

Native Title in the News

National

Feb-09 NATIONAL **Deal makes way for mid west** Iron ore producer Midwest Corporation has finalised heritage agreements with the Jidi Jidi Aboriginal Corporation (JJAC), covering its prospective iron ore and manganese tenements at the Robinson Range in WA's Mid West region. *Mining Chronicle*, (National, February 2009), 16.

Feb-09 NATIONAL **Submissions to close** Submissions are due to close for the Federal Government's Native Title Discussion Paper, which canvassed options for using the native title system to help address key areas of Indigenous disadvantage. The purpose of the discussion paper was to generate ideas, stimulate discussion and seek input from the public. *Government News*, (National, February 2009), 12.

28-Feb-09 NATIONAL **Half of land taken reverts to Aborigines** Aborigines in the Northern Territory will regain 50% of the land that was compulsory acquired by the Federal Government, after a review of the intervention. *Weekend Australia*, (National, 28 February 2009), 10.

New South Wales

6-Jan-09 NSW **Court reserves decision on mine** The Land and Environment Court has reserved judgment in the case challenging Barrick Gold's plan to significantly expand the size of the Cowal Mine. Long time objector and native title claimant Neville Williams is behind the action taken in late December. *West Wyalong Advocate*, (West Wyalong NSW, 6 January 2009), 3.

22-Jan-09 NSW **Court's decision paves way for sale** The Federal Court action to stop the Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council from selling off 10 acres of key waterfront land at Boat Harbour has ended with the Federal Court decision that there is no native title over the land. *Port Stephens Examiner*, (Port Stephens NSW, 22 January 2009), 60.

6-Feb-09 NSW **Traditional land owners fire up quarry debate** The Ngulingah Aboriginal Land Council has accused Lismore City Council and the owner for Champions Quarry of not consulting with them over a proposed extension of the site. *Northern Star*, (Lismore NSW, 6 February 2009), 6.

19-Feb-09 NSW **Four remote communities sign up to 40-years lease** Traditional owners from four remote communities have agreed to give up control of their land for the next 40 years under a lease agreement with the Federal Government. In exchange, the communities will receive approximately 300 new houses and 250 existing houses will be refurbished. *National Indigenous Times*, (Malua Bay NSW, 19 February 2009), 9.

Northern Territory

8-Jan-09 NT **Tiwi people to manage fishing rights** Tiwi Islanders will represent themselves over the management of fishing rights after the High Court's Blue Mud Bay decision. Though Mr Tipungwuti and fellow Islanders still want suggestions from fishermen and government on how to manage their coasts. The Islanders agreed with Chief Minister Paul Henderson that the High Courts Blue Mud Bay decision should not become a "political playground". *Northern Territory News*, (Darwin NT, 8 January 2009), 4.

12-Jan-09 NT **Land Councils passing the buck** The High Court has made a decision that is in favour of the Indigenous land holders. The traditional land holders are now looking for some sort of permit system introduced for non-Indigenous peoples wanting to fish their tidal waters. *Northern Territory*, (Darwin, 12 January 2009), 13. *The Weekend Australian*, (National, 10 January 2009), 22.

16-Jan-09 NT **Native title is key to better deal** The Federal Government has released a native title discussion paper which will look at options for improving the system. Issues relating to mining and infrastructure payments are major considerations. *Centralian Advocate*, (Alice Springs NT, 16 January 2009), 16.

31-Jan-09 VIC **30-year land claim over** Australia's longest running land claim has been settled, ending a 30-year struggle by traditional owners for rights to land on Darwin's doorstep. The Northern Territory Government and traditional owners declared that they had reached an agreement over 65,000 hectares of land on the Cox Peninsula, west of Darwin. *Ballarat Courier*, (Ballarat VIC, 31 January 2009), 26. *Sunraysia Daily*, (Mildura VIC, 31

January 2009), 23. *Townsville Bulletin*, (Townsville QLD, 31 January 2009), 8. *The Examiner*, (Launceston TAS, 31 January 2009), 13. *Ilawarra Mercury*, (Wollongong NSW, 31 January 2009), 24. *Northern Territory News*, (Darwin, 31 January 2009), 19. *National Indigenous Times*, (Malua Bay NSW, 5 February 2009), 3. *Border Mail*, (Albury-Wodonga VIC, 31 January 2009), 28. *National Indigenous Times*, (Malua Bay NSW, 5 February 2009), 5.

2-Feb-09 NT **New Indigenous body sworn in** For the first time in the Northern Territory, the government has appointed an Indigenous body to advise it on Aboriginal affairs. *National Indigenous Times*, (Malua Bay NSW, 19 February 2009), 7.

17-Feb-09 NT **Arrente warning: behave or get out** The native title holders of Alice Springs have called on bush visitors to 'mind the lore of the land while they're here - or get out'. Under a plan being worked on with the Northern Territory and Federal Governments, native title holders will educate visitors on where it is safe to be and where it is not. *Centralian Advocate*, (Alice Springs, 17 February 2009), 5.

Queensland

25-Feb-09 QLD **Mabo community challenges State Government** The tiny island community that set the nation's land rights agenda with the 1992 Mabo decisions says it is ready to initiate a legal challenge against the Queensland Government if necessary, to have a school built on the native title land. *Torres News* (Thursday Island, QLD, 25 January 2009), 10.

South Australia

7-Jan-09 SA **Weir threatens return of Hindmarsh saga** Ngarrindjeri Native Title Committee has threatened to re-initiate the Hindmarsh Island bridge affair if the Rann Government moves ahead with the proposed weir at Clayton, near the Murray Mouth. *The Australian*, (National, 7 January 2009), 5.

15-Jan-09 SA **McLaughlin Park delay** Native title concerns have delayed the construction of the replacement under cover viewing site of the main oval at Millicent's McLaughlin Park. According to a recent statement from Millicent Football Netball Club, the new structure is awaiting native title clearance. *South Eastern Times*, (Millicent SA, 15 January 2009), 21.

22-Jan-09 SA **Elders back Olympic Dam native title claim** Despite Arabunna elder Kevin Buzzacott calling for the immediate closure of the Olympic Dam mine, the Kokatha elders have given their support for the proposed native title claim over the Olympic Dam area. *Monitor Roxby Downs*, (Roxby Downs, SA, 22 January 2009), 5. *Monitor Roxby Downs*, (Roxby Downs, SA, 28 January 2009), 3.

Tasmania

10-Feb-09 TAS **Independence moves by Aboriginals** Aboriginal leaders are this month meeting Launceston to plan a push to form their own government to control Crown land resources. *Launceston times*, (Launceston TAS, 10 February 2009), 5.

Victoria

6-Jan-09 VIC **Native Title reform bid** Indigenous leader Mick Dodson, who chaired the steering committee for the development of a Victorian Native Title Settlement Framework, says in a report that if reforms are adopted then native title claims in Victoria could be largely resolved by 2020. *The Age*, (Melbourne VIC, 6 January 2009)

8-Jan-09 VIC **Nationals slam 'secretive' native title plan** The Nationals have criticised the Victorian Government over its guarded approach to land management and called on it to confess on native title reform plans. Victorian deputy leader Peter Walsh said it was a terrible disgrace that country Victorians were the last to be notified on management of local Crown land. The overhaul, to be considered by cabinet, would allow traditional owner groups to be able to negotiate with the State Government to jointly manage areas like national parks. *The Age*, (Melbourne VIC, 8 January 2009), 5. *Sunraysia Daily*, (Mildura VIC, 7 January 2009), 8.

09-Jan-09 NATIONAL **Native Title shake-up** The Victorian Government is considering a draft report on changes to native title land management which could see Indigenous groups jointly managing areas. The report suggests that Aboriginal groups that could prove a traditional, rather than continuous, connection to land could negotiate agreements with the Government to jointly manage areas such as national parks. *Riverine Herald*, (Echuca VIC, 9 January 2009), 3. *The Week*,

(National, 9 January 2009), 6. *The Age*, (Melbourne, VIC, 9 January 2009), 11. *Border Mail*, (Albury-Wodonga VIC, 7 January 2009), 20. *Warrnambool Standard*, (Warrnambool VIC, 7 January 2009), 8. *Cairns Post*, (Cairns QLD, 7 January 2009), 11. *Shepparton News*, (Shepparton VIC, 7 January 2009), 6. *The Age*, (Melbourne VIC, 7 January 2009), 3. *The Age*, (Melbourne VIC, 7 January 2009), 10. *The Age*, (Melbourne VIC, 6 January 2009), 1. *The Week*, (National, 9 January 2009), 6. *East Gippsland News*, (East-Gippsland, 14 January 2009), 1. *Wangarata Chronicle*, (Wangarata VIC, 9 January 2009), 9. *National Indigenous Times*, (Malua Bay NSW, 22 January 2009), 8. *Mansfield Courier*, (Mansfield VIC, 14 January 2009), 18.

15-Jan-09 VIC **Aborigines press on with Bay bid in court** A native title claim over Port Phillip Bay will proceed in the Federal Court this year despite a proposed state revamp of Aboriginal Land rights that would avoid prolonged, expensive court battles. *The Age*, (Melbourne VIC, 15 January 2009), 3.

19-Jan-09 VIC **Hattah native title claim fraud, says elder** A Native title claim on a huge area of land near the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park is a fraud, according to a local elder. Mr Kennedy, who claims he is a traditional owner of the land, has said that nearly 18 applicants on the title claim were not from the area. *Sunraysia Daily*, (Mildura VIC, 19 January 2009), 3.

20-Jan-09 VIC **Angered family steps up fights for sacred land** The Kennedy's, a Robinvale family, claim Iluka employees have acted illegally and have been mining on their land for years without permission. Brendan Kennedy believes Iluka are definitely on their native title land and as a result they feel they are being dispossessed. *Sunraysia Daily*, (Mildura VIC, 20 January 2009), 5. *Sunraysia Daily*, (Mildura VIC, 19 January 2009), 3.

23-Jan-09 VIC **Land council steps back** Barengi Gadjin Land Council has decided against joining a traditional owner group supporting joint authority to manage Crown land. The Victorian Traditional Land Justice Group, together with the State Government, have formed a steering committee to jointly develop a Victorian native title settlement framework. *Wimmera Mail Times*, (Horsham VIC, 23 January 2009), 19.

Western Australia

8-Jan-09 WA **Shire pushes for LNG inclusion** Environs Kimberley announced that the LNG precinct in Broome

was an environmental disaster waiting to happen. The organisation along with others will be stepping up its campaign against development. The Government has appointed a facilitator to aid in negotiations between environmental activist, Indigenous stakeholders and gas companies. These will be proper negotiations - the facilitation is not about railroading traditional owners and Aboriginal people of the Kimberley. *Broome Advertiser*, (Broome WA, 8 January 2009), 1.

10-Jan-09 WA **Nyoongars seek land veto power** The Nyoongar people are pushing for an essential change in native title legislation that would give them the right to mediate in development plans for unallocated Crown land. South West Land and Sea Council who represent the group, wants the newly proposed system in Victoria to be implemented which allows groups to jointly manage land with the State Government. *The West Australian*, (Perth, 10 January 2009), 7.

16-Jan-09 WA **Changes of responsibility** Premier Colin Barnett has reassigned the areas of early childhood development, women's interests and native title to provide clearer lines of Ministerial responsibility within Cabinet. Native Title responsibilities have been handed to Attorney-General Christian Porter. *Golden Mail*, (Kalgoorlie WA, 16 January 2009), 2. *Geraldton Guardian*, (Geraldton WA, 16 January 2009), 10.

21-Jan-09 WA **Unique title deal brokered** A unique deal was signed last month between the Jjamal Native Title Claim Group and Atlas Iron Limited. The deal sets a new precedent for mining companies throughout WA. It bonds strong protection of Njamal country with community communication and continuing associations throughout the operations. *Pilbara News*, (Pilbara WA, 21 January 2009), 4.

23-Jan-09 WA **System labelled tough and cruel** Yamatji Land and Sea Council have supported a request for changes to native title law after a senior Aboriginal official labelled the current system "tough" and "cruel". *Geraldton Guardian*, (Geraldton WA, 23 January 2009), 12.

29-Jan-09 WA **Gas threat raises ire of owners** Kimberley Land Council deputy chairman Nolan Hunter has called for the state Government to withdraw the possibility of using compulsory acquisition to secure land for a gas hub at James Price Point. WA Premier Colin Barnett announced the selection of James Price Point as a location for an LNG processing site last month, flagging compulsory acquisition of the land as an option. *Broome Advertiser*, (Broome WA, 29 January 2009), 6.

5-Feb-09 WA **Act dismisses 14 WA native title claims**

Fourteen native title claims covering more than 290,000km of the Goldfields, South West, the Pilbara and Geraldton have been dismissed on technicalities in WA recently. *Farm Weekly*, (WA, 5 February 2009), 167.

11-Feb-09 WA **Aboriginals oppose Swan Valley mosque**

Plans to build a mosque in the Swan Valley have upset Nyoongar elders who claim the Caversham land is a sacred site and has been protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act since 1984. *West Australian*, (Perth WA, 11 February 2009), 13.

12-Feb-09 WA **Aboriginals set for mining deal with Rio**

Aboriginal groups in the Pilbara and mining giant Rio Tinto are on the brink of signing Australia's biggest mining agreement after five years of sensitive negotiations. The agreement, expected to be sealed in April, covers compensation, jobs, training, protection of culturally significant sites, environmental issues and post-mining rehabilitation of the land. *West Australian*, (Perth WA, 12 February 2009), 44.

19-Feb-09 WA **Call to speed up native title** Kimberley Land Council executive director Wayne Bergmann has called for a new Kimberley-wide approach to native title negotiations in order to speed up the construction of key projects in indigenous communities. *Broome Advertiser*, (Broome WA, 19 February 2009), 9.

26-Feb-09 WA **LNG hub gets boost from traditional owners**

The state government's plans for a gas processing hub on the Kimberley coast have received a boost from the region's traditional owners, which have said they are ready to negotiate a deal for a large scale liquefied natural gas development on Aboriginal land. *Business News*, (Perth WA, 26 February 2009), 4.

Applications Lodged with the Federal Court

DATE FILED	APPLICATION NAME	APPLICATION TYPE	STATUS	STATE/ TERRITORY	TRIBUNAL FILE NO.	FEDERAL COURT FILE NO.
30/01/2009	Gandangara LALC #2	Non-claimant application	Active	NSW	NN09/2	NSD82/09
30/01/2009	Gandangara LALC #3	Non-claimant application	Active	NSW	NN09/3	NSD83/09
30/01/2009	Gandangara LALC #4	Non-claimant application	Active	NSW	NN09/4	NSD84/09
27/01/2009	Gwydir Shire Council	Non-claimant application	Active	NSW	NN09/1	NSD65/09

This information has been extracted from the [National Native Title Tribunal website: http://www.nntt.gov.au/Applications-And-Determinations/Search-Applications/Pages/Search.aspx](http://www.nntt.gov.au/Applications-And-Determinations/Search-Applications/Pages/Search.aspx) accessed 13 March, 2009. For further information about native title applications contact the National Native Title Tribunal on 1800 640 501 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.