

Native Title in the News December 2008

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
3/12/2008	WA	Buswell handpasses native title to Premier	Colin Barnett will assume responsibility for the Office of Native Title after Treasurer Troy Buswell asked that it be taken from him because it clashed with his portfolios.	<i>West Australian</i> , (Perth WA, 2 December 2008), 14.
3/12/2008	WA	Native title royalty cash payments face axe	Cash payments to native title landowners from gas and mining companies could be abandoned following fears Indigenous communities are missing out on the bounty of the resources boom.	<i>West Australian</i> , (Perth WA, December 2008), 14. <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , (Sydney NSW, 8 December 2008), 6.
4/12/2008	QLD	Hospital work starts three months late	Site work on the \$1.55.billion Gold Coast Hospital will begin next week, three months behind schedule, after months of discussion between Indigenous groups and the State Government. Work was meant to have commenced in September, but was held up because native title groups were unhappy with negotiations.	<i>Weekend Gold Coast</i> , (Queensland, 6 December 2008), 5.
5/12/2008	AU	Give tax break to miners, says study	Ample tax breaks would be given to mining and resource companies that do the right thing by native title claimants under possible improvements to the native title system.	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , (Sydney NSW, 9 December 2008), 10.

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6/12/2008	QLD	Native Title in Gulf	Indigenous peoples in the Gulf of Carpentaria have had their native title rights recognised over most areas on 23 islands. Federal Court Justice Jeffrey Spender made the determination on 9 December on Morington Island.	<i>North West Star</i> , (Mount Isa, 10 December 2008), 3. <i>Northern Daily Leader</i> , (Tamworth NSW, 10 December 2008), 9. <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> , (Townsville QLD, 10 December 2008), 6. <i>Courier Mail</i> , (Brisbane QLD, 10 December 2008), 11. <i>Advertiser</i> , (Adelaide, 10 December 2008), 9. <i>Western Cape Bulletin</i> , (Weipa QLD, 17 December 2008), 6.
8/12/2008	WA	Noongar appeal no "Loss or win"	The body representing Noongar claimants in a native title case over Perth says the recent appeal decision by the Federal Court was neither a loss nor a win. The appeal judges had ruled that Justice Murray Wilcox had made errors in law in his original judgement, but referred the case to the Federal Court's native title provisional docket judge.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> , (Malua Bay NSW, 11 December 2008), 8.
10/12/2008	WA	Native title issues frustrate community works	Housing and Works Minister Troy Buswell, has called for a new approach to resolving native title and Aboriginal heritage issues that are holding up the provision of new housing and facilities for Indigenous communities.	<i>Media Statements</i> , (Western Australia, 5 December 2008).
12/12/2008	NSW	Memorandum signed	The Bega Valley Shire Council, local Aboriginal Land Council and native title holders have signed a revised Memorandum of Understanding intended at reinforcing the relationship between the Council and the shire's Aboriginal community.	<i>Bega District News</i> , (Bega NSW, 12 December 2008), 7. <i>Narooma News</i> , (Narooma NSW, 10 December 2008), 14.

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13/12/2008	AU	Rudd aims to preserve native title benefits for the future	Benefits for Aboriginals under native title agreements could be preserved in law for the first time in a possible proposal being considered by the Rudd Government.	<i>The Australian</i> , (Australia, 9 December 2008), 5.
17/12/2008	WA	WA Govt looks to eliminate native title on public works land	The Western Australian Government has pushed to extinguish native title on land needed for public works. The Kimberley Land Council acknowledged the need for land use negotiations to be more efficient but believes that this proposal is not the solution.	<i>ABC News</i> , (Western Australia, 5 December 2008).
17/12/2008	VIC	Yorta Yorta Aboriginal Nation	The Yorta Yorta Aboriginal nation has greeted with delight the Victorian Government's announcement that it will create a Barmah National Park. The Government has involved Yorta Yorta in joint management of their traditional country. Another 56 positions have been created for Indigenous peoples due to the creation of the National Park.	<i>Riverine Herald</i> , (Echuca VIC, 31 December 2008), 5.
18/12/2008	AU	Improvements to native title system	The Attorney-General Robert McClelland has released a paper on possible minor amendments to the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth) to encourage more negotiated settlements of native title claims.	<i>Daily News</i> , (Warwick QLD, 29 December 2008), 10. <i>Centralian Advocate</i> , (Alice Springs NT, 19 December 2008), 11.

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18/12/2008	NSW	Developers eye Byron's \$10m block	A sought after area of land in Byron Bay is expected to fetch about \$10 million, despite the world economic crisis. The land is owned by the local Aboriginal community, the Arakwal people, who have been rightfully handed back the 4000sqm property in Brownell Drive as part of a 2007 land title hand over.	<i>Weekend Gold Coast</i> , (Queensland, 27 December 2008), 21. <i>Sun-Herald</i> , (Sydney NSW, 21/12/2008), 31.
8/12/2008	WA	Detail in uranium talks	A uranium and native title conference was attended by traditional land owners and mining industry representatives in Perth last week. The conference was hosted by the Yamatji Land and Sea Council. Attendees included uranium-affected native title claim groups, uranium mining industry, government departments, environmental groups and other representative bodies.	<i>Geraldton Guardian</i> , (Geraldton WA, 17 December 2008), 11.
December 2008	NT	80 new blocks in groundbreaker deal	Australia's first Indigenous land use agreement for an Indigenous company to develop land is to be signed off in Alice Springs tomorrow.	<i>Centralian Advocate</i> , (Alice Springs NT, 16 December 2008), 2.