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## Native Title in the News

### National

06/07/2011

#### Native title guide for local government

The National Native Title Tribunal and Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) launched 'Developing Indigenous land use agreements: A guide for local government'. The guide is focused on Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs), as they are primarily used by local governments to ensure that their actions in relation to land use that affect native title are done validly under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth). [Click here to download the Developing Indigenous land use agreements: A guide for local government](#). *Torres News* (Thursday Island QLD, 6 July 2011), 22.

19/08/11

#### Review of Attorney-General's portfolio

The Department of Finance and Deregulation is undertaking a review of the Courts and Tribunals under the Attorney-General's portfolio including the National Native Title Tribunal, Federal Court, Family Court, Federal Magistrates Court and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, but not the High Court. Cabinet documents show that the Federal government is seeking to reduce cost in the

administration of Federal Tribunals and Courts by increasing shared services. *Australian Financial Review* (Australia, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 21.

### New South Wales

25/07/2011

#### Native title claim registered

The Yaegl people's second native title claim in the Clarence Valley, covering 1400sqkm, has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal. The claim covers land from the Wooli River to Yamba and also extends 3km out to sea. The claim was made by the Yaegl Aboriginal Land Council. The rights given to the Yaegl people from a successful native title claim will be negotiated as part of the native title process, a spokeswoman for the National Native Title Tribunal said. *Daily Examiner* (Grafton NSW, 25 July 2011), 6. *Advocate* (Coffs Harbour NSW, 25 July 2011), 8. *Coastal Views* (Macleay NSW, 29 July 2011), 10.

09/08/11

#### Dunghutti Elders Council may appeal to High Court

On 11 February 2011, the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) issued the Dunghutti Elders Council (DEC) with a show cause notice amid concerns about the governance of the DEC and its use of native title monies held in trust. On 24 February 2011 the DEC applied to the Federal Court for an injunction to prevent the Registrar from placing the corporation under special administration. On 21 July 2011 the Full Court of the Federal Court dismissed a Dunghutti Elders Council (DEC) appeal against the show cause notice issued by the ORIC. The DEC then lodged another appeal against the 21 July decision, arguing there was a defect in the judgment handed down by the Full Court. Legal representatives for the DEC have asked that the Court reopen or vacate the decision it made on 21 July and indicated that if the appeal is dismissed, they may seek special leave to appeal to the High Court of Australia.

This appeal has subsequently been dismissed. See [Dunghutti Elders Council \(Aboriginal Corporation\) RNTBC v Registrar of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations \(No 2\) \[2011\] FCAFC 110](#) or the [August 2011 edition of 'What's New'](#) for a case summary. *Macleay Argus* (Kempsey NSW, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 2. *Macleay Argus* (Kempsey NSW, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2011), 5. *Macleay Argus* (Kempsey NSW, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 2.

## Northern Territory

5/07/2011

### Two native title determinations

The Federal Court handed down two decisions that recognise the native title rights of traditional owners of both the Neutral Junction area and the Kurundi pastoral lease in the Northern Territory. Neutral Junction is 300km north of Alice Springs and is part of the Kaytetye people's territory. The Kurundi decision recognises native title rights for 3857sqm of the larger Kurundi Perpetual Pastoral Lease 400km north of Alice Springs.

The CLC said the decision recognises their traditional rights, including the right to hunt, gather and fish on the land and waters, the right to conduct cultural activities and ceremonies, the right to live on the land, and for that purpose, to camp, erect shelters and other structures. It also secures their right to negotiate over any future acts such as mining. This area is also a cattle station which will co-exist with the native title agreement. *Northern Territory News* (Darwin NT, 15 July 2011), 6. *Centralian Advocate* (Alice Springs NT, 15 July 2011), 4.

13/07/2011

### Katherine Land Council bid

The Aboriginal Land Commissioner, Justice Olney attended a meeting in Katherine NT to hear evidence about the Jawoyn Association's proposal to create a breakaway Katherine Land Council. Northern Land Council Chief Executive Officer, Kim Hill told the meeting that the Jawoyn Association proposal was little more than a 'land grab'. 'They want to take over control of almost 80 per cent of the Northern Land Council's region and clearly did not have the support for such an ambitious takeover attempt', he said. *Northern Territory News* (Darwin NT, 13 Jul 2011), 3. *National Indigenous Times* (Malua Bay NSW, 21 July 2011), 12.

## Queensland

05/07/2011

### Quandamooka native title determination

The Federal Court ratified three native title agreements at a special sitting at a special sitting in Dunwich Community Hall on North Stradbroke Island QLD, 4 July 2011. Justice John Dowsett made the rulings, recognising the Quandamooka peoples land rights over more than 98 per cent of Stradbroke Island.

Under the determination, native title holders will have exclusive use of 2264ha of land and non-exclusive rights to another 22,639ha and 29,505ha

in the Moreton Bay Marine Park. The ruling gives the Quandamooka people permanent involvement in managing national parks and a share in mining royalties until sandmining ends on the island in 2025. Ian Delany, who was the sole native title applicant, admitted he had struggled to balance widely differing community views but said sticking together was key. 'I have faith in the younger group ... it's their job to steer the community in the right directions', he said.

For more information on the determination visit the National Native Title Tribunal website: [Quandamooka people's native title determination](#). *Courier Mail* (Brisbane QLD, 5 July 2011), 12. *Daily News Tweed Heads* (Tweed Heads NSW, 5 July 2011), 12. *Queensland Times* (Ipswich QLD, 5 July 2011), 14. *Advocate*, (Coffs Harbour NSW, 5 July 2011), 13. *Morning Bulletin* (Rockhampton QLD, 5 July 2011), 12. *Daily Advertiser* (Wagga Wagga NSW, 5 July 2011), 9. *Kalgoorlie Miner* (Kalgoorlie WA, 5 July 2011), 4. *Bayside Bulletin* (Brisbane QLD, 5 July 2011), 1. *National Indigenous Times* (Malua Bay NSW, 7 July 2011), 28. *Redland Times*, (Brisbane, 8 July 2011), 1. *Redland Times* (Brisbane QLD, 8 July 2011), 5. *North West Telegraph* (South Hedland WA, 13 July 2011), 6.

27/07/2011

### Western Cape Communities Trust investment strategy

The Western Cape Communities Trust (WCCT) has developed an investment strategy to ensure the long-term sustainability of mining royalty revenues for the communities and traditional owners of the western Cape York region of Queensland. The strategy outlines the direction for the WCCT's royalty investments, which is projecting substantial retained funds by 2022. The WCCT is a perpetual trust and currently the largest of its kind in Australia. The WCCT is a company 100 per cent owned and operated by the 11 traditional owner groups of the Western Cape York region.

WCCT Executive Officer, Georgina Richters, said the investment strategy, developed by traditional owner directors and associated with existing mining agreements, is the first of its kind in Australia. 'Trust directors and members have worked diligently for three years to ensure compliance in legal, tax and governance matters and now this investment strategy provides long-term direction for the management of Rio Tinto Alcan and Queensland government royalties for its shareholders', Ms Richters said.

Click here to download the investment strategy: [http://www.westerncape.com.au/pdf/WCCT\\_Investment\\_Strategy\\_FINAL\\_FN-200511.pdf](http://www.westerncape.com.au/pdf/WCCT_Investment_Strategy_FINAL_FN-200511.pdf)  
*North West Telegraph* (South Hedland WA, 27 July 2011), 10.

**27/07/2011**

### **Juru people get rights over Cape Upstart**

At a special sitting of the Federal Court in Bowen, Justice Rares acknowledged that the Juru people have native title rights and interests to more than 8500 ha in Cape Upstart National Park. In handing down the determination, Justice Rares said the Juru people had continued to acknowledge and observe traditional laws and customs from before European settlement.

The judgment read: 'From today, the rights and interests of the Juru people will be protected by the force of law so that the current and future descendants of the original Indigenous inhabitants before 1861 will enjoy rights and interests that their ancestors had'.

Natural Resources Minister Rachel Nolan said the agreement demonstrated the Juru people's commitment to conservation values. 'This determination will allow the Juru people to use the land for hunting, fishing and gathering purposes and to conduct ceremonies and carry out cultural activities'. *Townsville Bulletin* (Townsville, 27 July 2011), 14. *Northern Territory News* (Darwin NT, 27 July 2011), 14. *Gold Coast Bulletin* (Gold Coast QLD, 27 July 2011), 13. *Courier Mail* (Brisbane QLD, 27 July 2011), 15. *Bendigo Advertiser* (Bendigo VIC, 27 July 2011), 17. *Observer* (Home Hill QLD, 28 July 2011), 10. *Bowen Independent* (Bowen QLD, 27 July 2011), 3. *Pilbara News* (Pilbara WA, 27 July 2011), 7. *Daily Mercury* (Mackay QLD, 27 July 2011), 2. *Bowen Independent* (Bowen QLD, 29 July 2011), 3. *National Indigenous Times* (Malua Bay NSW, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 27.

**19/08/11**

### **Connection report discussed at Mandandanji meeting**

A connection report which aims to establish the Mandandanji people's connection to country was discussed at a meeting in Toowoomba on 3 September. The area of land which the report refers to is approximately 33,000sqkm within the Maranoa, Goondiwindi, Balonne and Western Downs Local Council regions. Queensland South Native Title Services (QSNTS) CEO Kevin Smith stated that the meeting was 'an opportunity for Mandandanji people to have a say and be part of

the native title process'. The meeting was used to accept or reject the material in the connection report, and then provide QSNTS with instructions on how to proceed the claim. *Western Star* (Roma QLD, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 6.

## **South Australia**

**12/08/11**

### **Ngadjuri people sign native title agreement**

The Ngadjuri people, whose lands lay in the mid north of South Australia, have signed a native title agreement with iron ore miner, Royal Resources. The company has agreed to employment and educational scholarship measures for the Ngadjuri people. Ngadjuri Nation Chairman Quenten Agius said the Ngadjuri people looked forward to working with Royal Resources. 'Royal Resources understood our concerns around Aboriginal culture and heritage and addressed those issues during our negotiations', he said. *Advertiser* (Adelaide SA, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 69.

**16/08/11**

### **Mining dispute on Adnyamathanha lands**

The Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) has voted in favour of mining in Arkaroola at a special general meeting held in Hawker, South Australia. 'Our people had a democratic process as part of our traditional practices and this is continued today, so at our meeting we discussed this issue at length and then the vote was carried convincingly in favour of mining in Arkaroola', Association Chairman, Vince Coulthard said. 'ATLA is the only entity that can legally speak on behalf of the Adnyamathanha people and therefore governments and others are legally required to consult with us on any matters with regards to our native title'.

Despite this vote, the South Australian government will push on with plans to ban mining forever in the Arkaroola Wilderness Sanctuary. South Australian Premier Mike Rann said while he 'respected the views of the traditional owners, he was proud of proposed legislation to ban mining in the environmentally sensitive region of the Flinders Ranges'. *Northern Star* (Lismore NSW, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 8. *Northern Territory News* (Darwin NT, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 12. *Fraser Coast Chronicle* (Harvey Bay QLD, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 13. *Advocate* (Coffs Harbor NSW, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 11. *Sunraysia Daily* (Mildura VIC, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 11. *National Indigenous Times* (Malua Bay NSW, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 16. *Daily Liberal* (Dubbo NSW, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 6.



24/08/11

**Kokatha Uwankara native title agreement**

Minerals exploration and development will go ahead on the Carrapateena Prospect, located 100kms South East of Olympic Dam and 130kms North of Port Augusta, on the eastern margin of the Gawler Craton following the signing of a native title agreement between Kokatha Uwankara native title holders and OZ Minerals Carrapateena Pty Ltd.

The Deed of Acknowledgement and Assumption marks the agreement between the parties to allow for the on-going exploration and development of the Carrapateena Prospect. The new Deed amends an existing agreement and supersedes and replicates previous agreements, dating back to early 2006, between Teck Australia Pty Ltd, the Kokatha Uwankara native title claimants and formerly overlapping native title claim groups. *Monitor Roxby Downs* (Roxby Downs SA, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 5.

**Western Australia**

01/07/2011

**Woodside agreement**

The Goolarabooloo Jabirr Jabirr native title claim group, Woodside Petroleum and the Western Australia government signed a heads of agreement to facilitate the Browse LNG precinct in Western Australia. WA Premier Colin Barnett said the signing 'concluded years of intensive negotiations with traditional owners, who would get more than \$1.5 billion over 30 years and more when additional proponents took up land'. The deal includes \$256 million for housing, education, economic development and cultural heritage protection as well as the creation of conservation areas and land tenure reform.

However not everything has run smoothly, with protesters blocking the site to prevent Woodside workers gaining access to the site for almost a month and protestors staging demonstrations at Parliament House in Canberra. *Illawarra Mercury* (Wollongong NSW, 1 July 2011), 24. *West Australian* (Perth WA, 1 July 2011), 11. *Newcastle Herald* (Newcastle NSW, 1 July 2011), 35. *Townsville Bulletin* (Townsville QLD, 1 July 2011), 53. *Herald Sun* (Melbourne VIC, 1 July 2011), 61. *Broome Advertiser* (Broome WA, 7 July 2011), 4. *Sunday Times* (Perth WA, 10 July 2011), 3 & 16. *The Weekend West* (Perth WA, 2 July 2010), 19. *Mining Chronicle* (National AU, July 2011), 1. *West Australian* (Perth WA, 6 July 2011), 3. *Broome Advertiser* (Broome WA, 7 July 2011), 2. *National Indigenous Times* (Malua Bay NSW, 21 July 2011), 10.

9/07/2011

**Fortescue Metals Group refuse to pay royalties**

Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) has attempted to make an agreement with the Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation since 2007 to develop its Solomon Hub project, about 200km south of Roebourne. FMG has offered Yindjibarndi traditional owners a \$500,000 signing fee, \$4 million a year in cash and up to \$6.5 million a year in housing, jobs, training and business opportunities. In return, Fortescue will get land access for all future mining activity including an expansion of its Solomon Hub mine, where an estimated \$280 billion worth of iron ore can be extracted over 40 years.

However, the Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) is trying to negotiate a minimum 2.5 per cent of royalties. YAC Chief Executive Michael Woodley criticised FMG stating that 'the only way to fix up some of our social problems, is to insist that these companies pay a fair deal'. Mr Woodley has said that the FMG offer is inadequate for loss of country.

With negotiations at a standstill the Wiru-Murra Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation, which supports Mr Forrest's offer, was formed and in March 2011 called a meeting in an effort to take over from YAC and finalise an agreement. Wiru-Murra has launched a Supreme Court bid to have an administrator appointed to YAC. For more information see ABC's 4 Corners program website: <http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/content/2011/s3270263.htm> *National Indigenous Times* (Malua Bay NSW, 21 July 2011), 15. *North West Telegraph* (South Hedland WA, 27 July 2011), 10. *Newcastle Herald* (Newcastle NSW, 27 July 2011), 35. *Canberra Times* (Canberra ACT, 27 July 2011), 13. *Pilbara News* (Pilbara WA, 27 July 2011), 7. *Border Mail* (Albury Wodonga VIC, 27 July 2011), 23. *Daily Mercury* (Mackay QLD, 30 July 2011), 19. *Bowen Independent* (Bowen QLD, 29 July 2011), 11.

20/07/2011

**No agreement for Rio Tinto's pipe plan**

Rio Tinto has requested the Jidi Jidi Aboriginal Corporation, which manages 50,000sqkm of land for the Nharnuwangga, Wajarri and Ngarlawangga traditional owners, for help with heritage surveys to ascertain whether a pipeline could be installed without affecting any Aboriginal sites. A Rio Tinto spokesman said Jidi Jidi refused due to Rio Tinto not agreeing to sign an Indigenous land use agreement (ILUA), matching those signed with neighbouring traditional owners. 'Rio Tinto does not believe this narrow pipeline corridor - still only a potential and relatively minor project -justifies the

huge and comprehensive mutual obligations' the spokesman said.

Traditional owner and Jidi Jidi native title manager Georgina Riley said she expected Rio Tinto to sit down and come to a formal agreement before it carried out any work. Ms Riley said Jidi Jidi had the right to lodge a compensation claim in the Federal Court if Rio Tinto proceeded. She also claimed the native title holders were being bullied into accepting a pipeline that would divide their lands. *Pilbara News* (Pilbara WA, 20 July 2011), 20.

**01/08/11**

**Goolarabooloo Jabirr Jabirr agreements and Woodside protests**

The Western Australia State government, the Goolarabooloo Jabirr Jabirr native title claimant group and Woodside Energy signed three native title agreements to secure access to land at James Price Point to build a gas processing plant. The agreements are available for viewing at the Department for State Development website at: <http://www.dsd.wa.gov.au/8416.aspx>.

Twenty-five people were arrested in July as police removed protesters from the road as they attempted to block the bulldozers from entering the James Price Point region. Despite the protests, Woodside has continued clearing work at James Price Point as well as seabed geotechnical survey activities. *Mining Chronicle* (National AU, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011), 1. *Northern Times* (Kerang VIC, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2011) 3. *Broome Advertiser* (Broome WA, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 3.

**04/08/11**

**Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation appeal dismissed**

Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) insists it has all the approvals needed to proceed with the Solomon iron ore project, however the Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation (YAC) have stated that FMG could not legally begin mining until it met State imposed consent conditions for the protection of Yindjibarndi heritage. YAC has also objected to a compensation deal struck between Fortescue and Wirlu-Murra Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corporation, to mine the Solomon project area. The deal comprises \$4 million a year in cash and \$6.5 million a year in housing, jobs, training and business opportunities.

The Yindjibarndi people had been in negotiations with FMG over applications for mining leases, which led to the publicised breakdown of negotiations and the split within the Yindjibarndi community.

Whilst trying to negotiate a deal at the National Native Title Tribunal earlier this year, YAC argued that the FMG mining lease would damage ceremonial sites, and that the interference with their religion was barred by s. 116 of the Constitution, which prohibits laws for restricting freedom of religion. The Tribunal determined that the future acts – the grant of those mining leases – could be done. The Yindjibarndi people appealed that determination to the Federal Court, which upheld the Tribunal's determination. The Yindjibarndi people appealed McKarracher J's decision to the Full Federal Court on administrative law grounds. This was dismissed by the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia in Perth, comprising Justice Mansfield, Justice North and Justice Gilmour ([see the case summary in the August 2011 edition of 'What's New'](#)). The YAC stated it was likely the decision would be appealed in the High Court. *Canberra Times* (Canberra ACT, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 13. *Daily Advertiser* (Wagga Wagga NSW, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 57. *Kalgoorlie Miner* (Kalgoorlie WA, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 27. *Australian Financial Review* (Australia, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 14. *Mercury* (Hobart TAS, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 33. *Shepparton News* (Shepparton VIC, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 44. *Newcastle Herald* (Newcastle NSW, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 39. *Herald Sun* (Melbourne VIC, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 79. *Weekend Gold Coast* (Gold Coast QLD, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 109. *Sydney Morning Herald* (Sydney NSW, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 5. *Sunraysia Daily* (Mildura VIC, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 33. *Courier Mail* (Brisbane QLD, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 76. *Advertiser* (Adelaide SA, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 76. *Northern Territory News* (Darwin NT, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 36. *National Indigenous Times* (Malua Bay NSW, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 24. *North West Telegraph* (South Hedland WA, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 6. *Business News* (Perth WA, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 2. *Pilbara News* (Pilbara WA, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 3. *National Indigenous Times* (Malua Bay NSW, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011), 24.

**10/08/11**

**Native title deal signed**

The Kariyarra people have signed off on a native title deal with the Western Australia State government which will provide the State with more than 3000ha of land for development and will allow for the future expansion of the South Hedland town and an expansion of the Port Hedland port.

In return for granting access to the land, the Kariyarra people will receive a percentage of profits from each lot sold by the State. Traditional owners will also receive parcels of land to develop and sell to resources companies. Regional Development

and Lands Minister Brendon Grylls said the agreement would bring significant benefits to the traditional owners and would also make land available for the government's growth plans for the region. 'This agreement helps the State move towards the [Pilbara Cities](#) vision and it forms the basis of a strong and successful relationship with the Kariyarra people', he said. *North West Telegraph* (South Hedland WA, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 2. *West Australian* (Perth WA, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 20, 19. *Business News* (Perth WA, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 4.

**18/08/11**

**Woodside fail to show respect**

Patrick Dodson, Chairman of the Yawuru Native Title Holders Corporation, described Woodside and its contractor's unauthorised use of Yawuru land as offensive and disrespectful. Woodside admitted using Yawuru land in an attempt to bypass protesters opposed to Woodside's clearance work near James Price Point. Professor Dodson has written to Woodside's head of the Browse Project, Michael Hession to express Yawuru native title holders' sense of anger and disappointment over Woodside's conduct. *National Indigenous Times* (Malua Bay NSW, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 19.

**Victoria**

**25/07/2011**

**Native title recognised for Gunditjmarra and Eastern Maar peoples**

The Gunditjmarra and Eastern Maar peoples have been recognised as the native title holders for an area of their traditional country in south-west Victoria. At a special sitting of the Federal Court in Yambuk, Justice North made orders recognising the ongoing native title rights of the Gunditjmarra and Eastern Maar peoples. The orders were made by consent of all parties, including the Victorian and Commonwealth governments.

The determination was handed down at Yambuk Coastal Reserve, an area of the coast close to Deen Maar Island (Lady Julia Percy Island). The area, in which native title has been recognised, is along the Shaw and Eumeralla rivers from Yambuk in the south to beyond Lake Linlithgow in the north. For the Gunditjmarra people, the determination is the resolution of their native title applications, first lodged in 1996. The native title of the Gunditjmarra people was recognised over most of their application area at Mt Eccles (Budj Bim) National Park in March 2007. For the Eastern Maar people,

the determination is the first time they have been recognised as native title holders.

Justice North said the day marked a special achievement for the Gunditjmarra and Eastern Maar people. 'By doing justice to the Gunditjmarra and Eastern Maar people, the state, the Commonwealth and the other respondents have taken a step to right past wrongs and lay a basis for reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians'.

*Portland Observer* (Portland VIC, 25 July 2011), 3. *Herald Sun* (Melbourne VIC, 27 July 2011), 22. *Warrnambool Standard* (Warrnambool VIC, 28 July 2011), 3. *Shepparton News* (Shepparton VIC, 2. *Moyne Gazette* (Moyne VIC, 28 July 2011), 6. *Herald Sun* (Melbourne VIC, 28 July 2011), 20. *Bendigo Advertiser* (Bendigo VIC, 28 July 2011), 12. *Kalgoorlie Miner* (Kalgoorlie WA, 28 July 2011), 4. *Illawarra Mercury* (Wollongong NSW, 28 July 2011), 5. *The Age* (Melbourne Vic, 28 July 2011), 8. July 2011), 13. *The Standard* (Warrnambool VIC, 27 July 2011), 3. *The Age* (Melbourne VIC, 27 July 2011), 6. *Lawyers Weekly* (Australia, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011) 6. *National Indigenous Times* (Malua Bay NSW, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2011) 27

**12/08/11**

**Wadi Wadi, Wamba Wamba and Barapa Barapa native title claim negotiations underway**

Wadi Wadi, Wamba Wamba and Barapa Barapa traditional owners have had a native title application before the Federal Court for more than ten years. On Friday 12 August to Sunday 14 August traditional owners attended a meeting in Swan Hill where a team of approximately twenty people representing the three groups was formed to negotiate a settlement with the State government of Victoria.

Signatory to the original native title claim, Gary Murray said the team would seek 'tangible outcomes' in talks expected to take about twelve months. The group's lawyer Tony Kelly said if the settlement was successful the native title claim would be withdrawn. He said many of the outcomes from the meeting were confidential and would be important in the upcoming negotiations with the State. The negotiating team will hold its first meeting with government representatives on 19 August 2011. *Swan Hill Guardian* (Swan Hill VIC, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 1, 3. *Northern Times* (Kerang VIC, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2011), 3.