Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
01-Sep-07	QLD	MRA reviews positive	A series of public meetings 'held in Brisbane and key regional areasas a part of the Queensland's <i>Mineral Resources Act 1989</i> and <i>Fossicking Act 1994</i> [review] have provided good feedback'. There was interest in 'the grant process or the timing to grant could be streamlined for mining tenements in particular for exploration permits and when dealing with native title requirements.'	Queensland Government Mining Journal (National, September 2007), 15.
01-Sep-07	QLD	Aurukun bauxite project	The Aurukun Bauxite Project has 'passed two important milestones'. Premier Peter Beattie said that the 'significant project status will enable the state government to play a key role in coordinating the complex decision making process involving federal, state and local governments'. The Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the native title holders and the Aurukun Shire Council has also bee signed. Mr Beattie said that 'this formal native title agreement will enable Chalco to conduct its feasibility study on the Aurukun deposit'. He said that the 'potential economic benefits include an increase in bauxite and alumina exports worth more than \$200 million per year. It would also generate significant revenue from royalties and taxes'.	Queensland Government Mining Journal (National, September 2007), 14; 'Chalco bauxite project passes major milestone' Western Cape Bulletin (19 September 2007), 4.
01-Sep-07	WA	Subiaco salutes Noongars	The Subiaco council will acknowledge the 'Noongar people as the original custodians of land in the area - when the mayor decides it is the right time and place'. This decision has taken three years with Councillor Lynley Hewett reviewing the motion after it was launched in March 2004. Ms Hewett said that 'the city should begin all meetings, concerts and events funded with ratepayer money with a statement acknowledging the Noongar people were the original custodians of the land'. Councillor Rodney Wells 'warned that it should not be overused or the council could be accused of tokenism'.	Subiaco Post (Perth, 1 September, 2007), 8.

## Native Title in the News September 2007

01-Sep-07	NT	Wik women sign up for new battle in the territory	Women for Wik is a campaign aimed to 'oppose the Federal Government's intervention in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities'. Lady Deane wife of the former governor general said that 'it is up to the women of Australia to get our country back on the path of reconciliation'. The organisation has included prominent women in Australia including Hazel Hawke, Germaine Greer, Elizabeth Jolley, Faith Bandlerm Ruth Cracknell, Dame Roma Mitchell and Marie Bashier.	Sydney Morning Herald (Sydney, 1 September 2007), 9.
04-Sep-07	NATIONAL	No-fuss Justice Wants Credit for Trial Judges	Justice Susan Kiefal has been officially sworn in as a High Court Justice.	Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide, 4 September 2007), 6.

04-Sep-07	NT	Town title upheld	At a special sitting today in Tennant Creek the Federal Court recognised the Patta Warumungu people as native title holders of about 25 hectares of land in the town. National Native Title Tribunal President, Graeme Neate, said today's consent determination is a result of discussions that involved more than just the usual native title issues. For the past three years the traditional owners, represented by the Central Land Council, and the Northern Territory Government, in consultation with the Tennant Creek Town Council and various mining companies, worked towards reaching agreement on the recognition of native title rights and interests in the area. In reaching his decision Justice Mansfield 'praised the local people, the NT Government and other interested parties for avoiding a lengthy and costly trial'. The claim covers '65 per cent of the township, and involves 200 people from seven families'.	Adelaide Advertiser (Adelaide, 4 September 2007), 8; 'Milestone native title deal hailed as a model' Age (Melbourne, 4 September 2007), 4; 'Mediation shows the way to native title' Australian (National, 4 September 2007), 6; 'Tennant Creek claimed' Burnie Advocate (Burnie, 4 September 2007), 13; 'Native title over creek' Daily Telegraph (Sydney, 4 September 2007), 3; 'Tennant Creek Claim' Launceston Examiner (Launceston, 4 September 2007), 13; 'Landmark native title agreement' Northern Territory News (Darwin, 4 September 2007), 4; 'Claim settled with goodwill and camel sausages' Sydney Morning Herald (Sydney, 4 September 2007), 6; 'Native title deal reached on outback town' West Australian (Perth, 4 September 2007), 5; 'Reaching native title agreement over Tennant Creek' Native Title Tribunal Media Release (National, 4 September 2007); 'How best to proceed' Koori Mail (National, 26 September 2007), 22.'Native title
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negotiations applauded' Northern Territory News (Darwin, 5 September 2007) 6; "It's a deal' on Tennant native title bic' Centralian Advocate (Alice Springs, 4 September 2007), 4; Town Under Native Title' Northern Daily Leader (Tamworth, 4 September 2007), 9; 'Native title granted' Countryman (Western AUstralla, 6 September 2007), 9; 'Land Rights deed signed by consent' Northern Territory News (Darwin, 8 September 2007), 229; 'Native title recognised over Tennant Creek' Koori Mail (National, 12 September 2007), 4; "Town under native title' Tennant and District Times (Tennant, 7 September 2007), 1; 'Native title recognised over Tennant Creek' National Indigenous Times (Malua Bay, 6 September 2007), 3; 'Land rights deed signed by consent' Tennant and District Times (Tennant Tennant and District Times (Tennant Tennant and District Times (Tennant Tennant and District Times (Tennant, 14
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04-Sep-07	QLD	Native title claim closer	A ceremony in Toowoomba 'marked the beginning of talks between council and the Jagera, Yugera and Ugarapul people' with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for a native title claim. The claim was lodged by the Jagera people in 2003 and covers over 6103 square kilometres across south-east Queensland.	Toowoomba Chronicle (Toowoomba, 4 September 2007), 7l 'Ceremony signals start of native title claim talks' Toowoomba's Mail (Toowoomba, 13 September 2007), 6.
04-Sep-07	QLD	Merger of tribunal a boost to Land Court	The Queensland State Parliament has 'passed laws merging the Land and Resources Tribunal (LRT) into the Land Court'. The laws 'specifically require extensive experience in land related matters, mining or petroleum issues or indigenous issues to be added as criteria for appointment as a member of the Land Court.'	Courier Mail (Brisbane, 4 September 2007), 60.
04-Sep-07	NT	Land claim over Darwin rejected by court	The High Court has 'denied the Larrakia people special leave to appeal against the Federal Court ruling against their native title claim'. The '2:1 High Court decision affirmed a Federal Court decision that the Larrakia had not practised their culture continuously since colonisation'. Northern Land Council chief executive Norman Fry said that 'it is now up to the Northern Territory Government to recognise the Larrakia as traditional owners including settling the Kenbi claim over Cox peninsula'.	Northern Territory News (Darwin, 4 September 2007), 7.
04-Sep-07	VIC	Brambul rebellion	The Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation 'has said the Brambuk board, chaired by Geoff Clark, does not represent them'. The Gunditj Mirring 'as representative of the Gunditjmara native title holders, publicly expressed it belief that the board of management that manages the Brambuk Cultural Centre and its assets is not properly representative of Aboriginal communities'.	Warrnambool Standard (Warrnambool, 4 September 2007), 3.

05-Sep-07	QLD	Protection status for world's largest green turtle rookery	The world's largest known green turtle rookery at Rain Island will be 'safeguarded following an historic National Park (Scientific) agreement between the Queensland Government and traditional owners who include Erub, Ugar and Mer Islands.' An Indigenous land Use Agreement has been signed which Environment Minister Nelson Carr said 'recognises the Traditional Owners connection to the place and respects the need to jointly manage and conserve Raine Island and its surrounds'.	Torres News (Thursday Island, 5 September 2007), 4.
05-Sep-07	QLD	Deal for club to use land	An Indigenous Land Use Agreement will be 'negotiated to deal with native title interests over land at the back of a Yorkeys Knob Club house'. The agreement is required to 'allow the endorsement of a lease for the centre to be used by the Northern Beach Judo Club'. There is currently no claim over the land but the area comes under the Tjapukai people.	Cairns Post (Cairns, 5 September 2007), 8.
05-Sep-07	NT	Govt gains extra mining control	The NT Government 'will be able to withdraw or re-issue consent to mining companies to negotiate with Aboriginal land councils' following amendments to the NT Mining and Petroleum Acts recently passed by the Northern Territory Government. Mines Minister Chris Natt said 'the changes have the Territory Government greater control of land management issues in mining and exploration.'	Northern Territory News (Darwin, 5 September 2007), 22.
06-Sep-07	WA	Mining deal	Mining exploration will continue 'at Noonkanbah after native title holders signed an agreement with energy company ARC Energy'. A native title determination was reached in May this year which 'confirmed the ownership of 1800sqkm of land to the Yungngora people'. Noonkanbah chairman Dickey Cox said that the agreement 'represents a significant step forward for relations between indigenous people and developers'.	Broome Advertiser (Broome, 6 September 2007), 6.
08-Sep-07	QLD	Lucinda land buy meeting	The Hinchinbrook Shire Council has held a public meeting to discuss how land at Luncinda can be used for future development. The council moved to purchase the land freehold from the Department of Natural Resources and Water after native title was	Herbert River Express (Ingham, 8 September 2007), 1.

			extinguished over the land.	
11-Sep-07	QLD	Tribe on a high as heartland won back	The Queensland Government has agreed to hand over the summit of Mount Lindsay to the Githabul people. Spokesman for the Natural Resources Minister Craig Wallace said that 'title would be conditional on the Githabul meeting six requirements including lodgement of a formal claim on the summit'. The Githabul are on 'the verge of formally securing native title on 11 state forests and eight national parks in northern New South Wales. They are also negotiating over a section of the Gambubal State Forest'. The NSW part of the claim is a 'step closer to finalisation in February this year when the State Government agreed to its approval, subject to a six month objection period'.	Daily News (Warwick, 13 September 2007), 5; 'Handover to native people will be summit to see' Northern Star (Lismore, 14 September 2007), 7; 'Tribe on a high as heartland is won back' Australian (National, 11 September 2007), 3; 'Githabul 'heart' returned to the people' Koori Mail (National, 26 September 2007), 11.
12-Sep-07	WA	Cutting the backlog	The Western Australian Government has 'committed \$3.5 million to reduce the backlog of mining tenement applications in Western Australia'. Resources Minister Francis Logan said 'the backlog, which peaked at 18,700 in February, was a direct result of enormous resources boom underway in WA'. Mr Logan also said that 'agreements were developed between industry and native title groups to address Aboriginal heritage and exploration activities to reduce objections by native title parties and speed up the processing of exploratory applications'.	Pilbara News (Pilbara, 12 September 2007), 15; Newman Mail (Perth, 7 September 2007), 2; 'Funding to cut tenement applications' North West Telegraph (South Headland, 12 September 2007), 4.
12-Sep-07	NSW	Decision sets back land sale	A Federal Court judgment has set back a 'Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council sale of land at Boat Harbour'. For the sale to 'go ahead, the land council must prove that no native title exists over the land'.	Newcastle Herald (Newcastle, 12 September 2007), 18.

13-Sep-07	NATIONAL	Australia will not support UN declaration	Australia 'will not support the United National Declaration on Indigenous Rights because the federal government believes it is unworkable and divisive'. The Declaration will be adopted by the UN General Assembly after 20 years of drafting. The Declaration 'addresses both individual and collective rights, cultural rights and identity, rights to education, health, employment and language'. It also 'outlaws discrimination against indigenous people and promotes their full participation in all matters that concern them'. The declaration was opposed by Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States.	Coffs Coast Advocate (Coffs Harbour, 13 September 2007), 9; 'Rights edict 'will divide" Border Mail (Albury-Wodonga, 13 September 2007), 16; 'Aust rejects UN declaration' Canberra Times (Canberra, 13 September 2007), 7; 'Rights backed' Launceston Examiner (Launceston, 15 September 2007), 25; 'Native rights upheld' Sydney Morning Herald (Sydney, 15 September 2007), 24; 'Parties Split on UN vote' Weekend Australian (National, 15 September 2007), 1; 'UN Treaty' MX Brisbane (Brisbane, 14 September 2007), 8; 'UN supports indigenous' MX (Sydney) (Sydney, 14 September 2007), 10 'How the west was won' National Indigenous Times (National, 20 September 2007), 1; 'Australia is not an island' National Indigenous Times (National, 20 September 2007), 21.
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13-Sep-07	WA	Land hand back over Ord	The Western Australian Government has given back '50, 000ha of the East Kimberley to the Miriuwung Gajerrong people, the largest hand back in Western Australia'. The land 'known as Yardungarri is on the Western Australian-Northern Territory border and is home to eight Aboriginal communities'. The 'hand back is part of a larger \$56 m compensation package for the Miriuwung Gajerrong after the government decided to acquire 65,000 ha or land for stage two of the Ord River development.'	Farm Weekly (Western Australia, 13 September 2007), 260; '50 year struggle end in triumph' Koori Mail (National, 12 September 2007), 5; 'Biggest hand back yet' Kimberley Echo (Kununurra, 6 September 2007), 7; 'WA hand back 50, 000 ha' National Indigenous Times (Malua Bay, 6 September 2007), 3.
13-Sep-07	NT	NT Intervention threatens Aboriginal rangers program	The 'NT's 500 land and sea rangers fear they will lose their jobs following the Federal Government's decision to abolish the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP)'. Under the intervention 'workers will be moved off CDEP into "real jobs" or put on mainstream income support with the normal requirements to seek training and employment'. Indigenous rangers are 'essential for land management' and have 'guarded Australia's northern frontierstopped the spread of mimosaand have managed vast unpopulated areas with prescribed burning and feral animal control'.	Age (Melbourne, 13 September 2007), 5.
13-Sep-07	WA	Moly signs native title agreement	Moly Mines Ltd has 'signed a native title agreement with the Njamal people of the Pilbara ahead of planned release of its feasibility study into the \$600 million Spinifex Ridge project later this month'. The 'land access deed, which addresses native title requirements specified under mining regulations, provides employment and education programs, heritage protection and financial benefits to the Njamal community'.	Business News (Perth, 13 September 2007), 12.

13-Sep-07	WA	Manypeaks goes back to traditional owners	Manypeaks has been 'returned to traditional owners following a signing ceremony when the 10 traditional owner groups completed the transfer back to the Noongar people'. The land was 'bought under the Indigenous Land Corporation's new Cultural acquisition Program and is being managed by the newly created Albany group representing local indigenous people'.	Mid-West Times (Geraldton, 13 September 2007), 26.
13-Sep-07	NT	Troy targets mighty NT river region	Troy Resources is about to initiate a major exploration campaign in the Daly River region but says that 'the tenement applications that historically are known to host the best known mineralisation are over Aboriginal freehold land' which has been difficult to access. Troy's vice president of exploration said that they have participated in a meeting with 'traditional owners and the Northern Land Council at which the traditional owners voted against allowing exploration and or mining work to proceed'.	Northern Territory News (Darwin, 13 September 2007), 5.
14-Sep-07	NSW	Native title in dispute	New South Wales Native Title Services request to have the Baryulgil Bundjalong claim removed and combined with two registered claim areas have been criticised. Avery Brown a provisional applicant from the Baryulgil Bundjalong native title claim group said that 'NSWNTS's plans did not represent the best interests of the Bundjalong community and had decided to operate separately to the unit'. NSW NTS Chairman Michael Bell said 'while it was not NSWNTS policy to comment on complex internal group issues, it was clear that any decisions regarding the applicant or the claim required extensive consultation with and authorisation by the whole community in question'.	Daily Examiner (Grafton, 14 September 2007), 5; 'Bundjalung claim confusion' Coffs Coast Advocate (Coffs Harbour, 15 September, 2007), 15.
14-Sep-07	QLD	Native title claim	The Burnett Shire 'is a part of a native title claim by Butchulla People'. The 'area in question is the sea off the very tip of Fraser Island which Councillor Trevor Strong said is the Border of Burnett Shire'.	News Mail (Bundaberg, 14 September 2007), 4;

14-Sep-07	VIC	Something to celebrate	The new Nyah Vinifera Park will 'protect and enhance the forest which is already the jewel in the crown for the tourism industry'. The park is co managed by traditional owners the Wati Wati. Chairperson John O'Bree said that 'it will also mean more funding for pest plant and animal control, road maintenance and park rangers'.	Swan Hill Guardian (Swan Hill, 14 September 2007), 9.
14-Sep-07	NT	Middletons negotiate landmark indigenous lease	The Mantiyupi land owning group and the Tiwi Land Council has finalised three year negotiations over the 'controversial lease of the town of Nguiu, on the Tiwi Islands'. Under the agreement the Tiwi people will receive 25 additional houses at Nguiu, a program of home repairs and maintenance and \$1 million to be invested in "health initiatives"'.	Lawyers Weekly (14 September 2007), 18.
18-Sep-07	WA	Joint move in native title	A number of Indigenous people from the North Eastern Goldfields has 'gathered in Kalgoorlie on Thursday and Friday to ramp up preparations for a series of smaller Native Title claims to be launched over the area in the future'. The meeting was attended by '100 people representing the Wongatha and overlapping claim areas in which native title has not yet been established'. A 'judgement handed down earlier this year on the area after a five year trial was inconclusive with Justice Lindgren refusing to rule native title did not exist and leaving the possibility open that smaller claims could be launched'.	Kalgoorlie Miner (Kalgoorlie, 18 September, 2007), 3; 'Legal update on smaller claims' Golden Mail (Kalgoorlie, 21 September 2007), 4,
19-Sep-07	NSW	Wiradjuri elders meet in Parkes for the first time	The Wiradjuri Council of Elders has met in Parkes for the first time to 'do an overview of thecouncil and take a fresh look at 'where do we go from here' said Flo Grant, spokesperson for the meeting organisers. Ms Grant said that the 'Wiradjuri people work with and in many areas such as CMA programs/projects, MILDRIN, Transport, Fair Trades, National Parkes Cultural Heritage and Education'.	Champion Post, (Parkes, 19 September 2007), 11.

19-Sep-07	WA	Trying to stop pluto from going ahead	The Wong-Goo-Tt-Oo native title group has lodged an application under the <i>Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act</i> seeking a ministerial declaration that, 'if successful, would effectively prevent gas giant Woodside from siting an LNG plant in the area'. The native title group has applied to have the area declared a Significant Aboriginal Area.	Pilbara News (Pilbara, 19 September 2007), 12.
19-Sep-07	QLD	Repeal merger: Coalition	Fifteen Torres Strait Island councils will be amalgamated.	Torres News (Thursday Island, 19 September 2007), 4.
20-Sep-07	NT	PM's victory on land deal	Galarrwuy Yunupingu has 'agreed to privatise his land for 99 years under a landmark agreement to be signedwith the Howard Government'. Mr Yunupingu's involvement 'recasts the equation of Aboriginal politics in northern Australia bringing together the most prominent traditional leader of the Northern Territory and the leading intellectual inspiration for the Howard Government's dramatic reforms, Noel Pearson'. The Yolgnu people have said that 'Galarrwuy Yunupingu does not speak for all Yolgnu people' and the 'federal government could face legal action if it ignores the region's elders'.	Australian (National, 20 September 2007), 1; 'The challenge begins' Australian (National, 21 September 2007), 14; 'Indigenous leader shows great wisdom' Australian (National, 21 September 2007), 15; 'Land surrender' Cairns Post (Cairns, 21 September 2007), 15; "Aboriginal land talks approved' Newcastle Herald (Newcastle, 21 September 2007), 26; 'Land Rights pioneer secures agreement to negotiate 99 year lease' Media Release (Mal Brough, Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 20 September 2007), 25; 'Whose coup? Canberra and clan both celebrate a deal' Age (Melbourne, 22 September 2007), 5; 'How Brough almost

				blew it' Weekend Australian (National, 22 September 2007), 8; 'Yolgnu elders warn of land lease deal' Northern Territory News (26 September 2007), 9; 'Lease 'flipback' Koori Mail (National, 26 September 2007), 1.
20-Sep-07	WA	Pastoralists reject new land tenure proposal	A model for environmental management has been development which will 'set up a 40 year rolling tenure, renewable every 10 years, provided the lessee receives positive five yearly environmental reports'. According to Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah Mac Tiernan, under the regime 'pastoralists will have until 2025 to elect to move to the new model but they could only do so once native title issues on their lease have been resolved'. The Pastoralists and Grazier's Association (PGA) has 'rejected the new tenure model for pastoral leases released last week'. The rejected proposals include the 'requirement for lessees to register an Indigenous Land Use Agreement before July 1 2025 as a condition of obtaining a rolling lease'.	Farm Weekly (Western Australia, 20 September 2007), 9; 'Pastoralists vote on new tenure model' Northern Guardian (26 September 2007), 6; 'Pastoralists urged to vote in tenure ballot' Countryman (Western Australia, 27 September 2007), 6.
20-Sep-07	QLD	Land claim for the Boonthamurra people in south west Queensland	The Boonthamurra people of south west Queensland has registered a claim area of '29 000 square kilometres across Quilpie, Barcoo and Bulloo shires'. The Indigenous group 'now seek an agreement with landholders, councils and other stakeholders to be ratified by the Federal Court'.	Western Times (Charleville, 20 September 2007), 4.
21-Sep-07	VIC	Shea takes on new Gunditj Mirring role	The Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation has a new executive officer, Shea Rotumah.	Portland Observer (Portland, 21 September 2007), 9.

26-Sep-07	NATIONAL	New judges for federal Court of Australia	Four new judged have been appointed to the Federal Court of Australia: Dr Geoffrey Flick SC, Mr John Logan RFD SC, Mr Neil McKerracher QC and Mr Jon Reeves QC. Dr Flick has practised as a barrister in NSW since 1982 and was appointed Senior Council in 1993. He has authored several legal publications and will be based on Sydney. Mr Logan worked for the Attorney General's Department in Queensland and began working as a barrister in 1984. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 1999 and has practised in constitutional and administrative law, revenue and general commercial and industrial law. Mr Logan also assisted in the Royal Commission on Deaths in Custody. He will be based in Brisbane. Mr McKerracher has practiced extensively in Western Australia and was appointed Acting Commissioner of the Corruption and Crime Commission of Western Australia. He will be based in Perth. Mr Reeves was appointed as a Reviewer of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth) and served as a member of the House of Representatives. He has held several positions with the Northern Territory Bar Association and will be based on Darwin.	Media Release (Federal Government, 26 September 2007), 7; 'Reeves' selection cheered' Australian (National, 28 September 2007), 39; 'Justice for indigenous affairs adviser' Australian Financial Review (National, 25 September 2007), 13.
26-Sep-07	VIC	Registered Aboriginal Party named Yorta RAPt	The Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation has been 'officially appointed a Registered Aboriginal Party under Victoria's new Cultural Heritage legislation'. This means that 'governments communities and industries must consult the Yorta Yorta on cultural heritage issues when major works or developments are planned in the region'.	Riverine Herald (Echucca, 26 September 2007), 1; 'New official place for Yorta Yorta Nation' Shepparton News (Shepparton, 24 September 2007), 5.
27-Sep-07	NATIONAL	National Native Title Tribunal Member Reappointed	Dainel O'Dea has been appointed as a member of the National Native Title Tribunal. Prior to his appointment, Mr O'Dea was the 'Principal Legal Officer of the native title unit in the Ngaanyatjarra Council since 1996before 1995 he worked as a commercial litigator in Western Australia'.	Media Release (Federal Government, 27 September 2007), 15.

28-Sep-07	NT	Ranger mine extension	Energy Resources Australia has 'extended mining at its Ranger uranium mine in the Northern Territory until 2012'. The 'commencement of preliminary mining has been given the nod by the Ranger Mine site technical committee which comprises of representatives of the NT and Commonwealth governments and Aboriginal groups'.	Daily Telegraph, (Sydney, 28 September 2007), 82' 'Rio extends uranium mine's life' Gold Coast Bulletin (Gold Coast, 28 September 2007), 107; 'ERA to mine Ranger uranium until 2012' Herald Sun (Melbourne, 28 September 2007), 79; 'ERA extends uranium mining' North West Star (Mount Isa, 28 September 2007), 16.
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