

NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

JUNE 2014

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
30 June 2014	AUS	Submissions available for reading on ALRC website	Submissions regarding the review of the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> are now available on the ALRC website.	Australian Law Reform Commission , Canberra ACT (30 June 2014)
30 June 2014	EL SALVADOR	Constitutional recognition for Indigenous peoples in El Salvador	The El Salvador Government has amended the constitution to recognise Indigenous Peoples, and move forward with policies that will enhance the cultures that exist amongst the approximately 600,000 Indigenous Peoples in El Salvador today. The Indigenous Peoples hope this recognition will lead to economic rights, self-determination and protection of communal lands.	First Peoples Worldwide , Virginia United States of America (30 June 2014)
30 June 2014	NT	Native Title corporations back to business	Four native title corporations have come out of special administration and are moving forward with discussions on what the future holds for the traditional owners and the management of their land and culture.	Alice Springs News Online , Alice Springs, Northern Territory (30 June 2014)
26 June 2014	CANADA	First Nations win in Supreme Court of Canada	The Supreme Court of Canada has handed down a decision in favour of the Tsilhqot'in peoples, which provides certainty around processes and tests that apply to relationships between First Nation peoples and the Government. Industry will now be required to receive consent from First Nation peoples regarding use of traditional land, as previously only consultation was required.	Straight.com , Vancouver Canada (26 June 2014)
25 June 2014	QLD	Kooma People native title recognition	The Kooma People's Native Title rights and interests over approximately 2940 square kilometres of land near Bollon have been approved by the Federal Court of Australia. This brings the total number of native title determinations made in Queensland to 104 – 91 of which have been resolved by consent.	Department of Natural Resources and Mines , Brisbane QLD (25 June 2014)
25 June 2014	WA	National Native Tribal Tribunal new website live 21 July	The focus of the new National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) website has been user friendly features which will assist clients in navigating around the different information provided regarding native title. Feedback was collected from stakeholders via a client satisfaction survey in 2013. The website is slated to go live on July 21, 2014 (see link on the right).	National Native Title Tribunal , Perth WA (25 June 2014)

24 June 2014	ACT	<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Amendment (A Stronger Land Account) Bill 2014</i> introduced in Senate	The Greens have introduced a private member's bill to the Senate which seeks to clarify and strengthen the purpose of the Land Account for future generations. The bill seeks to protect the Land Account from being used for purposes other than land-related benefits for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders.	The Australian , Melbourne Victoria (24 June 2014)
24 June 2014	QLD	World Indigenous Legal Conference meets in Brisbane	Indigenous lawyers from around the world; including United States, Chile, Malaysia, Guam and New Zealand, have gathered in Brisbane to discuss critical issues facing Indigenous cultures. Native title, recognition of first nation peoples, health and education were amongst the issues discussed during the 2014 conference.	612 ABC , Brisbane QLD (24 June 2014)
21 June 2014	WA	Demolishment of remote Oombulgurri community buildings	The State Government has decided to move forward with plans to demolish around 60 buildings within the Oombulgurri community. Residents were moved to a neighbouring area following the closure of the town site in 2011. The Balangarra Aboriginal Corporation is calling on the Government to delay demolition proceedings whilst further discussions are held amongst Oombulgurri community members regarding reopening the town.	ABC News , Kimberley WA (21 June 2014)
20 June 2014	WA	Gooniyandi People's native title recognition	The Gooniyandi People's Native Title rights and interests over approximately 11,000 square kilometres of land and water in central Kimberley have been approved by the Federal Court of Australia. The determination culminates 15 years of negotiations with about half the claim being held as exclusive rights.	ABC News , Kimberley WA (20 June 2014)
20 June 2014	QLD	Northern Cape York Peoples' native title recognition	The Northern Cape York People's Native Title rights and interests over approximately 390,000ha of land on Cape York have been approved by the Federal Court of Australia. This brings the total number of native title determinations made in Queensland to 103 – 90 of which have been resolved by consent.	Department of Natural Resources and Mines , Brisbane QLD (20 June 2014)
20 June 2014	WA	Proposed changes to the Western Australia's Aboriginal Heritage Act	The State Government has proposed changes to the WA Aboriginal Heritage Act, which could diminish the control traditional owners have over sacred sites. The proposed changes will also impose fines of up to \$50,000 on traditional owners who do not notify the Government of sacred sites. The State Government maintain these changes are will improve consistency regarding Aboriginal heritage protection. An eight week consultation period has commenced regarding these changes.	ABC News , Perth WA (20 June 2014)
20 June 2014	QLD	Kulkalgal People's native title recognition	The Kulkalgal People's Native Title rights and interests over approximately 16ha of Torres Strait land, covering Zuizin Island (also known as Halfway Island) have been approved by the Federal Court of Australia. This brings the total number of native title determinations made in Queensland to 102 – 89 of which have been resolved by consent.	Department of Natural Resources and Mines , Brisbane QLD (20 June 2014)
18 June 2014	AUS	2014 National Native Title Conference	The 2014 National Native Title Conference was held 2-4 June on the traditional lands of the Gumbaynggirr people in Coffs Harbour. Issues discussed included concerns Prescribed Body Corporates (PBC) have regarding support to carry out their statutory requirements, partnerships for managing country and Indigenous land and sea management.	The Koori Mail, National (18 June 2014) Print Edition

13 June 2014	BELIZE	Consultation Framework endorsed regarding native title land in Belize	Following 9 years of collaboration between local government and Maya people, the Consultation Framework regarding how industry and government can pursue interests on Maya traditional lands has been released. The 2014 Consultation Framework considers how proposals regarding Maya traditional land must consider the effects it may have on the customary lives of the Maya people.	First Peoples Worldwide , Virginia United States of America (13 June 2014)
13 June 2014	USA	Restrictions placed upon Passamaquoddy tribal sovereignty	The Passamaquoddy people of Maine USA have fought to maintain unrestricted access to fishing as stated in the <i>Maine Implementing Act 1980</i> . Issues have arisen between state and native fishers regarding a conservation plan established by the Passamaquoddy people regarding sustainability of the eel industry. Saltwater fishing is considered an industry that is outside state regulations.	First Peoples Worldwide , Virginia United States of America (13 June 2014)
12 June 2014	NSW	Darkinjung peoples win case regarding use of traditional land	The New South Wales Land and Environment Court have handed down a decision in favour of the Darkinjung peoples regarding the proposed Wallarah 2 coal mine which would involve rail lines being constructed on traditional lands. The Court found that the approval of the Kores proposal to be use traditional land for a minimum of 28years would amount to "compulsory acquisition" of traditional land granted under the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i> (NSW).	The Newcastle Herald , New South Wales (12 June 2014)
11 June 2014	WA	Indigenous Land Agreements signed regarding West Pilbara Iron Ore Project	Aquila Resources Limited has executed land access agreements across the proposed site of the West Pilbara Iron Ore Project. The Kuruma Marthudunera have signed an agreement with Aquila, and the Puutu Kuntj Kurrama and Pinikurra claim group are set to follow suit in September 2014.	Finance News Network , Perth WA (11 June 2014)
11 June 2014	NT	Nuclear waste site offer rejected by traditional owners	Traditional owners in the Northern Territory have rejected a \$12m proposal to house a nuclear waste dump site on traditional lands of Muckaty Station. Traditional owners have stated the proposed site is adjacent to sacred land and have turned out in numbers to voice their disapproval to the Federal Government's compensation agreement.	ABC Indigenous Online , Darwin NT (11 June 2014)
11 June 2014	WA	KLC call for faster processing of native title claims	The Kimberley Land Council (KLC) called for land claims to be dealt with faster and more cooperatively at the recent Nyikina Mangala native title declaration by the Federal Court. Mr Nolan Hunter from KLC questioned why State and Federal Governments had to challenge and appeal almost every Native Title claim.	National Indigenous Times, National (11 June 2014) Print Edition
13 June 2014	VIC	Mount Alexander Shire endorse commitment to local Indigenous community	The Mount Alexander Shire Council acknowledged the local Indigenous community by endorsing a statement of commitment supporting the Indigenous community in the recent Council meeting. The local Dja Dja Wurrung community signed a native title deal with the Victorian Government in March last year. The next Indigenous Roundtable is scheduled for September 2014.	ABC News , Melbourne VIC (13 June 2014)
10 June 2014	NSW	Dunghutti elders consider native title claim covering all traditional land	The Dunghutti Elders Council (DEC) are considering a native title claim to cover all vacant crown land in the Dunghutti tribal area.	The Macleay Argus , Kempsey NSW (10 June 2014)

10 June 2014	SA	Traditional owners receive land following Defence Department restrictions removed	Traditional owners have visions of tourist developments in Maralinga lands in outback South Australia. The land was recently returned to the traditional owners with Defence Department restrictions removed. The site was formally used for British atomic weapons testing following World War II.	ABC Indigenous Online , Adelaide SA (10 June 2014)
6 June 2014	QLD	The Quandamooka people take challenge to the Queensland Government	The Quandamooka people of North Stradbroke Island are challenging the State Government's decision to extend mining leases 10 years past the agreed legislated end of 2025. This new court challenge comes only 2 years after a 16 year native title battle from the Quandamooka people.	The Guardian , Brisbane QLD (6 June 2014)
6 June 2014	NT	Township lease creating confusion amongst the Gunbalanya community	A proposed 99-year township lease in the Northern Territory is creating confusion amongst some traditional owners. The Yolngu Nations Assembly has stated that more time is needed for people to consider the offer proposed by the Federal Government. Township leases create opportunities for people to own their own homes and businesses on Indigenous communal lands.	ABC Indigenous Online , Darwin NT (6 June 2014)
5 June 2014	NSW	Newcastle land claim settled in favour of Awabakal Aboriginal Land Council	The New South Wales Land and Environment Court has handed down a ruling in favour of the Awabakal Aboriginal Land Council regarding the Newcastle Post Office land.	ABC Indigenous Online , Newcastle NSW (5 June 2014)
5 June 2014	ACT	PM Indigenous advisor comments on budget cuts to future spending	Warren Mundine, chief advisor to the Prime Minister on Indigenous affairs has angered people regarding his comments that further cuts to Indigenous programs could be found. Mundine made comments detailing future savings that could be found regarding repair and maintenance to Indigenous housing.	ABC Indigenous Online , Canberra ACT (5 June 2104)
4 June 2014	AUS	Report released detailing greater funding needs of RNTBC	Deloitte Access Economics released a report detailing the need for additional funds to support native title organisations. Targeted funding could assist Registered Native Title Body Corporates (RNTBC) meet statutory requirements.	The Koori Mail, National (4 June 2014) Print Edition
4 June 2014	WA	Native Title holders entering commercial property market	The Yawuru people have entered the commercial property market n Broome. The sale of a dozen lots granted in the native title agreement covering Broome township is hoped to generate income of a number of Yawuru projects.	ABC Indigenous Online , Broome WA (4 June 2014)
4 June 2014	NT	Final deadline looms for fishing rights	The Northern Land Council (NLC) has placed a deadline on the final settlement of fishing rights and access to intertidal zone on traditional owners land in the Northern Territory. Negotiations have continued for six years with no deals reached with the Northern Territory Government and fishing industry. Five agreements sit with the Northern Territory Government for sign off.	The Koori Mail, National (4 June 2014) Print Edition
4 June 2014	NSW	Armidale Court House sale delayed	The New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council has lodged a land claim over the site of the Armidale Court House, which has delayed the sale of the land. Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall is pushing for a quicker assessment to ensure a decision is made regarding the heritage building that exists on the land.	ABC Indigenous Online , Armidale NSW (4 June 2014)

3 June 2014	QLD	Mabo Day	2014 marks the 22 nd anniversary of the High Court decision regarding Indigenous land rights, following a 10 year battle by Murray Islander, Eddie Koiki Mabo.	ABC Far North Queensland , Torres Strait Island QLD (3 June 2014)
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