

Native Title in the News March 2008

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
01-Mar-08	NATIONAL	Native Title Talks	The Federal Government will 'seek to negotiate more settlements to native title claims' with Attorney General Robert McClelland saying that 'the Government would also try to make native title more effective in providing economic development opportunities for Indigenous people'.	<i>Burnie Advocate</i> (Burnie, 1 March 2008), 17; 'Native Title Shake Up to Boost Communities' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 7 March 2008), 2; 'End native title litigation says AG' <i>Australian</i> (National, 7 March 2008), 30; 'ALP promises major change on native title' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 7 March 2008), 18; 'Native title to be fast tracked' <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay, 6 March 2008), 10.
01-Mar-08	NATIONAL	Industry leaders to review Kimberley and NW potential	Mining Industry leaders 'will convene on Broome from March 17 to 19 to review the future for mining and development' of the North West and Kimberley region. The conference will be held at the Cable Beach resort.	<i>Mining Chronicle</i> (National, March 2008), 124.
04-Mar-08	NT	Macklin to offer land lease deal	Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin will offer the Indigenous community of Groote Eylandt the opportunity to 'opt for a shorter lease in the first practical application of amendments to the individual indigenous home ownership scheme'. The township had previously 'reached in principle agreements with the commonwealth for 99 year leases over their land in exchange for projects that would be worth \$20	<i>Australian</i> (National, 4 March 2008), 8; 'Govt reviews short leases for townships' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 4 March 2008), 2; 'Grants to help those struck down by genetic lottery' <i>Age</i>

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			million'. The government is considering amending the Land Rights Act 1976 to 'give communities the option to sign on to shorter township leases'.	(Melbourne, 5 March 2008), 6; 'Macklin clears way for indigenous leases' <i>Australian</i> (National, 5 March 2008), 4; 'Dreaming of an equal chance' <i>Weekend Australian</i> (National, 29 March 2008), 29.
05-Mar-08	NT	Permit System reinstated`	Indigenous affairs Minister Jenny Macklin has introduced amendments that will 'remove the right of people (except government officials and journalists) to access remote Aboriginal communities unless they have a permit'. Sarah Hudson from the Centre of Independent Studies argues that land council control of the permit system has 'stifled business and tourism opportunities'. The Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance has released a 'proposed code of conduct for journalists entering Aboriginal towns'.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 5 March 2008), 17; 'Open access' <i>Geelong Advertiser</i> (Geelong, 10 March 2008), 15; 'Controversial leases under scheme could be shorter, Macklin says' <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay, 6 March 2008), 6; 'Media union adds its own barriers to permit system' <i>Australian</i> (National, 18 March 2008), 3; 'Barriers to permit system' <i>Australian</i> (20 March 2008), 17.
05-Mar-08	NT	Fresh challenge	The Northern Territory's Mineral Council's executive director Kezia Purick has left the organisation to join Austwide Mining Title Management.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 5 March 2008), 23.

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07-Mar-08	NATIONAL	Aborigines fighting intervention have a lot to contend with	Traditional owners Reggie Wurridjal and Joy Garlbin from western Arnhem Land are challenging the federal government's Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act on the basis that no 'just terms have been offered'. They also argue that 'just terms are not just a monetary payoff. Maningrida wants the likes of sacred sites and traditional foraging rights protected from interference by the intervention; and Bawinanga wants its considerable assets protected from seizure'.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 7 March 2008), 29.
08-Mar-08	NT	Decade long title bid fails	Native title claimant Tibby Quall on behalf of the Danggalaba clan has been refused leave to appeal a decision to not recognise native title over the Darwin region. Mr Quall argued that the hearing should be adjourned until he could find sufficient legal representation. However justices Kenneth Hayne and Susan Crennan said that 'Mr Quall would not have sufficient chance of success to give him special leave to appeal'.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 8 March 2008), 11.
08-Mar-08	WA	Native Title no Gift for Roeburn	The recognition of the native title rights and interests of the Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi has also meant that 'people had to a part of a legally defined tribal group'. This has led to the emergence of a flurry of claimants, some based around small family groupings'. Little has progressed since the successful claims and the money that has come from the native title process has 'not been widely distributed in the community.' There is also continuing debate between the state and federal government in terms of who will control the development of the Burrup with the Federal Court ruling that native title in the region has been extinguished'.	<i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 8 March 2008), 21

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14-Mar-08	VIC	Native title claims overhaul	Indigenous Leader Mick Dodson 'will head a new committee to overhaul the way native title claims are resolved in Victoria'. The new system 'aims to settle disputes outside the court system with the State Government negotiating directly with traditional owners'. Victorian Attorney General Robert Hulls said that 'indigenous groups will need to prove their traditional connection to the land claimed'.	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 14 March 2008), 8
15-Mar-08	NSW	Aboriginal workshop	A workshop on agreement making and land and water management was held at Corindi on 19 March 2008. The workshop focused on the Aboriginal Natural Resource Agreement Kits.	<i>Daily Examiner</i> (Grafton, 15 March 2008), 3.

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<p>18-Mar-08</p>	<p>NT</p>	<p>Investigation ordered into feuding land council</p>	<p>Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin and Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner have ordered an inquiry into the management of the Northern Land Council.</p>	<p><i>Australian</i> (National, 18 March 2008), 7; 'Review into powerful land council' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 18 March 2008), 3; 'Land council in the red' <i>Australian</i> (National, 17 March 2008), 2; 'Northern Exposure' <i>Australian</i> (National, 19 March 2008), 13; 'NLC Staff pursue bullying compo' <i>Australian</i> (National, 19 March 2008), 8; 'Land council investigation' <i>Launceston Examiner</i> (Launceston, 18 March 2008), 12; 'Land council probe' <i>Canberra Times</i> (18 March 2008), 2; 'Land council to be investigated' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 18 March 2008), 6; 'Cwealth announces investigation into NLC' <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (National, 20 March 2008), 4.</p>
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18-Mar-08	NSW	No view on land claim	The Glen Innes Severn Council has 'decided not to oppose an Aboriginal land claim over vacant crown land on the South-West boundary of Glen Innes'. The claim was made by the Glen Innes Aboriginal Lands Council under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983.	<i>Glen Innes Examiner</i> (Glen Innes, 18 March 2008), 3.
19-Mar-08	SA	Notice initiating negotiations with native title parties	A notice issued by Pirie Resources initiating negotiations with native title parties concerning proposed exploration has been issued.	<i>Advertiser</i> (Adelaide, 19 March 2008), 82
19-Mar-08	NT	Land owners pull support for Rio's sale of uranium	Rio Tinto has 'lost critical support for the proposed sale of its high grade Kintyre uranium deposit'. Offers made by Rio to the 'Martu people, the traditional owners, to win their support for the sale are 'embarrassingly low" despite their support being critical to the development of the Kintyre deposit.	<i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 19 March 2008), 79; 'Rio loses support of Martu' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 19 March 2008), 28; 'Martu back away from Rio over WA's Kintyre uranium stake' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 19 March 2008), 1.
19-Mar-08	QLD	Reconnecting with country	Traditional owner rangers, Yuku BajaMuliku men 'are the new custodians of more than 1600 hectares of Aboriginal freehold land in the Annan River and Archer Point area. 'The rangers will be responsible for the 'maintenance of existing camp grounds, building new camp grounds, feral animal and weed management and track maintenance'. This program is similar to ranger programs in Cape York.	<i>Cooktown Local News</i> (Cooktown, 19 March 2008), 9.

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20-Mar-08	QLD	Past Present and future come together with Girramay Land Use Agreement	The Cardwell Shire Council has signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Girramay People. The Girramay people originally lodged their claim in 1997 which covers an area from the Murray River south to the Cardwell Shire boundary.	<i>Tully Times</i> (Tully, 20 March 2008), 3.
25-Mar-08	NATIONAL	Legal Aid tops attorney-generals agenda	South Australian Attorney General Michael Atkinson will 'host the first Standing Committee of Attorney General' and will 'also urge state and federal attorney general to follow his state lead in settling indigenous land claims in a practical and consultative way rather than through expensive native title court cases'.	<i>Australian Financial Review</i> (National, 25 March 2008), 9
26-Mar-08	NSW	Restoring the land	Three local Aboriginal land councils, the Yaegl, Thirny Island and Birrigan, Local Aboriginal Land Council have been 'awarded grants to help restore and protect their land'.	<i>Clarence Valley Review</i> (Iluka, 26 March 2008), 4.
27-Mar-08	VIC	Land claim changes possible	A new framework developed between the Victorian State Government and the traditional landowners aims to minimise 'waiting periods for native title claim settlements'. Deputy Premier and Attorney General Rob Hulls said 'the development of the framework would allow the State Government to be proactive rather than reactive when settling claims'.	<i>Warrnambool Standard</i> (Warrnambool, 27 March 2008), 4.

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27-Mar-08	QLD	Aboriginal elders form land groups	Indigenous elders will have 'greater input into land management issues following the set up of the Queensland Murray Darling Committee Regional Aboriginal Advisory Group.' The Group will 'provide technical advice to the QMDC about cultural heritage and natural resource management issues'.	<i>Balonne Beacon (St George) (St George, 27 March 2008), 3.</i>
27-Mar-08	QLD	Managing linked to tenure security	Former land commissioner Peter Tannock has said that leaseholders should familiarise themselves with the state strategy for managing rural leasehold land. Under the scheme 'security of tenure will now be linked to land condition assessments, indigenous land use agreements and access agreements'.	<i>Queensland Country Life (Queensland, 27 March 2008), 19.</i>
28-Mar-08	WA	Indigenous veto threat to State development: Libs	State Development Minister Eric Ripper has 'confirmed that the development of a...gas hub in the Browse Basin off Broome would centre on approval by the land's indigenous owners'.	<i>West Australian (Perth, 28 March, 2008), 14; 'Indigenous power to veto is a danger, says Barnett' West Australian (28 March 2008), 14.</i>
28-Mar-08	NATIONAL	Leader demands real value of land	Indigenous leader Galarrwuy Yunupingu has 'called for Aboriginal land to be given its real value through more flexible leasing arrangements that also take into account mineral wealth'.	<i>Australian (National, 28 March 2008), 7.</i>
29-Mar-08	VIC	Lake Condah returns to its indigenous owners	The Gunditjmara Aboriginal nation will 'regain control of the remainder of Lake Condah State Reserve' when Environment Minister Gavin Jennings hands 'over ownership of the Kerrup Jmara homelands to the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation'. This follows last years consent	<i>Warrnambool Standard (Warrnambool, 29 March 2008), 7; 'Melbourne' Queensland Times (Ipswich, 31 March 2008), 23; 'Lake returned to</i>

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			<p>determination recognising Gunditjmara rights and interests.</p>	<p>Aborigines' <i>Herald Sun</i> (Melbourne, 31 March 2008), 10; <i>Daily Mercury</i> (Mackay, 31 March 2008), 10; <i>Chronicle</i> (Toowoomba, 31 March 2008), 24; 'Land returned in native title victory' <i>Sunraysia Daily</i> (Mildura, 31 March 2008), 13; <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 31 March 2008), 7; <i>Daily News</i> (Warwick, 31 March 2008), 6; <i>News-Mail</i> (Bundaberg, 31 March 2008), 26; 'Aboriginal group gets native title' <i>Ballarat Courier</i> (Ballarat, 31 March 2008), 4; 'Native Title granted' <i>Bendigo Advertiser</i> (Bendigo, 31 March 2008), 3; 'Aboriginal group wins claim' <i>Geelong Advertiser</i> (Geelong, 31 March 2008), 9; 'Lake Condah Native title to be returned' <i>Portland Observer</i> (28 March 2008), 5; 'Lake returns to its traditional owners' <i>Warrnambool Standard</i> (Warrnambool, 31 March 2008), 5.</p>
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29-Mar-08	QLD	Gubbi Gubbi dam fight	Gubbi Gubbi traditional owner Eve Fesl is challenging the State Government's 'bid to extinguish the Native Title claims of the Gubbi Gubbi group' in order to continue with the construction of a dam in the area. The Gubbi Gubbi had originally rejected an 'Indigenous Land Use Agreement in defence of the sacred lungfish...which [are] regarded as a symbol of the connection of people with the land'.	<i>Gympie Times</i> (Gympie, 29 March 2008), 9.
31-Mar-08	VIC	Mining giants urged to give Aborigines fair share	Federal Resource Minister Martin Ferguson has said that the 'minerals boom should deliver economic benefits to remote communities' and supported the 'idea of traditional owners taking a direct stake in projects through share holdings rather than sitting back and waiting for passive income or handouts'.	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 31 March 2008), 5.