

## NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

### SEPTEMBER 2014

DATE	STATE	SUBJECT	SUMMARY	SOURCE
30 September 2014	WA	Pilbara bush meeting sees vote to challenge Aboriginal Heritage Act amendments	At the Yule River meeting last week, around 200 people gathered to raise their concerns about the proposed changes to the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act</i> . The communities are calling on the WA Government to rethink the amendments.	<a href="#">ABC Rural</a> , Australia (30 September 2014) <a href="#">Crikey</a> , Australia (30 September 2014) <a href="#">ABC News PM</a> , Australia (30 September 2014)
29 September 2014	WA	Kimberley Land Council membership votes in its hundreds to oppose Government heritage proposals	At the Kimberley Land Council's (KLC) annual general meeting at remote Jarlmadangah, four hundred members voted unanimously to protest the WA Government's proposed amendments to the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act</i> .	<a href="#">The Stringer</a> , Australia (29 September 2014)
27 September 2014	Australia	Illegal traders of dugong, turtle meat targeted with \$5m poaching crackdown	Traditional owners have shown their support for the Federal Government's \$5 million dugong and turtle protection plan. The plan involves the Australian Federal Police, Customs and Border Protection and the Australian Crime Commission. The Government is warning people involved in the illegal trade of turtle and dugong meat that they will be caught.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia (27 September 2014)
26 September 2014	WA	Kimberley cultural festival organisers vow to fight sacred site law changes	The Biennial Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Festival was attended by around a thousand people in 2014. It was held in the remote community of Jarlmadangah. The changes to WA's Heritage Act dominated discussions at the festival this year.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia (26 September 2014)
25 September 2014	WA	Ancient Aboriginal sites at risk in the Pilbara	Mining was one of the reasons why forty-two years ago, the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972)</i> was brought into effect. It was designed to protect ancient rock paintings, standing stones and other important artefacts. The changes to the Heritage Act will throw sites back into risk.	<a href="#">The Australian</a> , Australia (25 September 2014)

25 September 2014	USA	US pays Navajo Nation \$554m for mishandling resources held in trust	The Obama administration has agreed to pay a record \$554m to the Navajo Nation the largest native American tribe that the Government funds, to settle longstanding claims about the mishandling of natural resources by the US government.	<a href="#">The Guardian</a> , Australia (25 September 2014)
24 September 2014	NT	'Forgotten' Woolwonga tribe demand recognition 130 years after 'extermination'	130 years after an Aboriginal girl known as Jennie survived the massacre of her people - the "warlike" Woolwonga of the Alligator River near Katherine her descendants will gather on what they say is their land to declare the lost tribe returned and call for official recognition.	<a href="#">Yahoo 7 News</a> , Australia (24 September 2014)
24 September 2014	WA	Meeting, petition over heritage plans	On Friday 26 September, the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) has organised a meeting to discuss proposed changes to Western Australia's <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act</i> . The petition is available at ymac.org.au	The Koori Mail, p 26, Australia (24 September 2014)
23 September 2014	WA	Native Title flare up as gas firm Buru Energy gets in first	The Yawuru people may have been granted their native title rights three weeks ago, but because Buru Energy's exploration permits have been granted for their fracking program on the Yawuru land, the Yawuru has no legal basis to veto the activities.	<a href="#">The Australian</a> , Australia (23 September 2014)
22 September 2014	QLD	In the eye of the freeholder: Indigenous communities now have the choice	A law firm writes that if amendments to the <i>Aboriginal Land Act 1991 (QLD)</i> and the <i>Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 (QLD)</i> are embraced, then from 1 January 2015 Indigenous communities will be able to transform land from community control to freehold ownership. This could lead to greater native title certainty for the proponents of projects in the specified areas of remote and regional Queensland.	<a href="#">Mondag</a> , Australia (22 September 2014)
19 September 2014	WA	Watering down of WA Heritage Act unacceptable	Last week on the steps of Western Australia's parliament, hundreds gathered to protest the looming changes to the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act</i> . Land Councils and Elders have said that the changes will see the trashing of the Act and the ascent of open slather for miners and developers.	<a href="#">NIRS</a> , Australia (19 September 2014) <a href="#">Fremantle Herald</a> , Western Australia (20 September 2014) <a href="#">The Stringer</a> , Australia (20 September 2014)
19 September 2014	QLD	Traditional owners sign deal with competing mining company over Cape York bauxite deposit	The Wik and Wik Way people of Aurukun are the native title holders of a bauxite deposit on Queensland's Cape York Peninsula. They have moved to block the State Government's decision to award the lease to a multinational mining company (Glencore International) by signing an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with a competing mining company, Aurukun Bauxite Developments (ABD), which had also applied for the lease.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia (19 September 2014) <a href="#">Mining Australia</a> , Australia (22 September 2014)
17 September 2014	NT	Irrkelantye thrown water lifeline but no thanks to NT Government	The Irrkelantye community which was left without running water when the Northern Territory Government cut its supply has been thrown a limited lifeline. The Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation has promised to supply water to the community for the next 12 months.	National Indigenous Times, p 7, Australia (17 September 2014)
17 September 2014	NT	Land Councils meet to decide if there is Country to house a nuclear waste dump	The Government has given the Northern and Central Land Council's until 30 September to put forward an uncontested site for a nuclear waste dump. If they cannot, the Federal Industry Minister will open the facility up for tender to the rest of the country.	National Indigenous Times, p 3, Australia (17 September 2014) The Koori Mail, p 3, Australia (24 September 2014)

15 September 2014	NT	Rirratjingu clan ready to sign historic lease over Yirrkala	Leaders of northeast Arnhem Land's second-largest clan want to discuss establishing a breakaway land council once they sign a 99-year lease over Yirrkala, the region's main Yolngu settlement.	<a href="#">The Australian</a> , Australia (15 September 2014)
15 September 2014	QLD	Rural leasehold land reforms in Queensland	According to a law firm, the amendments to the <i>Land Act</i> that took effect on 1 July 2014, have improved leasehold tenure security, removed obstacles to investment, reduced rents and opened new paths to freeholding in Queensland.	<a href="#">Mondag</a> , Australia (15 September 2014)
12 September 2014	Australia	Parliamentary Secretary Tudge: The Forrest Review	Andrew Forrest submitted The Forrest Review: Creating Parity to the Government in August. According to the website the review makes 27 bold recommendations and the Government will continue to consult extensively on the review until 20 September 2014.	<a href="#">Indigenous.gov.au</a> , Australia (12 September 2014)
11 September 2014	WA	Minister Scullion: Indigenous Protected Area in Central Desert	The 4 million hectare section of the Central Desert which includes the Wala Wala waterhole has been marked as an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) at a signing ceremony today. Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion congratulated the Kiwirrkurra native title holders on becoming the 61 <sup>st</sup> group in Australia to declare an IPA.	<a href="#">Indigenous.gov.au</a> , Australia (12 September 2014)
10 September 2014	Australia	Course to aid native title staff	Native Title leaders and workers can build their business acumen to support the commercial and strategic development of native title leaders at a new masterclass being run by the University of Melbourne.	The Koori Mail, p 18, Australia (10 September 2014)
9 September 2014	QLD	Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill	The Hon AC Powell introduced the <i>Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014</i> into Parliament. This bill aims to reinvigorate the Queensland Government's approach to conserving and promoting our important heritage assets, thereby forging strong connections with what is our living heritage.	<a href="#">Parliament</a> , Queensland (9 September 2014)
8 September 2014	VIC	Broad changes proposed for Victorian Aboriginal cultural heritage laws	The Draft Bill proposes a broad range of amendments to achieve the recognition of the role traditional owners play in Aboriginal cultural heritage protection and management.	<a href="#">Ashurst</a> , Australia (8 September 2014)
7 September 2014	NT	Whitegate residents standing firm	A pipe delivering water to Whitegate, a small community made up of tin shed housing, a single shower and limited power, was cut by the Northern Territory government more than three weeks ago. The Whitegate community is situated on crown land on the outskirts of Alice Springs and although native title rights are recognised there, it has no legal land tenure unlike other town camps in Alice Springs. Whitegate native title holder Felicity Hayes said "I'd like to see the water put back on...they don't have to go against us, we just need help to have a place to live."	<a href="#">ABC</a> , Alice Springs (7 September 2014) <a href="#">Lateline</a> , Australia (12 September 2014) <a href="#">The World Today</a> , ABC, Australia (12 September 2014) The Koori Mail, p 18, Australia (24 September 2014)
6 September 2014	QLD	Native Title Claim on Spit	NBN News claim that the Broadwater Marine Project will hit a snag when a local indigenous family submits a native title claim for the area in two weeks' time.	<a href="#">NBN</a> , Gold Coast (6 September 2014)

3 September 2014	Australia	For some, the chasm between what Land Councils should and should not do is just increasing	Some native title holders are claiming that some federally funded Land Councils are doing nothing to help them get their claims up and with land claims left unresolved, it opens the way for State governments and mining companies to give notice of intent to move and build stockpiles and rail lines on sacred land.	<a href="#">The Stringer</a> , Australia (3 September 2014)
3 September 2014	WA	20-year native title battle ends with economic triumph	20 years ago the Yawuru people formally began the process to regain rights to their traditional lands in the Broome region. At a ceremony attended by 300 people, the process ended with the unveiling of an agreement between the Yawuru and the Indigenous Land Corporation to transfer to Yawuru ownership land title to more than 276,000ha, comprising Roebuck Plains Station, the Roebuck Export Depot special lease and freehold title to the OTC Dampier block.	<a href="#">The Australian</a> , Australia (3 September 2014) The Koori Mail, p 29, Australia (10 September 2014)
3 September 2014	NSW	Whitehaven Coal warned to respect Aboriginal traditions at Maules Creek Mine	For the past 9 months, Aboriginal Traditional Custodians, the Gomeroi people have been unable to access land controlled by mining companies to carry out traditional ceremonies. Under its licence conditions, Whitehaven Coal has to allow Aboriginal Traditional Custodians "reasonable access" to the Maules Creek Mine. The mining company has been warned to respect traditions and allow access to the site.	<a href="#">ABC News</a> , Australia (3 September 2014) <a href="#">Namoi Valley Independent</a> , Australia (30 September 2014)
3 September 2014	NT	CLP wants in on the Act: Don't let NT take over Land Rights: Viner	According to the CPA's publication, Ian Viner AO QC, the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in the Fraser government who introduced the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act</i> in 1976, is opposed to the Commonwealth surrendering the Act to the Northern Territory.	<a href="#">The Guardian: The Communist Party of Australia</a> , Australia (3 September 2014)
3 September 2014	QLD	Mining and Native Title cooperation will bring benefits to Gulf	At a meeting in Townsville last week between MMG Century and Waanyi Native Title group representatives, a plan of action has been set which will see them address issues of common interest and work towards a strong and sustainable relationship.	<a href="#">MMG</a> , Australia (3 September 2014) <a href="#">The North West Star</a> , Australia (14 September 2014)
2 September 2014	WA	Barnett asks PM for \$350m	In a letter to the Prime Minister, Colin Barnett has asked for \$350 million to complement WA's record \$1.3 billion native title settlement over the South West. In January 2012, Mr Barnett savaged the Gillard government for walking away from a Keating-era in-principle agreement that the Commonwealth fund 75 per cent of State native title claims. Mr Barnett has said the Government had a moral duty to continue to help fund native title.	<a href="#">The West Australian</a> , Australia (2 September 2014)

1 September 2014	SA	SA native title bid 18 years in the making	<p>One of the most complex native title claims in South Australian history has been resolved when the federal court recognised a native title claim by the Kokatha people. Court proceedings to resolve the claim have been ongoing since 1996. Immediately after the hearing, an indigenous land use agreement between the Kokatha people, the state government and mining giant BHP Billiton was to be created. The agreement will provide the Kokatha people with financial compensation recognising the past extinguishment of native title by the state.</p>	<p><a href="#">Yahoo 7 news</a>, Australia (1 September 2014)  <a href="#">NT News</a>, Australia (1 September 2014)  <a href="#">The Guardian</a>, Australia (2 September 2014)  <a href="#">Roxby Downs Sun</a>, South Australia (3 September 2014)  The Koori Mail, p 13, Australia (10 September 2014)  National Indigenous Times, p 10, Australia (17 September 2014)</p>
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