

NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

August 2015

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
30/08/2015	WA	Traditional owners turn to touch screens to record rock art in the Kimberley	Uunguu rangers in the Kimberley's far north-west are using touch-screen technology to record the exact GPS location and condition of any rock art they discover, in the hope it can be better protected.	ABC News , Australia, 30 August 2015
29/08/2015	QLD	Traditional owner to challenge Carmichael mine in Federal Court over job and revenue claims	Traditional owner Adrian Burragubba will challenge the Adani mine in the Federal Court claiming flawed and misleading analysis of jobs and revenue, and also accused the native title tribunal of racial discrimination for not granting him and other Aboriginals equal rights before it.	Herald Sun , Australia, 29 August 2015
28/08/2015	Australia	Native title business as usual	The National Native Title Tribunal has announced it has registered over 1,000 Indigenous land use agreements. President of the Tribunal, Raelene Webb said this was strong evidence of proponents and native title parties successfully negotiating about matters in relation to native title.	PSnews online , Australia, 28 August 2015
27/08/2015	Australia	Abbott rules out migrant recognition in near future	Prime Minister Tony Abbott has ruled out recognising migrants in the constitution in the near future by acknowledging the importance of migrants in Australia but saying the focus needed to remain on Indigenous people.	SBS , Australia, 27 August 2015 ABC News , Australia, 27 August 2015 ABC – The Drum , Australia, 27 August 2015 9 news , Australia, 27 August 2015

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25/08/2015	NT	Minister Scullion: Mr Gumbula – A Cultural leader	Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, has paid tribute to Mr J. N. Gumbula, who has passed away saying “Mr Gumbula was a highly respected Yolngu leader from Arnhem Land”.	Indigenous.gov.au , Australia, 25 August 2015
25/08/2015	VIC	Healesville Sanctuary protected from potential gold claim	Healesville residents are up in arms after Caulfield-based company Nugget and Stone has applied for a 44 square kilometre exploration licence 2km south of Healesville. If approved by the State Government, the licence will permit preliminary goldmining research in a region that includes residential areas, three significant waterways, and places of cultural significance to the Wurundjeri community. The application is being assessed by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. There is no time frame on the assessment process, but native title implications could draw it out.	Herald Sun , Australia, 25 August 2015
24/08/2015	Australia	Prime Minister Tony Abbott says native title fight a symbol of justice	Prime Minister Tony Abbott has told descendants of Eddie “Koiki” Mabo that his fight for native title should be a symbol of justice for all indigenous Australians. Mr Abbott said the historic legal battle for land rights could be the first step on the path to reconciliation.	The Courier Mail , Australia, 24 August 2015 News.com.au , Australia, 24 August 2015 ABC News , Australia, 24 August 2015 ABC – The World Today , Australia, 24 August 2015 The Guardian , Australia, 24 August 2015 The Guardian , Australia, 25 August 2015

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23/08/2015	TSI	Tony Abbott to be first Australian Prime Minister to visit grave of indigenous campaigner Eddie Mabo	Tony Abbott will become the first Australian Prime Minister to pay respects at the grave of indigenous land rights campaigner Eddie Mabo as he begins a week-long trip to the Torres Strait. The historic visit will kick off a series of official visits by Mr Abbott and other senior ministers across Australia's northernmost region as part of the PM's vow to spend a week every year in an indigenous community.	News.com.au , Australia, 23 August 2015 9 news , Australia, 23 August 2015 The Star Online , Australia, 23 August 2015 The Australian , Australia, 24 August 2015 The News International , Pakistan, 24 August 2015 SBS , Australia, 28 August 2015
23/08/2015	QLD	Plans by indigenous landholders to slug tourists with Cape York permit fee branded 'highway robbery'	The Apudthama Land Trust, who own Aboriginal freehold over a vast chunk of the pristine top end, believe the proposed access fees would be similar to those at other tourism sites such as Uluru, Kakadu and Mossman Gorge. Under the proposed scheme, a trip to Queensland's top end would cost \$100-a-vehicle and \$20-a-head and be applied at the Jardine River barge, in addition to a crossing fee of \$99.	The Courier Mail , Australia, 23 August 2015
21/08/2015	NT	Gough Whitlam's Wave Hill hand back celebrated by Indigenous elders 40 years on	Forty years after prime minister Gough Whitlam travelled to Wave Hill station to hand back more than 3,000 square kilometres of land to the Gurindji people, elders have gathered to commemorate an iconic occasion in the land rights movement.	ABC News , Australia, 21 August 2015

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21/08/2015	NT	Traditional owner and Muckaty anti-nuclear waste dump activist Nabarula dies in Tennant Creek	The Warlmanpa elder and activist against the proposed Muckaty nuclear waste facility, Nabarula, has passed away. Nabarula was part of an eight-year campaign against the Northern Land Council's (NLC's) nomination of Muckaty Station, 110 kilometres north of Tennant Creek, as a nuclear waste storage facility. She was one of a group of traditional owners who took legal action against the NLC and the Australian government saying they were not consulted and did not consent to the proposal.	ABC News , Australia, 21 August 2015
21/08/2015	QLD	Indigenous job fears as greens march in	Indigenous elders fighting for native title on the land of Adani's proposed \$16 billion Carmichael coalmine have accused the green lobby of exploiting them and causing bitter divisions. The Wangan and Jagalingou people are split over the mine. Opponents are being bankrolled by conservationists to fight Adani, while supporters within the indigenous group fear the loss of jobs for future generations.	The Australian , Australia, 21 August 2015 Wangan & Jagalingou Family Council , Australia, 21 August 2015 The Australian , Australia, 22 August 2015
21/08/2015	NSW	Paul Keating's vision for the Barangaroo Reserve headland park	Former prime minister Paul Keating's latest project, the headland park at Barangaroo, will stand as a monument to his single-minded determination to recreate the original headland in Sydney, which was destroyed 100 years ago by maritime development at Darling Harbour. Under Keating's grand vision, Goat Island should be returned under native title to the original owners, and most of the remnant buildings removed.	The Sydney Morning Herald , Australia, 21 August 2015

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20/08/2015	QLD	Indigenous leader Noel Pearson questions Glencore's bauxite mine deal in Aurukun	Noel Pearson has questioned how a Glencore was named the preferred proponent for the Aurukun bauxite deposit — a decision that shocked many of the local Wik and Wik Way people. The Glencore decision dashed the hopes of traditional owners who had dreamed of finally controlling a large stake in developing their own land.	ABC – Lateline , Australia, 20 August 2015 ABC News , Australia, 21 August 2015 The New Daily , Australia, 21 August 2015
19/08/2015	WA	WA Bill recognises Aboriginals as custodians of the land	The WA Legislative Assembly has passed a Bill which will formally recognise Aboriginal people as the first people of WA and traditional custodians of the land. The Bill, introduced by Kimberley MLA and Gidjja woman Josie Farrer, amends the preamble to WA's constitution, committing the Parliament to seek to effect reconciliation with Aboriginal people.	ABC News , Australia, 19 August 2015 9 news , Australia, 19 August 2015 The West Australian , Australia, 20 August 2015
18/08/2015	NSW	New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council meets in the Hunter Valley	Australia's largest Aboriginal organisation, the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) which represents more than 100 local land councils across the state is holding its biennial conference in the Hunter Valley. Representatives have gathered in Lovedale this week to discuss the future direction of the Land Rights network.	ABC News , Australia, 18 August 2015
18/08/2015	WA	Gibson Desert traditional owners explore native title options	The traditional owners of the Gibson Desert Nature Reserve will explore political options to secure land entitlements after a disused oil tenure thwarted their legal battle.	The Australian , Australia, 18 August 2015 Herald Sun , Australia, 26 August 2015 News.com.au , Australia, 26 August 2015

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18/08/2015	Australia	Tony Abbott moves to heal rift on Indigenous recognition	Prime Minister Tony Abbott has moved to heal a rift with Aboriginal leaders over their push to establish a unified Indigenous position on what constitution recognition question should be put to the people. Mr Abbott invited the four leaders who proposed a series of Indigenous conferences to debate the issue to meet with him in Canberra. After rejecting their proposal earlier this month on the basis that "it might produce something akin to a log of claims that is unlikely to receive general support", Mr Abbott appears ready to embrace the idea.	<p>The Australian, Australia, 18 August 2015</p> <p>The Sydney Morning Herald, Australia, 18 August 2015</p> <p>News.com.au, Australia, 19 August 2015</p> <p>ABC News, Australia, 19 August 2015</p> <p>West Australian, Australia, 19 August 2015</p> <p>News Xinhuanet, Asia and Pacific Edition, 19 August 2015</p> <p>The Australian, Australia, 20 August 2015</p> <p>The Sydney Morning Herald, Australia, 20 August 2015</p> <p>News.com.au, Australia, 20 August 2015</p> <p>ABC News, Australia, 20 August 2015</p> <p>SBS, Australia, 20 August 2015</p> <p>ABC – The Drum, Australia, 21 August 2015</p> <p>Financial Review, Australia, 24 August 2015</p>
14/08/2015	WA	Putuparri and the Rainmakers is a stunning story of Aboriginal culture, life and law	Putuparri and the Rainmakers (2015) is about the courage of a Kimberley Wangkajunga man, Putuparri Tom Lawford, whose determined love of family, culture and traditional lands takes him on a hard yet profoundly rewarding journey back to his desert home.	<p>The Conversation, Australia, 14 August 2015</p>

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14/08/2015	QLD	Developers move in on 'sacred Aboriginal burial sites'	A Proposed residential development by property group Australand for close to 600 homes on the Deebing Creek Mission site has angered local Aboriginal families who say houses and children's play areas will be built over sacred burial sites.	Sunshine Coast Daily , Australia, 14 August 2015
13/08/2015	WA	Aboriginal, non-Indigenous heritage sites being treated unequally, archaeologists say	A newly proposed West Australian heritage bill highlights a "disturbing racial differentiation" between the level of protection offered between non-Indigenous and Aboriginal sites. The draft bill oversees the protection of all WA heritage sites except Aboriginal sites of significance, which come under the Aboriginal Heritage Act (AHA), itself also the subject of proposed changes by the Government.	ABC News , Australia, 13 August 2015
13/08/2015	QLD	Wulli Wulli people celebrate native title handover at Theodore in central Queensland	A crowd of 250 turned up to a federal court on-country sitting in the small central Queensland town of Theodore today to recognise the Wulli Wulli people as the traditional owners of their country. This is the first self-funded native title claim in the region and covers just under 5500 square kilometres and includes the towns of Theodore, Cracow, pastoral properties, Precipice and Isla Gorge National Parks, state forests and section of the Dawson River.	ABC News , Australia, 13 August 2015 The Australian , Australia, 13 August 2015 9 news , Australia, 13 August 2015 The Guardian , Australia, 13 August 2015 Queensland Country Life , Australia, 13 August 2015 Yahoo 7 News , Australia, 13 August 2015 Indigenous.gov.au , Australia, 13 August 2015

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13/08/2015	QLD	Kabi Kabi indigenous title claims could be put to the test	Gympie region's Kabi Kabi aboriginal people have declared their independence from Australia and claimed sovereign ownership of at least two near-Gympie properties but the State Government says the claim may have to be tested.	Gympie Times , Australia, 13 August 2015
12/08/2015	Australia	What the history of referendums tells us about constitutional recognition	Even when initial polling shows great support for a proposed change, referendums in Australia have become synonymous with failure. Regardless of whether the stigma is warranted, this history is having a negative impact on the push to recognise Indigenous Australians in the constitution.	ABC – Radio National , Australia, 12 August 2015
12/08/2015	WA	DMP Says Western Australia Takes a Year to Grant Exploration Licenses	Western Australia's Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) Director General Richard Sellers said "According to statistics from the department, exploration licenses granted over the past 12 months have taken an average of 364 calendar days to process" in Western Australia. It was recently reported in the media that it was taking more than two-and-a-half years to grant an exploration license in Australia. The average includes assessment by DMP and other processes including native title for land access, and requests for information from proponents.	Rigzone , Australia, 12 August 2015 Asian Oil and Gas , United States of America, 12 August 2015 PSnews online , Australia, 18 August 2015 Australian Mining , Australia, 20 August 2015
11/08/2015	NSW	Sacred Hunter Indigenous site granted heritage listing	The Baiame Cave near Singleton in the Hunter Valley is considered a place of great spiritual significance to the local Wonnarua people. Artwork in this cave depicting one of the most significant Aboriginal figures in New South Wales has been listed on the New South Wales Heritage Register.	ABC News , Australia, 11 August 2015

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11/08/2015	QLD	Australian indigenous groups ask banks not to back Adani project	Indian energy giant Adani has cancelled a contract with a second bank casting more doubts about the viability of its \$16.5 billion Carmichael mine in central Queensland. The traditional owners are calling on the remaining three of Australia's big four banks to confirm they will not finance the Carmichael coal mine project.	Financial Review , Australia, 11 August 2015 Live Mint , Australia, 12 August 2015
11/08/2015	QLD	Reservations held over environmental reserve	In a controversial vote by Bundaberg's councillors, Gin Gin, 17.2 hectares of unallocated State government land, located off Rangeview Rd, would be turned into an environmental reserve. The council's Community and Environment general manager Gavin Steele said "we have an extinguished native title on it, so it's not able to be cleared".	News Mail , Australia, 11 August 2015
10/08/2015	NT	Minister Scullion: Mr Wunungmurra – A strong and respected leader	Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, has paid tribute to the former Chairman of the Northern Land Council, Mr Wunungmurra, who recently passed away. "Mr Wunungmurra was a highly respected Senior elder, Mala leader and law man of the Dhalwangu clan of North East Arnhem Land," Minister Scullion said. "As one of 12 signatories to the Yirrkala Bark Petitions sent by Yolngu people to the Australian Parliament in 1963, Mr Wunungmurra played a pivotal role in the recognition of land rights and the reconciliation process."	Indigenous.gov.au , Australia, 10 August 2015
09/08/2015	WA	Bush burial knockbacks causing distress for Aboriginal families in outback WA	There are calls for greater clarity over where and when Aboriginal people can be buried on their traditional country following conflicts in the Kimberley region.	ABC News , Australia, 9 August 2015

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08/08/2015	TAS	Aboriginal Tasmanians to meet over land hand-backs, World Heritage concerns	Aboriginal groups in Tasmania will meet for the first time to discuss concerns about land they claim is not being returned to rightful owners. Currently it is handed back to the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania (ALCT), which acts as a custodian of parcels of land and oversees the way they are managed. Several Aboriginal groups who believe the land should be directly handed back to local communities.	ABC News , Australia, 8 August 2015
07/08/2015	QLD	Queensland seeks investors	Dr Anthony Lynham, Queensland Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, announced that 11,000 square kilometres was being released to gauge possible exploration interest. Successful tenderers will be granted a petroleum and gas Authority to Prospect exploration permit for a six-year term after meeting environmental, land access and any native title requirements.	Oil & Gas Financial Journal , United States of America, 6 August 2015
06/08/2015	TSI	Minister Scullion: Wayne See Kee reappointed as CEO of TSRA	Mr Wayne See Kee, the first Indigenous Australian to be appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA), has been re-appointed to the position. Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, said Mr See Kee's appointment would give stability to the TSRA over the coming years.	Indigenous.gov.au , Australia, 6 August 2015
05/08/2015	QLD	Carmichael coal mine: Federal court overturns approval for Adani project	The Federal court has overturned approval for Adani Mining's Carmichael coal mine, which is currently under construction in Queensland. The Federal Court has formally set aside the approval of the mine and rail project in Queensland's Galilee Basin under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act</i> .	SBS , Australia, 5 August 2015 Financial Review , Australia, 6 August 2015

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05/08/2015	Australia	Minister Scullion: Edward Fry appointed as new Chairperson of ILC	Mr Edward Fry, an Indigenous Australian and current Chairperson of Indigenous Business Australia (IBA), has been appointed Chairperson of the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) for a three-year period, effective from late October 2015. Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, said Mr Fry's appointment would allow the ILC to drive a strong economic development agenda for the benefit of Indigenous Australians. "Mr Fry has extensive experience in financial and human resource management as well as Indigenous training and employment and is a specialist in Indigenous and Native Title issues."	Indigenous.gov.au , Australia, 5 August 2015
04/08/2015	VIC	Council approves new dual name for Point Ritchie	The significant indigenous heritage of Point Ritchie will be recognised with a dual name. Warrnambool City Councillors voted unanimously to support the proposal and will submit the name Point Ritchie/Moyjil to the geographic names register. There is evidence of indigenous activity at the site dating back over 35,000 years, making the headland one of the most significant indigenous sites in Australia.	The Standard , Australia, 4 August 2015
04/08/2015	Australia	Recognition hijacked by political class	A new body of native title holders has accused Tony Abbott of sidelining "grassroots" Aborigines in the debate over constitutional recognition for indigenous Australians. The Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) National Council yesterday warned that most Aborigines were not engaged in the debate and did not support change. "The question hasn't been really put to the Aboriginal people around the country, to the people in the remote communities, the traditional owners and native title groups.	The Australian , Australia, 4 August 2015

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03/08/2015	Australia	Australian PM at odds with Aboriginal on constitutional issues	Prime Minister Tony Abbott has sparked fury among Aboriginal leaders after rejecting their proposals for indigenous conventions ahead of a referendum on Constitutional recognition. Several Aboriginal leaders have been in talks with Abbott about being recognized in the constitution as Australia's first people, but the prime minister rejected the proposal, claiming it would be divisive. Abbott told the leaders there was a "risk" that it would be "unlikely to receive general support" if the referendum was purely led by Indigenous Australians. "I am in favour of building consensus, but strongly believe this should be a national consensus in favour of a particular form of recognition rather than simply an Indigenous one," he told the leaders in a letter.	Financial Review , Australia, 3 August 2015 The Sydney Morning Herald , Australia, 3 August 2015 Sky News , Australia, 3 August 2015 NITV , Australia, 3 August 2015 The Australian , Australia, 4 August 2015 ABC News , Australia, 4 August 2015 ABC News , Australia, 4 August 2015 News Xinhuanet , Asia and Pacific Edition, 4 August 2015 The Age , Australia, 6 August 2015 Brisbane Times , Australia, 6 August 2015 ABC News , Australia, 7 August 2015 The Conversation , Australia, 7 August 2015
03/08/2015	NT	Minister Scullion: Gnyangara a step closer to township lease	The Gnyangara community in Arnhem Land is one step closer to securing an historic 99-year township lease after traditional owners today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Australian Government. Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs said "The MoU outlines key features of the township lease and sets the stage for more discussions about what will work for the community.	Indigenous.gov.au , Australia, 3 August 2015

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03/08/2015	NSW	NSW mining lease applications - new protocol for proof of extinguishment of native title	The Department of Industry, Resources and Energy (DRE) have released an updated 'Protocol for Evidencing Proof of Extinguishment of Native Title' (Protocol). The Protocol is designed to assist mining title applicants in identifying suitable and adequate documents which evidence that native title has been wholly extinguished over the land subject to the proposed mining title.	Lexology , Australia, 3 August 2015
03/08/2015	WA	Gold Road picks a development option for Gruyere	The Stage 1 prefeasibility study (PFS) into the Gruyere gold project, in Western Australia, has begun and is estimating a potential mine life of 10 to 15 years. Having established the study parameters, Gold Road was now progressing the Gruyere PFS, which would include capital and operating cost estimates, plant layout design, metallurgical testwork, tailings storage facility option studies, as well as starting native title discussions.	Mining Weekly , Australia, 3 August 2015
03/08/2015	QLD	Council-acquired land will go up for auction	Nine Gladstone Regional Council-owned parcels of land will go to auction, in a move the mayor says should help the small township expand. Councillor Gail Sellers said the process of acquiring the formerly state-owned parcels of land, so they can be placed on the market, had taken more than 12 months and would not have been possible were it not for the support of its Native Title claimants.	The Gladstone Observer , Australia, 3 August 2015

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02/08/2015	Australia	Nova Peris says Aboriginal wounds still raw	Speaking on a political panel at the Garma Festival in the Northern Territory on Sunday, the Senator Nova Peris said Australia would not move forward on reconciliation and constitutional recognition, until past wounds were healed.	The Financial Review , Australia, 2 August 2015 The Guardian , Australia, 2 August 2015 BBC , Australia, 3 August 2015 New Kerala , United Kingdom, 3 August 2015
01/08/2015	NT	Fresh calls for inquiry into Ayers Rock Resort purchase	Calls for a thorough inquiry into the ill-fated purchase of the Ayers Rock Resort by the Indigenous Land Corporation are being called for. The ILC's annual budget of \$50 million, has about \$15 million of which goes to administration and \$35 million of which is available for addressing its core function of helping indigenous people dispossessed of their land. The ILC is now facing the prospect of up to \$20 million of that budget being eaten up by repayments of the principal and interest for the next 15 or 20 years.	The Saturday paper , Australia, 1 August 2015

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