

Native Title in the News - January 2011

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
04/01/2011	National	Mayala native title agreement	<p>Pluton Resources boss Tony Schoer has spent five years building relationships with local Mayala people of Irvine Island. This strong rapport has enabled Pluton Resources to gain a legally binding native title agreement with the Mayala people to develop iron ore mines on Irvine Island.</p> <p>Mr Schoer said 'this agreement builds on an excellent relationship between Pluton and the Mayala people, who already have had significant involvement in the project.'</p>	<i>Australian</i> (National AU, 4 January 2011), 17.
05/01/2011	VIC	Native title land claim	<p>A large section of Gippsland, including areas close to Mirboo North and Strzelecki down to Port Franklin, has been officially recognised as Gunaikurnai land via a native title agreement. The agreement was the first under the new <i>Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010</i> between with the Gunaikurnai people and the Victorian Government. The area under the native title agreement does not affect private land, nor land already covered by lease and licenses, but covers crown land from West Gippsland to the Snowy River and north to the Great Dividing Range; it also includes 200m of sea country offshore.</p> <p>The agreement gives rights for the Gunaikurnai people to access and use crown land for traditional purposes only. Under the agreement some national parks and reserves will be jointly managed by the Gunaikurnai people and the state.</p> <p>The parks and reserves to be handed back to the Gunaikurnai people for joint management include; the Knob Reserve, Stratford, Tarra Bulga National Park, Mitchell River National Parks, Lakes National Park, Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park, New Guinea Cave (within the Snowy River National Park)., Lake Tyers Catchment Area, Buchan Caves Reserve at Raymond Island and Corringale Foreshore Reserve.</p>	<i>South Gippsland Sentinel Times</i> (South Gippsland VIC, 5 January 2011), 18.

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13/01/2011	WA	Third native title claim lodged over gas hub site	<p>Goolarabooloo man Joseph Roe has lodged a third native title claim over an area including James Price Point. Kimberley Land Council executive director Wayne Bergmann believes it will not affect negotiations between the Kimberley Land Council, the State Government and Woodside over plans to build a gas processing precinct.</p> <p>In December 2010, Justice Michael Gilmore rejected a submission from Mr. Roe midway through the hearing on the matter that the original claim be dismissed outright. Mr Bergmann said as soon as Justice Gilmore delivered his finding regarding who has the right to negotiate for the claimants, then the heads of agreement would be taken back to the claim group for final consideration before a binding agreement was signed.</p>	<p><i>West Australian</i> (WA, 13 January 2011), 37. <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (NSW, 20 January 2011), 8. <i>Daily Advertiser</i> (NSW, 21 January 2011), 14. <i>Broome Advertiser</i> (WA, 20 January 2011), 7.</p>
14/01/2011	QLD	LNP's dugong-turtle plan	<p>The QLD State opposition has released draft legislation regarding cruelty to dugong and turtles December 2010, with penalties of up to \$200,000 for anyone if they wound, mutilate, torture or unnecessarily prolong the death of any animal whilst exercising traditional hunting rights.</p> <p>Independent Candidate for Cook, Ms Dewis-Batzke says she is outraged by State opposition leader John Paul Landbroek's latest draft legislation announcement and believes the draft animal care and protection regulation does not acknowledge the human rights of Indigenous people.</p> <p>Mr O'Brien Cook MP says 'the LNP's attack on traditional hunting and fishing rights is in effect an attack on native title'. Mr O'Brien also stated the policy is based on disregard for the traditional cultural practices, which could result in serious health problems for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as dugongs and turtles are a traditional dietary supplement for Cape York and Torres Strait Islander people.</p>	<p><i>Cooktown Local News</i> (Cooktown QLD, 14 January 2011), 7.</p>
18/01/2011	VIC	Judge rejects bid to explore Lake Torrens region	<p>The Environment Resources and Development Court of South Australia has denied Straits Resources and its joint venture partner Argonaut Resources the rights to explore a region around Lake Torrens, a salt lake about 60km north of Port Augusta in South Australia.</p> <p>The area had been described by Argonaut as a 'massive' copper-</p>	<p><i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (NSW, 18 January 2011), 3. <i>Canberra Times</i> (ACT, 18 January 2011), 11. <i>Advertiser</i> (SA, 18 January 2011), 31. <i>Border Mail</i> (VIC, 18 January 2011), 15.</p>

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20/01/2011	NSW	Jangga people agree to deal	<p>Waratah Coal has signed an agreement with the Jangga People who have a claim to about 150km of a rail project that will link a new mine with a new terminal at Abbot Point, near Bowen.</p> <p>Four underground mines, two surface mines and associated coal handling and processing facilities are planned for the Galilee Basin coal region near Alpha which is west of Emerald in Central Queensland. Under the agreement Waratah Coal is required to develop a cultural heritage management plan with Indigenous groups holding a registered native title claim over the project area.</p>	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (WA, 20 January 2011), 8.
22/01/2011	WA	Largest native title claim in Australia	<p>Negotiations between the Western Australia State Government and the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council, which represents WA's 30,000 Nyoongar people is entering a crucial stage, with claimants negotiating with Government on important issues for Nyoongar people.</p> <p>According to the article, a new Act of Parliament which recognises Nyoongar people as the traditional owners of 185,000sqkm of land stretching between Jurien Bay and Hopetoun has emerged as a key part of the long-running negotiations. Nyoongar people are requesting ownership of reserves and missions held by the Aboriginal Land Trust, water catchments which are no longer used and unallocated crown land, all of which are culturally significant.</p> <p>Western Australia's Attorney-General Christian Porter stated that the negotiations were confidential.</p>	<p><i>The Weekend West</i> (Perth WA, 22 January 2011), 3.</p> <p><i>The Weekend West</i> (Perth WA, 22 January 2011), 28.</p>

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26/01/2011	NT	New land council appeal	Northern Territory traditional owners plan to make a submission to the Federal Government to set up a new land council. Representatives from several Aboriginal groups, including Jawoyn, Alawa and Mangarrayi, have joined to form the proposed Katherine Region Land Council. If successful, their lands will be removed from the control of the Northern Land Council.	<i>The Weekend West</i> (Perth WA, 22 January 2011), 28.
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