

McAvoy T and Cooms V, 2008 'Even as the Crow Flies, it is Still a Long Way: Implementation of the Queensland South Native title Services Ltd Legal Services Strategic Plan' *Research Monograph 2/2008*, Native Title Research Unit, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra.

Native Title in the News

National

02-May-08 NATIONAL **Step refugee appeals racket, says former judge.** Former Federal Court judge Rodney Madgwick has said that 'native title does not work well and requires a total rethink'. *Financial Review* (National, 2 May 2008), 57.

09-May-08 NATIONAL **UN holds NY forum on Indigenous rights.** Tom Calma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and Race Commissioner of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission represented Australia at the New York forum. Mr Calma has also recently tabled two reports relating to Indigenous rights including the Native Title Report. *Lawyers Weekly* (National, 9 May 2008), 6.

12-May-08 NATIONAL **Mining body seeks curb on third-party access.** The Minerals Council of Australia has said that the government needs to stop third parties from having access to infrastructure facilities. According to the MCA, the 'solution to many of [the problems] lies in better federal-state co-operation, the elimination of duplicative and contradictory regulatory processes, institutions and intellectual capacity building the increased efficiency and operability of the native title system and more appropriate competition policy settings'. *Australian* (National, 12 May 2008), 31.

17-May-08 NATIONAL **Tribunal at centre of storm over fair deals.** Ciaran O'Faircheallaigh from Griffith University has 'argued that the lot of Aboriginal people has not improved during the mining boom, in part because the National Native Title Tribunal is 'biased' in favour of companies'. Traditional owners and mining

companies usually reach agreements for dealings over the lands through the future act process. However, the six month limit on negotiations means that the Tribunal can arbitrate once the negotiation period has passed. Mr O'Faircheallaigh argues that 'this situation places mining companies in a position of undue power because they have little to fear from delaying negotiations...a situation which inherently disadvantages claimants'. *Age* (Melbourne, 17 May 2008), 4.

22-May-08 NATIONAL **Mining money must close gap.** Minister for Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin has said that 'Native title is critical to economic development'. Ms Macklin argues that 'while economic development for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders is complex and challenging, there is no doubt that properly structured property rights to land are a key component in expanding economic and commercial opportunities'. *Australian* (National, 22 May 2008), 14; 'Macklin's message: use hard won rights' *Australian* (National, 22 May 2008), 6; 'Indigenous poverty unmoved by mining boom' *Australian* (National, 8 May 2009), 8; 'Miners told to deal better hand from resources boom' *Sydney Morning Herald* (Sydney, 28 May 2008), 6.

22-May-08 NATIONAL **Labor to overhaul native title.** Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin has said that 'native title legislation was too complex and had failed to deliver money to remote Aboriginal communities despite lucrative agreements with mining companies'. Ms Macklin said that changes to native title should be used as a part of the Federal Government's close the gap campaign and wanted 'direct payments to individuals minimised in favour of payments that create benefits for the whole community'. *Australian* (National, 22 May 2008), 1; 'Native Title Changes Focus on Economics' *Age* (Melbourne, 22 May 2008), 10; 'Time for a hard look at native title' *Northern Territory News* (Darwin, 22 May 2008), 3; 'An economic vision: native title reform offers communities a fresh start' *Australian* (National, 23 May 2008), 15.

28-May-08 NATIONAL **Tribunal overrun.** According to recent Senate estimates the National Native Title Tribunal expects to have work for the next 30 years. Acting tribunal registrar Franklin Gaffney said '135 applications had been determined in 15 years.' The estimate 'was based on the time it was expected to clear the backlog as well as consider new claims, now arriving at the rate of 20 to 40 a year.' *Townsville Bulletin*

(Townsville, 28 May 2008), ; 'Tribunal workload' *Launceston Examiner* (28 May 2008), 10.

02-Jun-08 NATIONAL **Native title deals should be split.**

A former Rio Tinto senior executive has advised the Rudd government that 'Indigenous people who win native title agreements should be asked to share the benefits with poor Aboriginal neighbours in the same region'. The Government has also 'revealed it will overhaul the native title laws and processes to allow compensation payments to be used for future generations'. Marcia Langton has also been appointed as an advisor. These reforms have been supported by the Kimberley Land Council. *Australian* (National, 2 June 2008), 7; 'Native title reform backed' *Broome Advertiser* (Broome, 5 June 2008), 6.

04-Jun-08 NATIONAL **Native title chief urges easing of land link proof.**

National Native Title Tribunal president Graeme Neate has argued that 'substantial changes need to be made to end the 30 year native title claim back log'. Speaking at the National Native Title Conference, Mr Neate argued that Indigenous people 'should not have to comprehensively prove they have a connection to land before negotiating native title claims'. *Australian* (National, 4 June 2008), 5.

05-Jun-08 NATIONAL **Native title on the web.**

The National Native Title Tribunal has launched a new website: www.nntt.gov.au *Farm Weekly* (Western Australia, 5 June 2008), 110.

11-Jun-08 NATIONAL **Indigenous people must transcend the past for a better future: Mabo lecture.**

Indigenous people 'must lead and convince the 'settlers' to follow if Indigenous disadvantage is to be overcome, Chair of the Waitangi Tribunal and Maori Land Court Chief Judge Joe Williams told the Mabo Lecture at the Native Title Conference in Perth' 3-5 June 2008. *Torres News* (Thursday Island, 11 June 2008), 11.

12-Jun-08 NATIONAL **Miners place focus on Indigenous schemes.**

The Mineral's Council of Australia has welcomed moves to 'fast track training for Indigenous Australians'. According to Chief Executive Mitchell Hooke, the 'Government had the backing of the Australian minerals industry in its plan to provide Indigenous Australians with new job seeker trainee places as a complement to existing initiatives of minerals companies'. With 'sixty per cent of mining operations in Australia [being] carried out alongside indigenous communities' the 'Australian minerals industry is

committed to providing employment opportunities for indigenous Australians'. *Kalgoorlie Miner* (Kalgoorlie, 12 June 2008), 14; 'Indigenous workers on track' *Goldfield Express* (Kalgoorlie, 13 June 2008), 25.

13-Jun-08 NATIONAL **Apology begins healing.** The Canadian Government has apologised for the 'nation's policy of forcing 150 000 indigenous children to attend government funded Christian boarding schools aimed at assimilation'. *Daily Telegraph* (Sydney, 13 June 2008), 38; 'Finding their voice' *Economist* (National, 14 June 2008), 54.

27-Jun-08 NATIONAL **Complex and essential role to fill.**

Gilbert + Tolbin have appointed a full time pro bono lawyer, Michelle Hannon. The firm has acted for the Cape York Land Council and Kimberley Land Council. *Australian Financial Review* (National, 27 June 2008), 61.

ACT

06-May-08 ACT **ACT 'wrong' on native title law.**

Native Title Barrister George Villafore said that the 'ACT government is acting outside the law in releasing greenfields land for new developments'. However, the government says that the claim of the Dean Bell group was never formally registered and that the Applicants did not have the right to negotiate under the Native Title Act. *Canberra Times* (Canberra, 6 May 2008), 3.

New South Wales

01-Jun-08 NSW **Barrick Gold Censors Indigenous Groups**

Indigenous leaders from the Wiradjuri people have said at the Barrick AGM that the company 'has absolutely no respect for our cultural heritage' and that Barrick allowed 'five unauthorised Wiradjuri to sign off on their cultural heritage agreement that was kept secret'. *Ethical Investor* (National, June 2008), 7.

03-Jun-08 NSW **ILUA registered.**

The Native Title Tribunal has 'just registered the second part of the Byrin Mundjalung People's Indigenous Land Use Agreement'. Their claim was lodged in 1994 and has taken 14 years to 'get to this point'. *Byron Shire Echo* (Byron Bay, 3 June 2008), 11.

17-Jun-08 NSW **Land rights anniversary.** This year marks the 25th anniversary of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act*. NSW is the 'only state in Australia with a democratically elected structure to represent the interests of the land councils'. *Narrandera Argus* (Narrandera, 17 June 2008), 9.

Northern Territory

06-May-08 NT **ALP adviser to head Northern Land Council.** Kim Hill is expected to be confirmed as the chief executive of the Northern Land Council. Mr Hill was appointed by the NLC executive to fill the role after Norma Fry resigned after the Federal Election. According to Mr Hill, 'the NLC must evolve from representing traditional owners in land claims and native title to the improvement of Aboriginal lives'. *Australian* (National, 6 May 2008), 7.

10-May-08 NT **Gas plant location squabble.** The Larrakia Development Corporation has 'authority over Aboriginal land at Middle Arm' and has backed the 'development of a \$12 billion Inpex gas plant at the Darwin Harbour site'. However the Larrakia Nation has said that it 'opposed the industrialisation of Middle Arm'. *Northern Territory News* (Darwin, 10 May 2008), 5; 'Land bid has Inpex 'nervous'' *Northern Territory News* (29 May 2008), 6.

14-May-08 NT **Decision on Alice mine expected late July.** The Central Land Council has said that it will 'support whatever decision traditional owners make about a potential uranium mine'. The uranium deposits are on the Owen Springs pastoral lease and is a native title issue. According to Central Land Council Director David Ross, 'native title holders have no right to refuse an exploration license under the Native Title Act which they would under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act'. However, they can lodge an objection application. *Northern Territory News* (Darwin, 14 May 2008), 26.

16-May-08 NT **NT has the power to buy native title land.** In a 5-2 decision of the High Court, it was held that the Northern Territory Government has the power to acquire land even where it is found that native title rights and interests exist. The High Court held that the 'potential limitations on the Territory's statutory power to acquire land had not been removed by the legislation. The majority said that 'the Lands Acquisition Act provided that "all non native title rights and interests" could be extinguished once conditions designed to avoid

racial discrimination were met. Also the words "for any purpose" had replaced "for a public purpose" meaning that freehold land could be granted without having to be for the benefit of a particular community or public purpose. The Northern Territory Supreme Court had found that the original acquisition was invalid and the decision was later reversed on appeal. The claim was later brought to the High Court by Alan Griffith and William Gulwin on behalf of the Ngaliwurru and Nungali peoples. *Australian* (National, 16 May 2008), 6; 'High Court gives land acquisition green light' *Northern Territory News* (Darwin, 16 May 2008), 2; 'Native Title ruling' *Northern Daily Leader* (Tamworth, 16 May 2008), 9.

21-May-08 NT **Island towns first to sign long-term lease.** Groote Eylandt Communities are the first to sign regional partnership agreements that will see the 'federal and Northern Territory governments...provide \$25 million' to the community as a 'part of the regional agreement to go towards new houses, housing maintenance, policing, health, indigenous employment and economic development'. *Australian* (National, 21 May 2008), 6; *Age* (Melbourne, 21 May 2008), 11; 'Aboriginal leases' *Cairns Post* (Cairns, 21 May 2008), 16.

22-May-08 NT **Royalties threat to lift Tiwi Schooling.** Traditional owners at Melville and Bathurst Islands could 'lose their royalty payments' for failing to send their children to school under a new scheme by the local land council. *Australian* (National, 22 May 2008), 6.

24-May-08 NT **Elder places faith and future in court.** Tibby Quall, a Danggalaba man is 'fighting the full might of the Government to be recognised as the native title holder of a vast area of Darwin'. Mr Quall said: 'the Government can compulsorily acquire any land they want, so I couldn't stop their developments even if I wanted to. My case is about fighting for Aboriginal identity'. *Sydney Morning Herald* (Sydney, 24 May 2008), 13; 'Native title claim over harbour' *Northern Territory News* (Darwin, 28 May 2008), 6.

24-May-08 NT **NLC apology to wronged lawyer.** Wali Waunungmurra, Chairman of the Northern Land Council has apologised to lawyer Ron Levy after the council had reviewed allegations of bullying alleged by a female anthropologist. *Weekend Australian* (National, 24 May 2008), 6.

05-Jun-08 NT **Native title holders have no worries with uranium mine.** A senior executive from the Canadian company Cameco says that he 'found no opposition to [a

proposed uranium mine] from Aboriginal people who may have native title interests on the site'. The proposed uranium mine is 25 kms south of Alice Springs. *Alice Springs News* (Alice Springs, 5 June 2008), 5.

12-Jun-08 NT **Traditional owners offer up their land for nuclear dump.** Northern Land Council Chairman Wali Wunungmurra has said that the 'Ngapa traditional owners overwhelmingly support the nomination of their country at the Muckaty station for the commonwealth radio active waste facility'. *Australian* (National, 12 June 2008), 4; 'Science the key to decision' *Australian* (National, 16 June 2008), 6; 'Why the 'desert rain people' want a nuclear waste dump: The abject poverty of the Ngapa group is only part of the explanation' *Australian* (16 June 2008), 6.

12-Jun-08 NT **New NLC head says he will be tough.** The Northern Land Council's new chief executive Kim Hill has said: 'I'll be making some changes to the way we serve our traditional owners'. He said that he 'wanted to bring transparency to the organisation in regards to getting information out into communities'. *Northern Territory News* (Darwin, 12 June 2008), 4.

12-Jun-08 NT **NT intervention review board named: Macklin.** Minister for Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin has reviewed the board that will review the Northern Territory Emergency response intervention. The board will include: Peter Yu, Donna Ah Chee, Deputy Director of the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (health care service), Alice Springs; Michael Berto, CEO of Roper Gulf Shire Council and Chair of the Northern Territory Indigenous Housing Advisory Board, Katherine; Vicki Gillick, Coordinator of the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council, Alice Springs; Ronald Lami Lami, Chairperson of the West Arnhem Shire Transition Committee and resident of Waruwu; Mavis Malbunka, Vice President of the Ntaria Council (Hermannsburg) and a finalist in the Northern Territory Australian of the Year 2006; David Ross, Director of the Central Land Council, Alice Springs; Dr John Taylor (ACT) Deputy Director and Senior Fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, Canberra; Dr Mark Wenitong (QLD), Senior Medical Officer at Apunipima Cape York Health Council and past president and founding member of the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association; Neil Westbury, Associate at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University (ANU) and a member of the Indigenous

Community Governance Project Advisory Committee (ANU); Ann Rebgetz, Co-Principal of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, Wadeye. *National Indigenous Times* (National, 12 June 2008), 4.

12-Jun-08 NT **Inpex 'nervous' about title claim.** Inpex, Japanes oil and gas company said that it was 'nervous' about a native title claim affecting the 'planned site of a \$12 billion gas plant on Darwin Harbour' according to the Northern Territory Government during hearings over the native title claim of Tibby Quall in the Federal Court. *National Indigenous Times* (National, 12 June 2008), 11.

20-Jun-08 NT **Mining company bars Aborigines.** Legal action is being considered after Indigenous groups were stopped by Xstrata from entering their land in order to hold a ceremony over their sacred sites. Northern Land Council executive Kim Hill said that the sites will 'no longer be there for much longer' with the approval of the diversion of the McArthur river. *Barrier Daily Truth* (Broken Hill, 20 June 2008), 6.

20-Jun-08 NT **\$10m lure for Aboriginal education.** The Australian government will offer up to \$10 million if Indigenous communities 'agree to a Rudd Government plan to put mining royalty payments in a special education trust fund'. This follows the approval of a lease agreement between traditional land owners over the Bonaparte Gas Pipeline. Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin has said that 'if the landowners allocated at least 90 per cent of the projected benefits from the pipeline payments into the trust fund, the Government would match them dollar for dollar'. *Australian* (National, 20 June 2008), 6; 'Gas deal set aside \$28m for education' *Sydney Morning Herald* (Sydney, 20 June 2008), 5; 'NLC backs proposed education trust fund' *Northern Territory News* (Darwin, 23 June 2008), 4.

Queensland

03-May-08 QLD **MP hits out at Bligh.** Member for Gympie, David Gibson has said that 'it is sad and ironic that in the year of the historic Federal Government's apology to Aboriginal people, the Biigh State Labor government is..taking legal actions to strike out the Gubbi Gubbi people's Native Title Claim'. *Gympie Times* (Gympie, 3 May 2008), 5.

07-May-08 QLD **Hot development in geothermal energy.** KUTH Energy is 'negotiating native title rights for

geothermal exploration at two Far Northern sites' at Jackin Creek and Eveleigh. Queensland Mines and Energy Minister Geoff Wilson said that 'there had been an amount of uncertainty with some explorers in the application of the Commonwealth Native Title Act'. *Cairns Post* (Cairns, 7 May 2008), 33.

07-May-08 QLD **Titles test delay on bridge.** A native title assessment will need to be finalised before a bridge providing access to Nerang can be completed. *Gold Coast Sun* (Gold Coast, 7 May 2008), 23.

10-May-08 QLD **University honours Mabo.** The James Cook University has named a library after Eddie Koiki Mabo who began a 'legal battle which eventually overturned a legal view that underpinned the crown's claim to Australian land.' The *Mabo* decision led to the enactment of the *Native Title Act 1996* (Cth). *West Australian* (Perth, 10 May 2008), 54; 'JCU honour for Mabo' *Townsville Bulletin* (Townsville, 10 May 2008), 38; 'Library naming honour for Mabo' *Ballarat Courier* (Ballarat, 10 May 2008), 22; 'Mabo to be honoured' *Border Mail* (Albury Wodonga, 10 May 2008), 26; 'From little things big things grow' *Australian* (National, 21 May 2008), 1; 'A fitting tribute' *Australian* (National, 22 May 2008), 15.

13-May-08 QLD **Cold comfort over native title and hot rock energy.** The Federal Government is 'unwilling to declare a time frame for a controversial decision on whether exploring for hot rock alternative energy supplies is exempt from native title laws'. Some industry groups argue that the 'right to negotiate' process in federal native title laws does not apply to geothermal energy'. *Courier Mail* (Brisbane, 13 May 2008), 66.

14-May-08 QLD **State legislates to use Far North Land.** The Queensland Parliament has passed new laws to build essential infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and police stations. The new laws will affect about 32 Indigenous communities. The reforms to the 'Land Act 1994 and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Act' have been called 'historic' by the Minister for Natural Resources and Water Craig Wallace. Mr Wallace said that the reforms to land tenure will fix issues with infrastructure and housing on the communities. Noel Pearson has argued that this will leave indigenous people in 'poverty shadows'. *Gympie Times* (Gympie, 14 May 2008), 6; *Northern Star* (Lismore, 14 May 2008), 25; *Queensland Times* (Ipswich, 14 May 2008), 17; 'Indigenous rights leaders heal rift' *Australian* (National, 14 May

2008), 19; *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton, 14 May 2008), 18; *Daily Mercury* (Mackay, 14 May 2008), 12; *Chronicle* (Toowoomba, 14 May 2008), 16; 'Indigenous land boost' *Cairns Post* (Cairns, 17 May 2008), 26; 'Late changes to indigenous land laws' *Cooktown Local News* (Cooktown, 21 May 2008), 5.

14-May-08 QLD **Leaders attack Irwin's crusade to block mine.** Leaders from the Cape York have attacked Terri Irwin's move to 'stop a mine going ahead' on a former cattle station that was acquired from the Irwin's. The mining company Cape Alumina has been negotiating with Aboriginal land councils and traditional owners about mining adjacent properties. However according to the traditional owners, 'the way the Irwin's acquired the property has locked them out of their traditional lands. Traditional owners say handing over the land to the Irwins robbed them of control over mining rights, cattle and conservation'. *Australian* (National, 14 May 2008), 19; 'Terri aims to be warrior woman' *Courier Mail* (Brisbane, 17 May 2008), 18.

15-May-08 QLD **East meets west during agreement.** Representatives from the Western Cape Communities Trust from Queensland made a four-day-vist to the East Kimberley Gelganyem Trust. The trust was established as a part of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement between Argyle Diamond Mines and the local Indigenous population. The Western Cape Communities Trust was established as a part of an ILUA between Comalco and communities in the Cape York area. *Kimberley Echo* (Kununarra, 15 May 2008), 9.

19-May-08 QLD **Native Title Tribal Split.** Jim Hagan, has been told that he is no longer Kullili by the legal body set up under the Native Title Act. Mr Hagan had chaired the Kullili Traditional Owners Committee and has represented the group internationally. However, he was recently told by Queensland South Native Title Services that he was not a part of the group and 'was refused entry into a meeting last week ratified by Kullili claimants'. *Courier Mail* (Brisbane, 19 May 2008), 14; 'Hagans are ready to fight claim' *Chronicle* (Toowoomba, 20 May 2008), 10.

19-May-08 QLD **Mine money increased.** New changes to the Aboriginal Land Act will 'give traditional owners direct access' with 'trustees of land transferred under the Aboriginal Land Act...receiv[ing] more realties from mining companies'. Minister for Natural Resources and Water Craig Wallace said that the 'first \$100 000 of any

royalty payments received by the state would go totally to indigenous trustees of the affected land' rather than the Department of Natural Resources and Water. *Cairns Post* (Cairns, 19 May 2008), 4.

22-May-08 QLD **Leader won land battle.** Wujal Wujal Elder Eileen Walker has passed away. She was a part of the 15 year battle of the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people to achieve recognition. *Courier Mail* (Brisbane, 22 May 2008), 76.

23-May-08 QLD **Cardwell land title.** A native title claim over Cardwell will be settled with the Federal Court delivering a consent determination in the town 200km south of Cairns. The determination will decide whether the Girramay people 'are granted ownership of 12 parcels of unallocated state land and reserve land in the Murray Upper'. *Cairns Post* (Cairns, 23 May 2008), 8; 'Indigenous claim in doubt' *Townsville Bulletin* (Townsville, 29 May 2008), 13.

27-May-08 QLD **Native title delay.** 'A FEDERAL Court ruling in the coastal town of Cardwell, 200km south of Cairns, on native title rights over state and federal land has been deferred.' *Cairns Post* (Cairns, 27 May 2008), 7.

28-May-2008 QLD **Nerang van park bridge could open in months.** A bridge providing access to Nerang park will be built after a native title assessment. *Gold Coast Sun* (Gold Coast 28 May 2008), 10.

29-May-2008 QLD **Dump progress.** Gympie Mayo Ron Dyne said that he expected 'a reasonable outcome as far as the cost of a Native Title agreement is concerned' in relation to a landfill facility at Toolar. *Gympie Times* (Gympie, 29 May 2008), 4.

04-Jun-08 QLD **Title claim may be 'a first'.** A native title claim on Mount Lindesay 'could be the first of its kind'. The claim is a part of the Githabul people's larger claim which has been recognised in NSW. *Jimboomba Times* (Jimboomba, 4 June 2008), 45.

11-Jun-08 QLD **Aurukun leaders on mission to China.** Indigenous delegates representing the Aurukun community will head off to China 'as guests of the Chinese government owned mining giant Chalco which last year won the right to mine bauxite' in the region. The leaders will be inspecting the company's operations. *Australian* (National, 11 June 2008), 6; 'Aurukun leaders visit China' *Courier Mail* (Brisbane, 11 June 2008), 34; 'Mutual learning curve' *Weekend Australian* (National, 21 June 2008), 24; 'Mining goodwill' *Courier Mail* (Brisbane,

21 June 2008), 75; 'Aurukun delegation tours China' *Western Cape Bulletin* (Weipia, 18 June 2008), 11.

11-Jun-08 QLD **Red letter day for Kannju clan.** The first Indigenous protected area on the Cape York Peninsula has been 'declared at a ceremony at Chuulangun'. The Kannju Ngaachi Wenlock and Pascos Rivers Indigenous Protected area covers 197 500 hectares. *Western Cape Bulletin* (Weipia, 11 June 2008), 2; 'Land guardian deal' *Cooktown Local News* (Cooktown, 11 June 2008), 5.

13-Jun-08 QLD **MacDonnells law bolsters indigenous law team.** Macdonnells has expanded its indigenous law team to include Ted Besley who has practiced in areas including native title and land rights. He was also responsible for 'leading a pilot project on behalf of the Queensland Government in Palm Island to resolve land tenure issues and improve land management practices'. *Lawyers Weekly* (National, 13 June 2008), 17.

14-Jun-08 QLD **Indigenous home manual.** A 'homeowners manual will be handed out to Indigenous people living in communities like Palm island'. The manual is a part of 'the State Government's push for 99 year residential and commercial leases on indigenous land'. *Townsville Bulletin* (Townsville, 14 June 2008), 22.

26-Jun-08 QLD **Dam will suck up life of Mary' - Butchulla voice opposition.** The Butchulla people are 'insulted the State Government did not consult them about the proposed dam at Traveston Crossing'. The group is yet to make a native title claim in the area but the 'consequences will significantly affect the Butchulla people's cultural heritage'. *Fraser Coast Chronicle* (Hervey Bay, 26 June 2008), 5.

South Australia

06-May-08 SA **Whyalla harbour interest sought.** Premier Mike Rann has said that native title and environmental issues will be considered in the assessment process before developing a new export harbour near Whyalla. *Advertiser* (Adelaide, 6 May 2008), 33.

10-May-08 SA **Ancient document gives land rights, Aborigines say.** The Kokatha Mula people are planning to 'take 172 year old document to the British Parliament as part of a bid to have their rights recognised'. A letter of patent from 1836 outlines the 'rights of natives' and their

descendents to enjoy their lands'. *Launceston Examiner* (Launceston, 10 May 2008), 19.

15-May-08 SA **Record land agreements.** There have been 24 Indigenous Land Use Agreements signed in the Gawler Ranges by claimants from the Barnjarla and Kokotha peoples, pastoralists and the Attorney General's departments. Each ILUA 'lays out arrangements for access to pastoral leases, protection of Aboriginal culture, protection and use of pastoral infrastructure, a mutual understanding of rights and interests and a consultation process to deal with any future issues'. *West Coast Sentinel* (Ceduna, 15 May 2008), 3; 'Claims resolved' *Stock Journal (SA)* (Rural, 15 May 2008), 3.

29-May-2008 SA **NRM in focus at women's forum.** An 'Aboriginal Women's Healthy Country & Sustainable Enterprise Conference was held on April 29-30 in Port Augusta with great success. More than 70 women attended the forum for Aboriginal women to highlight their achievements, share experiences and identify strategies to progress their leadership in NRM and sustainable enterprises.' *Stock Journal(SA)* (Adelaide, 29 May 2008), 18.

09-Jun-08 SA **Minister snubbed by land council.** Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin has cancelled a planned visit to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara community after the 'local land council refused to meet her'. The community is divided on Ms Macklin's proposed housing plans. *Age* (Melbourne, 9 June 2008), 2.

13-Jun-08 SA **Minister to axe APY chief.** Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Minister Jay Weatherill has 'set in train the legal process to sack Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands head Bernanrd Singer' following calls to stand aside after his 'prosecution on aggravated assault and breaching an alcohol prohibition'. *Australian* (National, 13 June 2008), 7.

Victoria

07-May-08 VIC **Restoration to breath life into wetlands.** The restoration of Lake Condah, which is in the 'heart of Gunditjmara country' is expected to be completed by the end of 2008. *Warrnambool Standard* (Warrnambool, 7 May 2008), 8.

15-May-08 VIC **New lakeside trail follows tradition.** A trail to honour Lakeside's traditional landowners has been launched. The Winjeel Trail will recognise the Bunurong people as a part of the Lakeside project. *Pakenham News* (Melbourne, 15 May 2008), 3; 'Estate gets historic trail' *Pakenham Journal* (Melbourne, 19 May 2008), 3.

28-May-08 VIC **Dodson says ties to land can be proven out of court.** Indigenous academic Mick Dodson 'told a Minerals Council conference in Canberra yesterday that the 'connection requirements' to land that must be proved in the Federal Court under native title legislation could be 'considerably less onerous' under the 'an alternative native title settlement framework being negotiated with the State Government.' *Age* (Melbourne, 28 May 2008), 6.

11-Jun-08 VIC **Forum calls for voices.** The Barengi Gagjin Land Council hosted a forum, 'Yana Together: Navigating Towards More Effective natural resource management partnerships' to 'encourage more Indigenous involvement in natural resource management'. The forum was held at the Horsham Sports and Community Club from June 19 to 20 and 'aimed to develop more effective agreements and partnerships'. *Wimmera Mail Times* (Horsham, 11 June 2008), 15.

Western Australia

01-May-08 WA **Aborigines to talk on Browse.** Kimberley Land Council (KLC) Chief executive Wayne Bergman has said that 'resource companies had not yet come to terms with the role of traditional indigenous owners when it came to developing the area'. The Western Australian Government has 'given the KLC an undisclosed grant to assist the consultation process with traditional owners regarding the proposal for a liquefied natural gas processing hub in Browse Basin'. Mr Bergman said that 'in our discussions with resource companies, our focus is building economic partnerships that give us greater control and responsibility'. *Financial Review* (National, 1 May 2008), 12; *Age* (Melbourne, 1 May 2008), 5.

01-May-08 WA **Noongar outcome shows native title gridlock: Calma.** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Human Rights Commissioner Tom Calma has said that the

Noongar decision shows that 'the native title system is in gridlock'. The 'matter is still unresolved because the court did not go so far as to rule native title no longer existed over Perth. Instead it referred the question back to a Federal Court Judge for another hearing'. Mr Calma said 'I am concerned that the courts are denying how societies and cultures evolve and instead choosing to stick to narrow, unnecessarily legalistic interpretations'. *National Indigenous Times* (National, 1 May 2008), 4; 'Neither a loss or a win: Kelly' *National Indigenous Times* (1 May 2008), 4; 'State's appeal insulting: Hart' *National Indigenous Times* (National, 1 May 2008, 5); 'No benefit for WA govt over title appeals, academic says' *National Indigenous Times* (National, 1 May 2008), 5; 'Native title claim 'back to square one' *Lawyers Weekly* (National, 2 May 2008), 1.

02-May-08 WA **Cultural rock trip**. More than 20 staff from the Yamatji Land and Sea Council travelled from Geraldton to Perth to Mt Augustus to learn about Indigenous diversity in a workshop 'designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of staff'. *Geraldton Guardian* (Geraldton, 2 May 2008), 16.

02-May-08 WA **Dig helps understanding of local anthropology**. A search of archaeological remains including Indigenous groups and environmentalists has contributed to a 'cultural assessment to provide a better understanding of where the Noongar people lived and how they used the land and water'. The study was welcomed by Noongar project director Wayne Webb. *Albany Weekend Extra* (Albany, 2 May 2008), 12.

15-May-08 WA **Inpex looks east**. Browse Basin gas developer Inpex has been considering Darwin as a potential site. A spokesperson for the company said that it had not abandoned the Maret Islands proposal. Local governments and business groups had backed the proposal. The 'Kimberley Land Council [had given] conditional support as it believes the development could have benefits for the region's Aboriginal population'. *Kimberley Echo* (Kununarra, 15 May 2008), 1.

17-May-08 WA **Argyle closing Aboriginal Gap**. The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has said that the agreement between Argyle and Traditional owners is a 'tangible embodiment of practical reconciliation'. There have been two trusts established under the agreement one to 'fund community development education, training, customary law, governance and a capital base for future generations and

the second administers annual payments to families and helps them develop annual expenditure plans'. *Age* (Melbourne, 17 May 2008), 4.

21-May-08 WA **Doris Takes Over**. Njamal traditional owners Doris Eaton is the new chairperson of Pilbara Native Title Service. Mrs Eaton is the first woman to chair the executive committee. *Pilbara News* (Pilbara, 21 May 2008), 9.

22-May-08 WA **Native Title Hurdle**. The native title status of Broome has been 'called into question with Walman Yawuru lodging a notice of motion that could halt further development until key native title determinations are made'. The notice comes after the recent Federal Court decision reaffirming that the Yawuru people hold native title rights and interests over Broome. *Broome Advertiser* (Broome, 22 May 2008), 4.

04-Jun-08 WA **Central desert native title decision hailed**. The Ngaanyatjarra people of 'Western Australia's Central desert have become the largest native title holders in Australia following the Federal Court's recognition of the remainder of their traditional lands'. The Ngaanyatjarra people are 'now native title holders of 169 184 sq km of land and waters, the largest area in Australia where native title is found to exist'. *Kalgoorlie Miner* (Kalgoorlie, 4 June 2008), 3; 'Goldfields indigenous leader sees hope in native title decision' *Kalgoorlie Miner* (Kalgoorlie, 5 June 2008), 5.

11-Jun-08 WA **Owners want say on mines compo**. The Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation has 'warned against Government regulation of compensation to Aboriginal people affected by mining activity'. Chief Executive Simon Hawkins said that the 'Indigenous Affairs minister Jenny Macklin should have included Aboriginal people in recently announced informal talks about native title claims involving the Minerals Council and academics'. *Geraldton Guardian* (Geraldton, 11 June 2008), 4.

12-Jun-08 WA **Students to survey stock route**. Curtin University Students and members from local Indigenous communities will 'traverse the [Canning stock route] to evaluate historical survey marks and native title claims'. *Countryman* (National, 12 June 2008), 12.

12-Jun-08 WA **WA govt may 'strike out Noongar claim: Kelly'**. At the National Native Title Conference in Perth, the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council has said

that the "West Australian Government may 'strike out' the landmark Noongar claim if negotiations are not settled'. Chief executive Glen Kelly said that the state needed to assist with mediation and 'agree on how its going to happen'. *National Indigenous Times* (National, 12 June 2008), 6; 'Decision spreads the biggest title' *Farm Weekly* (Western Australia, 12 June 2008), 146.

19-Jun-08 WA **Newmont royalties pay for education.** Newmont Asia-pacific has negotiated a 'royalty deal with traditional owners from the Warlpiri communities of Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Nyirripi and Wilowra'. The royalties are to be delivered over three years and will go 'directly into an education and training trust'. *Australian* (National, 19 June 2008), 21.

23-Jun-08 WA **Positive step forward for Birriliburu people.** Ten years after their application was lodged, 'the Birriliburu people have been recognised as the exclusive native title holders of a large tract of land in Western Australia's central desert'. Justice Robert French presided over the hearing. *Kalgoorlie Miner* (Kalgoorlie, 23 June 2008), 5; 'Birriliburu people granted land title' *Mid-West Times* (Geraldton, 26 June 2008), 2.

26-Jun-08 WA **Native title motion dismissed in court.** The Federal Court has dismissed 'a Walman Yawuru motion challenging native title rulings in Broome'. *Broome Advertiser* (Broome, 26 June 2008), 14.

26-Jun-08 WA **Council in \$50m deal for camps.** The Tangentyere Council has accepted a housing agreement with Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin. Executive director William Tilmouth said that the 'council had unanimously agreed to negotiate improvements to housing stocks in Alice Springs town camps'. *Australian* (National, 26 June 2008), 7; 'Alice Springs Camps to get \$50m upgrade' *Age* (Melbourne, 26 June 2008), 11.

