

chance to get a real job on country'. Escalating wages has lead Oxiana to 'introduce pre-employment training...offering long term unemployed people a six-month training course through TAFE and then a job at the company's mine'. Rio Tinto is also recruiting Indigenous workers to fill jobs as fly in and fly out workers. Rio Tinto iron ore human resources manager, Rick Briant, said that 'Broome also has extensive employment programs running so that's why we work in conjunction with the CDEP's there to make sure that people , when they're ready for work, have an opportunity to take jobs with us'. Recently, Prime Minister John Howard has urged Australia's top 100 businesses to increase Indigenous employment. The Minerals Council said that 'it been working alongside Indigenous Australians for more than a decade but welcomed the encouragement from Mr Howard'. Chief executive Mitch Hooke said that 'it does not hurt for extra encouragement from Mr Howard'. *Independent Weekly* (Adelaide, 14 April 2007), 16; 'PM push for indigenous workers' *Burnie Advocate* (Burnie, 17 April 2007), 12; 'Aboriginal Business' *The Australian* (National, 17 April 2007), 13; 'Employ blacks, PM tells business' *Canberra Times* (Canberra, 17 April 2007), 2; 'Rio increases indigenous jobs' *Kimberley Echo* (Kununurra, 12 April 2007), 8; 'Job creation key to Indigenous policy' *Mining Chronicle* (National, April 2007), 77; 'Century's unique partners' *North West Star* (Mount Isa, 20 April 2007), 17; see also 'Cost blowouts looms at Rio's Argyle mine' *West Australian* (Perth, 28 April 2007), 70.

17-Apr-07 **WA Hearing on native title** The full bench of the Federal Court has 'begun hearing an appeal by the West Australian and Federal Governments against the granting of native title over Perth'. In September 2006 the court 'upheld the Indigenous Noongar people's native title claim over more than 6000sq km of Perth and its surrounds'. Both the Federal and State governments are arguing that the decision was 'inconsistent with previous native title rulings'. Ken Petit lawyer for the State of Western Australia said that 'there is no evidence that the people of the South West of WA had an identity as a distinct group. People in the claim area in 1829 did not think of themselves as the same or unified in

any other sense'. But South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council chief executive Glen Kelly said that 'the appeal went far beyond the clarification of the laws by questioning the Noongar's people's connection with the land'. NNTT president Graeme Neate said that 'it is clear from recent judgments that in some parts of Australia, groups of Aboriginal people will find it difficult, if not impossible to demonstrate that their relationship to their traditional country meets the standard for a determination that native title exists'. This means that 'the only hope many indigenous Australians have of seeing their land rights recognised is a private company or government agreeing to give them some rights or privileges in relation to their land'. *Daily Telegraph* (Sydney, 17 April 2007), 12; 'Link disputed in Perth native title appeal' *West Australian* (Perth, 17 April 2007), 10; 'Native title claim 'face big hurdles' *Age* (Melbourne, 20 April 2007), 8; 'Federal Court Begins Perth native title case' *National Indigenous Times* (National, 19 April 2007), 13; 'Court hears Perth native title appeal' *Koori Mail* (National, 25 April 2007), 12.

19-Apr-07 **WA Historical land returned to Indigenous community** Community leaders 'attended a ceremony at Lake Pleasant View to see the ownership of land returned' which has been bought under the Indigenous Land Corporation's new Cultural Acquisition program. The land will be managed by the Albany Heritage Reference Group Aboriginal Corporation. Department of Indigenous Affairs regional manager Anthony Galante said that: 'its a real significant milestone because its effectively the handing back of land to Aboriginal care and control'. There's been a long term Aboriginal connection as demonstrated by archaeological evidence that dates back between 7000 and 12000 years'. The Albany Heritage Reference Group Aboriginal Corporation is required to produce a management plan for the property and once it has been endorsed by the ILC the land will be transferred to the reference group. *Albany Advertiser* (Albany, 19 April 2007), 4.

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APPLICATIONS LODGED WITH THE FEDERAL COURT

Native title applications lodged by date

DATE FILED	APPLICATION NAME	APPLICATION TYPE	STATUS	STATE/TERRITORY	TRIBUNAL FILE NO.	FEDERAL COURT FILE NO.
20/03/2007	Wiradjuri People of the Bathurst/Lithgow/Mudgee area	CLAIMANT	ACTIVE	NSW	NC07/3	NSD429/07

20/03/2007	Gomeri Narrabri People	CLAIMANT	ACTIVE	NSW	NC07/2	NSD437/07
29/03/2007	Kulkalgai People #2	CLAIMANT	ACTIVE	QLD	QC07/3	QUD98/07
29/03/2007	Tipperary (KAMU)	CLAIMANT	ACTIVE	NT	DC07/1	NTD8/07
23/04/2007	Western Yalanji Combined #5 and #7	CLAIMANT	ACTIVE	QLD	QC07/4	QUD6003/01
27/04/2007	Johnson and Kendall Grange	NON-CLAIMANT	ACTIVE	NSW	NN07/3	NSD729/07

This information has been extracted from the [National Native Title Tribunal website: http://www.nntt.gov.au/applications/](http://www.nntt.gov.au/applications/) accessed 11 May 2007. For further information about native title applications contact the National Native Title Tribunal on 1800 640 501 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

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REGISTRATION TEST DECISIONS

Registration test decisions by decision date

DECISION DATE	APPLICATION DATE	APPLICATION NAME	STATE/ERR.	DECISION	NNTT FILE NO.	FEDERAL COURT FILE NO.
16/03/2007	22/11/2006	Pine Hill Station	NT	ACCEPTED	DC99/4-2	NTD6004/99
5/04/2007	2/11/2006	Boonthamurra People	QLD	NOT ACCEPTED	QC06/15-1	QUD435/06
20/04/2007	20/03/2007	Wiradjuri People of the Bathurst/Lithgow /Mudgee area	NSW	ACCEPTED	NC07/3-1	NSD429/07
20/04/2007	20/03/2007	Gomeri Narrabri People	NSW	ACCEPTED	NC07/2-1	NSD437/07
20/04/2007	21/12/2006	Mantjintjarra Ngalia #2	WA	NOT ACCEPTED	WC06/6-1	WAD372/06
23/04/2007	6/11/2002	Indjilandji/Dithan noi	QLD	ACCEPTED	QC02/36-2	QUD6034/02
24/04/2007	28/09/2006	Bidjara People #5	QLD	NOT ACCEPTED	QC06/13-1	QUD370/06

This information has been extracted from the [National Native Title Tribunal website: http://www.nntt.gov.au/cgi-bin/search/search.pl?dec_date=2007&col=registration&sorttype=dec_date&disp=true&list=dec_date](http://www.nntt.gov.au/cgi-bin/search/search.pl?dec_date=2007&col=registration&sorttype=dec_date&disp=true&list=dec_date) accessed 11 May 2007. For further information about Registration Test Decisions contact the National Native Title Tribunal on 1800 640 501 or visit www.nntt.gov.au.

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APPLICATIONS CURRENTLY IN NOTIFICATION

Native title applications by current notification of applications

NOTIFICATION CLOSING DATE	APPLICATION NAME	APPLICATION TYPE	DATE FILED	STATE/TERRITORY	TRIBUNAL FILE NO.	FEDERAL COURT FILE NO.
27/05/2007	Town of Batchelor No. 3	CLAIMANT	20/10/2006	NT	DC06/4	NTD18/06
28/05/2007	Bundambar Pty Ltd	NON-CLAIMANT	9/01/2007	NSW	NN07/1	NSD37/07