

Native Title in the News April 2010

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
1/04/2010	WA	Santos LNG project is economic rape and native title plunder says tribal leaders	<p>Indigenous leaders have announced they will continue to renegotiate the terms of their compensation package under an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with Australian energy company Santos.</p> <p>Gurang leader Shayne Blackman said the Company's proposed native title recompense deal under its multibillion-dollar Gladstone Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project fell well short of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people's expectations.</p> <p>"Santos has a valuable opportunity to help Close the Gap by providing a package sufficient to not only provide real training, real jobs and ultimately a better community for Indigenous people but one that responds to Indigenous people's vision for the region, and that extends well beyond basic tokenism measures" said Mr. Blackman.</p>	<i>Cooper Pedy Regional</i> , (Cooper Pedy, 1 April 2010), 8.
3/04/2010	NSW	Protest at mine not on this year	<p>Neville "Chappy" Williams, an Aboriginal elder who has a native title claim over a mine site near West Wyalong, confirmed there would be no Easter weekend official protest against the Lake Cowal gold mine for the first time since 2001.</p> <p>Mr Williams, claiming traditional ownership of the mine land, last year invited the protesters onto the property, where they were arrested and charged. In March 2010, Magistrate Geoff Hiatt ruled that Mr Williams' native title claim did not validate his invitation, and the protesters were found guilty of entering enclosed lands without consent.</p>	<i>Daily Advertiser</i> , (Wagga Wagga NSW, 3 April 2010), 3. <i>Daily Advertiser</i> , (Wagga Wagga NSW, 3 April 2010), 4.
6/04/2010	WA	Port deal upsets Aboriginal group	<p>Traditional owners of land earmarked for a new privately owned deepwater port 30km east of Karratha have criticised the State Government for putting its support behind the project without consulting them. Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation chairwoman Jeannie Churnside said the corporation had written to Premier Colin Barnett raising its concerns.</p> <p>Ms Churnside said the land and sea areas along the coast from the islands of the Burrup to Balla Balla near Whim Creek were of great importance from a spiritual point of view and also for sustenance and recreational use.</p>	<i>West Australian</i> , (Perth WA, 6 April 2010), 17.

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7/04/2010	QLD	Uni receives valuable research	<p>Kim de Rijke and Tony Jefferies, PhD students at University of Queensland have discovered anthropologist Caroline Tennant-Kelly's field notes, photographs and slides originally thought missing or destroyed.</p> <p>The collection details daily Aboriginal life at Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement in Queensland in 1934.</p>	<p><i>Richmond River Express</i>, (Casino NSW, 7 April 2010), 5. <i>Northern Star</i>, (Lismore NSW, 7 April 2010), 7.</p>
7/04/2010	WA	Indigenous split on gas project	<p>Energy giant Woodside's plan to build a \$30 billion gas plant in Western Australia's Kimberley is facing a major new threat with a Federal Court challenge to the validity of a compensation deal struck with traditional owners.</p> <p>The process has been thrown into chaos after members of the Jabirr Jabirr people, who support Woodside's bid to build the gas plant at James Price Point, 60km north of Broome, split from the main claim group to lodge their own native title claim. It is unclear whether the emergence of the breakaway claimant group would jeopardise attempts by Woodside and the Barnett government to sign an ILUA by June to clear the way for the project.</p>	<p><i>West Australian</i>, (Perth WA, 7 April 2010), 19. <i>Australian</i>, (National AU, 8 April 2010), 7. <i>West Australian</i>, (Perth WA, 8 April 2010), 5. <i>National Indigenous Times</i>, (Malua Bay NSW, 1 April 2010), 11. <i>Australian</i>, (Australia AU, 7 April 2010), 7. <i>Australian</i>, (Australia AU, 6 April 2010), 5. <i>West Australian</i>, (Perth WA, 6 April 2010), 7. <i>The Australian</i>, (Australian AU, 6 April 2010), 5. <i>The Australian</i> (National AU, 12 April 2010), 7. <i>West Australian</i>, (Perth WA, 15 April 2010), 10. <i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i>, (Kalgoorlie Miner, 14 April 2010), 15. <i>Australian</i>, (Australia NA, 14 April 2010), 32. <i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i>, (Maroochydore QLD, 14 April 2010), 38. <i>Northern Territory News</i>, (Darwin NT, 21 April 2010), 25. <i>Broome Advertiser</i>, (Broome WA, 15 April 2010), 1.</p>

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8/04/2010	WA	Appeal to green groups	<p>Kimberley Land Council director Wayne Bergmann has further distanced his organisation from green groups. Mr Bergman informed the Broome Advertiser that Aboriginal people across Australia needed to reassess their traditional alliance with environmental groups, as an anti-development stance would not end the cycle of Indigenous disadvantage.</p>	<p><i>Broome Advertiser</i>, (Broome WA, 8 April 2009), 9. <i>Kimberley Echo</i> (Kununarra WA, 15 April 2010), 6.</p>
8/04/2010	WA	Heritage eyes on massive Kimberley pastoral area	<p>The Australian Heritage Council (AHC) has shown interest on 20 million hectares of WA pastoral country in the Kimberley for heritage listing. Assessment of the heritage values of the west Kimberley is being undertaken at the request of Federal Environment and Heritage Minister Peter Garrett. A preliminary assessment has identified a large area which might qualify for National Heritage Listing (NHL). The next process is to consult owners, occupiers and Indigenous people with rights or interests in the area, to determine what areas the AHC will be recommended for the NHL. Any part of the area included in the NHL, would not affect current lawful use. For example, previously approved mining and exploration activities that are permitted, or recreation activities like fishing, camping or hiking, and any activities allowed under native title will not be affected.</p>	<p><i>Countryman</i>, (Western Australia, 8 April 2010), 15.</p>
14/04/2010	SA	Port Augusta Transcontinental	<p>Adnyamathanha people travelled to Nepabunna on March 30 to commemorate the first anniversary of the state's largest native title claim. In March 2009 the Federal Court formally granted the Adnyamathanha people non-exclusive rights to 41,000 square kilometres of land in the Flinders and Gammon ranges and surrounding areas, nearly a decade after the claim was lodged.</p>	<p><i>Port Augusta Transcontinental</i>, (Port Augusta SA, 14 April 2010), 2.</p>
14/04/2010	WA	Milestone Native Title deal signed	<p>A milestone Native Title Mining Agreement has been signed between Palyku Native Title Claim Group signatory, for the Nullagine Iron Ore joint venture with Fortescue Metals Group. BC Iron is on track to begin operations at Warrigal later this year with an initial target of three million tonnes of high grade ore per annum. The agreement followed six months of close consultation with the Palyku people, recognising the importance of their culture and heritage in the commercial contract to ensure both parties benefit from the joint venture.</p>	<p><i>North West Telegraph</i>, (South Hedland WA, 14 April 2010), 1. <i>Age</i>, (Melbourne VIC, 12 April 2010), 6. <i>Ballarat Courier</i>, (Ballarat VIC, 12 April 2010), 12. <i>Summaries – Australian Financial Review</i>, (Australia NA, 12 April 2010), 17.</p>

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19/04/2010	WA	Native title Payout plans uncovered	<p>The Barnett Government will pay a Murchison Indigenous group around \$10 million to drop their native title objections to the CSIRO's square kilometre array space telescope project. The State Government, the CSIRO and the Geraldton-based Yamatji Marlpa Land Council have previously released no details of the payments.</p>	<p><i>Geraldton Guardian</i>, (Geraldton WA, 19 April 2010), 1. <i>Geraldton Guardian</i> (Geraldton WA, 19 April 2010), 3. <i>West Australian</i> (Perth WA, 19 April 2010), 23.</p>
27/04/2010	WA	Native title investigation	<p>Investigations into Aboriginal heritage issues at the planned construction site for a bridge to connect Australia and Eaton have revealed traditional cultural activities could be disturbed. Dardanup Shire Council planning services manager Robert Quinn said the investigation, being conducted by Dunsborough based archaeologist Brad Goode, was a legislative requirement under the Aboriginal Heritage Act.</p> <p>"Shire officers intend to investigate whether native title exists on the proposed Collie River bridge area," Mr Quinn said. He also said a Noongar group that met with Mr Goode last month expressed concerns over the "cumulative negative environmental effects of urbanisation" on the Collie River and the impact on Noongar people being able to continue their traditional cultural activities in the area.</p>	<p><i>Bunbury Herald</i> (Bunbury WA, 27 April 2010), 9.</p>
27/04/2010	QLD	Land Use Agreement	<p>Atherton representatives of the Tableland Yidinji people and the Tablelands Regional Council have signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) which protects Aboriginal cultural heritage and establishes a consultation framework for development. The ILUA recognises the Yidinji as the traditional owners of 437sq km of land and waters around Atherton, where they have a registered native title claim.</p>	<p><i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns QLD, 27 April 2010), 7. <i>Tablelander</i> (Atherton QLD, 27 April 2010), 9. <i>Cairns Sun</i> (Cairns QLD, 28 April 2010), 4. <i>Tablelander</i> (Atherton QLD, 13 April 2010), 6.</p>
29/04/2010	QLD	Reserves returned	<p>Cairns Regional Council's finance and administration committee last week endorsed management plans for nine reserves to be transferred to the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (Jabalbina), as well as a Wonga Beach reserve which will be jointly managed by council and Jabalbina.</p>	<p><i>Port Douglas & Mossman Gazette</i> (Port Douglas QLD, 29 April 2010), 11.</p>