

Native Title in the News July 2008*

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
03-Jul-08	QLD	Home hopes in limbo	There is a test case being heard in the Federal Court on the State Government's 99 year lease plan 'to allow Aboriginal residents the rights to sign a 99 year lease over their home'. The case is currently heard by Justice Dowsett.	<i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 3 July 2008), 15.
04-Jul-08	QLD	New rules, new board for council	The Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation has been operated by an administrator since July 3 2006 and has been recently returned back to the community after changes to its constitution and the election of new board members. The measures are designed to increase corporate governance and include a director from each language group in the region.	<i>North West Star</i> (Mount Isa, 4 July 2008), 7; <i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns, 4 July 2008), 2.
05-Jul-08	QLD	Western power plant a first for Australia	CleanEnergy Australia has received native title approval for a geothermal power plant in the LongReach district.	<i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville, 5 July 2008), 9.
08-Jul-08	NATIONAL	Aborigines seek climate change input	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma has said that climate change is 'already being experienced by indigenous peoples, particularly on island communities, both in the Torres Strait and other islands and communities along the coastline of Australia, and also those indigenous groups whose lives, and maintenance of culture, depends on the Murray Darling River'. Mr Calma argues that despite these effects, 'Indigenous people had so far been left out of the debate'.	<i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville, 8 July 2008), 3.
12-Jul-08	WA	Cameco, Mitsubishi prepared to play waiting game for Kintyre's uranium	Canadian company Cameco is waiting for approval of the Kintyre Uranium deposit in Western Australia. The development is dependant on Cameco reaching an agreement with the Martu traditional owners of the land.	<i>Weekend Australian</i> (National, 12 July 2008), 35.
12-Jul-08	QLD	National park first for state	Cape York's Lama Lama people 'have regained custody of hundreds of hectares of their traditional country and will be	<i>Weekend Post</i> (Cairns, 12 July 2008), 5.

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			guardians of the state's first Queensland national park declared on Aboriginal land'.	
14-Jul-08	NATIONAL	Giving voice to indigenous in reshaped body	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma has said that 'to be successful in making lasting progress to improve conditions for indigenous people and their communities, they need a strong national voice'. Mr Calma said that the 'Australian Government has acknowledged the need for a representative body' and that 'a new body should be founded on a common understanding of the role indigenous people can play in shaping their own future'.	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 14 July 2008), 13.
16-Jul-08	WA	Builders facing brick wall over land releases	Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah McTiernan has said that Landcorp needs to deal with native title before land can be released to builders in the Pilbara region.	<i>Pilbara News</i> (Pilbara, 16 July 2008), 19.
17-Jul-08	WA	Owners push for LNG input	The Kimberley Land Council has 'successfully campaigned for two additional sites to be considered for LNG processing hubs, adding to the nine already announced by the Northern Development Taskforce'. KLC executive Wayne Bergmann said that 'the process is crucial to ensure Kimberley Aboriginal people gain long-term benefits from any development and to ensure robust community support'.	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome, 17 July 2008), 3.
17-Jul-08	QLD	Chinese giant woos traditional land owners	Chalco Aurukun Shire Council, the Queensland Government and local traditional owner have 'entered into an Indigenous land use agreement recognising the commitment of all parties to a mutually respectful investigation into the possible mine.	<i>Financial Review</i> (National, 17 July 2008), 14.

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18-Jul-08	NATIONAL	Native title sea change	Federal Attorney General Robert McClelland 'announced that the Commonwealth would recognise the fact that non-exclusive native title rights could exist in territorial waters'. The recognition of water rights up to 12 nautical miles is consistent with the High Court's Crocker Island decision.	<i>Financial Review</i> (National, 18 July 2008), 23; 'Native title flexibility' <i>Northern Daily Leader</i> (Tamworth, 18 July 2008), 9; 'Native title water rights extended' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 18 July 2008), 6; 'Ocean area for native title claims to expand' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 18 July 2008), 18.
18-Jul-08	NSW	Govt 'rorrts' Koori funds	The Central Land Council has called for 'a royal commission into claims the Northern Territory Government is radically underspending on Aboriginal Affairs'. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd says 'he wants transparency in indigenous spending'.	<i>Illawarra Mercury</i> (Wollongong, 18 July 2008), 15; <i>News-Mail</i> (Bundaberg, 18 July 2008), 12; <i>Daily News Tweed Heads</i> (Tweed Heads, 18 July 2008), 8; <i>Queensland Times</i> (Ipswich, 18 July 2008), 20; 'Call for inquiry into Indigenous spending' <i>Sunraysia Daily</i> (Mildura, 18 July 2008), 18; <i>Gladstone Observer</i> (Gladstone, 18 July 2008), 14; <i>Daily Mercury</i> (Mackay, 18 July 2008), 10; 'Indigenous fix 'on the way' <i>Northern Star</i> (Lismore, 24 July 2008), 10; <i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i> (Hervey Bay, 24 July 2008), 16.
18-Jul-08	NATIONAL	Neate reviews native title	National Native Title Tribunal President Graeme Neate has 'told a NAIDOC week gathering in Toowoomba...that significant change had been achieved in relation to recognition of Native Title over the years, but plenty of changes remained'.	<i>Rural Weekly</i> , (Toowoomba, 18 July 2008), 2.

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18-Jul-08	NT	NT nuke facility in 'national interest'	Federal Resources Minister Martin Ferguson has said that 'he would consult with indigenous land councils if he selected a site in the Territory' for a proposed nuclear waste dump. Mr Ferguson also said that 'support from the Northern Land Council will 'bolster the case for a Territory waste facility'.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 18 July 2008), 4.
18-Jul-08	VIC	Yorta summit success	The Yorta Yorta elders have 'achieved a majority victory at the World Indigenous people summit in the lead up to the G8 Summit'. Delegate Wayne Atkinson said that 'the Yorta Yorta won significant support from indigenous representatives from Asia, the Pacific Europe and the Americas'.	<i>Riverine Herald</i> (Echucca, 18 July 2008), 14.
18-Jul-08	WA	Boom in tenements	The Western Australian State Government has 'granted the highest number of mining tenement applications in more than a decade in the past financial year'. Resources Minister Francis Logan said '4675 mining tenement applications were granted in 2008-1008'.	<i>Geraldton Guardian</i> (Geraldton, 18 July 2008), 9.
19-Jul-08	NATIONAL	McClelland hails 'historic' opportunity on native title	At a meeting of Commonwealth and State Government ministers in Perth, Federal Attorney General Robert McClelland said that 'there is tremendous opportunity to do great things for the Aboriginal community through the resources boom'. Mr McClelland also said that 'States and Territories would now be able to work together to share 'best practice models' for progressing Aboriginal interests'.	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 19 July 2008), 20; 'Talks 'will benefit' indigenous people' <i>Illawarra Mercury</i> (Wollongong, 19 July 2008), 2.
19-Jul-08	WA	Native title setback	The Fortescue Metals Group will 'abandon a plan to push through a raft of native title applications with two Pilbara based claim groups after the National Native Title Tribunal found the company has failed to negotiate with them in good faith'.	<i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 19 July 2008), 77.

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21-Jul-08	WA	Pilbara left out of talks on ATSIC II	Pilbara Indigenous leaders have 'raised concerns that the region has been left off the schedule for first round consultation meetings on the proposed National Indigenous Representative Body'. Yamatji Land and Sea Council Director Simon Hawkins said that 'we are shocked that the Pilbara wasn't included. We have raised the issue and will be raising it at other meetings we attend'.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 21 July 2008), 8.
23-Jul-08	QLD	Aurukun elders map out economic future	The elders of family groups of the Aurukun area, the Wik and Wik Way people, are 'holding a visionary workshop' to map their future in light of the historic agreement with the mining giant Chalco.	<i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns, 23 July 2008), 31.
24-Jul-08	NT	Gove mine talks mark a fresh start	Rio Tinto Alcan has announced its plans to 'develop a new relationship with elders over the Gove mine'. This coincides with the federal cabinet meeting on Arnhem Land. The mine is 'on the land of the Gumatj and Riritjina clans' but may also affect 16 other clans east of Arnhem Land.	<i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i> (Maroochydore, 24 July 2008), 15; 'Rio teams up with Arnhem' <i>Australian</i> (National, 24 July 2008), 5; 'Big miner moves to right an 'historical wrong' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 24 July 2008), 4; 'Rio Tinto 'to right wrongs" <i>Border Mail</i> (Albury, 24 July 2008), 13.
24-Jul-08	NT	Call for change in dealing with indigenous	At a meeting of Cabinet held in Yirrkala, the Yolgnu and Bininj clans handed the federal government a statement indicating that there should be a 'dedicated futures fund and called for an end to using the Aboriginal Benefits Account to fund the intervention'. There were also calls to strengthen the rights of Indigenous people.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 21 July, 2008), 2; 'Plea on bark delivered to cabinet' <i>Herald Sun</i> (Melbourne, 24 July 2008), 13; 'Rudd takes cabinet into the heartland' <i>Advertiser</i> (Adelaide, 24 July 2008), 6; 'Indigenous leaders attack

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				intervention' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 24 July 2008), 7; 'Cabinet meets in Arnhem Land' <i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (<i>Broken Hill</i> , 24 July 2008), 8.
24-Jul-08	NATIONAL	Aboriginal place in Constitution	Kevin Rudd has said hat 'The Labor Government has long had a commitment to the constitutional recognition of Aboriginal people'. The Prime Minister has been urged to grant full constitutional recognition 'of Indigenous rights over land and sea'.	<i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 24 July 2008), 4; 'Aborigines seek full recognition of rights' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 24 July 2008), 2.

*Please note that articles from 25-31 July will be reported in the August edition of *Native Title in the News*.