

Native Title in the News May 2009

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
2/05/2009	AU	Urging on changes	The Federal Government has been urged to amend native title laws by providing a presumption of continuity to the lands claimed by Indigenous peoples. The presumption could be rebutted if it was proved there has been substantial interpretation in the observance of traditional law and custom by claimants.	<i>Northern Daily Leader</i> , (Tamworth NSW, 2 May 2009), 3. <i>Daily Liberal</i> , (Dubbo NSW, 2 May 2009), 5. <i>National Indigenous Times</i> , (14 May 2009), 6.
8/05/2009	WA	Naaguja people seal work deal	A native title agreement has been settled between MGM Pipelines and the Naaguja working group. The native title agreement covers over 5581 square kilometres of land in Mid West and Gascoyne.	<i>Geraldton Guardian</i> , (Geraldton Western Australia, 8 May 2009), 8.
14/05/2009	SA	Muduwonga people opposed to Olympic Dam expansion	The Muduwonga people have opposed an expansion to the Olympic Dam, after the release of the project's environmental impact statement. Alongside the Muduwonga people are the Barnarla and Kuyani peoples who have also claimed native title interest in the Olympic Dam region.	<i>Roxby Downs Sun</i> , (Port Augusta SA, 14 May 2009), 4.
15/05/2009	VIC	Coalition worried by native title move	The Federal Coalition will not specify whether will support changes to native title system in the upper house, after Liberal senators raised concerns about giving the Federal Court more power. The law has been passed in the lower house, giving the Court a more central role in adjudicating native title claims.	<i>Border Mail</i> , (Albury-Wodonga VIC, AU 15 May 2009), 18.
15/05/2009	QLD	Native title deal	Indigenous groups have signed an agreement with WWF-Australia to obtain faster resolution to native title claims and better protection for native title land. WWF signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Queensland Indigenous Working Group in Brisbane on the 14 May 2009.	<i>Cairns Post</i> , (Cairns, 15/05/2009), 14. <i>Advertiser</i> , (Adelaide 15 May 2009), 27. <i>Western Cape Bulletin</i> , (Weipa QLD, 20 May 2009), 2.

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21/05/2009	WA	Handover of highly valued cattle station	A cattle station purchased by the Indigenous Land Corporation has grown into a \$30 million gem in the Kimberley pastoral industry and is to be handed back to traditional owners. The station has been owned and managed for the past 10 years by the ILC. The ILC was established by the Keating Government to buy land for Aboriginal people through a self-sustaining account, which has grown to \$1.7 billion.	<i>Australian</i> , (Australia, 19 May 2009), 6.
21/05/2009	QLD	Land rights claim	Traditional land owners are considering legal action against developers of a proposed Queensland Sports Museum. There are claims of disturbed soil with out notification says Peter Bird, an Elder of the Undumbi tribe. Under the Native Title Act and Cultural Heritage Act, the traditional owners are entitled to be part of negotiations.	<i>Redcliffe & Bayside Herald</i> , (Brisbane QLD, 27 May 2009), 1. <i>Redcliffe & Bayside Herald</i> ,(Brisbane QLD 27 May 2009), 1.
25/05/2009	WA	NNTC backs changes to native title laws	The National Native Title Council has backed the Native Title Bill, moved by Independent MP Robert Oakeshot. According to NNTC chairman Brian Wyatt, the amendment would shift the burden of proof about connection to country from the native title claimants to respondents to claims, in particular the Government.	<i>Kalgoolie Miner</i> , (Kalgoolie WA, 25 May 2009), 5.
29/05/2009	WA	Historic native title win	An Aboriginal Land Corporation has had an historic win in the National Native Title Tribunal by blocking an application for a mining lease. Reward Minerals Ltd subsidiary Holocene Pty Ltd was denied a lease over Lake Disappointment. This is the first case where a company has failed to win a mining application on land granted under the Native Title Act.	<i>West Australian</i> , (Perth, 29 May 2009), 4.
31/05/2009	WA	Native title concern over Whim Creek mine	The Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation was angered after Environment Minister Donna Faragher has approved an \$800 million magnetite iron ore mine proposed by Aurox Resouces Limited. Representatives of the Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation have complained that no consultation took place between the Ngarluma people and Aurox.	<i>North West Telegraph</i> , (South Headland WA, 13 May 2009), 15. <i>Pilbara News</i> , (Pilbara Western Australia, 6 May 2009), 4.