

Native Title in the News October 2007

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
01-Sep-07	WA	<b>Oilies sign agreements with traditional owners</b>	Arc Energy has signed a 'heritage agreement with the Yungngora people that allows exploration at the historic Noonkanbah station'. Inpex has also signed an 'agreement with the Kimberley Land Council concerning its Ichthys liquefied natural gas project '. In meetings with Indigenous representatives Inpex agreed 'compensation would be paid if the project proceeds'.	<i>Petroleum</i> (National, September 2007), 10.
29-Sep-07	WA	<b>Pastoralists demand city tenant's rights</b>	The Pastoralists and Graziers Association 'is calling on the State Government to give pastoralists the same rights city tenants enjoy'. The 'PGA has considered the proposed rolling lease concept, but it is opposing plans that would allow the State to cancel a lease on expiry, counter its revival and force lessees to register and indigenous land use agreement as a condition of obtaining a lease'.	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 29 September 2007), 6; 'Back to square one' <i>Farm Weekly</i> (Western Australia, 18 October 2007), 24; 'Pastoralists saved: Govt tried to pull a swifty that it wouldn't have dared to try Perth' <i>Kimberley Echo</i> (Kununurra, 18 October 2007), 23; 'Growers Association rejects government bills' <i>Merredin-Wheatbelt Mercury</i> (Merredin, 10 October 2007), 10.
26-Sep-07	QLD	<b>Traineeships taken up</b>	Seven civil construction traineeships will be undertaken but indigenous locals after negotiations between the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, the Mununjali native title committee and mission Australia.' Member of the Mununjali native title committee, Larissa Wright said 'the traineeships represented a good opportunity for the local indigenous community'.	<i>Beaudesert Times</i> (Beaudesert, 26 September 2007), 25.

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26-Sep-07	QLD	<b>More native title planned for east Killarney</b>	The 'Queensland government has finally matched its NSW counterparts in recognising the land claim of the indigenous Githabul people around the Mt Lindsay area on the state border'. The 'decision comes seven months after the NSW government officially recognised the land rights of over some 112 000 hectares of national parks'.	<i>Southern Free Times</i> (Warwick, 26 September 2007), 12.
01-Oct-07	WA	<b>Minister at odds with industry over parks and reserves additions</b>	The Western Australian Environment Minister David Templeman has announced that 'more than 2.7 million hectares - most of it former pastoral lands in the Gascoyne and Murchison - would be converted into 11 new conservation parks and 14 new nature reserves or added to exiting parks and reserves'. Mr Templeman said the 'Government would preserve all existing native title rights and interests by applying the non extinguishment principle when creating the reserves. Native title claims were registered over nearly all the proposed conservation reserves and the State would comply with the Future Act provisions of the Act'. The Minister asked the 'Department of Environment and Conservation in consultation with the State Solicitor's Officer and the Office of Native Title to liaise with the native title claimants'. Mr Templeman said that 'once the reserves are created, there would be opportunities for joint management with traditional owners'. The purchases were funded through contributions of the Commonwealth government and through the Nature Reserve Program of the Natural Heritage Trust.	<i>Paydirt</i> (National, October 2007), 14.
01-Oct-07	QLD	<b>Premier to sign Is ILUA</b>	Queensland's new Premier Anna Bligh will sign an ILUA with the Kalkadoon people. The agreement will allow the 'State Government to develop Mica Creek, Kalkadoon and Nordale industrial areas' on the outskirts of Mount Isa. The agreement will also 'give Mount Isa City Council the chance to develop the former gilder port into a residential subdivision'.	<i>North West Star</i> (Mount Isa, 1 October, 2007), 1; 'land deal' <i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> (Adelaide, 3 October 2007), 14; <i>Toowoomba Chronicle</i> (Toowoomba, 3 October 2007), 18; 'Historic accord to free up land' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 3 October, 2007), 12; <i>Daily Examiner</i> (Grafton,

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				<p>3 October 2007), 21; <i>Daily Mercury</i> (Mackay, 3 October 2007), 10; <i>Daily News</i> (Warwick, 3 October 2007), 9; <i>Daily News</i> (Tweed Heads, 3 October 2007); <i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i> (Hervey Bay, 3 October 2007), 10; <i>Gladestone Observer</i> (Gladestone, 3 October 2007), 12; <i>Gympie Times</i> (Gympie, 3 October 2007), 6; <i>Morning Bulletin</i> (Rockhampton, 3 October 2007), 16; <i>News Mail</i> (Bundaberg, 3 October 2007), 10; 'Proud day for locals' <i>North West Star</i> (Mount Isa, 3 October 2007), 1; 'Signed off: historic signing of agreement' <i>North West State</i> (Mount Isa, 3 October 2007), 1; <i>Northern Star</i> (Lismore, 3 October 2007), 18; <i>Queensland Times</i> (Ipswich, 3 October 2007), 18; 'Kalkadoon Land Pact' <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville, 3 October 2007), 10; 'How does an ILUA work?' <i>North West Star</i> (Mount Isa, 12 October 2007), 10; 'Kalkadoon sign off on Mt Isa Land Agreement' <i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 10 October 2007), 4.</p>
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02-Oct-07	QLD	<b>Community wins homeowner deal</b>	The Yarrabah community in Cairns 'could own homes in less than six months after a historic deal was signed in Brisbane'. Under the agreement the 'federal government will upgrade the homes of families who pay market rent and meet normal tenancy conditions such as looking after their houses. Further upgrades will be available for families who commit to income management arrangements and ensure their children go to school'. This will 'allow 99 year leases on land at present administered by Aboriginal Councils'.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 2 October 2007), 2; 'Indigenous community 'welcomes' welfare reform' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 2 October 2007), 14; 'Landmark Housing and Welfare Reform Agreement for Yarrabah <i>Media Release</i> (Mal Brough Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 1 October 2007), 5; 'Claims that lack of land tenure reform is holding back Cape York' <i>Western Cape Bulletin</i> (Weipa, 10 October 2007), 8; 'Land reforms' <i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns, 20 October 2007), 5.
03-Oct-07	SA	<b>\$110m SA ore mine a step closer</b>	Western Plains resources has 'moved a step closer to building its \$110 million iron ore mine at SA's Peculiar Knob site with the finalisation of a native title mining agreement' with the Antakirinja Matu Yankunytjatjara native title claim group. A mining lease will be granted in February 2008 and production is likely to start within a year.	<i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> , (Adelaide, 2 October 2007), 51.
04-Oct-07	WA	<b>East Kimberley visits Cape York</b>	A delegation of people from the Gelganyem Trust has 'spent a week with Indigenous trusts looking at indigenous businesses established with assistance proceeds from profit share and royalty agreements with mining companies'. The Gelanyem Trust was established as a 'outcome of the Indigenous Land Use Agreement between Aboriginal claimants and the Argyle Diamond Mine'. The 'itinerary for the study tour included Zinifex Century Mine, Weipa, Napranum and	<i>Kimberley Echo</i> (Kununarra, 4 October 2007), 16.

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06-Oct-07	VIC	<b>Protecting Heritage</b>	The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council has registered Martang as an interested party to protect cultural heritage in south west Victoria.	<i>Hamilton Spectator</i> (Hamilton, 6 October 2007), 9.
08-Oct-07	NSW	<b>Arakwal to get \$100m Byron Bay land</b>	An agreement between the NSW Government and the Arakwal people will see the transfer of land to the Arakwal corporation including 'two freehold blocks at Byron's most exclusive beach, Wategos, Land in the centre of town at the historic Sanhills Estate and freehold ownership of the Broken Head caravan park'. There have been allegations that the agreement was struck in 'secrecy' but representatives of the Bundjalung of Byron Bay Aboriginal Corporation say that 'negotiations surrounding the proposed Indigenous Land Use Agreement have been completely transparent'.	<i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i> (Gold Coast, 8 October 2007), 9; '\$100m Byron Bay land transfer to Aboriginal community to be signed, report says' <i>Northern Star</i> (Lismore, 8 October 2007), 7; 'Secret native title deal divides Byron' <i>Weekend Australian</i> (National, 6 October 2007), 1; 'Secret deal done on land at Byron' <i>Northern Star</i> (Lismore, 9 October 2007), 1; 'Arakwal deal: where is the division asks angry mayor' <i>Byron Shire News</i> (Byron Bay, 11 October 2007), 3.

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09-Oct-07	NT	<b>Sweeteners to ease uranium objection</b>	The 'Government is considering options for a new royalty regime to apply to uranium a mines in the Northern Territory which would return profits to communities on Aboriginal land'. Some options developed to 'cut regulation covering the industry' include 'a communications strategy to help Australia's uranium mining companies explain their proposals to traditional owners'.	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 9 October 2007), 6.
10-Oct-07	QLD	<b>A chance to pass on knowledge</b>	About '500 traditional owners gathered in Cardwell yesterday for the first day of the National Indigenous Land and Sea Management Conference'. Speakers from the conference 'used the opening of the conference as a wake up call to others to prevent their culture from disappearing'. Phil Rist CEO of the Girringun Aboriginal corporation, which organised the conference said 'traditional owners would be able to build on their own environmental, social and cultural activities by learning from others'.	<i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville, 10 October 2007), 2; 'Elders unhappy over dugong, turtle slaughter' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 9 October 2007), 7; 'Indigenous elders network in Cardwell' <i>North West Star</i> (Mount Isa, 19 October 2007), 9; 'Caring for and celebrating country' <i>Tully Times</i> (Tully, 18 October 2007), 1; 'Focus on land and sea conference' <i>Tully Times</i> (18 October 2007), 18; 'Second National Indigenous Land and Sea Management Conference' <i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 24 October 2007), 12.
10-Oct-07	WA	<b>New Pilbara group aims to improve quality of life</b>	Marnada Mia Central Negotiating Committee has been 'formed to provide support and representation for traditional owners in Western Australia' Pilbara region'. Chairman Slim Parker said that 'despite the wealth being generated by mining in the Pilbara, and the flow on of some of that wealth to governments, Aboriginal people mostly continued to suffer a low standard of living, lower life expectancy and lower education levels that other Australians'.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 10 October 2007), 4.

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10-Oct-07	QLD	<b>Hearing begin for Torres Strait regional sea claim</b>	The Federal Court has 'begun hearing evidence from the traditional owners of six Torres Strait communities regarding the areas regional sea claim'. Torres Strait Regional Authority Chairman Toshie Kris said that the 'Federal Court's visit to the Torres Strait is a very important occasion in the sea claim process and he encourages community members to support the Elders involved'. The claim was originally filed in 2001 and covers approximately 42 000 square kilometres of sea in the Torres Strait.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 10 October 2007), 5; <i>Torres News</i> (Thursday Island, 17 October 2007), 1.
10-Oct-07	QLD	<b>Major drilling to expand bauxite deposit</b>	Cape Alumina has completed a cultural heritage review of the Wenlock Project. It has the 'good support of the local aOriginal community and traditional owners and has executed agreements with the Old Mapoon DOGIT trustee, the Mapranum Aboriginal Council and the Wik and Wik Way peoples'.	<i>Western Cape Bulletin</i> (Weipa, 10 October 2007), 3.
10-Oct-07	VIC	<b>Yorta Yorta fire stick in state park</b>	Yorta Yorta Nation in partnership with 'Parks Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment, CSIRO and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority have embarked on a research project involving controlled burning to determine the most appropriate way to control the encroachment of Giant Rush onto the significant RAMSAR wetlands of Barmah State Park.'	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 10 October 2007), 31.
10-Oct-07	WA	<b>New Bill recognises Indigenous Interests</b>	A new bill was introduced in the Western Australian Parliament which recognises 'Indigenous Interests in two of the State's largest conservation areas - the Ruddall River National Park and the Gibson Desert Nature Reserve'. The parks are located in the Central Desert Region covering an area of about 31 265 square kilometres.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 10 October 2007), 42.

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11-Oct-07	NATIONAL	<b>Miners call for long-term vision from government</b>	Mining companies have 'expressed concern at perceived state government complacency over the long term sustainability of the local mining industry'. The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies 'claim stringent regulations and growing approvals costs and delays could deter further mineral exploration in Western Australia'. In particular, 'unresolved native title claims, the flow through share issue and the government's acquisition of pastoral leases for possible conservation status are seen to by some as deterrents to exploration activity'.	<i>Business News</i> (Perth, 11 October 2007), 14.
11-Oct-07	WA	<b>Land releases to ease housing crisis</b>	The Shire of Broome and the state government are trying to 'get more land onto the market to ease the housing crisis'. Shire President, Graeme Campbell said that 'the other issue we're facing of which we're at an advanced stage us federal native title negotiations and getting more land re-zoned'.	<i>Business News</i> (Perth, 11 October 2007), 22.
11-Oct-07	NT	<b>NT fuels mines boom</b>	The Northern Territory Government has 'unveiled the second stage of its 'Top end secret' program...to lure more mining companies from around the globe'. The Territory's Mines and Energy Minister Chris Natt said that the 'program provided on-ground support to exploration and companies wanting to obtain land access in a timely fashion so they could carry out mineral exploration as efficiently as possible'.	<i>North Queensland Register</i> (Townsville, 11 October 2007), 10.
11-Oct-07	WA	<b>Park council visits NT</b>	The Yoorooyang Dawang Regional Park Council has 'recently visited the Kakadu and Nitmiluk National Parks in the NT' meeting with the board of both parks. The 'object of the visit was to gain a broader understanding of the pros and cons of existing joint management structures and processes, training, employment programs, land management, initiatives and business enterprise and tourism'.	<i>Kimberley Echo</i> (Kununurra, 4 October 2007), 12.
12-Oct-07	NATIONAL	<b>PM admits mistakes in Aboriginal relations: I was</b>	Prime Minister John Howard has 'moved to recast the race relations in Australia with a dramatic gesture to recognised Aborigines in the Constitution'. Mr Howard said that it was his goal to see 'a new	<i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> , (Adelaide, 12 October 2007), 1; 'Listening, at last, to

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		<p><b>wrong</b></p>	<p>Statement of Reconciliation incorporated into the preamble of the Australian constitution'.</p>	<p>the disadvantaged' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 12 October 2007), 13; 'A shared destiny' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 12 October 2007), 13; 'Howard's 'new reconciliation' <i>Australian</i> (National, 12 October 2007), 1; 'PM plays old tune with new approach' <i>Australian</i> (National, 12 October 2007), 4; 'Keating scorns 'deathbed repentance' <i>Australian</i> (National, 12 October 2007), 4; 'A new indigenous settlement' <i>Australian</i> (National, 12 October 2007), 14; 'Howard's indigenous turnaround' <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 12 October 2007), 1; 'Words and bipartisan support key to success' <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 12 October 2007), 2; 'One great tribe, one Australia: Howard pledges black cause in constitution' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 12 October 2007), 1; 'Reconciliation must be written into our constitution' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 12 October 2007), 17; 'Deane warns on symbolic gestures' <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 16 October 2007), 3; 'Preamble could be a</p>
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				worthy beginning' <i>Weekend Australian</i> (Sydney, 20 October 2007), 22.
12-Oct-07	ACT	<b>Ten years on, helping hand rejoin fight for Aboriginal rights</b>	Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation held a national congress in Canberra including a 'sea of hands' About ten years ago '70 0000 coloured plastic hands were placed outside parliament house to symbolise opposition to the Federal Government's plan to wind back native title rights'.	<i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 12 October 2007), 9.
12-Oct-07	WA	<b>Ore miner offered community 'a pittance' for access to land</b>	Iron ore company FerrAus has 'outraged the Aboriginal community of Jigalong in the Pilbara by offering just offering \$100 000 up front to mine its land. The community has made a counter bid of \$2 million up front to allow the company access to its traditional lands for the Robertson Range iron ore project'.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 12 October 2007), 2.
15-Oct-07	VIC	<b>Bangerang hope for RAP appointment</b>	The Bangerang people 'should be appointed as Registered Aboriginal Party'. Member for the Northern Victoria Region Wendy Lovell said that the Bangerang were 'the traditional inhabitants of much of the land along the Goulburn and Murray Rivers' and should be appointed for the area. This would mean that the government, communities and industries will need to consult with the Bangerang people when major works or developments are planned.	<i>Riverine Herald</i> (Echuca, 15 October 2007), 3.
17-Oct-07	QLD	<b>Old traditional create new career options</b>	As a result of the \$14 000 Skilling Queenslanders for work funded traineeships' Cameron Buchanan and Roseanne Carson members of the Kuku Yalanji people were able to complete a Certificate III in Tourism (guiding) and bring valuable work experience to the Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku Inc.	<i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i> (Hervey Bay, 17 October 2007), 29; <i>News Mail</i> (Bundaberg, 17 October 2007), 35.
18-Oct-07	NSW	<b>NSWALC Claims Land</b>	The NSW Aboriginal Land Council has 'lodged a claim for 254 hectares for Crown land west of Hughen Road on the boundary of Narranera and Leeton Shires'.	<i>Narrandera Argus</i> (Narrandera NSW, 18 October 2007), 3.

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18-Oct-07	WA	<b>Central Desert Title Today</b>	<p>The native title rights and interests of the Ngururrpa people have been recognised by the Federal Court. The application was lodged in 2006 and after negotiations between the Western Australia and Central Desert Native Title Services (CDNTS), representatives of the Ngururrpa native title holders a consent determination was achieved. The claim area covers 30 000 square kilometres across parts of the Sandy Desert. The claim was lodged by family groups who live in Balgo, Mullan and Billiluna communities as well as Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing and Kununurra.</p>	<p><i>Farm Weekly</i> (Western Australia, 18 October 2007), 204; 'Ngururrpa celebrate: speedy resolution to native title claim' <i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 24 October 2007), 19; Toowoomba Chronicle (Toowoomba, 26 October 2007), 20; Daily Mercury (Mackay, 26 October 2007), 10; Daily Examiner (Grafton, 26 October 2007), 10; Daily News (Warwick, 26 October 2007), 10; Fraser Coast Chronicle, (Hervey Bay), 26 October 2007), 24.</p>
20-Oct-07	WA	<b>NT decision welcomed</b>	<p>The Goldfield Land and Sea Council has welcomed the Commonwealth Government's decision to 'discontinue its non claimant application to the Federal Court for a negative determination over the Wongatha trial area'. A negative determination would have meant that no new claims could have been lodged.</p>	<p><i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 20 October 2007), 5.</p>
23-Oct-07	QLD	<b>Check of mines</b>	<p>The North Western Queensland Cultural Heritage and Community Council Aboriginal Corporation has been established to undertake a range of conservation works to Indigenous sites within North Western Queensland. Their activities focus predominantly on signage and fencing to prevent tourists and locals from damaging these sites. Manager Christine Parter said 'we're here to provide a service to the nine traditional owners groups (in the area)..whether it's information about law, dance, language or history'.</p>	<p><i>North West Star</i>, (Mount Isa, 23 October 2007), 1.</p>

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24-Oct-07	NATIONAL	<b>Reconciliation requires respect</b>	National Native Title Tribunal President Graeme Neate has said that 'groups around Australia are choosing to resolve native title issues through negotiation and agreement. More and more groups are reaching native title agreements rather than going down the long and divisive path of litigation'. According to Mr Neate such 'agreements can be described as reconciliation on the ground'.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 24 October 2007), 22.
25-Oct-07	WA	<b>Land lease worry in gas plant plan</b>	The 'state government's intention to lease land from traditional owners to house any LNG industrial hubs in the North West has been attacked by the Kimberley land council'. The model of land access 'preferred by the Government was listed as part of the terms of reference for the Northern Development Taskforce, which is looking at identifying suitable locations for at least one gas processing hub in the Kimberley'.	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> (25 October 2007), 4; 'TO s to oppose leasing land to Govt for development' <i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 24 October 2007), 3.
25-Oct-07	QLD	<b>Bid to resolve Jangga claims</b>	Native Title claimants and four local councils in Central Queensland have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to show their commitment to resolving native title in the area. Representatives from the Jangga people and the Belyando Bowen, Dalrymple and Nebo Shire councils signed the MoU which provides the basis for negotiations over the Jangga people's 20,420 square kilometres native title claim'.	<i>North Queensland Register</i> (Townsville, 25 October 2007), 11; 'Native title talks on the path to an agreement' <i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 24 October 2007), 33.
25-Oct-07	NATIONAL	<b>300 Indigenous Land Use Agreements</b>	The 'number of indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs) has doubled over the last two years'. National Native Title Tribunal President Graeme Neate said that 'the increased use of ILUAs showed that more groups were choosing to resolve native title issues through negotiation and agreement rather than going down the path of litigation'.	<i>Media Releases</i> (National Native Title Tribunal, 25 October 2007), 7.