

Native Title in the News January 2008

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
01-Jan-08	QLD	Major Step forward for Chalco	The Queensland Government has granted a 'mineral development license over a 40 000 hectare site on the west of the Cape to Chalco' providing the opportunity to start a feasibility study in the area. Chalco and the state government will 'work with the Wik and Wik Way people to preserve their cultural heritage and, at the same time, secure a prosperous future for the local community'.	<i>Queensland Government Mining Journal</i> (National, January 2008), 16.
01-Jan-08	QLD	Attracting new players to north-west Queensland	The Queensland Government has repealed four Restricted areas in an attempt to 'provide opportunities for the mining industry to invest in exploration in prospective Greenfield areas'. The Four Restricted areas are over 'non-exclusive possession land and will require a native title process before an Exploration Permit for Minerals can be granted'.	<i>Queensland Government Mining Journal</i> (National, January 2008), 23.
01-Jan-08	QLD	Changes to land laws	Fifty year leases will be offered to farmers and graziers who 'conserve high value environmental areas and reach access agreements with local Indigenous people'.	<i>Herbert River Times</i> (Ingham, 1 January, 2008), 2.
01-Jan-08	SA	Elders' silent protest at mining agreement	Kokatha Mula traditional owners 'observed the signing between Iluka resources and the Far West Coast Native Title Claimant group in silent protest, symbolising the voices that had not been heard or tabled through the Native Title Agreement process'. Kokatha Mula spokesperson, Sue Coleman said that she left the native title group 'after it became corrupt'. Ms Coleman said that 'the native title process was not effective in protecting Indigenous rights [and was] confusing and swaying traditional owners to sign agreements through financial benefits'.	<i>Port Lincoln Times</i> (Port Lincoln, 1 January 2008), 6.

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01-Jan-08	WA	Northern Development Taskforce launches in Broome	The Northern Development Taskforce has been established. The Taskforce is a 'cross government initiative led by the Department of Industry and Resources and includes representatives from the Department of Environment and Conservation, Indigenous Affairs, Planning and Infrastructure, Office of Native Title, Kimberley Development Commission, Tourism WA and the Heritage Council.' The purpose of the taskforce is to balance gas development with the attractions of the Kimberley.	<i>Prospect Magazine</i> (National, 1 January 2008), 6.
02-Jan-08	WA	WA fine welcomed	The Magistrate's Court has fined the Western Australia Airports Corporation for 'damaging a heritage site on airport land'. The decision was welcomed by Indigenous Affairs Minister Michelle Roberts after it was found that the corporation was 'excavating on a significant Aboriginal site without getting permission'.	<i>Eastern Suburbs Reporter</i> (Perth, 2 January, 2008), 2.
02-Jan-08	NT	Call for a fair go	Former Northern Land Council Chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu said that 'indigenous people didn't just fight for land rights in the 1970s - they also expected equal access to education, housing and health care'.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (2 January, 2008), 15; 'Now's our chance, urges Yunupingu' <i>Australian</i> (National, 1 January 2008), 8.
04-Jan-08	WA	Tucker returns as GLSC chairman	Former Chairman Ian Tucker has returned to the GLSC.	<i>Golden Mail</i> (Kalgoorlie, 4 January 2008), 3.
09-Jan-08	VIC	Native title claim seeks broad rights	The Federal Court has heard submissions of the Gunai/Kurnai people's native title claim. If the claim is successful 'it could potentially turn many of Gippsland's rivers and lakes into permit only zones for recreational use'. The case was heard over two weeks at Lake Tyers and presided over by Justice North.	<i>East Gippsland News</i> (East Gippsland, 9 January 2008), 3.

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10-Jan-08	QLD	Native Title win crosses border	The Queensland Government has reversed its position 'on a contentions native title claim over Mt Lindesay...and is set to grant the claim to the Githabul people'. This follows the decision of the NSW Government to recognise the native title rights and interests of the Githabul people almost a year ago.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 10 January, 2008), 5.
12-Jan-08	QLD	Native title could ground coal	Coal seam gas may not be used until the finalisation of native title negotiations over Maryborough Basin.	<i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i> , (12 January 2008), 7.
14-Jan-08	QLD	Elders call for consultation	Agnes Water Traditional owners are 'concerned about the environmental and cultural consequences a desalination plant will have' on the area. They said that 'the Miriam Vale Shire Council have pressed on with plans for a plant without proper consultation with the Aboriginal community'.	<i>News Mail</i> (Bundaberg, 14 January 2008), 3; 'Elders not happy with consultation meeting' <i>News Mail</i> (Bundaberg, 16 January 2008), 4.
16-Jan-08	QLD	TSI Summit planned	A push for a summit has started 'to discuss regional governance in the Torres Strait'. The summit emerged as a recommendation from a meeting held on Thursday Island of Torres Strait Prescribed Bodies Corporate.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 16 January 2008), 17.
16-Jan-08	WA	Developments in native title on the agenda	Developments in native title case law and anthropological matters were the topics explored at a recent connection workshop convened by the native title office in Perth.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 16 January 2008), 36.

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18-Jan-08	NT	Restrictions on access to Aboriginal land for fast track	Permits restricting public access to Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory will be reintroduced. Journalists and contractors will be made exempt. The permit system is favoured by the present Federal Government, the Northern Territory Government and Police Force, most Indigenous leaders, the Arts and Media Alliance and independent experts.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 18 January, 2008), 1; 'Bury the permit system, says Mundine' <i>Weekend Australian</i> (National, 26 January 2008), 1; 'Permit system protects land rights' <i>Byron Shire Echo</i> (Byron Bay, 22 January 2008), 10; 'A permit to their own land' <i>Northern Rivers Echo</i> (Lismore, 24 January 2008), 11; 'Permit system protects residents' <i>Australian</i> (National, 23 January 2008), 14; 'Press welcomed in permit system' <i>Centralian Advocate</i> (Alice Springs, 22 January 2008), 2.
21-Jan-08	VIC	Yorta Yorta welcomes project	A 'use and occupancy mapping pilot project has been developed between the Murray Darling Basin Indigenous Nations and the Murray Darling Basin Commission and the Yorta Yorta Nation'. The Yorta Yorta people will be 'managing the recruitment of people to be involved in the project and view it as a significant step in becoming more involved in environmental management of their country'.	<i>Country News insert</i> , (Shepparton, 21 January 2008), 11.
21-Jan-08	QLD	Land acquisitions clears path or vital coal rail line	The Queensland Government has acquired the land 'it needs to connect two major coal rail networks in central and northern Queensland'. Transport, Trade, Employment and Industrial Relations Minister John Mickel said that the Government was 'continuously working with Indigenous stakeholders to finalise cultural management plans'.	<i>Gladstone Observer</i> (Gladstone, 21 January 2008), 6.

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23-Jan-08	WA	New company formed	A partnership between 'traditional land owners in the Pilbara and Rio Tinto Iron Ore has resulted in the formation of a new company that will ensure that local interests are best represented'. The company, Marnda Mia Central Negotiating Committee Pty Ltd has opened its offices in Roeburn.	<i>Pilbara News</i> (Pilbara, 23 January 2008), 15.
29-Jan-08	NSW	Darug left out of the picture	The Darug people have been offended by the 'Penrith council's refusal to help negotiate a long-running native title claim'. A native title application was original lodged over the Lower Portland area which was rejected by the Federal Court. Another claim was lodged in 1997 over the Sydney Metropolitan area and is currently in mediation. An indigenous land use agreement has been proposed between the Darug people and the State Lands Department. The Penrith council has opted against becoming a party to the agreement.	<i>Penrith Press</i> (Sydney, 29 January 2008), 7.
29-Jan-08	VIC	Nillumbik Council signs up to indigenous reconciliation charter	The Nillumbik Shire Council has adopted a Reconciliation Charter which was created 'in conjunctim with the Wurundjeri Elders, the traditional owners of the land'. The charter has 'three main objectives, recognising cultural spirit, strengthening communities and encouraging community engagement'.	<i>Heidelberg and Diamond Valley Weekly</i> (Melbourne, 29 January 2008), 6.
30-Jan-08	QLD	Native title deal in the pipeline	The Port Curtis Coral Coast people have 'applied to enter into an Indigenous land Use Agreement with the state government'. Indigenous Bundaberg Residents have been invited to attend a special Indigenous land Use Agreement meeting concerning the Tannum Sands and Boyne Island areas which will be held February 13.	<i>News Mail (Bundaberg, 30 January 2008)</i> , 5; 'Native Title Land Deal with State' <i>Gladstone Observer</i> (Queensland, 31 January 2008), 6; 'Deal detail uncertain' <i>Morning Bulletin</i> (Rockhampton, 31 January 2008), 6

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31-Jan-08	WA	Rio pushes along with Kintyre sale	Rio Tinto has planned a sale of the Kintyre uranium deposit in Western Australia. The 'Martu were awarded native title in 2002 and they have a commitment from Rio that Kintyre would not be developed without their consent'.	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 21 January 2008), 1; 'Rio tells Kintyre suitors: get bids ready' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 31 January 2008), 48.
31-Jan-08	QLD	Indigenous agreement first for Queensland	An Indigenous Land Use Agreement has been signed between the Jagera, Ugarapul and Yuggera and the Ipswich City Council'. The agreement has been described as a 'practical step towards reconciliation and an agreement that other councils should take up'.	<i>Queensland Times</i> (Ipswich, 31 January 2008), 5; 'Indigenous land use agreement signed over Ipswich' <i>Media Release</i> (National, 30 January 2008), 1.