

Native Title in the News August 2007

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
27-Jul-07	QLD	Opal Miners make a deal with Mithaka people for Jundah site	Opal Horizons will be 'granted a mining lease over a pipe opal deposit near Jundah...after signing an agreement with traditional landowners'. This is the first ILUA for the opal mining company and gives the Mithaka people a 'small stake in the company and preferential treatment for employment and business opportunities'.	<i>Longreach Leader</i> (Longreach, 27 July, 2007), 2.
01-Jul-07	NSW	Edwards Pit Enters First Stage of Operation	The first stage of Pinnacle Mine's Edwards Pit Project in Broken Hill has begun production of lead oxide Ore. The company had previously negotiated a Native Title Agreement in early 2007 and has a 'good working relationship with local Indigenous people'.	<i>Mining Chronicle</i> (National, July 2007), 102.
25-Jul-07	QLD	Eight communities work on turtle/dugong management project	There are traditional owners from eight Torres Strait communities that are involved in a turtle/dugong project which is coordinated by the Torres Strait Regional Authority Land and Sea Management Unit which will work with communities to develop 'community based management plans'. The program also 'allows...communities to get involved in dugong and turtle catch monitoring which is an essential tool to assist communities to make sure their management actions are having a positive effect'.	<i>Torres News</i> (Thursday Island, 25 July, 2007), 24.
31-Jul-07	WA	Uranium mining a hot topic	The Australian Uranium Mining Conference held in Fremantle attracted more than 400 industry delegates and included a presentation by Western Desert Land Aboriginal Corporation chief executive Clinton Wolfe: 'Mining in Western Australia: A traditional Landowner's perspective'.	<i>Fremantle Gazette</i> (Perth, 31 July, 2007), 10; 'Mining talks blasted' <i>Melville Times</i> (Perth, 31 July 2007), 10.
01-Jul-07	QLD	Minerals resources laws review after 17 years	The Queensland Government is proposing a new Mineral Resources Act to replace the <i>Minerals Resources Act 1989</i> . Mines and Energy Minister Geoff Wilson said that 'we're riding an incredible resources boom and we need to move with the times'. A discussion paper on the proposed legislation was released May 15.	<i>Queensland Government Mining Journal</i> (National, July 2007), 12.

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01-Aug-07	NT	Royalties from MRM, at last	The McArthur River Mine near the Gulf of Carpentaria has handed over \$13 million even though the mining development was one of the first major developments following the Mabo decision. 'Despite this, the company - owned by Swiss Mining Giant X strata - has paid no royalties to date. But because of a controversial \$110 million project to divert the McArthur River by 5.5 km, transforming the mine from underground to open cut and extending its life, the mine's general manager Brian Hearne said that the company was making more money'.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 1 August 2007), 34.
01-Aug-07	WA	Keeping Ngadju claim out of court	The West Australian Government and the Ngadju native title claimants from the southern Goldfields 'have signed an agreement to make a concerted effort over six months to negotiate an out-of-court settlement of the claim.' The 'statement of intent' signed in Perth by Deputy Premier Eric Ripper and claimant representatives commits both parties to 'not seek programming of the claim for trial in the Federal Court until the negotiations have ceased'. The claim area covers about 103 000 square kilometres 150 kilometres west of Norseman to Caiguna.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 1 August 2007), 29.
01-Aug-07	QLD	Strathgordon Mob's native title victory	The Strathgordon Mob's rights over 118 000 hectare pastoral property on the Cape York Peninsula has been recognised by the Federal Court in a consent determination. The determination means that the group can 'possess and occupy the land, and carry out traditional activities such as hunting and fishing'. This finalises the group's native title claim that was lodged in 2003. Senior Strathgordon Elder Rosie Upton said that the 'return of the land was a turning point for her people'. 'I have worked on the station all my life, a long time for no pay, just food and tobacco. Now Australia recognises that we are the owners, nobody can take our rights away again' she said.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 1 August 2007), 5; 'Native title recognised over Strathgordon pastoral lease' <i>Weipa</i> (Weipa, 1 August 2007), 4.
01-Aug-07	SA	Big, bigger, biggest - the Olympic Dam Plan	South Australia has become second to Western Australia in mineral exploration. BHP Billiton's corporate affairs manager Richard Yeeles said that the company is targeting 'training employment, health and aged care and was looking to establish a trust as part of the native	<i>Paydirt</i> (National, August 2007), 19; 'Major expansions signal boom times' <i>Mining Chronicle</i> (National, July

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			title agreements' in anticipation of the expansion of the Olympic Dam.	2007)
01-Aug-07	NSW	Job program sacked	The Forster Local Aboriginal Land Council's Community Development Employment Program will end after the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations elected not to renew its contract with the land council. Donna Hall from the land council said that 'there has been a bit of anger in the community because it has lead to a lot of uncertainty'.	<i>Great Lakes Advocate</i> (Forster, 1 August 2007), 3.
01-Aug-07	NT	NT Intervention Message to PM John Howard: You've failed; Message to Labor's Kevin Rudd: so have you!	The Federal Government's intervention in the Northern Territory has 'been blasted as evidence that the Prime Minister has failed to deliver his promise of practical reconciliation'. Pat Turner a coordinator of the Combined Aboriginal Organisations of the Northern Territory (CAO) has 'predicted that the intervention will fail because it is being conducted without consulting Aboriginal people'. Ms Turner said that 'Aboriginal communities continued to lack basic infrastructure such as housing, schools and medical facilities'. She urged the government to 'implement the recommendations contained in the <i>Little Children are Sacred</i> report, which has been used to justify sending in the troops.' She criticised the link made between child abuse and land rights. The authors of the report, Rex Wild QC and Patricia Anderson said that they 'felt betrayed by the Government'. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calms said that health checks had been carried out in the Northern Territory prior to the intervention even though they have been announced by Mal Brough as a new measure. Even though Mr Calma 'welcomes the fact that Aboriginal issues were now firmly on the agenda' he 'remained concerned about the practical implementation and many aspects of the Government's strategy. Professor Larissa Behrendt the director of research at the Jumbana Indigenous House of Learning said that the Labor party had failed to offer an adequate response to the issue. However Indigenous leader Warren Mundine said that the plan was not a 'land grab'.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 1 August 2007), 8; 'Meddling a blight: chairman' <i>Border Mail</i> (Albury, 1 August 2007), 19; 'Canberra's NT Troop Move 'devastating' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 6 August 2007}}, 4; 'Coast blow-out for NT plan: Indigenous reform package hits \$500 m' <i>Australian</i> (National, 6 August 2007), 1; 'PM plan no land grab: Mundine' <i>Australian</i> (National, 6 August 2007), 4; 'Govt's NT crackdown a 'betrayal' <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 6 August 2007), 3; 'PM stands condemned' <i>Hobart Mercury</i> (Hobart, 6 August 2007), 4; 'ALP's support not in question' <i>Australian</i> (National, 8 August 2007), 4; 'Reconciliation with a vengeance' <i>Australian</i> (National, 8 August 2007), 4; 'Laws get tick amid claims of

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				genocide' <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 8 August 2007), 3; 'Aboriginal crisis: it's time for talk' <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 8 August 2007), 12; 'The ALP 'scared of taking on Martin' <i>Australian</i> (National, 16 August 2007), 6; 'Breaking the silence' <i>New Woman</i> (National, September 2007), 75.
01-Aug-07	NT	Views spilt on tourism opportunities in communities	It has been argued that the 'tourism industry could blossom in job-starved remote communities with the winding back of the permit system'. Northern Land Council Chief Executive Norman Fry said that 'a removal of the permit system would see Arnhem Land instantly become the world's most sought after backpacker destination'. This view was echoed by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations NT Manager Brenda Parkes who said that 'opening areas up for more people to visit [will] stimulate industry'. However Justice Minister Syd Stirling said that 'its nonsense to think that visitation...can be forced on reluctant hosts...Indigenous communities have spoken out strongly against the removal of the permit system'.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 1 August 2007), 21.
01-Aug-07	NT	Jam the fishing permits'	New laws have come into effect 'requiring recreational fishermen to apply to the Northern Land Council for a permit to fish around 80 per cent of the Territory's coastline'. Deputy Opposition Leader Terry Mills has said that fishing permits in the Northern Territory go 'beyond an offence to my personal freedom'. Mr Mills was concerned that 'the system... will increase division' and 'denied his comments were stunt though he said he has not has a chance to go fishing for a long time'. The Blue Mud Bay decision has been appealed by the Northern Territory Government. The police have said that 'recreational fishermen will be given a warning for throwing a line in without a permit on Aboriginal land'.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 2 August, 2007), 1; 'NT fishers facing permit warnings' <i>Sunday Territorian</i> (Darwin, 5 August 2007), 2; 'Fishers to get permit warnings' <i>Sunday Territorian</i> (5 August 2007), 4.

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02-Aug-07	NT	Tiwi Permit system to be abolished	<p>The permit system in the Tiwi Islands will be abolished. The Federal Government is currently engaging in discussions with traditional owners to 'sign a lease in exchange for a high school, 25 new homes and \$1 million for health initiatives'. A 'legal bid to delay the signing of a 99 year head lease failed after insufficient evidence was found to substantiate claims of bribes and forgery'.</p>	<p><i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 2 August, 2007), 4; 'Tiwi lease bid fails' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 14 August 2007), 4; 'Land Lease' <i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> (Adelaide, 21 August 2007), 4; 'Tiwi people hail lease as 'new beginning' <i>Australian</i> (National, 31 August 2007), 4; 'Tiwi lease given up' <i>Northern Daily Leader</i> (Tamworth, 31 August 2007), 9; 'Ink dries on first 99 year govt lease' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 31 August 2007), 4; 'Historic Agreement for 99 year lease in NT' <i>Media Release</i> (Federal Government, 30 August 2007), 1; 'Nguiu landowners opt for home ownership' <i>Media Release</i> (Tiwi Land Council, 30 August 2007), 1; 'Middletons advises Tiwi Islands on 99 year Head Lease with the Commonwealth' <i>Media Release</i> (Middletons, 30 August 2007), 1.</p>
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02-Aug-07	NSW	Land claim may cause two year hospital delay	The Orange hospital may be delayed 'due to a land claim put on Bloomfield by the NSW Aboriginal Land Council'. The claim 'affects the new hospital site and the surrounding Country Club golf course, Orange City Council and Orange EX Services Club [which have] prepared submissions proving the Crown land there is being used for community benefit'. The submissions 'will be a part of a report that goes to the NSW Department of Lands'.	<i>Midstate Observer</i> (Orange, 2 August 2007), 3; 'Hospital site in land claim limbo' <i>Central Western Daily</i> (Orange, 16 August 2007), 5.
03-Aug-07	NT	Laws to scrap permits heading to parliament	Legislation with a 'drastic effect on the Territory's permit system' has been tabled in Parliament. Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough said that the 'new laws will scrap the need for a permit in "common areas of major communities" and "airstrips and access roads to the communities"'. This will also apply to obtaining a permit to attend court hearings on Aboriginal land. The Central Land Council which has administered the permit system under the Aboriginal Land Right Act has said that 'there is no just evidence that 'open' communities are better off than communities on Aboriginal land whose access has been regulated by permits'. Tangentyere Council executive director William Tilmouth said that 'I believe there will be more harm done to children in the future than has been done in the past'. A	<i>Centralian Advocate</i> (Alice Springs, 3 August 2007), 2.
03-Aug-07	SA	Federal pledge to help SA in Lands problems	The Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough has 'offered federal help for a drug and alcohol crackdown in South Australian Aboriginal lands'. Mr Brough said 'we've got to send a clear message to people and we need the as Government to pull its weight and do it as well'. SA Aboriginal Affairs Minister Jay Weatherill 'welcome[d] the federal offer but said the biggest issue that needed to be tackled was overcrowding'.	<i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> (Adelaide, 3 August 2007), 14.

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03-Aug-07	SA	Let us reconsider today's treatment of the stolen generation	<p>Father Frank Brennan, professor of law at the Australian Catholic University has said that the struggle of the stolen generation reflects a 'pattern...now familiar from the land rights struggles of the previous generation'. He said that Aboriginal plaintiffs need to 'jump' four legal hurdles '(1) They have to prove that the removal was without parental consent (2) They need to have evidence that the removal was contrary to law, and not in the best interests of the child (3) they need to show that the decision to remove the child was unreasonable according to community standards and policy of the day (4) they need to show that their belated court action (often 50 years after the removal) is fair and proper because the material facts came to light only recently'. Recently Brude Allan Trevorrow was awarded \$525 000 after being fostered out when he was taken to hospital with an infection. His parents had made repeated attempts for his return but were met with 'bare faced lies from authorities who claimed they didn't know his whereabouts. Mr Trevorrow was returned to his mother but was unable to bond with her and was later institutionalised. Former Federal Court Judge Murray Wilcox has said that 'it was not too late for John Howard to issue a 'formal and genuine apology for the actions of previous Australian governments'.</p>	<p><i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 3 August 2007), 13; 'Stolen Childhood' <i>The Australian</i> (National, 3 August, 2007), 13; 'Stolen generation need apology, says ex-judge' <i>Australian</i> (National, 6 August 2007), 4.</p>
03-Aug-07	NT	The streets belong to us: More than a permit needed	<p>The Federal Government has 'declared that it will abolish the permit system under the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i> (Cth).' The legislation was originally proposed by the Whitlam government and received bipartisan support. Barrister Dr Jocelyn A Scutt has argued that 'Aboriginal people were given the right to occupation and ownership of Aboriginal land without interference. This did no more than extend to indigenous Australians rights that non-Indigenous Australians have enjoyed.'. Some Indigenous communities will not be offered financial compensation and 'people will also lose the right to have the management of the their welfare payments reviewed by the Social Security Appeals tribunal'. Aboriginal elders from remote communities have said that 'they believed they were being forced to hand over control of their lands in a way that "would not be tolerated by any other community group". The primary concern is the 'lack of consultation and a perceived lack of detail or</p>	<p><i>Lawyers Weekly</i> (National, 3 August 2007), 13; 'Howard Government getting on with the job of protecting children in the Northern Territory' <i>Media Release</i> (Mal Brough, Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, National, 6 August 2007), 29; 'Pm's wedge is not gift for Aborigines' <i>Australian</i> (National, 10 August 2007), 16; 'Land Council fears welfare quarantine fallout'</p>

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			long term planning'. Other measures such as the commitment of extra policing has been welcomed although 'elders argue police need better cultural training and that funding for indigenous run night patrols should be restored'. However West Australian Magistrate Sue Gordon who is chairing the Northern Territory Emergency Taskforce said that 'their work was considered an emergency response [and that] it was not possible to hold widespread consultation beforehand.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 3 August 2007), 5; 'Bar humbug' <i>Australian</i> (National, 10 August 2007), 15.
03-Aug-07	QLD	Islanders fear identity will be swamped	The residents of Ugar, Dauan and Sabai Island have lost their councils which will be merged into one council as a part of the State government's overhaul of councils. The representatives 'are angry at the Government's decision, saying it leaves unanswered questions over complex land tenure and cultural issues'. Chairwoman and Dauan Mayor Margaret Mau said that 'there were fears the islands would lose their identity if representation was diluted by immigration'.	<i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 3 August 2007), 13.
03-Aug-07	NT	Marchers Protest NT Plan	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Activists 'marched on Wollongong...to protest the Federal Government's Northern Territory intervention into indigenous communities'. Organiser Jodi Edwards said that the 'march was about putting race back on the agenda' and that 'the recent intervention by the Federal Government into indigenous communities was simply a guise aimed at undermining Aboriginal land rights'. Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer was also 'targeted by Maori protesters critical of the Government's intervention in the Aboriginal communities'. Other protests have been held through out the country.	<i>Illawarra Mercury</i> (Wollongong, 3 August 2007), 20; <i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> (Adelaide, 6 August 2007), 17; 'Maori take up cudgels with Downer in NZ' <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 6 August 2007), 4; 'Protest targets Downer' <i>Sunshine Coast Daily Bulletin</i> (Marochydore, 6 August 2007), 5; 'His way to have a say' <i>Moreland Leader</i> (Melbourne, 6 August 2007), 3.

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03-Aug-07	NSW	Council appeals land sale decision	the Koombahtoo Local Aboriginal Land Council has 'appealed against a Supreme Court decision handed down last year over the sale of land it has owned at Morisset'. The Council argued that the sale was void as it 'infringed the provisions of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983...and as a consequence the mortgage of the land by the trustee was void'. Legal counsel for the land council said that 'land could only be disposed of if a meeting of members was called and at least 80 percent voted that the land did not have cultural significance'.	<i>Newcastle Herald</i> (Newcastle, 3 August 2007), 27.
03-Aug-07	NT	Barrister Offers Free Fish Counsel	Peter Maley has offered to 'represent the first Territorian prosecuted for not having a fishing permit on Aboriginal land'. Mr Maley said that 'forcing anglers to get permission to drop a line in tidal waters adjoining indigenous land was an attack on NT rights'.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 3 August 2007), 7.
04-Aug-07	WA	Aboriginal anxiety on looming job losses	Lance MacDonald chairman of the Papunya community said that the 'abolition of the Community Development Employment Projects and this week's scrapping of the permit system will drive his community further into poverty and leave it vulnerable to grog and drug runners.'. He said that 'what is being forgotten in all the drama is that this our land, but we are no longer being recognised as the first Australian citizens'. Mr Macdonald said that with the removal of the permit system the community will no longer be able to protect its sacred sites. There has been strong criticism of the measures to remove CDEP since there have been no alternatives offered. There are also concerns that removing the permit system will endanger local art industries by enabling tourists to potentially set up 'exploitative' relationships with artists. Warren Snowdon Member for Lingiari and Trish Crossin, NT senator said that 'reforms of CDEP must recognise its strengths as well as it weaknesses as a platform for job creation'. They said that 'CDEP should be used to move unemployed Aboriginal people from welfare to work through projects that benefit their communities. CDEP reforms should not be used to cut people's entitlements'.	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 4 August 2007), 4; 'Culture caught in the crossfire' <i>Australian</i> (National 16 August 2007), 16; 'Snowdon - provide proper wages and conditions for people in public sector jobs funded by CDEP' <i>Alice Springs News</i> (Alice Springs, 9 August 2007), 15.

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05-Aug-07	NT	Brough close to deal on control of town camps	<p>Leaders of northern Australia's main Aboriginal groups are heading to Canberra in a bid to stop the Government legislation'. Even though negotiation have been 'kept secret, it is understood an agreement for a new deal on security, housing and employment could be struck within weeks'. Community held lands are perceived to have 'prevented Aborigines from raising their own living standards' and that 'changes to land tenure will not take land away from Aborigines but make their land rights more meaningful by allowing them to own their own homes and enjoy improved amenities.' Pat Turner, a prominent Indigenous leader said that 'it's important for Australians to understand that we will not give up our lands'. 'Letters were drafted at a meeting of 30 Indigenous leaders in Arnhem land 'calling on [Prime Minister John Howard and Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd] to halt the legislation that is expected to take control of Aboriginal communities and wind back the permit system'. A delegation of Indigenous Leaders arriving in Canberra said that they were 'particularly concerned about changes to land tenure and the permits system saying they have not seen any evidence to show that either measure will stop child abuse'.</p>	<p><i>Sunday Age</i> (Melbourne, 5 August 2007), 3; 'Aboriginal leaders to protest' <i>Sunday Examiner</i> (:Launceston, 5 August 2007), 10; 'Aboriginal leaders fight Govt' <i>Sunday Territorian</i> (Darwin, 5 August 2007), 4; 'NT Indigenous leaders seek meeting with PM' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 4 August, 2007), 4; 'Indigenous leaders call for halt to territory intervention' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 4 August 2007), 4; 'Anger over NT child Bill' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 8 August 2007), 5; 'Wealth built on land "theft"' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (8 August 2007), 14; '\$20m exchange' <i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i> (Maroochydore, 8 August 2007), 14; 'A home of one's own: changed tenure will increase the value of Aboriginal land' <i>Australian</i> (National, 6 August 2007), 17; 'No recompense for leases: Brough' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 7 August 2007), 6.</p>
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06-Aug-07	NT	Aboriginal fest a forum for indigenous issues	<p>At the recent Garman festival, former Northern Land Council chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu said 'I appeal to you to stand beside us to fight the rottenness that is... the sickness of this government setting out to simply take way what's rightfully ours'. The festival was also attended by professor of public health at flinders university Fran Baum who said that 'when you rob people of control over their lives, it is uniformly bad for their health'.</p>	<p><i>Daily Mercury</i> (Mackay, 6 August 2007), 10; 'Aboriginal Fest a Forum for Indigenous Issues' <i>Gladstone Observer</i> (Gladstone, 6 August 2007), 12; <i>Morning Bulletin</i> (Rockhampton, 6 August 2007), 20; 'Apartheid to be enforced on Aborigines' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 7 August 2007), 11; 'Aboriginal leaders voice concerns over tough times' <i>Daily Advertiser</i> (Wagga Wagga, 7 August 2007), 10; 'Hairy leg tourists told to keep out' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 8 August 2007), 7; 'NALC backs Garma message' <i>Narrandera Argus</i> (Narrandera, 7 August 2007), 2.</p>
06-Aug-07	WA	WA's share of mineral exploration is slipping	<p>Western Australia's share of Australia's mineral exploration expenditure 'continues to clump' according to the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies. Based on statistics released from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Western Australia recorded a decline of 48.71 per cent. AMEC's policy and public affairs manager Ian Loftus said that 'unresolved Naive title issues and uncertainty over land access because of shifting and increasingly unworkable, environmental goal posts are contributing to a decline in the State's attractiveness'.</p>	<p><i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 6 August 2007), 8.</p>

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07-Aug-07	NT	Intervention legislation to remove appeal rights	<p>The Commonwealth's legislation introduced into parliament will 'remove normal rights of appeal for aborigines in the Northern Territory, prevent customary law being considered in sentencing and give itself open-ended powers to acquire land or ban alcohol'. Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough 'confirmed the Government would spend \$587 million in the first year of the five year intervention' which will see 'Canberra take control of Aboriginal townships through five year leases, introduce alcohol and pornography bans and quarantine welfare payments'. The money 'does not include money to compensate traditional owners for land the Government compulsorily acquires for five years'. Mr Brough has said that 'rent and improvements including infrastructure programs could count as compensation'. NT Chief Minister Claire Martin said that 'measure to remove permit systems, lease land for five years and compulsorily acquire town camps had "nothing to do with child abuse"'. The Federal Government has been criticised for 'ramming' the reforms although it has been justified on the basis of a 'national emergency'.</p>	<p><i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 7 August 2007), 6; 'Right to tribal law scrapped' <i>Australian</i> (National, 7 August 2007), 1; 'Indigenous support: the NT intervention Bill deserves a smooth passage' <i>The Australian</i> (7 August 2007), 15; 'Brough moves fast on NT laws' <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 7 August 2007), 1; 'Call for Howard to go on attack' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 7 August 2007), 7; 'Alcohol banned in abuse crackdown' <i>Daily Telegraph</i> (Sydney, 7 August 2007), 2; 'Brough unveils 'takeover' plans' <i>Centralian Advocate</i> (Alice Springs, 7 August 2007), 5; 'Martin: Child Abuse fight key to reforms' <i>Centralian Advocate</i> (Alice Springs, 7 August 2007), 5; 'Intervention queried' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 21 August 2007), 6.</p>
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07-Aug-07	NT	Reconciliation Australia Calls for non urgent aspects of the legislation to be deferred	Reconciliation Australia has 'called on the Government to extract and defer non-urgent elements of the Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bill'. It also asked that a 'detailed evaluation of its early impact be released to reassure communities the plan is based on evidence of what's working'. A report commissioned by Oxfam said that there is 'compelling evidence that the proposed changes have no connection with the incidence of child sex abuse, are likely to jeopardize the effectiveness of the Government's emergency response in the Northern Territory and are detrimental to the development of Aboriginal communities'. Senator Andrew Bartlett has also said that 'the government's attempt to ram its Indigenous intervention legislation through parliament this week with no time set aside for proper scrutiny or debate is a flagrant abuse of power which seriously risks making things worse rather than better'.	<i>Media Release</i> (National, 7 August 2007), 1; <i>Media Release</i> (National, 7 August 2007), 11; 'Government's railroading Indigenous intervention risks long term harm' <i>Media Release</i> (National, 7 August 2007), 45.
07-Aug-07	NT	Groote Eylandt supports 99 year township leases	The Groote Eylandt region of the Northern Territory was 'emerging following in principle agreement of the local Anindilyakwa people to enter into a 99 year lease'. An in principle agreement has been reached with the Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyaburra townships'.	<i>Media Release</i> (National, 7 August 2007), 25.

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08-Aug-07	NT	Takeover Bill stalled	<p>The legislation implementing the Government's intervention in the Northern Territory will be supported by the Labor party with amendments that 'get rid of provisions exempting the legislation from the Racial Discrimination Act; keep permits for entry to Aboriginal townships; and guarantee a review of parts of the law after a year of operation'. The legislation has also been used by both parties in the wake of the federal election to 'seize the popular ground'. The reforms are made of six bills which have been passed with Labor support. Minister for Indigenous Affairs Mal Brough said that 'it's a time in out nation's history...when hopefully we can once and for all make a real improvement in the lives of the First Australians and the children in particular'. However Labor Warren Snowdon 'accused the Government of abusing the parliamentary process'. Opposition Senate Leader Chris Evans 'moved to amend the wording of the NT, laws to ensure "the just terms guarantee of the constitution will apply". However community service Minister Nigel Scullion said that "any bills will not remove or diminish that aspect of the constitution'.</p>	<p><i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> (Adelaide, 8 August 2007), 24; <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 8 August 2007), 8; 'ALP's support not in question' <i>Australian</i> (National, 8 August 2007), 4; 'Reforms on abuse passed' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 8 August 2007), 5; 'CLC fights to save NT permits' <i>Centralian Advocate</i> (Alice Springs, 7 August 2007), 5; 'It's the vibe,' says Labor about indigenous laws amendment plan' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 16 August 2007), 14.</p>
08-Aug-07	NT	It's a remote beat but the police are welcome	<p>Eddie Robertson, elder from the Nyirripi community said that 'if they are going to be doing this they should improve our living standards'. Mr Robertson said that the community did not want much and welcomed the police but said that the 'town did not trust the Government to stand by their commitments'.</p>	<p><i>Australian</i> (National, 8 August 2007), 4.</p>
08-Aug-07	QLD	\$3bn plan boosted	<p>The Queensland Government has 'given a boost to a \$3 billion aluminium project, expected to create 2300 jobs during its construction in the Far North'. This 'gives the Queensland government a hand in coordinating decision making between the different levels of government'. An indigenous land use agreement 'with natives title holders and the Aurukun Shire Council has also been registered'.</p>	<p><i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns, 8 August 2007), 25; 'Chalco set for action at Aurukun' <i>Courier Mail</i>, 8 August 2007, 40; 'Chalco project granted 'significant status' <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville, 8 August 2007), 5; 'Boon to Aurukun mining project' <i>Western Cape Bulletin</i> (Weipa, 15 August 2007), 5; 'State backs bauxite</p>

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				project' <i>North Queensland Register</i> (Townsville, 16 August 2007), 11; 'Bauxite bid' <i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 29 August 2007), 30.
09-Aug-07	NATIONAL	\$7 Million Boost for Indigenous Environmental Projects	Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Malcolm Turnbull has said that environmental projects under the Indigenous Protected Areas Programme will received a \$7 million boost. This will be in partnership with the Indigenous Land Corporation.	<i>Media Release</i> (Federal, 9 August 2007), 5.
09-Aug-07	SA	River dredging gets under way	A 'streamlined dredging approval process continues to help some Murray Water users maintain access to their supply'. Some of the elements that have lead to this process include individual agreements between the Minister and Aboriginal communities to waive the usual period of notice under the NTA.	<i>Stock Journal</i> (South Australia, 9 August 2007), 8.
10-Aug-07	NT	Indigenous leaders plan APEC protest at NT laws	Indigenous leaders will use 'next month's APEC summit to draw international attention to what they say is deeply discriminating legislation underpinning Canberra's intervention in the Northern Territory'. National Native Title Council chairman Brian Wyatt said that 'his council and other indigenous bodies were appealing to the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation to put pressure on the government'.	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 10 August 2007), 4.

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10-Aug-07	NT	Manne is wrong to say didn't consult: Mal Brough	Minister for Indigenous Affairs Mal Brough has said that he had 'flagged changes to the permit system last year' when a review was launched and had extended the period for consultation 'at the direct request of the Northern Land Council'. Mr Brough said that 'the permit system will only be lifted in townships which account for 0.1 per cent of land in the Territory'. He also said that 'land rights were the subject of extensive consultation in the lead-up to the introduction last year of the amendments to the Land Rights (NT) Act to provide for land tenure reforms'.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 10 August 2007), 17.
10-Aug-07	NATIONAL	Judge will remember day of the Willy-Nilly	Justice Robert Nicholson has retired from the Federal Court after 18 years.	<i>Australian Financial Review</i> (National, 10 August 2007), 58.
10-Aug-07	NT	Communities 'scared' into signing leases	The Northern Territory's 'peak local government body has accused the federal Government of using the intervention to scare indigenous communities into signing 99 year leases'. Kerry Moir, president of the NT's Local Government Association said 'communities and councils believed they would be rewarded if they 'came on side'. Ms Moir said that 'Angurugu and Umbakumba on Groote Eylandt were not communities listed for the intervention had... announced their intention to sign a 99 year lease'.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 10 August 2007), 6.
10-Aug-07	NT	Birthplace of land rights on heritage list	The Wave Hill cattle station where Vincent Lingiari and the Gurindji people walked off in 1966 has been added to the National Heritage List. The walk off was the 'start of what was to become a decade struggle for recognition that culminated in the Aboriginal Land Rights Act'.	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 10 August 2007), 5; 'Land rights honour' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 10 August 2007), 91 'Walk-off sites recognised' <i>Katherine Times</i> (Katherine, 29 August 2007), 5.

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14-Aug-07	NT	Quick review gives NT plans the go ahead	The 'controversial Commonwealth intervention to stop child abuse in Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory has been given the go ahead after a lightning-quick review by a parliamentary committee'. The 'Government dominated committee has recommended the intervention legislation be passed without amendment' but 'has called on the Government to clarify whether Aborigines will be compensated on just terms when the Government compulsorily acquires their property'. The Democrats and Greens filed dissenting reports with Senator Andrew Bartlett saying that '[provisions for the takeover of Indigenous land and the scrapping of permits should be deleted because there was not proof they would stop child abuse'.	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 14 August 2007), 6.
15-Aug-07	NSW	\$85000 Grant for Toongabbie	The Riverina's Toongabbie Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) will 'received \$85 000 from the Australian Government's IPA Programme to expand its weed control work, plant trees and develop an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Centre'. The Nari Nari Tribal Council owns and manages Toongabbie IPA.	<i>Riverine Grazier</i> (Hay, 15 August 2007), 3.
15-Aug-07	QLD	Wilderness Society says Premier's on the right track	The QLD State Government is funding a package for Cape York that 'includes the creation of 20 Indigenous Ranger positions and a land and sea management program'. The proposed amendments to the <i>Wild Rivers Act 2005</i> will also 'strengthen Indigenous involvement in the declaration and management of the rivers' according to Anthony Esposito from the Wilderness Society.	<i>Western Cape Bulletin</i> (Weipa, 15 August 2007), 4.

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16-Aug-07	NT	The ALP 'scared of taking on martin'	<p>In a speech delivered to the national press club, Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough said that the Mabo decision and the Wik judgment were 'very important but building on the Land Rights Act of 1976 has locked Indigenous people into collective tenure'. Mr Brough said 'we need to actually recognise that communism didn't work. It doesn't work to say a collective owns it and you don't have anything'. However the government has 'refused to amend its NT intervention laws to ensure Aboriginal people are compensated for losing control of their land under the terms outlined under the constitution'.</p>	<p><i>Australian</i> (National, 16 August 2007), 6; 'Mabo impoverished the Aborigines' <i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (Broken Hill, 16 August 2007), 6; 'Mabo 'impoverished Aborigines' <i>Border Mail</i> (Albury, 16 August 2007), 6; 'Land Rights outcomes' <i>Launceston Examiner</i> (Launceston, 16 August 2007), 78; 'Land rich but cash poor, warns Cook MP..again' <i>Cooktown Local News</i> (Cooktown, 15 August 2007), 6.</p>
16-Aug-07	QLD	Keen to explore: Uranium targets draw in new junior miners anxious to hit viable lode	<p>A number of junior miners have expressed interest in exploring the North West region of Queensland. Metex resources are interested in exploring for uranium, in the Westmoreland area in the Gulf. The company's managing director Ian Walker said that 'the company was also in the final stages of getting exploration grants around Cloncurry and was in discussions with representative of the Mitakoodi people'.</p>	<p><i>Northwest Star</i> (Mount Isa, 16 August 2007), 1.</p>
16-Aug-07	NT	Empires Crumble	<p>Tangentyere 'may lose all or much of its recurrent funding from the Commonwealth following its rejection of \$60m from Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough for upgrading town camps in Alice Springs'. The body will cease to provide municipal services.</p>	<p><i>Alice Springs News</i> (Alice Springs, 16 August 2007), 1; 'Macadam speaking with forked tongue?' <i>Alice Springs News</i> (Alice Springs, 16 August 2007), 4.</p>

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16-Aug-07	NT	Combined Aboriginal Organisations 'no mandate from locals'	Lhere Artepe is 'challenging the mandate of the Combines Aboriginal Organisations of Alice Springs to speak on behalf of local Aborigines'. CEO Ken Laughton is 'calling for Indigenous money to be channelled through Lhere Artepe which would subcontract to...organisations to provide services to town camps'. Mr Laughton said that 'Lhere Artepe are supposed to be the peak organisation for dealing with Aboriginal issues in Alice Springs'. Tangentyere has a one fifth share in the investment company Centrecorp which has come under pressure to become more accountable. Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough warned 'indigenous charities will face Government action if they failed to be accountable and transparent in their operations'.	<i>Alice Springs News</i> (Alice Springs, 16 August 2007), 5; 'Aboriginal firm to list donations' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 22 August 2007), 4; 'Brough warns Indigenous charities' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 23 August 2007), 12.
21-Aug-07	SA	Aboriginal owner allow sand mining	Iluka Resources has reached an agreement in principle with the Far West Coast Native Title Management Committee over 'native title consent for development of the Jacinth Ambrosia and Tripitaka mineral sands in the Eucla Basin.	<i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> (Adelaide, 21 August 2007), 38.
21-Aug-07	NATIONAL	Creative accounting robs Aborigines of funds	The 'hundreds of millions of dollars the Commonwealth claims to have spend on indigenous affairs has either never been spent, been used to benefit Australians or gone towards opposing native title claims'. In an <i>Age</i> investigation it was found that 'over the last six years at least \$30 million the Government promoted as being for Aborigines was used to oppose indigenous native title compensation claims'.	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 21 August 2007), 4; 'Black dollars that go everywhere but to blacks' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 21 August 2007), 1; 'White hands raid the honey pot' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 22 August 2007), 12.

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21-Aug-07	QLD	Vets win title to use park	An agreement has been reached between Vietnam war veterans and the Kalpowar Aboriginal Land Trust which is the first of its kind to give a 'non indigenous group use of the land which recognises the rights and responsibilities of the traditional owners". The Indigenous Land Use Agreement was drawn up between the traditional owners and the State government in 2005 which 'led to the establishment of the Land Trust, which in turn paved the way for an agreement between the Trust and the Vietnam veterans'.	<i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville, 21 August 2007), 6.
21-Aug-07	QLD	Ma:mu sign off on site	The Ma:Mu people have signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement that 'allows a section of the Wooroonooran National Park to be used for tourism activities'. Traditional owner Dean Purcell said that 'there were times when we argued around the table and walked away but we came back and I'm very proud to be part of this'. An onsite meeting will be called to discuss the treatment of land to protect sensitive cultural land.	<i>Innisfail Advocate</i> (Innisfail, 21 August 2007), 3.
21-Aug-07	NSW	Fears emergency law may apply in Sydney	Local Aboriginal Leader and CEO of the Aboriginal Housing Company Michael Mundine 'has expressed concerns about the Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bill'. Mr Mundine said that the 'bill gives the Australian Crime Commission (ACC) power to take over communities outside the Northern Territory'. He said that 'paedophiles should be caught and put away as quickly as possible for the safety of our children. However, the ownership of land has nothing to do with catching paedophiles and dealing with alcohol problems'.	<i>Inner Western Suburbs Courier</i> (Sydney, 21 August 2007), 13.

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21-Aug-07	QLD	Cadwell enviro friendly plan	The Girringun Aboriginal Corporation is 'taking the lead with ground breaking carbon credit offsetting scheme to be presented at the National Indigenous Land and Sea Management Conference and Festival in October. One of the initiatives includes the installation of 2500 super efficient compact fluorescent lamps throughout the Cadwell region. Conference co-ordinator Joanne Keune said that the 'carbon offsetting scheme was another example of Girringun's commitment to involving the local Cardwell community in the lead up to the conference.	<i>Herbert River Express</i> (Ingham, 21 August 2007), 5.
22-Aug-07	NT	Dodson says NT plan will wind clock back a decade	Indigenous leader Pat Dodson said that the commonwealth is 'seeking to wind back the advances that we've made over the 10 years through the destruction of all the organisations'. He said that 'land Councils, (representative) bodies, legal services, housing associations, whatever is left will disappear...we'll probably have the medical services just left intact because at least most Australians understand the gap in terms of life expectancy between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples'.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 22 August 2007), 6.
22-Aug-07	NT	Northern fires risk to emissions: expert	According to CSIRO research 'Australian can save millions of tonnes of greenhouse gases each year by reducing the number, size and frequency of fires burning across its tropical northern savannas'. The management of 'new prescribed burning regimes to reduce greenhouse gases offer[s] real economic opportunities for Aboriginal communities'. Land councils have been involved in strategic fire management across western Arnhem land.	<i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 22 August 2007), 6.

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23-Aug-07	WA	Signs of significance on show	Natural features along Crab Creek Road are being signposted 'thanks to the efforts of traditional owners and local environment groups'. The Signs have been installed by the Department of Environment and Conservation and includes information on 'accessing Roebuck Bay and native title land'. This is one of the projects in partnership with the Kimberley land Council, Environs Kimberley and Rubibi traditional owners.	<i>Boome Advertiser</i> (Broome, 23 August 2007), 8.
23-Aug-07	NATIONAL	Aboriginal mining royalties unspent	Aboriginal mining royalties have been unspent. 'Almost \$50 million paid into a special fund set up to make sure mining royalties benefit Northern Territory Aborigines has remained unspent over the past 10 years'. Only \$4 in every \$10 of the \$80 million the Federal Government has available to spend as grants using the Aboriginal Benefits Account made its way to Indigenous communities by the 2005/06 financial year. The account is funded by royalties paid to the Federal Government by mining companies for using Aboriginal land. Professor John Altman said that 'technically it is public money but its whole intent is to be used for Aboriginal Benefit for Aboriginal priorities'. Minister for Indigenous Affairs Mal Brough said that 'I'm not in the practice of simply handing out funds to anyone who wants them.'	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 23 August 2007), 7.
23-Aug-07	WA	Reef blast plan put on hold	A plan to widen the Murchison River has been placed on hold by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure after concerns were raised that the department was not consulting with the Yamatji Land and Sea Council. The reef is of sacred significance to the Nhanda people.	<i>Mid West Times</i> (Geraldton, 23 August 2007), 5

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24-Aug-07	WA	The great desert dream	The Government's Northern Australia Land and Water Taskforce will consider the viability of the Northern Territory as the last 'agricultural frontier'. Chairman Bill Heffernan describes 'the vast area of cattle stations, national parks and Aboriginal reserves as one of the last great agricultural frontiers. It has the land: of the Territory's 1.3 million square kilometres alone, barely 1 per cent has been cleared'. The challenge will be accommodating other stakeholders including traditional owners who 'hold more than 40 per cent of the territory'.	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 25 August 2007), 30.
27-Aug-07	NT	Crackdown leaves Aborigines Wary	Two months after the Government's intervention into the Northern Territory, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movements chief executive Neil Gillespie said that 'Indigenous people remained suspicious that the intervention was a 'Trojan horse' for the takeover of Aboriginal land'. He said that he did 'appreciate that the Government is finally doing something about both child abuse and disadvantage but he was concerned that none of the recommendations of the Northern Territory's Little Children are sacred report has been followed'.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 27 August 2007), 7.
27-Aug-07	NT	Tiwi Trees	Former Federal Environment Minister Robert Hill approved plans to clear up '26 000 hectares of native title forest on Western Melville Island'. The decisions gave 'South Australian Timber company the Australian Plantation Group, in partnership with the Tiwi Land Council, the go ahead to clear eucalypt forests of stringy bark bloodwood and woolly butt to plant quick growing hickory wattle to produce export woodchips for China and Japan'. It is the 'single biggest land clearing project in Northern Australia'. However 'with few economic opportunities for the Tiwi Islands, both the federal and Northern Territory governments argued the forestry project would deliver local jobs and income for Tiwi Islands. Environment Centre NT Campaigner Peter Robertson says 'in the end, to our frustration, the approval went through pretty quietly, without attracting much attention outside the Territory and without being subjected to a full EIS by the federal	<i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 27 August 2007), 1.

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			government'.	
29-Aug-07	NT	Little children turn out to welcome PM to their territory	John Howard received an enthusiastic welcome when he visited the Aboriginal community of Hermannsburg. There were reports of 'rapidly growing numbers of children attending school'. Mr Howard said the Government has 'no intentio of taking back Aboriginal land' but said that 'the only way indigenous communities could hope to share in Australia's "bounty" was to accept that they had to operate within the wider mainstream Australian Community.	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 29 August 2007), 4; 'PM leads Aborigines to mainstream' <i>Australian</i> (National, 29 August 2007), 1; 'PM receives a warm welcome in Outback' <i>Burnie Advocate</i> (Burnie, 29 August 2007), 16.
29-Aug-07	WA	Straits agreements with traditional land owners	The Gnulli and Thalanyji native title claimant groups in the Gascoyne and Exmouth Gulf regions have signed a negotiation protocol with Straits Salt Pty Ltd. This is a part of the Yannarie Solar Salt project 'and will provide significant opportunities for the social and economic development of the Gnulli and Thalanyji people and the wider community for many years to come' according to project manager James Barrie.	<i>Northern Guardian</i> (Carnarvon, 29 August 2007), 6.
29-Aug-07	QLD	Big land squeeze	The Townsville region is facing population pressures 'and two of the major constraints in the Townsville region are topography and land ownership'. The expansion of residential development can also be constrained by issues such as mining leases, grazing leases and Native Title.	<i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville, 29 August 2007), 25.
29-Aug-07	QLD	Agreement to help safeguard turtles	An ILUA has been signed between the Wuthathi people from Shelbourne Bay as well as traditional owners from Erubam Le of Darnley Island, the Ugarem Le of Stephen Island and Meriam Le of Murray Island with the State Government which will grant Raine Island with National Park (Scientific) status. The 'traditional owners will work with the Queensland Government to manage and conserve the island's values and they have agreed not to take any flora and fauna from the national park'.	<i>Tablelands Advertiser</i> (Mareeba, 29 August 2007), 18.

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29-Aug-07	NSW	Githabul a stop closer to native title	The Githabul people have reached an agreement with the NSW Government over 112 000 hectares of national parks and state forests and have recently had their ILUA registered with the National Native Title Tribunal. This finalises the legally binding agreement which is expected to deliver 'employment opportunities, freehold land and co-management of national parks'. This is a major 'milestone' towards a native title consent determination.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 29 August 2007), 29.
30-Aug-07	WA	Agreement finally reached	The Mount Ridley Reserve will be 'protected for future generations after an historic agreement between the Esperance Nyungar Aboriginal Corporation and the Esperance Shire'. This formalised a 'joint management arrangement for managing the reserve which has a deep cultural significance to the people of the region'.	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 30 August 2007), 7.
30-Aug-07	NSW	Carrying on Linky's native title vision	The Naryulgil Bundjalung native title claim was registered with the Native Title Tribunal by elder Ken 'Linky' Gordon 'but faced termination with his death last year had another applicant not replaced him'. Avery Brown took over his role and said that 'the reasoning behind the claim is to preserve our sacred sites, our rights to maintain traditions and to ensure we can look after the best interests of our people'. However he said that NSW Native Title Services did not represent the claim group's interests.	<i>Daily Examiner</i> (Grafton, 30 August 2007), 3.
31-Aug-07	NT	Indigenous health fears over govt leases	GPs and medical leaders have warned that 'land rights changes as a part of the Federal Government's intervention in the NT could actually worsen Indigenous health'. Dr Jan Bowman said that 'opening up access could make it easier to bring alcohol in, allow more non-indigenous child sex perpetrators to enter and enable prostitution to develop in communities.	<i>Australian Doctor</i> (National, 31 August 2007), 6.