

Native Title in the News January 2010

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
5/01/2010	QLD	Potential for further two Bowen Basin coal mines	Cultural heritage management plans and negotiations have begun with Aquila Resources representatives and native title claimants; the Kangoulo people. Aquila Resources has submitted a mining lease application to the State Government for its Washpool Hard Coking Coal Project in Blackwater. The proposed open cut coal mine could produce between 1.6 million and 2 million tones of coking coal annually.	<i>The Morning Bulletin</i> (Rockhampton QLD, 5 January 2010), 8. <i>Blackwater Herald</i> , (Blackwater QLD, 5 January 2010), 3. <i>Central Queensland News</i> , (Emerald QLD, 6 January 2010), 3.
6/01/2010	WA	Landowners resist deadline on Browse	The Government has given Woodside and joint ventures until April 2 to decide on a final suitable location for its \$30 billion Browse Basin development. But Kimberley Land Council chairman Wayne Bergmann said pressing the Traditional Owners to reach a binding agreement by April 2 would be "irresponsible". It is expected that negotiations between key stakeholders will recommence at the end of the month.	<i>The West Australian</i> , (Perth WA, 6 January 2010), 42. <i>The Age</i> , (Melbourne VIC, 6 January 2010), 20. <i>Broome Advertiser</i> , (Broome WA, 28 January 2010), 4.
8/01/2010	WA	WA government to negotiate native title	Negotiations to resolve native title over Perth and the South-West have commenced after a Heads of Agreement (HOA) was signed between the State Government and the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) last year. The HOA establishes a two-year timeframe for the negotiation of a settlement package that will resolve all current and future native title claims across the area which stretches from Geraldton to the South West coast near Esperance.	<i>Augusta Margaret River Times</i> , (Margaret River WA, 08 January 2010), 7. <i>Mandurah Mail</i> , (Mandurah WA, 7 January 2009), 30. <i>The Australian</i> , (Australia AU, 8 January 2010), 5.

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8/01/2010	WA	Toro closer to yellowcake	Toro Energy has received approval from the Western Australian Government for creation of a test pit as part of its Wiluna uranium project. The test pit is a key component of the company's feasibility study. Permissions and work on the project have been approved by native title representatives and work is expected to start in March 2010.	<i>The Canberra Times</i> , (Canberra ACT, 8 January 2010), 15. <i>The Herald</i> , (Newcastle NSW, 8 January 2010), 25.
21/01/2010	NSW	TOs and native title claimants come together for Basin consultations	More than 60 representatives from 27 Indigenous nations in the Northern Murray-Darling Basin took part in a Northern Basin Indigenous gathering at Moree on 9 and 10 December 2009. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority organised the gathering in consultation with a large number of Traditional Owner and native title claimant groups. The purpose of the gathering was to build stakeholder understanding and to seek input into key issues of the proposed Basin Plan.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> , (Malua Bay NSW, 21 January 2010), 35.
21/01/2010	QLD	A mistaken catch costs men \$2000 each	Rockhampton man Elwyn Mann and his cousin Leighton Little appeared in Rockhampton Magistrates Court facing charges of illegally using commercial fishing equipment in Moores Creek. The two men claimed they had native title rights to use a commercial net to fish the creek. Magistrate John McGrath said he accepted that Mann and Little mistakenly believed they had the relevant native title rights. He found, however, that this did not give them the right to act illegally. The two men were fined \$2000 each.	<i>Morning Bulletin</i> (Rockhampton QLD, 8 January 2010), 8.

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<p>27/01/2010</p>	<p>AU</p>	<p>Alternative approaches</p>	<p>Initiatives by some State Governments to resolve native title claims by consulting directly with Traditional Owners about a broader range of matters demonstrates that alternative approaches can be taken to resolve native title claims. Several States and representatives are currently participating in these types of alternative negotiations. For example, the Western Australian Government and the Noongar people's representative body, the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council are currently negotiating a native title claim. The Victorian Government has similar measures in place, announcing last year that it has developed a Native Title Settlement Framework to allow Traditional Owners to negotiate directly with the State to settle native title claims, rather than going through the courts. These initiatives align with the commitment made by Commonwealth, State and Territory native title Ministers to take a flexible approach when working to achieve practical and sustainable outcomes through native title processes.</p>	<p><i>Koori Mail</i>, (National, 27 January 2010), 22.</p>
<p>28/01/2010</p>	<p>SA</p>	<p>Boat ramp work to start in March</p>	<p>Construction of the Middle Beach Boat ramp is likely to begin in March following a council decision to proceed with the project subject to likely native title clearances. The District Council of Malala stated that the clearance was likely to be received in early March.</p>	<p><i>The Plains Producer</i>, (Balaklava SA, 28 January 2010), 13.</p>
<p>29/01/2010</p>	<p>SA</p>	<p>Mining chief steps down</p>	<p>Four Mile uranium mine joint venture partner Alliance Resources has announced that managing director Patrick Mutz will step down from the executive role. The announcement comes as Alliance and partner; Quasar Resources remain locked in legal battles over the mine's native title registration and management.</p>	<p><i>The Advertiser</i>, (Adelaide SA, 21 January 2010), 57.</p>

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<p>30/01/2010</p>	<p>NT</p>	<p>Camps swap land for house</p>	<p>Aboriginal people of Alice Springs will be given their first opportunity to buy their homes outright under a landmark deal expected to initiate a revolution in land tenure reform. Residents of Ilpeye Ilpeye and Alice Springs town camps have agreed to pass their land title to the Commonwealth. In doing so, the land will transfer to freehold enabling subdivisions and individual ownership. In return, \$100 million of infrastructure will be built by the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Indigenous Affairs Minister, Ms Macklin. will seize control of the community land title under the Commonwealth's Northern Territory Emergency Response legislation. The local community will retain native title and receive yet-to-be-determined 'just compensation' for the change, which practically gives the Commonwealth freehold ownership.</p>	<p><i>The Weekend Australian</i>, (Australia AU, 30 January 2010), 1, 6.</p>
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