

Native Title in the News – April 2012

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
27/03/2012	WA	Browse Basin gas project	Environmental Protection Authority ('EPA') Chairman, Paul Vogel, warned of a possible delay to its environmental assessment because it was not confident legally of what is what assessing. In late 2011 the Supreme Court of Western Australia ruled that the Western Australian government's attempts to extinguish native title and secure 7000 hectares of land for the 3500 hectare development at James Price Point were unlawful. However, an EPA spokesperson has recently said that it could proceed with the environmental assessment of the project, which is due by the middle of next month. Some traditional land owners in the area, mainly members of the Jabbar Jabbar and Goolarabooloo people, oppose the deal and do not want to see any development.	<i>Australian Financial Review</i> (Australia, 27 March 2012), 16.
28/03/2012	NT	Mataranka determination	Mataranka traditional owners, the Najig and Guyanggan Ngannawirbird people, have had their native title rights and interests recognised in the Northern Territory. The Federal Court of Australia announced that the determination was the third successful native title claim over a township in the Northern Territory.	<i>Australian</i> (Australia, 2 March 2012), 34. <i>Katherine Times</i> (Katherine NT, 28 March 2012), 3. <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 28 March 2012), 12.
31/03/2012	WA	Yawuru developments	In 2010, the Yawuru people signed a \$196 million native title deal which arose from the Federal Court's determination that the Yawuru people were the native title holders of land in and around Broome. The Yawuru people have since negotiated a property portfolio worth about \$140 million, making them one of the biggest commercial players in town. One of the Yawuru group's immediate priorities is to develop an affordable housing strategy, including building low-cost homes.	<i>The Weekend West</i> (Perth WA, 31 March 2012), 58.
31/03/2012	WA	Noongar heritage	It has been alleged that that some Indigenous groups are being paid to give cultural clearance for developments and maintenance work in Perth to ensure projects are not held up in the approvals process.	<i>The West Australian</i> (31 March 2012), accessed online 2 May 2012.

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04/04/2012	WA	Notice of intention to compulsorily acquire land	The Western Australian Government has re-advertised notices of intention to compulsorily acquire land in the Kimberley for the \$30 million Browse Basin gas project after the original notices were ruled invalid.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (Lismore NSW, 4 April 2012), 32. <i>Mining Chronicle</i> (Australia, 1 April 2012), 12. <i>Business News</i> (Perth WA, 29 March 2012), 23.
05/04/2012	NT	Muckaty protest	An impromptu protest was staged on 2 April by Muckaty traditional owners. The protesters rallied outside the Northern Land Council office to reiterate their stand against the nomination of their land as a site for the Commonwealth government's national radioactive waste dump. Lawyers representing traditional owners who have challenged the nomination of Muckaty faced the Commonwealth government and Northern Land Council in the Federal Court in late March. After a two day hearing the matter was adjourned until May 2012.	<i>Tennant & District Times</i> (Tennant NT, 5 April 2012), 3.
10/04/2012	NSW	Dunghutti Elders Council	The Federal Court has dismissed an application by the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, Anthony Beven, seeking costs against the former directors of the Dunghutti Elders Council. The Court decided the directors were not personally liable for costs incurred by his office during a long legal fight dating back to the beginning of 2011.	<i>Macleay Argus</i> (Kempsey NSW, 10 April 2012), 3. <i>Koori Mail</i> (Lismore NSW, 18 April 2012), 70.
11/04/2012	TSI	Mer Island reserve transfer	The Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management ('DERM') is working towards the transfer of the Mer Island reserve to Mer Gedkem Le Torres Strait Islanders Corporation ('MGLTSIC') (the Prescribed Body Corporate for native title on Mer Island) in 2012. MGLTSIC convened a meeting on March 30 to discuss the management of social housing on Mer once the transfer goes through. The Queensland Government wants an agreement from the Mer people for a 40-year lease over all existing social housing and vacant land for new social housing. But no such lease can be signed until an Indigenous land use agreement ('ILUA') is in place.	<i>Torres News</i> (Thursday Island QLD, 11 April 2012), 4. <i>Koori Mail</i> (Lismore NSW, 4 April 2012), 15.

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11/04/2012	TSI	Hunting ban	The Mura Badugal Registered Native Title Body Corporate and the Badu community have put in place traditional hunting restrictions within an area defined under the Mura Badugal Dugong and Turtle Management Plan. The restrictions aim to protect dugong and turtle populations in the Badugal peoples' traditional area, the Badu and surrounding islands in the Torres Strait. Representative bodies throughout the Torres Strait and Far North Queensland are being urged to support a Torres Strait Regional Authority ('TSRA') initiated campaign to protect culturally appropriate management of natural resources, including fisheries.	<i>Torres News</i> (Thursday Island QLD, 11 April 2012), 5. <i>Torres News Online</i> (20 April 2012), accessed online 2 May 2012.
11/04/2012	WA	WA Aboriginal Heritage Act	Aboriginal Elders and advocates have voiced their fears that the Western Australian Government will attempt to water down the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA)</i> to make it easier to secure assessments of Aboriginal historical and cultural sites that favour government and big business.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 11 April 2012), 25.
17/04/2012	NT	Lhere Artepe	In 2011, traditional owners raised concerns about the financial capacity and credibility of the Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation. The newly appointed Chairman of the group, Ian McAdam, has said it faces many challenges, including repairing relationships with the community and its stakeholders, but has hope for the future.	<i>Centralian Advocate</i> (Alice Springs NT, 17 April 2012), 10. <i>ABC Indigenous</i> (12 April 2012), accessed online 2 May 2012.
19/04/2012	WA	Karajarri tenth anniversary	The Karajarri people have celebrated 10 years of native title on Bidiyadanga country. The Karajarri consent determination was the second to be recognised in the Kimberley region, with native title granted across 24275sqkm of country. The native title holder is the Karajarri Traditional Lands Association (Registered Native Title Body Corporate) as trustee for the common law holders of native title, the Karajarri People.	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome WA, 19 April 2012), 8.
19/04/2012	WA	Native Title restored	The Miriwung, Gidja, Malignin and Woolah peoples and Argyle Diamonds have moved to reestablish native title on country in the remote Kimberley in what would be an unprecedented initiative. This would be the first time native title was restored to land where it had previously been	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome WA, 19 April 2012), 10. <i>Age</i> (Melbourne VIC, 6 April 2012), 7.

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			extinguished. Spokesperson for Argyle said the reestablishment of native title would follow the eventual closure of the mine.	<i>The West Australian</i> (20 April 2012), accessed online 2 May 2012.
20/04/2012	NSW	Murray and Darling rivers	A group of 21 Aboriginal nations has called for water licenses on the Murray Darling to be revoked. The Northern Murray Darling Basin Aboriginal Nations has said that Indigenous people should hold the ultimate title over the rivers' water.	<i>ABC Western Plains</i> (20 April 2012), accessed online 2 May 2012.