

Native Title in the News December 2009

| Date | State | Subject | Summary | Source |
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| 02/12/2009 | QLD | Kuuku Ya'u Indigenous land use agreements finalised | The Kuuku Ya'u Peoples Indigenous land use agreement has been finalised. It sets out how the Kuuku Ya'u Peoples, Queensland Government and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority will work together to manage national parks and the marine park where native title exists. | <i>Western Cape Bulletin</i> , (Weipa QLD, 2 December 2009), 5. |
| 03/12/2009 | WA | Consent Determination for the Thudgari People | The Thudgari Peoples' native title claim over 11,280km of mainly pastoral country was determined at a Federal Court hearing at Ullawarra Station under Justice Michael Barker. It has taken 12 years to reach a consent determination, including two years of tribunal-facilitated mediation. The native title mediation included the development of 14 Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs). | <i>Farm Weekly</i> , (Rural WA, 3 December 2009), 161. <i>Yamaji News</i> , (Geraldton WA, December 2009), 21. |
| 09/12/2009 | WA | Niyaparli people make agreements with Brockman Resources Limited | WA iron ore company Brockman Resources Limited announced it had signed the second and final native title agreement with the Niyaparli peoples in the Pilbara. Brockman now has agreements in place with all native title claimant groups covering the entire Marillana Project site. | <i>North West Telegraph</i> , (South Hedland WA, 9 December 2009), 5. |
| 10/12/2009 | NSW | Land use undecided | Darug Traditional owners are seeking a determination on a native title claim via court appointed mediation. The Traditional Owners are concerned about determinations on the heritage and cultural value of the land, which is earmarked for development, are being made by certifiers who claim to act on behalf of the Darug people, but do not have any affiliation with them. | <i>Penrith City Star</i> , (Sydney NSW, 10 December 2009), 11. <i>Rouse Hill Times</i> (Sydney NSW, 16 December 2009), 1. |

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| 10/12/2009 | WA | Martu Idjya Banyjima native title group sign access agreement | Iron Ore Holdings (IOH) signed a final land access agreement for Phil's Creek with the Martu Idjya Banyjima native title group. This has ensured that a mining license can be granted. | <i>West Australian</i> , (Perth WA, 10 December 2009), 54. |
| 11/12/2009 | QLD | Consent Determination for the Girramay People | The Federal Court has made a consent determination recognising the Girramay People as native title holders of almost 475ha in North Queensland. The determination covers 16 parcels of unallocated State land from Cardwell to Bilyana and Murray Upper area, north of Townsville. Four separate indigenous land use agreements which involve other parcels of state land have also been lodged. | <i>Cairns Post</i> , (Cairns QLD, 11 December 2009), 7. <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> , (Townsville QLD, 11 December 2009), 4. <i>Innisfail Advocate</i> , (Innisfail QLD, 12 December 2009), 7. <i>Tully Times</i> , (Tully QLD, 17 December 2009), 5. <i>Herbert River Express</i> , (Ingham QLD, 31 December 2009), 14. |
| 16/12/2009 | WA | Native title deal signed for Mikurrnya mine site | The Ngarla people have signed a heritage and mining agreement with the Boral Group of Companies regarding the Tabba Tabba rock quarry 40 kilometers east of Port Hedland. The agreement includes compensation to the Ngarla People for impact on their country and formal recognition that past operations had disturbed the Mikurrnya site, causing distress to the Ngarla People. | <i>Pilbara Echo</i> , (Pilbara WA, 5 December 2009), 3. <i>North West Telegraph</i> , (South Headland WA, 16 December 2009), 18. |

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| 18/12/2009 | QLD | Native Title Determination for Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji Peoples | Native title rights have been won by the Dulabed and Malanbarra Yidinji peoples of far north Queensland. A Federal Court sitting in Gordonvale affirmed the groups' native title rights over 16,460ha of land and water 37km south of Cairns. | <i>Cairns Post</i> , (Cairns QLD, 18 December 2009), 9. <i>Morning Bulletin</i> , (Rockhampton QLD, 18 December 2009), 18. <i>Warrnambool Standard</i> , (Warrnambool VIC, 18 December 2009), 12. |
| 19/12/2009 | SA | Maralinga lands given back to traditional owners | The final section of the former Maralinga nuclear test site in South Australia's north was returned to traditional owners. It followed the passing of legislation in South Australian Parliament allowing for Section 400, an area of 3100sq km located about 300km north-west of Ceduna, to be handed back to the traditional owners. | <i>Advertiser</i> , (Adelaide SA, 19 December 2009), 7. <i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i> , (Maroochydore QLD, 19 December 2009), 29. <i>Mercury</i> , (Hobart TAS, 19 December 2009), 81. <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , (Sydney NSW, 19 December 2009), 9. <i>Daily Liberal</i> , (Dubbo NSW, 19 December 2009), 16. |
| 19/12/2009 | WA | Deal struck between Eastern Guruma native title holders, NRW Holdings and Rio Tinto | Eastern Guruma native title holders have signed a deal with mining giant Rio Tinto. Under the deal, Eastern Guruma and NRW Holdings will build a road and then transport ore 15km to the Tom Price mine for processing and blending with other Pilbara Blend stocks. The four-year contract was designed to increase the Eastern Guruma people's equity in the joint venture from 25 to 35 per cent which would see a rise in Aboriginal employment levels to an average of 27 per cent throughout the entirety of the agreement. The contract includes a \$6 million component for training. | <i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i> , (Maroochydore QLD, 19 December 2009), 108. <i>Illawarra Mercury</i> , (Wollongong NSW, 19 December 2009), 56. <i>Advertiser</i> , (Adelaide SA, 19 December 2009), 83. <i>Courier Mail</i> , (Brisbane QLD, 19 December 2009), 86. <i>Northern Territory News</i> , (Darwin NT, 19 December 2009), 39. <i>Herald Sun</i> , (Melbourne |

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| | | | | <p>VIC, 19 December 2009), 86. <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i>, (Sydney NSW, 19 December 2009), 2. <i>West Australian</i>, (Perth WA, 19 December 2009), 79. <i>Townsville Bulletin</i>, (Townsville QLD, 19 December 2009), 71. <i>Bendigo Advertiser</i>, (Bendigo VIC, 19 December), 54. <i>Launceston Examiner</i>, (Launceston TAS, 19 December 2009), 42. <i>North West Star</i>, (Mount Isa QLD, 21 December 2009), 14. <i>Warrnambool Standard</i>, (Warrnambool VIC, 21 December 2009), 18. <i>North West Telegraph</i>, (South Headland WA, 23 December 2009), 4.</p> |
| 22/12/2009 | WA | Native title resolution on agenda | <p>A Heads of Agreement process has been signed off with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council. This has established a two-year timeframe for the negotiation of a settlement package to resolve all current and future native title claims across Perth and the South West. It ends the State Government's appeal against the Federal Court decision that Noongar people held native title on land where rights had not been extinguished.</p> | <p><i>Bunbury Herald</i>, (Bunbury WA, 22 December 2009), 11. <i>Albany Advertiser</i>, (Albany WA, 24 December 2009), 6. <i>Busselton Dunsborough Times</i>, (Busselton WA, 25 December 2009), 8. <i>Bunbury Mail</i>, (Bunbury WA, 30 December 2009), 5. <i>West Australian</i>, (Perth WA, 31 December 2009), 20.</p> |

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| 23/12/2009 | WA | Owners to fight gas project deal | Kimberley traditional owners have challenged an agreement between the State Government, Kimberley Land Council and Woodside to develop a gas precinct at James Price Point, 60km north of Broome. | <i>West Australian</i> , (Perth WA, 23 December 2009), 18. |
| 23/12/2009 | AU | Native title blocking Indigenous home ownership | Indigenous Business Australia blamed native title laws for blocking the signing of individual 99-year leases on lands held under Aboriginal trust in Queensland. This leaves many Indigenous Australians keen to own a home, instead forced to remain in the public housing system. The Mayor of Palm Island disputes this claim. | <i>Australian</i> , (National AU, 23 December 2009), 5. <i>Australian</i> , (National AU, 24 December 2009), 4. |
| 23/12/2009 | NSW | Native title claim registered | Aboriginal families in the Wellington Valley have had their native title claim registered in the Native Title Tribunal. The claim covers a large tract of Central West land including Wellington, Mudgee and Orange. Gallangabang Aboriginal Corporation facilitated the claim for the traditional owners. | <i>Wellington Times</i> , (Wellington NSW, 23 December 2009), 1, 5. |