

Yandicoogina

An agreement, hailed as native title's biggest success story since the legislation came into force, has been signed between RTZ-CRA subsidiary Hamersley Iron, the Gumala Aboriginal Corporation and 13 native title claimants. The agreement allows the Yandicoogina iron ore mine in the Pilbara to proceed. Under the agreement Hamersley Iron will pay \$60 million in compensation over the life of the mine into a trust fund to pay for community development. (*WA, 27 Mar, and Aus, 7 Apr*)

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NATIVE TITLE IN THE NEWS

(Note: Where an item also appears in other newspapers, etc, an asterisk (*) will be used. People are invited to contact the Native Title Research Unit at AIATSIS if they want the additional references. As usual, NTRU will try to provide people with copies of particular newspaper articles on request.)

Aus = Australian
Ad = Advertiser (SA)
CM = Courier Mail (QLD)
CP = Cairns Post
CT = Canberra Times
Fin R = Financial Review
HS = Herald Sun (VIC)
Mer = Hobart Mercury
LE = Launceston Examiner
NTN = Northern Territory News
SMH = Sydney Morning Herald
Tel M = Telegraph Mirror (NSW)
WA = West Australian
WAus = Weekend Australian
KM = Kalgoorlie Miner

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CLAIMS

NSW

Moree

40 claims have been lodged to 20 per cent of the 32,000 hectares of travelling stock routes in the Moree Rural Lands Protection Board district. The Moree Rural Lands Protection Board will oppose the claim. (*The Land, 6 Feb, p6*)

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Narrandera [NNTT Ref#NC96/19]

The Wiradjuri people have claimed 48 separate areas within the town of Narrandera including parts of the cemetery, memorial gardens, race track, showground and school. The Narrandera shire announced that it had many implications for public works projects on land subject to the claim. Pre-Mediation meetings are being held in February. (*The Land*, 6 Feb, p9)

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South Coast [NNTT Ref# NC97/1]

Debra Jopson reviews South Coast land claims between Sydney and Ulladulla and the effect on Aboriginal communities in *SMH* feature article (*SMH*, Feb 24, p11).

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Lightning Ridge [NNTT Ref#NC96/26]

A public meeting heard concerns over a land claim by the Euahiay-i. The claim affects the town, opal mines and grazing properties. (*DT*, 25 Mar, p17)

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VICTORIA

Yorta Yorta [NNTT Ref#VC94/1]

The Corowa Shire has appealed for State and Federal Government financial assistance to local councils involved in mounting a response to the Yorta Yorta case. (*Corowa Free Press*, 5 Mar,)

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Wilson's Promontory [NNTT Ref#VC97/2]

The Gunai-Kurnai and Boonwurung peoples have lodged a joint claim over 490 square kilometres of Crown land in and near Wilson's Promontory National Park. ATSIC Commissioner Geoff Clark said the group would have preferred to negotiate outside of the Tribunal system, agreeing with the Premier that the legal process was slow. Mr Kennett has argued for a sunset clause to limit lodgment and determination periods (*Age*, 18 Mar, p5)*. The claim has the support of Gippsland independent MLA Susan Davies. (*HS*, 19 Mar, p24)*

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Gunai [NNTT Ref#VC97/4]

The Gunai have lodged a claim over all Crown land and water from Wilson's Promontory to Mallacoota. The claim includes the coal rich La Trobe Valley, the southern Alps, the Mount Hotham Ski resort and several national parks. Spokesperson for the Gunai, Mr Albert Mullett, said his people were sick of living on government handouts and wanted a

say in the management of the region. He believed that white people had failed to protect the region from environmental damage and to manage and conserve its assets properly. (*Age*, 31 Mar, pA4)

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Queensland

Gunggari and Bidjara claims [NNTT Ref#QC96/1 and QC/97/1]

Landowners meeting to discuss the Gunggari claim in the Roma/Charleville area and the Bidjara claim in the Charleville/ Mitchell area have said regional agreements are unacceptable. (*CM*, 15 Feb , p4)

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SW Qld [NNTT Ref#QC97/4]

The Wanggumara people have lodged a claim for approx. 2 million hectares of land covering land and waters in the Cooper Basin including sections of the Karmona, Durham Downs and Chastleton pastoral holdings. The claim excludes land identified by the first claim in July 1996.[NNTT Ref#QC96/13] (*Toowoomba Chronicle*, 7 Feb, p5)

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Western Australia

Mirriuwung Gajerrong #1 [NNTT Ref#WC94/2]

Kimberley artist Paddy Carlton Gwanbany will present his paintings in the Federal Court in July as proof of his Gadgerong people's native title; this follows the precedent set by Queenie McKenzie whose paintings were used in a claim against mining in Purnululu National Park. (*The Bulletin*, Mar 11, p17)

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Swan Valley [NNTT Ref#WC95/81]

Federal Court ruled that Bluegate Nominees could continue building a jetty for the Old Swan Brewery development, Aboriginal groups say it proves their fears that they have no rights under native title legislation. (*WA*, 3 Feb, p7)

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Ord River Development Area [NNTT Ref#WC94/2]

Mirriuwung and Gajerrong people with Ord River claims, warned Aboriginal negotiators against extinguishment of native title and a trade off of common law rights in a response to the recent NFF advertising

campaign. (*WA, 25 Mar, p10*)

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Northern Territory

Mbantuarinya Arrernte [NNTT Ref#DC94/2]

A claim filed by the Central Land Council for the Mbantuarinya Arrernte group which will go before the Federal Court in July, includes a claim on water and natural resources (*NTN, 14 Feb, p14*). The Government moved a censure motion against Opposition leader, Maggie Hickey, for failing to explain the ALP position on the claim. (*NTN, 20 Feb, p12*)

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Croker Island [NNTT Ref#DC94/6]

The first marine native title case, for waters 250 km north of Darwin claimed by the people of Croker Island, will be heard in the Federal Court next month. The Government's advice suggests that native title exists off-shore only to three nautical miles. (*Aus, 18 Mar, p13*)

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Larrakia [NNTT Ref# DC96/7]

The NT Labor Party who previously opposed the Larrakia claim as an ambit claim, will now support a negotiated settlement. (*NTN, 14 Mar, p2*)

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South Australia

De Rose Hill [NNTT Ref# SC94/2]

South Australia's first native title land claim opened in the Federal Court. The 1803 sq km claim embraces the pastoral leases of Agnes Creek, Paxton Bluff North and South and De Rose Hill. The claim was referred to the Federal Court after a breakdown in mediation. (*Ad, 5 Feb, p.7*)

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NATIVE TITLE ACT AMENDMENTS

The *Courier Mail* editor says regardless of the Century Zinc outcome, amendments to the Native Title Act, with a commitment from all parties, are required. (*CM, 17 Feb*) The Social Justice Commissioner, speaking at a racism conference, said the government's proposed amendments to the NTA were 'comprehensively wrong' and their legal basis has been superseded by Mabo. (*Sun CT, 23 Feb, p4*)

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