

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
01/07/2010	WA	WA gas negotiations continue	<p>The KLC has suspended negotiations with Woodside and the State Government over a \$30 billion Browse Basin gas project, while a Federal Court challenge by native title applicant Joseph Roe is heard. Mr Roe filed a statement of claim in the Federal Court challenging the validity of the deal the KLC struck with Woodside and the State on behalf of traditional owners early in 2009.</p> <p>Mr Roe believes the deal was made contrary to the unanimous decision in 2005 of traditional owners that permission for the development should be refused because it would irreversibly damage a "song cycle" running through the region.</p> <p>WA Premier Colin Barnett has said that the WA Government would consider compulsory acquisition after providing \$16 million in negotiating funding, unless an agreement is attained quickly. Opposition State Development Minister Mark McGowan said compulsory acquisition could only delay the process and bring shame on the State.</p> <p>Lawyer Greg McIntyre said notice of compulsory acquisition would trigger a statutory negotiation process under the <i>Native Title Act</i>. This process would result in a commencement of a six-month right to negotiate procedure. If no resolution was reached after six months of negotiation in good faith, either of the parties could go to the NNTT for the matter to be arbitrated.</p>	<p><i>Australian Financial Review</i> (National, 1 July 2010), 12. <i>West Australian</i> (Perth WA, 1 July 2010), 3. <i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie WA, 2 July 2010), 5. <i>Advertiser</i> (Adelaide SA, 2 July 2010), 76. <i>West Australian</i> (Perth WA, 2 July 2010), 7. <i>Advertiser</i> (Adelaide SA, 2 July 2010), 34. <i>West Australian</i> (Perth WA, 3 July 2010), 21. <i>West Australian</i> (Perth WA, 5 July 2010), 20. <i>Australian Mining Review</i> (National AU, July 2010), 18. <i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome WA, 8 July 2010), 3. <i>Australian Financial Review</i> (National AU, 9 July 2010), 41. <i>Australian</i> (National AU, 16 July 2010), 6. <i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome WA, 22 July 2010), 8</p>
01/07/2010	WA	Central Desert services wins \$136,000 boost	<p>Central Desert Native Title Services has received \$136, 000 in 'Royalties for Regions Regional Grants Scheme' funding. The money will pay for the majority of the proposed \$196,000 Wiluna Land Management Unit.</p> <p>The Unit aims to enable ongoing care to Wiluna and Birriliburu native title lands. Central Desert CEO Ian Rawlings said the project was a base for their land management workers and would help develop job opportunities for the people of those lands.</p>	<p><i>Mid-West Times</i> (Geraldton WA, 1 July 2010), 10.</p>

01/07/2010	WA	Men's action like 'home invasion'	<p>Barrister, George Irving, hired by the Kimberley Land Council to defend accused men Lenny and John Hopiga, has described the actions of two men who were allegedly assaulted after they entered native title lands south of Bidyadanga as being equivalent to a home invasion.</p> <p>Bidyadanga law man Lenny Hopiga faces two counts of assault occasioning bodily harm and carrying an article with intent to cause fear and John Hopiga one count of wilfully destroying property and threats to injure over the incident in September 2008. Mr Irving said he would argue the men's actions were appropriate and they were within their duty, obligation and right to protect their land.</p> <p>Mr Irving also said the lands surrounding Bidyadanga were a private pastoral lease, owned by the Karajarri Traditional Lands Association on behalf of the Karajarri traditional owners. The Karajarri people won native title over the area in 2002, giving them exclusive possession – the right to exclude anyone from the property. The trial will resume in November when anthropologists will be called on to complete the evidence.</p>	<p><i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome WA, 1 July 2010), 9. <i>West Australian</i> (Perth, 23 July 2010), 16. <i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome WA, 29 July 2010), 6</p>
01/07/2010	QLD	Torres Strait Sea Claim	<p>Torres Strait Islanders have won a nine-year court process to secure native title rights over a vast tract of ocean to Australia's north. Federal Court Justice Paul Finn yesterday ruled in favour of their claim, covering more than 40,000 square kilometres of ocean between the top of Cape York and Papua New Guinea.</p> <p>Justice Paul Finn of the Federal Court accepted the islanders had "non-exclusive" rights to the area, giving them ownership of waters but not excluding the access of others, such as commercial fisherman.</p> <p>Justice Finn ruled that the Torres Strait Islanders formed one society and that their native title rights included marine resources for trading or commercial purposes. The Queensland and Federal Governments opposed the claim. The Queensland Government on the basis that there were 13 groups and the Federal Government deemed there to be four.</p> <p>This is the first time commercial rights have been included in a native title determination.</p>	<p><i>Cairns Post</i> (Cairns QLD, 1 July 2010), 4. <i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (Broken Hill NSW, 3 July 2010), 7. <i>Ballarat Courier</i> (Ballarat VIC, 3 July 2010), 22. <i>Illawarra Mercury</i> (Wollongong NSW, 3 July 2010), 7. <i>Advocate</i> (Coffs Harbour, 3 July 2010), 27. <i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie WA, 3 July 2010), 8. <i>Canberra Times</i> (Canberra ACT, 3 July 2010), 7. <i>Weekend Australian</i> (National AU, 3 July 2010), 8. <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane QLD, 3 July 2010), 2010. <i>West Australian</i> (Perth WA, 3 July 2010), 11. <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin NT, 3 July 2010), 16. <i>Daily Liberal</i> (Dubbo NSW, 3 July 2010), 14. <i>Sunshine Coast Daily</i> (Maroochydore QLD, 3 July 2010), 6</p>

				<p>2010), 24. <i>Northern Daily Leader</i> (Tamworth NSW, 3 July 2010), 17. <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville QLD, 3 July 2010), 21. <i>Shepparton News</i> (Shepparton VIC, 3 July 2010), 17. <i>Launceston Examiner</i> (Launceston TAS, 3 July 2010), 4. <i>Launceston Examiner</i> (Launceston TAS, 3 July 2010), 8. <i>Warrnambool Standard</i> (Warrnambool VIC, 3 July 2010), 16. <i>Australian Financial Review</i> (National AU, 3 July 2010), 15. <i>Weekend Post</i> (Cairns QLD, 3 July 2010), 2. <i>Daily Advertiser</i> (Wagga Wagga NSW, 3 July 2010), 22. <i>Sunraysia Daily</i> (Mildura VIC, 3 July 2010), 26. <i>Newcastle Herald</i> (Newcastle NSW, 3 July 2010), 30. <i>Border Mail</i> (Albury Wodonga VIC, 3 July 2010), 29. <i>Torres News</i> (Thursday Island QLD, 7 July 2010), 1. <i>Australian Financial Review</i> (National AU, 8 July 2010), 60. <i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 8 July 2010), 5. <i>Torres News</i> (Thursday Island QLD, 21 July 2010), 7. <i>Western Cape Bulletin</i> (Weipa QLD, 14 July 2010), 6. <i>Western Cape Bulletin</i> (Weipa QLD, 7 July 2010), 10. <i>Torres News</i> (Thursday Island, 14 July 2010), 4.</p>
02/07/2010	WA	Native title ruling a win for Martu	<p>A test case brought by the Central Desert Native Title Services for the Martu people resulted in the judgement that full native title rights and interests continued to exist over areas covered by mining leases granted between 1975 and 1993.</p> <p>The Central Desert Native Title Services stated where there had been no earlier tenure and the grant of a mining lease during that</p>	<p><i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie WA, 2 July 2010), 3.</p>

			<p>period was now considered a 'Category C Past Act' under the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth).</p> <p>This means the 'non-extinguishment principle' applies. The mining lessee may still carry out all the operation permitted under the lease, but it will not extinguish native title and the native title holders will be entitled to compensation for any disturbance on their land.</p>	
03/07/2010	QLD	Native title rights take another step	<p>The Girramay People have completed the last step required for the recognition of their native title rights - the registration of four Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs) negotiated with parties to their claim in Far North Queensland.</p> <p>National Native Title Tribunal member Graham Fletcher, who mediated between the parties, said the registration of the ILUAs brought into effect the native title determination made by the Federal Court of Australia on December 10, 2009. The determination recognised the Girramay People's non-exclusive rights over 16 parcels of unallocated state land from Cardwell to Bilyana and Murray Upper area.</p>	<i>Innisfail Advocate</i> (Innisfail QLD, 3 July 2010), 13.
3/07/2010	WA	Pilbara traditional owners announce pipeline agreement with Chevron	<p>The Kuruma Marthudunera (KM) people are this week celebrating the conclusion of negotiations with Chevron Australia for the future construction of a domestic gas pipeline from Barrow Island through the KM peoples' native title claim area.</p> <p>The agreement was officially endorsed at a meeting held in Point Samson Friday, 18 June, and was attended by KM community members and Chevron representatives.</p> <p>The project involves the construction of a single gas pipeline to connect a processing plant on Barrow Island with the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline. The agreement provides for the payment of compensation to the KM people for the impact on their native title rights and interests and upholds their continued rights to access the area under their traditional laws and customs.</p>	<i>Pilbara Echo</i> (Pilbara WA, 3 July 2010), 5. <i>Yamaji News</i> (Geraldton WA, July 2010), 20

04/07/2010	AU	Native title reforms proposed	The Federal Government has released a list of proposed reforms to the native title system. The public discussion paper 'Leading practice agreements: maximising outcomes from native title benefits' includes plans for an independent body to review agreements, and a simplification of the claims process. Click here to visit the FaHCSIA website to download the discussion paper.	<i>Sunday Tasmanian</i> (Hobart TAS, 4 July 2010), 10. <i>Sunday Telegraph</i> (Sydney NSW, 4 July 2010), 13. <i>Sunday Territorian</i> (Darwin NT, 4 July 2010), 5. <i>Sunday Canberra Times</i> (Canberra ACT, 4 July 2010), 7.
07/07/2010	VIC	Native title proposal	Boort could have a multi-million dollar cultural and environmental centre, under a plan that is being negotiated between the State Government and the Dja Dja Wurrung Native Title Group. The proposed multi-purpose centre could combine an art gallery, museum, office, educational facilities and conference centre, with other tourist attractions including environmental tours.	<i>Loddon Times</i> (Loddon VIC, 7 July 2010), 1.
8/07/2010	AU	Indigenous Land Corporation secures reliable income stream	<p>Following the passing of the <i>Social Security and Other Legislation Amendment (Welfare Reform and Reinstatement of Racial Discrimination Act) Act 2010</i> the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) will receive a minimum Australian Government payment of \$45 million each year to continue its important role in purchasing and managing land to benefit Indigenous communities.</p> <p>This delivers on a 2007 election commitment to provide the ILC with a steady and reliable income stream. The current funding arrangements had led to erratic annual payments. Over the past five years these payments have ranged from nil to \$71.9 million. The new funding arrangements recognise the ILC's valuable role in working with Indigenous corporations to deliver economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits to Indigenous people who are unable to claim rights and interests in land through the <i>Native Title Act</i>.</p>	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (Malua Bay NSW, 8 July 2010), 4.
10/07/2010	WA	Karratha Land Agreement	The Western Australia State Government and the Ngarluma Aboriginal Corporation have signed an agreement which will make land available for development in Karratha. Brendon Grylls the Regional Development and Lands Minister said the agreement enabled the Government to proceed with a number of proposed developments in the town, as well as providing benefits for the Ngarluma native title holders.	<i>Pilbara Echo</i> (Pilbara WA, 10 July 2010), 3.

10/07/2010	QLD	Land Use Deal	<p>Charters Towers Regional Council, Isaac Regional Council, Whitsunday Regional Council and the Jangga People have celebrated the signing of an Indigenous land use agreement (ILUA) at a ceremony at Mount Coolon. The ILUA covers more than 20,700 sq km centred on the township of Mt Coolon, 120km west of Mackay and 150km south of Townsville under a native title claim. It provides a way forward where local government can work together with the traditional owners, the Jangga people, and all parties' rights are protected. The National Native Title Tribunal registered the legally binding agreement on February 11, 2010.</p>	<p><i>Morning Bulletin</i> (Rockhampton QLD, 10 July 2010), 12. <i>Daily Mercury</i> (Mackay QLD, 12 July 2010), 4. <i>Morning Bulletin</i> (Rockhampton QLD, 12 July 2010), 4. <i>Daily Mercury</i> (Mackay QLD, 20 July 2010), 4</p>
10/07/2010	NSW	National Conference to be held in Broken Hill	<p>The National Indigenous Land and Sea Management Conference is held every two years and hosted by an Indigenous community with the host location alternating between inland and coastal communities. The event brings together Indigenous traditional owners and leaders, community organisations and people who work in the environmental conservation industry.</p> <p>This year Broken Hill will host the event, titled Leading Sustainable Tradition, which will focus on issues such as caring for land and water, governance, leadership, climate change, carbon markets, economic development and innovation, and the Indigenous Advisory Committee's draft National Caring for Country strategy.</p>	<p><i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (Broken Hill NSW, 10 July 2010), 12.</p>
19/07/2010	VIC	Methane Reserves in Colac District	<p>A methane mining company is a step closer to producing clean energy from methane reserves in Colac district. The Department of Primary Industries has given notice of an impending licence to explore an area around Barongarook for methane. People opposed to the licence have until October 14 to become a native title claimant and object under the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i></p>	<p><i>Colac Herald</i> (Colac VIC, 19 July 2010) 12</p>

30/07/2010	AU	Native Title Laws Reviewed	<p>The Victorian Government is progressing a new out-of-court approach to settling native title in Victoria. The Traditional Owner Settlement Bill was introduced to Parliament in July 2010.</p> <p>If passed, the Traditional Owner Settlement Bill will provide an alternative pathway to settle native title claims and address land justice in Victoria, that is more flexible, less technical and less costly than contesting in court under the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993</p> <p>Native title land claims will be more streamlined and cheaper under new legislation put to Victorian State parliament, according to Framlingham Aboriginal Elder Len Clarke, who helped with the framework. Mr Clarke was co-chairman of the Land Justice Group for more than six years until the draft legislation was handed to the government earlier this year.</p>	<p><i>Warrnambool Standard</i> (Warrnambool VIC, 30 July 2010), 6.</p>
31/07/2010	QLD	Torres Strait Islander declaration delay	<p>Torres Strait Islanders are disappointed at a delay in the official declaration of their native title rights over a vast tract of ocean to Australia's north. Earlier in July the Federal Court granted traditional owners native title rights over more than 40,000sqkm of ocean between Cape York and Papua New Guinea after a nine year court battle.</p> <p>Justice Paul Finn of the Federal Court accepted the Islanders had "non-exclusive" rights to the area, giving them ownership of waters but not excluding the access of others, such as commercial fisherman. However, he questioned the final form of the orders. He queried the boundaries and remained undecided on whether minerals and petroleum that didn't belong to the Crown should be included in the native title claim.</p> <p>Barrister Robert Blowes said outside court it was unclear how much longer it would take to finalise the details.</p>	<p><i>Advertiser</i> (Adelaide SA, 31 July 2010), 55. <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville QLD, 31 July 2010), 23. <i>Border Mail</i> (Albury-Wodonga VIC, 31 July 2010), 20. <i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie WA, 31 July 2010), 8.</p>