

Native Title in the News December 2010

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
01/12/2010	NSW	Hay Community Sign MOU	<p>Head of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Sally Barnes said environmental and cultural management in the region has been given a boost with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the Nari Nari Tribal Council, Hay Local Aboriginal Land Council and NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.</p> <p>'The MOU formalises the existing positive partnership between the organisations and helps to ensure future support and involvement in the management of parks, reserves and protected land,' Ms Barnes said.</p>	<i>Riverine Grazier</i> (Hay NSW, 1 st December 2010), 5.
03/12/2010	NSW	Wonnarua Peoples Land Claim	<p>Ashton Coal is required to negotiate its plans to mine under Bowman's Creek near Singleton due to the National Native Title Tribunal approving a native title claim from the Plains Clans of the Wonnarua People relating to a part of land opposite Camberwell Village.</p> <p>Scott Franks, spokesman of the Plains Clans of the Wonnarua People, said the area affected by the claim was of major importance to the Aboriginal people of this region. Ashton Coal and the traditional owners are now in confidential discussions as part of the native title claim process. A separate Aboriginal group, the Wonnarua Nation, is also in the process of lodging a claim relating to the area.</p>	<i>Newcastle Herald</i> (Newcastle NSW, 3 rd December 2010), 23.
05/12/2010	QLD	Fraser Island Claimants	<p>Butchulla elder Frances Gala, 68 has lodged for 'party status' in the Federal Court against current native title claims on Fraser Island. There are currently two applications registered with the National Native Title Tribunal by the Butchulla people for more than 8500sq km of Hervey Bay land and sea and for Fraser Island.</p>	<i>Sunday Mail</i> (Brisbane QLD, 5 th December 2010), 24. <i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i> (Hervey Bay QLD, 7 th December 2010), 4.
16/12/2010	QLD	Largest Native Title Determination in Qld	<p>The largest single native title determination in Queensland's history which covers about 1.73 million hectares was handed down to the Waanyi People. The determination area extends to the town of Gregory Downs in the east, north to the Nicholson River, south to O'Shannassy River and across to the state's border with the Northern Territory.</p>	<i>North Queensland Register</i> (Townsville QLD, 16 th December 2010), 12.

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			<p>The Queensland Government says the decision affirms the Waanyi People as custodians of their ancestors' land. This decision formally acknowledges that Waanyi People have, and always have had, the right to camp, hunt, fish and gather in the area, maintain places of significance, and conduct ceremonies in accordance with their traditional laws and customs.</p>	
17/12/2010	QLD	Land Secured	<p>In an historic celebration on the weekend at Kuranda, 1600ha of land was leased to the people of Mona Mona. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister Desley Boyle and Member for Barron River Steven Wettenhall attended the celebration. Ms Boyle said the lease was a significant step forward for Indigenous land management in Queensland. It also delivers on a 2009 election commitment to re-examine the future land tenure of the reserve. 'The lease effectively returns a place of spiritual significance to the people of Mona Mona'. Mr Wettenhall said the Mona Mona Bulmba Aboriginal Corporation would hold the lease and manage the land.</p>	<p><i>Tablelands Advertiser</i> (Mareeba QLD, 17th December 2010), 7.</p>
20/12/2010	AU	Tax Toll on Native Title Payments	<p>The Australian Treasury has received 33 submissions in regards to the Native Title, Indigenous Economic Development and Tax Consultation Paper. Thirty-two of these are public submissions and one is confidential. This article outlines some of the submissions including The Minerals Council of Australia, who have argued that the payments to Indigenous landholders be exempt from the mineral resources rent tax.</p> <p>Some of the proposals included in the Consultations Paper include a blanket tax exemption for native title payments, the creation of a tax exempt Indigenous community fund and a native title withholding tax originally considered by the Howard government in 1998. While the mining sector has broadly backed the concept of the community fund, BHP is opposed to tax breaks for native title payments to individuals, declaring they would be "free to spend (the benefits) at their discretion" rather than preserving them for future generations.</p> <p>All public submissions are available for download from: http://www.treasury.gov.au/contentitem.asp?ContentID=1916&NavID=037</p>	<p><i>Australian</i> (Australia, 20th December 2010), 2.</p>