

**Native Title in the News  
January / February 2012**

Date	State	Subject / Title	Summary	Source
17/01/2012	SA	<b>Tasman Resources</b>	Native title negotiations between the Kokatha Uwankara people and Tasman Resources will continue after a preliminary Aboriginal heritage survey report indicated half of the proposed drill holes at its Vulcan prospect will be approved. The company said it was still waiting on the final report from an Aboriginal heritage survey conducted in October at the Vulcan prospect, 30 km north-east of Olympic Dam in far north South Australia.	<i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> (Adelaide SA, 17 January 2012), 26.
31/01/2012	NSW	<b>Members welcome at Elders' meeting</b>	<p>The Dunghutti Elders Council held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 2 February 2012. The corporation was placed under special administration by the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations in September 2011. Changes to the membership application process and the appointment of a new board of directors were discussed.</p> <p>The AGM was presided over by special administrators Andrew Bowcher and Tim Gumbleton from RSM Bird Cameron Chartered Accountants. The period of special administration ended on March 1 with the new board of directors taking control of the corporation.</p>	<i>Macleay Argus</i> (Kempsey NSW, 31 January 2012), 3.
1/02/2012	Vic	<b>A step closer; native title recognition</b>	The Dja Dja Wurrung people are a step closer to receiving formal recognition of native title rights after the release of a proposed native settlement agreement area by the State Government of Victoria. The state government has released a map that it and the Dja Dja Wurrung native title negotiation committee have agreed to. The proposed area includes Crown land from Bendigo to Donald and Boort to Creswick. The Victorian Government has called for Dja Dja Wurrung people to have an input into the proposed settlement agreement. Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation Chairman Graham Atkinson also chairs the native title negotiating committee. He said he hoped Dja Dja Wurrung people would participate in a call for submissions.	<i>Bendigo Advertiser</i> , (Bendigo VIC, 1 February 2012), 1. <i>Bendigo Advertiser</i> , (Bendigo VIC, 1 February 2012), 8. <i>Loddon Times</i> , (Loddon VIC, 8 February 2012), 1. <i>Loddon Times</i> , (Loddon VIC, 8 February 2012), 3.

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			<p>The public have until 7 March to make a formal submission to the Department of Justice. The explanatory memo is available from the Department of Justice website at:  <a href="http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/resources/8/b/8bc8c80048c1a8e89758bf3432207392/explanatorymemo.pdf">http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/resources/8/b/8bc8c80048c1a8e89758bf3432207392/explanatorymemo.pdf</a></p>	
03/02/2012	AU	<b>Tax-break for native title</b>	<p>A group including members of Minerals Council of Australia and Indigenous leader Marcia Langton met Treasury officials in early February to discuss the tax treatment of native title payments and the creation of a tax-exempt Indigenous community fund. The group aim to secure the Gillard Government's support for an Indigenous Community Development Corporation as a new model for managing native title and other payments negotiated by traditional owners and Indigenous groups. It is proposed that the ICDC will be able to accept and distribute funds on a tax-free basis, to maximise the economic and social benefits for communities and reduce administration.</p>	<p><i>Australian</i>, (AU, 03 February 2012), 6.</p>
04/02/2012	WA	<b>\$1 billion offer to native title claimants</b>	<p>An alternative settlement estimated to include a \$1 billion package of cash injections and land transfers to the Noongar people of Perth and south-west of Western Australia has been offered by the Western Australian Government.</p> <p>Outlining the offer, WA Premier Cohn Barnett said he was optimistic of reaching a deal that would extinguish all future native title claims for the area and benefit an estimated 35,000 Noongar descendants. The proposed deal has received bipartisan support from WA's Labor Opposition. WA Attorney-General Christian Porter, who has been overseeing the negotiations, said the negotiations would now begin in earnest. He said the federal government would be invited to join the negotiations and to honour a promise from the time of the Keating Government to pay 75% of the costs of the native title settlement. The announcement of the settlement package has led to significant protests throughout Perth.</p> <p>SWALSC Chief Executive Glen Kelly said the offer put an end to a frustrating period of negotiations. For more information on the deal see the SWALSC website at:</p>	<p><i>Weekend West</i>, (Perth WA, 04 February 2012), 1. <i>Sunday Canberra Times</i>, (Canberra ACT, 5 February 2012), 12. <i>Sunday Times</i>, (Perth WA, 05 February 2012), 37. <i>Augusta Margaret River Times</i>, (Margaret River WA, 10 February 2012), 6. <i>Busselton Dunsborough Times</i> (Busselton WA, 10 february 2012), 2. <i>Weekend Australian</i>, (AU, 11 February 2012), 8. <i>Weekend West</i>, (Perth WA, 11 February 2012) 3. <i>Australian</i>, (AU, 09 February 2012), 3.</p>

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			<a href="http://www.noongar.org.au/">http://www.noongar.org.au/</a>	<p><i>Northern Daily Leader</i>, (Tamworth NSW, 9 February 2012), 9. <i>Burnie Advocate</i>, (Burnie TAS, 9 February 2012), 12. <i>Canberra Times</i>, (Canberra ACT, 9 February 2012), 6. <i>West Australian</i>, (Perth WA, 9 February 2012), 1. <i>Australian</i>, (AU 09 February 2012), 3. <i>West Australian</i> (Perth WA, 9 February 2012), 4. <i>West Australian</i> (Perth WA, 10 February 2012), 6. <i>Weekend Courier</i> (Perth WA, 10 December 2012), 3. <i>Koori Mail</i> (22 February 2012), 6.</p>
25/02/2012	WA	<b>Rival land claims</b>	<p>Woodside Petroleum's plans to build a \$40 billion gas plant on the Kimberley coast are under further questions after two Indigenous groups voted to split their native title application. This move could force the WA Government to negotiate with traditional owner Joseph Roe, who opposes the gas plant at James Price Point. The group reportedly voted to remove several Goolarabooloo ancestors from the combined claim, which allowed for it to be de-registered with the National Native Title Tribunal. Kimberley Land Council Chief Executive Nolan Hunter said he did not have details of the vote and the KLC did not organize the meeting. Woodside and the WA Government refused to comment.</p>	<p><i>Weekend Australian</i> (Australia, 25 February 2012), 8</p>