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AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL  
AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES

## NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

November 2015

### New South Wales (NSW)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
24/11/2015	NSW	Native Title Agreement signing closed to public as community members voice opposition	Some Gomeroi members opposing a native title agreement with the Whitehaven Coal company believe that it was signed without the consent of 20 community members, allowing the company to have access to 300 hectares of land north of 'the Maules Creek Project'.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia, 24 November 2015 <a href="#">Namoi Valley Independent</a> , 24 November 2015
23/11/2015	NSW	Representatives of second largest Aboriginal Nation strike Native Title deal with coal company	The Whitehaven Coal mine have struck a mining deal with Gomeroi people from the Gunnedah Basin to explore 300 hectares of land, north of the 'Maules Creek Project', near Boggabri in northern New South Wales.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia 23 November 2015
18/11/2015	NSW	Coal mine deal funds projects	Traditional owners from the New South Wales central coast have signed an agreement with Wyong Coal in relation to the establishment of an underground coal mine. The agreement includes a five point plan. The five program areas that will be funded under the agreement are apprenticeships, business start-up schemes, a green team scheme, and tertiary scholarships.	Koori Mail, pg.18, Australia, 18 November 2015
16/11/2015	NSW	Worimi launch 10 year management plan for Stockton Bight	At Stockton Bight in New South Wales a ten year plan involving Worimi people to improve the cultural awareness and protection of Indigenous sites has been launched. Traditional owner and Worimi Conservation Lands chairman, Petrice Manton, said 'that this is the first management plan for the national park.'	<a href="#">Newcastle Herald</a> , New South Wales, 16 November 2015

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
5/11/2015	NSW	Indigenous fishermen in a fight for their right to cultural fishing on the NSW south coast	In 2009, the NSW state government recognised Aboriginal fishing rights, yet today, Aboriginal people are still getting prosecuted and jailed for fishing in NSW. There are currently 200 prosecutions and even some jail terms in NSW. The Saltwater people from the south coast are set to propose a claim for native title rights, and David O'Shea discusses this process in a candid interview with some of the members of the Saltwater group.	<a href="#">ABC Lateline</a> , Australia, 5 November 2015

## Northern Territory (NT)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
27/11/2015	NT	Native title claims granted in NT	The Federal Court has granted 13 native title claims over pastoral leases covering 40,000 square kilometres located south of Katherine and near the Gulf of Carpentaria. Minister of Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, said 'these determinations provide real opportunities to build sustainable economic and cultural outcomes and they open up opportunities in the Top End.'	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia, 25 November 2015 <a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia, 26 November 2015 <a href="#">7 News</a> , Australia, 27 November 2015
26/11/2015	NT	Measures announced for the release of land in the Northern Territory for oil and gas activities	On 18 November the Northern Territory (NT) government officially announced the guiding principles to determine whether oil and gas exploration can occur in the Northern Territory. This follows the release of the Onshore Oil and Gas Guiding Principles which will be utilised by the NT Department of Mines and Energy.	<a href="#">Clayton Utz</a> , Australia, 26 November 2015

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
25/11/2015	NT	Neighbours of proposed NT nuclear waste dump upset at 'lack of consultation'	The Le Rossignols are part of an extensive southern Arrernte family with 30 members living permanently near a proposed nuclear waste site located south of Alice Springs. As traditional owners of the property, the Le Rossignols are distressed about the proposal to house 'low-to-intermediate level radioactive waste' on their country.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia, 25 November 2015
24/11/2015	NT	Fracking debate: Kings Canyon traditional owners seek emergency heritage listing; NT Govt says no oil, gas permits will be granted	Traditional owners have met with Federal Environment Minister Greg Hunt to ask for an emergency heritage listing of Watarranka National Park. This request follows a proposal by Palatine Energy, who intends to explore for oil in the region.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia, 24 November 2015 <a href="#">The Guardian</a> , Australia, 24 November 2015 <a href="#">The Sydney Morning Herald</a> , Sydney, 24 November 2015
20/11/2015	NT	Rum Jungle Resources set to draw up potash mine plans	Rum Jungle Resources has advanced a Preliminary Feasibility Study (PFS) at the Karinga Lakes Project, and has added momentum to their Northern Territory potash plans. Their plan envisages a small scale, low-capital work occurring by mid-2016. In addition to the PFS, Rum Jungle will begin the native title agreement process with traditional owners.	<a href="#">Proactive Investors</a> , Australia, 20 November 2015
17/11/2015	NT	NT-Qld gas pipeline will grow north: government	Chief Minister Adam Giles announced on Tuesday 17 November that a gas pipeline from the Northern Territory to Queensland will encourage exploration and contribute to the economic growth of Northern Australia. A 10-year deal between the industrial fertiliser and explosives producer, Incitec Pivot, and the Power Water Corporation will provide the Northern Territory with 'excess gas, starting in 2018.'	<a href="#">7 News</a> , Australia, 17 November 2015

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
2/11/2015	NT	'Humbled' Gunbalanya pull out of Scullion's township talks	A township lease over the remote community of Gunbalanya that involved a 2 year process of negotiations between traditional owners and the federal government has been abolished. Traditional owners recently instructed the Northern Land Council (NLC) 'not to proceed with anymore discussions'. Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion is disappointed with the decision made by traditional owners of Gunbalanya. He said 'it is a historic chance to create economic opportunities for the community of Gunbalanya.' Joe Morrison, the CEO from the NLC said 'there is no proposal (any more) as far as the NLC is concerned. The instructions were pretty clear from the traditional owners, and they were reaffirmed the following day.'	<a href="#">The Australian</a> , Australia, 2 November 2015

## Queensland (QLD)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
25/11/2015	QLD	Cape York Traditional Owners Hit Back After Noel Pearson Labels Them 'White Puppets'	Noel Pearson's comments made in a speech recently have provoked an angry response from Indigenous people opposed to the 'One Claim' Native Title application in the Cape York region. Their message is 'no man or woman can speak for another person's <i>ngaachi</i> (land)'. Pearson responded to the opponents of 'One Claim' and said 'these people are "puppets" to a white organisation.'	<a href="#">New Matilda</a> , Australia, 25 November 2015
24/11/2015	QLD	Cape York bauxite Senate inquiry launched	Nationals' senator Matt Canavan and Liberal senators Ian Macdonald and Joanna Lindgren will inquire into the economic development of bauxite resources in the Indigenous community of Aurukun, Cape York. The inquiry will include investigating any native title rights, benefits for traditional owners and the process of finalising a licence.	<a href="#">9 News</a> , Australia, 24 November 2015 <a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia, 25 November 2015

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
23/11/2015	QLD	Cape York Aurukun mine: inquiry into government's Glencore pick	Queensland Nationals Senator Matt Canavan has suggested that a senate inquiry 'will go to a vote tomorrow – amongst a High Court challenge to the decision'. A senate inquiry is set to be held investigating the Queensland Government's decision to favour Swiss giant Glencore in the development of an Aurukun bauxite deposit on Cape York.	<a href="#">The Australian</a> , Australia, 23 November 2015
23/11/2015	QLD	Traditional owners appeal against native title process for Adani's Carmichael mine	In October 2014, the Wangan and Jagalingou Traditional Owners' Council rejected an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with Adani for fear that the mine will destroy their ancestral lands and cultural heritage. Adani applied to the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) to override the objection they received deciding that the mine was positively in the public interest because of the amount of jobs it would create. Spokesperson Adrian Burragubba said 'Adani justified its mine in the Native Title Tribunal with false claims that it will create 7,000 jobs and generate huge economic benefits.'	<a href="#">The Guardian</a> , Australia, 23 November 2015 <a href="#">The Sydney Morning Herald</a> , Sydney, 23 November 2015 <a href="#">9 News</a> , Australia, 23 November 2015 <a href="#">The Herald Sun</a> , Australia, 23 November 2015 <a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia, 23 November 2015 <a href="#">9 News</a> , Australia, 24 November 2015 <a href="#">The Morning Bulletin</a> , Australia, 25 November 2015
13/11/2015	QLD	Adani coalmine's Indigenous opponents drop racism claim	Mr Burragubba a spokesman for the Wangan and Jagalingou people who attempted to block the Adani's \$16 billion Carmichael mine in central Queensland, has agreed on behalf of the group to drop a racism claim and another allegation suggesting that the native title claimants had been denied 'procedural fairness' by the tribunal. Mr Burragubba also originally accused Adani of providing a misleading analysis of future jobs generated from the 'megamine'.	<a href="#">The Australian</a> , Australia, 13 November 2015



DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
9/11/2015	QLD	Adani's Carmichael mine hit by another law suit	The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) is challenging the Indian mining giant with a \$16 billion lawsuit due to not following an environmental approval that came in October with the change of government. In particular, the ACF has 'accused the Environment Minister Greg Hunt of failing to consider the impact of "climate pollution" on the Great Barrier Reef generated from the mine's coal that will be used to fire power stations in India'.	<a href="#">The Australian</a> , Australia, 9 November 2015

## South Australia (SA)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
19/11/2015	SA	Leigh Creek mine site should be revegetated, traditional owners urge	Alinta Energy's coal mine was closed down recently in the Leigh Creek region of South Australia. The Adnyamathanha people from the region want to help with the revegetation of the site. Cliff Coulthard, a traditional owner, said he wanted a 'proper clean-up of the mine site'. Coulthard maintains 'they're going to just leave those big pits open, you know, for us to look at.'	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia, 19 November 2015
9/11/2015	SA	South Australian Aboriginals face new nuclear test	During the 1950s and 1960s, the British government conducted a series of nuclear tests at Maralinga in the South Australian desert. The memory of this experience was the impetus for Kupa Piti Kungka Tjuta (senior Aboriginal women from Coober Pedy) to rally against the Federal Government's proposal for a radioactive dump over a six year period from 1998-2004. However, in 2015 'Premier Jay Weatherill announced that a royal commission would be held to consider the feasibility and viability, as well as the risks and opportunities associated with four areas of the nuclear fuel cycle, including storage of radioactive waste.'	<a href="#">Eureka Street</a> , South Australia, 9 November 2015

## Western Australia (WA)

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
26/11/2015	WA	Land title counter-claim looms for Fortescue's Solomon mine site	The eastern Guruma people have lodged a native title claim over country that was previously claimed by a neighboring group - Yindjibarndi people in Western Australia's Pilbara region. As a result two Aboriginal groups are now competing for native title in an area where the Fortescue Metals Group's Solomon Hub Iron Ore mine is based. Recently Fortescue was warned to stay away from a meeting with both groups, held in the town of Roebourne. MP Ben Wyatt, West Australian Labor's Aboriginal Affairs spokesman, said 'Fortescue should play no role whatsoever in the meeting, since there are two "polarised" traditional owner groups fighting for control over land where the mining company operates.'	<a href="#">The Australian</a> , Australia, 26 November 2015 <a href="#">The Australian</a> , Australia, 30 November 2015
23/11/2015	WA	Yawuru lodge fresh native title claim over parts of land within Roebuck Plains Station near Broome	The Yawuru community at Broome has lodged a new native title claim including sections of their land that were missed in their original determination. It has been lodged with the Federal Court and a decision is expected within a month whether it will be registered.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia, 23 November 2015
19/11/2015	WA	Kimberley conservation threatens to take a step back on Indigenous rights	Albert Jacob, the Western Australian Minister for Environment and Heritage has released a draft plan related to conservation management around the Kimberley's Horizontal Falls region. Jacob has also proposed that the Dambimangari people 'surrender exclusive control of their ancestral lands and enter into a joint-management arrangement with the West Australian Government'. Seán Kerins from the Australian National University says 'that this arrangement compromises Indigenous peoples' rights to manage their ancestral lands.'	<a href="#">The Conversation</a> , Australia, 19 November 2015

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18/11/2015	WA	Hope Downs mine gets EPA approval for expansion	An extension of the joint venture Rio Tinto and Gina Rinehart iron ore mine Hope Downs has been approved by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). Situated 75 kilometres north-west of Newman the expansion takes in the Baby Hope proposal. The EPA approval follows an agreement between BHP Billiton Iron Ore and the Banjima people in the Pilbara which recently permitted mining for 100 years.	<a href="#">Australian Mining</a> , Australia, 18 November 2015
9/11/2015	WA	Indigenous aquaculture deal struck	The Mayala, Damimngari and Bardi Jawi communities are supporting a proposal for an aquaculture hub in the Kimberley region. John Hutton from Maxima Opportunity Group said 'that the Aarli Mayi project is seeking investors as part of plans to secure a license to farm up to 15,000 tonnes of fish a year.' He also said 'that it presents more than just job opportunities for traditional owners — it's about ownership of the country that the asset sits on, and the asset itself.'	<a href="#">The West Australian</a> , Australia, 9 November 2015
4/11/2015	WA	Banjima native title group signs Pilbara mining deal with BHP Billiton	Banjima traditional owners have agreed to sign off on a mining agreement with BHP Billiton Iron Ore. The Banjima area covers 8,263km, extending north east of the township of Newman, and also includes the west heading towards Port Hedland. This deal replaces a smaller agreement signed in 2012. Banjima elder Slim Parker said 'that this agreement ensures benefits for his people including educational opportunities, through scholarships and Healthy Country ranger programs.'	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia, 4 November 2015 <a href="#">The West Australian</a> , Australia, 4 November 2015 <a href="#">The Australian</a> , Australia, 5 November 2015 <a href="#">E&amp;MJ Engineering and Mining Journal</a> , 5 November 2015 <a href="#">Watt electrical news</a> , Western Australia, 5 November 2015



## Australia

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
20/11/2015	Australia	Veteran Federal Court judge retires	After 20 years in the court Justice Shane Marshall retired on the 20 of November 2015. Laura Bullock interviewed Marshall and asked him his career highlights. Marshall said that 'the Ngadju native title case, where native title was recognised to exist in the goldfields region of Western Australia, was a highlight in more recent times.'	<a href="#">Lawyers Weekly</a> , 20 November 2015
13/11/2015	Australia	Community Support Sought For Nuclear Waste Site Or 'We'll Have To Start Again'	Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has admitted that Australia will be back to 'square one' without full community support for a nuclear waste dump. Turnbull noted that there has been a three long decade search for an Australian site for a nuclear waste storage facility. In addition Resources and Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg has released a shortlist of six freehold sites that are intended for the storage of 'low-to-intermediate nuclear waste, including three in South Australia, one in Queensland, another in New South Wales and the sixth in the Northern Territory'. Frydenberg has also suggested that 'none of the proposed sites are subject to native title claims'. However, 'Owners of the land chosen would receive up to four times the value of their land and the community would get around \$10 million in infrastructure funding'.	<a href="#">The Huffington Post</a> , Australia, 15 November 2015
12/11/2015	Australia	Indigenous rangers want to double their ranks	On 12 November Aboriginal rangers from across the country rallied to support an independent report launched at Parliament house. The report 'highlighted the environmental, economic and social benefits of a federally-funded program that employs almost 800 Aboriginal rangers in full time jobs.' It also outlines the importance of increasing these jobs over the next five years and for 'five thousand jobs to be funded in the long term'.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia, 12 November 2015 Koori Mail, pg. 6, Australia, 18 November 2015

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
2/11/2015	Australia	Funding for indigenous ranger programs must be doubled, report says	Patrick O’Leary, the manager of outback conservation partnerships for Pew Charitable Trust, says ‘that funding for Indigenous ranger programs and Indigenous protected areas must double for them to continue to provide social and economic benefits for Indigenous people across Australia.’	<a href="#">The Sydney Morning Herald</a> , Sydney, 2 November 2015
2/11/2015	Australia	Northern development: Key to North is rights to land	Dean Smith, the Liberal Senator for Western Australia, says ‘since the 2013 election, the work that is essential for developing Northern Australia into an “economic powerhouse” is noted in 2015’s white paper.’ The region has 17 million hectares of land available for cropping, which could result in the development of just 5 million hectares of land to increase its productivity by 60 per cent. In particular, Smith notes that ‘native title must have an emphasis on economic opportunity with a focus on young Indigenous people, because in its current form it is failing future generations of Indigenous people.’	<a href="#">Financial Review</a> , Australia, 2 November 2015

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