

Native Title in the News July 2007

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
July 2007	NT	<b>Indigenous community rejects Jabiluka reopening</b>	The Mirarr people of the Northern Territory have confirmed their opposition to the Jabiluka uranium mine. Rio Tinto and its subsidiary Energy Resources Australia have been working with the community in the hope of reopening the mine. 'Rio has since said it would not move ahead with Jabiluka while the local people remain opposed to the mine.'	<i>Resourcestocks</i> (National, July 2007), 9; 'Rio pledges to wait for consent on Jabiluka mine' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 27 July 2007), 3; 'What's worth yellow and worth a mint' <i>Australian Mining Monthly</i> (National, July 2007), 23.
July 2007	WA	<b>Are we strangling the golden goose?</b>	Mining accounts for about 30 percent of Western Australia' gross state product and about 80 per cent of its export income. This 'mining boom' has subsidised state infrastructure and provided direct employment for about 61 000 people. However, the government is not acting to facilitate the strong position of the mining industry in terms of encouraging exploration, expediting approval processes and working proactively with stakeholders such as Indigenous people.	<i>Australia's Mining Monthly</i> (National, July 2007), 34.
July 2007	National	<b>A new law for Indigenous corporations</b>	On 1 July 2007, the <i>Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006</i> (CATSI Act) replaced the <i>Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act 1976</i> (ACA Act). The CATSI Act will introduce 'a strong but flexible legislative framework that aligns with the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> where possible, but accommodates the particular needs and circumstances of individual localities and groups.' There will be additional safeguards and the Act will be administered by the registrar. On commencement, 'all corporations registered under the ACA Act will be deemed to be corporations under the CATSI Act'. Corporations will also be assessed by their size.	<i>INTHEBLACK</i> (National, July 2007), 60.

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1 July 2007	National	<b>Uranium development supported</b>	Ian Macfarlane, Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources and Prime Minister John Howard have responded to the 'House of Representatives Industry and Resources Committee report on uranium released late last year', with strong support for the findings and recommendations. The federal government has urged the states and territories to review their policies on new mines and remove obstacles to 'the development of the uranium industry in Australia'. Mr Howard has 'proposed a strategy to increase uranium exports and prepare for a possible expansion' of the industry.	<i>About the House</i> (National, 1 July 2007), 51.
3 July 2007	NSW	<b>Easter protest flows into court</b>	Five protesters 'charged with entering enclosed lands' are seeking to rely on a successful native title claim as a defence. The Local Court is expected to hear the matter at the end of the month when it will be updated on the progress of the claim. Eleven other people are also expected to rely on a similar defence against their charges.	<i>West Wyalong Advocate</i> (West Wyalong, 3 July 2007), 1.
3 July 2007	NT	<b>Court option for Aborigines</b>	Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough has said that Aboriginal people whose land is acquired by the federal government under its 'takeover of 73 Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory would have the same legal rights as anybody facing 'compulsory acquisition'. Those aggrieved by the compensation offered by the government would have legal recourse. Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough has sought legal advice that 'Native title will not be extinguished by the Howard Government's five-year seizure of Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory.' Native title will not be extinguished because the government is merely leasing the land.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 3 July 2007), 1; 'Right to sue over loss of land title' <i>Australian</i> (National, 3 July 2007), 4; 'Native title not affected by seizure' <i>Australian</i> (National, 5 July 2007), 4.

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3 July 2007	NT	<b>Permit still required to enter Aboriginal land</b>	The Central Land Council 'reminded people wanting to visit Aboriginal land that the permit system was still in place.' Until amendments are made to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, non-Aboriginal people are still required to obtain a permit from 'local councils, an Aboriginal elder or the NT Government'.	<i>MX (Sydney)</i> (Sydney, 3 July 2007), 2; 'Permits still in place' <i>Geelong Advertiser</i> (Geelong, 4 July 2007), 17; 'Permit still necessary' <i>Western Advocate</i> (Bathurst, 4 July 2007), 7.
3 July 2007	VIC	<b>Plant set to destroy Aboriginal heritage</b>	The site chosen by the Victorian government for a desalination plant 'is a National Aboriginal Heritage Site' that could be home to burial sites. Bunurong Land Council senior cultural officer Steve Compton was disappointed that the government would build the plant without assessments. 'There is not much we can do legally' he said.	<i>Great Southern Star</i> (Leongatha, 3 July 2007), 5; 'Indigenous group slams state's Act' <i>South Gippsland Sentinel Times</i> (17 July 2007), 7.
4 July 2007	NT	<b>Ditching permits may get access on track</b>	Central Petroleum, an oil and gas explorer, hopes that removing the permit system will 'make it easier for mining companies to gain access to its projects'. The company has been negotiating a lease with the Central Land Council (CLC) for road access over the Colson track. The CLC said that the company 'did not need a lease to use an access road' but traditional owners 'were concerned that allowing access on the Colson track might encourage others, such as tourists, to use it'. A spokesman for Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough has said that permits will only be removed over 'common areas in major townships and the road and air routes connecting them to townships' but that the 'permit system will still apply on the vast bulk of Aboriginal land.'	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 4 July 2007), 21.

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4 July 2007	NSW	<b>Council backs North Nowra land claim</b>	An Aboriginal land claim over an area in North Nowra , the subject of 72 residential development lots that are expected to double the value of the land, is likely to succeed after Shoalhaven City Council voted not to object to the claim. Mayor Greg Watson said 'he was aware the NSW Land Council had lodged 'a whole heap of land claims' in the Shoalhaven.'	<i>South Coast Register</i> (Nowra, 4 July 2007), 7.
4 July 2007	NSW	<b>Harbour land claim</b>	A land claim made by the NSW Aboriginal Lands Council over an area of foreshore 'occupied by the Ulladulla Coastal Patrol and abalone co-op' has met with the objection of the Shoalhaven City Council. Ulladulla Aboriginal Land Council coordinator Shane Carriage had no knowledge of the claim and said 'because of the nature and use of the land, he did not expect it to be approved.'	<i>Milton Ulladulla Times</i> (Ulladulla, 4 July 2007), 8.
4 July 2007	NT	<b>NT Govt granted leave to appeal</b>	The Federal Court ruling in the Blue Mud Bay case 'giving Aborigines exclusive access to 80 percent of the region's coastline' will be appealed by the Northern Territory Government. The ruling 'immediately superseded the NT Fisheries Act' but an interim licensing agreement has been reached between the government and traditional owners. The appeal is expected to be heard later in the year with the High Court to deliver judgment next year.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 4 July 2007), 48; 'Owners 'out of loop' in Blue Mud Bay case' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 16 July 2007), 3.
4 July 2007	QLD	<b>\$52m. TSRA Budget 'to deliver positive outcomes for the region'</b>	The 2007-2008 Budget announced by the Torres Strait Regional Authority's Board promises to deliver 'a better quality of life and to develop an economic base for the Indigenous people of this region' said Chairperson Toshie Kris. It includes a commitment of \$1 657 803 for the Native Title Program.	<i>Torres News</i> (Thursday Island, 4 July 2007), 7; 'TSRA Budget announced' <i>Torres News</i> (Thursday Island, 4 July 2007), 9.

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4 July 2007	SA	<b>Land grab fears for SA</b>	The South Australian government is concerned that the Commonwealth is using 'housing funding to compromise Aboriginal land rights in remote communities.' SA Aboriginal Affairs Minister Jay Weatherill said that 'now it seems it is using its housing funding as a land grab in SA'.	<i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> (Adelaide, 4 July 2007), 21; 'Denying cash raises abuse risk' <i>Australian</i> (National, 4 July 2007), 7.
4 July 2007	NT	<b>Precinct plan storming ahead</b>	Katherine Town Council held a meeting with Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct stakeholders 'to let traditional owners know about plans for the site ahead of official negotiations to seek approval to build on the site, under a Native Title claim.' No traditional owners were present at the meeting. 'Andy Anderson from the Northern Land Council said it could bring cultures together.' Mayor Anne Shepherd hoped the development would 'change the face of Katherine'.	<i>Katherine Times</i> (Katherine, 4 July 2007), 5.
4 July 2007	SA	<b>Land negotiations could be made with wrong group</b>	The Dingaman family of Port Augusta has claimed that BHP Billiton are dealing with the wrong traditional owners over land near the Olympic Dam. BHP has met with the three competing claim groups to discuss the project. 'The Dingaman family has been fighting for recognition as the traditional owners of the land for more than 20 years.'	<i>Port Augusta Transcontinental</i> (Port Augusta, 4 July 2007), 5; 'Land right issues raised' <i>Roxby Downs Sun</i> (Port Augusta, 5 July 2007), 5.
5 July 2007	NT	<b>Mine makes \$30m pact with Indigenous community</b>	An agreement has been made 'between McArthur River Mine and the Borroloola community' to set up a \$30 million trust fund for the Aboriginal community. It comes 'as part of a controversial \$110 million project to divert the McArthur River by 5.5km, transforming the mine from underground to open cut and extending its life'. Jack, a Borroloola local, is doubtful of the benefits since the company have yet to pay the community any royalties.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 5 July 2007), 4; 'Mining company sets up community trust fund' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 5 July 2007), 4; 'McArthur River Mine pays up after 12 years' <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (National, 26 July 2007), 9.

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5 July 2007	WA	<b>Aborigines welcome Japanese gas deal</b>	Uunguu traditional owners have signed an agreement with Japanese gas exploration company Inpex in the Maret Islands 'which allows Inpex to occupy the tiny, uninhabited islands for geotechnical research'.The company proposes to build a large LNG processing facility but the plan 'has not yet received state or federal approval'. The agreement does not contain monetary or job commitments.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 5 July 2007), 4.
5 July 2007	WA	<b>Gas on the beach?</b>	A new frontier area for oil and gas development is planned 'just three nautical miles off Cable Beach and extending north to Cape Leveque.' Tax concessions are being offered for exploration in the area. Conservationist Richard Costin is concerned about the future of the tourism industry. Ian Macfarlane, Federal Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources said the industry contributes to jobs and revenue. 'Dampier Peninsula resident and tourism operator Kathleen Cox called for Indigenous people to be part of the dialogue process.'	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome, 5 July 2007), 1.
5 July 2007	QLD	<b>Cow Bay agreement reached</b>	A native title land use agreement, believed to be the first community-based agreement in Australia, has been reached between the Yalanji people and the Queensland government after more than 5 years of negotiations. Other parties included 'Cow Bay residents and representatives of Cape York Land Council' and sets aside 85 hectares for native title.	<i>Port Douglas &amp; Mossman Gazette</i> (Port Douglas, 5 July 2007), 6.

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6 July 2007	NT	<b>\$60m back on agenda for camps</b>	Tangentyere Council is reconsidering the Federal Government's funding offer for an upgrade of town camps. It has put forward its own model of '99-year leases for residents who want to buy their homes and 20-year leases for all other houses' and housing associations to also share control of the camps. The proposal has been rejected by the Federal and Territory governments, describing it as 'not workable'. Many residents feared the original offer 'would mean effectively giving up their land rights.'	<i>Centralian Advocate</i> (Alice Springs, 6 July 2007), 8.
7 July 2007	NT	<b>Court rejects native claim</b>	The Full Federal Court has upheld the decision of Sackville J dismissing a claim for compensation under Native Title legislation. The test case, begun 10 years ago, 'was brought on behalf of the Yankunytjatjara and Pitjantjatjara people'. Several similar cases have been waiting for the decision. The group will now decide whether to appeal the decision or 'refile a restructured claim to the Federal Court.'	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 7 July 2007), 8.
8 July 2007	SA	<b>Land claim on home of our pollies</b>	Kauran Yerta Aboriginal Corporation co-chair Lynette Crocker requested Independent Member Bob Such 'to introduce legislation to provide compensation' to traditional owners because Parliament House 'was illegally built on Aboriginal land.' A similar claim was settled in Canada for \$28 million. The Attorney-General Michael Atkinson said the South Australian government 'does not propose to negotiate or pay the Kurna people compensation'. The government will begin negotiations 'over a broader native title claim over Adelaide and surrounding areas', excluding Parliament House 'where exclusive possession has previously and validly been granted.'	<i>Sunday Mail Adelaide</i> (Adelaide, 8 July 2007), 112.

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9 July 2007	NT	<b>Canberra ready to seize town camps</b>	The federal Government is likely to seize most camps in Alice Springs 'for breaches of lease conditions'. Special legislation will be enacted 'to override the Territory Government if necessary' but it wants the Territory to resume the leases. Daniel Forrester from the Larapinta Camp 'is angry about the lack of consultation with residents, despite their earlier rejection of a \$70 million commonwealth offer to improve their homes in return for signing over their land for 99 years.'	<i>Australian</i> (National, 9 July 2007), 2; 'C'wlth considers seizing control of town camps' <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay, 12 July 2007), 6.
9 July 2007	National	<b>Leader pushes for treaty</b>	Indigenous leader Robert Isaacs has said that a treaty 'would end ambiguity and argument over land rights, economic development and governance.' He has called for a 'mutual recognition' of the significance of land to Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 9 July 2007), 2.
10 July 2007	NT	<b>Plan stalls for special sitting on Aboriginal legislation</b>	Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough is expected to report to Cabinet on the progress of special legislation for the Federal Government's intervention in the Northern Territory. Mr Brough 'had made it clear that at the end of the five years, the townships would return to Aboriginal communities on whatever basis they wanted them.' The Prime Minister has indicated that a special session of Parliament will not be held 'if the drafting ran too close to the scheduled resumption of Parliament'. Greens leader Bob Brown has said that if that were the case, it 'would be a remarkable abuse of parliamentary process.'	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 10 July 2007), 2.



<p>10 July 2007</p>	<p>NT</p>	<p><b>Legal threat over land plan</b></p>	<p>The legality of the Federal Government's plan 'to abolish the permit system in Indigenous communities through the amendment of the Land Rights Act' has been questioned by the Northern Land Council (NLC) chief executive Norman Fry. Mr Fry described the move as discriminatory and legally questionable. The Northern Territory Attorney-General will also seek legal advice over the proposal and 'what we as a Government might do'. It is expected that the NLC and the Central Land Council will support any legal action.</p>	<p><i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 10 July 2007), 4; 'NT may oppose land takeovers' <i>Australian Financial Review</i> (National, 10 July 2007), 8; 'Permit action threat' <i>Bendigo Advertiser</i> (Bendigo, 10 July 2007), 13; 'Territory talks legal action' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 10 July 2007), 15; 'Federal govt could face legal action over permits' <i>Daily Advertiser</i> (Wagga Wagga, 10 July 2007), 8; 'Govt could face action on permits' <i>Daily Mercury</i> (Mackay, 10 July 2007), 10; 'Govt could face action on permits' <i>Daily News</i> (Warwick, 10 July 2007), 12; 'Govt could face action on permits' <i>Daily News</i> (Tweeds Heads, 10 July 2007), 8; 'Legal action threat' <i>Warrnambool Standard</i> (Warrnambool, 10 July 2007), 6; 'Govt could face action on permits' <i>Queensland Times</i> (Ipswich, 10 July 2007), 16; 'Scrapping permits stirs tourist invasion fears' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 10 July 2007), 7; 'Aboriginal land seizures face legal challenge'</p>
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<p>10 July 2007</p>	<p>TAS</p>	<p><b>Hand back half land: Mansell</b></p>	<p>Tasmanian Aboriginal leader Michael Mansell has suggested a new land deal returning half of Australia to Aboriginal people. This would allow for self-determination and security of tenure for Aboriginal people. 'It simply means Aboriginal control over Aboriginal lives' he said. Mr Mansell suggested that Crown land in Tasmania's South-West and reserves could be returned.</p>	<p><i>Hobart Mercury</i> (Hobart, 10 July 2007), 10; 'Give us back half of Australia, says Mansell' <i>Burnie Advocate</i> (Burnie, 10 July 2007), 3; 'Aboriginal leader wants 50-50 split' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 10 July 2007), 15; 'Land split demand' <i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> (Adelaide, 10 July 2007), 12; 'Australia should be split: Mansell' <i>National Indigenous News</i> (Malua Bay, 12 July 2007), 11; 'Call to split Australia' <i>Territory Times</i> (Northern Territory, 13 July 2007), 7.</p>
<p>10 July 2007</p>	<p>QLD</p>	<p><b>Allotment shortage</b></p>	<p>Calliope Shire mayor George Creed is calling on the Queensland Government 'to release state land for development' in the face of a land crisis. The government has said that 'the major impediment to having the land released was the pre-existing native title rights over the land' but it maintains that 'it would conduct its own negotiations with the claimants'.</p>	<p><i>Gladstone Observer</i> (Gladstone, 10 July 2007), 7; 'Land delays put bridge on back burner' <i>Gladstone Observer</i> (Gladstone, 12 July 2007), 5.</p>
<p>10 July 2007</p>	<p>NT</p>	<p><b>Fry sees red over NLC mum claims</b></p>	<p>Northern Land Council (NLC) chief executive Norman Fry denies its involvement in a '\$600 million deal for leasing Aboriginal communities.' Mr Fry maintains that the NLC 'has always opposed compulsory acquisition of Aboriginal land, or removal of the permit system.'</p>	<p><i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 10 July 2007), 7.</p>

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10 July 2007	NSW	<b>Council cool on claim</b>	Baulkham Hills Shire Council decided not to be involved in 'negotiations for an Indigenous land agreement with the Darug People for the management of Crown Land reserves.' A council report said the Darug People had insufficient evidence for a native title determination in the Federal Court. Three Aboriginal claim groups are involved, with one opposed to the application.	<i>Hills Shire Times</i> (Sydney, 10 July 2007), 20.
11 July 2007	NT	<b>Aboriginal coalition's alternative plan</b>	The Combined Aboriginal Organisations of the Northern Territory has released a report criticising the Federal Government's plan to acquire towns and remove the permit system. 'The report recommends that the permit system...be retained and said land tenure issues were not expected to improve child protection.'	<i>Australian</i> (National, 11 July 2007), 6; 'Aboriginal group lashes PM's plan' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 11 July 2007), 8; <i>National Indigenous Times</i> 'Aboriginal coalition poses alternative to Brough plan' (Malua Bay, 12 July 2007), 3.
11 July 2007	VIC	<b>Act protects Aboriginal cultural heritage</b>	New Victorian legislation to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage will apply to most buildings and works, particularly around the Murray River and Barmah State Forest. Properties affected by the legislation will require owners 'to prepare cultural management plans.' Moira Shire Council Mayor Frank Malcolm said the plans will need to be 'signed off by the State Government before council can issue a planning permit.' Penalties apply for those who fail to meet the requirements.	<i>Numurkah Leader</i> (Numurkah, 11 July 2007), 9.

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<p>12 July 2007</p>	<p>NT</p>	<p><b>Activist fears govt 'land grab'</b></p>	<p>Aboriginal activist Mick Dodson said he did not see the 'connection between child abuse and land tenure' in the Federal Government's intervention plan. Prof Dodson is concerned that the government's plan to seize 73 Northern Territory communities in an attempt to combat child abuse is a 'land grab'.</p>	<p><i>Toowoomba Chronicle</i> (Toowoomba, 12 July 2007), 20; 'Activist fears govt 'land grab"' <i>Daily Mercury</i> (Mackay, 12 July 2007), 10; 'Activist fears govt 'land grab"' <i>Daily Examiner</i> (Grafton, 12 July 2007), 29; 'Activist fears govt 'land grab"' <i>Daily News</i> (Warwick, 12 July 2007), 7; 'Activist fears govt 'land grab"' <i>Observer</i> (Gladstone, 12 July 2007), 11; 'Activist fears govt 'land grab"' <i>Gympie Times</i> (Gympie, 12 July 2007), 6; 'Activist fears govt 'land grab"' <i>News Mail</i> (Bundaberg, 12 July 2007), 10; 'Activist fears govt 'land grab"' <i>Northern Star</i> (Lismore, 12 July 2007), 18.</p>
<p>12 July 2007</p>	<p>WA</p>	<p><b>WA Government to oversee gas projects</b></p>	<p>The WA government has made plans for 'a taskforce to co-ordinate the development of natural gas projects in the Kimberley region'. Lobby groups have requested 'a co-ordinated plan for gas projects to minimise environmental effects.' State Development Minister Eric Ripper has said that the government 'will resolve native title issues as part of the process and we aim to locate any hub on land where tenure has passed to the traditional owners and is subsequently leased back to the state'.</p>	<p><i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 12 July 2007), 26.</p>

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14 July 2007	NT	<b>Who wants to be a billionaire? I don't</b>	Nuclear power company Areva wants to extract more than \$5 billion worth of uranium on its mineral lease at Koongarra but the senior custodian of Koongarra Jeffrey Lee wants it incorporated into surrounding Kakadu National Park. Mr Lee wants to see the area protected from mining. The federal government has said 'that no new mine would be approved in the territory unless it had the approval of traditional owners.' Areva would need approval from Mr Lee, but the government has assured UNESCO 'that it would agree in principle for Koongarra to be incorporated into the park if the traditional owners requested it.'	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 14 July 2007), 3; 'Leave my uranium, my sacred site alone' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 21 July 2007), 72.
16 July 2007	NT	<b>Landholders hit takeover plan</b>	The federal government will need to get sacred-site clearance and survey township boundaries before it can acquire land through five-year leases. Central Land Council director David Ross has said 'that needs to come through the land council'. The Land Council had been 'negotiating leases of the townships with the Northern Territory Government' which would have put money for 'just terms' compensation under the Commonwealth's proposal, into housing instead.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 16 July 2007), 6.
18 July 2007	QLD	<b>Nickel mine in pipeline</b>	AusNiCo, a nickel mining company have 'launched the first stage in applying for an exploration permit grant to search for nickel near Kalpowar.' The company has advertised its lease 'in case the area conflicts with any native title claims or any other land uses' said its CEO Ian Levy.	<i>News Mail</i> (Bundaberg, 18 July 2007), 1.
18 July 2007	WA	<b>Agreement signed in Native Title case</b>	Ngadju native title claimants and the WA government have signed an agreement 'to negotiate an out-of-court settlement over about 103,000 square kilometres of land west of Norseman'. The notice of intent has been welcomed by the Goldfields Land and Sea Council. 'Ngadju claimant Les Schultz Jnr said the agreement was a great opportunity finally to settle a claim which had been before the court since 1995.'	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 18 July 2007), 5; 'Out of Court Settlement is aim' <i>Golden Mail</i> (Kalgoorlie, 27 July 2007), 3.

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18 July 2007	SA	<b>SA deal focus on heritage, culture</b>	The South Australian Aboriginal Heritage Committee and the Congress of Native Title Management Committees 'have formally agreed to work together to protect and ensure recognition of Aboriginal interests in culture, heritage and native title.' The agreement has the support of the SA Government.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 18 July 2007), 6.
18 July 2007	QLD	<b>Indigenous Councils worse off under Labor amalgamation plan</b>	Nationals Senator Ron Boswell has said that the 'Labor plan for amalgamation of the State's local councils' will be a disaster. Indigenous communities have not been consulted and 'Indigenous councils will likely be the hardest hit of all councils, primarily because of the land deeds issue' he said. The main issue is what will happen to Aboriginal community land held under a Deed of Grant in Trust by local Indigenous councils.	<i>Western Sun</i> (Cunnamulla, 18 July 2007), 11.
19 July 2007	WA	<b>Aerial search for diamonds in Kimberley</b>	Paramount Mining Corporation 'is seeking approval from Native Title applicants for a ground-based work program at Napier later in 2007'. Meanwhile, the company will 'conduct a large aerial survey to identify prospective new diamond exploration targets in the Kimberley.'	<i>Kimberley Echo</i> (Kununarra, 19 July 2007), 7.
20 July 2007	WA	<b>Protesters continue campaign</b>	'Protesters against the Barrick Gold Cowal mine site' have occupied the company's head office in Perth, seeking 'a copy of the Cowal Gold Project Ancillary Deed between Barrick Australia Limited and the so-called 'Wiradjuri Condobolin Native Title Claim Group''. Wiradjuri elder Neville Williams said 'All the Wiradjuri with ties to Lake Cowal have a right to see the deed and the inventory, not just the five sell-outs who have signed away our ancient cultural heritage.'	<i>West Wyalong Advocate</i> (West Wyalong, 20 July 2007), 5.

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23 July 2007	SA	<b>Mining week</b>	Goldsearch has 'executed Exploration Deeds with custodians Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara' over two tenements 'located within freehold Aboriginal land in the Musgrave region of South Australia'. Once approved, exploration will begin on the 'joint venture project with BHP Billiton and Independence Group.'	<i>Australian</i> (National, 23 July 2007), 33.
23 July 2007	QLD	<b>Plans to share mining bonanza</b>	The Queensland Government and the Queensland Resources Council will sign a memorandum of understanding to improve access, training and opportunities for employment for Indigenous people. 'Mines will develop local agreements aimed at increasing Indigenous employment in the sector'.	<i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 23 July 2007), 6; 'Rich lode of benefits for Aborigines' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 24 July 2007), 20.
24 July 2007	QLD	<b>Beattie deal for homes on Cape</b>	The Queensland Government has signed on to new arrangements in which 'Aboriginal communities on Queensland's Cape York will be able to offer 99-year leases on native title land to individuals, housing bodies and significant commercial developments'. Premier Peter Beattie 'said that local councils would still be able to control the purchase of houses and sale of the leases in local communities.' Yarrabah Mayor Vince Mundraby said this would give Aboriginal people home ownership and economic development.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 24 July 2007), 1; 'Deal for better future' <i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns, 24 July 2007), 8; 'School, homes link to Indigenous pact' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 24 July 2007), 9; 'Mines encourage Indigenous employment' <i>Blackwater Herald</i> (Blackwater, 24 July 2007), 5.
24 July 2007	NSW	<b>Land claim group tees up golf course</b>	The Ex-Services golf course at Bloomfield is 'caught up in a state-wide blanket claim on Crown land' made by an Aboriginal group based in Sydney. Both the Orange City Council and Ex-Services will be preparing a submission 'arguing that the site is 'currently lawfully used and is required for an essential public purpose'.' The claim also covers a proposed hospital site. 'Only Crown land that is unused can be successfully claimed under Aboriginal land rights.'	<i>Central Western Daily</i> (Orange, 24 July 2007), 5.



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25 July 2007	QLD	<b>New database shares Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander maritime history</b>	The first online database 'solely on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander connections to the Great Barrier Reef' has been launched. <i>Story Place</i> 'contains around 1000 annotated references on books, reports and electronic resources that have been produced on topics relevant to Traditional Owner Groups over the last 100 years.	<i>Western Cape Bulletin</i> (Weipa, 25 July 2007), 6.
26 July 2007	WA	<b>Human rights group targets troubled camp</b>	The Swan Valley Noongar community has been fighting the West Australian Government on the closure of a campsite since 2003. The community claimed that the closure 'contravened the Racial Discrimination Act'. This was rejected by the Federal Court but the community has appealed against the decision. The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has applied to intervene in the matter. A spokeswoman has said that 'HREOC is of the view that the appeal raises a number of important issues of legal principle relating to the proper interpretation of the Racial Discrimination Act' but HREOC would not be making submissions on 'the appellants' native title interest in the reserve or the claims made of trespass and deprivation of property.'	<i>Australian</i> (National, 26 July 2007), 6.
26 July 2007	WA	<b>Uranium mining backed</b>	Clinton Wolf, chief executive of the Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation has told the Australian Uranium Conference that it supports the development of a uranium deposit on 'traditional Martu land, despite a government ban.' Land access agreements containing uranium mining provisions have already been drafted between Martu, its lawyers and industry. Mr Wolf said 'We've got freehold title over about two per cent of Australia, exclusive possession.....If we don't get up and help ourselves, well nobody else is going to basically.'	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 26 July 2007), 17.

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26 July 2007	WA	<b>Heritage deal for Arc</b>	In April this year, a 'final determination of native title over the Noonkanbah pastoral lease' was made. Now 'Arc Energy has signed a landmark heritage agreement with the Noonkanbah people which will pave the way for an aggressive oil and gas exploration program in the onshore Canning Basin in the Kimberley.'	<i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 26 July 2007), 49.
26 July 2007	WA	<b>Program aims for more Indigenous employment</b>	A Work Ready program has been developed by Tiwest Cooljarloo mine and CY O'Connor TAFE in Moora 'as part of Tiwest's Native Title Agreement with the Yued people when they requested permission to mine another section of their land.' Participants who complete the program 'will be favourably considered for available positions within the Tiwest mine'.	<i>Central Midlands &amp; Coastal Advocate</i> (Moore, 26 July 2007), 1.
26 January 1900	VIC	<b>Heritage Grant</b>	The Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation has received \$80 000 from the Australian Government's Indigenous and Heritage Program for the 'protection and enhancement of its heritage'. This will involve a management plan to 'conserve national heritage values for existing and new places along the Budj Bim National Heritage listed landscape at Lake Condah'.	<i>Hamilton Spectator</i> (Hamilton, 26 July 2007), 9.
27 July 2007	QLD	<b>Native title decision brings joy to bush</b>	A consent determination has recognised native title over a pastoral property 450km northwest of Cairns. The Strathgordon Station mob has been awarded exclusive rights to use and occupy the land 'and non-exclusive rights to hunt, fish and gather from waterways'. Traditional owners had obtained a lease over the area in 2000 after the station was purchased by the Indigenous Land Corporation. 'The consent determination adds to 36 others in Queensland, more than all the other states put together.'	<i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 27 July 2007), 3; 'Native title over pastoral lease' <i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns, 27 July 2007), 7; 'Native title over Cape York lease' <i>Coffs Coast Advocate</i> (Coffs Harbour, 27 July 2007), 10; 'Cape mob can see a future as land returned' <i>Australian</i> (National, 27 July 2007), 7; 'Land rights won' <i>Northern Daily Leader</i> (Tamworth, 27 July 2007), 9.

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27 July 2007	ACT	<b>Council opposing native title claims</b>	The Queanbeyan City Council is opposing two native title claims located near Carinya and Henderson Street. It is specifically objecting to the claim near Carinya Street since the area will possibly be rezoned for residential development but is not objecting to the unused section near Henderson Street which is 'not likely to be used for an essential purpose'.	<i>Queanbeyan Age</i> (Queanbeyan, 27 July, 2007), 11.
27 July 2007	NT	<b>Plan for new 'town' at Owen Springs</b>	Alice Springs will have its 'own Palmerston Style satellite city to ease housing availability' said Independent Greaterex candidate Pail Herrick. However CLP candidate Matt Conlan has said that this would need an 'independent body to oversee the creation of more land'. He also attacked the Government's approach when 'dealing with native title claims'.	<i>Centralian Advocate</i> (Alice Springs, 27 July 2007), 2.
29 July 2007	NT	<b>Fish Permits in Doubt</b>	The fishing permit system that will be introduced into the Northern Territory cannot be enforced by the police. The new regulations were introduced after the High Court's Blue Mud Bay decision which entitles Aboriginal land owners to exclusive possession of the intertidal waters along 80 per cent of the Northern Territory coast line. However a source has said that 'police can't do anything about it because its not gazetted as a law'. Amateur Fisherman's Association president Warren de With said 'the uncertainty threatening recreation fishermen threatens to destroy the Territory's reputation'.	<i>Sunday Territorian</i> (Darwin, 29 July 2007), 3.
30 July 2007	NSW	<b>MP to challenge land claim</b>	Russel Turner, Member for Orange said that he would challenge the NSW health minister Reba Meagher to not allow a 'spurious' land claim to delay construction of the Orange Hospital. Mr Turner said that the land claim was 'not even apparently connected with local Aboriginal interests' and 'feared that the 'NSW Government may use the sudden land claim as another reason to delay starting the long awaited hospital'.	<i>Central Daily Western</i> (Orange NSW, 20 July 2007), 3.

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30 July 2007	NATIONAL	<b>Inclusion essential in ending disadvantage</b>	Former Australian of the year and head of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Fiona Stanley has said that 'treaty negotiations and land rights are linked to outcomes which ensure local resources, employment and community economic opportunities'. Ms Stanley also said that more 'importantly, there is a recognition of history and past dispossession through processes that provide restorative justice'.	<i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 20 July 2007), 12.
30 July 2007	WA	<b>SKA bid on track: MP</b>	The Square Kilometre Array project will be located at the Boolardy Station in the Mid West and 'strong relations have been formed with the traditional owners'. There have been 'heritage inductions' held 'between the council and international professors and academics o increase cultural awareness of the traditional land owners'. This will ensure that 'visitors to the site are aware of the cultural sensitivities of the Wajarri Yamatji Native Title Claimants'.	<i>Geraldton Guardian</i> (Geraldton, 30 July 2007), 9.
31 July 2007	NT	<b>Elders smoke supreme court</b>	Yanyua elders from Borroloola travelled to Darwin to support the 'challenge of the Commonwealth approval of the NT's largest zinc mine - the McArthur River Mine (MRM).' The elders were recorded by a film crew.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 21 July 2007), 2.