

Native Title in the News – December 2011

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|----------|-------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 01/12/11 | QLD | Cape York Peninsula coal mine | In a unanimous decision of 10 Indigenous clan groups at Kalpowar Crossing, Aust-Pac Capitals have been given approval to go ahead with Cape York's first coal mine. | <i>Cooktown Local News</i> (Cooktown QLD, 1 December 2011), 5. |
| 07/12/11 | WA | Woodside Petroleum | Chief Justice Wayne Martin determined that any decisions made since the government issued notices to take land at James Price Point and extinguish native title were unlawful. He said the notices were invalid because they did not contain a description of the land required. | <p><i>Hobart Mercury</i> (Hobart TAS, 7 December 2011), 36. <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra ACT, 7 December 2011), 15. <i>AAP Newswire</i> (Australia, 6 December 2011). <i>Shepparton News</i> (Shepparton News VIC, 7 December 2011), 20. <i>Australian</i> (Australia, 7 December 2011), 6, 3. <i>Age</i> (Melbourne VIC, 7 December 2011), 1. <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville QLD, 7 December 2011), 26. <i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> (Adelaide SA, 7 December 2011), 64. <i>Herald Sun</i> (Melbourne VIC, 7 December 2011), 38. <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney NSW, 7 December 2011), 8. <i>Daily Advertiser</i> (Wagga Wagga NSW, 7 December 2011), 21. <i>AAP Newswire</i> (Australia, 6 December 2011). <i>Launceston Examiner</i> (Launceston TAS, 7 December 2011), 22. <i>Business News</i> (Perth WA, 8 December 2011), 2. <i>Australian Financial Review</i> (Australia, 10 December 2011), 12. <i>Geelong Advertiser</i> (Geelong VIC, 7 December 2011), 28. <i>Newcastle Herald</i> (Newcastle NSW, 7 December 2011), 31.</p> |

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| 07/12/11 | WA | Chevron | Buurabalayji Thalanyji native title holders have refused to provide a welcome to country for a ceremony at Chevron's Wheatstone Project in Onslow. Buurabalayji Thalanyji Aboriginal Corporation chairman Rodney Hicks said it would only inflame relations between the native title holders and Chevron because of unfinished and outstanding heritage issues surrounding the project. | <i>Pilbara News</i> (Pilbara WA, 7 December 2011), 3. |
| 07/12/11 | WA | Pilbara native title groups | Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin announced an initiative to deliver management and government training from the federal government in the wake of a land use agreement they have made with iron ore miners. The partnership aims to ensure native title holders are equipped to manage the significant benefits they will receive under the native title agreement—around \$2 billion for 40 years. | <i>North West Telegraph</i> (South Hedland WA, 7 December 2011), 31. |
| 07/12/11 | AUS | Decision to withhold native title funding | Prime Minister Julia Gillard has told the West Australian government it intends to withdraw from an understanding between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments that the Commonwealth would meet 75 percent of the costs and compensation involved in native title agreements. The decision to withdraw would affect all state and territory governments in Australia and have a serious impact on how native title claims may be treated in the future. | <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 7 December 2011), 3. <i>Esperance Express</i> (Esperance WA, 7 December 2011), 1. |
| 07/12/11 | WA | Fortescue Metals | Elderly Yindjibarndi woman, Mavis Pat has made a sworn statement which was presented to the court that claimed she was pressured by Fortescue Metals Group lawyer and others present who had come to the home of her sister-in-law, Esther, at Cheeditha and drove to a location used as an office to sign a statement that she did not agree with. Fortescue has denied any involment in pressuring Mrs Mavis Pat to sign documents supporting the Wirlumurra Yindjibarndi group. | <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 7 December 2011), 7. |
| 07/12/11 | WA | Walmandan tent embassy | Traditional owners protesting the Kimberley gas hub proposal have claimed Western Australia's Department of State Development (DSD) has threatened to forcibly remove them from the Walmandan tent embassy. The tent embassy was declared at the site earlier this year and acts as a replica, in the spirit of the Canberra's Aboriginal tent embassy. | <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 7 December 2011), 12. |

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| 08/12/11 | QLD | New bill introduced | A new bill has been introduced into Queensland parliament, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Bill 2011. The Queensland state government has offered a simpler way for property owners and traditional owners to negotiate Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs). AgForce Native Title spokesman John Stewart said the state government's announcement to cut leasehold land rent would significantly reduce costs for landholder signatories to an ILUA. | <i>Rural Weekly – North Central Queensland</i> (Mackay QLD, 8 December 2011), 4. <i>Central Queensland News</i> (Emerald QLD, 9 December 2012), 18. |
| 08/12/2011 | QLD | Land handover | Sixty-three thousand hectares of land between Mossman and Cooktown have been handed back to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people and will be available for the development of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Bama people's social, cultural and economic aspirations, with the rest to be declared a nature refuge.. | <i>Port Douglas Mossman Gazette</i> (Port Douglas QLD, 8 December 2012), 5. |
| 09/12/11 | QLD | Bandanna coal project | Bandanna Energy announced that the South Galilee Coal Project Joint Venture has received consent from the Wangan and Jagalingou people for all approvals needed to develop the project and infrastructure corridor. | <i>Central Queensland News</i> (Emerald QLD, 9 December 2011), 5. |

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| 13/12/11 | QLD | Kalkadoon people | The Kalkadoon people's have been recognised in holding native title over the Mount Isa region of 40,000 sq km. | <p><i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane QLD, 13 December 2011), 18. <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville QLD, 13 December 2011), 7. <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 14 December 2011) 9.</p> |
| 14/12/11 | QLD | Muluridji people | The Muluridji people have had their native title rights recognised over 12,000 hectare of land in far north Queensland. | <p><i>AAP Newswire</i> (Australia, 14 December 2012). <i>AAP Newswire</i> (Australia, 15 December 2011). <i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns QLD, 16 December 2011), 16.</p> |
| 20/12/11 | QLD | Gunggandji peoples | The Federal Court has recognised the Combined Gunggandjo people's native title rights over 8297 hectares of land and waters, 6 km east of Cairns, after a 16 year court battle. | <p><i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns QLD, 20 December 2011), 5. <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville QLD, 21 December 2011), 16.</p> |

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| 22/12/11 | SA | Gawler Ranges | The Gawler Ranges Aboriginal claimant groups have been recognised in native title over about 34,000 square kilometers of pastoral lease and national park land. The traditional owners were granted non-exclusive native title rights. | <p><i>West Coast Sentinel</i> (Ceduna SA, 22 December 2011), 3. <i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie WA, 20 December 2011), 4. <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra ACT, 20 December 2011), 6. <i>AAP Newswire</i> (Australia, 19 December 2011). <i>Port Lincoln Times</i> (Port Lincoln SA, 20 December 2011), 4.</p> |
| 28/12/12 | WA | Fortescue signs deal | Fortescue Metals have signed a land access agreement with the Njamal people for access to land covered by the company's North Star and Glacier Valley magnetite projects. In exchange the Njamal people will become co-owners and joint owners of another magnetite mine. | <p><i>Border Watch</i> (Mt Gambier SA, 28 December 2011), 10. <i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> (Adelaide SA, 24 December 2011), 42. <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney NSW, 24 December 2011), 4. <i>Hobart Mercury</i> (Hobart TAS, 24 December 2011), 20. <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra ACT, 24 December 2011), 1. <i>AAP Newswire</i> (Australia, 23 December 2011). <i>Shepparton News</i> (Shepparton VIC, 24 December 2011), 32. <i>Ballarat Courier</i> (Ballarat VIC, 24 December 2011), 27. <i>Border Mail</i> (Albury-Wodonga VIC, 24 December 2011), 25.</p> |