

Native Title in the News August 2008

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
25-Jul-08	WA	Native title needs overhaul	The National Native Title Council has said that the 'native title process needs to be overhauled to give Aboriginal people a better chance of having connection to their traditional lands recognised. According to NNTC Chairman Brian Wyatt, 'an overhaul would see stronger protection of Aboriginal land and customs and allow indigenous people to be economically independent sooner.'	<i>Golden Mail</i> (Kalgoorlie, 27 July, 2008), 10.
31-Jul-08	NT	'Seas sing' in coast decision	Traditional Aboriginal owners 'have won exclusive control of more than 7 000 kilometres of Northern Territory coastline' in a 5-2 ruling that 'will allow Aboriginal people living in coastal communities to reap what are expected to be huge economic benefits'.	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 31 July 2008), 6; 'Land rights reach into the sea' <i>Australian</i> (National, 31 July 2008), 3; 'Traditional owners get control of NT coast' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 31 July 2008), 3; 'Court adds sea to NT land rights' <i>Australian</i> (National, 31 July 2008), 1; 'Aborigines gain exclusive rights to coast' <i>Daily Examiner</i> (Grafton, 31 July 2008), 28; '80% of NT coast secured' <i>Geelong Advertiser</i> (Geelong, 31 July 2008), 9; 'Traditional owners win sea rights' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 31 July 2008), 4.
31-Jul-08	NATIONAL	Macklin aims for future benefits from native title	Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin has said that 'Indigenous people who secured native title agreements could be forced to ensure the long-term benefits of land tenure were enjoyed by future generations'. The 'Government has revealed	<i>Australian</i> (National, 31 July 2008), 2.

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			it will overhaul native title legislation to allow compensation payments to be used for future generations'.	
01-Aug-08	WA	Historic agreement applauded by explorers	The agreement between the Ngarluma people and Rio Tinto Iron Ore has been welcomed by the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies. AMEC chief executive Justin Walawski said 'it underscores the importance of mineral exploration for the future of native title owners'.	<i>Mining Chronicle</i> (National, August 2008), 13.
05-Aug-08	NSW	Native title claim difficulties discussed	The current native title claim in Bingara and Warialda presents some difficulties to the local council which were discussed at a meeting in Warialda.	<i>Bingara Advocate</i> , (Bingara, 5 August 2008), 3.
05-Aug-08	NT	Ok for 80 blocks...but no timeline	An in principle agreement has been reached 'for the development of 80 residential blocks at Mt John Valley in Alice Springs'. Under the agreement, Lhere Artepe will 'purchase the government's share to develop the first 40 blocks'.	<i>Centralian Advocate</i> (Alice Springs, 5 August 2008), 5.
06-Aug-08	VIC	Pipeline works resume	The 'Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the Supply System 3 and 4 of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline has been formally approved'. The plan was signed by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and the Barenji Gadjin Land Council allowing construction on the pipeline to resume'.	<i>Dimboola Banner</i> (Dimboola, 6 August 2008), 3; <i>Buloke Times</i> (Donald, 5 August 2008), 1; 'Pipeline back on' <i>Weekly Times</i> (Victoria, 6 August 2008), 2; 'Pipeline works resumed' <i>Ararat Advertiser</i> (Ararat, 5 August 2008), 7; 'Pipe line reaches Marnoo' <i>North Central News</i> (St Arnaud, 27 August 2008), 6.
06-Aug-08	QLD	Leaders to study High Court ruling	State Minister for Natural Resources and Water Craig Wallace said that the 'judgement in Blue Mud Bay case confirmed the exclusive rights of traditional owners over tidal waters along about 80 per cent of the Northern Territory coastline'. Mr	<i>Torres News</i> (Thursday Island, 6 August 2008), 3.

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			Wallace said that the issues in the case do not apply to the current sea rights case in the Torres Strait.	
06-Aug-08	WA	Title victory for group	Members of the Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura native title claim group and the Wintarwari Gurama Aboriginal Corporation have 'successfully proved the mining giant [Fortescue Metals] failed to fulfil its obligations under section 31 of the Native Title Act 1993'. The claim group successfully proved that the mining company did not negotiate in good faith.	<i>Pilbara News</i> (Pilbara, 6 August 2008), 5.
06-Aug-08	NT	Tourism concern over Blue Mud Bay	The Guided Fishing Industry Association will be 'talking with the Northern Land Council in the wake of the Blue Mud Bay decision'.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 6 August 2008), 23.
07-Aug-08	NT	High Court decision overrides NT Fisheries Act	The High Court decision on the Blue Mud Bay case 'gives Indigenous communities exclusive access and rights to the intertidal areas of 80 per cent of the Northern Territory offshore areas and waterways'. The decision overrides the Northern Territory Fisheries Act.	<i>Guardian News</i> (Nambucca, 7 August 2008), 23.
07-Aug-08	SA	Land use talks called off	Negotiations to 'develop an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) around the Eyre Peninsula coast from Cowell to Ellison have been put on hold because of funding cuts to the State-wide ILUA program'. A committee was initially formed in June 2006 but negotiations between the Barngala people, ALRM, South Australian fishing Industry council, the Seafood Council and the State Government have been suspended.	<i>Port Lincoln News</i> (Port Lincoln, 7 August 2008), 9.
07-Aug-08	NATIONAL	Robert French named new High Court Chief Justice	Justice Robert French from the Federal Court has been named the new chief judge of the High Court. He will replace Murray Gleeson on August 29.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (National, 7 August 2008), 11; 'French connection for WA' <i>Sunday Times</i> (Perth, 31 August 2008), 74; 'The chief judge who fits in no pigeonhole' <i>Sydney Morning</i>

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				<p><i>Herald</i> (Sydney, 31 July 2008), 1; 'Driven man stood out early for his passion' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 31 July 2008), 6; 'New chief justice a straightforward choice' <i>Australian</i> (National, 31 July 2008), 1; 'Justice all in the eye of the beholder' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 31 July 2008), 4; 'Benchmark decisions' <i>Australian Financial Review</i> (National, 31 July 2008), 69; 'Rudd appoints first West Australian Chief Justice' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 31 July 2008), 6.</p>
07-Aug-08	QLD	Traditional owners win national park after 30 years	<p>Indigenous communities on Cape York will have the 'opportunity to run their own national park...after an agreement that ends 30 years of complex negotiations between Queensland authorities, indigenous groups and environmentalists'. A ceremony was held in Cohen to hand back 182 000 ha of land to the Kaanju Umpila, Lama Lama and Ayapathu people'.</p>	<p><i>Australian</i> (National, 7 August 2008), 7; 'Cape's future progressed' <i>Australian</i> (National, 6 August 2008), 14.</p>
08-Aug-08	NSW	Court decision on Aboriginal land claim	<p>The High Court has 'reserved' its decision on a 'land claim by the Wagga Local Aboriginal Land Council on a former motor registry building'. The Minister for Lands had initially refused the land councils claim in 2006 and the land council's appeal was dismissed by the Land and Environment Court.</p>	<p><i>Daily Advertiser</i> (Wagga Wagga, 8 August 2008), 3.</p>

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12-Aug-08	NATIONAL	Rio already leads the way with Aborigines	Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has launched the new Indigenous Employment Covenant which aims to 'extract commitments from Australian Industry to create employment for 50 000' Indigenous people. The idea extends from the work of Rio Tinto which has created '1300 jobs in the Pilbara'.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 12 August 2008), 33; 'NLC welcomes Fortescue jobs plan' <i>Sunday Territorian</i> (Darwin, 10 August 2008), 8.
12-Aug-08	WA	ALP failing on gas plant: Barnett	A Liberal leader has warned that if energy company Inpex moves its operations from the Kimberley to Darwin, the '\$12 billion LNG export plant' could be lost.	<i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 12 August 2008), 4; 'Darwin firms as site for \$25bn gas project' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 22 August 2008), 1.
12-Aug-08	NATIONAL	Fortescue appeals ruling	The Fortescue Metals Group will appeal a ruling by the National Native Title Tribunal that it has not acted in 'good faith' in negotiations with two Indigenous groups in the Pilbara'. The NNTT found that the 'although negotiations were conducted in a professional and honest manner, the company had not advanced them to a stage where it had discharged its duty to negotiate in good faith'.	<i>Australian Financial Review</i> (National, 12 August 2008), 14.
13-Aug-08	QLD	Cape Protection	The Wilderness Society has 'welcomed the declaration of Cape York Peninsula's first Indigenous Protected Area'. The IPA was reached with the Kaanju traditional owners in central Cape York. The Kaanju Ngaachi Wenlock and Pascoe Rivers Indigenous Protected Area covers 197 500 hectares of Aboriginal freehold land.	<i>Cairns Sun</i> (Cairns, 13 August 2008), 7.
13-Aug-08	SA	Native Title	The Ngarrindjeri people have 'a native title claim over mainly the Coorong areas which extend into Kingston district to the Granites'. Movement of the claim is likely to be 'some time away' according to District Council chief executive officer Martin McCarthy.	<i>South East Coast Leader</i> (13 August 2008), 5.

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14-Aug-08	NATIONAL	Appointment of new NNTT registrar	Associate professor Stephanie Fryer-Smith has been 'appointed registrar of the National Native Title Tribunal'. Professor Fryer-Smith is 'currently Association Professor and Dean International at the Curtin Business School'.	<i>Business News</i> (Perth, 14 August 2008), 2.
19-Aug-08	NSW	Graziers oppose Aboriginal land claim	Residents have opposed 'Aboriginal land claims for Crown land, spanning 20 ha on the Red Range Road'. They felt that there could be issues with the land which is used as a travelling stock reserve if it is transferred to Aboriginal management.	<i>Glen Innes Examiner</i> (Glen Innes, 19 August 2008), 3.
20-Aug-08	WA	Elders' stories of country	Aboriginal elders in the Pilbara have 'recounted ancestral knowledge of their laws and customs at a Federal Court hearing' in traditional Puutu Kunti Kurrama and Pinikura country'. Federal Court judge Neil McKerracher heard the preservation evidence.	<i>Pilbara News</i> (Pilbara, 20 August 2008), 3.
20-Aug-08	NT	TSRA congratulate Yolgnu people on Blue Mud Bay Decision	TSRA Chair Toshi Kris has 'has congratulated the Indigenous people of Arnhem land on the historic High Court Blue Mud Bay decision, saying the implications of the decision in the Torres Strait waters remains to be seen'.	<i>Torres News</i> (Thursday Island, 20 August 2008), 3.
21-Aug-08	NATIONAL	Native title streamlined	The Federal Government 'wants the indigenous community of Kowanyama to settle all its native title disputes in one application and without court intervention under a historic deal to free up more land'. Federal Attorney General Robert McClelland met with the traditional owners from Cape York and the State Government to 'fast track negotiations'. The negotiations centre on 'processing native title and land tenure on a regional basis instead of the current piecemeal model that is strangling the	<i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 21 August 2008), 7.

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			National Native Title Tribunal'.	
22-Aug-08	SA	APY takes housing package	Indigenous leaders in Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands 'have accepted a \$25 million housing package'. Under the agreement, 'housing will be provided through State Government public housing model on land leased for 50 years'.	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 22 August 2008), 4.
27-Aug-08	VIC	Native Title Claim lodged for Gippsland	The Kurnai (Gippsland) and Gurnai/Kurnai and Boonoerwung people have lodged native title claims seeking recognition of their rights and interests over areas in Gippsland. The Kurnai claim covers 39 170 square kilometres of land and waters between Woods point, Waragul and Foster and Omeo and Buchan and Point Hicks. The Gurnai/Kurnai claims covers 7 970 square kilometres of land between Port Franklin and Inverloch.	<i>East Gippsland News</i> (East Gippsland, 27 August 2008), 1; 'Valley part of native title claim' <i>Latrobe Valley Express</i> (Morwell, 28 August 2008), 4.
27-Aug-08	QLD	Conflict of interest compromises Native Title Owners rights and Interests	The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) is a Commonwealth Statutory Authority 'yet they have set themselves up as the Native Title Representative Body...taking native title rights from the Traditional Property Owners and giving them back to the Commonwealth to administer says Maluwap Nona a traditional owner from the area.	<i>Torres News</i> (Thursday Island, 27 August 2008), 5.
27-Aug-08	VIC	Koori vie for control	The Kuuyang Maar Aboriginal Corporation has applied to the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (VAHC) for recognition as a Registered Aboriginal Party which means that the corporation 'could soon head the management and protection of Aboriginal sites and culture across the district'.	<i>Cobden Times</i> (Cobden, 27 August 2008), 6.

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28-Aug-08	WA	Aborigines 'denied uranium riches'	<p>The Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation, which represents with Martu people of the Pilbara region, has said that the 'Western Australian Government is robbing 'one of the most poor and disenfranchised people in this country'. The Western Australian Government has said that it will 'legislate against uranium mining in the state'. The Martu hold 'native title rights over 136 000 sq km of land within the Central Western Desert region' and 'acknowledges there is no consensus among the Martu, [but] says many hope their people will one day become joint owners of a uranium mine'.</p>	<p><i>Australian</i> (National, 28 August 2008), 8; 'Uranium row looms' <i>Herald Sun</i> (Melbourne, 28 August 2008), 65; 'Uranium ban upsets traditional owners too' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 28 August 2008), 30; 'Mining ban 'robs indigenous people' <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 28 August 2008), 12; 'Uranium move under fire' <i>Border Mail</i> (Albury-Wodonga, 28 August 2008), 18.</p>
28-Aug-08	NT	Saving turtles and dugongs gets credit	<p>A Northern Territory dugong and marine turtle project has been 'named a finalist in a national environmental award program'. The North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance project covers an area from the Kimberley across the Northern Territory to the Torres Strait.</p>	<p><i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 29 August 2008), 4.</p>