

# NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

## MAY 2013

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
1/5/2013	WA	WA Government to acquire land	The Government of Western Australia has suggested that it will continue to acquire land at James Price Point, north of Broome. The announcement comes following Woodside Petroleum announcing that it plans to abandon construction of an onshore Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) processing plant. The acquisition is estimated to deliver \$30 million to traditional owners in the region.	<a href="#">Yahoo 7 News</a> (Sydney NSW, 1 May 2013)
1/5/2013	NSW	Morling Review to assess NSW <i>Land Rights Act</i>	Regional meetings are currently taking place throughout NSW as part of The Morling Review, commissioned by New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council's. The Review panel is chaired by former Justice of the Federal Court, the Hon. Trevor Morling QC.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 1 May 2013) <a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 9 May 2013)
5/5/2013	Qld	Aboriginal group seeks consultation for redevelopment	Aboriginal groups from Great Keppel Island in Central Queensland are insisting that Tower Holdings engage in consultations with them regarding any possible redevelopment. In April 2007, 170 hectares of land on the Island was handed back to the Woppaburra people. Tower Holdings have indicated they plan to invest \$600 million in redevelopment of resorts on Great Keppel Island.	<a href="#">The Morning Bulletin</a> (Rockhampton QLD, 5 May 2013)
7/5/2013	SA	Concerns raised over health of Kati Thanda	Representatives of the Arabana people in South Australia have expressed concerns over the health of Kati Thanda (previously Lake Eyre). South Australia Water Minister Ian Hunter says that proposals by the Queensland Government threaten the water quality and quantity flowing into Lake Eyre. Chairman of the Arabana Aboriginal Corporation, Aaron Stuart, says that the lake is significant to Arabana people and needs protection.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 7 May 2013)

8/5/2013	SA	Native title owners unhappy at damage to dry lake	Native title owners of Lake Gairdner in South Australia (SA) are seeking repairs to what they say is damage to the surface of the lake after a dry lake racing meet. Dry Lake Racers Australia president Cled Davies insists however that the area was inspected by a ranger and a bond returned following the event. Kokatha Incorporated Chairman Andrew Starkey said that the agreement between the racers and the SA Environment Department was not strict enough.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 8 May 2013)
9/5/2013	NSW	Murdi Parki welcomes Review Panel's recommendation	Murdi Parki Regional Enterprise Corporation has welcomed the recommendation of the Independent Local Government Review Panel to incorporate all tiers of government and Indigenous groups into a single authority. Murdi Parki Chairman Sam Jeffries has stated: 'The regional authority model is the one we'll be championing' and he hopes that the new authority will be more flexible than existing governance structures.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 9 May 2013)
11/5/2013	Tas.	Aboriginal groups acquire land in central highlands	Tasmanian Aboriginal groups have partnered with the not-for-profit group Tasmanian Land Conservancy and the Federal Government to buy lands in the central highland region, East of Jerusalem National Park and Cradle Mountain. Aboriginal groups have said that the 6,750 hectares is ideal for re-establishing traditional customs such as basket weaving and hunting.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> (Sydney NSW, 11 May 2013)
13/5/2013	NSW	Gomeri native title claimants seek advice over CSG exploration	Gomeri native title claimants have met in Tamworth to discuss coal seam gas (CSG) exploration. The claimants are seeking legal advice on avenues to stop exploration and further mining over their ancestral land. A broad range of farmers, residents and conservationists have expressed their support for the native title group.	<a href="#">SBS News</a> (Sydney NSW, 13 May 2013) <a href="#">Australian Mining</a> (Sydney NSW, 14 May 2013) <a href="#">Moree Champion</a> (Moree NSW, 22 May 2013) <a href="#">Indy Media</a> (Sydney NSW, 23 May 2013)
15/5/2013	Aus.	Findings of enquiry yet to be made public	An external enquiry launched by the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) into perceived conflicts of interests between executive personnel, the resource sector and Aboriginal organisations has been completed but the findings of the enquiry are yet to be made public. A spokesperson for the NNTT said that no decision has been made on when the findings would be made public.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 15 May 2013) 14
15/5/2013	NSW	Joint Management custodians meet at Cape Byron	Traditional custodians working with New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) on joint management projects have met in Cape Byron. The meeting was hosted for the first time by the Bandjalung people, who in 2000 negotiated an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) for the joint management of the Arakwal National Park in Northern NSW.	<a href="#">The Northern Star</a> (Lismore NSW, 15 May 2013)

15/5/2013	Aus.	Insider look at Mabo case	Bryan Keon-Cohen QC has launched his newly-updated book detailing events from inside the Mabo High Court Case. 'I am in a unique position [to write this book] because in my chambers I have about 60,000 pages of court material: barrister's research notes, witness statements and the like, collected over 10 years of the litigation, and the book is founded on those materials', Mr Keon-Cohen said. Queensland Supreme Court Justice Margaret White will launch the second edition of the book <i>A Mabo Memoir: Island Kustom to Native Title</i> in Brisbane on 17 June 2013.	<a href="#">Lawyers Weekly</a> (Sydney NSW, 15 May 2013)
16/5/2013	Qld	Eastern Kuku Yalanji declared IPA	Eastern Kuku Yalanji has been declared an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) in a ceremony held at Cape Tribulation in north Queensland. Following the native title determination in 2007 and negotiation of 17 different Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs), the IPA represents a significant step towards to ultimate goal of traditional owners managing and maintaining their own country.	<i>Port Douglas &amp; Mossman Gazette</i> (Port Douglas Qld, 16 May 2013) 7
24/5/2013	SA	Lake Eyre to be renamed Kati Thanda	The renaming of Kati Thanda (formally Lake Eyre) was approved by South Australia's Geographical Names Committee in December 2012, following the Arabana native title determination over the area in May 2012. Aaron Stuart, Chair of the Arabana Aboriginal Corporation, explained the meaning of Kati Thanda as 'the name of the lake which was formed after the skin of a kangaroo was spread over the ground'.	<a href="#">Adelaide Now</a> (Adelaide SA, 24 May 2013)
29/5/2013	Aus.	Federal Coalition unveil plan for land councils	The Federal Coalition Party has released its plans for the future of land councils [Native Title Representative Bodies in Northern Australia], stating that if elected they would look to devolve some of their functions to Indigenous community organisations. Opposition Indigenous Affairs Spokesperson Senator Nigel Scullion said that the plan is part of a broader effort to increase Indigenous home ownership, encourage private capital and promote economic development.	<i>The Australian</i> (Canberra ACT, 29 May 2013) 5
29/5/2013	NT	Review of Land Rights Act to be tabled in Parliament	Aboriginal Land Commissioner, Justice John Mansfield, recently finished a review of the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i> (Cth), requested by Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin. The review specifically investigated the power of traditional owners to veto mining exploration on their land. The Ministers Office has stated that the recommendations of the review will not be made public until it is tabled in Federal Parliament.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin NT, 29 May 2013) 31

29/5/2013	WA	Yindjibarndi and Fortescue yet to reach agreement	Negotiations between Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) and Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) continue with no resolution yet reached. In recent times the two parties have been meeting in private, seeking to bridge the divide through the proposition of a long overdue Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA). YAC has released a media statement stating that 'The Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation would like to make clear Fortescue have not obtained the consent or approval of Yindjibarndi Native Title holders for their Firetail and Solomon Project operations'.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 23 May 2013) 11
29/5/2013	Vic.	Concerns raised over ILUA	A 13-year negotiation process for an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) over lands in central western Victoria has been thrown in doubt. Concerns raised by Dja Dja Warrung people centre on an authorisation meeting last year during which the ILUA was approved. Of the 3,500 member claim group, the motion was said to have been passed by only 48 people. Yung Balug Clan Elder, Gaiy Murray, said no corporation membership meeting was called to discuss the matter.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 23 May 2013) 22
30/5/2013	NSW	Murrawarri Republic push for sovereignty	An Aboriginal group from the Culgoa River region in the north-west of New South Wales has launched legal action demanding recognition of their status as a sovereign state. The group said that no evidence of the British assertion of sovereignty, such as a treaty or a deed of cessation, has been provided by the state. Michael Anderson, representing the Murrawarri group, said: 'There is nothing in Australian law that shows how the British gained the political and sovereign patronage of the Aboriginal people.'	<a href="#"><i>Time World</i></a> (30 May 2013)