

## Native Title in the News - May 2011

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
02/05/2011	WA	<b>Environmental pledge boosts gas hopes</b>	<p>Environmental assurances from energy company Woodside and the West Australian State Government have been given to the Kimberley Land Council who represent the Goolarabooloo Jabbir Jabbir native title claim group.</p> <p>If the claimant group rejects the agreement at a meeting on 6 May 2011, a negotiated outcome is unlikely because the WA State Government is expected to proceed with Court action to compulsorily acquire the land. If native title claimants vote in favour of the deal, Mr Bergmann, ex-CEO of the Kimberley Land Council said the only remaining obstacle for the development would be the approval of Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke. Mr Burke has to consider the social and environmental impacts of the development and has the right to veto the project.</p>	<i>The Australian</i> (National, AU, 02 May 2011), 8.
04/05/2011	NT	<b>Kidman offloads Banka Banka land</b>	<p>The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) has purchased part of a cattle station in the Northern Territory. S. Kidman &amp; Co subdivided Banka Banka Station, which is 100kms north of Tennant Creek. The ILC's acting manager, Jodie Lindsay said the land contained several significant cultural and burial sites. 'The property is a pastoral station, so we will continue a small scale pastoral operation on it and continue the tourism, in order to provide employment opportunities and training opportunities for Indigenous people,' she said.</p>	<i>Australian Financial Review</i> (National AU, 04 May 2011), 54. <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 12 May 2011), 7.
06/05/2011	NT	<b>Station now native title</b>	<p>In 2001, the Central Land Council lodged the Ooratippra native title application on behalf of native title claimants. The claim is on behalf of several hundred Aboriginal people comprising the Irrkwal, Irrmarn, Ntewerrek, Aharreng, Arrty/Amatyerr and Areyn estate groups of the Alyawlar language group. A Federal Court ruling now means the groups hold exclusive native title rather than a pastoral lease over the area. The land will continue to be leased to a neighbouring pastoralist, who plans to revive local cattle management.</p>	<i>Centralian Advocate</i> (Alice Springs NT, 06 May 2011), 3. <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 12 May 2011), 8.

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<p><b>07/05/2011</b></p>	<p><b>WA</b></p>	<p><b>Deal reached</b></p>	<p>After much deliberation, the Goolarabooloo Jabbar Jabbar native title claim group agreed to support Woodside's \$30 billion liquefied natural gas hub to be built at James Price Point. The traditional owners will now receive more than \$1.5 billion in benefits such as business opportunities, housing, education and funds to address social issues in the area. The claimants cast a secret ballot: 164 in favour, 108 against and 5 abstaining.</p> <p>The group then authorised their negotiating committee to formalise a land-use agreement with Woodside and the State Government, relinquishing their native title interests in 3500ha of land and water north of Broome.</p> <p>Premier Colin Barnett, who this month advanced moves to acquire the land compulsorily, described the vote as 'historic for the nation' and the deal 'by far' the most valuable and complex native title settlement in Australian history. Former Kimberley Land Council boss Wayne Bergmann, who led the negotiations, said the deal had set a benchmark and included an 'incredible range of opportunities' for Aboriginal people in the region.</p>	<p><i>Australian Financial Review</i> (National AU, 02 May 2011), 11. <i>Broome Advertiser Border Mail</i> (Albury Wodonga VIC, 07 May 2011), 16. <i>Australian Financial Review</i> (National AU, 07 May 2011), 8. <i>The Weekend West</i> (Perth WA, 07 May 2011), 5. <i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney NSW, 07 May 2011), 6. <i>The Saturday Age</i> (Melbourne VIC, 07 May 2011), 3. <i>The Weekend Australian</i> (National AU, 07 May 2011), 1, 25, 27. <i>Australian Financial Review</i> (National AU, 09 May 2011), 14. <i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome WA, 05 May 2011), 1, 10. <i>Business News</i> (Perth WA, 12 May 2011), 2 and 33. <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 12 May 2011), 6. <i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome WA, 12 May 2011), 1.</p>
<p><b>09/05/2011</b></p>	<p><b>NT</b></p>	<p><b>Nuclear waste dump questioned</b></p>	<p>Martin Hyde, senior associate of the law firm Maurice Blackburn, said the discovery of the documents in the National Archives shows that the Muckaty site was not exclusively owned by the family of Amy Lauder as claimed by the Northern Land Council. Mr Hyde said that these documents raise serious questions about the nomination of the site by the Northern Land Council. The NLC's Chief Executive, Kim Hill, said the claim that the documents contained fresh evidence was misleading because they were considered by the council when nominating the site in 2007.</p>	<p><i>Border Mail</i> (Albury-Wodonga SA, 9 May 2011), 4. <i>Age</i> (Melbourne VIC, 9 May 2011), 5.</p>

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12/05/2011	SA	Native title in SA	<p>Sixteen years after first lodging a claim, the Antakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people were recognised as native title holders of 78,672 square kilometres at a special sitting of the Federal Court in Coober Pedy on 11 May 2011. Federal Court Justice John Mansfield said the Court was not granting them that status but recognising it has always existed. The determination - the fifth in SA history - extends from the Tallaringa Conservation Park, near Coober Pedy in the northwest and south to the eastwest railway line. It gives the group non-exclusive hunting, fishing, camping and cultural ceremony rights in the area, as well as the use of all natural resources. It does not grant the power to oppose current land use or to prevent future farming or mining in the area.</p>	<p><i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (Broken Hill NSW, 12 May 2011), 7. <i>Advertiser</i> (Adelaide SA, 12 May 2011), 13. <i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie WA, 12 May 2011), 4. <i>Coober Pedy Regional Times</i> (Coober Pedy SA, 26 May 2011), 8. <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 26 May 2011), 22.</p>
12/05/2011	QLD	Apuḏthama Land Trust signs bauxite mine deal	<p>The mining company Cape Alumina has finalised agreements with the Cape York Aboriginal land owners for the proposed Bauxite Hills mine and port project in Queensland. Exploration consent and compensation agreements were signed between the company and the Apuḏthama Land Trust. Acting CEO Neville Conway said the agreements were a 'major milestone' in the project's development and was further evidence of the positive relationship that existed between Cape Alumina and the Aboriginal people of western Cape York.</p>	<p><i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 12 May 2011), 6. <i>Western Cape Bulletin</i> (Weipa QLD, 11 May 2011), 3.</p>
17/05/2011	NT	No to new land council	<p>A plan to set up a new land council which would encroach on most of the Northern Land Council's (NLC) jurisdiction was proposed in 2010 by the Jawoyn Association. However, Kim Hill, CEO of the NLC, said traditional owners had opposed the move at meetings earlier this year. 'Supporters of the breakaway appear to be upset with some functions of the NLC,' he said. 'But any new land council would, if given the right anthropological advice, most likely make the same decisions (as we did).' The proposal for the new 'Katherine Regional Land Council' is under Federal Government review. Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin will announce her stance after recommendations from the Aboriginal Land Commissioner, due on July 31. If it is favourable, traditional landowners will vote on the issue.</p>	<p><i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin NT, 17 May 2011), 11.</p>

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<p><b>26/05/2011</b></p>	<p><b>AU</b></p>	<p><b>Carbon farming initiative</b></p>	<p>Indigenous land managers across remote regions of the north of Australia may be able to earn carbon credits for improving fire management under the Government's Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI). The proposal is the first methodology to be released for public comment under the Government's CFI, bringing a step closer the Government's plans to financially reward farmers and landholders for reducing Australia's carbon pollution.</p> <p>Parliamentary Secretary for climate change and energy efficiency, Mark Dreyfus, said the methodology for savannah burning was developed by Government in close consultation with Indigenous groups and the CSIRO. 'Under the CFI eligible projects will gain carbon credits, which they will then be able to sell to companies in Australia looking to voluntarily offset their carbon emissions, or on the established international marketplace.' Comments are invited by Friday, June 30, 2011.</p> <p>Copies of the draft methodology and the Carbon Farming Initiative is available on the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency website at: <a href="http://www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi">www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi</a></p>	<p><i>Land</i> (Sydney NSW, 26 May 2011), 40.</p>
<p><b>26/05/2011</b></p>	<p><b>WA</b></p>	<p><b>Native title in the Kimberley</b></p>	<p>Traditional owners have been recognised as native title holders over 26,000 square kilometres in Western Australia's north Kimberley region. The Wanjina Wunggurr community immediately declared an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) in the region after the Federal Court of Australia officially made the determination. The IPA covers more than 340,000 hectares of country, which will be managed by the Unguu rangers. The Wanjina Wunggurr Unguu native title claim is linked to the Wanjina Wunggurr Wilinggin and the Wanjina Wunggun Dambimangarri claims.</p> <p>The Kimberley Land Council (KLC) acted on behalf of the Wanjina Wunggurr Unguu claimants. It was the culmination of a legal battle lasting about 14 years and the last of three claims to be settled. The Wanjina Wunggurr Dambimangarri claim takes in Mt Gibson Iron Ore's mine at Koolan Island and, under an agreement struck about four years ago, the company pays between \$4 million and \$6m a year to the Dambimangarri Aboriginal Corporation.</p>	<p><i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 26 May 2011), 65. <i>Kimberley Echo</i> (Kununurra WA, 26 May 2011), 3. <i>Launceston Examiner</i> (Launceston TAS, 27 May 2011), 8. <i>Gold Coast Bulletin</i> (Gold Coast QLD, 27 May 2011), 17. <i>West Australian</i> (Perth WA, 27 May 2011), 6. <i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie WA, 27 May 2011), 5. <i>Australian</i> (National AU, 27 May 2011), 2. <i>West Australian</i> (Perth WA, 27 May 2011), 1. <i>Border Mail</i> (Albury Wodonga VIC, 27 May</p>

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				2011), 14. <i>Weekend Australian</i> (National AU, 28 May 2011), 1. <i>Sunday Mail</i> (Brisbane QLD, 29 May 2011), 47.
27/05/2011	NT	<b>Rio Tinto Alcan Gove Traditional Owners Agreement</b>	The future of mining on the Gove peninsula has been assured after an agreement was signed with traditional owners. The Rio Tinto Alcan Gove Traditional Owners Agreement has been approved by the Federal Government. Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin said this was the first negotiated agreement in Gove. She said the historic agreement was made between Rio Tinto Alcan, the Northern Land Council and the Gove Peninsula traditional owners.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin NT, 27 May 2011), 3. <i>Weekend Australian</i> (National AU, 28 May 2011), 14.
28/05/2011	AU	<b>Disclosure call on native title deals</b>	Attorney-General Robert McClelland has called for greater disclosure about payments made by resources companies to Indigenous groups during negotiations to mine their lands, and in the final settlements. Mr McClelland strongly endorsed the need for more information to be disclosed so the government could be convinced native title agreements were providing 'sustainable and intergenerational benefits to the native title holders'. 'I believe more information about agreements and the negotiation process will give government a better sense of industry practice and how payments are being made,' Mr McClelland said.	<i>Weekend Australian</i> (National AU, 28 May 2011), 12.
28/05/2011	NSW	<b>Worimi traditional owners to lodge claim</b>	Worimi traditional owners will lodge a native title claim over Newcastle and surrounds. Traditional owner Jaye Quinlan (nee Dates) said about nine Worimi descendants had been researching their right to make the claim for several years. She confirmed the lack of recognition given to the Worimi people in the recent excavation of ancient artefacts at the Newcastle West KFC site had been a factor in the decision to pursue legal action.	<i>Newcastle Herald</i> (Newcastle NSW, 28 May 2011), 1 and 4.

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<b>30/05/2011</b>	<b>NT</b>	<b>Sacking invalid, says native title head</b>	Darryl Pearce, the Chief Executive of the Lhere Artepe group of companies that represents native title holders in Alice Springs, said 'dissidents' had tried to sack him from the Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation. The group of traditional owners had the locks changed at the organisation's headquarters, but Mr Pearce said he had them changed back. He said he was employed by Lhere Artepe Enterprises, which he claimed nullified the resolution to suspend him.	<i>The Australian</i> (National AU, 30 May 2011), 9.
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