

Native Title in the News – March 2012

| Date | State | Subject | Summary | Source |
|------------|-------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 01/03/2012 | NT | NT seabed mining moratorium | On 6 March, the Northern Territory Resources Minister, Kon Vatskalis, announced a 3 year moratorium on exploration and seabed mining in the coastal waters of the Northern Territory to allow the Environment Protection Authority to assess the potential impacts of exploration and mining. The Northern Land Council Chief Executive, Kim Hill, said, 'The traditional owners have told us they oppose seabed mining and we know if a large deposit of minerals are located during the exploration phase, the pressure to allow mining will increase.' | <i>Koori Mail</i> (Lismore NSW, 21 March 2012), 40. |
| 02/03/2012 | NSW | Dunghutti Elders Council | Directors of the Dunghutti Elders Council may be liable to pay massive legal fees for a court case against the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations ('ORIC'). ORIC placed the Council in special administration in September 2011 alleging that directors had been paid \$786 137 in travel and wage payments between 2009 and 2011 in contravention of <i>The Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006</i> (Cth). After six months under special administration, seven new board members have been appointed, all Dunghutti descendants and members of the Council. | <i>Australian</i> (Australia, 2 March 2012), 34. <i>Macleay Argus</i> (Kempsey NSW, 2 March 2012), 2. <i>Macleay Argus</i> (Kempsey NSW, 6 March 2012), 5. |
| 13/03/2012 | WA | Agreement signed | Flinders Mines has signed a native title agreement with the Wintawari Guruma Aboriginal Corporation for a mining project 70 kilometres north of Tom Price. | <i>Financial Review</i> (13 March 2012) accessed online 30 March 2012. |
| 21/03/2012 | QLD | Wild rivers | Cape York traditional owners from Hope Vale, Aurukun, Coen and Lockhart River have been stationed out the front of the Brisbane electorate of Ashgrove to raise their concerns with the public in regards to the Queensland Government's wild rivers laws. | <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 21 March 2012), 11. |
| 22/03/2012 | NT | Native title bar too high | Justice Paul Finn has said the bar on proving native title claims was too high during a special outdoor hearing which determined that the Najig and Guyanggan Nganawirbird groups had native title over parts of the town of Mataranka. A number of people such as the Northern Land Council Chief Executive, Kim Hill, and the Northern Territory's Minister for natural resources, environment and heritage, Karl Hampton, have agreed with Justice Finn on the difficulty of proving claims. | <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin NT, 22 March 2012), 11. |

Native Title in the News – March 2012

| Date | State | Subject | Summary | Source |
|------------|-------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 23/03/2012 | WA | Welcome to country signage | Kimberley Land Council's Wungurr Rangers erected welcome to country signage at sites along the Gibb River Road to welcome tourists to Ngarinyin native title land and inform them about respecting and taking care of country. The signs have been produced in both English and Ngarinyin language. | <i>Kimberley Echo</i> (Kununurra WA, 23 February 2012), 7. |
| 23/03/2012 | WA | Yawuru develop residential site | Yawuru native title holders have made their first move as a major property holder in Broome, with a proposed residential estate on Palmer Road in Cable Beach. The Yawuru body plans to develop up to 80 residential housing lots on 14 parcels of land on the Palmer Road site. Work on the first stage of the Palmer Road residential development was expected to start by the end of February. | <i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome WA, 23 February 2012), 9. |
| 28/03/2012 | NT | Muckaty Station | The Commonwealth Government will use evidence from anthropologists to fight claims that the traditional owners of a site at Muckaty Station in the Northern Territory have not been consulted about a planned nuclear waste dump. | <i>The Australian</i> (28 March 2012), accessed online 30 March 2012. |
| 28/03/2012 | WA | Protests | A protest organised by the Dumbartung Corporation saw about 100 protesters arrive at parliament house demanding Aboriginal land rights, human rights and compensation for lost wages. | <i>The West Australian</i> (28 March 2012), accessed online 30 March 2012. |
| 29/03/2012 | WA | Heirisson Island protest camp | Police and council workers have again taken down the Indigenous protest camp at Heirisson Island on day 47 of the protest against the Western Australian Government's \$1 billion offer to settle native title claims in Perth and the South West. | <i>The West Australian</i> (29 March 2012) and <i>AAP Newswire</i> (22 March 2012), accessed 30 March 2012. |