

NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

March 2015

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
30/03/2015	WA	\$1.3bn land rights deal approved	After meetings with Noongar people throughout the last months, the \$1.3 billion native title deal between the State Government and Noongar people is expected to go ahead. A meeting in Perth on Saturday of about 350 descendants of the Whadjuk clan was the last of six meetings that resulted in majority "yes" votes. Glen Kelly, the South West Land and Sea Council chief executive said the agreement would usher in a new era of prosperity for Noongar people.	The West Australian , Australia, 30 March 2015 The Stringer , Australia, 29 March 2015
29/03/2015	WA	Kimberley traditional owners want tighter controls over tourism to protect sacred sites	Dambimangari traditional owners who have been granted exclusive possession native title rights of land and sea off the northern Kimberley coast are looking to charge fees and tighten the regulation of the cruise boat industry to protect the region's sacred sites.	ABC News , Australia, 29 March 2015
29/03/2015	NT	Northern Territory Indigenous community says it was not adequately consulted over fracking permits	Tensions are rising in the Northern Territory as some residents of a remote Aboriginal community say they were not adequately consulted on the granting of fracking permits on Aboriginal freehold land.	ABC News , Australia, 29 March 2015
27/03/2015	WA	Nyoongar campers return to Heirisson Island after being cleared off a second time	Protesters have returned to Heirisson Island after being removed by the WA Police. The self-proclaimed refugee camp is to protest the proposed forced closures of remote communities in the states north.	Perth Now , Australia, 27 March 2015

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26/03/2015	QLD	Aboriginal group fights to stop \$16bn Carmichael coalmine, Australia's largest	Representatives for the Wangan and Jagalingou people have formally rejected an Indigenous land use agreement for mining firm Adani to develop the \$16bn Carmichael mine, in what is shaping up to be an unprecedented test of native title laws. Adani has turned to the national native title tribunal to override this objection.	The Guardian , Australia, 26 March 2015 The Sydney Morning Herald – Federal Politics , Australia, 26 March 2015 ABC News , Australia, 26 March 2015 612 ABC Brisbane , Australia, 26 March 2015 The Australian – National Affairs , Australia, 26 March 2015 The Guardian , Australia, 26 March 2015
26/03/2015	WA	WA recognition for Aboriginals endorsed	WA Premier Colin Barnett has committed the Government to support Kimberley MLA and Gidja woman Josie Farrer's push to amend the Constitution preamble after a joint parliamentary committee endorsed her plan. The change would acknowledge Aboriginal people as the first West Australians and traditional custodians of the land and commit Parliament to effect reconciliation.	9 News , Australia, 26 March 2015 ABC News , Australia, 26 March 2015 The West Australian , Australia, 27 March 2015
25/03/2015	WA	Mining giants to hand over rights to area in the Kimberley for new national park	Rio Tinto and Alcoa have handed back 40-year-old mining rights to the Mitchell Plateau in the Kimberley as part of a proposal by the Western Australian government to create the country's largest national park. Traditional owners in the area opposed mining but some are concerned at giving up exclusive possession rights for a national park to be established. The WA environment minister, Albert Jacob, said the government would work with traditional owners to jointly manage the national park.	The Guardian , Australia, 25 March 2015

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25/03/2015	SA	Kaurna people didn't exist when Europeans arrived, Kelly Henderson says	At a council meeting, failed lord mayoral candidate Kelly Henderson made the controversial claim that the Kaurna people did not exist at the time of European settlement and said the Adelaide City Council should stop officially recognising them.	The Australian – News , Australia, 25 March 2015
25/03/2015	WA	Loans spark action	After an audit raised concerns about senior staff borrowing large sums of money, Anthony Beven, the registrar of Indigenous Corporations has placed the Murchison Region Aboriginal Corporation under special administration.	Koori Mail, Australia, pg 15, 25 March 2015
24/03/2015	QLD	Queensland Indigenous minister moved to tears	Queensland's first indigenous minister, Leanne Enoch, has been moved to tears during a traditional blessing from indigenous elders. Ms Enoch was blessed alongside fellow indigenous MP Billy Gordon, before state parliament was sworn in on Tuesday morning.	Yahoo 7 News , Australia, 24 March 2015
21/03/2015	QLD	The story behind Stradbroke Island's planning time bomb	Quandamooka elder Uncle Ian Delaney is the face of the Quandamooka people's push to have things improve for Aboriginal culture on Stradbroke Island. Ian Delaney says future planning needs to start soon, because since native title was granted over the area in July 2011, people want to go and live in the bush. He said "They are entitled to do that. But because of safety concerns, we have got to encourage them to wait until we have the proper infrastructure in those areas."	Brisbane Times , Australia, 21 March 2015 Brisbane Times , Australia, 27 March 2015

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20/03/2015	TSI	Alice Queen seeks to resume gold mining on Horn Island	Gold was discovered on Horn Island in the Torres Strait in the late 1800s. A mine was created but fizzled out and the Queensland taxpayer was left with a clean-up bill for the operation. Mining company Alice Queen seeks to resume the mining on Horn Island. Harry Seriat, secretary of the Kaurareg Aboriginal Land Trust said that the mine is starting out the right way, talking to elders before doing anything else. "The elders were upset with the previous operation because they were never consulted. And then the company just packed up and left," he said. Milton Savage, chairman of the prescribed body corporate for the Kaurareg's native title, said "proper" jobs for the locals were the big hope for the gold project.	The Australian – Business Review , Australia, 20 March 2015
19/03/2015	NSW	Aboriginal groups want cultural fishing rights made law in NSW	Aboriginal groups have called on both sides of New South Wales politics to formally recognise cultural fishing rights before the state election. In 2009, both houses of Parliament passed an amendment to the Fisheries Management Act that would allow Aboriginal people the right to unlimited fishing for personal and cultural purposes. But six years later that law has still not come into force in NSW.	ABC Indigenous , Australia, 19 March 2015
19/03/2015	NSW and VIC	Traditional Owners monitor the health of rivers and wetlands	Recognising that the Aboriginal peoples in the Murray-Darling Basin have been intimately connected to its river systems for thousands of years, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority has worked with Traditional Owners from Deniliquin and Walgett in New South Wales and the Victorian Alps to test a method to measure the health of river and wetland places.	Indigenous.gov.au , Australia, 19 March 2015

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19/03/2015	WA	Aboriginal community closure: intense rally at Parliament House	WA Premier Colin Barnett was shoved by an angry protester as hundreds of people rallied outside Parliament House on Thursday to campaign against the state government's plans to shut down remote Aboriginal communities. More than 700 people marched on the steps of Parliament angry at the state government plans to close almost half of the 270 remote Aboriginal communities in WA.	WA today , Australia, 19 March 2015 The Guardian , Australia, 19 March 2015 RT , USA, 19 March 2015 Green left weekly , Australia, 21 March 2015 CPA – The Guardian , Australia, 25 March 2015 Daily Review , Australia, 27 March 2015
19/03/2015	NSW	Police say charges likely if Nimmie Caira squatters don't move on	Police say that more than a dozen Aboriginal families from Balranald and Robinvale have moved into empty houses between Hay and Balranald. The people are squatting on land that the Federal Government purchased as part of the Murray Darling Basin Plan's Nimmie Caira project.	ABC News , Australia, 19 March 2015
18/03/2015	WA	Protest held against WA native title deal	A group of Aboriginal people have protested outside the West Australian parliament against a \$1.3 billion native title deal. The deal offers Noongar people land, finance and benefits in exchange for the surrender of native title rights in the region. The Noongar community is currently considering the deal, but some members have accused those who support it of being sell-outs.	News.com.au , Australia, 18 March 2015 Yahoo 7 News , Australia, 18 March 2015 WA Today , Australia, 18 March 2015 The Age , Australia, 18 March 2015 4ZZZFM , Australia, 18 March 2015 Koori Mail, Australia, pgs 1, 5, 31-33, 25 March 2015

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18/03/2015	Overseas	Develop native lands instead of selling, Ghapur tells owners	Malaysian MP Datuk Seri Abdul Ghapur Salleh strongly urged the Bumiputera community in his constituency, especially those with native title land, not to sell them for instant profit. He said they should develop the land with agriculture, fishery or plantation which is more profitable. "Don't sell your native title lands for land is a priceless asset to be inherited by the next generation... Develop your native lands for more profit in long term basis," he said.	Daily Express , Malaysia, 18 March 2015
18/03/2015	WA	Badimia native title claim over 36,000sq km in WA's mid-west rejected	A native title claim by the Badimia people, for 36,000 square kilometres of land in Western Australia has been rejected by the Federal Court. The claim was dismissed due to 'connection issues' as the court did not believe there was sufficient evidence to prove the Badimia people's ongoing connection to country.	ABC News , Australia, 18 March 2015
16/03/2015	QLD	Queensland to ban uranium once more	The new Queensland Labor Government is planning to once more ban uranium mining in Queensland. Anthony Lynham, the recently instated minister for natural resources and mines, announced the prohibition, which had stood in place from 1982 until 2012, would be brought in again.	Australian Mining , Australia, 16 March 2015
16/03/2015	SA	Barnjarla native title claim determined	Keith Thomas of SA Native Title Services talks to Kaliah Alice about the significance of the Court decision in January 2015, to recognise native title for the Barnjarla people of South Australia.	Radio Adelaide , Australia, 16 March 2015
15/03/2015	Australia	Aboriginal 'recognition' – a cover for assimilation	According to Paddy Gibson, the debate on constitutional recognition is a farce designed to divert attention from the funding cuts and the closure of communities.	The Stringer , Australia, 15 March 2015

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14/03/2015	NSW	Hunter Concerned citizens in support of Awabakal land claim on rail corridor	David Blyth from the Hunter Concerned Citizens has announced its support of the Awabakal Aboriginal Land Claim although they haven't given up fighting to retain the rail line.	ABC News , Australia, 14 March 2015
11/03/2015	Australia	Tony Abbott "lifestyle choice"	Tony Abbott, the Australian Prime Minister who aspires to be known for his contribution to indigenous affairs has been criticised for suggesting that Indigenous people who live on remote homelands are making a lifestyle choice. He said "it is not the job of the taxpayer to subsidise lifestyle choices".	9 News , Australia, 11 March 2015 Yahoo 7 News , Australia, 11 March 2015 The Australian – National Affairs , Australia, 11 March 2015 The Sydney Morning Herald – Federal Politics , Australia, 11 March 2015 Crikey , Australia, 11 March 2015 The Age – Comment , Australia, 11 March 2015 ABC Indigenous News , Australia, 12 March 2015 The Guardian , Australia, 12 March 2015 The Sydney Morning Herald – Comment , Australia, 12 March 2015 The Australian – National Affairs , Australia, 12 March 2015 ABC Kimberley , Australia, 12 March 2015 ABC Goldfields , Australia, 12 March 2015 The Fifth Estate , Australia, 12 March 2015

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				The Australian – Opinion , Australia, 13 March 2015 The Age – Comment , Australia, 13 March 2015 The New Daily , Australia, 15 March 2015 The Diplomat , Australia, 15 March 2015 News.com.au , Australia, 17 March 2015 Courier Mail – Opinion , Australia, 20 March VICE News , Asia and Pacific, 20 March 2015 The Australian – Opinion , Australia, 21 March 2015 The Australian – Opinion , Australia, 23 March 2015 Koori Mail, Australia, pg 4, 25 March 2015
11/03/2015	WA	Traditional owners in WA to launch class action over deregistration of sacred sites	In the past year several culturally significant sites have had their protection withdrawn by the Western Australian Government on the basis they no longer fit the definition of a sacred site. Traditional owners in WA are now set to launch a class action lawsuit against the State Government over the deregistration of these sacred Indigenous sites.	ABC News , Australia, 11 March 2015

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11/03/2015	NT	NT investing in remote communities: Giles	Despite Tony Abbott backing a West Australian plan to shut down remote communities, the Northern Territory government says it's investing heavily in remote communities. NT Chief Minister Adam Giles said "The connection to language, law and culture is so important that the NT government is investing in homelands like never before".	SBS , Australia, 11 March 2015
09/03/2015	WA	Buru up on Native Title deal	Buru Energy has taken a big step forward in securing production licences for its Ungani oil field in the Kimberley by signing a native title agreement with local indigenous groups, the Nyikina Mangala and Karajarri Yanja People.	The West Australian , Australia, 9 March 2015
08/03/2015	NT	Federal government to 'scrutinise closely' NT government's progress on health projects	Senator Nova Peris called on the Commonwealth Department of Health to conduct an urgent investigation into the status of the Palmerston Hospital. Health Minister John admitted the bush clinics were behind schedule. "But what would Senator Peris have us do when some of the hold-ups are around the land tenure issues for some of the clinics?"	News.com.au , Australia, 8 March 2015
06/03/2015	Australia	<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Act</i> extended for three years	A bill passed through the Australian Parliament to extend the <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Recognition Act 2013</i> for three years, until 28 March 2018. The extended Act recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of Australia and records the Parliament's commitment to work towards a referendum on Indigenous constitutional recognition.	Indigenous.gov.au , Australia, 6 March 2015

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06/03/2015	WA	WA uranium mine approved despite looming corruption investigation	On 5 March, the WA Environment Minister Albert Jacob approved a controversial uranium mine proposal despite a looming investigation into the dealings of representatives of the traditional owners of the land.	WA today , Australia, 6 March 2015
04/03/2015	Australia	Greens propose federal coal, gas mining veto	The Australian Greens introduced a bill to the federal Parliament that exercises constitutional powers to give landholders nationally the right to say no to coal and gas mining on their land. The bill is intended to give farmers, native title holders and local councils the right to veto and would also, if passed, ban hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, for unconventional gas.	Climate Spectator , Australia, 4 March 2015 The Land , Australia, 4 March 2015
04/03/2015	WA	Native Title meeting stirs Noongar activism	The Native Title Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) Authorisation Meetings in Katanning was decided by a narrow margin to the Yes vote 207-200. After the first two Native Title Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) Authorisation Meetings in Bunbury and Busselton which recorded big wins for the Yes vote, the case for the No vote had its last chance in Katanning to challenge the overall claim. The three further meetings are planned for March.	The Guardian – the workers weekly , Australia, 4 March 2015
04/03/2015	Australia	\$860 million investment through Indigenous Advancement Strategy Grants Round	Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, said that under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, more than \$860 million will support 964 organisations to deliver 1297 projects to Indigenous people and communities throughout Australia.	Indigenous.gov.au , Australia, 4 March 2015

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03/03/2015	WA	Heirisson Island Aboriginal protest	Dozens of indigenous people are protesting against the planned closure of up to 150 remote communities by living in a "refugee camp" at Heirisson Island. The City of Perth ordered the group to leave immediately or face eviction.	The West Australian , Australia, 3 March 2015 Perth Now , Australia, 10 March 2015 Yahoo 7 News , Australia, 11 March 2015 9 News , Australia, 13 March 2015 ABC News , Australia, 13 March 2015 Koori Mail, Australia, pg 14, 25 March 2015
03/03/2015	WA	Mobile apps drive WA's search for minerals	A new mobile app is being used in Western Australia to search for minerals and resources using mapping and tracking technology that is tailored for smartphones and mobile devices. Bill Marmion the Mines and Petroleum Minister said the mobile app allows users to view multiple layers of information, including the use of land, native title arrangements or the data around biodiversity.	CIO , Australia, 3 March 2015 PSnews online , Australia, 10 March 2015
02/03/2015	NT	Leigh 'Tracker' Tilmouth – a pioneer of Indigenous People	Indigenous Australians have lost a true pioneer in the passing of Leigh 'Tracker' Tilmouth. Tracker had dedicated himself to improving the lives of Indigenous people and fought fearlessly against negative attitudes and racism towards them.	Indigenous.gov.au , Australia, 2 March 2015 CAAMA , Australia, 2 March 2015

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02/03/2015	WA	Newmont Boddington Gold offers Murdoch scholarships to Indigenous students seeking mining careers	Newmont Boddington Gold is offering a scholarship a year for the next five years to Indigenous students aspiring to a career in the mining industry at Murdoch University. Preference will be given to students from the South West of Western Australia with specific cultural linkage to the Gnaala Karla Booja Native Title Claimant Group or other Noongar people.	Mandurah Mail , Australia, 2 March 2015 Australian Mining , Australia, 4 March 2015

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