

June 1993. (*DTel, 10 Oct, p24*) Although contrary to the principles of the Cape York Land Use Agreement, the application has the support of other signatories, including the Wilderness Society, citing the failure of the federal and state governments to progress implementation of the Agreement. (*Media Release, 9 Oct*)

Iman People [NNTT Ref#QC97/55]

Extensions of the Iman application to areas from Dalby and Mitchell in the south to Emerald in Central Queensland have been criticised by some of the group. This second application covers the area of the first and also specifically includes the site of the proposed Dawson River Dam and the Surat Basin. It is expected that dispute over the application may postpone development in these areas. (*CM, 3 Nov, p8*)

Western Australia

Ngaluma Injibandi People [NNTT Ref#WC94/5] [NNTT Ref#WC95/2]

Yaburara Mardudhenera People [NNTT Ref#WC96/89]

The Shire of Roebourne, in the Pilbara, is worried that the slow progress of negotiations between native title applicants and the State Government will frustrate development plans for Karratha. Two native title applicants from the Ngaluma Injibandi people and the Yaburara Mardudhenera group are involved in negotiations. (*WA, 15 Nov, p14*)

Northern Territory

Crocker Island Seas [NNTT Ref#DC94/6]

Barrier Pearls and the Aboriginal people of Croker Island signed Australia's first native title agreement over an area of sea. According to the agreement, Barrier Pearls will pay about \$2 million in royalties over 20 years, provide employment opportunities, respect sacred sites and assist with the development of infrastructure on the island. (*WA, 18 Oct, p5*)*

Bradshaw Station [NNTT Ref#DC/97]

A native title application was lodged on 12 November with the NNTT. The application is over an area, which includes an army-training base at Bradshaw Station. Northern Land Council chief executive Norman Fry said the application was lodged to ensure native title holders' rights were not infringed upon by the defence use of the property. Minister for Defence, Ian McLachlan said the Defence Department was willing to talk to Aboriginal applicants. He is not expecting the application to impact on defence usage of the station. (*NT, 21 Nov, p6*)

Victoria

North West Nations [NNTT Ref#VC97/17]

The Barapararapa, Wamba Wamba, Wadi Wadi, Yeri Yeri, Latje Latje and Wergaia peoples have lodged a native title application with the NNTT over Crown land in north-western Victoria. The application covers two national parks, state parks, state forests, reserves and waterways. A successful application could lead to agreement to jointly manage the national parks. (*Age, 7 Nov, pA4*)*

MINING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

General

Australian Bureau of Statistics figures, showing 20 per cent growth in most areas of exploration for minerals and petroleum, suggest that native title is not necessarily having the

detrimental affect predicted. However, Mineral Council of Australia, executive director, Dick Wells, said native title was definitely slowing development. (*Aus, 1 Oct, p29*)

A report commissioned by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission rejected industry claims that mining and exploration had lost billion of dollars in investment because of native title. The study by Dr Ian Manning of the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research found that contrary to industry claims, there was little evidence of depressed exploration activity after the High Court's 1992 decision in Mabo-Queensland. (*FinR, 27 Nov, p5*)*

Western Australia

Native Title applicants have challenged the expansion of the Anaconda nickel project at Murrin Murrin. Anaconda reached an agreement with 18 Aboriginal groups in the region in April this year over 80 per cent of the Murrin Murrin project. However, negotiations are continuing over the remaining 20 percent. Mr Murray Stubbs said the Bibila-Lungutjarra and Goolburthunoo peoples were also yet to reach agreement over the future mining of sites adjacent to Murrin Murrin. (*FinR, 27 Oct, p23*)

Croesus Mining has reached a settlement of native title claims over Binduli tenements at Kalgoorlie. Croesus managing director, Steve Johnston, said the settlement had come quicker than expected, while the company had been preparing to become a test case for the Tribunal. (*WA, 23 Oct, p66*)

Queensland

Agreements between the Cape York Aboriginal community and COMALCO would be signed 18 months after both the parties signed a memorandum of understanding over development of the company's extensive Queensland bauxite leases. The Napranum and Mapoon Aboriginal communities have agreed to the development of the Ely bauxite project, which is to be constructed by multinational aluminium giant Alcan. (*Aus, 20 Oct, p19*)

Speaking at an Australian Pipeline Industry Conference in Adelaide, Noel Pearson praised the Chevron project and the approach taken by the company toward negotiations with the traditional owners. No settlement has yet been reached on the project but Mr Pearson highlighted the importance of good faith negotiations. (*Aus, 4 Nov, p21*)* United States energy company Chevron has negotiated a land access agreement with native title holders to facilitate a \$3 billion gas project to build a pipeline from PNG to Gladstone, Queensland. The agreement has been reached after nine months of consultation with native title claimants, graziers, farmers and residents. (*Aus, 25 Nov, p23*) In return for guaranteed security of land access for the pipeline route Aboriginal people will receive some employment and training during the pipeline's construction. (*CM, 26 Nov, p13*)

South Australia

Liberal Member for the seat of Grey in South Australia, Mr Barry Wakelin has warned that opal miners were frustrated enough by native title to resort to violence. (*Ad, 2 Oct, p3*)

Merrit Mining NL has reached agreement with Aboriginal bodies on all but one of its Gawler Craton exploration licences west of Ceduna clearing the way to begin systematic fieldwork later in 1997. (*Aus, 20 Oct, p2*)