure. She said "the ILC continues to be concerned that the land account, established in the wake of the <i>Native Title Act</i> in recognition of indigenous dispossession associated with colonisation and settlement, continues to be at risk." | The Australian , Australia (24 October 2014) The Australian , Australia (27 October 2014) |
| 23 October 2014 | Australia | Proposals for reform of the <i>Native Title Act</i> : ALRC calls for submissions | The Australian Law Reform Commission has today released a Discussion Paper, <i>Review of the Native Title Act 1993</i> (DP 82) and is seeking feedback. The paper contains a range of proposals and questions around connection requirements for the recognition and scope of native title rights and interests; authorisation; and joinder provisions. | Australian Law Reform Commission , Australia (23 October 2014) |
| 22 October 2014 | Canada | The Land rights ruling that could transform Canada | Word is spreading about the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling earlier in the year to recognize the aboriginal title of the Tsilhqot'in nation in British Columbia. | The Guardian , America (22 October 2014) |
| 22 October 2014 | NT | Concern over fracking | In the wake of public health and environmental contamination concerns at existing Gulf region mining projects, aboriginal people from Borroloola in the Northern Territory have called on the Northern Territory Government to abandon plans for the introduction of a shale gas industry. | The Koori Mail, pg 9, Australia (22 October 2014) |
| 22 October 2014 | QLD | 'Test run' for freeholding | Indigenous Queenslanders who want to be able to own land in their townships through freehold title, are being asked to help with a pilot project to test how new laws can help their communities. | The Koori Mail, pg 11, Australia (22 October 2014) |
| 21 October 2014 | Australia | Senior Appointments: New Registrar for Tribunal | National Native Title Tribunal has appointed a new Native Title Registrar, Andrew Luttrell. He replaces Stephanie Fryer-Smith, whose term ended on 19 October after six years of service. | PSnews online , Australia (21 October 2014) The Koori Mail, pg 26, Australia (22 October 2014) |

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| 21 October 2014 | Australia | Gough Whitlam: former PM was father of Aboriginal land rights in Australia | The Rirratjingu clan of northeast Arnhem Land today held a small smoking ceremony, led by Yothu Yindi founder Wityana Marika, and grieved for the man who forced white law to recognise our first people. Gough Whitlam left the political scene decades ago, but Aborigines still — and always will — acknowledge him as the father of land rights in Australia. | News.com.au , Australia (21 October 2014) The North West Star , Australia (21 October 2014) Yahoo 7 News , Australia (21 October 2014) Sydney Morning Herald , Australia (21 October 2014) Radio National ABC , Australia (21 October 2014) |
| 21 October 2014 | QLD | Community braces for Century Mine closure in Queensland's Gulf Country | The end of Australia's largest open-cut zinc mine in Queensland's Gulf Country will mean major changes for a historic land use agreement with native title owners but residents are confident they can survive, Carpentaria Mayor Fred Pascoe says. | ABC News , Australia (21 October 2014) |
| 20 October 2014 | QLD | Native title holders lodge objection to proposed North Galilee Basin rail project | The Juru native title holders are seeking help to stall a proposed railway line being built by Adani Mining through their land, after concerns they have not been consulted. Chairwoman Carol Prior said they had not been properly consulted. They said most of the traditional owners did not know what Adani's plans were and were unable to attend information meetings, including a forum in Townsville. | ABC News , Australia (20 October 2014) |
| 19 October 2014 | WA | Kimberley Water | The WA Government is spending \$300 million to try and take advantage of the growing demand in Asia for protein and high-quality produce. It's a bold vision to access new water resources and it's being led by Aboriginal-owned stations. Now, with about half of all the pastoral leases across the region owned by Aboriginal communities, rather than being a hindrance, native title could in fact be the solution to developing this new irrigation model. | ABC News , Australia (19 October 2014) |
| 18 October 2014 | SA | "It is a land grab" – call for strength in numbers | Last Thursday Premier Jay Weatherill met with Mr Forrest and Professor Marcia Langton to discuss the 'Creating Parity' report but rejected formal calls for prominent First People leaders such as Tauto Sansbury to be included in the meeting. Mr Sansbury, Chair of the Narrungga people said "Jay Weatherill maybe Premier but he must respect that he cannot speak for our people, or understand as we understand ourselves. The impacts from this report if implemented will stretch beyond the imagination, they will hit us hard." | The Stringer , Australia (18 October 2014) |
| 17 October 2014 | WA | New pastoral lease finalized for WA pastoralists | The Pastoralists and Graziers Association met today with Lands Minister Terry Redman for a final review of the lease. Pastoral leases across the state are set to expire on June 30th 2015. PGA president Tony Seabrook says while his group is now fairly happy with the terms of the new lease, legal advice sought by the PGA has said signing the original lease is a lower risk due to concerns around future native title claims. | ABC Rural , Australia (17 October 2014) Farm Weekly , Australia (25 October 2014) ABC News , Australia (28 October 2014) |

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| 15 October 2014 | SA | Minister Hunt: National Heritage Listing for Koonalda Cave's outstanding Aboriginal heritage | The Australian Government placed the Nullarbor Plain's Koonalda Cave on the National Heritage List in recognition of its rare Aboriginal archaeology and heritage. | Indigenous.gov.au , Australia (15 October 2014) |
| 15 October 2014 | QLD | Yidinji People demand government show they have proof of ownership | On the Cairns Courthouse steps, the Yidinji People of far north Queensland have once again called on the Australian and Queensland governments, to produce documents proving their right to exert control over Yidinji land. | National Indigenous Times, pg 2, Australia (15 October 2014) |
| 15 October 2014 | SA | Pastoral leases opened up for renewable energy developments | The Pastoral Land Management Bill was passed in Parliament yesterday, allowing wind and solar developments to coexist with pastoral activities. The Government says 95 per cent of licence payments will be able to be passed to pastoral lessees and native title holders. | ABC News , Australia (15 October 2014) Roxby Downs Sun , Australia (15 October 2014) |
| 14 October 2014 | Australia | Miners mull over their options as native title negotiators join questioning of Australian National University plans to sell off mining shares | A group of mining, oil and gas companies will continue to lobby the Australian National University to argue that inaccurate information was provided about their social and environmental records. Sirius Resources is rated down as not meeting 'a commitment to meaningful participation and ongoing consultation with relevant indigenous communities'. | ABC Rural , Australia (14 October 2014) |
| 14 October 2014 | VIC | Watchdog launches case against Victorian Aboriginal council former directors | Australia's Aboriginal land council watchdog has made serious misconduct allegations against two key members of a Victorian land council including allegations of tax evasion and claims an indigenous community powerbroker used a land council as her personal fiefdom. | The Age , Victoria (14 October 2014) |
| 13 October 2014 | NSW | Broulee indigenous fishers to protest | A peaceful protest against Fisheries NSW will be held by the newly formed NSW Aboriginal Fishing Rights Group at North Broulee this Saturday morning. The group said fisheries had ignored them and their cultural traditions. | Bay Post , Moruya Examiner , Australia (13 October 2014) |
| 13 October 2014 | VIC | Dungala Kaiela Oration delivered on country | In late August, Noel Pearson, founder of the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership, delivered the sixth annual Dungala Kaiela Oration. Noel Pearson's presentation drew its inspiration from the Yorta Yorta people and their strength and determination over time. "There is no other tribe in Aboriginal Australia who has produced more important leaders than the Yorta Yorta." Expressing his concern of reawakening the pain inflicted by the failure of the Yorta Yorta native title land claim in the Federal and High Courts, Mr Pearson used this year's Dungala Kaiela Oration to express his belief that the failure of the claim represents a failure at law. | The Age , Australia (13 October 2014) |
| 11 October 2014 | WA | Rednecks at it again – 180 remote communities at-risk of being closed | Western Australia is home to 274 remote communities of First Peoples, which are being threatened with closure due to the Commonwealth Government proposed funding withdrawal for the majority of these communities. | The Stringer , Australia (11 October 2014) |
| 11 October 2014 | WA | WA Aboriginal communities propose joint venture to secure stake in fish farm project | The Bardi Jawi, Myala and Dambimangari Aboriginal communities have formed a joint venture to secure a stake in the 2,000 hectare site at Cone Bay which will have up to 20,000 tonnes of fin fish to be produced annually. | ABC News , Australia (11 October 2014) |

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| 11 October 2014 | WA | 30 years after its removal, Burrup Peninsula rock art home at last | In the 1980's, Woodside Petroleum oversaw the relocation of 170 pieces of ancient Aboriginal rock art to make way for the North West Shelf gas plant. After 30 years of negotiations between the West Australian government and local traditional owners, the rock art has been returned. | National Affairs , Australia (11 October 2014) |
| 10 October 2014 | NT | Coniston massacre: Nigel Scullion returns site to traditional owners 86 years after killings | At Yurrkuru 274 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs, on the site of Australia's last recorded massacre of Aboriginal people, Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion presented the native title deeds to traditional owners. | ABC News , Australia (10 October 2014) Indigenous.gov.au , Australia (13 October 2014) National Indigenous Times , pg 10, Australia (17 October 2014) The Koori Mail, pg 13, Australia (22 October 2014) |
| 10 October 2014 | WA | Aboriginal corporations share \$502m revenue | Data from the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations has shown that in 2012-2013 Western Australian's Aboriginal corporations had a combined total income of \$502.7 million, providing evidence of the benefit of iron ore mining in the Pilbara. | Business News , Western Australia (10 October 2014) |
| 9 October 2014 | Australia | The secret to win-win negotiations | Indigenous Services Australia director Tony Shaw has asked mining companies to listen first and establish a relationship when talking to traditional owners regarding property rights as successful native title negotiations do not begin by getting right down to business. | MiningNews.net , Australia (9 October 2014) |
| 8 October 2014 | QLD | Aurukun hails mining deal | A landmark agreement between Traditional Owners and a mining company has been celebrated as it includes a 15 per cent ownership of the mining company by the native title holders. This agreement brings to an end agreements where First Peoples did not receive much from mining operations on their land. | The Koori Mail, pg 19, Australia (8 October 2014) National Indigenous Times, pg 13, Australia (15 October 2014) |
| 8 October 2014 | NT | Watarrka 'no' to oil and gas | Traditional owners of Watarrka (Kings Canyon) National Park have asked the Northern Territory Government to exercise its power to refuse licences as they do not want oil and gas exploration in one of Australia's top tourist attractions. | The Koori Mail, pg 28, Australia (8 October 2014) |
| 8 October 2014 | WA | Gnangara roadworks to start soon | The City of Swan will wait for the end of a 30-day Native Title consultation process to start the road works on Gnangara Road. City Mayor Charlie Zannino said "Native Title holders must be provided the opportunity to comment or object to a change in the tenure of the land. Prior to applying for the State Forest Excision, the City completed consultation with the Aboriginal community under a Section 18 Notice (<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i>) and we expect the Native Title consultation process to flow smoothly." | In my community , Australia (8 October 2014) |
| 4 October 2014 | WA | WA's changes to Aboriginal Heritage law rejected at bush meetings | The WA Government plans to amend the state's <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act</i> have been rejected by Aboriginal leaders in the Kimberley, Pilbara and Perth. | The Stringer , Australia (4 October 2014) |

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| 3 October 2014 | SA | Native Title granted over section of Simpson Desert | The Federal Court today recognised the native title rights of the Wangkangurru/ Yarluyandi people over a large area that includes the Simpson Desert in the far north of South Australia, extending into Queensland. The State Government and the Wangkangurru/ Yarluyandi people also signed a Settlement Indigenous Land Use Agreement and Parks Indigenous Land Use Agreement. | Government of South Australia , South Australia (3 October 2014) |
| 3 October 2014 | NT | Smoking ceremony held at controversial explorer statue | A rally in Alice Springs was held calling for the removal of a statue of explorer John McDouall Stuart, the first European to traverse the continent from south to north in 1862. Deputy Chair of native title body Lhere Artepe, Michael Liddle, has approached the Alice Springs Town Council about placing a statue of a central Arrente figure in Stuart Park. | ABC , Alice Springs (3 October 2014) |
| 1 October 2014 | NSW | Dispute over old Gulgong Hospital takes new twist: Aboriginal Land Claim | On behalf of the Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council, the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council has lodged a claim over the site of the old Gulgong hospital which is slated for demolition. It said it opposes any demolition of the building until the land claim has been determined. | ABC News , Australia (1 October 2014) |
| 1 October 2014 | WA | Pintubi protect four million acres | A Pintubi family along with other traditional owners have declared four million hectares of their land an indigenous protected area. This is the largest block of protected arid lands on earth. | ABC News , Australia (1 October 2014) Yahoo!7 News , Australia (1 October 2014) |
| 1 October 2014 | VIC | Aboriginal land push designated for western Victoria | An Aboriginal corporation has put in an application for cultural heritage protection rights over a large parcel of western Victoria extending from Port Fairy to Anglesea and north to Stawell. It follows a separate push for native title recognition of Crown land across the region. | The Standard , Australia (1 October 2014) |

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