

<u>Date</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Summary</u>	<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Tribunal # & Fed Court #</u>	<u>Case Manager</u>	<u>Comment</u>
Jan-06	WA	Benefits for Indigenous communities and mining companies in recruitment alliance	A landmark strategic alliance has been forged in the iron-ore rich Pilbara region of Western Australia, between global recruitment firm, Hudson and Ngarda Ngarli Yarndu Foundation. The alliance will deliver socio economic benefits to Indigenous communities through the provision of specific and targeted recruitment services as well as ease the skills shortage threatening the ongoing expansion of the region's mining industry.	Indigenous recruitment alliance	Australia's Mining Monthly, Jan 06, pg 40			
25-Jan-06	QLD	Company talking with traditional owners about laying of gas pipeline in Far North Queensland	Mr Gary Voss, project manager for AGL Petronis Consortium, said that talks are underway with 50 separate traditional owners of areas where a pipeline is planned to be built to carry gas from Papua New Guinea to users. Tos are asked to contact the Australian Gas and Light Petronas Consortium on 1300 856 233 or email cultural.heritage@pngpipe.com.au	Talks with traditional owners about land use	Cooktown Local News , 25-Jan-06, pg 7; Cairns Post 24-Feb-06, pg 11			
26-Jan-06	NSW	Developer plans to appeal court decision withdrawing permission for destruction of Aboriginal middens on site	Developer, Chris Condon, plans to appeal a decision of the NSW Land and Environment Court which has put a halt to his plans to sell 169 properties at North Angels Beach. The court last week invalidated permission previously given by the National Parks and Wildlife Service for the developer to destroy Aboriginal middens on the site. A supplementary Report not considered by the NAPS showed heritage significance of the land's association with a 19th century Aboriginal massacre. Tim Robertson, representing native title claimants the Anderson family, said the decision was a major victory for Aboriginal people.	Developer plans to appeal court decision	Ballina Shire Advocate, 26-Jan-06, pg 4			We do not have any Active claims by the Numbahjing people listed with the Tribunal at this time.

26-Jan-06	QLD	<p>Aboriginal corporation in dispute with state owned corporation about fees payable to Aboriginal cultural heritage management companies</p>	<p>Jagera Daran, an Aboriginal Corporation is in dispute with Powerlink, a state owned corporation, about fees payable to Aboriginal heritage management companies. Under Queensland's cultural heritage management laws, Powerlink, which has numerous interests in the land claimed by the Jagera peoples, must contract Jagera approved cultural heritage workers to provide on-site monitoring and local knowledge during construction projects. The matter is before the Land and Resources Tribunal. Managing director of Jagera Daran, Caroline Bonner, said Powerlink opted to litigate rather than negotiate with the Jagera people in an effort to quash the private enterprise of an emerging industry. The outcome of the hearing is expected to be delivered next week.</p>	<p>Fees payable to Aboriginal heritage companies</p>	<p>National Indigenous Times, 26-Jan-06, pg 11</p>	<p>Jagera People #2: QC03/15 QUD6014/03</p>	<p>Ann Stokes</p>	<p>There is the only active claim for the Jagera people and was Registered on the 11/03/2004</p>
27-Jan-06	NT	<p>Indigenous Pastoral program praised by NT Government Minister</p>	<p>The Indigenous Pastoral Program, run by the Northern Territory Government in conjunction with the Northern and Central Land Councils and the Indigenous Land Corporation, has been praised by Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries Minister, Kon Vatskalis at a book launch. Minister Vatskalis said the program aims to increase cattle numbers on Indigenous land and introduce more Indigenous landowners in the pastoral workforce. "This goal is being realised with significant developments, including 10 year land use agreements at Amanbidj, Eley, Balbirini, Wagaman and Kalkarindji. We've also seen seasonal stock camps positions filled by Indigenous people, two very successful cattlemen workshops held in Central Australia and numerous fencing contracts awarded to indigenous stockmen at stations across the territory."</p>	<p>Program has positive outcomes for Aboriginal people and pastoralists</p>	<p>Territory News, 27-Jan-06, pg 6</p>			

01-Feb-06	NSW	Wagonga and Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Councils lease land back to NSW Government	Soon after the Aboriginal Negotiating Panel completed its lease negotiations for the return of Gulaga Mountain to Aboriginal ownership in November 2005, the Wagonga and Merrimans Local Aboriginal Land Councils leased the National Park back to the NSW Minister for the Environment. The area is to be jointly managed as a national park by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and its Aboriginal owners.	Lease negotiations for Aboriginal owned land	Narooma News, 01-Feb-06, pg 3			
01-Feb-06	QLD	Dispute between Tweed and Gold Coast Aborigines and Queensland Government	Tweed and Gold Coast Aborigines want archaeologists to be given the right to properly investigate, record and protect middens, graveyards and any artefacts found along the proposed route of the Tugun Bypass. Eastern Yugambah Ltd managing director, Wesley Aird, said EYL was not trying to stop the road. "We want to see all processes followed correctly." The Department of Main Roads lodged papers with the Land and Resources Tribunal earlier this month against 177 Aborigines who nominated interest in the Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the Tugun by-pass. LTR president, Gregory Koppenol, over-ruled the Department of Main Road's request for the tribunal to arbitrate on a cultural heritage management plan opposed by the Aborigines. Instead the Tribunal has set a hearing to consider procedural faults by the state Government.	Tweed and Gold Coast Aborigines called to appear before the Land and Resources Tribunal	Gold Coast Sun, 01-Feb-06 pg 5, Daily News, 11-Feb-06, pg 7, Gold Coast Bulletin, 10-Feb-06, pg 17			
01-Feb-06	QLD	Traditional, owners join with members of parliament to reduce population of bats in charters Towers	Members of the Gudjal Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and two Charters towers members of parliament are meeting to discuss strategies for managing the bat population. Gudjal CEO, William Santo said it had been suggested Aboriginal people exercise their traditional hunting rights over animals.	Aboriginal people considering exercising hunting rights to reduce bat population	Townsville Bulletin, 01-Feb-06, pg 3			

01-Feb-06	QLD	New native title claim proposed on behalf of Kabi Kabi people	A new native title claim is proposed for areas of Caboolture and Bribie Island on behalf of the Kabi Kabi people, to ultimately replace the Gubbi Gubbi 2 claim which was withdrawn last year. Mr Tony Dalton, Kabi Kabi spokesman, said "the claim entitles us to undeveloped State land and water." Mr Dalton said for this claim the organisers had already negotiated with neighbouring tribes where some of the land in the claim overlapped, eliminating further delays in the claim being registered. A separate claim by the Kabi Kabi people was accepted by the Federal Court on January 13 but the claim is still waiting to be registered.	New native title claim	Bribie Weekly, 01-Feb-06, pg 5	Kabi Kabi People: QC06/3, QUD12/06 (13/01/06). Kabi Kabi #2: QC06/6, QUD65/06	Ann Stokes	Please note neither of these claims have been registered to date.
01-Feb-06	SA	Kurna Aboriginal people disappointed by outcome of consultation about housing development at Noarlunga Downs	Lynette Crocker and Joe Mitchell, Kurna elders, said that three Aboriginal Sacred sites at Noarlunga Downs which will be disturbed by a new housing development include historical artefacts and were places for secret men's business and the delivery of gathered food. Two of the Kurna sites will be protected and located in public reserves, with the third, deemed "less important" by the Aboriginal Affairs Department to be built over. Ms Crocker said the developer, AV Jennings had been sensitive about the issue but she hoped the company would go one step further for example by providing work for Aboriginal people.	Land use	Southern Times Messenger, 01-Feb-06, pg 15	Kurna Peoples Native Title Claim: SC00/1, SAD6001/00	Monica Khouri	This is the only active matter for the Kurna People in our databases.
01-Feb-06	VIC	Exploration licence granted by native title claimants to gold mining company	Gold mining company, Sedimentary Holdings, has advised in its recently released report on its St Arnaud Goldfields project, that negotiations with representatives for Native Title claimants under the right to negotiate provisions of the Native Title Act have progressed to an advanced stage. An exploration licence was granted over the Northern limits of the St Arnaud goldfield.	Exploration licence granted by native title claimants	North Central News, 01-Feb-06, pg 8			

01-Feb-06	VIC	Government response to Environmental Effects Statement re proposed toxic dump	The environmental arm of the Victorian Government has given its views on the Environmental Effects Statement for a proposed toxic dump at Nowingi. Department of Sustainability and Environment Secretary, Professor Lyndsay Neilson, noted that the site was located in an area covered by claims by the Latji Latji and Wergaia communities. "DSE has determined the need for an Indigenous Land Use Agreement under the provisions of the Native Title Act 1993, to validate the construction and operation of the Long Term Containment Facility."	Proposed ILUA in relation to toxic dump	Sunraysia Daily, 01-Feb-06, pg 5			
02-Feb-06	NT	Gumatj Association under investigation	The Northern Territory's most powerful Indigenous leader has been accused by members of his family of mis-managing mining equivalency funds allocated to the Gumatj Association. However, despite finding that a relative lack of transparency was of 'serious concern' a preliminary investigation by the NT Commissioner for Consumer and Business Affairs has found no evidence of fraud or misappropriation and the Territory Police have advised that there are no grounds for an investigation.	Gumatj cleared of fraud and misappropriation	Australian, 02-Feb-06, pg 5, Northern Territory News, 02-Feb-06, pg 6			
03-Feb-06	NATIONAL	Blow out in costs and waiting times in Federal Court attributed to native title cases	According to the annual report of the Steering Committee of Government Services, the Federal Court is struggling to keep control of costs amid protracted resolution of native title claims. Court spokesman, Bruce Phillips, said "native title hearings commonly occupy months, usually in remote locations. These cases often progress slowly for reasons, including lack of resources, quite outside the control of the Court." Figures provided to federal parliament show if native title cases were left out, the Federal Court's backlog would be about the same as other superior courts. A Productivity Commission report shows that the costs to tax payers of finalising matters in the Federal Court is 6 times as high as in the state Supreme Courts.	Federal Court costs and waiting times	Australian Financial Review, 03-Feb-06, pg 82, Australian, 10-Feb-06 pg 27			

03-Feb-06	QLD	<p>Traditional owners seen as a significant hurdle in establishment of bauxite mine in Aurukun country</p>	<p>As many as six of the original field of 10 international groups who expressed interest in tendering for the rights to mine 650 million tonnes of bauxite at Aurukun are understood to have dropped out of contention. Aurukun Mayor, Neville Pootchamunka said there was no question the hurdles to final approval were significant. "As far as the Indigenous community was concerned it was about 'respect'. It is respect for the environment, respect for our culture, and the knowledge that if they take something off the black fella, they have to give something back".</p>	Bauxite mining in Queensland	Cairns Post, 03-Feb-06 pg 10	<p>Aurukun Township & Access Road Agreement: QI01/26. Comalco ILUA: QIA2001/002. Wik and Wik Way Peoples: QC94/3, QUD6001/98. Wik and Wik Way People: QC01/3, QUD6029/01</p>	John Liston	<p>The Wik and Wik Way Peoples are native title holders to 3 consent determinations. Wik and Wik-Way Peoples; Wik and Wik Way Native Title Determination No. 2; Wik and Wik Way Native Title Determination No. 3 (Please also note the Wik and Wik Way People are involved in many agreements, those listed are the applications that appeared most relevant)</p>
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03-Feb-06	VIC	Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation critical of the draft Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Bill	<p>The Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation chairman, Lee Joachim, was critical of the draft Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Bill in an article responding to a recent article by Sharman Stone, Member for Murray. He claims the draft Bill does not protect the ability for traditional owners and the local Aboriginal community to have direct responsibility for the protection of their interests in heritage but instead has created a structure that is not accountable to Aboriginal people. Unfortunately the government has chosen to ignore all the positive community-based development in favour of a state-based ministerial-appointed Aboriginal Heritage Council and provide for a complicated system of Aboriginal registered parties and an ambiguous process for determining applications for development.</p>		Riverine Herald, 03-Feb-06, pg 10	Yorta Yorta litigated determination was made on the 18/12/1998. Affected applications: VC94/1, VID6001/95	Ian Campbell-Fraser	
03-Feb-06	VIC	Evidence of Aboriginal settlements exposed following recent fierce bush-fire in South west Victoria	<p>A discovery of Aboriginal stone houses, eel traps, walking tracks and the remnants of cutting tools at Tyrendarra in South Western Victoria appears to confirm that some of Australia's first inhabitants lived in settlements, not just as nomads. The area was inaccessible until a fierce bushfire exposed the area last month. The heritage branch of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria is working with the Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation on future documentation of the sites.</p>	Evidence of Aboriginal settlements in South west Victoria	Australian, 03-Feb-06, pg 3			

04-Feb-06	National	Historian questions the origins of the concept of terra nullius	Dr Michael Connor, a historian and honorary research fellow at the University of Tasmania, in his book "The Invention of Terra Nullius", has challenged the commonly held view that British settlement of Australia was built on the concept of terra nullius. Dr Connor argues that the phrase 'terra nullius' was hardly known and rarely used before the 20th century. In addition, the meaning of the term in international law was 'land or territory under no recognised sovereign' and has been extended in recent years to include 'uninhabited territory', 'land of no-one' and 'territory with no system of private tenure'.	Terra nullius	Weekend Australian, 04-Feb-06, pg 17			
04-Feb-06	NSW	Local Aboriginal Land Council Chair concerned operation of commercial enterprise on Aboriginal burial land	Chairman of the Dubbo Local Aboriginal Land Council, Steve Ryan, is concerned about management of a property 12 kilometres north of Dubbo, Jinchilla, which has been leased to the Googars Community Development Employment program by its owner, the Indigenous Land Corporation. Mr Ryan said "we would have preferred the lease to remain in traditional hands so that Jinchilla could be managed in conjunction with the declared burial area on the crown reserve next door".	Commercial enterprise on Aboriginal burial ground	Daily Liberal, 04-Feb-06, pg 11			
06-Feb-06,	NSW	Conditions attached to Mudgee mining approval	The Planning Minister, Frank Sartor, has approved a \$116million coal mining proposal near Mudgee expected to create up to 700 jobs and \$1.65 billion in export earnings. Minister Sartor said he had imposed a number of stringent conditions to the Wilpinjong Mine including preparation and implementation of a comprehensive Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Management Plan.	Mining approval	Lithgow Mercury, 06-Feb-06, pg 2; Mudgee Guardian & Gulgong Advertiser, 11-Feb-06, pg 1			
07-Feb-06	NSW	Agreement with Yuin people and State Government results in handing back of National Parks	The NSW Government has finalised a lease agreement with the Yuin people that will result in the formal handing back of Biamanga and Gulaga National Parks. The future management of the parks would now be made by a board of management comprising a majority of Aboriginal land owners.	Land use	Bega District News, 07-Feb-06, pg 36			

07-Feb-06	WA	Attempt to address mining skill shortage in region	Indigenous Enterprises hopes to set up mining oriented studies at schools in communities like Laverton, Menzies and Leonora in an attempt to alleviate the skill shortage in the region.	Attempt to address mining skill shortage in region	Kalgoorlie Miner, 07-Feb-06, pg 4			
07-Feb-06	WA	Request for DNA testing on Nyoongar warrior head recently returned from England	Some Perth Aboriginals want DNA to be extracted from the head of 19th century Nyoongar warrior, Yagan, to settle a dispute over land claims currently before the Federal Court. The head was brought back from England for burial 8 years ago. The new Indigenous Affairs Minister, Sheila McHale, said it was up to the Aboriginal community and burial committee to decide about DNA tests.	DNA tests and land claim	West Australian, 07-Feb-06, pg 15	Single Noongar Claim (Area 1): WC03/6, WAD6006/03. Single Noongar Claim (Area 2): WC03/7, WAD6012/03	Steve Edwards	
08-Feb-06	NT	"The door is ajar" for a nuclear waste dump on Aboriginal land	The CEO of the Northern Land Council, Norman Fry, says that a nuclear waste dump on Aboriginal land could benefit local communities through providing jobs and improving infrastructure. The Jawoyn Association has tentatively supported calls for a nuclear waste dump. Mick Peirce, CEO of Jawoyn said "we still don't have enough information to form our own opinion".	Land use	Katherine Times, 08-Feb-06, pg 3			
08-Feb-06	VIC	Respondent complains about lack of information in Gunditjmara consent determination	A Portland based respondent in the Gunditjmara Native Title application claims he has been "left in the dark" on the state's offer for a historic consent determination. The claims were supported by comments from lawyer, G Moloney, who told the Federal Court that the "in-principle agreement" should be revealed so respondents could focus on what was important to progress a mediated settlement. A directions hearing into the claim is scheduled for next Thursday.	Consent determination	Portland Observer, 08-Feb-06, pg 5	Gunditjmara: VC99/7, VID6004/98	Nadja Mack	This is the only active matter for the Gunditjmara people

08-Feb-06	WA	Amended legislation aims to reduce number of exploration applications caught in 'native title logjam'	<p>Legislation to amend the WA Mining Act, passed in October 2004 was finally proclaimed last week. The legislation had not been proclaimed because of last minute changes passed by the Greens and Opposition in the Upper House before the 2005 State election. The amended legislation will allow companies to convert mining lease applications to longer term exploration licences if they are not immediately seeking to start mining operations. Once converted, the so-called 'reversion licences' should be granted within 3 to 4 months. Government and industry leaders hope the legislation will provide a catalyst for exploration growth, streamline mineral titles, open up unused tenements and reduce the 12,000 applications currently caught in 'the native title logjam'. Most regional land councils agreed to the legislation.</p>	Mining lease legislation	<p>West Australian, 08-Feb-06, pg 45; Australian Financial Review, 13-Feb-06, pg 9; Kalgoorlie Miner, 11-Feb-06, pg 1; Geraldton Guardian, 13-Feb-06, pg 9; North West Telegraph, 15-Feb-06, pg 1; Business News, 16-Feb-06, pg 7; Pilbara News, 22-Feb-06, pg 4; Golden Mail, 24-Feb-06</p>			
09-Feb-06	NSW/Q LD	Santos and Wangkumarra go head to head	<p>The Wangkumarra are the registered native title claimants of a 54,459sq km area of land in SW NSW and NW Qld. An agreement signed with mining company Santos in 2001 expired on Jan 16 2006 and, since negotiations regarding a new agreement have stalled, the traditional owners plan to lodge a 'stop work' order with the company under Qld cultural heritage management laws and plan to physically block the paths of bulldozers working on the development. Hope Ebsworth, chair of the Wangkumarra's negotiating committee with Santos said "It's pretty rich country-we've got oil, gas, opals, gold...But there is not one wealthy Wangkumarra person alive today....We live in poverty and they're getting billions of dollars out of our land".</p>	Negotiations between Wangkumarra and Santos reach 'impasse'	National Indigenous Times, 9-Feb-06, pg 5	Wangkumarra People #2: QC99/29, QUD6026/99	Ann Stokes	

09-Feb-06	Vic	Mallee-Wimmera agreement amounts to more dispossession	The agreement between the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk Peoples and the State of Victoria offers no ownership or exclusive rights over land and no more say over it's use than that afforded to settler interests, argues Dr Wayne Atkinson. Rather the rights recognised under this determination offer no more than the right to perform certain traditionally based activities within less than 2% of their traditional lands. "The question of whether this is land justice, or dispossession by stealth is one of critical importance".	Criticism of Mallee-Wimmera consent determination	National Indigenous Times, 9-Feb-06, pg 22	Tribunal File Number: VC95/2, VC99/5, VC99/8; Federal Court Numbers: VID6002/1998, VID6005/1999, VID6009/1998	Chris Loorham	Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk Peoples No. 1; Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk Peoples No. 2; Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk Peoples No. 3 (respectively)
09-Feb-06	WA	The Martu Idja Banyjima people appoint Macquarie Bank as advisers to their Charitable trust	The Martu Idja Banyjima people, a remote Aboriginal community in the Pilbara, has selected Macquarie Bank to provide financial advice to their Charitable Trust and to advise on future economic development opportunities. The Trust was established to invest mining royalties estimated at more than \$1.5 million a year for the next 20 years.	Aboriginal Charitable Trust	Australian, 09-Feb-06, pg 29	Martu Idja Banyjima People: WC98/62, WAD6278/98	Gerry Putland	There are currently 20 agreements recorded by the Tribunal (although not all Tribunal-mediated)
10-Feb-06,	NSW	Concerns expressed by Aboriginal Housing Company about impact of development plans for Redfern	Draft plans have been released by the Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Frank Sartor, which propose rezoning the Block in Redfern from 'residential' to 'mixed use' and a revamp of Redfern Railway Station. Mr Mick Mundine, chair of the Aboriginal Housing Company which owns the Block, says the zoning changes will kill any hope for affordable home ownership for Aboriginal people. Redfern was the site of urban land rights when in 1973, Gough Whitlam brought about the Aboriginal Housing Company and affordable homes on the Block.	Rezoning plans	Sydney Morning Herald, 10-Feb-06, pg 6; Sydney Morning Herald, 15-Feb-06, pg 17			

10-Feb-06	NT	Mining Company proposes river diversion for switch from underground mine to open cut	McArthur River Mining Company, owned by Swiss giant Xstrata, is seeking approval from the Territory Government to switch from an underground zinc and lead mine to an open-cut operation. MRM general manager, Brian Hearne, emphasised there was nothing inappropriate in representatives from the mining company meeting with a group of local Indigenous women and asking them what they want the company to give them (impliedly by way of compensation). The proposal involves a 5.5km diversion of the Mc Arthur River and is opposed by environmentalists and some traditional owners who rely on the river for fishing and hunting.	Mining operation	Australian, 13-Feb-06, pg 7, Northern Territory News, 10-Feb-06, pg 9			
10-Feb-06	TAS	Lease agreement recognises Aboriginal connection with North East Tasmania	The State Government has signed an agreement with the Aboriginal Land Council for a 40 year lease on houses at Eddystone Point in Tasmania's North East. The agreement comes after several years of dispute between the Government and the Aboriginal community. Land Council of Tasmania chairman, Clyde Mansell said "the lease gives due recognition that Aboriginal people have not only with Eddystone Point and the Mt William National Park but also with the whole North-East".	Land use agreement	Hobart Mercury, 10-Feb-06, pg 17			
11-Feb-06	SA	Full Federal Court decision to grant native title rights and interests to the Yankunytjatjara people upheld by High Court	Yesterday the High Court upheld the 2005 decision of the full Federal Court to grant native title rights and interests to the Yankunytjatjara people over De Rose Hill pastoral station in the far northern south Australia.	Native title upheld in High Court	Adelaide Advertiser, 11-Feb-06, pg 13	De Rose Hill: SC94/2, SAD6001/96	Monica Khouri	
13-Feb-06	QLD	Alternative lifestyle for Indigenous kids in Cape York	Mr Brickey, Elder of the Western Yalanji people in Cape York, wants to create training and employment for local Indigenous people on the land over which his people recently gained native title rights and interests. He said one of his main motivations was to offer an alternative lifestyle for kids who were at risk of going off the rails.	Land use	Australian, 13-Feb-06, pg 7			The determination will come into effect once all four ILUAs are registered.

13-Feb-06	QLD	Chinese Company, a final bidder in Aurukun bauxite deposit in Cape York	Chalco, a Chinese aluminium company has emerged as one of the final bidders for the Aurukun bauxite deposit on Cape York. Xiao Yaqing, chairman and chief executive of Chalco, recently visited Australia and met with Noel Pearson and other Aboriginal leaders to discuss their perspectives on the Aurukun project, Xiao Yaqing commented "we need to know what they expect. We need to listen to them".	Mining operation	Australian, 13-Feb-06, pg 27	Aurukun Township & Access Road Agreement: QI01/26. Comalco ILUA: QIA2001/002. Wik and Wik Way Peoples: QC94/3, QUD6001/98. Wik and Wik Way People: QC01/3, QUD6029/01	John Liston	The Wik and Wik Way Peoples are native title holders to 3 consent determinations. Wik and Wik-Way Peoples; Wik and Wik Way Native Title Determination No. 2; Wik and Wik Way Native Title Determination No. 3 (Please also note the Wik and Wik Way People are involved in many agreements, those listed are the applications that appeared most relevant)
14-Feb-06	National	Native Title Report 2005 and Social Justice Report 2005 tabled	The Native Title Report 2005 and Social Justice Report 2005 were tabled in Parliament on 14 February 2006. The Native Title report offers a detailed discussion of the relationship between land tenure and economic development by HREOC ATSI Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma.	Release of Native Title and Social Justice Reports 2005	Media Release, Attorney-General the Hon Phillip Ruddock, 14-Feb-2006			
14-Feb-06	QLD	Native Title claimants push for equity stake in proposed PNG pipeline	The Cape York Land Council consortium is claiming ownership of both the concept of laying a gas pipeline to PNG and of the affected land. Consequently, they are pushing for an equity stake in the \$3billion project.	Cape York Land Council seek equity in PNG pipeline project	Australian Financial Review, 14-Feb 06, pg 64			

15-Feb-06	SA	De Rose native title claim settled	De Rose pastoral station traditional owners have finally had their native title rights recognised after a 12 year court battle. The high Court has refused a pastoralist leave to appeal, exhausting the final legal obstacle to the recognition of native title. The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement's Native Title Unit's executive officer Parry Agius said "Had the pastoralists been able to negotiate as others have done, a lot of stress and money could have been saved".	De Rose claimants finally achieve recognition of native title	Koori Mail, 15-Feb-06, pg 1; Stock Journal, 16-Feb-06, pg 3	De Rose Hill: SC94/2, SAD6001/96	Monica Khouri	
15-Feb-06	WA	Yawuru prove claim to Broome	The Yawuru community has proved that it is a recognisable body of people with a traditional link to the Broome area, said Justice Merkel in an interim ruling. Justice Merkel has yet to address issues of extinguishment in a claim area that covers over 6000km. Kimberley Land Council CEO, Wayne Bergman, said that the ruling ended years of dispute that had divided Broome's Indigenous community "There's a sense of relief, excitement, hope". Senior Yawuru lawman Frank Sebastian said " Why we fought for native title is because land was taken away from us, not only in Broome but all over. We'd like to come together as one, and show our children we want to be as one, so they can have a happy life and a goal for the future. The main thing is getting our land back, it might not be much but we'll get it back. Then we can talk freely about what we really want".	Yawuru prove traditional ownership under NTA to Broome area.	Townsville Bulletin, 15-Feb-06, pg 10; Australian, 15-Feb-06, pg 5; Courier Mail, 15-Feb-06, pg 11; Northern Daily Leader, 15-Feb-06, pg 11, Northern Territory News, 15-Feb-06, pg 15; Broome Advertiser 16-Feb-06, pg1; MX (Melbourne & Sydney) 15-Feb-06, pg 10; Cairns Post 15-Feb-06, pg 16; Geelong Advertiser 15-Feb-06, pg 13			

16-Feb-06	NSW	Biamanga and Gulaga national parks to be handed back to Yuin people	Bimanga and Gulaga National Parks, including the sacred Mumbulla Mountain will be formally handed back to Yuin traditional owners. Decisions about the future management of the parks will now be made by a Board of management with a traditional owner majority. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service will continue to be responsible for ground works in the parks. "These mountains are part of everyone" said TO Mary Duroux "We've always known Aboriginal people were custodians of this land but what's changed is that's now recognised by Government".	NSW National Parks to be handed back to Toss	Eden Imlay Magnet, 16-Feb-06, pg 5; Canberra Times, 18-Feb-06, pg 4			
16-Feb-06	WA	Goldfield claimants claim victory	Goldfield claimants have claimed victory after a Federal Court decision forced land users back to the negotiating table. Although the State Government did not support the Koara claimants' right to negotiate the Federal Court supported Goldfields Land and Sea Council's argument that applications made before the negotiation rules were changed should still operate under the old system. 'Every step of the way the State Government appears hell-bent on diminishing Goldfields Aboriginal people's rights' said GLSC executive director Brian Wyatt.	Koara have right to negotiate recognised by Federal Court	Kalgoorlie Miner, 16-Feb-06, pg 3	De Rose Hill: SC94/2, SAD6001/96	Monica Khouri	
17-Feb-06	WA	TOs to get more say over the management of sacred sites and surrounds in Yamatji region	The Yamatji Land and Sea Council's "Caring for Country" initiative has been launched. The initiative includes an audit of the natural condition of culturally significant sites and will allow traditional owners to have input into their management.	Yamatji launch "Caring for Country"	Geraldton Guardian, 17-Feb-06, pg 8			

18-Feb-06	QLD	Yalanji now able to introduce their young people to their traditional lands	The Yalanji people of north Queensland have said that the recognition of their non-exclusive native title rights and interests over 20 000 hectares of pastoral land at Mt Carbine will allow them to introduce their youth to their traditional lands. The agreement also allows for Western Yalanji people to be buried on this country. Elder Des Brickey said "Getting on to this piece of land will be a real big help. We can get the young people up here and show them our land".	Yalanji determination clears way to teach youth	Gympie Times, 18-Feb-06, pg 6, Cairns Post, 18-Feb-06, pg 9; Tablelands Advertiser 22-Feb-06, pg 15			The determination will come into effect once all four ILUAs are registered.
20-Feb-06	VIC	Gunditjmara claim closer to resolution	175 respondents to the 10 year old Gunditjmara claim in Victoria have attended a briefing session where claimants and the Victorian State presented details of an in-principle agreement that they have hammered out. With only one issue outstanding it's hoped that an agreement can be reached before Court sits again on April 20.	2nd consent determination more likely in Victoria	Portland Observer, 20-Feb-06, pg 5	Gunditjmara: VC99/7, VID6004/98	Nadja Mack	This is the only active matter for the Gunditjmara people
22-Feb-06	National	CSIRO claim native title 'a key risk' to uranium mining	Documents leaked to the Canberra Times have revealed that the CSIRO has identified native title as a 'key risk for both engagement and science' for an ambitious national mining research program. The CSIRO Staff Association have attacked the program, claiming that its support for uranium mining is 'policy prescriptive' and that it has compromised the organisations scientific independence by making it a 'lobbyist for the uranium industry'. Dr David Cooper, speaking for Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation said 'there is no evidence to show native title has been a limitation to well-conducted mining operations in this country'.	On-going	Canberra Times, 22-Feb-06, pg 1			

23-Feb-06	WA	Plans to strip mine Mitchell Plateau for bauxite outrage TOs	<p>Mining tenements granted in the Mitchell Plateau before the passage of the Native Title Act could see the extraordinary Mitchell Plateau strip mined for bauxite and a refinery established.</p> <p>Spokesman for the Kandiwal community, Chris Brown said "They renew this tenement again and again and they never listen to us. We can't put any native title claim in...The Mitchell Plateau is just a low-grade deposit and they would have to strip mine it. Why don't they recognise the natural and cultural heritage of this place?...The people here don't want money if it costs them their country. We won't have a mine, there are too many people willing to die to stop it".</p>	Mitchell Plateau under threat	Broome Advertiser, 23-Feb-06, pg 3; Kimberley Times, 23-Feb-06, pg 1			
23-Feb-06	WA	Book controversy	<p>A book about the Gwion Gwion paintings of the West Kimberley has upset native title holders in the area "We won the land claim and I think that it's very rude that they didn't talk with us" said senior TO Donny Woolagoodja. The book, by Ian Wilson, claims that the paintings may have originated from an ancient race during the Ice Age.</p>	Book offends TOs	Broome Advertiser, 23-Feb-06, pg 4	Dambimangari: WC99/7, WAD6061/98	Lynda Strawbridge	Donny Woolagoodja is a claimant in the Dambimangari application
24-Feb-06	NT	Xstrata plan rejected by NT Govt	<p>Environmentalists and traditional owners have won a victory against mining giant Xstrata after the NT Environment Minister, Marion Scrymgour rejected their proposal to move its operation to the Gulf of Carpentaria. The company wanted to divert the Macarthur River 5km in the \$66million conversion saying the mine was no longer viable underground. The final decision now rests with NT Mines Minister Kon Vaskalis.</p>	Setback for Xstrata mine conversion	Australian, 24-Feb-06, pg 5			

27-Feb-06	NATIONAL	Judge criticised over Mabo ruling	<p>Historian Michael Connor has criticised former High Court judge Gerard Brennan by claiming that the High Court judges were "confused in their usage of the term terra nullius" and that Australia's occupation is better understood as an "annexure of territory". However, Sir Anthony Mason, Professor Suri Ratnapala and Emeritus Professor Garth Nettheim have all dismissed the implications claimed by Connor that the Mabo decision hinged on the understanding of this term. "The question was what was the consequence of the sovereignty of the British Crown over Australia" said Professor Ratnapala. "The principle that people who are occupying land have some rights that need to be dealt with by the colonising country was always part of British law" said Professor Nettheim.</p>	Terra nullius controversy continues	Australia, 27-Feb-06, pg 5, Weekend Australian, 25-Feb-6, pg 7 & 22			
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