

Native Title in the News March 2007

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
1 March 2007	NT	Waste opponents want summit	Aboriginal custodians from the Muckaty Station have called the Northern Land Council to hold a meeting 'of all traditional owners to decide if a nuclear waste facility should be build in their land'. Yapayapa woman Dianne Stokes said: 'we don't want this stuff on our country'. At the meeting 'nobody spoke in favour of the facility being built'. The land council has been 'secretly negotiating with some Muckaty traditional owners about the nuclear waste facility'. Natalie Wasley from the Arid Lands Environmental Centre (Beyond Nuclear Initiative) said that 'the NLC Chief Executive Norman Fry has said the groups are entitled to make their own decisions regarding their country so he needs to take heed of his own advice and start listening to people'.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 1 March 2007), 3; 'Muckaty custodians demand NLC action' <i>Tennant & District Times</i> (2 March 2007), 3; 'Waste site at Muckatty?' <i>Territory News</i> (Northern Territory, 16 March 2007), 3.
1 March 2007	WA	Peabody Wilpingjong Part II update	The US based energy firm Peabody Energy has recently acquired Excel Coal and has been expanding it operations. Wilpinjong general manager Keith Downham said that 'we are employing Indigenous administration trainees and we will run a ready for work program as a part of our native title agreement'. Mr Downham also said 'we are aiming to take on Indigenous trainees as operators'.	<i>Mining Chronicle</i> (National, March 2007), 36.

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<p>1 March 2007</p>	<p>WA</p>	<p>Super Pit set to be given new lease on life</p>	<p>Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines (KCGM) will be extending the life of its Super Pit mine by another five years to 2017. KCGM general manager Russell Cole said that 'Aboriginal people from Coolgardine, Kalgoorlie and Coonana, who have long-term associations with the region, have been consulted'. Mr Cole said 'we have liaised with them on a number of occasions regarding our operations, plus local elders which have detailed knowledge of the region's totemic geography have visited the area'.</p>	<p><i>Mining Chronicle</i> (National, March 2007), 69.</p>
<p>1 March 2007</p>	<p>NATIONAL</p>	<p>Tipping the scales: law firms making hay while resources shine</p>	<p>The resources boom has lead to an increased demand in legal services. The 'proliferation of legal services in the resources industry has lead a number of law firms to establish specialised niche areas of expertise'. Blake Dawson Waldron senior associate Murray Wheater said 'land access is also key issue for the resources sector with matters like native title claims and environmental approvals becoming more prominent'. Christine Lovitt, a partner at Blakiston & Crabb who works in resources and project acquisitions says that 'native title is one of the main areas of concern for many junior [mining] companies and it has become a complex issue'. Other firms acting in hard rock mining law include Hunt & Humphry.</p>	<p><i>Resource Stocks</i> (National, March 2007), 36.</p>

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<p>1 March 2007</p>	<p>National</p>	<p>Logan comfortable in resources chair</p>	<p>Western Australia has a newly appointed Minister for Energy, Resources, Industry and Enterprise Francis Logan MLA. He said that one of the key issues for the WA industry was the 'relationship with Commonwealth government in regards to Native Title'. Mr Logan said that a 'significant part of the bottleneck in the approvals process has been caused by the finalising of agreements under the (federal) Native Title Act' which was outside the control of the WA government. In relation to streamlining the approvals process Mr Logan said that 'there are a lot of external factors - Native title, heritage agreements and environmental approvals - but as long as the department's own side of the process is done in an efficient and effective manner and can't be criticised then [his] responsibility under [his] jurisdiction [would be] delivered'.</p>	<p><i>Paydirt</i> (National, March 2007), 5.</p>
<p>1 March 2007</p>	<p>WA</p>	<p>Eastern Guruma native title first for central Pilbara</p>	<p>The Eastern Guruma people have 'secured native title rights to more than 6000 sq km of mineral rich land in Central Pilbara'. The determination 'resolves who holds native title rights over almost all the claim area except for an area of land around Tom Price' (which will be considered at a later date). The agreement recognises 'the Eastern Guruma people non exclusive rights to remain on the land, camp, hunt, fish , gather and engage in rituals and ceremonies'. National Native Title Tribunal Member John Catlin said that 'it guaranteed the Eastern Guruma people would be consulted about future land development'. Mr Catlin also said that 'despite the positive approach the entire process has been very lengthy' and that 'the resolution of this claim was assisted by the pre-existing indigenous land use agreement between the Eastern Guruma people and Hamersley Iron and a willingness on behalf of all the other parties to work together'.</p>	<p><i>Media Release</i> (National Native Title Tribunal, 1 March 2007); <i>'Historic native title claim near Tom Price'</i> <i>Pilbara News</i> (Pilbara, 7 March 2007), 9; 'WA leads the way in NT' <i>Farm Weekly</i> (Western Australia, 8 March 2007), 202; 'Title ruling for Pilbara group' <i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 14 March 2007), 4; 'State agrees to native title over mineral rich area' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 28 March 2007), 15; 'Native Title Recognition in Mineral Rich Pilbara Region' <i>Office of Native Title Newsletter</i> (Perth, March 2007).</p>

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<p>1 March 2007</p>	<p>WA</p>	<p>KLC not happy over challenge</p>	<p>The Kimberley Land Council (KLC) has made a call for a 'better approach to negotiate native title' after the appeal process for the Bardi Jawi native title claim. KLC executive director Wayne Bergmann 'expressed disappointment that both the Bardi Jawi and...Rubibi claims were going to appeal hearings before the Federal Court'. Mr Bergmann said that 'these appeals highlight the fact that the native title system and approach is geared towards legal processes and not by agreement'. He said that the 'Commonwealth and State need to redirect their legal advice to focus on agreements'. Mr Bergmann also said that 'claims for recognition of native title in the Kimberley are extremely strong; it is clear that Kimberley Aboriginal people have retained their native title rights..what we need are specialised units within State and Commonwealth Governments that are focused and resourced to settle native title by agreement and not litigation'.</p>	<p><i>Kimberley Echo</i> (Kununarra WA, 1 March 2007), 10.</p>
<p>1 March 2007</p>	<p>WA</p>	<p>Trainee partnerships</p>	<p>The mining company Midwest Corporation and Perenjori Shire are training eight men from the Wadjirri Yamatji Native Title Group with a 'view to provide future employment opportunities for the participants in the booming resources sector'. This is a part of a broader plan to employ more members of the Yamatji Native Title Group in projects at Jack Hills and the Weld Range.</p>	<p><i>Mid West Times</i> (Geraldton, 1 March 2007), 12.</p>
<p>1 March 2007</p>	<p>WA</p>	<p>Many miners benefit from Government moratorium</p>	<p>There have been discussions on the conversion of mining lease back into exploration licenses. The State Government closed applications for the reversion process which was facilitated by the 2006 changes to the Mining Act. However Resources Minister Francis Logan said that the 'initiative could not be reinstated again because it meant further altering the Mining Act'. Mr Logan said that 'simplifying the mining license process was hindered by native title issues'.</p>	<p><i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 1 March 2007), 13.</p>

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<p>1 March 2007</p>	<p>QLD</p>	<p>Original owners recognised</p>	<p>Githabul traditional owners were recognised by the New South Wales Government in a ceremony where NSW Minister for Lands Tony Kelly, NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Reba Meagher, NSW Minister for the Environment Bob Debus and Githabul Elders signed the 'biggest ever' Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA). The ILUA 'covers 112 000ha of national parks and state forests in the Kyogle, Woodenbong and Tenterfield area' and will 'allow Githabul people to have a say in the management of these areas and the protection of culturally significant sites'. The agreement will also 'also generate employment for Githabul people and transfer 102 ha of Crown land to the Githabul Corporation'.</p>	<p><i>Daily News</i> (Warwick, 1 March 2007), 2; 'Githabul welcome the chance to manage land' <i>Northern Star</i> (Lismore, 1 March 2007), 8; 'Native Title Agreement' <i>Northern Daily Leader</i> (Tamworth, 1 March 2007), 9; 'NSW Native Title history' <i>Illawarra Mercury</i> (Wollongong, 1 March 2007), 16; <i>Morning Bulletin</i> (Rockhampton, 1 March 2007), 16; 'Native title deal' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (1 March 2007), 8; <i>Queensland Times</i>, (Ipswich, 1 March 2007), 12; <i>Gympie Times</i> (Gympie, 1 March 2007), 6; <i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i> (Hervey Bay, 1 March 2007), 22; 'Native Title Agreement' <i>Daily Telegraph</i> (Sydney, 1 March 2007), 11; <i>News Mail</i> (Bundaberg, 1 March 2007), 10; <i>Daily Mercury</i> (Mackay, 1 March 2007), 12; <i>Toowoomba Chronicle</i> (Toowoomba, 1 March 2007), 20; 'Old ways the best for boys living off their land' <i>The Australian</i> (National, 1 March 2007), 5; 'Historic Githabul agreement signed' <i>Northern Rivers Echo</i> (Lismore, 1</p>
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1 March 2007	QLD	Land Use Pact	The Douglas Shire Council and a Cape York Aboriginal group 'look set to design a historical land use agreement'. The agreement will 'prescribe access for Indigenous people to traditional lands as well as marking out areas for commercial use including tourism and farming'.	<i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns, 1 March 2007), 7.
1 March 2007	NT	NT claims blight on the economy	ACIL Tasman consultant Gary Johns has said 'Native Title claims are frustrating economic land development throughout Australia' at the 2007 Pastoralists and Graziers Association (PGA) centenary conference. Dr Johns said that 'land should be at the heart of Aboriginal land rights, not cultural heritage'. According to him the 'utility of the land has been trumped by the morality of land rights'.	<i>Farm Weekly</i> (Western Australia, 1 March 2007), 8.
1 March 2007	QLD	Council signs Yalanji land use agreement	The Douglas Shire Council signed the Indigenous Land Use Agreement - Eastern Yalanji Area. The details of the agreement are 'under wraps' but Mayor Mike Berwick said that 'it was the most important decision the council has made in 30 years'. The agreement is between the native title parties, the council and the State of Queensland and 'agrees on land uses and access for traditional Indigenous activities, conservation, farming, tourism and other uses'.	<i>Port Douglas & Mossman Gazette</i> (Port Douglas, 1 March 2007), 6.

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<p>1 March 2007</p>	<p>SA</p>	<p>Milestone or Petroleum industry access</p>	<p>South Australia has 'achieved a significant Native Title Land access milestone, with the signing of an agreement covering petroleum exploration and production in much of the Cooper Basin'. The 'Conjunctive Petroleum Indigenous Land Use Agreement' is a first for South Australia and 'is Australia's first such agreement covering a proven petroleum producing region'. Mineral Resources Development Minister Paul Holloway said that the 'goodwill established since the implementation of Native Title land access arrangements in South Australian in 2001 has been an excellent foundation for petroleum exploration and production in our state'. Mr Holloway said that the 'agreements represent an evolutionary step in streamlining the processes that enable the grant licenses for petroleum exploration and production'.</p>	<p><i>Monitor Roxby Downs (South Australia, 1 March 2007), 5.</i></p>
<p>1 March 2007</p>	<p>NT</p>	<p>Kevin's fight for his home on the range</p>	<p>Kevin Pick, who lives on Todd River Downs has failed to secure a grant of land and only holds a grazier license on his property despite the Report of Justice Toohey in <i>Seven Years On</i> that 'where the holder of a grazier license will suffer serious detriment the Minister might well decide that he is not satisfied that there should be a grant of the land'. His property is now the subject of a land claim by the Central Land Council 'which was granted although some traditional owners...[have] made it clear that Kevin's interests needed to be looked after'. The CLC issued a statement saying that it was not concerned with Mr Pick living on the property but 'it does have ongoing concerns about serious land degradation caused by overgrazing'. David Ross the Director of the CLC has repeatedly asked Kevin Pick to avoid the severe land degradation of his Pmere Myente Land Trust. The CLC noted that Mr Pick had lived on the land trust all of his life and the CLC is happy for him to live there. However, 'Mr Pick is not a traditional owner and the CLC is not obliged to assist him with his pastoral activities'.</p>	<p><i>Alice Springs News (Alice Springs, 1 March 2007), 5;</i> <i>'Devastation on Todd River Downs massive says CLC'</i> <i>Alice Springs News (Alice Springs, 8 March 2007), 4.</i></p>

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2 March 2007	NT	Mine denies link to fatal flesh eating bug	Mining company Xstrata is rejecting 'any link between the deaths of three people from a flesh eating bacteria to its lead and zinc mine'. An article was published in the <i>British Journal of Infection</i> noted that three people had died and one lost a foot from a rare disease known as vibrio' after coming into contact with the waterways near the McArthur River Mine. The recent conversion of the mine to an open pit mine was opposed by environmentalists and some traditional groups. Northern Land Council Chief Executive Norman Fry said that it was a 'disgrace' that the health risks were not made public.	<i>The Australian</i> (National, 2 March 2007), 6; 'Martin failed on flesh-eating disease: council executive' <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (National, 8 March 2007), 6.
2 March 2007	QLD	State levels criticism at 'flawed' native title claim	The State Government has 'hit back at criticism it was obstructing a native title claim straddling the NSW Queensland border, saying documents prepared by traditional owners were flawed'. Natural Resources Minister Craig Wallace said that 'Queensland had not agreed to a native title determination on its side of the border because the claim provided little supporting information about Queensland'. About 15 per cent of the claim is on Queensland land. The Australian Democrats Senator Andrew Bartlett 'has slammed Queensland Premier Peter Beattie for failing to advance native title on the Queensland side of the Githabul border'. Mr Bartlett said 'it is ludicrous that the Queensland Government is stubbornly refusing to even negotiate with the Githabul people while the NSW Government has completed the process and recognised their valid claims'.	<i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 2 March 2007), 15; 'Finger out, Beattie told' <i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 14 March 2007), 6.
2 March 2007	QLD	Land Rights	The local Butchalla people 'who took their land and sea native title claim to the Federal Court have had it accepted and formally registered'. The decision gives the Butchalla the 'legal right "to speak about country" as the Aboriginal party for this area'.	<i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i> (Hervey Bay, 2 March 2007), 5.
2 March 2007	WA	Court grants more time to Wongatha claimants	Federal Court judge Kevin Lindgren has 'granted more time to the Wongatha native title claimants to consider an appeal after he dismissed their claim last month'. The Goldfields Land and Sea Council has 'welcomed the extra time to appeal which was extended to 60 days' which means that the claim can remain on the Register of Native Title Claims until March 13.	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 2 March 2007), 5; 'Wongatha people granted extension on appeal decision' <i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 14 March 2007), 9.

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<p>3 March 2007</p>	<p>NT</p>	<p>Major Native title win in NT</p>	<p>In the determination 'three judges of the Federal Court in Darwin granted traditional owners native title rights to intertidal zones over the high-tide mark in the Blue Mud Bay region northwest of Arnhem Land'. The 'landmark native title claim that could affect up to 80 per cent of the Northern Territory Coast line'. The decision has 'massive ramifications for commercial fishing and prompted an immediate response from the NT Government which said it would appeal to the High Court'. The decision has implications for 'commercial fishing license for barramundi mud crabs and trepang operators'. The Northern Territory Attorney General Syd Stirling said that 'the NT government sought an immediate stay of the court orders, with the consent of all of the parties involved'. Mr Stirling said that the 'Government believes that this issue is of such complexity and goes to so many points of law that the clarity of the High Court is required'. The Seafood council will join the Northern Territory Government in an appeal to the High Court against the Federal Court decision handed down March 2, which could affect an area of up to 80 per cent of the coast. The decision gives 'exclusive native title rights over intertidal zones in coastal waters to the Yarrwidi Gumatji and other Aboriginal groups in eastern Arnhemland'. The ruling also held that the 'Fishing Act NT was invalid in the claim area, and the Government could not grant fishing licenses in Blue Mud Bay, 100 km south of Nhulunby'.</p>	<p><i>Weekend Gold Coast Bulletin</i> (Queensland, 3 March 2007), 2; 'Landmark win for native title' <i>Border Mail</i> (Albury-Wodonga, 3 March 2007), 29; 'Coastline win for Aborigines' <i>Weekend Australian</i> (National, 3 March 2007), 8; 'Landmark native title ruling' <i>Illawarra Mercury</i> (Wollongong NSW, 3 March 2007), 8; 'Landmark native title claim in Darwin' <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville, 3 March 2007), 10; 'Aboriginal access' <i>Launceston Examiner</i> (Launceston, 3 March 2007), 18; 'Native Title' <i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> (Adelaide, 3 March 2007), 7; 'High Court Ruling needed over Blue Mud Bay Decision' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 6 March 2007), 3; 'NLC scores landmark title win' <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (National, 8 March 2007), 4; 'Blue Mud fishermen will have to apply for permits' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 17 March 2007), 4; 'Fishing licence set to cost cash' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 30 March 2007), 7.</p>
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3 March 2007	NSW	Mine operator apologises to Aboriginal community	Craig Walter Williams 'who damaged a designated Aboriginal Place to improve his mining operation had to meet with the Aboriginal community and apologise'. Mr Williams was 'fined a total of \$1400 for the offences and ordered to pay the Department of Environment and Conservation's costs of \$85 000.	<i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (Broken Hill, 3 March 2007), 3.
5 March 2007	QLD	Traditional rights abuse investigated	The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries is 'investigating claims some indigenous fishermen are allegedly abusing laws for traditional land owners and selling fish taken en masse from the Fitzroy River'. The concerns were raised by Darumbal man Lester Adams who 'called for the Indigenous community to support his efforts to stop the activity'. It is 'unclear whether the selling of fish by Indigenous people [is] against the law'. A March court ruling in 2006 has 'set a precedent for Indigenous people to catch fish using traditional methods which are not allowed to other anglers'. Fisheries Minister Tim Mulherin said that 'it is taking considerable time and effort to resolve the matter because [he] wanted to get it right'. Mr Mulherin said that 'while [the issue] may require a legislative response' he said that he had 'been advised that changes to the Fisheries Act 1994 are unlikely to provide the clarity that local communities are seeking in relation to Aboriginal traditional fishing methods'.	<i>Morning Bulletin</i> , (Rockhampton, 5 March 2007), 8; 'MP casts Native Title net for clues' <i>Morning Bulletin</i> (Rockhampton, 21 March 2007), 7.
6 March 2007	NT	Gov't waste dump fiasco, cont'd	Senator Kim Carr, Warren Snowdon and Senator Trish Crossin have said in a joint media release that 'Labor will ensure that any proposal for the siting of a nuclear waste facility on Aboriginal Land in the Northern Territory would adhere to the requirements that exist under the Aboriginal Land Rights, Northern Territory Act (ALRA).'	<i>Media Release</i> (National, 6 March 2006), 3.

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7 March 2007	NT	Council to name nuke waste sites	The Northern Land Council is 'expected to soon name at least two potential sites for a nuclear waste facility'. The favoured site is the Muckaty Station north of Tennant Creek but there is also a proposed site at Nhulunbuy. A source told the <i>Northern Territory News</i> that 'the land council will name possible sites and environmental assessments and consultation will then get underway'. Natalie Wasley from the Arid Lands Environment Centre said 'there is clear and demonstrated community concern over the dump plan and the dump process among many traditional owners'.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 7 March 2007), 3.
7 March 2007	SA	Oil search on Peninsula	Oil exploration will be carried out in the Yorke Peninsula. Mineral Resources Development Minister Paul Holloway said 'drilling was being carried out in accordance with an approved Statement of Environmental Objectives, developed after extensive consultation with the District Council of Yorke Peninsula, local Aboriginal Heritage Groups, the landowner and neighbouring property owners, along with key government agencies'.	<i>Plains Producer</i> (Balaklava, 7 March 2007), 10.
7 March 2007	WA	Environment benefits from new documents	The members of the Ballardong Noongar community has come together to celebrate the Ballardong Noongar Budjar: Healthy Country, Healthy People report which 'has been written to document the importance of looking after the land, retaining vegetation and animals in the environment'. The report 'provides the community with an opportunity to encourage greater involvement and connection to their land to younger members of the Noongar community'.	<i>Merredin-Wheat belt Mercury</i> (Merredin, 7 March 2007), 2.
7 March 2007	QLD	Mt Wheeler transferred to land trust	The Minister for Natural Resources has handed over a Deed of Grant to the Gawula Aboriginal Trust for 137 ha of land at Mt Wheeler 'after years of negotiations with stakeholders, land holders and the traditional owners'. This is the 'first land to be transferred under the Aboriginal Land Act in the traditional country of the Darumbal people'.	<i>Capricorn Coast Mirror</i> (Yeppoon, 7 March 2007), 7.

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8 March 2007	WA	Pipeline meeting tonight	An update on the Geraldton and North Hampton pipeline has been delivered to 'reassure residents progress is being made'. Water Corporation Acting Regional Manager Steven Greeve said 'planning for the pipeline was advanced and construction on the pipeline would commence as soon as approval in a range of different fields was granted'. This includes issues such as 'native title, rare flora and fauna, land ownership and engineering of the pipeline'.	<i>Mid West Times</i> (Geraldton, 8 March 2007), 11.
8 March 2007	WA	New title claim for LNG target	Kimberley Land Council Chairman Wayne Bergman has 'accused mining giant Woodside of failing to negotiate with traditional landowners on the Dampier Peninsula'. The Nyul Nyul people have lodged a new native title claim over Beagle Bay and Perpendicular Point 'one of seven site favoured by Woodside for its Browse Basin LNG plant'. Nyul Nyul spokesperson Philomena Lewis said that 'its very heartbreaking and most of the people are upset about it - but there's no way we can ever stop that because the government will just walk right over us'. Mr Bergman said that 'he was not satisfied the consultation process conducted by Woodside so far has been fair'. Sue Jones, Chair of the Woodside community reference group 'believed the Indigenous community had been consulted.'	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome, 8 March 2007), 7.
9 March 2007	National	Government responds to native title report	The Federal Government has 'refused recommendations on native title representative bodies that would oblige it to consider independent advice in some circumstances, alter eligibility for financial assistance and review the allocation of operational funding'. This was issued as a part of its response to the Parliamentary Joint Committee report on native title and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land account on the operation of NTRBs. The Government rejected the recommendation that it 'establish an independent advisory panel to advise the Minister on the re-recognition of NTRBs once their recognition period had expired' because it found that 'the recommendation would not assist with the aim of the current reforms, which is to improve efficiency'. The Government noted that the 'Office of Indigenous Policy Coordination holds substantial amounts of information relevant to these criteria and its staff have practical experience in gauging whether they have been met'.	<i>Lawyers Weekly</i> (National, 9 March 2003), 6.

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9 March 2007	QLD	O'Brien calls for new way to break poverty cycles	Member for Cook Jason O'Brien has said that 'we must find a way to give Indigenous people a greater say over the land that is theirs so that they can truly engage in the real economy'. His comments were made in a speech to parliament after the release of the <i>Partnerships Queensland Baseline Report 2006</i> . Mr O'Brien said that 'recognition of traditional rights provides some comfort to traditional inhabitants but does not provide a basis for economic development.' According to him, 'native title was not the cure-all and the Government would look at making changes to the Aboriginal Land Act'.	<i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns, 9 March 2007), 10.
10 March 2007	WA	It is time for action, not words	Key note speaker Fred Chaney has spoken 'very plainly about the lack of real progress in reconciliation during the last 40 years'. Mr Chaney is currently the chairman of Desert Knowledge Australia, deputy president of the National Native Title Tribunal and the director of Reconciliation Australia'. Mr Chaney said that he was leaving the National Native Title Tribunal because 'he has become dissatisfied with the legal aspects of native title' and 'has urged governments to seek more political solutions rather than rely on legal judgments'.	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 10 March 2007), 35; 'Looking at solutions' <i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 14 March 2007), 1; 'Native Title mired in legalities' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 16 March 2007), 41; 'Rethink needed' <i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 28 March 2007), 21.
10 March 2007	NSW	No time to be complacent	The Association of Mines and Exploration Companies' policy and public affairs manager Ian Loftus said Western Australia was 'tracking well with the good results due largely to the substantial contributions made by the mining industry'. However Mr Loftus warned that 'the obvious fact that we're reaping the benefits of the mineral boom today should be a warning against complacency'. He noted that 'with mineral exploration still in a relative slump, and a range of unresolved environmental and native title issues still holding the industry back, this is no time to forget the need to think about tomorrow'.	<i>Geraldton Guardian</i> (Geraldton, 9 March 2007), 13.

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13 March 2007	QLD	Land sale still in limbo	The release of residential land in Blackwater 'remains in limbo awaiting ministerial sign-off'. The clearance for the land as freehold is 'being held up in a bureaucratic tangle'. The Department of Natural Resources and Water 'told council it had 72 residential lots over which native title had not been extinguished and which could be sold to council subject to dealing with native title'.	'Land sale still in limbo' <i>Blackwater Herald</i> (Blackwater, 13 March 2007), 5.
13 March 2007	QLD	\$2b Chalco Mine	The Aluminium corporation of China, Chalco is expected to sign a 'final agreement on a \$2.82 billion bauxite mine and alumina refinery project in Queensland'. Plans are underway for it to 'sign an agreement for a mining rights development license with the Queensland Government as well as a land use agreement with the Aborigines in the area'. Acting Premier Anna Bligh said that the deal was one of the 'largest foreign investment in the state's history'.	<i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i> (Gold Coast, 13 March 2007), 29; 'Qld and China's Chalco in \$2.8b aluminium deal' <i>Sunraysia Daily</i> (Mildura, 24 March 2007), 4; 'Chinese signs \$2.8 bn bauxite, smelter deal' <i>Weekend Australian</i> (National, 24 March 2007), 35; 'State and China ser for \$2.8b mine deal' <i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns 24 March 2007), 39.
13 March 2007	WA	Proposal for Land Excise from Moola Bulla	Tom Stephens the Member for Central Kimberley and Alannah MacTiernan the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure have attended a meeting at the Kimberley language resource centre to discuss the 'proposal for the land excise from Loola Boola Pastoral Station to be handed back to the people affected by the Stolen Generation'. The Government representative 'stated that they had spoken to the Native Title Holders that morning about releasing the titles and it is believed that quite a few Native Title Holders are quite reluctant at this stage'. The Government has said that it will be '1-2 years before anything happens'. Under the proposal, 'those who are successful at obtaining land will have freehold land'. However issues have been raised in relation to how succession should be decided.	<i>Halls Creek Herald</i> (13 March 2007), 7.

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<p>14 March 2007</p>	<p>VIC</p>	<p>Protecting Aboriginal heritage to be a vital part of planning</p>	<p>Ricky Mullet the Chairman of a new Aboriginal heritage council has 'called for Glenelg Shire Council to start planning how it will work with registered Aboriginal parties under new laws'. Aboriginal groups will 'play an important role in administering the new Aboriginal Heritage Act' in 'evaluating cultural heritage management plans for certain types of activities in identified places, advising on permit applications, entering into cultural heritage agreements and involved in the repatriation of Aboriginal remains'.</p>	<p><i>Portland Observer</i> (Portland, 14 March 2007), 5.</p>
<p>14 March 2007</p>	<p>NATIONAL</p>	<p>NNTT bias to miners - research</p>	<p>A study conducted by Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh and Tony Corbett from the Griffith University Business School has found that the 'arbitration of mining agreements by the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) is favouring mining companies and seriously disadvantaging Indigenous people'. The study found that in 10 cases of arbitrated by the NNTT 'no conditions were imposed on mining companies and only minimal conditions on others'. Professor O'Faircheallaigh said that 'the companies know if they cannot get the agreement they want in negotiations, they can go to the tribunal and get their mining leases issued'. He also noted that 'many Indigenous parties are signing agreements that offer them few benefits because the alternative is arbitration and a determination by the Tribunal that offers them no benefits'.</p>	<p><i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 14 March 2007), 14.</p>

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14 March 2007	NT	Seafood Council fights title ruling	<p>The Northern Territory Seafood Council has 'joined forces with the NT Government to fight a court decision granting Aboriginal people exclusive native title to a stretch of Australia's northern coast'. The appeal concerns a Federal Court ruling that 'granted traditional owners exclusive native title rights to the intertidal zone in the Blue Mud Bay region in north east Arnhem land'. The decision 'means that local Aboriginal people can decide who enters waters near the coast line to fish, with the decision affecting commercial licenses for barramundi, mud crabs and trepang operators'. NT Seafood Council chairman Rob Fish said that 'the potential impacts of the decision on certain sectors of the commercial fishing industry are complete and that [they] are currently assessing those impacts upon individual members and the industry as a whole'. Northern Land Council Chairman Norman Fry said that 'after over 30 years of struggle, the exclusive rights of traditional owners have finally been recognised regarding commercial fishing in the intertidal zone and tidal rivers above the low water mark'.</p>	<p><i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 14 March 2007), 11; 'NT Govt to appeal land ruling' <i>North Queensland Register</i> (Townsville, 15 March 2007), 13; 'Fishos stuck in legal swamp over native title' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 21 March 2007), 4.</p>
14 March 2007	NT	Agreement on iron ore mine	<p>The Northern Land Council has signed an agreement with Territory Iron which 'allows for the reworking of the old Frances Creek iron ore mine'. Northern Land Council Chief Executive Norman Fry said that the deal offered employment and business opportunities for people in the region as well as providing benefits for traditional owners.'</p>	<p><i>Katherine Times</i> (Katherine, 14 March 2007), 2.</p>
14 March 2007	QLD	Radar a \$23m failure: Defence refuses to comment on radar and Malu Sara search	<p>The Surface Wave Extended Coastal Area Radar Project has been 'scrapped' following the realisation that the project was a failure. A department of defence spokesperson said that a 'trial has shown the SECAR is not always effective in locating smaller boats and planes at various distances in all atmospheric conditions'. In order to facilitate the construction of the radar 'an indigenous land use agreement was reached between traditional owners and the government in February 2004'. There is also continuing speculation that the radar was installed to detect the <i>Malu Sara</i> which sank with five Torres Strait Islanders on board.</p>	<p><i>Torres News</i> (Thursday Island, 14 March 2007), 1.</p>

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<p>14 March 2007</p>	<p>QLD</p>	<p>Another \$50m for Alice upgrade</p>	<p>The Federal government will provide an extra \$50 million into 'transforming Alice Springs' town camps from "hell holes" to mainstream suburbs'. However the plan 'depends on individual Aboriginal claims giving up the Crown land leases they hold on notorious camps'. The funding will be provided to the Northern Territory Government through 'an agreement tied to specific milestones'.</p>	<p><i>Morning Bulletin</i>, (Rockhampton, 14 March 2007), 22; 'Holes' turn into suburbs' <i>Northern Daily Leader</i> (Tamworth, 14 March 2007), 17; '\$70 plan aims to turn the Alice's camps into suburbs' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 14 March 2007), 7; '\$50 m to change camp 'hell holes' <i>Daily Advertiser</i> (Wagga Wagga, 14 March 2007), 16; 'Another \$50 m for Alice upgrade' <i>Daily Examiner</i> (Grafton, 14 March 2007), 11; <i>Daily Mercury</i> (Mackay, 14 March 2007), 10.</p>
<p>14 March 2007</p>	<p>NSW</p>	<p>Graham: we don't want to do the wrong thing</p>	<p>The Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation has claimed that its members represent the original inhabitants of Central Coast land not the Darkinjung Land Council. It has 'written to the NSW Government and Wyong Council seeking formal recognition and has threatened legal action if the matter is not resolved'. Wyong Mayor Bob Graham has 'confirmed the council has received a letter from the Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation regarding cultural heritage issues'. The council 'did not want to get into a debate on land ownership and had referred the matter to the State Government for direction'. Mr Graham said that he had 'not been aware there was a controversy and was disappointed Guringai had threatened legal action'.</p>	<p><i>Central Coast Express Advocate</i> (Gosford, 14 March 2007), 3; 'Fight for recognition' <i>Central Coast Express Advocate</i> (Gosford, 14 March 2007), 3.</p>

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14 March 2007	ACT	Govt blocks public's access to information	<p>The ACT government can 'now block freedom of information requests more easily if the request is deemed too costly to process'. Attorney General Simon Corbell said the 'changes would prevent taxpayers' resources from being "unreasonably diverted"'. However opposition parties 'describe the amendment as "retrograde" and predicted that the government would abuse the new powers'. The laws follow the 'ACT Supreme Court's decision last week to reject a Government appeal against a freedom of information request lodged by Ngunnawal woman Eva Coe'.</p>	<p><i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 14 March 2003), 4.</p>
15 March 2007	NT	Canberra in grab for tribal land	<p>The Howard Government has 'moved to seize responsibility for land tenure from the Northern Territory Government' which means that 'Indigenous people in some communities will be able to buy their own homes on traditional land within months'. The Northern Territory Chief Minister Clare Martin 'warned the federal Government not to rush Aboriginal communities into signing 99 year leases'. Ms Martin also said that there was 'uncertainty about the new arrangement on the Tiwi Islands where the Nguui community is the nation's first indigenous community to sign on to the private home ownership scheme'. Mal Brough the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs has 'also increased pressure on the West Australian and Queensland governments to reform land management so more Indigenous people can own homes'. These sentiments were also echoed by Herbert MP Peter Lindsay who called for the 'Queensland Government to reform land management in the communities'. The Northern Territory Government 'agreed to create the body that would administer head leases and sub leases for the new scheme but Mr Brough last week said the Commonwealth was stepping in to speed up the process'. NT Senator Trish Crossin has also said that 'the Tiwis are being pressured into handing over their land to Brough's new land holding entity with the detail still unknown'.</p>	<p><i>The Australian</i> (National, 14 March 2007), 1; 'Don't rush NT home ownership' <i>The Australian</i> (National, 15 March 2007), 4; 'Tiwis warned on 'bully' Brough' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 15 March 2007), 4; 'Island leaders sceptical on MP's demand over land ownership' <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville, 15 March 2007), 6; 'Tiwi's 'bullied' into lease deal' <i>Centralian Advocate</i> (Alice Springs, 16 March 2007), 12; 'Tiwi lease on the way?' <i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 28 March 2007), 1; 'NT govt loses land leases to Brough' <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (National, 22 March 2007), 9; 'Tiwi Islanders bullied by Brough: NT Senator' <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (National, 22 March 2007), 9.</p>

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15 March 2007	VIC	Moyne knocks back land transfer	The Moyne Shire council has 'rejected a request to transfer a parcel of land in Port Fairy to the Framlingham Aboriginal Trust.' The Council's environmental and planning director, Greg Anders said 'some submissions were concerned the Framlingham Aboriginal Trust didn't represent the Aboriginal community in the area of the land' and that the 'land should only be transferred to the Gunditjmara and Kirrae Whurrung groups'.	<i>Hamilton Spectator</i> (Hamilton, 15 March 2007), 9.
16 March 2007	NT	Farm Land Released	The Northern Territory Government has signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement which allows 'three parcels of land at Pine Hill Station, near Ti Tree, to be developed as irrigated agriculture blocks'. The Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries Chris Natt said 'this could extend the growing seasons between Darwin and Alice Springs'.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 16 March 2007), 3.
16 March 2007	NSW	Traditional owners rejoice	The Darug Aboriginal people will have 'direct management' of the 900 hectare regional park in the former site. The commitment was made by Environment Minister Bob Debus 'who said the community would be able to access the park by September for the first time in 50 years' and formalised with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. The Minister for Western Sydney and State Member for Mulgoa, Diane Beamer said that 'the Aboriginal people were (sic) traditional guardians and managers of this land and it is absolutely right that they be jointly involved in the long term care of our parks and reserves, alongside the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service'.	<i>Western Weekender</i> (Sydney, 16 March 2007), 4.

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<p>17 March 2007</p>	<p>NT</p>	<p>Stay of orders dismissed</p>	<p>The Federal Court has 'dismissed an application by the NT government for a stay of orders over a landmark native title claim for part of Australia's northern coast'. The 'government and the NT Seafood Council are fighting a unanimous decision by three judges granting local Aborigines exclusive access to the Blue Mud Bay Region'.</p>	<p><i>Toowoomba Chronicle</i> (Toowoomba, 17 March 2007), 42; <i>Western Advocate</i> (Bathurst, 17 March 2007), 4; <i>Northern Star</i> (Lismore, 17 March 2007), 26; <i>News Mail</i> (Bundaberg, 17 March 2007), 16; <i>Gladstone Observer</i> (Gladstone, 17 March 2007), 19; <i>Daily News</i> (Tweeds Head, 17 March 2007), 12; 'Court dismisses application for stay on native title claim' <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (National, 22 March 2007), 3.</p>
<p>19 March 2007</p>	<p>NT</p>	<p>Land grab worries</p>	<p>Tim Bugg the President of the Law Council of Australia has warned that 'Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory are justifiably nervous about Mal Brough's proposals which will require them to hand over control of their land to the federal Government for more than three generations'. Mr Bugg said that 'it is...likely that in the absence of financial literacy and education many within Aboriginal communities will simply lose their land to lenders'. He also said that the 'claim that Aboriginal families on combined incomes of just \$30 000 will be able to own a house appears to conflict with recent reports that the federal Government proposes to cut back investment in housing in remote areas'.</p>	<p><i>The Australian</i> (National, 19 March 2007), 17.</p>

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20 March 2007	NT	MOU to advance Indigenous employment in the forest industry	A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed which will 'focus on Indigenous employment and skills shortages in the forest industry, and opportunities to encourage Indigenous business in regional Australia'. The MOU was signed by representatives from peak Indigenous Organisations, the Australian forest industry and four government ministers as a part of the National Indigenous Forest strategy. The Federal Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation Eric Abetz said that the 'MOU formalises the relationship between the interested parties who will work in partnership with Indigenous people to build stronger communities by encouraging the supporting employment and business opportunities in the forestry sector'.	<i>Media Releases</i> Federal Government (National, 20 March 2007), 37.
21 March 2007	VIC	Native Title accepted State's second claim beckons	An agreement 'recognising the south-west native title rights of the Gunditjmara people has been struck and could be formalised next week'. The Victorian State Government and the 'Gunditjmara people announced...that they have reached the landmark agreement, paving the way for only the second native title determination in Victoria'. A statement from the Victorian Attorney General's Office read: 'The state and the Gunditjmara have agreed to jointly approach the Federal Court to formally recognise Gunditjmara Native title rights on Crown lands and waters within the claim area'. The Victorian Government has made an in-principle agreement to hand back 140 000 ha of Crown Land to its Indigenous owners. Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation chairman Damien Bell said 'it has been 11 years since the original claim was lodged with the Federal Court' and that 'Gunditjmara people look forward to the hearing on March 30 in the expectation that our native title will be finally recognised'. Mr Bell said that the agreement was 'the best possible outcome as it came as a result of mutual consent following discussions between the parties, rather than a judge's ruling'. Justice Tony North has noted a 'number of times during the last few years about the painfully slow process of the native title application.'	<i>Native Title accepted state's second claim beckons</i> (Warrnambool, 21 March 2007), 3; 'Second native title deal reached' <i>Herald Sun</i> (Melbourne, 22 March 2007), 11; 'State accepts native title' <i>Portland Observer</i> (Portland, 23 March 2007), 1; 'South-west title claim agreement' <i>Hamilton Spectator</i> (Hamilton, 27 March 2007), 3; 'Mount Eccle title hearing' <i>Warrnambool Standard</i> (Warrnambool, 28 March 2007), 4; 'Victorian title claim closer to resolution' <i>Koori Mail</i> , (National, 28 March 2007), 6.

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21 March 2007	WA	Water Corporation indigenous initiative	Rowena Roberts has been appointed as the Indigenous Community Relations Officer to the Water Corporation Mid West Region. According to Mid West regional business manager Hugh Lavery, her appointment is 'one of the early steps in the implementation of an Indigenous Engagement Strategy [which] focuses on native title and Indigenous heritage management, improved cultural connections and awareness throughout the corporation.'	<i>Northern Guardian</i> (Carnarvon, 21 March 2007), 7.
21 March 2007	QLD	Archer wind farm next year	The proposed Archer Point wind farm could be operational by the end of 2008. In August 2006 an Indigenous land use agreement was announced including 8,800 ha of Annan River (Yuku Baja-Muliku) National Park and 1,700ha of Indigenous freehold. A native title claim over 120 sq km at Archer has been lodged with the National Native Title Tribunal in September 2006 but it has not been decided whether or not the claim meets the registration test standards.	<i>Cooktown Local News</i> (Cooktown, 21 March 2007), 8.
22 March 2007	NT	Union supports restricted access	The Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance claims that 'it is not the permit system [that] is denying Aboriginal people access to the normal advantages of Australian society'. The Alliance said that even though it was 'strongly supportive of the principles of freedom of the press, the alliance is of the view that the 'monopoly of silence' that surrounds many issues that are a national disgrace are not attributable to permits being required to enter Aboriginal lands. Rather they are attributable to entrenched socioeconomic disadvantage and policy failure on the part of successive governments'.	<i>The Australian</i> (National, 22 March 2007), 14.
22 March 2007	QLD	Aboriginal family of myth busters	Hookey Contracting is 'owned and run by an Aboriginal Family [and] has been financed without a single government grant'. The company is 'proof that negotiations between mining companies and traditional owners can bear financial fruit in the form of business and employment opportunities for Aboriginal Australians'. The Principles Reg and Mandy Hookey said 'their business has grown out of the Gulf Communities Agreement negotiated between Century Zinc (now Zinifex Century Mine), the Queensland Government and local Aboriginal groups' under the right to negotiate provisions of the Native Title Act'.	<i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 22 March 2007), 25.

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22 March 2007	NSW	Claim on Jetty land and parks	The Coffs Harbour Local Aboriginal Land Council is waiting for a decision on a claim for four parcels of land, including the Jetty Oval and England Park, under the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983. The Coordinator of the LALC said that 'if the claim was successful there was also every possibility the land council would look at leasing the land back to Coffs Harbour.' He said, A lot of Aboriginal people use the sporting facilities there and we don't want it to be seen that we are claiming that land for negative publicity - its all about increasing our asset for the betterment in the lives of our members'. A spokesperson for the Department of Lands said that the land claim was 'under investigation'.	<i>Coffs Coast Advocate</i> (Coffs Harbour, 22 March 2007), 1.
22 March 2007	NSW	Policies in brief	Some of the key issues that have been addressed by NSW Labor include amending the 'Aboriginal Land Rights Act to 'ensure that clear guidelines are available to land councils wishing to undertake land dealings' and ensuring 'full and proper consultation on the proposed land amendments by circulating an exposure draft'.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (National, 22 March 2007), 4.
23 March 2007	NSW	Land Council gets ready for new Act	The Purfleet -Taree Local Aboriginal Land Council 'has begun its preparation for the start of the new NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act legislation later in the year'. The new legislation 'will require the state's individual land councils to elect boards comprising 10 people in place of the current president-secretary-treasurer structure'.	<i>Manning River Times</i> (Taree, 23 March 2007), 4.
23 March 2007	NT	A very good story for a change	The Pine Hill agreement has been 'hailed as the way forward for development in the bush'. A part of the land has been acquired for development but 'traditional owners were included in the planning process and will be paid the appropriate compensation for giving up their native title rights'. The agreement has been 'managed and brokered by the lawyers and anthropologists of the Central Land Council'. Federal Member for Lingiari Warren Snowdon said that 'it shows what can be achieved when people sit down and talk to one another instead of going to court and fighting with lawyers'.	<i>Centralian Advocate</i> (Alice Springs, 23 March 2007), 10.

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23 March 2007	QLD	State land lease set to lengthen	Farmers and grazier who are 'leasing state government land will be able to gain longer leases if they improved the conditions of their land under reforms introduced to Queensland'. The Minister for Natural Resources and Water Craig Wallace said the 'Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2007 would facilitate the introduction of the Blueprint for the Bush's State Rural Leasehold and Land Strategy'. The lease extensions will be granted 'if landholders keep their land in good condition, conserve high value areas or allow access by local Indigenous people'.	<i>Rural Weekly insert</i> (Toowoomba, 23 March 2007), 3; 'Leasehold 'must be overhauled' <i>Queensland Country Life</i> (Queensland, 29 March 2007), 8; '50 year leases up for grabs' <i>Queensland Country Life</i> (Queensland, 22 March 2007), 3.
24 March 2007	VIC	Red Tape will strangle economic activity: Ryan	Leader of the Victorian Nationals Peter Ryan has criticised the Bracks government for introducing compulsory Cultural Heritage Management Plans saying that it was more 'red tape'. Mr Ryan said that 'commonly undertaken activities such as subdividing land into more than three lots; planning or extending a vineyard or orchard; and clearing rabbit warrens would require special permits...the process will impose unnecessary cost on farmers, business people and families.'	<i>Sunraysia Daily</i> (Mildura, 24 March 2007), 11; 'Rural lobby to 'push for bush'' <i>Hamilton Spectator</i> (Hamilton, 27 March 2003), 5.
24 March 2007	QLD	Aboriginal unity on Cape Crusade	Aboriginal groups are 'united against the Beattie Government's Wild Rivers Legislation for Cape York after its only Indigenous supporter Murandoo Yanner switched sides'. Mr Yanner said 'that while he had been a supporter of the legislation as it concerned his tribal lands at the bottom of the Gulf of Carpentaria, he has changed his view because of the way the Government has treated Indigenous people on Cape York'. Indigenous groups, led by the Cape York Land Council 'argued the legislation would deny Aborigines the chance to create employment by preventing development in mining, farming and tourism'. Glen Walker from the Wilderness Society has said that the Wild Rivers legislation 'makes sure that destructive activities such as building big dams and introducing invasive fish and weed species...cannot occur in declared healthy river systems'. Mr Walker also said that it 'ensures important activities such as hunting, fishing, visiting sacred sites as well as taking	<i>Weekend Australian</i> (National, 24 March 2007), 10; 'Wild rivers protection' <i>The Australian</i> (National, 26 March 2007), 17.

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			water for stock and domestic use can continue to occur'. He also said that the Queensland Government is committed to creating new Indigenous wild river ranger jobs and that 'not only are we protecting...our wild rivers, [we] are creating much needed Indigenous employment'.	
24 March 2007	QLD	Native title sorted out: Toolara super tip set to go ahead	Cooloola's plan to erect a dump at Toolara 'now seems set to go ahead, after years of red tape and increasingly unsustainable pressures on existing land fill sites around the shire.' Works Committee Chairman Larry Friske said that there are two remaining issues 'native title and land acquisition matters'.	<i>Gympie Times</i> (Gympie, 24 March 2007), 4.
26 March 2007	VIC	Shire signs 30 year lease for Little Manly riverfront	The Wentworth Shire Council 'has agreed to sign a 30 year lease for the parcel of land which will allow for it to be used for access and camping'. This follows advice form the Native Title Branch confirming that native title has been extinguished over Little Manly Reserve and that the department can now pursue a 30 year lease.'	<i>Sunraysia Daily</i> (Mildura, 26 March 2007), 3.

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27 March 2007	NT	65 jobs in new Alice mine	Negotiations are underway for a new mine on the Plenty Highway. The molybdenum-tungsten mining project will be operated by the Thor Mining and called Molyhil. Chief Executive Officer John Young said that 'we are in talks with the Northern Territory Government and the Central Land Council and we hope to complete this by the beginning of May'.	<i>Centralian Advocate</i> (Alice Springs, 27 March 2007), 1.
27 March 2007	NT	Expansion challenge	Traditional owners have began a legal action against the Northern Territory Government over its approval allowing Xstrata to convert its McArthur River Mine from an underground to an open pit mine. Lawyer for the traditional owners Tim Robertson said that the 'Government failed to follow relevant procedures under the Mine's Management Act'. The legal challenge also includes a 'failure to provide local Aborigines with natural justice and failure to consider environmental impacts'. Mr Robertson said 'the minister must consider whether to impose a condition relating to the outcomes of the environmental assessment process and if the minister fails to turn his or her mind to that consideration, then in our respectful submission, there is a legal error'.	<i>North West Star</i> (Mount Isa, 27 March 2007), 8.
28 March 2007	NT	Jabiru wins licence	The Benambra mine in East Gippland may be reopened after a 'fierce battle for exploration rights over the area'. The Zinc junior Jabiru Metals 'looks set to take control of the former mine which closed in 1998'. The company will be 'given the rights to explore the area after completing native title negotiations and is likely to be forced to lodge an environmental bond before proceeding with any new development'.	<i>Herald Sun</i> (Melbourne, 28 March 2007), 35.

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28 March 2007	NATIONAL	NT reforms may be the last chance	National Native Title Tribunal President Graeme Neate has said that 'reforms of the native title system will achieve stronger and faster results for many of the remaining claims...if claimants governments and others can work together in good faith to negotiate outcomes'. Mr Neate said that the 'proposed powers and functions should make the progress (or lack of progress) of claims more transparent, and will put a spotlight on the mediation performance of all participants'. He said that the 'history of long, expensive and sometimes inconclusive court cases shows the need for a stronger agreement-making regime'.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 28 March 2007), 22.
28 March 2007	NATIONAL	Rights at risk	West Australian Greens Senator Rachel Siewert has 'described the proposed changes to the Native Title Act as 'wrong headed' and 'perverse'. The Senator told the Senate last week that 'the Howard Government was winding back native title and undermining the ability of representative bodies to make mutually beneficial agreements'. She said that 'native title has the potential to deliver substantial lasting development opportunities for indigenous communities still occupying their traditional lands'. However Senator Siewert said that the 'promise of native title has been hamstrung by an overly complex and bureaucratic system, the reluctance of the National Native Title Tribunal to use its arbitration powers to impose conditions on mining companies and the recalcitrance of governments who do not wish to concede any ground'.	<i>Koori Mail</i> (National, 28 March 2007), 6; 'Native title has failed to deliver its promise' <i>Media Release, Senator Rachel Siewert</i> (22 March 2007), 5.

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<p>29 March 2007</p>	<p>WA</p>	<p>Training for gain, Oxiana digs deep for the right workers</p>	<p>Mining company Oxiana is having problems finding staff. The 'resources boom' had put a squeeze on trained staff and left resources companies...with a shortage of labour and an escalating wages bill'. Oxiana introduced a preemployment training program 'offering long term unemployed people a six month training course through TAFE and then a job at the company's mine'. David Pearce chief executive of the Bungala Aboriginal Corporation said that it was a 'sad reality that despite the mining boom that is bringing unprecedented wealth to resource rich parts of Australia, Aboriginal people are ill equipped to find work in the rapidly growing sector'.</p>	<p><i>The Age</i> (Melbourne, 29 March 2007), 2.</p>
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