

Native Title in the New October 2008

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
01-Oct-08	WA	Brave new world of energy in WA	New World Energy solutions have obtained 12 permits for hot rock exploration. The company expects that negotiating native title approval could take up to 6 months and plans to list the company in 2009.	<i>Paydirt</i> (National, October 2008), 10.
01-Oct-08	SA	Native title talks	The Local Government Leadership group is negotiating with the Kurna Aboriginal representatives. These discussions will result in an Indigenous Land Use Agreement.	<i>Plains Producer</i> (Balaklava, 1 October 2008), 6.
01-Oct-08	WA	Brockman rights native title agreement	Brockman Resources has 'signed a native title agreement over its Pilbara iron ore project'. The agreement was signed with the Martu Idja Bayjima native title claim group and will facilitate mining from the company's Marillana project.	<i>Business News</i> (Perth, 9 October 2008), 29.
1-Oct-08	National	Compulsory acquisition of newly recognised Native Title	Native Title relationships between Aboriginal people and Australian government have fallen far from the tree of <i>Mabo v Queensland</i> decided by the high court in 1992. The overall judgement is particularly fascinating in its reflection of the high Court's stance on Native Title as it exist today, a distinct departure the first Native Title decision made more than fifteen years ago.	<i>Australian and New Zealand Property Journal</i> (National, AU, 1 October 2008, 604.
1-Oct-08	National	Other rights over land	Native Title was first recognised in Australian law in 1992 by the High Court decision of <i>Mabo v State of Queensland</i> . In response to this case the Commonwealth passed the Native Title Act 1993 which came into force 1 January 1994. Native Title law is a developing area and it is prudent to take this issue into account when considering land dealings, particularly in relation to free-hold or Commonwealth or state government land.	<i>Australian and New Zealand Property Journal</i> (National, 1 October 2008, 580.

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02-Oct-08	WA	Inpex set to avoid regulation: land council	The Kimberley Land Council has accused Inpex of 'trying to avoid environmental and native title regulation' following the company's decision to relocate to Darwin.	<i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 2 October 2008), 6; '\$25 billion gas hub to be built in Darwin' <i>Kimberley Echo</i> (Kununurra, 2 October 2008), 5.
02-Oct-08	QLD	Bid to stop dam lost in court	The Gubbi Gubbi people, who have a native title claim over the site of the Traverston crossing dam have 'lost a Federal Court bid to block the building of...the dam'. The Gubbi Gubbi people refused a \$1 million offer from the Queensland government as a part of an ILUA package.	<i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (Broken Hill, 2 October 2008), 8; 'Court dismisses dam action' <i>Gympie Times</i> (Gympie, 2 October 2008), 3; 'Dam court fight lost' <i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i> (Maroochydore, 2 October 2008), 7.
02-Oct-08	WA	Crusader steps up access talks	Crusader resources Limited is 'accelerating efforts to conclude negotiations over a mineral exploration and land access agreement with native title owners over it's... Lake Throssell uranium tenements'.	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 2 October 2008), 17.

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03-Oct-08	NT	Traditional owners fight govt	Traditional owners Reggie Wurridjal and Joy Garbin are taking on the federal government over its compulsory five year takeover of their Maningrida township in Arnhem Land. The case is currently being heard in the High Court.	<i>Centralian Advocate</i> (Alice Springs, 3 October 2008), 9; 'NT intervention 'not on just terms' <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 3 October 2008), 5; 'Federal Intervention challenged' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 3 October 2008), 18; 'Elders battle to reverse takeover' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 3 October 2008), 5; <i>Chronicle</i> (Toowoomba, 3 October 2008), 16; 'NT intervention unconstitutional' <i>Australian</i> (National, 3 October 2008), 5; <i>Gladstone Observer</i> (Gladstone, 3 October 2008), 14; <i>Gympie Times</i> (Gympie, 3 October 2008), 6; <i>Daily examiner</i> (Grafton, 3 October 2008), 13; 'Intervention 'roll back' tip' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 1 October 2008), 4.
04-Oct-08	QLD	Government silent as Mary Valley elder fights on	Indigenous leader Eve Fesl said that she was disgusted with the 'bullying tactics by the Bligh Government and its agent, Queensland Water Infrastructure over Native Title issues involving the Traverston Crossing dam. Dr Fesl said 'her people would appeal a Federal Court decision this week rejecting their claim to be the real traditional owners of Mary Valley'.	<i>Gympie Times</i> (Gympie, 4 October 2008), 9.

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06-Oct-08	NSW	MP says High Court decision could open floodgates	The Wiradjuri Regional Aboriginal Land Council has successfully claimed native title land in Wagga Wagga following a decision by the High Court.	<i>Daily Advertiser</i> (Wagga Wagga, 6 October 2008), 1; 'Aborigines win Wagga land claim' <i>Advertiser</i> (Adelaide, 3 October 2008), 17; 'Win for native title' <i>Daily Telegraph</i> (Sydney, 3 October 2008), 25; 'Wagga celebrates transfer of title on a derelict government site' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 3 October 2008), 6; 'Think twice on land claims: activists' <i>Australian</i> (National, 3 October 2008), 5.
06-Oct-08	QLD	Native title claim seeks share of fishing catch	The Torres Strait Regional Seas claim is currently being heard in Brisbane. Opening statements for claimants Leo Akiba and George Mye, representing people of the Torres Strait as well as the Commonwealth and state were made by lawyers before Justice Finn.	<i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns, 6 October 2008), 6.
07-Oct-08	National	Indigenous leaders against elected body	The chairs or the Indigenous Land Corporation, Indigenous Business Australia and Aboriginal Hostels Ltd have 'argued in favour of a seven member advisory body that automatically includes them as members' in submission to the commonwealth inquiry into the establishment of a national Indigenous representative body.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 7 October 2008), 4.
07-Oct-08	QLD	New indigenous policy adopted	The Redland City Council has entered into a 'new partnership with the local indigenous community with the formal adoption of a new Indigenous Community Policy'. The 'policy provides a formal framework for partnership with core objectives about relationship engagement, acknowledgement and respect'.	<i>Bayside Bulletin</i> (Brisbane, 7 October 2008), 13.

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08-Oct-08	VIC	New land operations era	A co-operative management agreement for Mount Eccles National Park will be formalised with the official launch of the Budj Bim Council. The new council is an advisory committee which will play a role in the operation of the Mount Eccles National Park.	<i>Warrnambool Standard</i> (Warrnambool, 8 October 2008), 6.
08-Oct-08	QLD	Leaders to fight listing of Cape	A delegation of Indigenous leaders from the Cape York area will 'travel to Barcelona to fight a push by the wilderness society to have the Cape York heritage listed'. They will 'go to the International Union for Conservation and Nature...to argue against the motion' and 'demand the withdrawal of the premature resolution urging the addition of the Cape York Peninsula to the World Heritage List'. The groups including the Cape York Land Council, Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation and the Cape York Institute are 'outraged' they received no notice of the meeting. The Wilderness Society has since apologised to Indigenous leaders from the Cape area.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 8 October 2008), 6; 'Heritage bid dropped' <i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns, 10 October 2008), 4; 'Cape heritage bid halted in its tracks' <i>Australian</i> (National, 10 October 2008), 8.
08-Oct-08	WA	Native title workshops underway	The Pilbara Native Title Service is 'holding community information workshops throughout October to talk about a new federal law which will change the way aboriginal corporations are run'.	<i>North West Telegraph</i> (South Headland, 8 October 2008), 6.
09-Oct-08	WA	Fortescue back in court	A court injunction 'relating to a native title claim was imposed on Fortescue Metals Group preventing the iron ore miner from engaging in port expansion in Western Australia'.	<i>Australian Financial Review</i> (National, 9 October 2008), 24; 'Fortescue legal fight' <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra, 9 October 2008), 15; 'FMG fights port growth injunction' <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 9 October 2008), 55.
9-Oct-08	VIC	History making agreement	MT Eccles National Park is about to have a new manager in a history making agreement. The Victorian Government and traditional owners the Gunditjmara people will formalise a new cooperative management agreement through the launch of the MT Eccles council today. The agreement will form part of a Native Title Settlement agreement.	<i>Hamilton Spectator</i> , (Hamilton VIC, 9 October 2008), 4.

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10-Oct-08	VIC	The best in Australia	The new Novotel Forest Resort Creswick was built after a 'landmark native title agreement with the traditional landowners'.	<i>Ballarat Courier</i> (Ballarat, 10 October 2008), 17.
10-Oct-08	VIC	Budj Bim Council to manage Mt Eccles	History was made yesterday when a co-management agreement was implemented between the Victorian Government and the Gunditjmara people for Mt Eccles National Park. The agreement will add a different perspective to the park management. It will help secure a cultural attachment to the land.	<i>Portland Observer</i> , (Portland VIC, 10 October 2008),3.
11-Oct-08	QLD	Native title stalls project	Native title negotiations are occurring over land granted to the Salvation Army. According to Minister for Natural resources and Water Craig Wallace 'discussions with all interested parties regarding the land tenure for the Salvation Army's proposal for a detoxification and rehabilitation centre in Townsville started in September'. It is expected that the parties will sign an ILUA over the proposed site.	<i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville, 11 October 2008), 18.
11-Oct-08	WA	The new Ord dream comes alive for bullish Kimberley	Brendan Grylls is the new Regional Development Minister in Western Australia who will oversee the Ord Development scheme. The Miriuwung Gajerrong native title holders have signed an agreement with the Western Australian government in order to facilitate the development. Under the agreement, 5 per cent of serviced farmland will be given to the corporation and the 'potential is enormous given that Aboriginal unemployment in the Kimberley stands at... 70 per cent'. The Minister for Regional Development Brendan Grylls has 'assured local Indigenous people their needs would be a central factor in the roll out of the government's planned East Kimberley expansion project'. Mr Crylls	<i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 11 October 2008), 8. <i>Kimberley Echo</i> (Kununarra, WA, 16/10/08), 5.

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11-Oct-08	QLD	Sour state of mining	Queensland has been ranked as the 'least attractive of all Australian states when it comes to investment in the mining sector' according to a study conducted by the Fraser research group. The study 'looked at the mining policies of governments around the world taking into account such issues as irregularities in the enforcement of regulations, environmental restrictions, infrastructure and native title issues'.	<i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 11 October 2008), 26.
11-Oct-08	VIC	Budj Bim Council Now Official	The Budj Bim Council was officially launched on Thursday at Mount Eccles National park. Signalling a new era of management between the region's traditional owners and the Victorian government. Recognition of native title is a growing facet of managing national parks. Program manager to the Grampains district Victoria David Newton said it is important to recognise the spiritual and physical properties of landscape to aboriginal Australia. It is something the traditional owners have been building through there park management programs	<i>Hamilton Spectator</i> , (Hamilton VIC, 11 October 2008), 3.
13-Oct-08	VIC	Aboriginal people continue to live in Harmony with the natural environment	Aboriginal people still respect and have inherent obligations by their own lore, customs and beliefs to live in harmony with the natural environment. The Taungurang traditional owners are asserting their native title rights over much of the southern section of the Goulburn Broken Catchment region under the commonwealth Native title Act. Traditional owners groups offered representatives to share their knowledge about indigenous relations with the waterway and environment.	Country News, (Shepparton VIC, 13 October 2008), 41.
14-Oct-08	NSW	Boorabee Festival celebrates land rights	On November 1st the Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Lands Council will celebrate 25 years of land rights in NSW wit the Boorabee Festival.	<i>Glenn Innes Examiner</i> , (Glen Innes NSW, 14 October 2008), 5.

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14-Oct-08	WA	Key Speaker	The former West Australian premier now academic Geoff Gallop will be a speaker at the Local Government Constitutional Summit in Melbourne on December 8 to 11. As premier, Dr Gallop oversaw native title reform, stopped logging in old-growth forests and set up WA's State Administrative Tribunal.	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , (Sydney, 14 October 2008), 28.
15-Oct-08	QLD	Court examines the rights of PNG villagers to Torres Strait	The Federal court has travelled to a remote island off northern Australia for hearings that could see the rights of some Papua New Guinea nationals over the Torres Strait recognised for the first time by Australian authorities. Torres Strait Islanders have launched a native title claim seeking rights, 44,000sq km in the Torres Strait. The PNG nationals say they have traditional ties to the area and do not want their rights diminished.	<i>Australian</i> , (Australia, 15 October 2008), 11.
16-Oct-08	WA	Barnett pick North head as Kimberley LNG site	Colin Barnett named North Head, 26km north of Beagle Bay, as his preferred site for development of an LNG precinct in the Kimberley. The State Government would attempt to acquire the land at North Head, an Aboriginal reserve, located on traditional lands. Land Council Chief Executive Wayne Bergman, urged Mr Barnett to ensure Aboriginal people were not marginalised and said development must deliver lasting benefits.	<i>West Australian</i> , (Perth, 16 October 2008), 6.

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16-Oct-08	TAS	Boom and the busted	Iron ore and other minerals are pulling out billions of dollars from traditional Aboriginal lands for some of the world's biggest mining companies. Roebourne's Aboriginal residents, complain that they see little of these precious riches. Mining companies are claiming to be paying more attention to Aboriginal communities and there is optimism that latest agreements between native title holders and corporations may lift living conditions.	<i>Mercury</i> , (Hobart, 16 October 2008),21
17-Oct-08	WA	Barnett eager to save \$25b Inpex deal	Colin Barnett has held meetings with the Kimberley Land Council to 'remove the right of veto from Indigenous owners' as a part of plans to 'lure the \$25 billion Inpex gas development back to WA'.	<i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 17 October 2008), 10.
23-Oct-08	SA	Traditional owners need consultation	Premier Mike Rann has assures Whyalla's indigenous population that their concerns about the proposed development at Point lowly can be heard before any decision is made. Some concerns have been expressed with development at Fitzgerald Bay, because it will disturb the land and their spiritual connection with the land. Although Native Title has been extinguished on their land, the aboriginal people still believe that their sacred sites should be respected and not affected.	<i>Whyalla News</i> , (Whyalla SA, 23 October 2008), 3.

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24-Oct-08	National	Native Title goes to Federal Court	<p>The Federal government will give the Federal Court mediation of Native Title Claims. Mediations of claims in the native title tribunal was causing a bottleneck in the system and as the Federal Attorney - General McClelland said, the oversight of a single body will allow the opportunities for resolution to be more easily identified. In a paper released this week, High Court Chief Justice Robert French admitted that the native title process 'can be likened to rolling a large rock uphill... the effort seems relentless and sometimes the rewards elusive.</p>	<p><i>Summaries - Australia Financial Review</i>, (Australia, 24 October 2008), 51.</p>
24-Oct-08	National	Federal court to play key role in Native Title claims	<p>The Federal Court will play a more significant role in Australia's native title system under the new system to be brought in next year. The new Native Title system is to be brought in by legislation which is due to be introduced into parliament next year.</p>	<p><i>Lawyers Weekly</i>, (National, AU, 24 October 2008), 4.</p>
28-Oct-08	WA	Mabo's language analysed	<p>The author of a book launched at Murdoch University this week has highlighted the culture clash decision makers in the High Court and Federal Parliament has to deal with regarding the Mabo decision in 1992. Office of Native Title principal policy officer Stephen Robson said his book, <i>The Clash of Conceptual Language Around Australia's Mabo Decision</i>, explored the significance of the landmark decision by the High Court in 1992.</p>	<p><i>Melville Times</i>, (Perth, AU, 28 October 2008), 13.</p>

