

Native Title in the News January 2009

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
4/01/2009	NT	Labor's push for Aboriginal home owners	Labor plans to intensify the Howard Government's push to promote home ownership among Aboriginals by pressing Indigenous communities to sign private leases over their land. The Government believes signing individual leases on Aboriginal land would eventually lift communities out of poverty.	<i>Sunday Territorian</i> , (Darwin NT, 4 January 2009), 7.
6/01/2009	NSW	Court reserves decision on mine	The Land and Environment Court has reserved judgment in the case challenging Barrick Gold's plan to significantly expand the size of the Cowal Mine. Long time objector and native title claimant Neville Williams is behind the action taken in late December.	<i>West Wyalong Advocate</i> , (West Wyalong NSW, 6 January 2009), 3.
6/01/2009	VIC	Native Title reform bid	Indigenous leader Mick Dodson, who chaired the steering committee for the development of a Victorian Native Title Settlement Framework, says in a report that if reforms are adopted then native title claims in Victoria could be largely resolved by 2020.	<i>The Age</i> , (Melbourne VIC, 6 January 2009),
7/01/2009	VIC	Weir threatens return of Hindmarsh saga	Ngarrindjeri Native Title Committee has threatened to re-initiate the Hindmarsh Island bridge affair if the Rann Government moves ahead with the proposed weir at Clayton, near the Murray Mouth.	<i>The Australian</i> , (VIC, 7 January 2009), 5.

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8/01/2009	NT	Tiwi people to manage fishing rights	Tiwi Islanders will represent themselves over the management of fishing rights after the High Court's Blue Mud Bay decision. Mr Tipungwuti and fellow Islanders still want suggestions from fishermen and government on how to manage their coasts though. The Islanders agreed with Chief Minister Paul Henderson that the High Courts Blue Mud Bay decision should not become a "political playground".	<i>Northern Territory News</i> , (Darwin NT, 8 January 2009), 4.
8/01/2009	VIC	Nationals slam 'secretive' native title plan	The Nationals have criticised the Victorian Government over its guarded approach to land management and called on it to confess on native title reform plans. Victorian deputy leader Peter Walsh said it was a terrible disgrace that country Victorians were the last to be notified on management of local Crown land. The overhaul, to be considered by cabinet, would allow traditional owner groups to be able to negotiate with the State Government to jointly manage areas like national parks.	<i>The Age</i> , (Melbourne VIC, 8 January 2009), 5. <i>Sunraysia Daily</i> , (Mildura VIC, 7 January 2009), 8.
8/01/2009	WA	Shire pushes for LNG inclusion	Envirosearch announced that the LNG precinct in Broome was an environmental disaster waiting to happen. The organisation along with others will be stepping up its campaign against development. The Government has appointed a facilitator to aid in negotiations between environmental activists, Indigenous stakeholders and gas companies. These will be proper negotiations - the facilitation is not about railroading traditional owners and Aboriginal people of the Kimberley.	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> , (Broome WA, 8 January 2009), 1.

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9/01/2009	AU	Native Title shake-up	<p>The Victorian Government is considering a draft report on changes to native title land management which could see Indigenous groups jointly managing areas. The report suggests that Aboriginal groups that could prove a traditional, rather than continuous, connection to land could negotiate agreements with the Government to jointly manage areas such as national parks.</p>	<p><i>Riverine Herald</i>, (Echuca VIC, 9 January 2009), 3. <i>The Week</i>, (Australian 9, January 2009), 6. <i>The Age</i>, (Melbourne, VIC, 9 January 2009), 11. <i>Border Mail</i>, (Albury-Wodonga VIC, 7 January 2009), 20. <i>Warrnambool Standard</i>, (Warrnambool Standard VIC, 7 January 2009), 8. <i>Cairns Post</i>, (Cairns QLD, 7 January 2009), 11. <i>Shepparton News</i>, (Shepparton VIC, 7 January 2009), 6. <i>The Age</i>, (Melbourne VIC, 7 January 2009), 3. <i>The Age</i>, (Melbourne VIC, 7 January 2009), 10. <i>The Age</i>, (Melbourne VIC, 6 January 2009), 1. <i>The Week</i>, (National, 9 January 2009), 6. <i>East Gippsland News</i>, (East-Gippsland News, 14 January 2009), 1. <i>Wangaratta Chronicle</i>, (Wangarata VIC, 9 January 2009), 9. <i>National Indigenous Times</i>, (Malua Bay NSW, 22 January 2009), 8. <i>Mansfield Courier</i>, (Mansfield VIC, 14 January 2009), 18.</p>
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10/01/2009	WA	Nyoongars seek land veto power	The Nyoongar people are pushing for an essential change in native title legislation that would give them the right to mediate in development plans for unallocated Crown land. South West Land and Sea Council who represent the group, wants the newly proposed system in Victoria to be implemented which allows groups to jointly manage land with the State Government.	<i>The West Australian</i> , (Perth, 10 January 2009), 7.
12/01/2009	NT	Land Councils passing the buck	The High Court has made a decision that is in favour of the Indigenous land holders. The traditional land holders are now looking for some sort of permit system introduced for non-Indigenous peoples wanting to fish their tidal waters.	<i>Northern Territory</i> , (Darwin, 12 January 2009), 13. <i>The Weekend Australian</i> , (Australian, 10 January 2009), 22.
14/01/2009	QLD	Land talks	A meeting will be held later this month to decide what will happen to a large parcel of land, totalling approximately 20.29 hectares, in Cranbrook. The Department of Natural Resources and Water has responsibility for this and other issues arising under the <i>Aboriginal Land Act 1991</i> .	<i>Townsville Sun</i> , (Townsville QLD, 14 January 2009), 1.
15/01/2009	SA	McLaughlin Park delay	Native title concerns have delayed the construction of the replacement under cover viewing site of the main oval at Millicent's McLaughlin Park. According to a recent statement from the Millicent Football Netball Club, the new structure is awaiting native title clearance.	<i>South Eastern Times</i> , (Millicent SA, 15 January 2009), 21.
15/01/2009	VIC	Aborigines press on with Bay bid in court	A native title claim over Port Phillip Bay will proceed in the Federal Court this year despite a proposed state revamp of Aboriginal Land rights that would avoid prolonged, expensive court battles.	<i>The Age</i> , (Melbourne VIC, 15 January 2009), 3.

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16/01/2009	NT	Native title is key to better deal	The Federal Government has released a native title discussion paper which will look at options for improving the system. Issues relating to mining and infrastructure payments are major considerations.	<i>Centralian Advocate</i> , (Alice Springs NT, 16 January 2009), 16.
16/01/2009	WA	Changes of responsibility	Premier Colin Barnett has reassigned the areas of early childhood development, women's interests and native title to provide clearer lines of Ministerial responsibility within Cabinet. Native Title responsibilities have been handed to Attorney-General Christian Porter.	<i>Golden Mail</i> , (Kalgoorlie WA, 16 January 2009), 2. <i>Geraldton Guardian</i> , (Geraldton WA, 16 January 2009), 10.
19/01/2009	VIC	Hattah native title claim fraud, says elder	A Native title claim on a huge area of land near the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park is a fraud, according to a local elder. Mr Kennedy, who claims he is a traditional owner of the land, has said that nearly 18 applicants on the title claim were not from the area.	<i>Sunraysia Daily</i> , (Mildura VIC, 19 January 2009), 3.
20/01/2009	VIC	Angered family steps up fights for sacred land	The Kennedys, a Robinvale family, claim Iluka employees have acted illegally and have been mining on their land for years without permission. Brendan Kennedy believes Iluka are definitely on their native title land and as a result they feel they are being dispossessed.	<i>Sunraysia Daily</i> , (Mildura VIC, 20 January 2009), 5. <i>Sunraysia Daily</i> , (Mildura VIC, 19 January 2009), 3.

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21/01/2009	WA	Unique title deal brokered	A unique deal was signed last month between the Jjamaal Native Title Claim Group and Atlas Iron Limited. The deal sets a new precedent for mining companies throughout WA. It bonds strong protection of Njamaal country with community communication and continuing associations throughout the operations.	<i>Pilbara News</i> , (Pilbara WA, 21 January 2009), 4.
22/01/2009	SA	Elders back Olympic Dam native title claim	Despite Arabunna elder Kevin Buzacott calling for the immediate closure of the Olympic Dam mine, the Kokatha elders have given their support for the proposed native title claim over the Olympic Dam area.	<i>Monitor Roxby Downs</i> , (South Australia, 22 January 2009), 5. <i>Monitor Roxby Downs</i> , (SA, 28 January 2009), 3.
22/01/2009	NSW	Court's decision paves way for sale	The Federal Court action to stop the Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council from selling off 10 acres of key waterfront land at Boat Harbour has ended with the Federal Court decision that there is no native title over the land.	<i>Port Stephens Examiner</i> , (Port Stephens NSW, 22 January 2009), 60.
23/01/2009	VIC	Land council steps back	Barengi Gadjin Land Council has decided against joining a traditional owner group supporting joint authority to manage Crown land. The Victorian Traditional Land Justice Group, together with the State Government, have formed a steering committee to jointly develop a Victorian native title settlement framework.	<i>Wimmera Mail Times</i> , (Horsham VIC, 23 January 2009), 19.
23/01/2009	WA	System labelled tough and cruel	Yamatji Land and Sea Council have supported a request for changes to native title law after a senior Aboriginal official labelled the current system "tough" and "cruel".	<i>Geraldton Guardian</i> , (Geraldton WA, 23 January 2009), 12. <i>Geraldton Guardian</i> , (Geraldton WA, 23 January 2009), 12.

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29/01/2009	WA	Gas threat raises ire of owners	Kimberley Land Council deputy chairman Nolan Hunter has called for the state Government to withdraw the possibility of using compulsory acquisition to secure land for a gas hub at James Price Point. WA Premier Colin Barnett announced the selection of James Price Point as a location for an LNG processing site last month, flagging compulsory acquisition of the land as an option.	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> , (Broome WA, 29 January 2009), 6.
31/01/2009	VIC	30-year land claim over	Australia's longest running land claim has been settled, ending a 30-year struggle by traditional owners for rights to land on Darwin's doorstep. The Northern Territory Government and traditional owners declared that they had reached an agreement over 65,000 hectares of land on the Cox Peninsula, west of Darwin.	<i>The Ballarat Courier</i> , (Ballarat VIC, 31 January 2009), 26. <i>Sunraysia Daily</i> , (Mildura VIC, 31 January 2009), 23. <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> , (Townsville QLD, 31 January 2009), 8. <i>The Examiner</i> , (Launceston TAS, 31 January 2009), 13. <i>Illawarra Mercury</i> , (Wollongong NSW, 31 January 2009), 24. <i>Northern Territory News</i> , (Darwin, 31 January 2009), 19.
31/01/2009	NT	Native title faces review	Aboriginal communities would be better served by a native title system that guarantees they benefit from mining and industry, a Northern Territory MP says.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> , (Darwin, 31 January 2009), 22.