

Native Title in the News - September 2011

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
01/09/11	WA	Heritage listing for Kimberley	In a landmark decision an area of West Kimberley wilderness has been given national heritage protection recognising its significant environmental, cultural and Indigenous values. The protection excludes the site of a proposed \$35 billion gas hub. The decision is the largest land based heritage listing in Australian history.	<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney NSW, 1 September 2011) 5. <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra ACT, 1 September 2011) 4. <i>West Australian</i> (Perth WA, 1 September 2011) 4. <i>Age</i> (Melbourne VIC, 1 September 2011) 5. <i>Western Advocate</i> (Bathurst NSW, 1 September 2011) 13. <i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns QLD, 1 st September 2011) 5. <i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome WA, 1 September 2011) 1. <i>Farm Weekly</i> (Perth WA, 8 September 2011) 3. <i>North West Telegraph</i> (South Hedland WA, 7 September 2011) 15.
03/09/11	WA	Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation appeal dismissed	The full bench of the Federal Court has dismissed an appeal by the Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) against mining leases held by Fortescue Metals Groups as part of its Solomon Hub operation in WA's Pilbara region. Justice John Gilmour handed down the judgment on August 12.	<i>Australian Mining Review</i> (Australia, 3 September 2011). <i>Mining Chronicle</i> (Australia, 7 September 2011) 7. <i>Australian Mining</i> (Australia, 3 September 2011) 8. <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 21 September 2011) 18.
06/09/11	NSW	Dunghutti Elders Council	The Dunghutti Elders Council (Aboriginal Corporation) has been placed under special administration. The Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) Anthony Bevan acted after the High Court rejected an appeal by the Elders Council to prevent the Registrar from placing it under special administration. Tim Gumbleton and Andrew Bowcher from the firm RSM Bird were appointed administrators on 2 September, 2011.	<i>Macleay Argus</i> (Kempsey NSW, 6 September 2011) 2.
06/09/11	QLD	Royalty revenues	The Western Cape Communities Trust has recently developed a 'visionary plan' to ensure the long term sustainability of mining royalty revenues for the communities and traditional owners of the Western Cape York region of Queensland. The inaugural Western Cape Communities Trust (WCCT) Investment Strategy outlines the direction for the Trust's Royalty Investments.	<i>Mining Chronicle</i> (Australia, 6 September 2011) 16.

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07/09/11	QLD	Native title rights recognised	The Federal Court of Australia has recognised the Wanyurr Majay People's native title rights and interests on more than 200sq of land near Babinda. Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Member for Mulgrave Curtis Pitt attended the declaration on behalf of Natural Resources Minister Rachel Nolan.	<i>Innisfail Advocate</i> (Innisfail Qld, 7 September 2011) 11. <i>Cairns Sun</i> (Cairns QLD, 7 September 2011) 5.
07/09/11	NSW	Land claim refused	The Awabakal Land Council has lost a native title claim over an area of land including the old Newcastle post office. The NSW Aboriginal Land Council, which made the claim on behalf of the Awabakal people has not yet said whether it would appeal the decision.	<i>Newcastle Star</i> (Newcastle NSW, 7 September 2011) 8. <i>Newcastle Herald</i> (Newcastle NSW, 5 September 2011) 9. <i>Newcastle Herald</i> (Newcastle NSW, 3 September 2011) 1.
07/09/11	NT	Park threaten mines	Miners fear the tens of millions of dollars they have spent on exploration will be lost if the Northern Territory government declares an exclusive national park. Environment Minister Karl Hampton said Limmen National Park would be declared soon, but Minerals Council of Australia said the NT Government had not said if mining would be allowed inside the park. NT Director Peter Stewart said mining firms were in talks with traditional owners about future jobs and economic opportunities for the region.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin NT, 7 September 2011) 27.
07/09/10	QLD	New native title claim	An authorisation meeting will be held for a proposed native title claim by the Yugara, Yugambah and Yugarapul people. The claim area would include a large part of south-east Queensland, including parts of the Scenic Rim mountain range. Nominations are being sought for elders from within the claimants to represent their people in the proposed claim.	<i>Beaudesert Times</i> (Beaudesert QLD, 7 September 2011) 10.
08/09/11	QLD	Djiru people	Generations of Djiru people were present at Wongaling Beach for the official acknowledgement of the Djiru people's native title rights and interests over areas of land around Mission Beach, Wongaling Beach, South Mission Beach and El Arish. The application for native title rights was lodged in 2003.	<i>Tully Times</i> (Tully QLD, 8 September 2011) 5.
12/09/11	QLD	Trustee over Cape York land	Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Greg McLean will continue to fight a government decision to make a native title group trustee of the land over which they hold native title, arguing it would favour traditional owners over the wider community. The Cape York land is a 110,000ha parcel of land which comes with a \$5.2 million compensation for lost mining royalties.	<i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns QLD, 12 September 2011) 9.FYinji
13/09/11	SA	Tasman Resources	Tasman Resources is ready to advance exploration of a key target area of its Vulcan project in South Australia's far north. This follows the company entering a new mining agreement—the first step to accessing huge mineral deposits—with the Kokatha Uwankara group, whose native title claim covers most of the exploration	<i>Advertiser</i> (Adelaide SA, 13 September 2011) 40. <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 28 September 2011) 17.

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15/09/11	AUS	Land rights news	Australia's longest running Indigenous newspaper is undergoing a major overhaul with the Northern Land Council (NLC) set to publish its first <i>Land Rights News – Northern Edition</i> . <i>Land Rights News</i> has long been co-published by the NLC and Central Land Council, but the organisations will now produce independent newspapers, putting greater focus on news from within their regions.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 15 September 2011) 37.
21/09/11	QLD	Lack of resources	Bob Wetherall and Ray Robinson have claimed mining companies were using their financial might in Queensland to steamroll Indigenous people over land use agreements. The pair said traditional owners were being disadvantaged because they did not have the resources to access the appropriate legal advice when approached by mining companies about entering into agreements. Mr. Robinson said 99 per cent of the traditional owners in Queensland did not have the money to fight legal battles with mining companies when negotiating Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs).	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 21 September 2011) 3.
21/09/11	TSI	Mabo Story	Four of Australia's premier Indigenous filmmakers have worked together to produce a telemovie of the life and times of Eddie Mabo which is to be aired on the ABC in June next year to coincide with the 20 year anniversary of the historic High Court Mabo ruling on June 3, 1992. The filmmakers have said while Mabo's story is 'iconically Australian', it should draw international attention when screened on ABC in 2012.	<i>Torres News</i> (Thursday Island QLD, 21 September 2011) 5. <i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns QLD, 29 September 2011) 17.
24/09/11	SA	Olympic Dam	Mining contractor Macmahon Holdings has embarked on a partnership with Indigenous people in the state's mid-north to tender for work on the Olympic Dam and other mining projects on the extensive Stuart Shelf. The joint venture to pursue new resource sector work is between the company's subsidiary Doorn-Djil Yoordaning Mining and Construction and the Kokatha people, native title claimants over the area around Roxby Downs.	<i>Advertiser</i> (Adelaide SA, 24 September 2011) 76.
26/09/11	WA	Weld Range	Weld Range Metals' mining operations hit a legal brick wall last week after four mining leases in the Weld Range vicinity were denied to WRM after negotiations between the company and the Wajarrii Yamatji native title group broke down over heritage issues. The decision ruled under section 38 of the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth) now protects significant Aboriginal sites but does not rule out	<i>Geraldton Guardian</i> (Geraldton WA, 26 September 2011) 3. <i>The Weekend Post</i> (Perth WA, 24 September 2011) 73. <i>Weekend Australia</i> (Australia, 24 September 2011) 6.

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			further negotiations or appeals.	
28/09/11	WA	Deal with Rio	The Gnulli native title group signed an agreement with Rio's Dampier to protect Indigenous heritage near the company's Lake Macleod operation near Carnarvon in Western Australia. The agreement establishes guidelines for the protection of Indigenous culture and consultations with traditional owners.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 28 September 2011) 17.
28/09/11	WA	New bill passed	A new bill passed by the WA Parliament gives Indigenous people a greater role in managing and using conservation reserves. The <i>Conservation Legislation Amendment Act 2011</i> provides for increased opportunities for Aboriginal people to be actively involved in, and contribute their knowledge to, the management of land. It also allows for Aboriginal people to undertake customary activities on reserves and other land, including for medicinal, ceremonial and artistic purposes. Environment Minister Bill Marmion said it will allow the State to deliver on commitments under native title agreements, such as the Burrup and Maitland Industrial Estates Agreement; Ord Final Agreement; and Yawuru Indigenous Land Use Agreement, as well as the agreements for the proposed Browse LNG precinct.	<i>North West Telegraph</i> (South Hedland WA, 28 September 2011) 31.
28/09/11	NT	Bank deal	The Northern Land Council has made an agreement with the National Australia Bank in Darwin to assist Indigenous communities to establish commercial enterprises in coastal areas. The 2008 Blue Mud Bay High Court decision ruled that traditional owners controlled 85 percent of the Territory coastline and Northern Land Council chief executive Kim Hill has said the agreement was the first step towards commercialising the outcome of the 2008 Blue Mud Bay High Court decision.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 28 September 2011) 17.