

Native Title in the News August 2009

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
1/08/2009	NT	Land in Elliott handed over	Traditional owners are celebrating after being given native title to a stretch of land in Elliott, 700 kilometres south of Darwin. Kim Hill, Northern Land Council Chief Executive has said it was the first time a native title determination had been granted by consent in the region.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> , (Darwin NT, 1 August 2009), 3.
3/08/2009	WA	Human Rights Commission may step in on BHP claim	The Australian Human Rights Commission may intervene in legal action against mining giant BHP Billiton launched by an Aboriginal group opposing a mining claim in their traditional lands. BHP Billiton wants a mining lease over 200 square kilometres of Aboriginal land in the heart of the Pilbara, 1000 kilometres north of Perth.	<i>Age</i> , (Melbourne VIC, 3 August 2009), 4.
5/08/2009	NSW	Native title claim takes next step	Wiradjuri families, the traditional owners of the Wellington region, have taken further steps to lodging a native title claim following a successful authorisation meeting. Around 45 descendents of the traditional families attended the meeting at the Senior Citizens Centre to discuss the claim, which covers hundreds of square kilometres, and to introduce the professionals representing the group. The claim has been described as one of the strongest native title claims in the country.	<i>Wellington Times</i> , (Wellington NSW, 5 August 2009), 3. <i>Central Western Daily</i> , (Orange NSW, 4 August 2009), 7. <i>Daily Liberal</i> , (Dubbo NSW, 3 August 2009), 6. <i>Wellington Times</i> , (Wellington NSW, 21 August 2009), 3.
5/08/2009	AU	South Australian uranium mine gets green light	Australia's uranium industry has received a boost with the recent approval of south Australia's Four Mile uranium mine. The mine will start its operations in early 2010 after receiving the 'go ahead' from Federal Environment Minister Perter Garrett in July. Members of the Adnyamathanha Aboriginal community in South Australia's Flinders Ranges have said that during negotiations their concerns were not adequately considered.	<i>Australian Mining Review</i> , (National AU, August 2009), 4.

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6/08/2009	WA	Reward slumps on native title loss	The Federal Government has dealt a blow to Reward Minerals by refusing to overrule a decision blocking its Lake Disappointment potash mine. In May the National Native Title Tribunal determined the planned potash mine in WA could not proceed. The area was leased covered and was deemed an extremely significant site for the Indigenous Martu people.	<i>Businesses News</i> , (Perth WA, 6 August 2009), 24.
6/08/2009	QLD	16 year battle for Wik over	The Wik community, after a 16 year legal battle and 30 year political struggle have finally been granted access to their traditional lands. The native title rights of the Wik and the Wik way people were formally recognised by Federal Court Justice Andrew Greenwood. The land is covered by a bauxite mining lease.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> , (Malua Bay NSW, 6 August 2009), 11.
6/08/2009	WA	Agreement a boost for native title holders	A landmark agreement has been established between the Broome Port Authority and Woodside to use selected land to establish a supply base which will support the Browse Basin LNG development. The development is being touted as a training and business opportunity for native title holders.	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> , (Broome WA, 6 August 2009), 6.
7/08/2009	WA	Native title and uranium mining	Native title claimants attended a series of workshops to learn about uranium mining and radiation in Geraldton. The workshops were also held in Canarvon and Karratha. They were hosted by Mid West native title body Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC).	<i>Geraldton Guardian</i> , (Geraldton WA, 7 August 2009), 13.
11/08/2009	NT	Native title given at Pine Hill Station	The Northern Territory's Ilkewartn Ywel Anmatyerr People have been granted native title rights at Pine Hill Station. The Federal Court made a consent determination over almost 1200 square kilometres of land at the station 150 kilometres North of Alice Springs. The determination gives the people non-exclusive rights.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> , (Darwin NT, 11 August 2009), 7. <i>Northern Territory News</i> , (Darwin NT, 8 August 2009), 12. <i>Tennant & District Times</i> , (Tennant NT, 14 August 2009), 3.

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13/08/2009	NSW	Native title claim settled after 15 years	In 1994 three sisters - Lorna Kelly, Yvonne Graham and Linda Vidler - lodged a native title claim over a wide area of coastal Crown land that stretched from Byron Bay to Broken Head. Almost 15 years later the claim has almost been finalised.	<i>Byron Shire News</i> , (Byron Bay NSW, 13 August 2009), 5. <i>Byron Shire News</i> , (Byron Bay NSW, 13 August 2009), 5.
14/08/2009	NSW	Native title changes	The Federal Government is claiming that the <i>Native Title Act</i> is delaying the dispensing of housing and other building programs in remote Indigenous communities and is looking to change this process. Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin said Aboriginal communities should benefit from the \$5.5 billion in Government spending on social housing and infrastructure, as quickly as possible.	<i>Illawarra Mercury</i> (Wollongong NSW, 14 August 2009), 5. <i>National Indigenous Times</i> , (Malua Bay NSW, 20 August 2009), 4. <i>Warrnambool Standard</i> , (Warrnambool Standard VIC, 29 August 2009), 10.
14/08/2009	WA	Changes to mining approvals recommended	Mid West miners have welcomed key recommendations which will improve the State's approvals process for mining and other major projects. The recommendations were released by the State appointed industry working group. The 15 recommendations include establishing a natural resource agency, changing the Environmental Protection Authority to a "stand-alone" entity, and altering native title processes and the environmental approvals process.	<i>Geraldton Guardian</i> , (Geraldton WA, 14 August 2009), 7.

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29/08/2009	QLD	Dugongs poached	Indigenous communities claim they are powerless to stop the illegal trade in dugong meat and turtle meat, after the Federal Government cut funding to its ranger program. Poachers at Yarrabah in far north Queensland have reportedly been abusing native title laws to kill dugong and turtles and selling the meat for up to \$50 a kilogram.	<i>Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin</i> , (QLD, 29 August 2009), 18. <i>Daily Mercury</i> , (Mackay QLD, 29 August 2009), 3.
29/08/2009	VIC	Native title rebuke	Victorian Attorney-General Rob Hulls says the Federal Government is undermining Victoria's efforts to establish a new framework for resolving native title claims by refusing to fund it. Territory ministers are angry that the Commonwealth had tried to avoid the cost-sharing agreement which was reached last year.	<i>Weekend Australia</i> , (Australia, 29 August 2009), 2.