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Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Native Title Research Unit

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NATIVE TITLE NEWSLETTER

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NATIVE TITLE NEWS OF FEBRUARY - MARCH 1997

National Indigenous Working Group on Native Title

At a press conference at Parliament House Canberra on April 16th the *National Indigenous Working Group on Native Title* (NIWG) released a position paper on the Indigenous response to the Wik decision and the Government's proposed amendments to the Native Title Act 1993. The 22 page document called *Co-existence: negotiation and certainty* presents the NIWG position on coexistence of rights on pastoral leases; amendments to the Native Title Act; agreements; Indigenous representative bodies; validation of mining and other interests; Indigenous economic empowerment package; recognition of native title on Aboriginal reserves and leases and heritage protection. The NIWG position is based on six key principles developed at the Wik Summit in Cairns and presented to the Prime Minister on February 7th.

The position paper is available on the Internet through FAIRA's web site at <http://www.thehub.com.au/~faira/niwg/>. This site is to be used by the National Indigenous Working Group on Native Title to keep people informed of events. The contact for the National Indigenous Working Group on Native Title is Olga Havnen Ph: (06) 234 3330 or Fax: (06) 282 4109.

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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]