

# NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

## AUGUST 2013

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
1/8/2013	WA	Yindjibarndi and Rio Tinto sign agreement	Rio Tinto has signed an Indigenous land use agreement with Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation for exploration and mining rights in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Rio Tinto's CEO said that the deal was of 'great significance', as it would generate financial benefits for the traditional owners to support cultural, community and commercial development.	<i>National Mining Chronicle</i> (Perth WA, 1 August 2013) 78
2/8/2013	NT	Company prosecuted for desecrating sacred site	Mining company OM Manganese was convicted of desecrating a sacred site at the Bootu Creek manganese mining operation north of Tennant Creek. Magistrate Sue Oliver found that OM Manganese had made a decision to favour 'business and profit' over its obligations to protect the sacred site, fining the company \$150,000. CEO of OM Holdings, the parent company of OM Manganese, Peter Toth said after the hearing, 'We sincerely regret the damage and the hurt caused and I unreservedly apologise to the site's custodians and traditional owners'. The case represents the first time a charge of desecration has been contested and won in Australia.	<a href="#">The Australian</a> (Canberra ACT, 2 August 2013) <a href="#">Northern Territory News</a> (Darwin NT, 2 August 2013) <a href="#">9 News</a> (Sydney NSW, 2 August 2013) <a href="#">BBC News</a> (London UK, 2 August 2013) <a href="#">SBS News</a> (Sydney NSW, 2 August 2013) <a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 5 August 2013)
3/8/2013	Aus.	Government supports native title reforms	The former Federal Government expressed its support for reforms to the native title system, which include plans to develop a tax-free future fund to assist Indigenous community development throughout the country. The plans have gained the backing from key business sectors, including the mining industry. The reforms are based on a working group's recommendations that considered how future generations of native title holders will benefit from the development of their land.	<a href="#">The Australian</a> (Canberra ACT, 3 August 2013) <a href="#">SBS News</a> (Sydney NSW, 3 August 2013) <a href="#">Tax-News Global</a> (East Sussex UK, 6 August 2013)

6/8/2013	SA	Native title recognised	The Antakirinja Matu-Yunkunytjatjara (AMY) people have had their native title rights and interest recognised in South Australia. The agreement covers the Breakaways Conservation Park, west of Coober Pedy. South Australia Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Minister Ian Hunter said, 'one of the key benefits is that we will get the benefits of local knowledge'.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 6 August 2013)
7/8/2013	Qld	Torres Strait Fishing Rights secured in High Court	The full bench of the High Court ruled in favor of a group of Torres Strait Islander native title holders. The Court held that the native title right to fish for commercial purposes was not extinguished by commercial fishing laws. Michael Gardner from the Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) says that he does not expect the ruling to have any adverse consequences on the industry.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 7 August 2013) <a href="#">Yahoo 7</a> (Sydney NSW, 7 August 2013) <a href="#">ABC News</a> (8 August 2013) <a href="#">Cairns.com</a> (Cairns Qld, 8 August 2013) <a href="#">Courier Mail</a> (Brisbane Qld, 8 August 2013) 14
7/8/2013	WA	Oil and gas exploration in the Canning Basin	Oil Basins Ltd (OBL) raised \$200,000 to help market of oil and gas business opportunities in the Canning Basin of Western Australia to Chinese investors. The Nyikina and Mangala native title claim and the Mawadjala Gadjudgar native title claim overlap the proposed exploration area. In February 2013 the National Native Title Tribunal determined that the future act, being the grant of petroleum exploration permit to Backreef Oil Pty Ltd and OBL, may be done. Native title claimants have subsequently appealed this decision and the matter has been heard by the Federal Court with judgment reserved for written decision.	<a href="#">Proactive Investors Australia</a> (Sydney NSW, 7 August 2013)
12/8/2013	WA	Native title holders sign joint venture with Morris Corp.	Native title holders and Morris Corporation have signed a five year joint venture with Fortescue Metals Group expected to be worth \$500 million. It is expected that the joint venture will result in 500 new jobs, with at least 100 Aboriginal people employed throughout parts of Western Australia.	<a href="#">Courier Mail</a> (Brisbane Qld, 12 August 2013)
12/8/2013	Aus.	Native title becomes an election issue	Aboriginal Activist Galarrwuy Yunupingu has called for a 'wake up' of native title in the federal election. My Yunupingu used his keynote address at the Garma Music Festival in Darwin to promote the issue. The Festival also saw the launch of the Federal Coalition's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Policy with spokesperson Warren Mundine saying, 'we need to wake up on land rights'.	<a href="#">SBS News</a> (Sydney NSW, 12 August 2013)
15/8/2013	NT	Hand back of land to traditional owners	The Federal Government handed back more than 5,000 square kilometres of lands in the Northern Territory to traditional owners. The land will be leased back to the Federal Government to be managed as part of Kakadu National Park. Former Federal Health Minister Warren Snowden presented a deed of grant to traditional owners Melanie Ngalmirama and Annie Elgregbud at Jabiru during the ceremony. The hand back marks the end of the longest running native title claim in the Territory.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 15 August 2013)

16/8/2013	NT	Scullion rules out changes to <i>Land Rights Act</i>	TONY Abbott's indigenous affairs spokesman, Nigel Scullion, has tried to calm indigenous leaders and land councils by promising an Abbott government will not touch the Northern Territory Aboriginal Land Rights Act. Senator Scullion and Tina Macfarlane, the Country Liberals candidate for the Northern Territory-based seat of Lingiari, were challenged at a Central Land Council meeting in Harts Range yesterday on whether a Coalition government planned to amend the Land Rights Act.	<i>The Australian</i> (Canberra ACT, 17 August 2013)
22/8/2013	WA	Former PM announces additional funds for native title	Former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced that if re-elected his party would put \$10 million towards native title negotiations for the expansion of the Ord River Dam Stage 3 in Kununurra. The expansion of the Ord River Dam would almost double the amount of farmable land in the region.	<i>Kimberly Echo</i> (Kununurra WA, 22 August 2013) 1
23/8/2013	NT	Exploration license granted in National Park	The Northern Territory government granted Imperial Oil and Gas a shale gas and oil exploration license for an area of land partly covering Limmen National Park. The government approval comes after an agreement was reached with traditional owners and the Northern Land Council (NLC).	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 23 August 2013)
27/8/2013	Aus.	Federal Coalition promises to reinstate native title respondent funding	The Federal Coalition promised that if elected they would reinstate the native title respondent funding scheme. Shadow Agriculture Minister John Cobb said the Coalition would divert \$2.2 million from the Caring for our Country scheme to fund the respondent scheme.	<a href="#">North Queensland Register</a> (Townsville Qld, 27 August 2013) <a href="#">The Land</a> (Sydney NSW, 27 August 2013) <a href="#">Beef Central</a> (Bulimba Qld, 28 August 2013)
28/8/2013	Vic.	NTSV celebrates 10 years	Native Title Services Victoria (NTSV) celebrated 10 years of representing the state's traditional owners. NTSV Chairman Grahame Atkinson said Victoria's native title landscape has changed dramatically since Yorta Yorta's unsuccessful native title claim in 2002. During the past 10 years, NTSV has negotiated on 46 Indigenous land use agreements and more than 100 agreements relating to mining exploration or production.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (Lismore NSW, 28 August 2013) 14
29/8/2013	WA	Native title recognised in Pilbara	The native title rights and interests of the Banjima people have been recognised. The determination area is over 10,000 square kilometres in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The Federal Court judgment comes 15 years after the native title claim was first lodged. The group's rights will co-exist with iron ore mining tenements held by companies including Hancock Prospecting, BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto and Fortescue Metals Group. Banjima elder Alec Tucker described the occasion as a 'joyous day'.	<a href="#">7 News Perth</a> (Perth WA, 29 August 2013) <a href="#">My Resources</a> (Perth WA, 29 August 2013) <a href="#">The West Australian</a> (Perth WA, 29 August 2013) <a href="#">The Guardian</a> (London UK, 29 August) <a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 30 August 2013)
29/8/2013	Aus.	Tributes for Mr Dan O'Dea	Member of the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) Mr Daniel O'Dea sadly passed away following the City to Surf Charity Run in Perth. Mr O'Dea was appointed as a full time member of the NNTT in 2002, before which he was the principle legal officer of the Ngaanyatjarra Council in the Northern Territory. NNTT President Raelene Webb has said that Mr O'Dea will be 'deeply missed'.	<a href="#">Herald Sun</a> (Melbourne Vic., 29 August 2013) <a href="#">The Australian</a> (Canberra ACT, 29 August 2013)