

The WA Government has offered land to Aboriginal native title applicants in Kalgoorlie-Boulder in exchange for permission to develop 1500 housing lots in the town. (WA, 5 Dec, p4)

Carnarvon's Ingarda people and several other Aboriginal groups claiming native title over the Carnarvon area, have signed a historic agreement with the local shire and State Government, for residential expansion of the town between the Gascoyne river and the town center. Gnulli Committee chairman, Ron Crowe, representing the Aboriginal groups said that the agreement highlights the workability of the 'right to negotiate' process under the *Native Title Act*. (ST, 14 Dec, p48)*

The Nyoongar Circle of Elders have said that they will make an application for all non-residential land in the East Perth area after plans for a Reconciliation at Gloucester Park were rejected. (WA, 7 Jan, p8)

Proposals to create Aboriginal shires in the East Pilbara and North of Broome have been criticised by shire officers concerned about their viability and about duplication. East Pilbara community liaison officer Teddy Biljabu, suggested that rich mineral deposits on native title land would make communities reasonably self-sustaining. (WA, 29 Jan, p39)

South Australia

The Kokatha, Barngarla and Kujani people have asked for jobs and other involvement in the \$2.5 billion Kistler Aerospace Corporation's rocket launching program at Woomera, due to start next year. The State and Federal Governments said the rocket program would not start until Aboriginal, safety and environmental issues were settled. (Ad, 2 Dec, p4)

Phillip Lawson, of the Barkandji people, has lodged a claim against South Australian Water, to avert plans to re-submerge the 10,000 grave burial site at Lake Victoria. South Australian Water argue that while they do not contest the native title claim, they are concerned about waiting for that process to take its course. (Ad, 5 Jan, p10)*

Victoria

Cobungra Station, one of Victoria's most historic grazing properties, has been sold for \$4.1 million, despite being subject to a native title claim. (Age, 3 Dec, pA2)

Tasmania

The Tasmanian Aboriginal Land Council has warned of a legal battle over the Government's plans to sell Crown land shack sites. (HM, 12 Dec, p2)*

KUMARANGK/ HINDMARSH ISLAND BRIDGE CASE

The New South Wales Government intends to intervene in support of the appellants in the Kumarangk/Hindmarsh Island Bridge case. The NSW Solicitor General will support Counsel for the Ngarrandjeri women who will argue that the law removing their right to seek heritage protection is unconstitutional. The Queensland and South Australian Governments will support the Federal Government in arguing that s.51 (26) of the Constitution allows the Government to make special laws for a particular race, not only for their benefit but to their detriment. (SMH, 28 Jan, p4)

(Editors note: The Kumarangk/Hindmarsh Island Bridge case will be significant in determining issues that are also relevant to any constitutional challenge to the Federal government's Native Title Act Amendment Bill).