

## Native Title in the News - March 2011

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
1/03/2011	NT	<b>Barkly Region mine agreement</b>	<p>The Central Land Council (CLC) has signed a mining agreement for a phosphate mine near Wonarah, 250km east of Tennant Creek. The agreement is between the CLC, the Arruwarra Aboriginal Corporation and Minemakers Australia Pty Ltd.</p> <p>David Ross, Director of the CLC said 'the agreement ensures opportunities for Aboriginal people in the region for enterprise development, employment and training, many of the traditional owners already work or have businesses in the mining industry in Western Australia and Queensland and they are very excited about the prospect of working on their own country.' The agreement is expected to generate 30 years of phosphate production and will protect sacred sites.</p>	<i>Central Advocate</i> (Alice Springs NT, 1 March 2011), 10.
03/03/2011	SA	<b>A right to fish</b>	<p>The South Australian State Government will need to negotiate with or compensate Eyre Peninsula native title claimants, if it goes ahead with proposed marine park no-take fishing zones.</p> <p>The Executive Director of South Australia Native Title Claim Resolution Unit, Phillip Broderick said there have been applications made across Eyre Peninsula but the native title rights and interests are yet to be determined.</p> <p>Mr Broderick said the claimants would be a 'fairly major player' in the marine park planning process. 'The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is required to consult not only with the broader community but specifically with the Aboriginal community where there are native title issues and claims.'</p>	<i>Port Lincoln Times</i> (Port Lincoln SA, 3 March 2011), 1.
03/03/2011	WA	<b>Kimberley gas deal likely to proceed</b>	<p>The Federal Court has ruled that traditional owner Mr. Joseph Roe be removed as a claimant on the proposed \$30 billion gas hub proposed for the Kimberley region. Mr. Roe has consistently opposed the gas hub and took legal action to be recognised as a legal applicant on behalf of traditional claimants. The ruling states that Mr. Roe cannot represent any party, and that he has until mid March to appeal against the ruling.</p>	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 3 March 2011), 7.

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<p><b>5/03/2011</b></p>	<p><b>WA</b></p>	<p><b>KLC CEO Resigns</b></p>	<p>Wayne Bergmann has resigned from his position as CEO of the Kimberley Land Council (KLC), after almost 10 years in the job. Nolan Hunter will become acting CEO of the KLC while a search is conducted to find a replacement for Mr Bergmann.</p> <p>Mr. Bergmann will continue to work for the interest of Aboriginal people in the Kimberley region as CEO of Kimberley Regional Economic Development Enterprises, which aims to facilitate job opportunities for Indigenous Communities.</p>	<p><i>Kimberley Echo</i> (Kununurra WA, 10 March 2011), 09. <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 17 March 2011), 19. <i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome WA, 10 March 2011), 3. <i>The Saturday Age</i> (Melbourne Vic, 05 March 2011), 4. <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney NSW, 05 March 2011), 4.</p>
<p><b>08/30/2011</b></p>	<p><b>QLD</b></p>	<p><b>Historic day for Kalkadoon people</b></p>	<p>Kalkadoon people have celebrated a milestone on the path to an official acknowledgement of their people being named as traditional owners of the Mount Isa region. The matter was listed for trial, however on 7 March 2011 at the Mount Isa Federal Court it was directed that a consent determination will be delivered on 12 December 2011. Kevin Smith, CEO of Queensland South Native Title Services, said 'there is still a lot of work to be done but this marks an important occasion for native title throughout the Queensland South region.'</p>	<p><i>North West Star</i> (Mount Isa QLD, 8 March 2011), 3.</p>
<p><b>17/03/2011</b></p>	<p><b>QLD</b></p>	<p><b>Munburra property handed back to JuunJu Warra people</b></p>	<p>At a ceremony at Cooktown's Gungarde, the JuunJu Warra people have been handed back the former Munburra property.</p> <p>The ceremony was officiated by Member for Cook, Jason O'Brien. It saw the almost 7000 hectare property of north of Hope Vale returned to its traditional owners through the signing of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA). The ILUA also provides consent for 47 hectares of land on the property which has current mining leases and applications in place, to be transferred to the JuunJu Warra in future, when other agreements or conditions are completed. Mr. O'Brien said the high cultural significance of a number of places in the area made it a special moment for the JuunJu Warra people.</p>	<p><i>Cooktown Local News</i> (Cooktown QLD, 17 March 2011), 3.</p>

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17/03/2011	WA	<b>Wittenoom handed over to Baratha Aboriginal Corporation</b>	<p>Mount Wittenoom Station was handed over to Baratha Aboriginal Corporation on 9 March 2011, marking an historic day for the Murchison Indigenous community. The Indigenous Land Council transferred the land title to the station, located 140km north-west of Yalgoo.</p> <p>Shirley McPherson, ILC Chairperson was at the station to hand over the title and stated 'the granting of this property today is a significant milestone for Indigenous people in WA, this property will now provide a base for Baratha Aboriginal Corporation to continue to develop their pastoral enterprises and provide employment and training opportunities to local Aboriginal people.'</p>	<i>Mid-West Times</i> (Geraldton WA, 17 March 2011), 3.
17/03/2011	QLD	<b>Butchella People</b>	<p>Butchella elders on the Fraser Coast, Queensland have welcomed an agreement with mining company Blue Energy Limited. The project is still in its early stages and elders have advised there was no assurance the project would proceed until the exploration project had been completed.</p> <p>John Phillips, Blue Energy CEO stated specific details could not be released due to commercial sensitivity but also stated that compensation for the Indigenous owners of the land would be vital to helping those communities become self sufficient.</p>	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 17 March 2011), 15. <i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i> (Hervey Bay QLD, 17 March 2011), 3.
23/03/2011	WA	<b>FMG meets with Yindjibarndi people</b>	<p>Andrew Forrest, Chief Executive Officer of Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) met with traditional owners on 15 March 2011, to discuss a planned Solomon iron ore project site which is about 60km north of Tom Price. FMG's offer of \$4 million for each year the mine is open was rejected by the Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation. However, FMG is continuing to negotiate with a breakaway group - the Wiru-Murra Corporation.</p> <p>Speaking in regard to the meeting, CEO of the Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation stated 'I don't think most of the Yindjibarndi people...have been clearly informed on some of the stuff they've been asked to make a decision on'.</p>	<i>Pilbara News</i> (Pilbara WA, 23 March 2011), 1.

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			<p>Acting Council, George Irving also from the Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation said 'no proper notice was given to all members of the Yindjibarndi native title claim group to ensure they were afforded an opportunity to attend the meeting, and no procedures were put in place to ensure both that those who attended the meeting, and those who voted on the resolutions, were in fact members of the claim group.'</p> <p>Mr Woodley said he could not see how a separate group was able to negotiate with FMG. 'We are going to assess where we are, seek legal advice from our lawyers and then take it from there.'</p>	
23/03/2011	SA	Lake Eyre	<p>Grace Portolesi, South Australia's Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, has warned that any person attempting to sail on Lake Eyre will face hefty fines of up to \$50,000.</p> <p>The Arabana people who currently hold a registered native title claim over part of the region, have refused sailing access to Lake Eyre due to the cultural and spiritual significance of the area and concerns of damage to this site. Native title chairperson for the Arabana people Aaron Stuart said his people have strong beliefs and many stories about the lake.</p> <p>Controversy over the ban arose after the commodore of the Lake Eyre yachting club, Bob Backway, called for boaters to risk fines and sail on the normally dry desert lake without a permit.</p>	<p><i>Sunday Mail</i> (Brisbane QLD, 27 March 2011), 37. <i>Border Mail</i> (Albury-Wodonga NSW, 25 March 2011), 30. <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin NT, 25 March 2011), 15. <i>Western Advocate</i> (Bathurst NSW, 25 March 2011), 7. <i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (Broken Hill NSW, 25 March 2011), 8. <i>Port Augusta Transcontinental</i> (Port Augusta SA, 23 March 2011), 7. <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville QLD, 23 March 2011), 14. <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin NT, 23 March 2011), 11. <i>Newcastle Herald</i> (Newcastle NSW, 23 March 2011), 24. <i>Maitland Mercury</i> (Maitland NSW, 23 March 2011), 9. <i>North West Star</i> (Mt Isa QLD, 23 March 2011), 5. <i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (Broken Hill NSW, 23 March 2011), 8. <i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie WA, 23 March 2011), 4.</p>

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<b>25/03/2011</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>Greens introduce native title Bill</b>	<p>The <b>Native Title Amendment (Reform) Bill 2011</b> was introduced by Greens Senator Rachel Siewert on 21 March 2011.</p> <p>The Bill aims to simplify the system for claimants and other key stakeholders by reversing the onus of proof in native title claims. If passed the Bill would constitute significant change from the current system, where claimants are required to demonstrate their ongoing connection to the land as a key part of any native title claim.</p> <p>Senator Siewert stated the Greens aimed to make the native title process less complex and more certain for all parties involved. 'We hope that by introducing this Bill we can contribute constructively to native title reform that can ultimately lead to simpler, fairer and more effective legislation,' Senator Siewert said.</p>	<p><i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie WA, 25 March 2011), 5. <i>Pilbara News</i> (Pilbara WA, 23 March 2011), 1.</p>
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