

Subject	Summary	Source	Date	State	Outcome
Land deal paves way for claims	The Wangkumarra people, Beach Petroleum and the Queensland Government have reached an exploration agreement that could pave the way for similar claims in south-west Queensland	Fraser Coast Chronicle, pg 8	21-Dec-05	QLD	Exploration agreement
Victorian native title agreement 'a sell-out'	Wergaia/Jupagalk traditional owners. Robert Nicholls and Gary Murray issued a statement describing the Wotjabaluk agreement as a sell-out. "Our elders and claimants condemn this wayward agreement as racist, discriminatory, paternalistic, inequitable and fundamentally flawed. It does not address our dispersal and dispossession or land justice" they said.	Swan Hill Guardian, pg 8	16-Dec-05	VIC	Not all Kooris happy with Victorian consent determination
\$1b diamond expansion - Argyle to take mining operation underground	Argyle mining company plan to spend \$1 billion on expanding its mining operation near Kununurra in Western Australia. The expansion will take the largest diamond mine in the world underground and should allow for the mine to continue operating beyond 2008. Indigenous people will continue to be employed which contributes to economic and social benefits to the Kimberley according to Rio Tinto chief executive Leigh Clifford. Rio Tinto has also made legally binding commitments with the Miriuwung, Gidja, Wularr and Malginn Indigenous groups in the form of an ILUA.	Kimberley Times, pg. 1.	15-Dec-05	WA	Mine expansion
Njamal, Palyku sign deal with gold miner	Wedgetail Exploration NL and the Njamal and Palyku people have signed two native title agreements concerning a gold-mining project. "Wedgetail have been good in their negotiations with us	Koori Mail, pg 9	14-Dec-05	WA	Native Title agreements signed
Bardi Jawi win title	Traditional owners from the Kimberley have had full exclusive possession recognised over parts of he land claimed, non-exclusive rights recognised over areas below the mean high water mark. A determination that native title does not exist has been made over Brue Reef.	Koori Mail, pg 11	14-Dec-05	WA	Bardi Jawi native title determination made

<p>Daradgee claim may set precedent</p>	<p>The Appo family have applied to the Federal Court for respondent status over a section of the Ma:mu claim. If granted it will be the first time that respondent status will have been recognised for spiritual reasons. "we don't want to own anything. The claimant group is not connected to this place but we're all one family and we're asking them to sit down with our people and work it out together with no fighting and with proper respect" said family spokesman Gerald Appo.</p>	<p>Koori Mail, pg 15</p>	<p>14-Dec-05</p>	<p>QLD</p>	<p>Respondents seek recognition of spiritual connection</p>
<p>Native title a first in state</p>	<p>Native title has been officially recognised in Victoria with a Federal Court ruling that recognises land use rights by the banks of a river in the State's southwest. "Our mob have been working towards this day for more than ten years" said Barengi Gadjin deputy chair Kaylene Clarke "It now allows us to move forward and make a better future for our people".</p>	<p>Border Mail, pg 10</p>	<p>14-Dec-05</p>	<p>VIC</p>	<p>Native title recognised in Victoria</p>
<p>Native title agreement signed for Wilpinjong mine</p>	<p>A native title agreement has been signed between the North-East Wiradjuri Indigenous group and Wilpinjong Coal Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Excel Coal Limited. The hour long ceremony, including the signing of the agreement took place at the Wilpinjong Coal Mine site. Excel Coal Managing Director was pleased with the agreement and looked forward to continued solid relationships.</p>	<p>Mudgee Guardian & Gugong Advertiser, pg 2.</p>	<p>13-Dec-05</p>	<p>NSW</p>	<p>Agreement signed</p>

<p>Praise for court title decision</p>	<p>A landmark native title decision has been handed down in Victoria involving a number of Indigenous groups. They include the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagalt People. The Federal Court plans to recognise these native title rights on Crown Land along the Wimmera River in a formal ceremony. All three determinations delivered by Justice Merkel were consensual and gives the groups non-exclusive rights over the area, including hunting, fishing, gathering and camping within the 269sq km area from Yarriambiack Creek junction to the outlet lakes in the Wyperfeld National Park. The decision will not affect public access to the areas. The decision will not affect public access to the areas.</p>	<p>Wimmera Mail Times, pg 7.</p>	<p>12-Dec-05</p>	<p>Vic</p>	<p>Native title determination</p>
<p>Aboriginal outposts funding threat communities crisis</p>	<p>The Federal Government, through Indigenous Affairs Minister, Amanda Vanstone, plan to cease funding to remote Indigenous outstations and relocate the people to the nearest large recognised community or township. The basis of this argument is that Ms Vanstone asserts that outstations are not economically viable, including the implementation of infrastructure to all communities in the long term. This process will allow monies to be available which can then be re-invested into the larger communities.</p>	<p>Cairns Post, pg. 2</p>	<p>10-Dec-05</p>	<p>National</p>	<p>Changes to Indigenous communities funding</p>
<p>Experts take hit over title fights</p>	<p>The National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) has recently revealed that anthropological evidence given from anthropologists who are deemed 'too close' to the claimant group, will carry less weight. NNTT President Graeme Neate stated that Anthropologists in the field of native title need to ensure they conduct themselves as impartial experts, not Indigenous advocates, with the information needing to be objective. Mr Neate further affirmed that anthropologists had a pivotal role in the native title claims process.</p>	<p>Weekend Australian, pg. 2</p>	<p>10-Dec-05</p>	<p>National</p>	<p>Anthropological evidence more heavily scrutinised if relationship too close to claimant group</p>

<p>Native title claim in shire</p>	<p>Dalrymple Shire in North Queensland will be involved in its 31st native title claim. The most recent claim is by the Gudjala People over a 19,167sq km area located between the Flinders and Kennedy highways. To date, no applications lodged have been successful, with 13 currently being in mediation or notification. The longest running claim also dates back to 1998 by the Kudjala People.</p>	<p>Northern Miner, pg. 3</p>	<p>09-Dec-05</p>	<p>QLD</p>	<p>Native title claim; numerous claims in Shire</p>
<p>Fate of land claims known next year</p>	<p>A six-month directions hearing has recently taken place in Cairns to review the progress of 26 pending claims. Resulting from the hearing, Federal Court Acting Chief Justice Jeffrey Spender said two long-standing claims were close to being settled. The first was the Mandingalbay Yidinji claim involving a decision over ownership of a large forested parcel of land near Yarrabah. The second was the Western Yalanji claim over a 753sq km area south of Mt Surprise.</p>	<p>Cairns Post, pg. 9</p>	<p>03-Dec-05</p>	<p>QLD</p>	<p>Two claims to be settled soon</p>
<p>Two Aboriginal groups win marathon legal battle for Kimberley coastal land</p>	<p>A coalition of over 900 Bardi and Jawi People have won exclusive control of 1037sq km of land in the West Kimberley after ten years of negotiations. The coastal land is around the Dampier Peninsula, predominately Crown Land or leased to Aboriginal groups. The Bardi and Jawi People now possess exclusive rights over the land, meaning they have the right to control who lives on and visits the land. Also granted was non-exclusive rights to the reefs and the sea. The claimant group will be permitted to hunt dugong and turtle as well as collect pearl shells.</p>	<p>West Australian, pg. 46</p>	<p>02-Dec-05</p>	<p>WA</p>	<p>Native title determination</p>