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AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL
AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES

NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

June 2016

New South Wales (NSW)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
21/06/2016	NSW	Barkindji water rights protests	<p>Barkindji people in Wilcannia have protested government mismanagement and over-allocation of water resources, which they blame for the reduced flow. A year has passed since the Barkindji people's native title was recognised, which included a 400-kilometre stretch of the Darling River.</p> <p>However, some Barkindji people said native title has less significance without water in the river, as they were unable to carry out traditional customs like fishing.</p>	<p>ABC News Australia, 21 June 2016</p> <p>ABC News Australia, 20 June 2016</p>

Northern Territory (NT)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
21/06/2016	NT	Kenbi land claim settled	One of the longest running land claims has been settled near Darwin and the title deeds handed back to traditional owners. First lodged in 1979 the claim has seen two High Court and three Federal Court hearings. Some Larrakia people have maintained their unhappiness at the decision to name only six people as owners.	Canberra Times Australia, 22 June 2016 NITV Australia, 22 June 2016 ABC Australia, 21 June 2016 The Guardian Australia, 21 June 2016 The Australian Australia, 21 June 2016
20/06/2016	NT	Central Australian native title determinations	<p>Native title holders near Alice Springs have celebrated consent determinations at two special sittings of the Federal Court at remote central Australian outstations. Justice Rangiah handed down two non-exclusive native title consent determinations at Cockatoo Creek and M'Bunghara outstations last week.</p> <p>One determination includes native title over the whole of Mt Denison Station, more than 2,700 square kilometres and the other is in relation to an area covering the whole of Narwietooma Station, almost 2,600 square kilometres, and exclusive possession over a portion of Dashwood Creek.</p>	Koori Mail Australia, 29 June 2016 National Indigenous Times Australia, 20 June 2016 Central Land Council Australia, 20 June 2016
17/06/2016	NT	CEO and chairperson of Central Australian PBC resign	Rosalie Kunoth-Monks, the chairperson of Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation, is understood to have resigned, and Ken Lechleitner has confirmed that he has quit as the CEO. The Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, Anthony Beven, has reportedly been asked to take over the administration of the PBC.	Alice Springs News Australia, 17 June 2016

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
14/06/2016	NT	Yarralin handed back to Traditional Owners	After forty years the title deeds to country in the Wickham River land were handed back to traditional owners at Yarralin. The process started in 1972 when the Ngarinman walked off Victoria River Downs Station and joined the Gurindji in protest for better pay and conditions.	NITV Australia, 16 June 2016 The Guardian Australia, 15 June 2016 The Daily Telegraph Australia, 15 June ABC Australia, 14 June 2016
03/06/2016	NT	Eastern Arrernte secure another piece of Simpson Desert	<p>Eastern Arrernte traditional owners have been granted freehold title to a missing piece of the vast Simpson Desert land rights claim. The title was awarded 36 years after the claim was lodged, concluding one of the largest and longest running land claims in the Central Land Council region.</p> <p>The title to the 110,000 hectare area, also known as NT Portion 4208, was granted to the Atnetye Land Trust in a handback ceremony at Keringke Arts in Santa Teresa community.</p>	National Indigenous Times Australia, 07 June 2016 NITV Australia, 06 June 2016 Central Land Council Australia, 03 June 2016
02/06/2016	NT	NLC CEO calls for Minister Scullion to be replaced	Northern Land Council head Joe Morrison has called for the Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion to be replaced if the Coalition is re-elected. Morrison accused Scullion of applying his personal views to the land council and land rights matters. Minister Scullion responded saying Morrison was bitter about a recent submission to the Land Council.	The Guardian Australia, 07 June 2016 ABC News Australia, 03 June 2016 The Guardian Australia, 02 June 2016 ABC News Australia, 02 June 2016

Queensland (QLD)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
23/06/2016	QLD	Iman people's native title recognised	<p>The Iman People of Central and South Western Queensland have been awarded a consent determination over a 14,000 square kilometre area of land around the towns of Taroom and Wandoan.</p> <p>The determination included parcels of exclusive and non-exclusive possession and was accompanied with an ILUA to foster economic development.</p>	<p>Western Times Australia, 24 June 2016</p> <p>QLD Government Media Statement Australia, 23 June 2016</p>
22/06/2016	QLD	Failure to consult with North Stradbroke Island Indigenous Owners on lease transfer	<p>The Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron's (RQYS) plan to open a sailing school at Deanbilla Bay on North Stradbroke Island has sparked controversy with the island's Indigenous owners due to a lack of consultation.</p> <p>RQYS recently took over a lease on land in the area from mining company Sibelco. The Quandamooka people's native title rights over the waters of Deanbilla Bay were recognised in 2011.</p> <p>Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) CEO, Cameron Costello, said he first heard of the plans through the media. RQYS afterwards sent an email notifying QYAC of their plans.</p> <p>"Attempting to contact us once after an announcement has been made is not how you do business with traditional owners," Mr Costello said.</p>	<p>Courier Mail Australia, 22 June 2016</p>

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
21/06/2016	QLD	Darumbal people's native title recognised	A twenty year native title claim has ended in the Darumbal people being acknowledged as the traditional owners of land around Rockhampton, Yeppoon and Marlborough in central Queensland. The consent determination sees the Darumbal people's non-exclusive native title rights recognised over 2,500 square kilometres of land.	4ZZZFM , Australia, 25 June 2016 ABC News Australia, 22 June 2016 QSNTS News Australia, 21 June 2016 The Morning Bulletin Australia, 21 June 2016
20/06/2016	QLD	Juru native title negotiations over Elliot River huts	<p>In June 2015 the Juru people's exclusive and non-exclusive native title rights over lands and waters between Bowen and Ayr were recognised in a consent determination, but were suspended for 12 months in order to negotiate a resolution to the issue of unauthorised structures on the Elliot River, southeast of Townsville.</p> <p>Owners of the 'huts' claim Kyburra Munda Yalga Aboriginal Corporation, the Juru people's PBC, demanded \$15 million as a non-negotiable condition for allowing the structures to remain in place. Some Juru people have said the PBC did not consult with them on its position in the negotiations, and have called for the structures to be allowed to remain.</p>	Townsville Bulletin Australia, 20 June 2016 Townsville Bulletin Australia, 18 June 2016 Townsville Bulletin Australia, 16 June 2016

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
18/06/2016	QLD	Land returned to the Gunggandji people	<p>The headland of Yarrabah has been returned to the town's Indigenous owners, the Gunggandji people, ending a 25-year struggle for land rights. The transfer of 7000ha of land to the Gunggandji people yesterday coincided with Foundation Celebrations in the Indigenous community east of Cairns and aims to create cultural and economic opportunities.</p> <p>Gunggandji PBC Aboriginal Corporation chairman Frederick Noble welcomed the deeds to the land, which came five years after a native title determination for the area.</p>	<p>Cairns Post Australia, 18 June 2016</p>

Victoria (VIC)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
06/06/2016	VIC	Native title claim lodged over Western Victoria's Grampians	<p>A joint native title claim has been lodged over the Grampians National Park, also known as Gariwerd.</p> <p>The Gariwerd Native Title Group includes claimants represented by Barengi Gadjin Land Council, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation and Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation.</p> <p>The claim covers 1,672 square kilometres of land and was lodged on 30 May.</p>	<p>Spectator-Observer Group Australia, 06 June 2016</p> <p>The Courier Australia, 01 June 2016</p> <p>Native Title Services Victoria Australia, 30 May 2016</p> <p>The Age Australia, 30 May 2016</p>
		Victoria's first Aboriginal Economic Board appointed	<p>A new board tasked with delivering the Victorian Government's Aboriginal Economic Strategy has been formed. The Victorian Aboriginal Economic Board will be co-chaired by eminent Yorta Yorta woman Karen Milward, and the chief executive of the Victorian Chamber of Commerce. Jeremy Clark, deputy chair of the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations and general manager of Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, has also been appointed as a member.</p>	<p>Office of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Australia, 24 June 2016</p>

Western Australia (WA)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
15/06/2016	WA	Kimberley man appeals gas well campsite eviction	The Shire of Broome has ordered Yawuru man Micklo Corpus to remove his campsite at the entrance of the proposed Buru Energy gas well. He is protesting proposed fracking, which he says 96 per cent of the Yawuru community oppose. Shire of Broome CEO Jenn Donohoe said Mr Corpus was not being evicted and that the issue is his non-compliance with building codes.	WA Today Australia, 15 June 2016
08/06/2016	WA	Gogo Station owners applying for freehold title.	Owners of Gogo Station in the Kimberley are applying, under new State Government pathway, for 10,000 hectares of pastoral lease to be converted to freehold title. The station is home to around 1000 Indigenous owners, including the Gooniyandi people.	The West Australian Australia, 08 June 2016
07/06/2016	WA	Illegal clearing near Fitzroy Crossing	WA Department of Environment Regulation issued a letter of warning to pastoral company SAWA for engaging in unauthorised clearing of native vegetation near Fitzroy Crossing. Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation's CEO Peter Murray claimed that Aboriginal areas of significance are under threat from renegade pastoralists and that governments are refusing to use appropriate deterrents.	National Indigenous Times Australia, 07 June 2016

Australia

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
23/06/2016	Australia	Constitutional recognition and treaty	<p>Opposition Leader Bill Shorten signalled he was open to supporting a treaty with Indigenous Australia during a Q&A appearance. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the comments threatened to derail the constitutional recognition process.</p> <p>Constitutional reform is set to be the focus of the Referendum Council's upcoming community consultations, but the Council has said that it will not attempt to prevent participants from discussing a treaty.</p>	<p>The Age Australia, 26 June 2016</p> <p>The Conversation Australia, 23 June 2016</p>
21/06/2016	Australia	Plans to develop northern Australia not embracing Indigenous population	<p>Speaking at the Developing Northern Australia conference in Darwin, Mr Yu said the Federal Government was focussing on traditional industries such as mining and irrigated agriculture, but was 'practically silent' on economic activities that Indigenous people were leading – such as land management, carbon sequestration, conservation, and eco-tourism. He also said there was no Indigenous representation on the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility's board, which needed to be addressed.</p>	<p>ABC News Rural Australia, 21 June 2016</p>
21/06/2016	Australia	Call for native title holders to have veto rights	<p>Cape York Land Council chairman Richie Ah Mat has called for native title holders to be given veto rights over all development. 'We must unite to demand all development requires our consent, but also to agree on model arrangements which make consent processes simpler, quicker and cheaper,' he announced at the Developing Northern Australia Conference 2016 in Darwin.</p>	<p>The Australian Australia, 21 June 2016</p>

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
20/06/2016	Australia	Dodson sceptical of Labor's recognition referendum pledge	<p>Pat Dodson, Yawuru leader and Labor Senator for WA, conceded that his party's promise to hold a referendum next year on Indigenous constitutional recognition was almost impossible, saying momentum for change had stalled.</p> <p>Sen. Dodson called on Indigenous Australians to unite at the upcoming regional conventions on the issue, and that there needed to be more discussion on the nature of any proposed treaty.</p> <p>Sen. Dodson also noted that there was confusion over what the Recognise campaign represented, and resentment from some grass-roots Indigenous organisations which associate it with funding cuts to frontline services.</p>	National Indigenous Times Australia, 20 June 2016
01/06/2016	Australia	New trust for Indigenous communities	<p>Perpetual has launched its new native title and community trust to provide investment support to smaller Indigenous communities. The new trust is expected to help open up professional native title management to communities which otherwise could not afford the set up fees. Perpetual has also launched its second Reconciliation Action Plan aimed at building relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, suppliers, employees, and communities.</p>	Money Management Australia, 01 June 2016

International

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
24/06/2016	International	Māori research centre urges Cabinet not to adopt Ministry advice on water ownership	The Ministry for the Environment and Ministry for Primary Industries are currently seeking Cabinet's agreement to adopt a bottom line position that nobody own freshwater and that there should be no national settlement favouring iwi/hapū over other users. Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence, cautioned Cabinet against adopting this advice. The organisation claimed that the Waitangi Tribunal is the only institution to look at this issue in depth, and has already found that Māori have residual proprietary rights in water protected by the Treaty of Waitangi.	Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga New Zealand, 24 June 2016

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