March/April, No. 2/2009 9

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Native title in the News

National

Apr-09 NATIONAL **Title proof plan** The Federal Government is considering a proposed change to the native title claim system. The change would shift the burden of proof for connection from Aboriginal applicants to States, Territories etc. *Burnie Advocate*, (*Burnie TAS*, 11 April 2009), 24. *Bendigo Advertiser*, (*Bendigo VIC*, 11 April 2009), 14. Northern Daily Leader, (*Tamworth NSW*, 11 April 2009), 11. Sunraysia Daily, (*Mildura VIC*, 10 April 2009), 13. *Ballarat Courier*, (*Ballarat VIC*, 10 April 2009), 13. Kimberley Echo, (Kununarra WA, 23 April 2009), 7.

Mar-09 NATIONAL **Native Title Amendment Bill Introduced** Attorney-General Robert McClelland introduced the *Native Title Amendment Bill* 2009 (Cth) into Parliament last week. The Bill will give the Federal Government authority over the whole process of native title claims. The Government claims that this will ensure greater efficiency. *Lawyers Weekly*, (National AU, 27 March 2009), 4.

Mar-09 NATIONAL **Green light for Aboriginal deals** Aboriginal landowners across NSW will be able to initiate deals with developers and unlock the value in up to \$2 billion worth of land under major reforms planned by the Rees Labor Government. *Australian*, (Australian, 10 March 2009), 4.

Mar-09 NATIONAL **Aborigines told to swap land rights for new homes** Under the Rudd Government's controversial plan, Aboriginal people living in remote areas throughout Australia will not receive a portion of \$2 billion in new housing money unless they sign away their land rights for at least 40 years. NSW Indigenous

March/April, No. 2/2009 10

leaders have called the plan authoritarian and insulting. *Sydney Morning Herald*, (Sydney, 6 March 2009), 8.

New South Wales

Mar-09 NSW **Native title claim on skate facility** Skateboarders at Brunswick Heads will get their own skate park as soon as a native title claim at the site is settled. *Tweed Sun,* (Tweed Heads NSW, 19 March 2009), 68.

Mar-09 NSW **Tough but fair for land dealings** Developers wanting to do business on Aboriginal land in NSW will potentially face tougher but clearer conditions under proposed changes to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. *Sydney Morning Herald*, (Sydney, 5 March 2009), 5.

Northern Territory

Mar-09 NT **Cox Peninsula land claim on hold** Development of the Cox Peninsula and Federal approval of the Kenbi Land claim may not be resolved anytime soon, Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin has indicated. *Sunday Territorian*, (Darwin NT, 15 March 2009), 2. *Northern Territory News*, (Darwin NT, 12 March 2009), 2.

MAR-09 NT Where are the mining millions? Australia's Central Land Council (CLC) has failed to reveal to Parliament the details that were requested by NT Senator Nigel Scullion about mining royalty payments. In the last three years \$23.5 million was paid to Aboriginal people. *Alice Springs News*, (Alice Springs NT, 5 March 2009), 1.

Mar-09 NT NTCA discuss Native Title, medivac at AMG The Katherine branch of the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association held its annual AGM meeting last week. It was attended by people from the pastoral industry in the Katherine region. With possible native title resolutions, a number of stations in the Katherine region are expected to be affected. *Katherine Times*, (Katherine NT, 4 March 2009), 11.

Queensland

Apr-09 QLD **200th ILUA is now registered** Queensland has registered its 200th Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the National Native Title Tribunal. *North Queensland Registrar*, (Qld, 9 April 2009), 14.

Mar-09 QLD **Meeting for group under administration** Meetings will be held on Monday, March 23, to cancel the constitution of a Hope Vale registered native title group that has been placed under special administration. *Cooktown Local News*, (Cooktown QLD, 18 March 2009), 4.

Mar-09 QLD **Funding to develop Aboriginal communities** Representatives of Rio Tinto Coal Australia Pty Ltd were in Barcaldine to speak with Indigenous groups Wangan and Jagaligou people who have native title claims over their Balir Athol and Clermont mines. *Longreach Leader*, (Longreach QLD, 13 March 2009), 7.

South Australia

Mar-09 SA Native title awarded over Flinders Ranges South Australia has recently experienced its largest native title determination in its history. Adnyamathanha people, traditional owners of the Flinders ranges and Gammon Ranges have been awarded non-exclusive rights to 41, 085 square kilometres of land. The returned land includes the Flinders Ranges National Park and Beverley uranium mine near Lake Frome. The determination was awarded by Justice Mansfield. Whyalla News, (Whyalla SA, 6 April 2009), 10. Roxby Downs Sun, (Port August SA, 2 April 2009), 4. Port Pirie Recorder, (Port Pirie SA, 2 April 2009), 3. Monitor Roxby Downs, (SA, 8 April 2009), 4. Advertiser, (Adelaide SA, 31 March 2009), 15. Dailey Liberal, (Dubbo NSW, 31 March 2009), 7. Herald Sun, (Melbourne VIC, 31 March 2009), 10. Northern Territory News, (Darwin NT, 31March 2009), 10. Sunraysia Daily, (Mildura VIC, 31 March 2009), 11. News -Mail, (Bundaberg QLD, 31 March 2009), 10. Gympie Times, (Gympie QLD, 31 March 2009), 6. Daily News Tweed Heads, (Tweeds Heads, 31 March 2009), 10. Barrier Daily Truth, (Broken Hill NSW, 31 MArch 2009), 7. North West Star, (Mount Isa QLD, 31 march 2009), 9. Australian, (Australia, 30 March 20090, 6.

Victoria

Apr-09 VIC Lara expansion faces native title 'interests' A claimant could possibly seek compensation in the region's first native title bid. Indigenous groups have expressed "interest" in exercising native title rights on land earmarked for expansion of Lara's town centre, according to City Hall. The City Council is looking to change a portion of Austin Park from Crown Land to freehold title to facilitate the expansion of Lara's town centre. *Geelong Advertiser*, (Geelong VIC, 24 March 2009), 9. *Geelong Independent*, (Geelong VIC, 42 April 2009), 5.

Bellarine Independent, (Victoria, 24 April 2009), 5. Torquay Independent, (Melbourne, 24 April 2009), 5

Apr-09 VIC Council plans for Murray Downs land It has been suggested by the Wakool Shire Council that land at Murray Downs will be compulsorily acquired for the purposes of subdivision and resale. The planned acquisition will involve the Council calling forth anyone who believes the acquisition would affect their native title rights. *Swan Hill Guardian*, (Swan Hill VIC, 20 April 2009), 3.

Mar-09 VIC **Bid to resolve Howlong claim** Howlong's medical centre project is being delayed by an Aboriginal lands right claim that has been unresolved and apparently forgotten about since 1995. *Border Mail*, (Albury-Woodonga VIC, 20 March 2009), 21. *Border Mail*, (Albury Wodonga VIC, 19 March 2009), 13.

Mar-09 VIC **Delay in decision on native title** A decision on a radical revamp of Victorian native title has been put off due to Victoria's bushfires. Cabinet is now expected to consider a confidential report in April, at least a month later than planned. *Age*, (Melbourne VIC, 18 March 2009), 13.

Western Australia

Apr-09 WA **Aurox row brews** Ngaluma Aboriginal Corporation has called for Aurox Resources' Balla Balla project to be halted, until an agreement with native title holders is reached. A day after the State Government signed off on the project, Ngarluma claimed there had been a lack of effort to engage with the land's traditional owners. An Aurox spokesman claimed that the negotiations were in compliance with all its native title requirements. *West Australian*, (Perth, 30 April 2009), 43.

Mar-09 WA LNG deal reached Traditional owners have signed a landmark agreement with the State Government, bringing the LNG processing hub at James Price Point one step closer. Negotiations have been finalised bringing a historic agreement between State Government and Woodside miner worth up to \$2 billion. Broome Advertiser, (Broome WA, 23 April 2009), 1. Broome Advertiser, (Broome WA, 23 April 2009), 1. West Australian, (Perth, 16 April 2009), 1. Age, (Melbourne, 16 April 2009), 3. Australian, (Australian, 16 April 2009), 5. Summaries - Australian Financial Review, (Australia, 16 April 2009), 5. Broome Advertiser, (Broome WA, 30 April 2009), 2.

Arp-09 WA **Agreement finalised** The Kuruma Marthudunera native title group has announced after 12 months of negotiations that it has finalised its financial agreement with CITIC Pacific Mining. *Pilbara News*, (Pilbara WA, 22 April 2009), 8.

Apr-09 WA Broome native title row resolved A 15 year native title dispute in Broome has finally been resolved. An agreement to provide compensation, between the WA Government and the Yawuru people has paved the way for future housing and commercial and industrial development in Broome. The agreement will provide compensation to the Yawuru people in return for surrender of native title rights on land covering about 1000 hectares in the Broome region. *Australian*, (*Perth*, 15 April 2009), 11. Broome Advertiser, (Broome WA, 923April 2009), 5. West Australian, (Perth, 15 April 2009), 19.

Apr-09 WA Native title claim registered The Mantijintarra Ngalia No.2 native title claim, in the North-Eastern Goldfields, has been registered by National Native Title Tribunal after passing the registration test required for new claims under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth). *Kalgoorlie Miner, (Kalgoorlie WA, 2 April 2009), 5.*