

What's happening around the country?

All endotes can be found on page 30.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

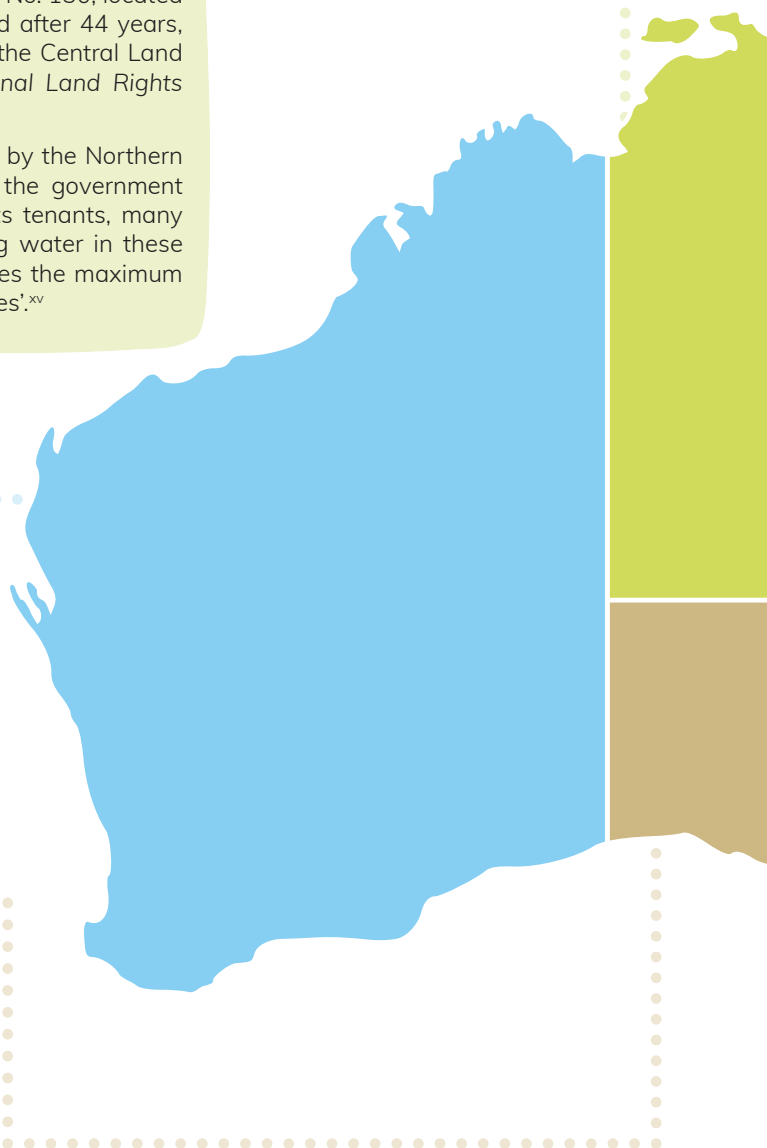
- In November, the Wakaya-Alyawarre (Repeat) Land Claim No. 130, located in the Barkly Region of the Northern Territory, was settled after 44 years, having been commenced in 1980. The claim was one of the Central Land Council's last two outstanding claims under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth)*.^{xiv}
- The Northern Territory Government will appeal a decision by the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal, which found the government legally responsible for providing safe drinking water to its tenants, many of whom live in remote Indigenous communities. Drinking water in these communities was found to have uranium levels 'three times the maximum safe level set out in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines'.^{xv}

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- The Federal Court awarded \$144 million to Aboriginal station workers and their families in compensation for stolen wages.^{xii}
- Wildcat Resources discovers Australia's largest undeveloped lithium resource for its Tabba Tabba project in the Pilbara region.^{xiii}

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- South Australia's First Nations Voice to Parliament delivered its historic first speech to Parliament on 27 November 2024, discussing the work of the Voice over the past year.^x
- The Aboriginal Heritage (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024 has passed all stages and is awaiting Royal Assent. The Bill will introduce harsher penalties for offences against cultural heritage, clarify reporting obligations, and allows a court to make 'make good' orders.^{xi}



QUEENSLAND

- The Path to Treaty Act 2023 has been repealed by the Queensland Government. As a consequence, the Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry will be dissolved.ⁱ The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Ms Katie Kiss warned that the dissolution of the Inquiry was 'a devastating step backwards for First Nations rights and a blow to respectful relationships between the state government and Indigenous Queenslanders.'
- New environmental laws passed in June 2024 provide the environmental regulator with 'additional tools to prevent environmental harm before it occurs', and makes clear 'that environmental "nuisance" can be considered "serious" or "material" environmental harm'.ⁱⁱ
- As of late November, the Ravenswood Gold mine, the largest gold mining operation in Queensland, is on the market.ⁱⁱⁱ

NEW SOUTH WALES

- On 18 October 2024, the NSW Government released its Critical Minerals Strategy, at the core of which is the government's 'vision for NSW to become a global leader in critical minerals production'.^{iv}
- Two Byron Bay locations now have official dual names in English and Bundjalung (Arakwal) Language: Cape Byron is also known as Walgun, and Julian Rocks is also known as Nguthungulli.^v

VICTORIA

- The Historic Cultural Heritage Amendment Bill 2024 received Royal Assent on 15 November 2024. The purpose of the Bill is to 'afford greater protection to historic heritage places, address anomalies or deficiencies that have become apparent and improve administrative processes'.^{vi}
- Applications for Exploration Release Areas (ERAs) – areas relinquished from exploration licences – will open on 16 December 2024.^{vii}

TASMANIA

- Statewide Treaty negotiations between the Victorian Government and the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria formally began on 21 November 2024.^{viii}
- Consultation for the proposed land management plan to protect culturally significant sites in the Mount Arapiles-Tooon State Park has reopened. The public has until 14 February 2025 to comment on draft management plan.^{ix}

What's happening around the country? - Page 14 and 15 footnotes

- ⁱ See here for more information: <https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/laws-to-end-path-to-treaty-fast-tracked-in-shock-move/k0mweau1n>
- ⁱⁱ More information: <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/100565>.
- ⁱⁱⁱ More information: <https://industryqld.com.au/ravenswood-gold-officially-on-the-market/>
- ^{iv} More information: <https://nswmining.com.au/news/nsw-govt-releases-critical-minerals-strategy/>
- ^v More information: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/geographical-names-board/news/iconic-byron-bay-locations-have-dual-aboriginal-name-added>
- ^{vi} More information: <https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/news-stories/yoorrook-welcomes-treaty/>
- ^{vii} More information: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-12-01/climbers-unhappy-about-consultation-to-protect-arapiles/104668208>
- ^{viii} More information: https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/83702/32_of_2024-Fact-Sheet.pdf
- ^{ix} More information: https://www.mrt.tas.gov.au/news/eras_opening_for_submission_in_december_2024
- ^x More information: <https://www.firstnationsvoice.sa.gov.au/state-voice/how-will-the-state-voice-talk-to-parliament/address-to-parliament>
- ^{xi} More information: [https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/_legislation/lz/b/current/aboriginal%20heritage%20\(miscellaneous\)%20amendment%20bill%202024/unofficial%20royal%20arms/aboriginal%20miscellaneous%20amendment%20bill%202024.un.pdf](https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/_legislation/lz/b/current/aboriginal%20heritage%20(miscellaneous)%20amendment%20bill%202024/unofficial%20royal%20arms/aboriginal%20miscellaneous%20amendment%20bill%202024.un.pdf)
- ^{xii} More information: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-11-27/federal-court-judgement-144-million-stolen-wages-to-families/104644674>
- ^{xiii} More information: <https://www.australianmining.com.au/wildcat-delivers-australias-largest-undeveloped-lithium-resource/>
- ^{xiv} More information: <https://nit.com.au/27-11-2024/15082/too-many-of-us-have-died-waiting-for-this-day-44-years-after-it-began-historic-nt-land-claim-finalised-in-federal-parliament>
- ^{xv} More information: <https://nit.com.au/28-11-2024/15120/nt-government-seeks-to-dodge-responsibility-for-tenants-drinking-water>