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AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF  
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDER STUDIES  
NATIVE TITLE RESEARCH UNIT

## NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

MARCH 2013

| DATE       | STATE | SUBJECT  | SUMMARY   | SOURCE   |
|------------|-------|--|---|--|
| 01/03/2013 | WA    | Families apply to lodge separate claims in James Price Point gas hub development | The Federal Court will consider an application by Aboriginal families at the centre of the James Price Point gas hub project in the Western Australia Kimberly region. The groups originally signed a joint land deal with Woodside, but wish to withdraw the original claim in order to lodge their own separate claims. The application to withdraw the original claim must first be approved by the Federal Court. | <a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 1 March 2013)  |
| 02/03/2013 | QLD   | Hancock Prospecting insists rock art is protected                                | Hancock Prospecting Chief Development Officer John Klepec insists that ancient rock art sites located in Cape York will be removed from any application for mining once the sites have been verified. Hancock Prospecting, half owner of Jacaranda Joint Venture, does not yet have access to conduct heritage surveys with local native title claimants.   | <i>The Weekend Australian</i> (Canberra ACT, 2 March 2013), 1<br><i>The Australian</i> (Canberra ACT, 7 March 2013), 3<br><i>The Cairns Post</i> (Cairns QLD, 9 March 2013), 6<br><i>The Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin NT, 9 March 2013), 12<br><i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 13 March 2013), 2 |
| 06/03/2013 | AUS   | Native title mediation to go through Federal Court                               | The powers to mediate native title claims have been transferred from the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) to the Federal Court. The <i>Courts and Tribunals Amendment (Adminstartion) Act 20122012</i> which gives effect to these changes was passed through both Houses of Parliament on 28 February 2013.   | <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 6 March 2013), 9  |

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| 08/03/2013 | AUS | Raelene Webb QC named new President of NNTT            | Raelene Webb QC, was announced as the new President of the NNTT, replacing Graeme Neate. Previously Ms Webb was president of the Northern Territory Bar Association and Vice-President of the Australian Bar Association. Ms Webb will be permanently based in Perth.   | <i>The Australian</i> (Canberra ACT, 8 March 2013), 25<br><i>The Sunday Territorian</i> (Darwin NT, 10 March 2013), 4<br><i>Koori Mail</i> (Lismore NSW, 13 March 2013), 19<br><i>Koori Mail</i> (Lismore NSW, 20 March 2013), 15  |
| 10/03/2013 | QLD | Traditional owners consider lodging native title claim | A series of meetings between the Ngaro and Gia peoples is to be held to determine the most appropriate way to proceed with native title application. The area of the application is set to include the Whitsunday coast.  | <a href="#">Whitsunday Times</a> (Airlie Beach QLD, 10 March 2013)   |
| 13/03/2013 | NSW | Wellington Native Title application dismissed          | A native title claim lodged by the Wellington Wiradjuri Valley Corporation was dismissed in the Federal Court in Sydney. Families that were not included in the original claim welcomed the decision by Justice Jane Jagot, insisting that it provides the opportunity to now form a more inclusive group of traditional owners.  | <a href="#">Wellington Times</a> (Wellington NSW, March 13 2013)   |
| 13/03/2013 | WA  | YAC insists FMG must negotiate                         | Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) states that Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) must negotiate in good faith before the claim known as Yindjibarndi #1 is determined. YAC lawyer George Irving stated that FMG may be liable for compensation if a settlement between the groups is not reached over development of the Solomon Project in Western Australia's Pilbara region.                     | <i>Koori Mail</i> (Lismore NSW, 13 March 2013), 19<br><i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 13 March 2013), 17  |
| 13/03/2013 | WA  | Former Chair of WMYAC vacates organisation's board     | Former Chair of Wirlu-Murra Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (WMYAC) Bruce Woodley has, vacated his seat on the board, questioning the organisations authenticity. Mr Woodley joins former WMYAC lawyer Kerry Savas, in speaking out against the organisation.   | <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 13 March 2013), 5   |
| 13/03/2013 | VIC | Dja Dja Warrung granted native title                   | The Dja Dja Warrung people have signed a native title deal with the Victorian government over land in central and western Victoria. The agreement includes the districts of Bendigo, Maryborough, Daylesford and Charlton. The Dja Dja Warrung Aboriginal Corporation, which has led negotiations with the state government, convened a meeting with traditional claimants before approving the deal. | <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 13 March 2013), 15<br><a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 15 March 2013)<br><a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 28 March 2013)<br><a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 28 March 2013)<br><i>Bendigo Advertiser</i> (Bendigo VIC, 29 March 2013), 5 |

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| 13/03/2013 | AUS | Native title bodies align to improve development              | The Kimberly Regional Economic Development (KRED) and the Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) of the Martu native title holders, Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation (WDLAC), have formed an alliance to promote Aboriginal business development across the north-west of Australia. KRED Chief Executive Officer Wayne Bergmann asserts that as the two corporations operate in the same cultural region and share many cultural practices, it make sense for them to align their economic objectives to reflect this relationship.   | <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 13 March 2013), 15   |
| 13/03/2013 | QLD | Native title claim contested                                  | An area of land including the Cairns CBD is being contested by two native title groups, the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji and Irukandji. The claims are set to go through the required public notification period before progressing further.   | <i>The Cairns Post</i> (Cairns QLD, 13 March 2013), 1<br><i>The Cairns Post</i> (Cairns QLD, 16 March, 2013), 24  |
| 17/03/2013 | AUS | Concerns over changes to native title funding                 | The National Farmers Federation (NFF) has expressed concern about the changes to native title funding. The NFF insists that ceasing funding for native title respondents will create inequality in the current native title process and further delay the settlement of claims.  | <a href="#"><i>Western Magazine</i></a> (Dubbo NSW, 17 March 2013)  |
| 18/03/2013 | AUS | Working group assesses tax treatment of native title payments | Following the passage of the <i>Tax Laws Amendment Bill (2012)</i> , a treasury-led working group will examine the treatment of native title payments. The working group will specifically look to develop pathways to ensure the payments are for the benefit of future generations. Brian Wyatt, Chief Executive of the National Native Title Council (NNTC) welcomed the legislation and insists that appropriate tax treatment of benefits will enable native title groups to engage in business and community development projects that will benefit not only Indigenous people, but the broader community. | <i>The Australian</i> (Canberra ACT, 18 March 2013)<br><i>Koori Mail</i> (Lismore NSW, 27 March 2013), 13<br><i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 27 March 2013), 15        |
| 20/03/2013 | VIC | NTSV reveals results of study                                 | Native Title Services Victoria (NTSV) has released a study in which it finds sufficient evidence for a native title claim in the north-west of the state. NTSV Chairman Grahame Atkinson stated, 'We will provide legal advice on how to determine whether a person holds or could hold native title rights and interests' in these areas.   | <i>Border Times</i> (Pinnaroo SA, 20 March 2013), 3   |
| 22/03/2013 | NT  | Federal Parliament introduces Bill in Jabiru matter           | Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin has commented in Federal Parliament on a Bill amending land right laws in the Northern Territory, to allow for the transfer of Jabiru in the Northern Territory, currently a national park, from the Crown to Aboriginal freehold vested in the Kakadu Aboriginal Land Trust, providing certainty and security of land tenure in the region. The introduction of this Bill is expected to resolve the Jabiru native title claim, the longest running land claim in the Northern Territory.   | <a href="#"><i>ABC News</i></a> (Sydney NSW, 22 March 2013)<br><i>Koori Mail</i> (Lismore NSW, 27 March 2013), 13<br><i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW 27 March 2013), 14 |

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| 22/03/2013 | VIC | Maar lodge native title claim              | The Maar people have lodged a native title claim over lands in eastern Victoria. Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation spokesperson Jeremy Clark has acted quickly to abate concerns the claim would restrict access to parks and reserves: 'Just the opposite... Traditional Owners will be caring for the country so it can be enjoyed by current and future generations', he said.   | <a href="#">The Standard</a> (Warrnambool VIC, 22 March 2013)  |
| 25/03/2013 | QLD | Yidinji granted native title               | The Yidinji native title group has been recognised as native title holders over lands in the Atherton Tablelands. The claim follows an earlier claim which was partially recognised last December.  | <a href="#">The Herald Sun</a> (Melbourne VIC, 25 March 2013)<br><a href="#">Perth Now</a> (Perth WA, 25 March 2013)<br><a href="#">The Cairns Post</a> (Cairns QLD, 27 March 2013), 9                                 |
| 25/03/2013 | QLD | Judge orders royalties to be held in trust | Federal Court Justice Steven Rares has ordered that royalties paid to the native title claimants of the Bowen Basin be held in trust. The decision handed down was in relation to royalties paid by Santos, Origin Energy and Queensland Gas Company.   | <a href="#">The Morning Bulletin</a> (Rockhampton QLD, 25 March 2013)<br><a href="#">Australian Financial Review</a> (Sydney NSW, 27 March 2013)<br><a href="#">The Courier Mail</a> (Brisbane QLD, 28 March 2013), 11 |
| 25/03/2013 | QLD | Postponement of native title determination | A native title consent determination due to be granted by the Federal Court in Innisfail over the Cassowary Coast in North Queensland has been delayed. The Queensland government originally supported the claim, however concerns have since been raised as to whether the claimant group are the only native title holders in the area.   | <a href="#">The Cairns Post</a> (Cairns QLD, 25 March 2013)<br><a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 27 March 2013)  |
| 27/03/2013 | AUS | Senate Committee hand down report          | The Senate Legal Affairs Committee has expressed frustration over the timelines of the Attorney-General's provision of information crucial to an enquiry in to the <i>Native Title Amendment Bill 2012</i> , introduced by former Attorney-General Nicola Roxon. The concerns were expressed in a report by the Committee that recommended passage of the Bill with amendments including extension of the objection period of Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs) registration from one month to three months and removal of proposed introduction of defining good faith negotiations to align with the <i>Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)</i> . | <a href="#">National Indigenous Times</a> (Malua Bay NSW, 27 March 2013), 15   |
| 27/03/2013 | NT  | Koongarra incorporated in to Kakadu        | Traditional owner Jeffrey Lee's campaign to have Koongarra incorporated in to Kakadu National Park was realised when the Senate passed a Bill formally adding Koongarra to the park. The area was originally excluded from the park in 1979 due to its rich uranium deposits and potential for extraction.  | <a href="#">National Indigenous Times</a> (Malua Bay NSW, 27 March 2013), 16   |