

Native Title in the News August 2006

<u>Date</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Subject</u>		<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Other details</u>
01-Jun-06	WA	Frank talk opening doors	The welfare of Indigenous people has not improved despite almost 40 years of mining activity in the Pilbara region. Yamatji executive director Simon Hawkins said that the Aboriginal people supported mining and wanted to be a part of the process. They are 'yet to play a meaningful role in the mining boom'. He suggested that initiatives such as issuing shares, subcontracting to indigenous businesses and implementing cultural heritage management plans would enable indigenous communities to 'take responsibility' for the issues affecting them.	NA	Gold and Minerals Gazette, Jul-06, pg 94.	
01-Aug-06	QLD	Bow clears native title	Bow Energy has 'completed native title agreements over Queensland permit ATP 752P'. The area has 'several oil prospects with potential for high commercial oil rates.'	Native title agreements completed	Oil and Gas Gazette, Aug-06, pg 13.	
01-Aug-06	WA	Aztec's reclaimed island promises a high-grade iron ore bounty	Mining is set to resume on Koolan Island after Aztec has secured a lease on the island, lined up employment, contractors and the support of the Western Australian Government. Chairman, Ian Burston also represented the firm in the signing of a "co-existence deed land access agreement signing" between the Aztec and Dambimangari people'. The agreement has been negotiated with between Aztec, the Dambimangari people and the Kimberly Land Council over the last two years. The land access agreement is built on "understanding, trust and, most important cooperation". He also said that the agreement was about 'bringing two cultures together'. Dambimangari spokeswoman Janet Oobagooma congratulated Aztec Resources for the "way the agreement was negotiated". The agreement includes rehabilitation, business opportunities and the payment of mining royalties.	NA	Mining Chronicle, Aug-06, pg 66.	See further < http://www.atns.net.au/biogs/A002868b.htm >

01-Aug-06	NT	<p>Giant awakens: the Northern Territory is emerging from its mining slumber</p>	<p>The Northern Territory has become more competitive in promoting exploration and clearing land access constraints through a 'renewed emphasis on indigenous relations and a global marketing drive'. This has been a priority of the Northern Territory Mines Minister Kon Vatskalis who has worked to raise the industry's profile in the territory. Mining accounts for 22 per cent of the Territory's GDP and employs 4 000 people, many of which are contracted under Indigenous partnership agreements. This has involved a \$15.2 million investment attraction program designed to maximise exploration by mitigating the risks associated with operating within a 'technically challenging geological environment'. One important aspect of the program has been the 'encouragement of indigenous community engagement based on harmonious relationships with the NT's land councils'. This has lead to successful partnerships for example, in the development of the Bootu Creek manganese mine and Newmont's Tanami Desert project.</p>	NA	<p>Australia's Mining Monthly, Aug-06, pg 76.</p>	
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01-Aug-06	NATIONAL	Safety makes dollars and sense	<p>Former managing directors of Newmont Paul Dowd will address native title in the upcoming Open Pit Mining Conference in September. He says that Australia has 'botched native title legislation' and that 'when the <i>Native Title Act</i> was first introduced we as Australians had an opportunity to correct 200 years of wrong'. According to him 'we got the legislation terribly wrong and the benefits that do apply as a consequence of that legislation only apply because of the goodwill of mining companies which have learnt how to work through the legislation and in some cases work around it to achieve the legislation's original intent.' One of the biggest challenges was the consistency of mining agreements and approvals. He found that there is still 'no appealable common or prescriptive templates that allows both the investor and the tradition owner to have confidence and trust in the process'.</p>	NA	Australian Mining, Aug-06, pg 66.	
01-Aug-06	WA	Protection of rock art paramount in decision	<p>The protection of rock art has prompted the decision of WA Indigenous Affairs minister Sheila McHale to excise a corridor of land to allow the proposed Port Hedland railway line to go ahead which will deliver economic benefits to the local Indigenous population while also protecting the rock art. The decision does not lift the protected area status of the region and requires the developer to comply with strict conditions to minimise the impact on Aboriginal heritage. The Minister also noted that the development has not been opposed by the local Palyku and Kariyarra Aboriginal group who had signed agreements promising economic benefits if the project went ahead.</p>	NA	Mining Chronicle, Aug-06, pg 7.	

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01-Aug-06	WA	Securing Koolan Island's workforce	Kimberly TAFE has 'been working in with Aztec Resources and the Kimberly Land Council to prepare local people for the employment opportunities' that have emerged from the reopening of the Koolan mine. This has included a local skills audit and assisting the community to develop skills and confidence to gain employment. One of the major barriers to employment is the change in lifestyle, 'possible social and family pressures and the person not having sufficient life skills to deal with the changes required'. The course itself also attempts to deal with attendance and drug and alcohol usage.	NA	Mining Chronicle, Aug-06, pg 70.	See further < http://www.atns.net.au/biogs/A002868b.htm >
02-Aug-06	SA	Fifteen is just the beginning	The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement's Native Title Unit has been 'focusing closely on developing employment and business opportunities for Aboriginal people'. It believes that this can be achieved through Indigenous Land Use Agreements which create certainty for all stakeholders, promote a skilled labour force and encourage investment in infrastructure and services.	NA	Koori Mail, 2-Aug-06, pg 26.	
02-Aug-06	SA	Agreement gives owners a say over their country	The Adnyamathanha people have signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the South Australian Government ensuring they have an 'active role in the direction and management' of the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park. The ILUA also recognises their rights and interests and the they can be exercised. The registration of the ILUA has been premised on excising the park from the remainder of their native title claim.	Native title claim amended	Koori Mail, 2-Aug-06, pg 38.	National Native Title Tribunal File No: SI2005/006

02-Aug-06	NSW	Indigenous community divided over historic site	The Ganddangara Local Aboriginal Land Council (GLALC) claim that the sale of a residential complex on a historic site where Dharug, Gundungurra and Tharawal met for fishing and corroborees will lead to a loss of culture. The GLALC will meet with the Heritage Council of NSW to discuss the loss of their heritage if the sale of the Collingwood site goes ahead.	Mining handbook introduced	Liverpool Champion, 2-Aug-06, pg 2.	
02-Aug-06	NT	Partnerships highlighted in new publication	Northern Territory Mines and Energy Minister Kon Vatskalis has launched a new handbook inspired by the Central Land Council 'designed to assist companies looking to explore and mine in the Northern Territory [and] contains examples of successful partnerships between exploration and mining companies and Aboriginal people'. The handbook is aimed at overcoming negative stereotypes and promote partnerships that can create economic opportunities in communities.	NA	Koori Mail, 2-aug-06, pg 45.	
02-Aug-06	NT	Too little time for NT land rights bill	The Federal parliament committee appointed to review the proposed changes to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act has said that the time it was given to scrutinise the laws was 'totally inadequate'. 'The Government dominated committee lent its guarded support to the bill.' However three separate dissenting reports from Labour, the Australian Greens and the Australian Democrats recommended that the bill be rejected and say that there was no time to scrutinise the legislation. Labour wants to have the bill split to debate the more controversial changes while allowing the mining provisions to go ahead. Every non-government submission has also opposed the changes.	NA	Australian Financial Review, 2-Aug-06, pg 12; see also 'Time totally inadequate' says committee', Warrnambool Standard, 2-Aug-06, pg 2; 'Delay lease move'. Australian. 9-Aug-06, pg 2; 'Land Rights Law Rush' Northern Territory News, 3-Aug-06, pg 4.	

02-Aug-06	NSW	Hill 60 heritage list move	<p>The Wollongong city council has denied that it has 'done a back flip' over the sale of Hill 60 Land in Port Kembla. A group of Aboriginal people who lived on and owned the land were removed from the land during WW2. A council spokesman said that the council had since passed a resolution to 'liaise with the Aboriginal community and others to build a case for listing Hill 60 on the NSW State Heritage Register' and that it will 'support the Aboriginal Community's fight to save the land from development.'</p>	NA	<p>Wollongong Advertiser, 2-Aug-06, pg 2; 'Council denies back flip over land sell-off' Illawarra Mercury, 4-Aug-06, pg 10; '; Hill 60 fury still well alight' Wollongong Advertiser, 9-Aug-06, pg 9; 'Rally in defence of Hill 60 Heritage' Illawarra Mercury, 4-Aug-06, pg 10; 'Locals fight for land' Lakes Times, 16-Aug-06, pg 5.</p>	
02-Aug-06	WA	Fight to save peninsula rock art	<p>The West Australian Government has announced a management plan for the Burrup Peninsula including the protection of 60 per cent of the petroglyphs on proposed Aboriginal freehold land. The plan will be managed by an Aboriginal body corporate and the West Australian Government. . The Government is also calling for submissions for a cultural centre and tourist accommodation in the area. Woodside is planning to develop the area for on-shore processing infrastructure and claims that a substantial percentage of the rock art falls outside the development area. However National Trust Australia has said: 'to say that we can now hand 40 per cent of the rock art precinct over to industry is not management...it would be inappropriate to hand over 40 per cent of Stonehenge to industry'.</p>	NA	<p>Koori Mail, 2-Aug-06, pg 9.</p>	

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03-Aug-06	NSW	Way too big: mayor backs protesters	A \$250 million residential development planned for Sandon Point has created public anger with residents and action groups attending a meeting to oppose the plans. Among the resolutions, was a declaration that Sandon Point be declared a Place of Aboriginal Significance and the land leased back to the National Parks and Wildlife Service for management as a Regional Park.	NA	Northern Leader, 3-Aug-06, pg 1.	
03-Aug-06	WA	Djaru mount Bingles protest	The Djaru people have mounted a protest after being 'locked out of the park management structure in the Binges.' Often during meetings 'conflicts [arose]...when cultural issues [were] discussed'. Djaru woman Bonnie Edwards said that 'in this Forum [between traditional owners and the Department of Conservation and Environment] they are unable to the involved'. An anthropologist has been appointed to resolve the problem.	NA	Kimberly Echo, 3-Aug-06, pg 3.	
03-Aug-06	WA	Gleneagles cops it on title	Gleneagle Gold has denied allegations that it had carried out exploration on tenements north of Meekatharra without an indigenous heritage agreement. Managing director Ian Prentice said that the company was aware of the complaints made by the Jidi Jidi but said that while the matter of access needed to be discussed the company had not conducted exploration on the land. A Jidi Jidi Aboriginal Corporation public officer said: ' the company is working in an area that has our people's Aboriginal site and we now have no choice but to ask the Minister for Indigenous Affairs to urgently carry out a full investigation to see if the company has destroyed out special cultural heritage places where the company is drilling unlawfully'.	NA	Business News, 3-Aug-06, pg 3; 'State weighs in Gleneagle dispute' Business News, 17-Aug-06, pg 10; 'Mining company denies allegations' Kalgoorlie Miner, 10-Aug-06, pg 18.	Federal Court No: WAG 72-75/98; National Native Title Tribunal No: WC99/13

03-Aug-06	NATIONAL	New theory on old wrongs	Compensating Indigenous people for historic injustice has been tested in a new legal thesis by legal academic Jeremy Waldron who says that 'even though claims by native people might once have been justified , they may now be invalid because of different social circumstances.' He said that 'instead of focusing on past injustices, it was more appropriate for society to focus on current injustices.' He said that 'his thesis does not call into question Aboriginal native title over land. But transferring non-Aboriginal land to Aborigines may not be a legitimate way of addressing their dispossession'. Professor Waldron posed the question as to whether the 'new regime [should be] changed to reflect this injustice'.	NA	Australian, 3-Aug-06, pg 5.	
04-Aug-06	NT	Land rights 'chaos' under proposed changes	The Central Land Council director David Ross said that the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act has 'served extremely well for 30 years in maintaining the delicate balance of the interest of traditional owners with that of other interests and should not be tampered with without full and very careful consideration of its ramifications.' Mr Ross said that he agreed with a number of changes but was concerned that the 'amendments could leave mining companies dealing with very small under resourced and ill-informed bodies and pave the way for bitter dispute between communities'.	NA	Northern Territory News, 4-Aug-06, pg 3.	

07-Aug-06	VIC	Bridge probe: Appeal to premier to investigate	Victorian Premier Steve Bracks has been requested to 'investigate the legality of the Yorta Yorta's refusal to allow a bridge to be built over the Murray River'. Under the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation Constitution any decision to refuse consent needed to be unanimous. However some members of the Council had not been notified of the meeting. Member for Rodney Noel Maughan said that 'the bridge issue is of vital concern to all Echuca-Moama residents...and that the Yorta Yorta have not been transparent and up front with regard to this very important decision.'	NA	Riverine Herald, 7-Aug-06, pg 1.	
08-Aug-06	NT	More than 20 000 Australians tell Senators to defer today's vote on major changes to Aboriginal Land Rights	A petition organised by GetUp and Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR) have called for greater scrutiny of the proposed amendments to the Land Rights Act. ANTaR National Director Gary Highland said that the 'Government is once again using its control of the Senate to ram through changes to an Act that has been supported by all sides of politics for more than 30 years. The amendments haven't even been discussed with those traditional owners who would be most affected by them.'	NA	Media Release, 8-Aug-06, pg 1; 'Petition calls for delay to land vote' Maitland Mercury, 11-Aug-06, pg 9; Citizens' call to senators: Dealy the rush vote on Aboriginal Land Rights' Media Release, 6-Aug-06, pg 1.	

09-Aug-06	NT	Land Rights Bill a recipe for more poverty: 25 000 signatories agree	The Greens have presented a GetUP petition with 25 000 signatures opposing the Land Rights Act amendment. Senator Rachel Siewert said that 'if the Government is really concerned about economic development in aboriginal communities it should listen to Aboriginal people instead of ploughing on with these rushed and misguided amendments'. According to her other initiatives to promote indigenous businesses have not been pursued. She said that the 'Government isn't really interested in economic development in Aboriginal communities, it is only interested in its own agenda for undermining land councils and traditional owners'.	NA	Media Release, 9-August-06, pg 15; see also 'Greens will move top split land rights bill'. Media Release, 8-Aug-06, pg 7.	
09-Aug-06	NSW	No Coolac delay - maybe	According to the Tumut Brungle Aboriginal Land Councils third archaeological survey will not delay construction of the Coolac bypass. The project has been proposed for several years but has been delays created by the need for studies to determine the importance of the site. Land Council Coordinator David Pryce said that 'there were issues of cultural practices where it's courtesy of people coming into other areas, we are a land council, we have a boundary and what we expect from other people.'	NA	Cootamundra Herlad, 9-Aug-06, pg 1.	
09-Aug-06	WA	McFarlane to chair conservation body	Native Title solicitor Bardy McFarlane will 'chair a new cooperation body overseeing heritage and conservation management on the Dampier Archipelago'. He was appointment for his 'understanding of the issues affecting the region' and will report to cabinet later in the month.	NA	Pilbara News, 9-Aug-06, pg 2.	

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08-Aug-06	NT	Aboriginal community ignored in land rights legislation	Andrew Bartlett has said that the proposed changes to the Land Rights legislation 'should not pass due to the lack of consultation with the people it effects'. He said that there was 'no serious attempt by the Government to consult with the people who will be most affected' He found that this was a 'patronising lack of respect shown to our First Peoples' and that 'despite the rhetoric of increasing self-reliance [the changes] actually give more power and resources to governments'.	NA	Media Releases, 8-Aug-06, pg 47.	
08-Aug-06	NT	Dreaming of home: Land rights and land deals	The proposed amendments to the Northern Territory's Land Rights legislation may 'not fix every problem or make everyone a winner. But if they can help some communities help themselves, they will be worthwhile'. The alternative is 'to continue with the welfare-based policies'.	NA	Sydney Morning Herald, 8-aug-06, pg 12.	
09-Aug-06	NT	Time to try a new way	Commentators from the Northern Territory News have argued that the Land Councils are opposing the changes to the legislation to 'maintain their privileged position'. The Northern Territory News states that 'land councils and their supporters should consider the simple truth: the amendments to the Land Rights Act would not have been necessary if their system was not working'.	NA	Northern Territory News, 9-Aug-06, pg 10.	
09-Aug-06	NT	Awarded Teacher Backs Treaty Call	Territorian of the Year, Raymattja Marika has said that the anniversary of the referendum next year was 'the time for a formal treaty between indigenous and European Australians'.	NA	Northern Territory News, 9-Aug-06, pg 5.	

<p>09-Aug-06</p>	<p>NT</p>	<p>Minister slammed for land rights rush</p>	<p>Labor, the Greens and Australian Democrats have jointly stated that the Federal Government was 'rushing through' changes to the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act. Senator Chris Evans said that the changes were about 'respecting the property rights of Aboriginal people'. Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough has defended the changes saying that the Bill is 'a product of three reviews and numerous consultations conducted'.</p>	<p>Land Rights changes criticised</p>	<p>Northern Territory News, 9-Aug-06, pg 4; see also 'Attacking property interests no way to celebrate 30 years of land rights' Media Release, 8-Aug-06, pg 9 cf 'Land Rights Bill Provides Opportunities and Retains Choice, Media Releases, 8-Aug-06, pg 19; 'NT Land Rights Bill Lacking Support' Media Release, 1-Aug-06, pg 7.</p>	
<p>09-Aug-06</p>	<p>NSW</p>	<p>No opposition to claim</p>	<p>The Great Lakes Council has withdrawn its opposition to the Bulahdelah Aboriginal land claim. The land has been reserved for medical purposes but more recently the NSW Department of Health has indicated that it has not interest in the land and the Crown Solicitor's Office said that the council needs a 'significant amount of evidence' to defeat the claim in the Land and Environment Court. Community services manager Andrew Braybrook said that 'there was a very good chance that the Minister would be unsuccessful in defending his refusal of the land claim and that the land would subsequently be transferred to the Land Council'.</p>	<p>Objection to land claim withdrawn</p>	<p>Great Lakes Advocate, 9-Aug-06, pg 3; Myall Coast Nota, 17-Aug-06, pg 3.</p>	

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10-Aug-06	NT	ALRA Changes debated	Opposition Indigenous Spokesman Chris Evans has said that the changes to the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory Act) is 'another paternalistic attempt to tell Aboriginal people what's good for them' and that the 'government is unilaterally reshaping the land rights regime without consultation. However Liberal senators have defended the bill saying that has been subject to review and will provide economic opportunity and empowerment.	NA	National Indigenous Times, 10-Aug-06, pg 3.	Federal Court file no.: NSD6156/98; Tribunal file no.: NN98/6
10-Aug-06	WA	Argyle iron deposit report	Resource Mining Corporation has made a report to the Australian Stock Exchange citing that contact has been made with the Kimberly Land Council in regard to native title over its proposed iron ore mining project in the East Kimberly.	NA	Kimberly Echo, 10-Aug-06, pg 1.	Tribunal file no.WC06/1-1; Federal Court file no.WAD15/06
10-Aug-06	VIC	Koori trust opposes claim	The Framlingham Trust is opposing the Gunditjmara native title claim which extends from the Yambuk to the South Australian border and north to the Grampians. Trust Executive Officer said that he could not disclose why he opposed the claim until mediation had been finalised. Mediation between the claimants, the State of Victoria and the Gunditjmara's people's legal representative have been ongoing since 2002. The outcome of the mediation talks will be reported back to the Federal Court before a directions hearing on August 28. Professor Mick Dodson has been 'appointed as an independent mediator' in the recent discussions.	NA	Warrnambool Standard, 10-Aug-06, pg 3; 'Indigenous Groups in mediation' Portland Observer, 14-Aug-06, pg 5.	Federal Court file no.: VID655/06; Tribunal file no.: VC06/1

12-Aug-06	WA	Minister needs to act decisively	Indigenous Affairs Minister Sheila McHale has failed to act 'decisively' to ensure that Golden West Resources Ltd complies with the Aboriginal Heritage Act. The company has continued exploration 'despite warnings and requests from the Department of Indigenous Affairs and the Goldfields land and sea council for the activities to stop'. The sites had been previously identified by an independent anthropologist commissioned by the company. Goldfield Land and Sea executive director Brian Wyatt says that 'this case has all the hallmarks of the cavalier disregard for Aboriginal cultural interests by miners and others that the Act was designed to stamp out.'	NA	Kalgoorlie Miner, 12-Aug-06, pg 2; 'Heritage claim stalls project' Geraldton Guardian, 16-Aug-06, pg 3.	
13-Aug-06	NT	Generations of Aboriginal people could lose control of land if new law is passed	Oxfam is concerned that the proposed changes where in 'some instances the government might look to tie the promise of basic services - services the rest of us take for granted as citizens of Australia - such as education to 99 year leases that could pressure traditional land owners to hand over their land'.	NA	Media Releases, 13-Aug-06, pg 1. See also 'Laws slammed' Queensland Times, 14-Aug-06, pg 3; 'Aboriginal land threatened as Senate passes bill' Media Release, 16-Aug-06, pg 35.	

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14-Aug-06	VIC	Burial Site Claim	The Future Land Use Steering Committee is investigating claims in a documented tendered by Glenrowan man Gary Dean, that there are up to 50 Aboriginal burial sites embedded in the base of Lake Mokoan. The sites were not discovered in an earlier archaeological study. Committee deputy chairman Russell Ellis said: 'we don't believe from an indigenous perspective that the Victorian Government has taken enough notice'. The 'project team will continue to work with its heritage consultant and indigenous representatives to ensure that the protection and future management of historical and cultural heritage sites is a key component of the final land use agreement.	NA	Country News insert, 14-Aug-06, pg 7.	
15-Aug-06	NT	NT Land Rights Act condemned by UN rapporteur on housing	A UN Rapporteur on Housing, Miloon Kotahri was 'highly critical of the government's approach to Aboriginal housing and changes to the NT Land Rights Act.' He called for a human rights approach to housing saying that it was a "humanitarian problem" in Australia because it has continued unchecked for decades'.	NA	Media Release, 15-Aug-06, pg 37; 'Outcry at Aborigine Land Law' Age, 9-Aug-06, pg 9.	
15-Aug-06	NT	House prices up 50 pc	Strict planning laws have lead to increases in housing prices in the northern suburbs of Darwin by 50 per cent. Coupled with economic boom and population growth, this created the need for more land in Alice Springs which is surrounded by native title claims. Real Estate Institute NT chief executive Ryan O'Hanlon said that the biggest problem was access to land.	NA	Northern Territory News, 15-Aug-06, pg 1. See also <i>Big Squeeze hits Darwin</i> , Northern Territory News, 15-Aug-06, pg 5.	

16-Aug-06	NT	Under pressure: more consultation urged over Land Act changes	<p>The Federal Government is under increasing pressure to 'abandon slabs' of its Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment Bill until it 'consults more widely with key stakeholders including traditional land owners'. The Senate Community Affairs Committee noted that there was 'insufficient time for many groups to prepare submissions' with the process allowing only three weeks for public comment. The committee was split on 'party lines' with Gary Humphries, Judith Adams and Guy Barnett recommending that the 'amendments proceed and the Government undertake ongoing negotiations'. In contrast, Chris Evans, Trish Crossin and Claire Moore argue for splitting the bill to allow for the mining and exploration provisions but subject the bill to 'further negotiations'. Rachel Siewert and Andrew Bartlett said that the Bill should not proceed without the 'full and informed consent of the indigenous peoples of the NT'. The committee conducted one hearing in Darwin where it heard evidence from the Northern Land Council which noted that the changes improve the workability of the system but 'cautioned against those ch</p>	NA	<p>Koori Mail, 16-Aug-06, pg 1. For further comment see 'Why the haste over the NT Act?' Koori Mail, 16-Aug-06, pg 20; 'Petition on land rights legislation' Territory News, 18-Aug-06, pg 10; 'Bad day for land rights' Media Release, 16-Aug-06, pg 9; 'Land Rights Bill' Media Release, 16-Aug-06, pg 43; 'Bill Weakening NT Land Rights Passes Senate' Media Releases, 16-Aug-06, pg 79.</p>	
16-Aug-06	VIC	Nations to meet for native title talks	<p>Traditional owners from the Wamba Wamba, Wadi Wadi and Baraparapa peoples have attended a meeting to 'discuss the progress of native title negotiations, the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act...and other issues impacting on the tradition country of the groups.' The new heritage arrangements would lease to the North West Region Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Program and replace it with a state-wide Aboriginal Heritage Council.</p>	NA	<p>Swan Hill Guardian, 16-Aug-06, pg 2.</p>	

17-Aug-06	NT	Territory to celebrate Wave Hill Walk off	<p>The Gurindji people marked the 40th anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk Off where Aboriginal stockmen and their families from the Wave Hill Stations went on strike in 1966 'demanding equal pay and conditions as white workers'. They walked to Kalkaringi and later moved to the Daguragu where they remained on strike for nine years. The event 'is recognised as the moment that inspired the land rights movement in Australia' and has been celebrated with the Freedom Day Festival held in Kalkaringi.</p>	NA	<p>Northern Territory News, 17-Aug-06, pg 4; 'March to Freedom 20 years on' Katherine Times, 23-Aug-06, pg 3; 'Wave Hill Recalled' Canberra Times, 19-Aug-06, pg 9; 'Songs sung true mark wave of change' Northern Territory News' 19-Aug-06, pg 5; 'Walking into history: How the Wave Hill Men sparked the land rights movement' 19-Aug-06, pg 27.</p>	
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17-Aug-06	NT	Northern Territory Indigenous now free to choose	Mal Brough has said that the new changes to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act will 'modernise the Land Rights Act to allow Aboriginal people to realise the economic potential for their land' through streamlining mining and exploration procedures, changing funding to land councils based on performance and allowing the leasing of Aboriginal land. He says that the 'unlocking of the economic potential of Aboriginal land will benefit all Territorians'.	NA	Media Release, 17-Aug-06, pg 55; 'Law change: boom in bush? Era of economic opportunity after decades of stagnation, says Tollner' Alice Springs News 24-Aug-06, pg 1; 'NT land rights concerns ignored' Koori Mail, 30-Aug-06, pg 6.	
17-Aug-06	SA	Victor votes on Native Title group	Representatives from Alexandria Council and the City of Hold fast Bay are 'being supported in their bid to be part of the negotiating group for advancing the Kaura People's Native Title Claim.' The claim area affects 29 councils within the Port Pirie, Alexandrina and Yankalilla area.	NA	Times Victor Harbour, 17-Aug-06, pg 7.	
17-Aug-06	NT	National breach feared in 'watertight' land rights	There has been speculation that the states will introduce similar changes to the amendments to the Northern Territory land rights legislation designed to 'kick start an enterprise culture in Aboriginal communities'. Queensland Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Mickel said that he 'wanted to look at the new federal laws more closely before commenting'. However he and Premier Peter Beattie supported Noel Pearson's 'calls for more private land ownership among Aborigines as a path to economic empowerment'.	NA	Courier Mail, 17-Aug-06, pg 21.	

17-Aug-06	NT	Land rights Bill	<p>The amendments to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act have been passed with the Government using its members in the Upper House to approve the changes. The federal opposition and indigenous groups have 'condemned' the changes 'fearing that the laws could force Aborigines to hand over control of their land in exchange for basic services'. The changes include offering low-interest loans and 99 year leases to encourage 'private ownership and economic development'.</p>	<p>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment Act 2006 passed</p>	<p>Toowoomba Chronicle, 17-Aug-06, pg 18; 'Senate Bracks changes' Age, 17-Aug-06, pg 10; 'Outcry over land rights' Daily Mercury, 17-Aug-06, pg 12; Daily News, 17-Aug-06, pg 14; Fraser Coast Chronicle, 17-Aug-06, pg 11; Gladstone Observer, 17-Aug-06, pg 13; Gympie Times, 17-Aug-06, pg 6; Morning Bulletin, 17-Aug-06, pg 14; Queensland Times, 17-Aug-06, pg 12; Coffs Coast Advocate, 17-Aug-06, pg 6, Daily Examiner, 17-Aug-06, pg 8; Northern Star, 17-Aug-06, pg 18; News Mail, 17-Aug-06, pg 12.</p>	
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17-Aug-06	QLD	Esk to negotiate land rights	The Esk Shire Council will establish a 'local government group' to negotiate with the Jinibara people who lodged a native title application over land also affecting Caboolture, Kilcoy, Caloundra, Maroochy, Pine Rivers, Ipswich and Brisbane in 1998. However proposed changes to Federal funding to meet native title legal professional costs has lead to this focus on negotiations.	NA	Kilcoy Sentinel, 17-Aug-06, pg 6.	
20-Aug-06	TAS	Sacred sites a hitch for mill	Gunns Ltd's proposed pulp mill in Tamar valley is also the site of 'ancient Aboriginal meeting places marked by stone artefacts, middens and other significant sites'. The Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council has made a submission to the Resources Planning and Development Commission saying that it is 'far from happy with the level of consultation with the Aboriginal community'.	NA	Sunday Tasmanian, 20-Aug-06, pg 15.	
21-Aug-06	NSW	Crown land claim goes to tribunal	Crown land in North Haven is being considered by the National Native Title Tribunal in a non-claimant application lodged to seek 'confirmation that no-one has a native title claim for the land.'	NA	Port Macquarie News, 21-Aug-06, pg 6.	

21-Aug-06	NATIONAL	Native Title overhaul hands win to miners	The federal government is 'set me make significant changes to native title laws in a bid to resolve hundreds of backlogged claims and provide greater certainty for the mining industry'. This involved requirements that parties negotiate in good faith, limiting funding for parties such as pastoralists to resolve the 605 active claims. These outstanding claims are creating uncertainty about the where native title exists and the identity of native title holders. Other government members are lobbying for changes (originally proposed in the 10 point plan) that will allow the states to create their 'alternative native title processes that would provide claimants with a lesser" right to negotiate". These proposals have been backed by junior mining companies 'where it is argued that native title is preventing them from discovering mineral deposits'.	NA	Australian Financial Review, 21-Aug-06, pg 1.	
21-Aug-06	NT	Strikers' route now heritage	The route taken by the strikers of the Wave Hill walk-off has been heritage listed. The dispute 'sparked' the land rights movement and has been celebrated by a Freedom Festival over the weekend. Heritage Minister Amrion Scrymgour said that the 'walk-off played a seminal role in the development of Aboriginal land rights and declaring this route as a heritage place will mainatin its historical and cultural importance'.	NA	Northern Territory News, 21-Aug-06, pg 7. See also 'Celebrating the Walk off' Koori mail, 16-Aug-06, pg 6.	

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21-Aug-06	ACT	Canberra branded a community land bully	Territory Senator Trish Crossin says that 'Indigenous Territory communities are being "bullied" into signing 99-year leases' in exchange for basic services. She says that the Indigenous Affairs Minister, Mal Brough 'says you can have 50 new houses...[but] they should be entitled to housing as a human right'. However Mr Brough has said that the amendments 'modernise the Land Rights Act to allow Aboriginal people to realise the economic potential on their land'.	NA	Northern Territory News, 21-Aug-06, pg 3.	
21-Aug-06	NT	Aborigines need basic services too	Oxfam's director of public policy, James Ensor, says that 'basic services such as education and health care are the right of all Australians and should not be used as bargaining chips to pressure traditional owners to hand over their land'. He also said that the Government should ensure that 'traditional land owners are at the centre of decisions about the future of their lands'.	NA	Northern Territory News, 21-Aug-06, pg 13; 'Warnings as senate backs land rights changes' Age, 17-Aug-06, pg 2.	
21-Aug-06	NATIONAL	Reforms a welcome change	NNTT President Graeme Neate welcomed the Government's proposed reforms which 'will expand the Tribunal's powers and functions and avoid simultaneous mediation of claims by it and the Federal Court'. He said the reforms 'confirm the Tribunal's long-held view that all parties involved in native title matters need to negotiate so that everyone's rights and interests are protected'.	NA	Media Release, 21-Aug-06, pg 5.	

21-Aug-06	NATIONAL	Native Title Claims Resolution Review	Shadow Attorney-General Nicola Roxon and Senator Chris Evans have cautioned against the Federal Government's proposed native title changes saying that: 'given the Government's record, Labor is concerned that the Government will use the Review to introduced changes that have not been subject to consultation'. Senator Evans said that he welcomed the measures which will 'streamline native title claims resolution process' but is 'concerned...the Government is considering using the review recommendations to justify resurrecting the so-called Wik 10 point plan' and 'increase its control of Native Title Representative Bodies. He said that the 'Government has failed to address the chronic under funding of NTRB's which is a prime cause of the delays in the resolution of native title claims.'	NA	Media Release, 21-Aug-06, pg 25; 'Government steps in on title' Business News, 31-Aug-06, pg 19.	
22-Aug-06	NT	No rift just robust debate	The Northern Territory Government is 'playing down a party division on amendments to the Land Rights Act'. Chief Minister Clare Martin supports the changes some of which include the termination of claims over inter-tidal zones that will include the Yanuwa people's claim to land near Borroloola involving Backbencher Barbara McCarthy. Opposition leader Jodeen Carney said that it 'was growing evidence of a dysfunctional party'. However Deputy Chief Minister Syd Stirling 'denied there was a rift'.	NA	Northern Territory News, 22-Aug-06, pg 6.	
22-Aug-06	NT	Not enough talk on land rights	Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough has 'conceded there could have been "better" consultation about fundamental changes to the Aboriginal land rights in the Northern Territory'. He said: 'look, I think that the process of the Senate committee could have been done better'.	NA	Northern Territory News, 22-Aug-06, pg 4; National Indigenous Times, 24-Aug-06, pg 3.	

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22-Aug-06	NATIONAL	MCA for native title mediation	The Minerals Council of Australia has supported the 'Federal Government's call for mediation over litigation to help improve the resolution of native title claims.' MCA Chief executive Mitchell Hook said that 'mediation aligned well with the mineral industry's commitment to agreement making and improving the efficiency and operability of the native title system without diminishing the rights of indigenous Australians.'	NA	Kalgoorlie Miner, 22-Aug-06, pg 7.	
22-Aug-06	NATIONAL	Native title changes proposed	Western Australian Deputy Premier Eric Ripper has been cautious in welcoming the Federal Government's proposed changes to the Native Title Act saying that 'he could see not benefit in the NNTT being given the power to assess whether those making a claim has a connection with the land involved as the State already undertook that role'. Kimberly Land Council executive director Wayne Bergmann said that the 'NNTT [does] not have the expertise to resolve claims quickly'. He said: 'in our experience, the tribunals haven't been the appropriate bodies to drive native title outcomes. History shows that where a claim is contested, tribunals have always made decisions in the best interests of mining parties.'	NA	Title claims on mines face axe', West Australian, 22-Aug-06, pg 6; 'Native title changes win miners' qualified support' Australian Financial review, 22-Aug-06, pg 6.	
22-Aug-06	QLD	Bush preserved in historic land deal	Bushland in Cooktown will be preserved in an Indigenous Land Use Agreement signed by the Queensland Government and the Yuku Baja-Muliku people. The traditional owners would help the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service manage the protected area including the Annan River (Yuku Baja-Muliku National Park and the Annan River resources Reserve.)	ILUA signed	Cairns Post, 22-Aug-06, pg 10; 'Histories Agreement for Archer land handover' Cooktown Local News, 23-Aug-06, pg 7.	

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22-Aug-06	NSW	Land rights march	Wiradjuri elder Vilam Ryan has criticised the proposed changes to the Land Rights Act saying that 'future generations of Aboriginal landowners could lose control of their land if the proposed changes are approved.' She is lobbying with federal Greenway MP Lousie Markus and Chifley MP Roger Price to not pass the bill. However Ms Markus defended the bill 'saying the changes would deliver better economic choice for traditional owners and more decision making to local people'. A previously planned march has been called off but Ms Ryan said that she will protest against the lack of debate before the bill was passed.	NA	Blacktown Sun, 22-Aug-06, pg 7; 'Protest march called off' Blacktown Sun, 29-Aug-06, pg 8.	
23-Aug-06	NATIONAL	Hope of some native title clarity at last	While 'at first glance' the Federal Government's proposed changes to native title laws 'offer hope of speedier, fairer and simpler resolution of claims' the history of native title shows that there have been 'problems of definition of precisely what it means and who can claim it under what circumstances'. Under the proposed changes people are required to negotiate in good faith, Courts can dismiss claims that are lodged after companies have made mining applications and also stop the duplication of functions of the Federal Court and Tribunal. However 'ambiguities remain and it is likely that further changes will be needed'.	NA	West Australian, 23-Aug-06, pg 24.	

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23-Aug-06	SA	Mine plan causes stir	The area of Waldeila, a five million year old sandstone hill, once a campground used along the trade route by Kurna and Ngarrinddjeri will become part of a quarry in a planned mining application. Under the plan the land will be 'handed back to the Kurna people when the mining is completed in five to ten years and two Kaura people will be employed to work at the quarry.' Kaura elder Lynette Crocker said that 'it would be remiss if we didn't take these sorts of opportunities'.	NA	Southern Times Messenger 23-Aug-06, pg 10.	
23-Aug-06	NT	185 native title claims in the NT	The Northern Territory has 'more outstanding native title claims than any other jurisdiction...many [of which] cover pastoral land and were lodged after mining companies submitted exploration licences'. Tribunal President Graeme Neate said that 'some people may have put off lodging a claim for years and were then prompted to do it by an exploration licence.'	NA	Northern Territory News, 23-Aug-06, pg 3.	
23-Aug-06	NATIONAL	Minister attacks clan-run councils	Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough ahs attacked clan-based councils 'describing them as communist collectives'. He said that the 'land is owned collectively - the collective clan decides who gets the rent...no one gets to own a home - the collective decides who gets a job.' According to Mr Brough this 'hasn't worked anywhere in the word [b]ut back in the 70s we decided this would be our Utopia for indigenous Australia'. He found that 'bring an economy and security of land tenure to the communities would reduce violence and other problems'.	NA	Agree, 23-Aug-06, pg 11.	

24-Aug-06	NATIONAL	No way to celebrate 30 years of land rights	<p>Senator Chris Evans has said that the amendments to the Land Rights legislation 'make major changes to the property law system governing Aboriginal land amounting to almost half of the Northern Territory.' He said that Aboriginal people were 'not consulted and did not give their consent'. According to him the 'aim of Northern Territory land rights was to do justice where there has been injustice, to recognise the historical truth of Aboriginal land ownership and the paramount nexus of land, culture, law and spirituality.' He reiterated the fact that the legislation had received bipartisan support and that there was a policy that 'it would not be amended without meeting a very strong test of traditional owners' knowledge and consent'. Otherwise 'to do so would be to undermine the Act's intent of providing justice to the people who for two centuries have been systematically dispossessed of their land'. He said that 'if there is injustice, coercion or unfair political interference with traditional property interests and the councils that represent them, we must name it as</p>	NA	National Indigenous Times, 24-Aug-06, pg 20.	
24-Aug-06	WA	Ord final agreement registered	<p>The Ord Final Agreement, Western Australia's 'most comprehensive' Indigenous Land Use Agreement has been registered by the National Native Title Tribunal. The agreement between the Miriwung Gajerrong people and the Western Australian Government covers 14 000 sq km and resolved the 'State's compensation liability for the Miriwung Gajerrong 1 and Miriwung Gajerrong 4 native title claims. Deputy Premier Eric Ripper also said that 'the ILUA provides the State Government with absolute certainty for the future development of this region'.</p>	ILUA Registered	Kimberly Echo, 24-Aug-06, pg 5.	National Native Title Tribunal File No WI2005/003

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24-Aug-06	NATIONAL	National Indigenous Times	The Northern Territory Government has 'defended its support for parts of the federal government's land rights overhaul'. NT Chief Minister Claire Martin has said that 'our position to the Senate enquiry was a very consistent one and we had opposed their non-continuous claims'.	NA	National Indigenous Times, 24-Aug-06, pg 3.	
24-Aug-06	NT	No bush telegraph on land rights reform	Traditional owners, Wamud Debe Herreen and Djimbarrada Helen were 'deeply worried about the direction of the reforms and the lack of consultation involved'. They said: 'we went to the senate inquiry in Darwin but they didn't look like they were listening much, I think they had made up their minds'. Currently 'no traditional land owners in the area around Maningrida have received any letter from the government about the changes to the tenure of their land'.	NA	National Indigenous Times, 24-Aug-06, pg 3.	
24-Aug-06	NATIONAL	Practical moves to make native title claims more workable	The National Farmers Federation has responded to the Federal Government's Native Title Claims Resolution Review Report 'noting the preference for improving mediation over costly litigation to resolve native title claims'. In particular it supports the elimination for minor registration amendments, 'bolstering' the requirements for proof of connection to land and the increased powers of the Tribunal to conduct inquiries.	NA	Media Release, 24-Aug-06, pg 9.	

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24-Aug-06	WA	New native title application	The South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council will 'seek authorisation to amend a current South West Bojarah application from biological and adopted descendents' that was lodged in 1998. The authorisation of the traditional owners will be required in order for the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council to continue to represent the claimants. The current claim covers land from Capel down to Point d'entrecasteaux and the 'council seeks to register the claim to give owners more negotiation power in future acts'.	NA	Busselton Margaret River Times, 24-Aug-06, pg 5.	
24-Aug-06	NT	We will not move: residents	At a ceremony marking the 40th Anniversary of the "Wave Hill Walk-off" organiser John Coe said that the tent embassy is 'not an educational site, its not a cultural site. Its apolitical site. It provides our independent voice in this country'. The tent embassy was established in 1972, during a land rights protest and has become a 'permanent presence' since 1992.	NA	Canberra Times, 24-Aug-06, pg 12.	

25-Aug-06	NATIONAL	Push to resolve stalled native title claims	<p>The Attorney General has released a review by Graham Hiley QC and Ken Levy on the native title resolution process recommending 'greatly increasing the powers of the NNTT to mediate claims, take evidence and investigate whether claimants have a continuing connection to land they are claiming'. The review said that that it was 'necessary to reduce the backlog of existing native title claimant applications, particularly claims that appear unlikely to proceed'.. Former Federal Court judge Ron Merkel said that 'Governments at both state and federal levels have treated native title proceedings as adversarial in a classic litigation contest [and that] they have totally failed to appreciate that native title can and should be treated as part of the reconciliation process and part of the way in which they can assist the social and economic disadvantage that Aboriginal people face'. One of the key recommendations accepted by the Attorney General was removing the duplication of functions between the Federal Court and the National Native Title Tribunal.</p>	NA	<p>Australian Financial Review, 25-Aug-06, pg 57; 'Agency takes on native title shake-up' Northern Territory News, 22-Aug-06, pg 9; 'Native title revamp' Warrnambool Standard, 22-Aug-06, pg 2; National Indigenous Times, 24-Aug-06, pg 12.</p>	
25-Aug-06	NT	Back into the darkness	<p>Director of the Gilbert + Tolbin Centre for Public Law at the University of New South Wales, Sean Brennan has criticised the proposed changes to the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory Act) and says that 'its common sense that the Commonwealth, if it holds particular purse strings will use them...There's a potential for the breakdown of communal title and culture and social cohesion.' Aboriginal and Torres Strait Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma has also said that while he supports economic development he does not 'support [it] being imposed on indigenous people'.</p>	NA	<p>Sydney Morning Herald, 25-Aug-06, pg 14.</p>	

25-Aug-06	NT	New council rules unsettle the balancing act	Land Councils will no longer be guaranteed funding and indigenous people unhappy with their performance will be able to set up representative bodies in competition to the councils' if more than 55 per cent of Aboriginal people in the area agree to it. Under previous arrangements funding had been based on a portion of the Aboriginal Benefits fund based on the number of people living in the council area. Now funding will be based on performance. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma warns that this 'sets up the situation where non-traditional owners who inhabit a particular area could set themselves up as a new representative body and then negotiate the use of the land.' Director the Gilbert + Tolbin Centre for Public Law, Sean Brennan says that the new representative bodies will also lack the experience of the Land Councils.	NA	Sydney Morning Herald, 25-Aug-06, pg 14.	
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26-Aug-06	NATIONAL	One land, two agendas	<p>Chief executive of the Minerals Council of Australia, Mitchell Hooke has argued that access to land is the 'lifeblood of Australia's minerals industry' and that 'once the dust settled on the confrontationalist and divisive debates of Mabo and Wik...there dawned a new era of engagement, understanding and synergies founded in mutual respect and collaboration'. According to him, there has been a shift in emphasis from 'litigation to negotiations' and that the policy of the minerals industry is to 'improve the efficiency and operability of the system without diminishing indigenous rights'. He also noted that there is a 'receptiveness' to increased advocacy for resourcing and improved governance to meet their statutory functions' in resolving matters such as claim boundaries and overlaps. He supported the government's announced reforms. In contrast, Labor party president Warren Mundine has said that he found it 'chilling to actually see language that articulates a better future for Indigenous Australians while obfuscating a completely different agenda'. He said that 'waking the rights of indigenous claimants... is the main t</p>	NA	<p>Australian Financial Review, 26-Aug-06, pg 62.</p>	
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26-Aug-06	NATIONAL	Tribunal Under Attack; Neate defends tribunal in wake of attack by GLC's Wyatt	Tribunal president Graeme Neate has 'defended its skills in mediating claims' after they were criticised by the Goldfields Land and Sea Council executive Bryan Wyatt. Mr Wyatt said that the Tribunals' performance has been 'unsatisfactory and its personnel lacks the skills required to get the results needed in a reasonable time'. However Mr Neate 'expected additional powers that the Federal Government planned to give it would lead to more efficient and effective resolution of native title claims'. He also said that 'part of the criticism of the tribunal's performance has been directed at a perceived lack of power' which he believes the reforms will change through the 'additional powers'. Mr Neate also said that its 'members and staff had a wide range of qualifications, backgrounds and experience in resolving native title issues'.	NA	Kalgoorlie Miner, 26-Aug-06, pg 9; Kalgoorlie Miner, 30-Aug-06, pg 5.	
29-Aug-06	VIC	Talks on the agenda	The Bangerang people will be meeting with the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Minister Gavin Jennings in order to progress the 'stalemate preventing the construction of the second bridge at Echuca-Moama.' Under the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, 'Registered Aboriginal Parties would be given the power to make decisions on cultural issues within a particular geographic area'. However in areas such as Echuca there are no clear boundaries and there can be disputes as to which groups spoke for which area. The Yorta Yorta had an agreement with the Victorian Government 'which gave them authority to speak on behalf of country' but the Bangerang people have claimed that their views have not been heard.	NA	Riverine Herald, 28-Aug-06, pg 2.	

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29-Aug-06	SA	Title pact 'a guiding light'	The Yankunytjatjara and Antakarinja people's 'long-running' native title claim has been settled after reaching an agreement that covers an area of 18 750 sq km. Under the agreement 19 Aboriginal family groups and seven pastoral stations will 'share access and rights to the land'. Attorney General Michael Atkinson said that it was a 'guiding light' for the settlement of the outstanding 22 native title claims in South Australia.	NA	Adelaide Advertiser, 29-Aug-06, pg 9.	
30-Aug-06	QLD	Cape Anger boiling over	The National candidate for Cape York, has said that the "black revolt" against the Beattie Government has reach boiling point'. Cooktown independent accommodation operator Peter Scott said that there was 'plenty of anger over Wild Rivers laws and inadequate help for indigenous councils to become independent shires'. He said that the 'key to sustainability for Aboriginal councils law in land use and natural resources' which had been 'taken away' by legislation such as the Wild Rivers laws.	NA	Cairns Post, 30-Aug-06, pg 8;	
30-Aug-06	VIC	Leaders consent to bridge	The Bangerang Aboriginal people will 'break from the Yorta Yorta nations...to register their consent for a seconds river crossing'. Leaders of the group say that they were 'kept out of Yorta Yorta talks' to veto the western option for the new bridge. Bangerang elder John Atkinson said that 'this kind of decision should never have been made without consultation with the rest of the community.'	NA	Bendigo Advertiser, 10-Aug-06, pg 12.	
30-Aug-06	NSW	Campaign to keep Hill 60 continues	A tender process has 'failed to attract a buyer' placing the 'sale of defence land at Hill 60 in doubt'. Liberal Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells said that the 'prospective purchasers were clearly put off by the demonstration of public support against the department's sale of land.' There have been 'moves to build a case for listing it in the state Heritage Register'.	NA	Wollongong Advertiser, 30-Aug-06, pg 6.	

30-Aug-06	NATIONAL	Native title reforms cause for concern	<p>Goldfields Land and Sea Council has raised concerns about the recommendations of the Native Title Claims Resolution Review. The council 'says that the reports findings are complex and proceeding to legislate this year would be too rushed.' It says that there is a need to 'gauge stakeholder's views and amend the legislation accordingly'. For example, the land council notes that the 'idea of automatic dismissal of claims that do not pass the Tribunal registration test is absolutely opposed' since the 'registration test was never intended to be determinative. For example, some overlapping claims automatically fail the registration test but still need to be carefully considered by a court, along with the competing claims'. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma agreed that there was a need to speed up the process but said that 'the Government's own review explains how complex it is to compile the relevant information for native title so let's be careful that we are not putting Indigenous people in an untenable situation'.</p>	NA	Koori Mail, 30-Aug-06, pg 3.	
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31-Aug-06	NATIONAL	<p>Scheme to reduce native title litigation plagues with problems; 'Audit Office Finds Government mismanaging native title' Media Release 30-Aug-06, pg 55.</p>	<p>There is 'no way of telling whether a scheme meant reduce litigation over native title claims is working, because the Government does not adequately measure how it is performing'. A recent audit y the Australian National Audit Office has found that the 'scheme is at risk of being overspent because the Government is not properly of how much it is giving in grants'. Also mining and agricultural organisations that received grants and hold them on trust can be profiting from the interest because 'the Government hasn't got clear rules for how that interest can be used'. It is also unclear whether legal aid provided to miners, pastoralists and other parties under the Native Title Respondents Funding Scheme, designed to encourage negotiation over litigation is used for this purpose. A spokesman for the Attorney General 'denied that grants where not properly tracked and said interest funds were only used for activities related to native title.'</p>	NA	Age, 31-Aug-06, pg 3.	
31-Aug-06	WA	<p>Big Shot</p>	<p>As a part of the native title agreement between Tanami Gold and the Tjurabalan the company will employ Aborigines from Tjurabalan and Balgo. Tanami Gold executive Denis Waddell said that this was a 'partnership' and that 'the opportunity for us to bring training and employment for the Tjurabalan people was an important part of that process'. He also said that a very important part of that process was that 'we structured the arrangements so that royalties and other payments went into a trust account that is spent on community benefits, training, medical services and other things that could well lead to investment opportunities'.</p>	Mining agreement promises benefits	Australian, 31-Aug-06, pg 20.	

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