

Native Title in the News September 2008

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
01-Sep-08	NSW	Mutawintji anniversary	The anniversary of the return of Mutawintji lands in 1998 will be celebrated this week.	<i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (Broken Hill, 1 September 2008), 5.
01-Sep-08	VIC	Aboriginal party appointed	The Wurundjeri Tribe Council has been appointed as an Aboriginal party to 'manage and protect' cultural heritage.	<i>Lilydale & Yarra Valley Leader</i> (Melbourne, 1 September 2008), 6.
01-Sep-08	WA	WA government claims victory against tenement backlog	The Government of Western Australia has said that it has 'managed to reduce the backlog of tenement applications despite receiving 4 140 tenements applications'. This is an excellent result according to the government since the process has included processing under the Native Title Act.	<i>Pay dirt</i> (National, September 2008), 11.
01-Sep-08	NT	Funding for Indigenous Marine Rescue Group	The Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation has received \$1.3 million from the Federal Government for its new office which will be built at Nhulunbuy.	<i>Australian Maritime Digest</i> (National, September 2008), 2.

Native Title in the News September 2008

02-Sep-08	NATIONAL	New chief justice takes reins of top court	Robert French, former Federal Court Judge was sworn in as the High Court of Australia's 12th Chief Justice 1 September 2008.	<i>Border Mail</i> (Albury-Wodonga, 2 September 2008), 2; 'Top judge's tribute to Aboriginal history' <i>Australian</i> (National, 2 September 2008), 2; 'New benchmarks from the west to east' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 2 September 2008), 16; 'New Chief Justice proves he is fit to lead the way' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 2 September 2008), 6; 'Man of many talents has stomach for top job' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 2 September 2008), 5; 'In fairness he trusts' <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 2 September 2008), 4; 'Sex drugs and rock and roll: hail the new chief' <i>Australian</i> (National, 5 September 2008), 29.
02-Sep-08	VIC	Native Title claim on local land	A native title claim on crown land including parts of Forster and Wilson's Promontory and Inverloch would not affect land holders east of Gurnai according to Gurnai elder Albert Mullet.	<i>Great Southern Star</i> (Leongatha, 2 September 2008), 9; 'Native title claims from Prom' <i>South Gippsland Sentinel</i> (South Gippsland, 2 September 2008), 11; 'Claim lodged' <i>Lakes Post</i> (Lakes-Entrance, 3 September 2008), 2.
03-Sep-08	WA	Boost for Indigenous Workforce	Goldfields Land and Sea Council chief executive Brian Wyatt is 'committed to improving the representation of Aboriginal people in the regional community' particularly in mining. The GLSC has appointed a new economic development officer Darryl Cronin who will aim to 'create opportunities for training and employment as well as helping establish sustainable enterprises owned and	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 3 September 2008), 7; 'Chasing economic development' <i>Golden Mail</i> (Kalgoorlie, 5 September 2008), 4.

Native Title in the News September 2008

			operated by Aboriginal people and their communities.'	
03-Sep-08	VIC	Protect cultural heritage	The Kuuyang Maar Aboriginal group made up of native title groups in south Western Victoria 'has applied to become a state recognised Aboriginal party' under Victoria's cultural heritage legislation.	<i>Colac Herald</i> (Colac, 3 September 2008), 5.
04-Sep-08	WA	Action over cull	Horses owned by the Karajarri native title holders were not consulted over a cull of horses south of Broome. There were significant issues with a lack of consultation and the humanness of the process with many horses being injured and not dying instantly.	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome, 4 September 2008), 5.
04-Sep-08	WA	Kimberley eco-resort proposal irks landowner	A proposal for an eco resort has concerned Patrick Birch, chairman of the Balangarra Aboriginal Corporation who holds native title over the proposed site. Mr Brich said that the developers are yet to meet with traditional owners to discuss their plans.	<i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 4 September 2008), 14.
04-Sep-08	NSW	Way opens for gold miner	An untested native title claim on land between Condobolin and West Wyalong has 'collapsed' after a seven year court battle enabling Barrick gold to proceed with its plans in the Lake Cowal district.	<i>Land</i> (NSW, 4 September 2008), 3.
04-Sep-08	WA	Proposed ban leaves out royalties: WDALC	The West Australian government's legislation to 'ban uranium mining fails to take into account the plight of Aboriginal communities who stand to benefit from mining royalties' according to the Western Desert Land Corporation.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (4 September 2008), 6.
04-Sep-08	VIC	Indigenous parks staff head to Canada	The first Indigenous Study Tour hosted by Parks Victoria will include a visit to Canada 'to learn more about its First Nation people and their culture'. The 'pilot program will provide opportunity for a sharing of knowledge and experience between Victorian and Canadian Indigenous	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (4 September 2008), 32.

Native Title in the News September 2008

			staff.'	
05-Sep-08	NATIONAL	New land deal for Aborigines	The Federal Government is considering the guarantee of \$50 million per year for the Indigenous Land Corporation. The 'ILC was set up in 1995 by the Keating government to allay the concern that native title as recognised by the High Court in Mabo, provided limited material benefit to Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders.'. To date the ILA has 'funded the purchase of 221 properties covering almost six million hectares.' There is no indication of how much land has been returned to Indigenous groups.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 5 September 2008), 1.
08-Sep-08	QLD	Fishing Industry vows to fight Torres Title claim	The Queensland Seafood Industry Association said that 'commercial fisherman in the Far North will be wiped out if the Torres Strait Native Title Sea Claims sets precedent giving indigenous people a 'share' of fish caught'. The sea claim will be heard on Coconut Island (Poruma) and in Cairns in November and December.	<i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns, 8 September 2008), 2.

Native Title in the News September 2008

10-Sep-08	WA	Land council narrows Kimberley gas options	Traditional owners from the Kimberley have 'announced four sites as potentially acceptable for a hub to process gas from the West Australian Browse Basin'. The sites are negotiable and include Gordon bay, James Price Point, North Head and Anjo Peninsula. Kimberley Land Council executive Wayne Bergmann said that the indigenous parties were seeking compensation and a community development package.	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 10 September 2008), 1; 'Aboriginal tick for four potential gas hub sites' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 10 September 2008), 4; 'Firms non-committal on Kimberley gas hub' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 11 September 2008), 10; 'New doubt over future of Kimberley gas hub' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 11 September 2008), 10; 'KLC named preferred Kimberley hub sites' <i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome, 18 September 2008), 3; 'Barnett urged not to rush for Inpex' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 22 September 2008), 10.
10-Sep-08	WA	Native title art on a grand scale up for auction	Ngurrara, a 5m by 8m canvass, was painted by the traditional owners of the sandy desert region to support their native title claim in 1996. The artwork depicts 'their relationship to the land, painting, waterholes, walking tracks and the Canning Stock Route'. The artwork was auctioned in Sydney but failed to reach its reserve price.	<i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 10 September 2008), 3; 'Country on canvas' <i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome, 18 September 2008), 11; 'Land Title artwork unsold' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 27 September 2008), 12.
12-Sep-08	SA	Court sits in desert to determine claims	A native title hearing was heard in the Simpson Desert to 'determine the first native title claim on a South Australian national park'. The determination 'finalised four claims from the Eringa and Wangkangurru/Yarluyandi groups to recognise their non exclusive native title rights and interests in the 7 770 square kilometre park'. The case was heard by Justice Lander.	<i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (Broken Hill, 12 September 2008), 8; <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay, 18 September 2008), 6; 'Simpson desert last of land claim hearings in the centre' <i>Land Rights News</i> vol 11, no 2, 5.

Native Title in the News September 2008

13-Sep-08	WA	License for Pilbara iron	Iron ore explorer Cape Lambert has been granted an exploration permit for its Cape Lambert South project in Western Australia. The company aims to test the area but will require native title approval.	<i>Daily Telegraph</i> (Sydney, 13 September 2008), 103; 'Pilbara license for iron ore explorer' <i>Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin</i> (Queensland, 13 September 2008), 112; 'Miner to drill test' <i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i> (Maroochydore, 13 September 2008), 114.
16-Sep-08	NSW	Land Council claims North Head	The NSW Aboriginal Land Council is making a native title claim over North Head and the land along the peninsula. Most of the land is a part of Sydney Harbour National Park.	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 16 September 2008), 6; 'North Head land claim' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 16 September 2008), 3; 'Give it back' <i>Manly Daily</i> (Sydney, 17 September 2008), 1.
18-Sep-08	QLD	Irwin adversary wins over locals	Bauxite explorer Cape Alumina has 'signed an agreement to explore on Aboriginal land with the Mapoon Trustees' giving the company access to an area of about 15 000 hectare on the Cape.	<i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 18 September 2008), 58.
18-Sep-08	NSW	Agreement is a first for NSW	The Gully Traditional Owners have 'celebrated the co-management agreement recently put in place with the Blue Mountain City Council'. The co management scheme is a result of the recognising the 'significance of the place to the Aboriginal community'.	<i>Lithgow Mercury</i> (Lithgow, 18 September 2008), 16.

Native Title in the News September 2008

19-Sep-08	WA	Push for minimum native title payments	Atlas Iron, a Mid West miner is supporting a 'push to establish minimum native title payments to Aboriginal communities affected by mining in an effort to streamline a lengthy process and better include Aborigines in the resources boom'. The Yamatji Land and Sea Council estimates that native title compensations 'currently averages at less than 0.25 per cent of mining profits from West Australian iron ore.' Atlas managing director David Flanagan said that a 'standard agreement structure would benefit everyone by facilitating better engagement, improved land access and standard minimum royalties.'	<i>Geraldton Guardian</i> (Geraldton, 19 September 2008), 3; Minimum royalties needed for native title legislation' <i>North West Telegraph</i> (South Headland, 24 September 2008), 15.
19-Sep-08	NATIONAL	Water experts tap knowledge	Indigenous representatives from Australia, Canada, the United States, Guatemala and New Zealand gathered in Arnhem Land to 'discuss how indigenous people's rights to water should be acknowledged and advanced in water property regimes and water management systems'.	<i>Southern Highland News</i> (Bowral, 19 September 2008), 4.
25-Sep-08	WA	Plan tackles an east Kimberley future	The Miriuwung Gajerrong Cultural Planning framework will be launched with the Western Australian Environment Minister. The plan was 'developed after two years of consultation [and] is the first step towards developing joint management plans for six conservation areas'. The plan was developed after the Ord Final Agreement was reached.	<i>Farm Weekly</i> (Western Australia, 25 September 2008), 164.
26-Sep-08	WA	Yamatji workshops	The Yamatji Land and Sea Council will 'hold workshops to talk about the new federal law to bring Aboriginal corporations in line with the mainstream'. The workshops are 'for native title claimants to learn about the changes'.	<i>Geraldton Guardian</i> (Geraldton, 26 September 2008), 14; 'Talks tackle land council changes' <i>Pilbara News</i> (Pilbara, 1 October 2008), 10.

Native Title in the News September 2008

26-Sep-08	QLD	Registrar acts on native title	The Dhubbi Warra Aboriginal Corporation at Hopevale on Cape York and the Walmbaar Aboriginal Corporation at Mareeba have been 'under investigation by the Office of the Registrar of Corporations since May and have been placed under special administration.	<i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 16 September 2008), 16; 'Officials take control' <i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns, 26 September 2008), 4.
26-Sep-08	WA	Rudd government goes native for the first time	The Federal Court has recognised that the Thalanyji hold native title rights and interests in their traditional country in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The hearing was held in Onslow and presided by Justice North.	<i>Lawyers Weekly</i> (National, 26 September 2008), 4; 'Justice North and some of the Thalanyji elders relax after the Native Title Determination in Onslow' <i>North West Telegraph</i> (South Hedland, 1 October 2008), 15; 'Court rules on native title claim' <i>Pilbara News</i> (Pilbara, 1 October 2008), 3.
27-Sep-08	NT	Top End snatches \$24bn gas plant prize from under the West's nose	Inpex has chosen Darwin harbour as the 'site for a multi billion dollar LN plant that will process...gas piped from the Browse Basin'. The Kimberley Land Council has hoped that the plant would be 'a way out of poverty for remote living indigenous people'. The decision was based on the NT Government's ability to provide certainty over the investment.	<i>Weekend Australian</i> (National, 27 September 2008), 2; 'What a gas for Territory: greatest heist of all time' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 27 September 2008), 24.
30-Sep-08	QLD	Walmbaar Safety Net	The Walmbaar Aboriginal Corporation in Mareeba has been 'placed under special administration'. The corporation was established to hold and manage native title for the Dingaal Country.	<i>Tableland (Atherton)</i> (Atherton, 30 September 2008), 11.

Native Title in the News September 2008

01-Oct-08	WA	South Project drilling to start soon	Drilling will start during October at Cape Lambert's Iron Ore project in the Pilbara. Native Title Heritage clearance of the proposed drill collars will occur in early October.	<i>Australian Mining Review</i> (National, October 2008), 16.
-----------	----	---	--	---