

Native Title in the News November 2008

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
4/11/2008	WA	State case over bush camping to end in court	A local Aboriginal man has claimed that his traditional land rights have been abused as he faces potentially thousands of dollars in fines for camping illegally on in National park on the outskirts of Margaret River.	<i>Augusta Margaret River Times</i> , (Margaret River, 14 November 2008), 4.
5/11/2008	WA	Conservation areas under Aboriginal management	A partnership was launched between the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and the Miriwung Gajerrong people to broaden involvement of local Aboriginal people in the preservation and management of their land.	<i>Kimberley Echo</i> , (Kununarra WA, 20 November 2008), 6.
6/11/2008	WA	State planners silent on title claim's costing	An Augusta group is pushing for more aged care units to be constructed next to the town's hospital, though the group is still involved in a decade long negotiation over native title land.	<i>Augusta Margaret River Times</i> , (Margaret River, 21 November 2008), 4.
7/11/008	VIC	Talk seek to ease way on land rights	Victoria would become the first state in Australia where Aboriginal people could establish land rights without pursuing tedious native title cases. The Federal Court, under a possible ground- breaking deal being negotiated with the State Government, will make this possible. The State Government and Victorian Traditional Owner Land Justice Group are expected to decide whether to sign off on the proposed deal by February next year.	<i>Age</i> , (Melbourne VIC, 12 November 2008) 11.

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10/11/2008	WA	Premier to view gas site	Broome shire president Graeme Campbell has called on premier Colin Barnett, to personally visit each of the four Kimberley sites being considered for an LNG processing hub before a decision is made on the location. Mr Campbell said his meeting with Collin Barnett centred on a push for sufficient infrastructure to be in place to help the Shire manage the arrival of an LNG hub and the need for an early resolution to native title discussions.	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> , (Broome WA, 6 November 2008), 1.
12/11/2008	QLD	Mines gives boosts to Aborigines	Clermont mines will provide \$500,000 a year to Clermont Aboriginal Community Development Fund to support projects that aim to give five Aboriginal people opportunities in business development, education and training. The fund arises out of historic land use agreement with neighbouring Aboriginal communities, securing economic and social win for the communities and enabling mining within traditional land areas.	<i>Morning Bulletin</i> , (Rockhampton QLD, 15 November 2008), 14.
12/11/2008	NSW	Gathering organised to start healing wounds of the past	Communities living along Hanging Rock Creek, from Barkers Vale to Cawongla, came together with traditional landowners to heal the past and acknowledge one another. The occasion was a formal acknowledgement of traditional and native title rights to the Indigenous people's of the area, by Indigenous and non-indigenous community members.	<i>Northern Star</i> , (Lismore NSW, 24 November 2008), 8.

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14/11/2008	WA	Green light in Ord	Crops may be planted by the end of December next year in the significant location of Ord. This project will be moving into stage two after a deal was struck between private enterprise and native title holders last week.	<i>Countryman</i> , (WA, 27 November 2008), 4.
18/11/2208	VIC	Mission accomplished as owners get title over site	Traditional owners of Lake Condah mission site in southwest Victoria have been engaged in a native title fight that spanned more than a decade and was finally won last year. On the 23 November 2008 Jenny Macklin transferred the deeds of title to the site to the local Gunditjmara people.	<i>Age</i> , (Melbourne VIC, 24 November 2008), 6.
20/11/2008	QLD	Protest against marina	Members of the Ngaro people, who say they are the traditional landowners of the Whitsunday Islands, plan to make a native title claim to stop a \$250 million marina proposed for Shute Harbour. Save our Foreshores spokeswoman Suzette Pelt said that on November 15 the group would march with the Ngaro people at the Whitsunday Reef Festival in protest to the development.	<i>Daily Mercury</i> , (Mackay QLD, 4 November 2008), 7. <i>Morning Bulletin</i> , (Rockhampton QLD, 4 November 2008), 8.
20/11/2008	WA	Big miners sue State over listing of harbour	Mining giants Fortescue Metals Group and BHP Billiton are suing the WA register of Aboriginal sites for placing a section of Portland Headland harbour on the Aboriginal heritage list. If it is successful, a vast area of the harbour will be stripped of its heritage status.	<i>West Australian</i> , (Perth WA, 12 November 2008), 6.

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21/11/2008	WA	Mt Gibson presses on with China link	Mt Gibson Iron publicised yesterday that had reached an in-principle agreement with the Dambimangari native title group to allow research at Koolan Island, off the state's Kimberley coast.	<i>Australian</i> , (WA, 14 November 2008), 25.
22/11/2008	VIC	Forest declared national parkland	Nearly 30,000ha of forest in western Victoria has been declared national parkland. The Gunditjmara Aboriginal people are the traditional owners and native title holders of Cobboboonee forest. The traditional owners concerns as well as fire management will be high on the agenda.	<i>Geelong Advertiser</i> , (Geelong VIC, 10 November 2008) 11.
24/11/2008	VIC	A drought-proof hotel with a landmark title	Novotel has decided to build Australia's first eco-friendly, drought-proof hotel just minutes drive northwest of Melbourne. The location of the hotel is central to Victoria's historic goldfields and spa region. The first task was to discuss a landmark native title agreement with Indigenous landowners.	<i>Age</i> , (Melbourne VIC, 27 November 2008), 8.
26/11/2008	VIC	Land law review	South Australia will review its Aboriginal Land Rights law, the oldest in the country, 42 years after it was introduced. The Government remains committed to Aboriginal land rights. The review will look at more than 500,000ha of land and look at how the land is managed, administered and used to benefit the Aboriginal people.	<i>Sunday Telegraph</i> , (Sydney NSW, 23/11/2008), 38.

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26/11/2008	WA	State paid Aboriginals \$7m for gas hub talks	Taxpayers paid almost \$7 million to the Kimberley Land Council under a deal to consult traditional land owners over possible sites for a gas processing hub on the coast.	<i>West Australian</i> , (Perth WA, 8 November 2008), 4.
26/11/2008	WA	Rethink on brief	The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder has sought comment on whether a legal firm should continue to provide a watching brief on various native title claims.	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> , (Kalgoorlie WA, 8 November 2008), 7.
27/11/2008	VIC	Lake Condah deeds handed back	The deeds of title to Lake Condah mission cemetery have been passed to the Gunditjmarra people from the Federal Government. Timbercorp transferred an additional eight acres of land that surrounds the cemetery at Lake Condah.	<i>Hamilton Spectator</i> , (Hamilton VIC, 25 November 2008), 2. <i>Portland Observer</i> , (24 November 2008), 1.
27/11/2008	WA	Request for early evidence granted	A request from the Ngadju Native Title groups for early evidence to be given by several witnesses living on traditional lands was granted. Federal Court Justice Shane Raymond Marshall arranged on Tuesday to travel to the Ngadju claim region to hear the evidence "on country".	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> , (Kalgoorlie WA, 22 November 2008), 8.

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27/11/2008	WA	Road deal leads to growing Ord Valley	The Ord River Irrigation Scheme has taken a step forward with the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley and the Consolidated Pastoral Company agreeing to upgrade a road, triggering the conversion of 16,000ha of patrol land to freehold title. The signing of the agreement sees CPC relinquish 165,000ha of land within its Carlton Hill and Ivanhoe pastoral leases for six new conservation reserves to be managed by the Miriuwung Gajerrong people as the native title owners.	<i>Farm Weekly</i> , (WA, 27 November 2008), 26.
27/11/2008	VIC	Art work still on hold	The restoration of Aboriginal artworks at Mudgegonga is still on hold, as a local group remains entangled with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria. Restoration on the rock art sight came to a halt in April after Dhudhuroa Native Title Group appealed to key officials, citing the AAV's failure to acquire free, prior and informed approval.	<i>Bright Observer</i> , (VIC, 26 November 2008), 7.
28/11/2008	VIC	Shake-up to rid Aboriginal land of illegal Leases	The State Government will wipe out numerous illegal Aboriginal land leases and stop community land being use by non-Aboriginal people for minimal rents.	<i>Advertiser</i> , (Adelaide, 20 November 2008), 27.
29/11/2008	QLD	Indigenous land bid for town area	Traditional owners of the Cooktown area met on December 2, to discuss the future of locations identified by the State Government as having important conservation values. Traditional owners were also advised to attend a meeting in Cairns on December 16 to officially sign off on an ILUA for the Shelburne Bay area, North of Lockhart River.	<i>Cooktown Local News</i> , (Cooktown QLD, 26 November 2008), 3.