
MONTHS IN REVIEW

MAY-JUNE

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01/05 The National Commission of Audit report is released. The report recommends reducing the 150 Indigenous programmes under the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to no more than six to seven programmes with identified outcomes.

07/05 The Federal Court of the Northern Territory ('NT') recognises the native title rights of the Gurindji people over the Kalkarindji Township and Bushy Park Station

08/05 The Queensland ('Qld') Government introduces the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land (Providing Freehold) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. The Bill provides Indigenous communities the opportunity of obtaining an ordinary freehold title in the local shires and also simplifies leasing agreements for effective land management.

12/05 The New South Wales ('NSW') Parliamentary Inquiry into the case of three murdered Aboriginal children in Bowraville from 1990-91 continues with a public hearing in Sydney.

12-23/05 The 13th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is held in New York and attended by UN Expert Member and Indigenous Law Centre Director, Professor Megan Davis.

13/05 The Federal Government releases the 2014-15 Budget which includes a \$549.4 million funding cut from Indigenous programs and a \$13.41 million funding cut from Indigenous Legal Aid and Policy Reform Programs.

14/05 Members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations including National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services ('NATSILS') and the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples respond to the Federal Budget in Canberra.

21/05 Architectural anthropologist Dr Elizabeth Grant raises concerns over how South Australia has failed to improve prison safety for Aboriginal inmates. Dr Grant's article on the issue was published in Volume 17 (1) of the *Australian Indigenous Law Review*.

26/05 National Sorry Day is observed.

27/05 The 47th anniversary of the 1967 referendum is observed; National Reconciliation Week 2014 begins.

28/05 The Queensland Electoral Reform Amendment Bill 2013 is passed

with amendments by the Qld Parliament. The Bill makes Qld the first state to require voters to show their identity before casting their vote.

31/05 The Federal Court determines the native title rights of the Nyikina Mangala people over 26 000sq km of land from the King Sound, through the Fitzroy Valley, to Noonkanbah and the Great Sandy Desert in Western Australia.

02-04/06 The AIATSIS and NTSCORP Ltd annual National Native Title Conference: *Living with Native title, from the Bush to the Sea*, is held in Coffs Harbour, NSW.

03/06 The 22nd anniversary of the landmark *Mabo* High Court is observed. The case removed the myth of terra nullius and paved the way for Native Title legislation; National Reconciliation Week 2014 concludes.

03/06 The Federal Government announces a proposal for Indigenous communities to put native title payments into a tax-exempt community future fund to promote economic development.

04/06 The NT Police Association ('NTPA') contributes evidence to the House Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs as part of the committee's inquiry into the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

08/06 A ceremony to commemorate the 1838 Myall Creek Massacre is held in northern NSW.

09/06 Quandamooka Elders from North Stradbroke Island present a writ the High Court challenging the Qld Government over plans to allow Sibelco to extend its sand mine operation to 2035.

09/06 World-renowned opera singer and Yorta Yorta woman, Deborah Cheetham receives an Office of the Order of Australia award for her musical achievements and work with Indigenous artists.

12/06 The anniversary of Eddie Murray's death is marked with a rally in the NSW town of Wee Waa calling for justice into the 21-year olds death in 1981.

19/06 Northern Land Council withdraws its nomination of Muckaty Station, north of Tennant Creek as the site for Australia's first nuclear waste dump.

24-27/06 The World Indigenous Legal Conference 2014 is held in Brisbane.