

Native Title in the News November 2007

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
01-Nov-07	WA	Agreement focuses on Aboriginal people	The Zinifex mining company has reached a tripartite 'agreement between the Waanyi, Mingginda, Gkuthaarn and Kukatj people and the Queensland Government'. The agreement is a document 'continuing to provide compensation, employment, training and business opportunities' to traditional owners.	<i>Mining Chronicle</i> (National, November 2007), 82.
01-Nov-07	NT	Central Australia mine pact signed	A mining agreement between Aboriginal people and a mining company has been signed. Construction of the Molyhil Tungsten-Molybdenum project, north east of Alice Springs is expected to begin in April 2008. The agreement was negotiated between the Central Land Council acting on behalf of the Eastern Arrernte native title holders.	<i>Countryman</i> (Western Australia, 1 November 2007); 16; <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (National, 1 November 2007), 6.
05-Nov-07	QLD	Construction begins on East Point development	The construction on the \$250 million East Point development has started. For the past 15 years the Project has been subjected to native title and conservation group claims and protests 'even after the Planning and Environment Court granted conditional development.' The protests still continue.	<i>Daily Mercury</i> (Mackay, 5 November 2007), 7.
06-Nov-07	WA	Native Title Recognised in Central Desert	The Ngururra people of Western Australia's central desert 'have now got their native title rights recognised less than 12 months after first lodging their claim'. Their determination recognises that 'the Ngururra people have the exclusive native title rights to possess, occupy, use and enjoy certain areas of land'.	<i>Halls Creek Herald</i> (Regional, 6 November 2007), 7; <i>Newman Mail</i> (Perth, 2 November 2007), 3.
06-Nov-07	NATIONAL	Coast grants open	Community groups involved in protecting and rehabilitating regionally significant sites along the South West coastline can apply for grants under the South West Coast Action program. Funds are available to groups including local governments and State Government agencies, Aboriginal land and water councils and private owners of coastal lands.	<i>Harvey-Waroona Reporter</i> (Harvey, 6 November 2007), 7.

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07-Nov-07	NATIONAL	Land use deals rise	Indigenous land-use agreements, covering more that 11 per cent of the country have doubled in the past two years.	<i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> (Adelaide, 7 November 2007), 35.
10-Nov-07	WA	Kimberly Ruling Huge land title win	The Ngurrara people have been recognised as native title holders 'over an area bigger that Tasmania' in Western Australia's southern Kimberly region. The people can 'own and occupy 76,000 square kilometres of unallocated Crown Land'.	<i>Adelaide Advertise</i> (Adelaide, 10 November 2007), 52; <i>Bendigo Advertiser</i> (Bendigo, 10 November 2007), 14; <i>Toowoomba chronicle</i> (Toowoomba, 10 November), 40; <i>Daily News</i> (Tweeds Heads, 10 November 2007), 13; <i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i> (10 November 2007), 12; <i>Northern Star</i> (Lismore NSW, 10 November 2007), 66; <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 10 November 2007), 9; <i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (Broken Hill, 9 November 2007), 6; <i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Thursday 15 November 2007), 5; <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay, Thursday 15 November 2007), 5; <i>Halls Creek Herald</i> (Halls Creek, 20 November 2007), 5; <i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 21 November 2007), 15; <i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 21 November 2007), 3.

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14-Nov-07	NATIONAL	Indigenous leasing Bill approved	Queensland's State Cabinet has approved draft legislation 'paving the way for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land to be converted to 99-year residential and commercial leases'.	<i>Courier Mail</i> (14 November 2007), 17.
15-Nov-07	NSW	Traditional owners win 13-year fight for native title	Thirteen years after they lodged their first claim, a group of Wiradjuri people from Wellington in NSW have won their battle to have a 183-hectare parcel of land returned to traditional owners. It is the first native title claim in NSW that has resulted in a group of claimants winning resaleable and leasable freehold land.	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 15 November 2007), 5; <i>Daily Liberal</i> (Dubbo, 15 November 2007), 7; <i>Wellington Times</i> (Wellington, 16 November 2007), 1; <i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 21 November 2007), 3.
22-Nov-07	WA	Nickel boost for owners	After four years, two companies 'have signed agreements this month with traditional owners over their nickel mining operations near Warmun in the East Kimberly' in Western Australia. Sally Malay Ltd and Thundelarra Exploration Ltd signed co-existence agreements with Kija traditional owners last Wednesday	<i>Broome Advertise</i> (Broome, 22 November 2007), 6; <i>Kimberley Echo</i> (Kununarra 22 November 2007), 7.
23-Nov-07	VIC	Decision 'disgusting' Bangerang upset over rejection	The Bangerang people are 'hurt and disgusted' at their rejection as a Victorian Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP). A State Government body comprising 11 Indigenous members had declined the Bangerang application.	<i>Riverine Herald</i> (Echuca, 23 November 2007), 2.
26-Nov-07	NT	Rush leases on Tiwi land	Five long-term leases are to be created on the Tiwi Islands, local residents are moving to 'follow the lead of the nation's first 99 year lease on Aboriginal land.' After years of negotiation 'traditional owners on the Tiwi Island community of Nguiu earlier this year agreed to lease the township for 99 years to boost economic development and individual home ownership.'	<i>Australian</i> (National, 26 November 2007), 14.

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28-Nov-07	NT	Court strips elder of native title rights	Traditional owner Marjorie Foster from Kamu has lost a court battle with the Northern Land Council (NLC). Ms Foster 'wanted to negotiate a gas pipeline deal for her land without NLC involvement. A Court also ordered 'Ms Foster be removed as a native title claimant to her county. The decision was handed down in the Federal Court by Justice John Mansfield.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 28 November 2007), 4.
28-Nov-07	NT	Exclusive access	Timber Creek traditional owners have been 'granted exclusive access to vacant crown land in the town area'. Justice Robert French upheld the appeal against 'an earlier Native Title judgement granting traditional owners non-exclusive access'. The Northern Territory government will need to decide whether or not to proceed to the high court.	<i>Katherine Times</i> (Katherine, 28 November 2007), 9.
29-Nov-07	NSW	Call to cut time for land claims	More than \$1 billion worth of land has been granted to Aboriginal people in NSW but not transferred because the Lands Department processes are so slow'. The NSW Department of Lands has been urged to reduce the time taken to process Aboriginal land claims, with a large number of claims unresolved more than a decade after they were lodged'. 'The land has been successfully claimed by indigenous people under the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act'... 'But the legal title over the land cannot be transferred until it is surveyed and its details recorded on the states Digital Cadastral Database.	<i>Western Advocate</i> (Bathurst, 29 November 2007), 13; <i>Daily News</i> (Tweeds Heads, 29 November 2007), 3; <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 20 November 2007), 8.

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30-Nov-07	VIC	Native title for govt solicitors	The 'Victorian Government Solicitor's Office is advising on the state government in relation to the Gunai Kurnai and Jurnai clans' native title claims, both of which have been filed over the same land and waters in Victoria's Gippsland'. The Solicitor's office is preparing for the upcoming early evidence hearings in December this year.	<i>Lawyers Weekly</i> (National, 30 November 2007), 18.
30-Nov-07	NSW	Native title deal ratified	The Largest native title deal ever struck in NSW has given the Githabul people claim to more than 112,000 hectares of national parks and state forests in the states north'. The claim covers more than nine national parks and state forests and it took over 12 years to complete.	<i>Western Advocate</i> (Bathurst, Friday 30 November 2007, 6; <i>Daily Telegraph</i> (Friday 30 November 2007), 17; <i>Northern Daily Leader</i> (Tamworth, Friday 30 November 2007), 9; <i>Northern Star</i> (Lismore, Friday 30 November 2007), 7; <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Friday 30 November 2007), 3; <i>Daily News</i> (Tweeds Heads, Friday 30 November 2007), 10; <i>Canberra Times</i> (Friday 30 November 2007), 2.