

<i>CT</i> = Canberra Times	Sydney Morning Herald
<i>Fin R</i> = Financial Review	<i>Tel M</i> = Telegraph Mirror (NSW)
<i>HS</i> = Herald Sun (VIC)	<i>WA</i> = West Australian
<i>KM</i> = Kalgoorlie Miner	<i>WAus</i> = Weekend Australian

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CLAIMS

New South Wales

Byron Bay [NNTT Ref#NC95/1, NC96/23]

A full bench of the Federal Court ordered the National Native Title Tribunal to reconsider its rejection of a request by the Byron Bay Environmental Centre to take part in the determination of a claim by the Arakwal people to land in and around Byron Bay. (*Fin R*, 21 August, p7)

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Queensland

Quandamooka [NNTT Ref#QC95/2]

Native Title claimants on North Stradbroke Island have won the right to control development in a land deal. The agreement will give the Quandamooka claimants more control over parts of the Redlands Shire than they would have achieved under a straightforward Native Title claim. Redlands Shire Mayor, Mr Eddie Santagiuliana, said the council wanted to show leadership on native title issues. Quandamooka Land Council representative, Ms Penny Tripcony, said the agreement gave the traditional owners the recognition they had wanted in the area. (*Aus*, 14 August, p6)*

Mr Santagiuliana said the agreement would save ratepayers money by avoiding drawn out litigation while encouraging community goodwill and reconciliation. Native Title Tribunal president Justice Robert French commented that it was the first of its type and a sensible way for local communities to deal with Native Title. Australian Local Government Association Native Title Project Manager, Ed Wensing, said the agreement was an excellent model to follow. (*CM*, 14 August, p4)

Gangulu People [NNTTRef#QC97/36];

Gooreng Gooreng People [NNTT Ref#QC97/35];

Mandandanji People [NNTT Ref#QC97/33, QC97/50]

The Native Title Tribunal confirmed that three new claims had been lodged over land around Roma. A claim on behalf of the Gangulu people takes in land around Biloela, Moura and central Queensland. A second claim on behalf of the Gooreng Gooreng people takes in land around Gladstone, Bundaberg and central Queensland. The third claim on behalf of the Mandandanji people covers land around Roma, South of Surat and South West Queensland. (*CM, 17 Sept, p12*)

Ngaro Gia Wiri Yuwiburra Birria [NNTT Ref#QC97/41]

A native title claim by the Wiri, Yuwiburra and Birria people covers nine shires and two cities. Along with the cities of Mackay and Charters Towers. The shires involved include Belyando, Bowen, Broadsound, Burdekin, Dalrymple, Mirani, Nebo, Sarina and Whitsunday. Pastor Len Watson, Colin McLennan and Stephen Walsh have laid claims on behalf of the Wiri, Yuwiburra and Birria people. Pastor Watson told a local newspaper the claim took in areas where native title had not been extinguished. The Wiri, Yuwiburra and Birria people are seeking to exclude others or limit access to areas of special significance for their spiritual, burial and hunting rights. (*CM, 18 Sept, p3*)

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Western Australia

Mirriuwung-Gajerrong [NNTT Ref#WC94/2, WC94/6]

Before the Mirriuwung-Gajerrong claim over waters has been decided in the Federal Court, the State Government has called for expressions of interest from developers for stage two of the Ord River scheme. WA Aboriginal Legal Service Chief Executive Officer, Dennis Eggington, criticised Primary Industry Minister, Mr Monty House, and State Cabinet for agreeing to the development of second stage of the scheme. Mr Eggington also questioned the government's commitment to discussion and negotiation on native title. (*WA, 1 August, p9*)*

The Minister stated that the preferred option would be an arrangement where Aboriginal people take a proportion of the land in exchange for the state government resuming those areas that are currently pastoral leases. Australian Conservation Foundation Executive Director, Jim Downey, said the main site proposed for the dam was a remote area of outstanding natural beauty and immense cultural significance to local Aboriginal people. (*Fin R, 1 August, p12*)

The second stage of the Ord River scheme was approved by the Western Australian and Northern Territory Governments. Primary Industry Minister, Mr House, said that the WA Government had had a series of discussions and negotiations with native title claimants. (*Aus, 8 August, p38*)

Environment Minister Robert Hill told the Senate that he had written to Western Australia's Primary Industry Minister, asking him to ensure that all environmental impacts from the dam proposal were assessed properly. He asked to be contacted before a decision was made to go ahead with the project, putting pressure on the State Government to follow the environmental process. (*WA, 26 August, p13*)

WA Minister for Resource Development, Colin Barnett, has suggested that the government want Aboriginal people to share in the benefits of the Ord River development. The Minister blamed the slow progress in getting agreement from Aboriginal people on the existence of a the native title claim over lands including the development area. (*W Aus, 6 Sept, p4*)

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MINING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

National

Director of the Minerals Council of Australia, Dick Wells, responding to comments by Shadow Treasurer, Gareth Evans, said that to argue for claimants of native title to have benefits beyond those available to other Australians, particularly pastoralists, is not likely to win broad community support and would, instead, cause conflict. (*Media Release, 14 August*)

Perth mining lawyer, Mr Michael Hunt, has suggested that resource companies were less concerned with the existence of native title than with validity of their rights to explore and develop prospective land. Mr Hunt recommended negotiating agreements with native title claimants. However, Mr Hunt said, overlapping claims presented serious impediments to negotiating agreements. (*Fin R, 22 Sept, p7*)*

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Northern Territory

Rio Tinto Kintyre Uranium Mine

Rio Tinto's Kintyre uranium project is said to have been officially put on hold because of falling uranium prices and delays in obtaining native title approvals. While native title approval has been delayed, with many other projects, because of negotiations over Native Title Act amendments, it is understood there are no substantial areas of conflict between Aboriginal people and the company. (*Aus, 18 August, p29 & 30*)

Energy Resources Australia and Jabiluka

Spokesperson for the Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation, Jacqui Katona, said the Mirrar people were investigating legal avenues to stop negotiations from proceeding before the case was heard and it became clear whether the 1982 mine leases were legal. (*Fin R, 28 August, p3*) Traditional