

faith between the parties. It means that the South West Land and Sea Council can engage effectively with the state to reach agreement regarding the Single Noongar claim.

International

[Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between The Government of Canada and the Cree of Eeyou Istchee](#)

The agreement, which includes \$1.4 billion in compensation, is broad in nature in that it:

- brings resolution to litigation over past implementation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA);
- resolves other disputes not necessarily related to the JBNQA;
- clarifies the federal responsibilities the Cree Regional Authority will administrate for the next 20 years;
- establishes a two-phased process for modernizing Cree governance; and
- establishes a dispute resolution mechanism.

Canada, Seton Lake Indian Band and Province of British Columbia Reach Final Agreement on Settlement

The Seton Lake Indian Band will receive \$600,000 from Canada and 31.6 acres of land from the Province which Minister Strahl will recommend be added to the reserve under the department's Additions to Reserve Policy. If the Band acquires other lands in the area, the Minister will, subject to the terms of the Additions to Reserve Policy, which requires consultation with local government, recommend the addition of up to another 168 acres of rural land in the area.

Native title in the News

National

01-Mar-08 NATIONAL **Native Title Talks** The Federal Government will 'seek to negotiate more settlements to native title claims' with Attorney General Robert McClelland saying that 'the Government would also try to make native title more effective in providing economic development opportunities for Indigenous people'. *Burnie Advocate* (Burnie, 1 March 2008), 17; 'Native Title Shake Up to Boost Communities' *Age* (Melbourne, 7 March 2008), 2; 'End native title litigation says AG' *Australian* (National, 7 March 2008), 30; 'ALP promises major change on native title' *West Australian* (Perth, 7 March 2008), 18; 'Native title to be fast tracked' *National Indigenous Times* (Malua Bay, 6 March 2008), 10.

01-Mar-08 NATIONAL **Industry leaders to review Kimberley and NW potential** Mining Industry leaders 'will convene on Broome from March 17 to 19 to review the future for mining and development' of the North West and Kimberley region. The conference will be held at the Cable Beach resort. *Mining Chronicle* (National, March 2008), 124.

07-Mar-08 NATIONAL **Aborigines fighting intervention have a lot to contend with** Traditional owners Reggie Wurrildjal and Joy Garlbin from western Arnhem Land are challenging the federal government's Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act on the basis that no 'just terms have been offered'. They also argue that 'just terms are not just a monetary payoff. Maningrida wants the likes of sacred sites and traditional foraging rights protected from interference by the intervention; and Bawinanga wants its considerable assets protected from seizure'. *Australian* (National, 7 March 2008), 29.

25-Mar-08 NATIONAL **Legal Aid tops attorney-generals agenda** South Australian Attorney General Michael Atkinson will 'host the first Standing Committee of Attorney General' and will 'also urge state and federal attorney general to follow his state lead in settling

indigenous land claims in a practical and consultative way rather than through expensive native title court cases'. *Australian Financial Review* (National, 25 March 2008), 9

28-Mar-08 NATIONAL **Leader demands real value of land** Indigenous leader Galarrwuy Yunupingu has 'called for Aboriginal land to be given its real value through more flexible leasing arrangements that also take into account mineral wealth'. *Australian* (National, 28 March 2008), 7.

01-Apr-08 NATIONAL **Macklin snubs justice report** Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin has stated that the 'Government would conduct an independent and transparent review of the intervention' and has said that the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Social Justice Report's recommendations may be included in the inquiry. Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma has argued that there should be a '10 point action plan to hose down the intervention and restore what he sees as basic human rights'. *Australian* (National, 1 April 2008), 1; 'Reject measures that are biased' *Australian* (National, 1 April 2008), 4; 'No evidence of research based policy' *National Indigenous Times* (National, 3 April 2008), 25; 'Native title progress 'slow or non existent' *Lawyers Weekly* (National, 4 April 2008), 1; 'Evidence rules cause native title 'nightmare' *Australian Financial Review* (National, 4 April 2008), 65; 'Time to ask the big native title questions' *Financial Review* (National, 11 April 2008), 53; 'Chasm in indigenous affairs' *Australian* (National, 29 April 2008), 15.

01-Apr-08 NATIONAL **Native Title labelled a 'legal nightmare'** Comments made by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma in his Native Title Report 2007 have been supported by Former Federal Court Judge Ron Merkel who 'accused the High Court of creating a 'factual and legal nightmare' in setting 'horrendously difficult' evidentiary hurdles. *Financial Review* (National, 1 April 2008), 11.

11-Apr-08 NATIONAL **Push for Aboriginal rights over resources** Jon Altman, the ANU Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research said that laws should be 'changed to give Aboriginal people greater rights over natural resources'. Mr Altman said that 'consideration needed to be given to the idea [of] amending the law to provide indigenous land owners

with legal property rights over resources occurs in the US and most Canadian provinces'. *Australian* (National, 11 April 2008), 6; 'Bridging the cultural divide' *Earth matters* (National, 1 April 2008), 8.

12-Apr-08 NATIONAL **Judge Sackville retires** Justice Sackville is retiring from the Federal Court. *Weekend Australian* (National, 12 April 2008), 35.

12-Apr-08 NATIONAL **Getting down to brass tacks on indigenous treaty** The 2020 summit provided the opportunity to consider a treaty between the Australian government and the Indigenous people of Australia. He argues that the 'starting point for a treaty should be acknowledgement of our history, including that indigenous people were the prior occupiers of the land, the injustices done to them and that the settlers who came later are to stay. Acknowledgement should be followed by negotiation rather than consultation.' *Canberra Times* (Canberra, 12 April 2008), 7.

New South Wales

15-Mar-08 NSW **Aboriginal workshop** A workshop on agreement making and land and water management was held at Corindi on 19 March 2008. The workshop focused on the Aboriginal Natural Resource Agreement Kits. *Daily Examiner* (Grafton, 15 March 2008), 3.

18-Mar-08 NSW **No view on land claim** The Glen Innes Severn Council has 'decided not to oppose an Aboriginal land claim over vacant crown land on the South-West boundary of Glen Innes'. The claim was made by the Glen Innes Aboriginal Lands Council under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983. *Glen Innes Examiner* (Glen Innes, 18 March 2008), 3.

26-Mar-08 NSW **Restoring the land** Three local Aboriginal land councils, the Yaegl, Thirny Island and Birrigan, Local Aboriginal Land Council have been 'awarded grants to help restore and protect their land'. *Clarence Valley Review* (Iluka, 26 March 2008), 4.

11-Apr-08 NSW **Pursuing claim** A native title claim on land at Lake Cowal is still ongoing. The claim was lodged by the Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation and two unit groups the Mooka united families and the Kalarie united traditional families. The claims are still before the Federal

Court and have not been finalised. *Lachlander* (Condobolin, 11 April 2008), 5.

Northern Territory

04-Mar-08 NT **Macklin to offer land lease deal**

Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin will offer the Indigenous community of Groote Eylandt the opportunity to 'opt for a shorter lease in the first practical application of amendments to the individual indigenous home ownership scheme'. The township had previously 'reached in principle agreements with the commonwealth for 99 year leases over their land in exchange for projects that would be worth \$20 million'. The government is considering amending the Land Rights Act 1976 to 'give communities the option to sign on to shorter township leases'. *Australian* (National, 4 March 2008), 8; 'Govt reviews short leases for townships' *Northern Territory News* (Darwin, 4 March 2008), 2; 'Grants to help those struck down by genetic lottery' *Age* (Melbourne, 5 March 2008), 6; 'Macklin clears way for indigenous leases' *Australian* (National, 5 March 2008), 4; 'Dreaming of an equal chance' *Weekend Australian* (National, 29 March 2008), 29.

05-Mar-08 NT **Permit System reinstated** Indigenous affairs Minister Jenny Macklin has introduced amendments that will 'remove the right of people (except government officials and journalists) to access remote Aboriginal communities unless they have a permit'. Sarah Hudson from the Centre of Independent Studies argues that land council control of the permit system has 'stifled business and tourism opportunities'. The Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance has released a 'proposed code of conduct for journalists entering Aboriginal towns'. *Northern Territory News* (Darwin, 5 March 2008), 17; 'Open access' *Geelong Advertiser* (Geelong, 10 March 2008), 15; 'Controversial leases under scheme could be shorter, Macklin says' *National Indigenous Times* (Malua Bay, 6 March 2008), 6; 'Media union adds its own barriers to permit system' *Australian* (National, 18 March 2008), 3; 'Barriers to permit system' *Australian* (20 March 2008), 17.

05-Mar-08 NT **Fresh challenge** The Northern Territory's Mineral Council's executive director Kezia Purick has left the organisation to join Austwide Mining Title Management. *Northern Territory News* (Darwin, 5 March 2008), 23.

08-Mar-08 NT **Decade long title bid fails** Native title claimant Tibby Quall on behalf of the Danggalaba clan has been refused leave to appeal a decision to not recognise native title over the Darwin region. Mr Quall argued that the hearing should be adjourned until he could find sufficient legal representation. However justices Kenneth Hayne and Susan Crennan said that 'Mr Quall would not have sufficient chance of success to give him special leave to appeal'. *Northern Territory News* (Darwin, 8 March 2008), 11.

18-Mar-08 NT **Investigation ordered into feuding land council** Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin and Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner have ordered an inquiry into the management of the Northern Land Council. *Australian* (National, 18 March 2008), 7; 'Review into powerful land council' *Age* (Melbourne, 18 March 2008), 3; 'Land council in the red' *Australian* (National, 17 March 2008), 2; 'Northern Exposure' *Australian* (National, 19 March 2008), 13; 'NLC Staff pursue bullying compo' *Australian* (National, 19 March 2008), 8; 'Land council investigation' *Launceston Examiner* (Launceston, 18 March 2008), 12; 'Land council probe' *Canberra Times* (18 March 2008), 2; 'Land council to be investigated' *Northern Territory News* (Darwin, 18 March 2008), 6; 'Cwealth announces investigation into NLC' *National Indigenous Times* (National, 20 March 2008), 4.

19-Mar-08 NT **Land owners pull support for Rio's sale of uranium** Rio Tinto has 'lost critical support for the proposed sale of its high grade Kintyre uranium deposit'. Offers made by Rio to the 'Martu people, the traditional owners, to win their support for the sale are 'embarrassingly low' despite their support being critical to the development of the Kintyre deposit. *West Australian* (Perth, 19 March 2008), 79; 'Rio loses support of Martu' *Sydney Morning Herald* (Sydney, 19 March 2008), 28; 'Martu back away from Rio over WA's Kintyre uranium stake' *Age* (Melbourne, 19 March 2008), 1.

03-Apr-08 NT **Old ways to fight climate change**

Northern Territory Chief Minister Paul Henderson 'said that indigenous people could help combat climate change while creating jobs that focus on the land'. Mr Henderson said that there can be scope to adopt traditional knowledge and practices for land management in the NT. *Northern Territory News* (Darwin, 3 April 2008), 9.

09-Apr-08 NT **Katherine Times** A public hearing will be held April 30 to discuss the changes to the intervention.

The Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Other Legislation Amendment (Emergency Response Consolidation) Bill 2008 was referred to the Senate's Community Affairs Committee on March 19 for inquiry and report to May 7. *Katherine Times* (Katherine, 9 April 2008), 5.

11-Apr-08 NT **Knowledge to save wildlife** The Threatened Species Network has said that there may be a role for local Aboriginal elders in the protection of rare animals in Central Australia at the Arid Zone Recovery Team forum held in Alice Springs. *Centralian Advocate* (Alice Springs, 11 April 2008), 9.

14-Apr-08 NT **Gran faces ruin after losing fight** Majorie Forster has lost a fight with her children to 'negotiate over a planned gas pipeline to run through Kamu land in the Daly River region'. Federal Court judge Justice Mansfield dismissed her appeal. It was argued in the appeal by the Northern Land Council, who represented her children that Mrs Foster was not 'acting in her clan's interests'. *Northern Territory News* (Darwin, 3 April 2008), 9.

Queensland

19-Mar-08 QLD **Reconnecting with country** Traditional owner rangers, Yuku BajaMuliku men 'are the new custodians of more than 1600 hectares of Aboriginal freehold land in the Annan River and Archer Point area. 'The rangers will be responsible for the 'maintenance of existing camp grounds, building new camp grounds, feral animal and weed management and track maintenance'. This program is similar to ranger programs in Cape York. *Cooktown Local News* (Cooktown, 19 March 2008), 9.

20-Mar-08 QLD **Past Present and future come together with Girramay Land Use Agreement** The Cardwell Shire Council has signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Girramay People. The Girramay people originally lodged their claim in 1997 which covers an area from the Murray River south to the Cardwell Shire boundary. *Tully Times* (Tully, 20 March 2008), 3.

27-Mar-08 QLD **Aboriginal elders form land groups** Indigenous elders will have 'greater input into land management issues following the set up of the Queensland Murray Darling Committee Regional

Aboriginal Advisory Group.' The Group will 'provide technical advice to the QMDC about cultural heritage and natural resource management issues'. *Balonne Beacon (St George)* (St George, 27 March 2008), 3.

27-Mar-08 QLD **Managing linked to tenure security** Former land commissioner Peter Tannock has said that leaseholders should familiarise themselves with the state strategy for managing rural leasehold land. Under the scheme 'security of tenure will now be linked to land condition assessments, indigenous land use agreements and access agreements'. *Queensland Country Life* (Queensland, 27 March 2008), 19.

29-Mar-08 QLD **Gubbi Gubbi dam fight** Gubbi Gubbi traditional owner Eve Fesl is challenging the State Government's 'bid to extinguish the Native Title claims of the Gubbi Gubbi group' in order to continue with the construction of a dam in the area. The Gubbi Gubbi had originally rejected an 'Indigenous Land Use Agreement in defence of the sacred lungfish...which [are] regarded as a symbol of the connection of people with the land'. *Gympie Times* (Gympie, 29 March 2008), 9.

07-Apr-08 QLD **Bligh opposes title claim** The Queensland Government will attempt to strike out a native title claim that 'threatens the Traverston Dam'. The government owner corporation, Queensland Water Infrastructure is intervening in the case in order to undermine the native title claim of the Gubi Gubi people. *Australian* (National, 7 April 2008), 8.

09-Apr-08 QLD **Vital watershed moment for mine after agreement** Vital Metals has signed an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Western Yalanji people covering an area of 6348 hectares. The agreement was 'negotiated directly between Vital Metals and the traditional owners facilitated by the North Queensland Land Council'. It has been submitted to the National Native Title Tribunal for registration. *Tablelands Advertiser* (Marreeba, 9 April 2008), 10.

23-Apr-08 QLD **Long term leases under land reforms** Proposed amendments to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Acts mean that 'new land tenure agreements will allow residents [of Cape York] to obtain 99 year leases on house and 30 year leases on businesses'. Natural Resources and Water Minister Craig Wallace said that 'the land tenure reform was vital to family, community and business stability'. This has also been supported by Palm Island Mayor Alf Lacey. *Cooktown*

local News (Cooktown, 23 April 2008), 3; 'Land leases give island greater scope' *Townsville Bulletin* (Townsville, 26 April 2008), 18; 'New lease will create 99 year housing and commercial leases for indigenous communities' *Western Cape Bulletin* (Weipa, 23 April 2008), 5.

23-Apr-08 QLD **Native title farce** The Gubbi Gubbi group lodged a claim with the NNTT in 1996 to register a claim over the Glasshouse Mountains which was later deregistered under the 2006 amendments. Gubbi Gubbi elder Dr Eve Fels said that 'she had been surprised to learn that the change was retrospective'. *Sunshine Coast Daily* (Maroochydore, 23 April 2008), 11.

South Australia

19-Mar-08 SA **Notice initiating negotiations with native title parties** A notice issued by Pirie Resources initiating negotiations with native title parties concerning proposed exploration has been issued. *Advertiser* (Adelaide, 19 March 2008), 82

24-Apr-08 SA **Forum to protect Aboriginal culture** A caring for country forum will be held in Port Augusta from 25-26 September providing an opportunity for Aboriginal people across SA to talk together and hear about successful aboriginal projects that help care for the land and discuss a range of challenges that need addressing to assist Aboriginal communities to get more involved'. *Stock Journal (SA)* (South Australia, 24 April 2008), 17.

24-Apr-08 SA **Crucial meeting to discuss 'land grab'** The Federal Government has offered \$25 million for new housing on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands but 'only on the condition that it is leased back to the state government for 50 years'. A meeting has been called so that the traditional owners the Anangu can discuss the conditions under which the leases can override their land rights. *Adelaide Advertiser* (Adelaide, 24 April 2008), 28.

Victoria

14-Mar-08 VIC **Native title claims overhaul** Indigenous Leader Mick Dodson 'will head a new committee to overhaul the way native title claims are resolved in Victoria'. The new system 'aims to settle disputes outside

the court system with the State Government negotiating directly with traditional owners'. Victorian Attorney General Robert Hulls said that 'indigenous groups will need to prove their traditional connection to the land claimed'. *Age* (Melbourne, 14 March 2008), 8

27-Mar-08 VIC **Land claim changes possible** A new framework developed between the Victorian State Government and the traditional landowners aims to minimise 'waiting periods for native title claim settlements'. Deputy Premier and Attorney General Rob Hulls said 'the development of the framework would allow the State Government to be proactive rather than reactive when settling claims'. *Warrnambool Standard* (Warrnambool, 27 March 2008), 4.

29-Mar-08 VIC **Lake Condah returns to its indigenous owners** The Gunditjmara Aboriginal nation will 'regain control of the remainder of Lake Condah State Reserve' when Environment Minister Gavin Jennings hands 'over ownership of the Kerrup Jmara homelands to the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation'. This follows last years consent determination recognising Gunditjmara rights and interests. *Warrnambool Standard* (Warrnambool, 29 March 2008), 7; 'Melbourne' *Queensland Times* (Ipswich, 31 March 2008), 23; 'Lake returned to Aborigines' *Herald Sun* (Melbourne, 31 March 2008), 10; *Daily Mercury* (Mackay, 31 March 2008), 10; *Chronicle* (Toowoomba, 31 March 2008), 24; 'Land returned in native title victory' *Sunraysia Daily* (Mildura, 31 March 2008), 13; *Age* (Melbourne, 31 March 2008), 7; *Daily News* (Warwick, 31 March 2008), 6; *News-Mail* (Bundaberg, 31 March 2008), 26; 'Aboriginal group gets native title' *Ballarat Courier* (Ballarat, 31 March 2008), 4; 'Native Title granted' *Bendigo Advertiser* (Bendigo, 31 March 2008), 3; 'Aboriginal group wins claim' *Geelong Advertiser* (Geelong, 31 March 2008), 9; 'Lake Condah Native title to be returned' *Portland Observer* (28 March 2008), 5; 'Lake returns to its traditional owners' *Warrnambool Standard* (Warrnambool, 31 March 2008), 5.

31-Mar-08 VIC **Mining giants urged to give Aborigines fair share** Federal Resource Minister Martin Ferguson has said that the 'minerals boom should deliver economic benefits to remote communities' and supported the 'idea of traditional owners taking a direct stake in projects through share holdings rather than sitting back and waiting for passive income or handouts'. *Age* (Melbourne, 31 March 2008), 5.

04-Apr-08 VIC **Native title provides certainty** The Gunditj Mirring Traditional Aboriginal Corporation 'now controls 3000 hectares of land' following the handover of Lake Condah. Chairman Damien Bell said that 'plans for Lake Condah's water restoration could now move forward with more certainty of title'. *Portland Observer* (Portland, 4 April 2008), 9.

Western Australia

08-Mar-08 WA **Native Title no Gift for Roeburn** The recognition of the native title rights and interests of the Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi has also meant that 'people had to a part of a legally defined tribal group'. This has led to the emergence of a flurry of claimants, some based around small family groupings'. Little has progressed since the successful claims and the money that has come from the native title process has 'not been widely distributed in the community.' There is also continuing debate between the state and federal government in terms of who will control the development of the Burrup with the Federal Court ruling that native title in the region has been extinguished'. *West Australian* (Perth, 8 March 2008), 21

28-Mar-08 WA **Indigenous veto threat to State development: Libs** State Development Minister Eric Ripper has 'confirmed that the development of a...gas hub in the Browse Basin off Broome would centre on approval by the land's indigenous owners'. *West Australian* (Perth, 28 March, 2008), 14; 'Indigenous power to veto is a danger, says Barnett' *West Australian* (28 March 2008), 14.

01-Apr-08 WA **Public debate on native title** A national conference to 'promote public debate about native title and Indigenous people's interests in land and waters will take place in Perth from 3 to 5 June'. The event will be hosted by the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. SWALSC executive Glen Kelly said that 'Noongar native title is not simply about land, it is a historic opportunity for the State and Commonwealth to turn a new page in relation to the Noongar people'. *Western Suburbs Weekly* (Perth, 1 April 2008), 39; 'Conference to debate native title issues' *Melville Times* (Perth, 8 April 2008), 171 'Native Title Conference' *Weekend Courier* (Rockingham, 11 April 2008), 38.

01-Apr-08 WA **Martu people find hope at Lake Disappointment in historic deal with Reward** Reward Minerals has signed a landmark agreement with the Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation, representing the Martu people in WA. Under the agreement the Martu people will receive 'equity in the firm as a part of native title negotiations and gives Aboriginal approval to Reward' to go ahead with its planned potash mine at Lake Disappointment'. This agreement is the first of its kind with WDLAC securing 7 million unlisted options in Rewards Minerals, in contrast to passive royalty agreements reached with traditional owners. WDLAC chairman Teddy Biljabu said 'gone are the days of the big boys treating us like speed humps in our own country'. *Age*, (Melbourne, 1 April 2008), 1; 'Landmark' *Adelaide Advertiser*, (Adelaide, 1 April 2008), 43; 'Landmark deal promises Reward for WA's Martu' *West Australian* (Perth, 1 April 2008), 39; 'Martu Reap Reward' *Herald Sun* (Melbourne, 1 April 2008), 25; 'A share of the rewards' *Herald Sun* (Melbourne, 1 April 2008), 2; 'Reward sets new custom' *Courier Mail* (Brisbane, 1 April 2008), 67; 'Martu's landmark deal' *Financial Review* (National, 1 April 2008), 11; 'Indigenous mining share deal' *Sydney Morning Herald* (Sydney, 1 April 2008), 7.

08-Apr-08 WA **Kimberley resources key to indigenous people's future** Chairman of the Kimberley Land Council Wayne Bergman has argued that government, corporations and traditional owners need to work together in order to capitalise on the resource rich Kimberley region. Mr Bergman argues that 'gas developments in the Kimberley present major opportunities 'but at the same time there is a responsibility to bring Indigenous people 'out of poverty'. He argues that traditional owners are now 'negotiating an active role in shaping development' and that 'governments must support this initiative by insisting that development cannot occur without the informed consent of Aboriginal traditional owners'. *West Australian* (Perth, 8 April 2008), 20.

09-Apr-08 WA **Noongar website** The South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council has launched a new website to 'keep the community informed about the Single Noongar Claim Appeal'. The site is www.noongar.org.au *Augusta Margaret River Mail* (Augusta, 9 April 2008), 3.

10-Apr-08 WA **Farm futures must be protected** Rob Gillam, president of the Pastoralists and Graziers

Association says that 'land tenure and native title issues would continue to dominate the PGA's pastoral agenda'. *Countryman (WA)* (Western Australia 10 April 2008), 9.

23-Apr-08 WA **Mining company helps out** Fox Resources has provided \$17 000 worth of audio equipment to the Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation as a part of its heritage agreement with the native title holders supporting a cultural heritage recording project. *Pilbara News* (Pilbara, 23 April 2008), 5.

29-Apr-08 WA **Call for amendment after Perth claim thrown out** The National Native Title Council has 'called for the Native Title Act to be amended after the Federal Court set aside the indigenous Nyoongar people's claim over Perth'. The appeal was lodged by the Commonwealth and State Governments following the decision of Wilcox J recognising the continuous observance of traditional laws and customs. Bryan Wyatt Chief Executive of the council said that 'its time that the Government had a serious look at amending the Act to ensure the rights of indigenous people are upheld in these matters'. *Kalgoorlie Miner* (Kalgoorlie, 29 April 2008), 3; 'Amend Native Title Act, Council' *Barrier Daily Truth* (Broken Hill, 29 April 2008), 7; 'Calls to review land rights Act' *Wagga Daily Advertiser* (Wagga Wagga, 29 April 2008), 14.

30-Apr-08 WA **Support for indigenous land holding groups** The Southern Agricultural Indigenous Landholder Service (SAILS) was established in 2006 and is designed to assist 'farms with implementing sustainable land use natural resource and latest agricultural best practice management' while working collaboratively with indigenous land managers. The organisation has also been involved with assisting Aboriginal corporations 'with the transition from old constitutions' under the CATSI changes. *Esperance Express* (Esperance, 30 April 2008), 11.

25-May-08 WA **Court's native title ruling was flawed: claimants** A Federal Court ruling 'that has sent the

landmark Nyoongar native title claim over Perth back to the drawing board has significant legal flaws' and may be appealed to the High Court, says claimants. The Court did not decide whether or not the Noongar people hold native title over the area, the merely held that the trial judge didn't follow the right process for determining their connection to the Perth area. The Noongar claimants will have to return to court to give further evidence about specific connection to the Perth area and their continued acknowledgement of the laws and customs presented in the first trial. The South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council has said that 'the alternative agreements [settlement] lacks certainty and may not go far enough for the Nyoongar claimants'. *West Australian* (Perth, 25 April 2008), 10; *Daily Examiner* (Grafton, 25 April 2008), 13; *Queensland Times* (Ipswich, 25 April 2008), 26; *Kalgoorlie Miner* (Kalgoorlie, 29 April 2008), 3; 'Amend Native Title Act, Council' *Barrier Daily Truth* (Broken Hill, 29 April 2008), 7; 'Calls to review land rights Act' *Wagga Daily Advertiser* (Wagga Wagga, 29 April 2008), 14; *Gladstone Observer* (Gladstone, 25 April 2008), 14; 'Setback' *Launceston Examiner* (Launceston, 24 April 2008), 11; 'Ruling in Perth native title case' *Financial Review* (24 April 2008), 17; 'Appeal puts native title case in limbo' *West Australian* (Perth, 24 April 2008), 4; 'Appeal upheld on native title in Perth case' *West Australian* (Perth, 20 April 2008), 4; 'Native title 'does not exist over Perth' *Sunraysia Daily* (Mildura, 24 April 2008), 15; *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton, 24 April 2008), 14; 'Ruling on native title overturned' *Australian* (National, 24 April 2008), 2.