

Native Title in the News June 2007

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
June 2007	SA	<b>Rann's mission accomplished</b>	South Australian Premier Mike Rann has welcomed the end of the ALP policy of no new mines. 'Today, about 60 companies and individuals hold a total of more than 160 exploration licences for uranium in South Australia, and more than 100 further licences are being sought' he said. Mineral projects include 'Illuka's Jacinth, Ambrosia and Tripitaka discoveries in the Eucla Basin, to project Magnet at Whyalla.'	<i>Paydirt</i> (National, June 2007), 42.
June 2007	WA	<b>Aim to embrace environmental concerns</b>	Atlas Iron Ltd managing director David Flanagan said the company has a sound relationship with the EPA, communities and regulators. The Pardoo Iron Ore operation in the Pilbara is 'working towards setting a new environmental and Native Title cooperative standard for iron ore projects.' Mr Flanagan says they have had 'regular consultation with the local Ngarla people on heritage issues at the project area.'	<i>Mining Chronicle</i> (National, June 2007), 113.
June 2007	QLD	<b>Mining law review ordered for Queensland</b>	Queensland's <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> is expected to be reviewed for the first time in 17 years. Minister for Mines and Energy Geoff Wilson said 'more streamlined procedures for mining and petroleum tenure processing, improved mining title registration and management, better security of tenure and the transfer of mineral rights will all be addressed.' State and Commonwealth native title acts were not included in the review.	<i>Mining Chronicle</i> (National, June 2007), 3.
2 June 2007	NATIONAL	<b>High Court makes landmark ruling in Mabo case</b>	Fifteen years on from the Mabo ruling, the alarm sparked by the decision has subsided but 'native title claims are still resolved largely by the tribunal and not through negotiation. Of the 95 native title determinations made by March 2007, 64 established that native title did exist. Another 600 were not fully resolved, while 265 land use agreements had been negotiated voluntarily.'	<i>Weekend Australian</i> (National, 2 June 2007), 10.

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2 June 2007	WA	<b>Rio after ruling on uranium</b>	Following a precedent set in South Australia, Rio Tinto may be able to develop the Kintyre uranium project in Western Australia without approval from the state government. It was granted mining licences by the Liberal government in 1998 over at least three areas at Kintyre. This means it could fall outside the ALP's 'no new mines' policy. 'Legal advice is believed to have been sought on issues including mining lease structures, native title, heritage and environmental procedure.'	<i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 2 June 2007), 78; 'Rio seeks ruling on Kintyre' <i>Herald Sun</i> (Melbourne, 2 June 2007), 95.
4 June 2007	QLD	<b>Don't overlook Aboriginal policy success</b>	An Indigenous Land Use Agreement 'for the proposed Aurukun bauxite project and the sustainable development of the Aurukun region' was signed by the Queensland Deputy Premier, the Aurukun community and the Chinese Aluminium Company, Chalco. 'A program of co-ordinated government activity to assist Aurukun residents to benefit from the significant economic opportunities offered by the project' was also announced, including the launch of the Centre for Aboriginal Independence and Enterprise.	<i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 4 June 2007), 17; 'A new chapter for Wik people' <i>Lawyers Weekly</i> (National, 15 June 2007), 8.
6 June 2007	WA	<b>Native title win</b>	A consent determination was reached with Pilbara native title claimants. Except for two mines, the Federal Court decision gave the Ngarla people 'ultimate rights to about 11,000 square kilometres of land, including entitlement to mining royalties gathered on Ngarla land and the right to fish and hunt native fauna.' Pilbara Native Title Service special counsel Carolyn Tan said 'the process of getting to this consent determination has not been a smooth one and has involved sacrifices by the claimants.'	<i>Pilbara News</i> (Pilbara, 6 June 2007), 13, 'Ngarla people win native title' <i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 6 June 2007), 4; 'Pilbara historic native title agreement signed' <i>North West Telegraph</i> (South Hedland, 6 June 2007), 1; 'Pilbara native title granted' <i>Farm Weekly</i> (WA, 7 June 2007), 122.

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6 June 2007	QLD	<b>Qld local govt changes: Councils state their cases</b>	Queensland's Indigenous Shire Councils have lodged their submissions to the Local Government Review Commission, setting out options for the Yarrabah Shire that 'take in non-rateable land such as state forests, national parks and Aboriginal land (and) also encompass freehold land being included in our shire boundaries as well as the coastal islands that lie directly off Yarrabah' said Vince Mundraby, Yarrabah Shire Council Mayor.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 6 June 2007), 34.
6 June 2007	NSW	<b>It's a new era - NSWALC leader</b>	Beverly Manton, newly elected chairwoman of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council 'said further amendments to the NSW <i>Land Rights Act</i> would soon be rolled out.' The main function of the Council is to progress land claims, with 'over 7000 new land claims that are waiting... to be processed so we'll be pursuing that rigorously' she said.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 6 June 2007), 5.
6 June 2007	NT	<b>Deal on tidal waters</b>	'Tidal waters overlying Aboriginal land will be extended to the Anindilyakwa and Tiwi Land councils regions' following an agreement for the interim licensing scheme, implemented in response 'to the Federal Court's decision in the Blue Mud Bay case.' The scheme will be administered by the Northern Land Council.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 6 June 2007), 34.
6 June 2007	WA	<b>Pilbara anger over 'drowned' spring</b>	Martu Idja Banyjima elder Slim Parker has called on the government to 'act on possible breaches of the Aboriginal Heritage Act' by mining companies over damage to Weeli Wolli Spring. Traditional owners were not consulted by the community liaison board before excavation for iron ore on the sacred site. 'We want to make the mining companies and the Government accountable, to force them to comply with the approvals' said Mr Parker. A spokesman for Rio Tinto has said that 'miners had worked closely with environment authorities and traditional owners to see that heritage and environmental values were respected.'	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 6 June 2007), 17.

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6 June 2007	NT	<b>Nuclear dump backed</b>	<p>Traditional owners of Muckaty Station have nominated their land for a nuclear waste repository with backing from the Northern Land Council. The site will be returned to traditional owners in 200 years when it is expected to be declared safe. Traditional owners will receive \$1 million for education and \$11 million on trust. Amy Lauder, Ngapa traditional owner has said 'we feel it will be all right for the environment in our country'. Dianna Stokes from the Muckaty Land Trust and spokeswoman for the Warramunga and Warlmanpa tribes has said that the deal negotiated with the Federal Government for a nuclear waste dump in the Northern Territory 'was made by just one of the 16 family groupings represented on the trust.' The Northern Land Council, which backed the deal, had 'failed to listen to the other families'. The site has also had two earth tremors and Ms Stokes is concerned that the dump 'would kill the area environmentally and culturally.' The deal has been opposed by the NT government.</p>	<p><i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 6 June 2007), 11; 'Traditional owners warn of tremors at nuclear waste dump site' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 20 June 2007), 4.</p>
6 June 2007	QLD	<b>Cape wild over rivers</b>	<p>Gerhardt Pearson, CEO of the Balkanu Cape York Development corporation has accused green groups and the Queensland government of denying the economic, social and health needs of Aborigines. The wild rivers legislation passed in February prevents Aboriginal people from using the areas for mining, tourism or farming. 'The current proposal basically permits Aboriginal people to use water like we did 40,000 years ago...it is a warped position....we have communities that have evolved' said Mr Pearson.</p>	<p><i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 6 June 2007), 4.</p>

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7 June 2007	NT	<b>NT push for gas industries</b>	Northern Territory Chief Minister Clare Martin has met with senior executives from the major Browse Basin producers as part of a strategy 'to develop gas fields off northern Australia.' Producers face the possibility of having to reserve 15 per cent of supply for domestic use if processing facilities are required in Western Australia. 'Territory officials and federal Resources Minister Ian Macfarlane have been quick to point out that Browse Basin gas could be piped across the Timor Sea, thus escaping the WA reservation policy, native title issues and the looming debate over developing in sensitive onshore environments.'	<i>Australian</i> (National, 7 June 2007), 22; 'Woodside looks to extend Shelf life of gas projects' <i>Weekend Australian</i> (National, 16 June 2007), 43.
7 June 2007	WA	<b>New native title agreement</b>	Despite ongoing appeals against the Federal Court's native title determination over Broome and surrounding land, the State government and Rubibi have signed new native title and heritage agreements. Future negotiations will be conducted through a committee of representatives from government and the Yawuru native title holders. Rubibi negotiator Patrick Dodson is pleased that 'the State's taken this constructive approach.' Both sides agree that concessions will need to be made. The government will commit \$150 000 for the management of Minyirr Park. 'The negotiation protocol provides a framework that will lead to the resolution of native title Future Act matters in and around Broome' said Deputy Premier Eric Ripper.	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome, 7 June 2007), 6; 'Rubibi Agreements' <i>Farm Weekly</i> (WA, 14 June 2007), 123.
7 June 2007	NATIONAL	<b>Something to dance about</b>	As much as \$3 billion in legal costs has been expended on native title cases since Mabo. Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies chairman Mick Dodson blamed the federal government for the failure to streamline legal processes, adding that prescribed bodies corporate had to generate their own income with no access to a financial resource stream.	<i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns, 7 June 2007), 7.

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<p>8 June 2007</p>	<p>QLD</p>	<p><b>Cape native title 'crusade' won</b></p>	<p>After 17 years native title has been won in Cape York. The Queensland government has tabled legislation handing over all Cape York land to traditional owners. It provides specific land use arrangements, amending the Wild Rivers Act 'to recognise prior native title rights', gives Aboriginal people joint management of national parks and ensures sustainable development, said Premier Peter Beattie. Aboriginal leader Noel Pearson said they could now put land rights behind them. Pastoralist leader Peter Kenny said pastoralists would now have more security.</p>	<p><i>Australian</i> (National, 8 June 2007), 6; 'Historic land use accord for Cape' <i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns, 8 June 2007), 3; 'Cape York deal seals land rights' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 8 June 2007), 6; 'Historic deal for Cape York' <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville, 8 June 2007), 6; 'The ideal equilibrium' <i>Weekend Australian</i> (National, 9 June 2007), 21; 'Land rights in Cape no longer an issue:Pearson' <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay, 14 June 2007), 7; 'Agreement on Cape Bill' <i>Cooktown Local News</i> (Cooktown, 13 June 2007), 5; 'New blueprint for the Cape, claims Premier Beattie' <i>Western Cape Bulletin</i> (Weipa, 13 June 2007), 4; 'Significant land management agreement reached' <i>Tablelands Advertiser</i> (Mareeba, 27 June 2007), 19..</p>
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8 June 2007	NSW	<b>'We will fight them' on the riverbanks</b>	The Clarence Valley Aboriginal community is considering making a native title claim to prevent diversion of the Clarence River. 'There are at least six Aboriginal communities that would be affected...and so far there has been no consultation on the issue with us as the traditional owners of the Clarence' said Bundjalung man Graham Purcell. The river is a sacred site for Aboriginal peoples, some of whom depend on it for their survival.	<i>Daily Examiner</i> (Grafton, 8 June 2007), 1; 'Native Title may block dam' <i>Daily Examiner</i> (Grafton, 11 June 2007), 8.
9 June 2007	WA	<b>Canning permits system online</b>	Travellers who wish to visit sites of interest where native title rights and interests have been granted to the Martu people will now require a permit. A claim for native title is still being considered for land on the Canning Stock Route.	<i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 9 June 2007), 16.
10 June 2007	NT	<b>Granny locked in land battle</b>	Marjorie Foster is fighting the Northern Land Council to negotiate directly with the Australian Pipeline Trust. Foster was recognised by the Federal Court as a Kamu traditional owner over the Daly River region. The Council obtained a statutory declaration from other members of the Kamu tribe claiming Foster does not act in their interests and does not have their support. The Native Title Act says the Council can only negotiate on behalf of traditional owners where invited to do so.	<i>Sunday Territorian</i> (Darwin, 10 June 2007), 4.
11 June 2007	QLD	<b>Deal on land care</b>	The Gangalidda, Garawa, Waanyi, Lardil, Yangkaal, Kaiadilt, Gkuthaarn, Kukatj and Kurtijar peoples are set to benefit from an agreement between the Southern Gulf Catchments and the Carpentaria Land Council. Catchments CEO Claire Rodgers said 'the agreement represents a new era in Southern Gulf Catchments' investment in Indigenous management of land and sea.' Spokesman Murrandoo Yanner said the agreement 'recognises the vital role Gulf Aboriginal people have as managers and custodians of an ancient pristine environment.'	<i>North West Star</i> (Mount Isa, 11 June 2007), 8.

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12 June 2007	WA	<b>Elders do hold native title</b>	Robert Bropho responded to a claim that his group 'does not officially hold native title.' He said that the Federal Court decision in <i>Bennell v State of Western Australia</i> recognised 'the named elders who represent the family groups of the Nyungar people of the Swan River, Coastal Plains and Darling Ranges...as native title holders...to Crown lands and waters in the wider Perth region.'	<i>Midland Reporter</i> (Perth, 12 June 2007), 11.
13 June 2007	QLD	<b>Indigenous communities benefit from Budget</b>	The State Budget has been welcomed by Member for Cook Jason O'Brien for its increased focus on Indigenous communities. Funding includes '\$547,000 for the Yalanji Indigenous Land Use Agreements' and '\$570,000 to support Indigenous land and sea management centres'.	<i>Western Cape Bulletin</i> (Weipa, 13 June 2007), 3.
13 June 2007	WA	<b>Plan to address water needs</b>	Native title engagements in the Esperance Groundwater Area has formed one of the considerations in the new Water Management Plan. 'Using our most up-to-date data, allocation limits have been set with consideration for the ecological, social and economic values of the area, and to determine how much water is available for use' said Sharon Stratico, Department of Water District Manager.	<i>Esperance Express</i> (Esperance, 13 June 2007), 2.
13 June 2007	NT	<b>A step backwards for land rights</b>	Changes to the Land Rights Act will create an entity to hold and administer 99 year township leases over Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory. Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Northern Australia and Indigenous Affairs Warren Snowdon says this will undermine Indigenous land rights. 'People shouldn't be forced to choose between their land rights and economic development' he said. Aboriginal activist Pat Turner accused the federal government of using child sexual abuse to take back land rights of 70 remote Indigenous communities. Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough has denied the claim. Backed by Noel Pearson, Mr Brough has urged aboriginal people 'to consider transferring collective land ownership into	<i>Media Release</i> (National, 13 June 2007), 1; 'Howard, Rudd dodge Indigenous 'land grab' claims' <i>Australian</i> (National, 29 June 2007), 1; 'Activists claim plot to roll back land rights' <i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> (Adelaide, 27 June 2007), 4.



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			private ownership based on 99-year leases' and said 'he might use the land takeover as an opportunity to persuade communities to accept its benefits.' Both the Prime Minister and the Opposition Leader declined to comment on the accusations.	
14 June 2007	NT	<b>Hapless Burke sparked off national parks grab</b>	Senator Nigel Scullion is opposed to a transfer of 'Territory National Parks, including the West MacDonnells, into Aboriginal ownership', despite an undertaking made by the Prime Minister to 'schedule the parks under the Land Rights Act'. Senator Scullion wants the Prime Minister to reconsider in light of 'the feelings of people, which seems to run in the face of so-called consultation from the Northern Territory Government' he said. Few parks will be affected in the north, but the transfer will affect almost all the parks in Central Australia. 'It would be followed by a 99 year lease-back to the NT Parks Service but Aborigines, represented by the Central Land Council, would have wide ranging influence over the running of the parks.'	<i>Alice Spring News</i> (Alice Springs, 14 June 2007), 1.
14 June 2007	VIC	<b>Groups to protect heritage</b>	The Kirrae Whurrong and Framlingham Aboriginal Trust groups are expected to apply to become a 'Registered Aboriginal Party' with custodial responsibilities over the Terang and district area. 'The group will have to sit around the table with private industry, landholders and council officers to consider issues of cultural heritage' said Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council deputy chair Tim Chatfield. 'This heritage is about our ties to the land, be it fish and eel traps, limestone shelters, rock art or artefacts used in hunting' he said.	<i>Terang Express</i> (Terang, 14 June 2007), 1.

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14 June 2007	NATIONAL	<b>Native title win</b>	The determination of the Gunditjmarra people earlier this year marked the 100th native title determination since Mabo. A further determination was handed down in favour of the Ngarluma Yindjibarndi people. Dr Lisa Strelein, Research Director of AIATSIS has said that 'the year has also seen many small scale and some very significant large scale agreements in relation to exploration, pipeline and heritage agreements.'	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay, 14 June 2007), 11.
14 June 2007	NSW	<b>Aboriginal voice sought for Killalea Trust</b>	The State government has been asked to provide two Indigenous positions on the Killalea State Park Trust. 'This is an area where there is a lot of Aboriginal significance' said Mayor David Hamilton. Trust chair Ed Gilmore said 'there's hardly any Aboriginal heritage there.' Aunty Mary Davis, Illawarra Aboriginal Land Council chair said it hoped to join the native title claim of Uncle Reuben Brown.	<i>Illawarra Mercury</i> (Wollongong, 14 June 2007), 9.
14 June 2007	NATIONAL	<b>Report finds joint economic aspirations are possible</b>	The <i>Native Title Report 2006</i> includes a national survey of Indigenous land owners which found overwhelming support for economic development. 'Many of my people want to be self sustaining, but for many there is a gap between the government assistance on offer and the ability to access it' said Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma. The report shows 'that much is possible when governments and industry work with Indigenous people to achieve joint economic aspirations' he said.	<i>Media Release</i> (National, 14 June 2007), 21.

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14 June 2007	WA	<b>New native title claims</b>	The Goldfields Land and Sea Council will lodge up to four claims in the High Court after the Wongatha claim was dismissed in February. The decision left open the possibility for multiple smaller claims. 'The State has not ruled out either a large scale alternative resolution or some determination on smaller areas' said a spokesperson for Eric Ripper, the government's native title spokesman.	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 14 June 2007), 5.
14 June 2007	WA	<b>Chairman back</b>	Patrick Dodson was reappointed chairman of the Kimberley Development Commission Board. It 'coincides with the signing of native title and heritage agreements for Broome two weeks ago'. Mr Dodson wanted to ensure that young people 'have a basis and a stake in the economic development of this part of the Kimberley.'	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome, 14 June 2007), 4.
15 June 2007	NT	<b>Government sidelines Indigenous people again as Land Rights Bill passes Senate</b>	Democrats' Deputy Leader Andrew Bartlett has criticised the government for failing to properly consult Indigenous people on amendments to the Land Rights Act allowing 99 year leases.' This latest Bill was not even subject to an Inquiry' he said.	<i>Media Release</i> (National, 15 June 2007), 1.
17 June 2007	TAS	<b>Aboriginal land vow</b>	Spokeswoman for the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre Trudy Maluga has launched a campaign to protect Aboriginal heritage from the Tamar Valley pulp mill. Speaking at an anti-pulp mill rally, she has said that 'even if the mill does go ahead, we will be down there fiercely protecting our heritage...We will protect that land at any cost.'	<i>Sunday Examiner</i> (Launceston, 17 June 2007), 5; '11,000 clog Launceston's streets to oppose pulp mill' <i>Media Release</i> (National, 16 June 2007), 1.

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18 June 2007	NT	<b>Australian, US troops build airstrip on the double</b>	A 1.3-kilometre airstrip has been built in the Northern Territory as part of a joint exercise between Australia and the US. It took seven years for a land-use agreement to be negotiated between the traditional owners of the Bradshaw station where the strip is built and the Australian Defence Force. 'The Australian Defence Force will maintain the airstrip when the exercise is over.'	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 18 June 2007), 5.
18 June 2007	TAS	<b>Framework</b>	Aboriginal tourism is being promoted with the launch of an Aboriginal tourism development plan which sets out 'protocols to ensure proper respect is shown to Aboriginal people, land and heritage' and 'encourages an accreditation system for Aboriginal tourism products.'	<i>Burnie Advocate</i> (Burnie, 18 June 2007), 5.
18 June 2007	NATIONAL	<b>North faces climate disaster</b>	Climate change could threaten 'national parks, reserves and World Heritage areas' in northern Australia. Rising sea levels could affect 'more than four million hectares of coastal freshwater wetlands, placing local barramundi fisheries and Aboriginal livelihoods at risk.' Torres Strait island communities are already being affected. Increased fire risk, loss of rainforest habitat and coral bleaching are also predicted. Ecologist Stuart Blanch said that it was 'vital to increase the meaningful involvement of northern Aboriginal communities in conservation land management programs'.	<i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 18 June 2007), 1.
18 June 2007	WA	<b>WA exploration 'getting harder'</b>	Exploration in Western Australia is declining, with the trend being attributed to 'native title and governmental approvals'. Royal Resources exploration manager Brian Burke claims that too much red tape in WA is making it 'one of the hardest places to do business.' As a result, companies are looking elsewhere for better opportunities.	<i>Geraldton Guardian</i> (Geraldton, 18 June 2007), 7.

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19 June 2007	WA	<b>Bigger Ord River plan includes NT</b>	The WA government has decided to draw up a new proposal for the second stage of the Ord River irrigation scheme, relying on 'developing land in the Northern Territory, which has made no commitment to the expansion'. The project could now take 'a number of years' said NT Primary Industry Minister Chris Natt with the expansion of the scheme facing 'unresolved environmental and native title issues in the NT'.	<i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 19 June 2007), 6; 'Stage II dumped' <i>Kimberley Echo</i> (Kununurra, 21 June 2007), 3.
20 June 2007	NATIONAL	<b>Dodson in warning on justice</b>	The Gimuy Walubara Yidinji people hosted the eighth annual National Native Title Conference. More than 580 native title determinations remain outstanding, but 275 registered Indigenous land use agreements and 102 registered native title determinations have been reached since 1992. Dr Lisa Strelein, Director of the Native Title Research Unit at AIATSIS said there had been 'changes in policy in very important areas like Prescribed Bodies Corporate funding and, quite importantly, changes in policy and legislation in relation to Native Title Representative Bodies'. Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough said that 'replacing the previous system of open-ended recognition with fixed terms will lead to better outcomes for native title claimants'. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma said there had been 'massive improvements' but that 'outside of the native process we're seeing arrangements in relation to land being foisted upon Indigenous people.' AIATSIS Chairman Mick Dodson said governments at all levels were systematically opposing 'the recognition of native title, especially in Western Australia and Queensland'.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 20 June 2007), 9; 'Colonial ways 'slaughtering' Aborigines' <i>Australian</i> (National, 8 June 2007), 6; 'Native title recognition is opposed' <i>Daily Telegraph</i> (Sydney, 8 June 2007), 18; 'Conference commemorates 15 year Anniversary of Mabo decision' <i>Media Release</i> (National, 7 June 2007), 'Governments 'systematically opposing native title': Dodson' <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay, 14 June 2007), 7; Cairns Post (Cairns, 9 June 2007), 44; 'Native title conference starts today' <i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns, 6 June 2007), 7.

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20 June 2007	NATIONAL	<b>Challenge by Neate</b>	National Native Title Tribunal President Graeme Neate said understanding of native title is better than it was 15 years ago. He said that 'recent reforms to the native title system should lead to the achievement of more effective and timely outcomes' but 'it's up to the participants to look at the way in which they operate and harness these opportunities.'	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 20 June 2007), 10.
20 June 2007	VIC	<b>Condah track under dispute</b>	Aboriginal elder Keith Saunders says a fire access track built at Lake Condah covers an area of enormous cultural significance. Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation chairman Damien Bell says they have worked closely with traditional owners and information was 'presented to the Gunditjmarra Native Title Group, as the representative of the traditional owners'. Elder Jimmy Onus 'claimed that more than 50 Native Title holders from their families were also kept in the dark' over the plan.	<i>Portland Observer</i> (Portland, 20 June 2007), 3; 'Condah debate heats up' <i>Portland Observer</i> (Portland, 22 June 2007), 3.
21 June 2007	NT	<b>Brough says Aboriginal permits scrapped 'soon'</b>	Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Mal Brough says the Northern Territory's permit system will soon be scrapped, saying 'it prevented external scrutiny'. Supporters of the system say it is 'designed to protect the privacy and culture of Indigenous people.' The Minister said 'he had great respect for sacred sites and Indigenous law and culture, and those things would be taken into account in his announcements.' It is understood that other states may be asked to follow.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 21 June 2007), 5; 'Minister floats changes to Aboriginal land' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 21 June 2007), 19; 'Changes to Aboriginal land access' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 21 June 2007), 18.

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21 June 2007	NT	<b>Elder voices objection to nuclear waste site</b>	The Radioactive Waste Management Act was amended last November, allowing for site nominations for nuclear waste storage without the approval of traditional owners. Aboriginal elder Dianne Stokes says 'she was given little information about the site, and was not consulted before the decision was made.' Peter Garrett, Labor's environment spokesman said the amendments are contrary to 'the spirit of the Land Rights Act'. Senator Rachel Siewert, the Greens' Indigenous affairs spokesperson said Indigenous people had 'been effectively stripped of their rights'.	<i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 21 June 2007), 9.
21 June 2007	WA	<b>Lease land to ease squeeze</b>	With support from traditional owners, Broome Shire president Graeme Campbell said they could 'lease blocks (to people) on a long-term basis, which he claimed could make housing more affordable by working around the high cost of land.' WA Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan said the government has been 'trying to get as much land released as possible but we are having to deal with native title issues'.	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome, 21 June 2007), 3.
21 June 2007	NT	<b>Scullion in probe about CLC's role in Centrecorp</b>	Senator Nigel Scullion is seeking advice about 'whether or not the three fifths share held by the Central Land Council (CLC) in Centrecorp is illegal.' The CLC says its investment is in accordance with the Land Rights Act and the profits 'are distributed according to its charitable trust deed for the benefit of Aboriginal people'. Senator Scullion says 'everyone needs to know how the profits from a major shareholder of [an Indigenous company] are dispersed among these Indigenous people.'	<i>Alice Spring News</i> (Alice Springs, 21 June 2007), 1.

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22 June 2007	VIC	<b>Heritage Act will cause problems for council staff</b>	The Aboriginal Heritage Act and recommendations were debated by the Swan Hill Rural City Council. Introduced on May 28, the Act 'provides for the protection of aboriginal places, objects and human remains, regardless of registration or land tenure.' Council is concerned it will bear the brunt of applications now that larger property developments are required to have their land inspected under the Act.	<i>Swan Hill Guardian</i> (Swan Hill, 22 June 2007), 4.
23 June 2007	NT	<b>Scepticism, distrust greet latest reforms</b>	Central Land Council director David Ross said the Federal Government's intervention in the Northern Territory to curb child abuse was to undermine land rights. 'About 60 communities have also been seized for control by the Government under a five-year lease scheme.' Mr Ross said neither the measures regarding leases or permits were recommended in the child abuse inquiry report.	<i>Border Mail</i> (Albury-Wodonga, 23 June 2007), 8; 'Aboriginal groups howl down reforms' <i>Northern Daily Leader</i> (Tamworth, 23 June 2007), 15; "Quick-fix' aimed at election, says CLC' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 23 June 2007), 5; 'Push to change land rights 'under smokescreen of helping children' <i>Weekend Australian</i> (National, 23 June 2007), 7.
23 June 2007	QLD	<b>Palm Island may benefit from amalgamation</b>	Townsville Mayor Tony Mooney says Palm Island could gain from amalgamation with Townsville City Council. Palm Island Mayor Delena Oui-Foster criticised the proposal saying 'we are not stupid, we know we are living on a gold mine'. Former NSW ATSIC officer David Huggonson 'has proposed creation of an East Cape Shire Council merging the Aboriginal Community Councils of Wujal Wujal Hope Vale, Lockhart River and New	<i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville, 23 June 2007), 89.



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			Mapoon and Cook Shire.'	
25 June 2007	NSW	<b>Untitled</b>	A native title claim expected to be resolved by the end of the year will make way for the completion of an 18-hole golf course. An appeal was lodged with the Land and Environment Court after the initial claim was refused. 'The extension of the golf course was likely to proceed regardless of the outcome of the appeal.'	<i>South Coast Register</i> (Nowra, 25 June 2007), 11.
26 June 2007	NT	<b>Mining, oil changes soon</b>	Amendments to the Northern Territory Mining and Petroleum Acts are expected to be passed next month. NT Minister for Mines and Energy Chris Natt said the changes will 'bring the Territory law into line with recent changes to the Federal Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act'. They include 'new powers to the Territory to withdraw or re-issue consent to negotiation between a mining or exploration applicant and the land councils.'	<i>Centralian Advocate</i> (Alice Springs, 26 June 2007), 14.
26 June 2007	SA	<b>Explorers looking under SA bringing jobs to the surface</b>	An increase in exploration spending is translating into new mine developments for South Australia. The 23 new or expanded mines are expected to bring in extra royalties for the government and 'environmental initiatives, regional development and economic activity and employment opportunities for Indigenous communities.'	<i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> (Adelaide, 26 June 2007), 56.

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27 June 2007	QLD	<b>Lease loophole in Cape laws, warns Council</b>	Cook Shire Council is concerned that the Cape York Heritage Bill will threaten the region's pastoral industry and economy. The provision for the surrender of pastoral leases does not require 'the State Government to obtain expert advice or consult stakeholders before removing pastoral leases.' Executive assistant Bob Norris said the Council should recommend changes to reflect concerns.	<i>Cooktown Local News</i> (Cooktown, 27 June 2007), 16.
28 June 2007	WA	<b>KLC negotiates gas</b>	The Kimberley Land Council and Japanese resource company Inpex are expected to 'work on a final agreement ..in the next 12 to 18 months' for the construction of an LNG plant on the Maret Islands. KLC executive director Wayne Bergmann said the land 'is still providing for us, it's providing in a different way.' Protester Richard Costin said 'only a few of the native title holders in these areas are being consulted'. State Development Minister Eric Ripper 'claimed it was not appropriate for the Government to comment' on the negotiations.	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome, 28 June 2007), 1, 'Aborigines invite LNG players to table' <i>Australian</i> (National, 19 June 2007), 4.
28 June 2007	VIC	<b>Jabiru ready for Benambra exploration</b>	The Victorian Department of Primary Industries has granted Jabiru Metals an exploration licence for the development of Benambra after notifying the company that 'Native Title does not exist over the tenement'.	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 28 June 2007), 13.

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28 June 2007	WA	<b>Reef plan going to Land Council</b>	<p>The Department for Planning and Infrastructure are planning to remove a section of reef to expand a natural channel at the mouth of the Murchison River. Despite the significance of the river to the Nanda traditional owners, the native title council voiced concerns last week that they were not consulted. The Department will now make a 'formal request to Yamatji Land and Sea Council so they could commence discussions with the Nanda people.' The plan is supported by tourism operators and fishermen but the Mid West Department of Environment and Conservation said they have yet to be consulted regarding the plan.</p>	<p><i>Mid-West Times</i> (Geraldton, 28 June 2007), 3; 'Clash over reef blast plan' <i>Mid-West Times</i> (Geraldton, 21 June 2007), 1.</p>
29 June 2007	QLD	<b>Native title talks</b>	<p>An Indigenous land use template that may be used across Queensland has been approved by Councillors and native title groups. Gurang Land Council legal officer Margarita Escartin said it 'would set out how native title rights and interests may be exercised in the groups' claim areas.'</p>	<p><i>News Mail</i> (Bundaberg, 29 June 2007), 4.</p>
30 June 2007	NT	<b>Land grab claims ludicrous: Howard</b>	<p>The Prime Minister has denied allegations of a land grab. He 'conceded the intervention could involve the seizure of some Indigenous land but said that was not the intention.' Compensation would be available where land is seized for more than five years. The Opposition Leader 'said it was important the land rights of Indigenous communities be protected under the plan.'</p>	<p><i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (Broken Hill, 30 June 2007), 6.</p>