

Native Title in the News June 2008

Date	State	Subject	Summary	Source
01-Jun-08	NSW	Barrick Gold Censors Indigenous Groups	Indigenous leaders from the Wiradjuri people have said at the Barrick AGM that the company 'has absolutely no respect for our cultural heritage' and that Barrick allowed 'five unauthorised Wiradjuri to sign off on their cultural heritage agreement that was kept secret'.	<i>Ethical Investor</i> (National, June 2008), 7.
02-Jun-08	NATIONAL	Native title deals should be split	A former Rio Tinto senior executive has advised the Rudd government that 'Indigenous people who win native title agreements should be asked to share the benefits with poor Aboriginal neighbours in the same region'. The Government has also 'revealed it will overhaul the native title laws and processes to allow compensation payments to be used for future generations'. Marcia Langton has also been appointed as an advisor. These reforms have been supported by the Kimberley Land Council.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 2 June 2008), 7; 'Native title reform backed' <i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome, 5 June 2008), 6.
03-Jun-08	NSW	ILUA registered	The Native Title Tribunal has 'just registered the second part of the Byrin Mundjalung People's Indigenous Land Use Agreement'. Their claim was lodged in 1994 and has taken 14 years to 'get to this point'.	<i>Byron Shire Echo</i> (Byron Bay, 3 June 2008), 11.
04-Jun-08	NATIONAL	Native title chief urges easing of land link proof	National Native Title Tribunal president Graeme Neate has argued that 'substantial changes need to be made to end the 30 year native title claim back log'. Speaking at the National Native Title Conference, Mr Neate argued that Indigenous people 'should not have to comprehensively prove they have a connection to land before negotiating native title claims'.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 4 June 2008), 5.

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04-Jun-08	WA	Central desert native title decision hailed	The Ngaanyatjarra people of 'Western Australia's Central desert have become the largest native title holders in Australia following the Federal Court's recognition of the remainder of their traditional lands'. The Ngaanyatjarra people are 'now native title holders of 169 184 sq km of land and waters, the largest area in Australia where native title is found to exist'.	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 4 June 2008), 3; 'Goldfields indigenous leader sees hope in native title decision' <i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 5 June 2008), 5.
04-Jun-08	QLD	Title claim may be 'a first'	A native title claim on Mount Lindesay 'could be the first of its kind'. The claim is a part of the Githabul people's larger claim which has been recognised in NSW.	<i>Jimboomba Times</i> (Jimboomba, 4 June 2008), 45.
05-Jun-08	NATIONAL	Native title in the web	The National Native Title Tribunal has launched a new website: www.nntt.gov.au	<i>Farm Weekly</i> (Western Australia, 5 June 2008), 110.
05-Jun-08	NT	Native title holders have no worries with uranium mine	A senior executive from the Canadian company Cameco says that he 'found no opposition to [a proposed uranium mine] from Aboriginal people who may have native title interests on the site'. The proposed uranium mine is 25 kms south of Alice Springs.	<i>Alice Springs News</i> (Alice Springs, 5 June 2008), 5.
09-Jun-08	SA	Minister snubbed by land council	Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin has cancelled a planned visit to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara community after the 'local land council refused to meet her'. The community is divided on Ms Macklin's proposed housing plans.	<i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 9 June 2008), 2.

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11-Jun-08	QLD	Aurukun leaders on mission to China	Indigenous delegates representing the Aurukun community will head off to China 'as guests of the Chinese government owned mining giant Chalco which last year won the right to mine bauxite' in the region. The leaders will be inspecting the company's operations.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 11 June 2008), 6; 'Aurukun leaders visit China' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 11 June 2008), 34; 'Mutual learning curve' <i>Weekend Australian</i> (National, 21 June 2008), 24; 'Mining goodwill' <i>Courier Mail</i> (Brisbane, 21 June 2008), 75; 'Aurukun delegation tours China' <i>Western Cape Bulletin</i> (Weipa, 18 June 2008), 11.
11-Jun-08	VIC	Forum calls for voices	The Barengi Gagjin Land Council hosted a forum, 'Yana Together: Navigating Towards More Effective natural resource management partnerships' to 'encourage more Indigenous involvement in natural resource management'. The forum was held at the Horsham Sports and Community Club from June 19 to 20 and 'aimed to develop more effective agreements and partnerships'.	<i>Wimmera Mail Times</i> (Horsham, 11 June 2008), 15.
11-Jun-08	WA	Owners want say on mines compo	The Yamatji Marlpa Barna Baba Maaja Aboriginal Corporation has 'warned against Government regulation of compensation to Aboriginal people affected by mining activity'. Chief Executive Simon Hawkins said that the 'Indigenous Affairs minister Jenny Macklin should have included Aboriginal people in recently announced informal talks about native title claims involving the Minerals Council and academics'.	<i>Geraldton Guardian</i> (Geraldton, 11 June 2008), 4.
11-Jun-08	NATIONAL	Indigenous people must transcend the past for a better future: Mabo lecture	Indigenous people 'must lead and convince the "settlers" to follow if Indigenous disadvantage is to be overcome, Chair of the Waitangi Tribunal and Maori Land Court Chief Judge Joe Williams told the Mabo Lecture at the Native Title Conference in Perth' 3-5 June 2008.	<i>Torres News</i> (Thursday Island, 11 June 2008), 11.

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11-Jun-08	QLD	Red letter day for Kannju clan	The first Indigenous protected area on the Cape York Peninsula has been 'declared at a ceremony at Chuulangun'. The Kannju Ngaachi Wenlock and Pascos Rivers Indigenous Protected area covers 197 500 hectares.	<i>Western Cape Bulletin</i> (Weipia, 11 June 2008), 2; 'Land guardian deal' <i>Cooktown Local News</i> (Cooktown, 11 June 2008), 5.
12-Jun-08	NATIONAL	Miners place focus on indigenous schemes	The Mineral's Council of Australia has welcomed moves to 'fast track training for indigenous Australians'. According to Chief Executive Michelle Hooke, the 'Government had the backing of the Australian minerals industry in its plan to provide Indigenous Australians with new job seeker trainee places as a complement to existing initiatives of minerals companies'. With 'sixty per cent of mining operations in Australia [being] carried out alongside indigenous communities' the 'Australian minerals industry is committed to providing employment opportunities for indigenous Australians'.	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 12 June 2008), 14; 'Indigenous workers on track' <i>Goldfield Express</i> (Kalgoorlie, 13 June 2008), 25.
12-Jun-08	NT	Traditional owners offer up their land for nuclear dump	Northern Land Council Chairman Wali Wunungmurra has said that the 'Ngapa traditional owners overwhelmingly support the nomination of their country at the Muckaty station for the commonwealth radio active waste facility'.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 12 June 2008), 4; 'Science the key to decision' <i>Australian</i> (National, 16 June 2008), 6; 'Why the 'desert rain people' want a nuclear waste dump: The abject poverty of the Ngapa group is only part of the explanation' <i>Australian</i> (16 June 2008), 6.
12-Jun-08	NT	New NLC head says he will be tough	The Northern Land Council's new chief executive Kim Hill has said: 'I'll be making some changes to the way we serve our traditional owners'. He said that he 'wanted to bring transparency to the organisation in regards to getting information out into communities'.	<i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 12 June 2008), 4.

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12-Jun-08	WA	Students to survey stock route	Curtin University Students and members from local Indigenous communities will 'traverse the [Canning stock route] to evaluate historical survey marks and native title claims'.	<i>Countryman</i> (National, 12 June 2008), 12.
12-Jun-08	NT	NT intervention review board named: Macklin	Minister for Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin has reviewed the board that will review the Northern Territory Emergency response intervention. The board will include: Peter Yu, Donna Ah Chee, Deputy Director of the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (health care service), Alice Springs; Michael Berto, CEO of Roper Gulf Shire Council and Chair of the Northern Territory Indigenous Housing Advisory Board, Katherine; Vicki Gillick, Coordinator of the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council, Alice Springs; Ronald Lami Lami, Chairperson of the West Arnhem Shire Transition Committee and resident of Waruwu; Mavis Malbunka, Vice President of the Ntaria Council (Hermannsburg) and a finalist in the Northern Territory Australian of the Year 2006; David Ross, Director of the Central Land Council, Alice Springs; Dr John Taylor (ACT) Deputy Director and Senior Fellow at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, Canberra; Dr Mark Wenitong (QLD), Senior Medical Officer at Apunipima Cape York Health Council and past president and founding member of the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association; Neil Westbury, Associate at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University (ANU) and a member of the Indigenous Community Governance Project Advisory Committee (ANU); Ann Rebgetz, Co-Principal of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, Wadeye.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (National, 12 June 2008), 4.

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12-Jun-08	WA	WA govt may 'strike out Noongar claim: Kelly'	At the National Native Title Conference in Perth, the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council has said that the "West Australian Government may 'strike out' the landmark Noongar claim if negotiations are not settled'. Chief executive Glen Kelly said that the state needed to assist with mediation and 'agree on how its going to happen'.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (National, 12 June 2008), 6; 'Decision spreads the biggest title' <i>Farm Weekly</i> (Western Australia, 12 June 2008), 146.
12-Jun-08	NT	Inpex 'nervous' about title claim	Inpex, Japanes oil and gas company said that it was 'nervous' about a native title claim affecting the 'planned site of a \$12 billion gas plant on Darwin Harbour' according to the Northern Territory Government during hearings over the native title claim of Tibby Quall in the Federal Court.	<i>National Indigenous Times</i> (National, 12 June 2008), 11.
13-Jun-08	NATIONAL	Apology begins healing	The Canadian Government has apologised for the 'nation's policy of forcing 150 000 indigenous children to attend government funded Christian boarding schools aimed ay assimilation'.	<i>Daily Telegraph</i> (Sydney, 13 June 2008), 38; 'Finding their voice' <i>Economist</i> (National, 14 June 2008), 54.
13-Jun-08	SA	Minister to axe APY chief	Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Minister Jay Weatherill has 'set in train the legal process to sack Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunutjatjara lands head Bernanrd Singer' following calls to stand aside after his 'prosecution on aggravated assault and breaching an alcohol prohibition'.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 13 June 2008), 7.
13-Jun-08	QLD	MacDonnells law bolsters indigenous law team	Macdonnells has expanded its indigenous law team to include Ted Besley who has practiced in areas including native title and land rights. He was also responsible for 'leading a pilot project on behalf of the Queensland Government in Palm Island to resolve land tenure issues and improve land management practices'.	<i>Lawyers Weekly</i> (National, 13 June 2008), 17.
14-Jun-08	QLD	Indigenous home manual	A 'homeowners manual will be handed out to Indigenous people living in communities like Palm island'. The manual is a part of 'the State Government's push for 99 year residential	<i>Townsville Bulletin</i> (Townsville, 14 June 2008), 22.

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			and commercial leases on indigenous land'.	
17-Jun-08	NSW	Land rights anniversary	This year marks the 25th anniversary of the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act</i> . NSW is the 'only state in Australia with a democratically elected structure to represent the interests of the land councils'.	<i>Narrandera Argus</i> (Narandera, 17 June 2008), 9.
19-Jun-08	WA	Newmont royalties pay for education	Newmont Asia-pacific has negotiated a 'royalty deal with traditional owners from the Warlpiri communities of Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Nyirripi and Wilowra'. The royalties are to be delivered over three years and will go 'directly into an education and training trust'.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 19 June 2008), 21.
20-Jun-08	NT	Mining company bars Aborigines	Legal action is being considered after Indigenous groups were stopped by Xstrata from entering their land in order to hold a ceremony over their sacred sites. Northern Land Council executive Kim Hill said that the sites will 'no longer be there for much longer' with the approval of the diversion of the McArthur river.	<i>Barrier Daily Truth</i> (Broken Hill, 20 June 2008), 6.
20-Jun-08	NT	\$10m lure for Aboriginal education	The Australian government will offer up to \$10 million if Indigenous communities 'agree to a Rudd Government plan to put mining royalty payments in a special education trust fund'. This follows the approval of a lease agreement between traditional land owners over the Bonaparte Gas Pipeline. Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny MackIn has said that 'if the landowners allocated at least 90 per cent of the projected benefits from the pipeline payments into the trust fund, the Government would match them dollar for dollar'.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 20 June 2008), 6; 'Gas deal set aside \$28m for education' <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Sydney, 20 June 2008), 5; 'NLC backs proposed education trust fund' <i>Northern Territory News</i> (Darwin, 23 June 2008), 4.

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23-Jun-08	WA	Positive step forward for Birriliburu people	Ten years after their application was lodged, 'the Birriliburu people have been recognised as the exclusive native title holders of a large tract of land in Western Australia's central desert'. Justice Robert French presided over the hearing.	<i>Kalgoorlie Miner</i> (Kalgoorlie, 23 June 2008), 5; 'Birriliburu people granted land title' <i>Mid-West Times</i> (Geraldton, 26 June 2008), 2.
26-Jun-08	WA	Native title motion dismissed in court	The Federal Court has dismissed 'a Walman Yawuru motion challenging native title rulings in Broome'.	<i>Broome Advertiser</i> (Broome, 26 June 2008), 14.
26-Jun-08	WA	Council in \$50m deal for camps	The Tangentyere Council has accepted a housing agreement with Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin. Executive director William Tilmouth said that the 'council had unanimously agreed to negotiate improvements to housing stocks in Alice Springs town camps'.	<i>Australian</i> (National, 26 June 2008), 7; 'Alice Springs Camps to get \$50m upgrade' <i>Age</i> (Melbourne, 26 June 2008), 11.
26-Jun-08	QLD	Dam will suck up life of Mary' - Butchulla voice opposition	The Butchulla people are 'insulted the State Government did not consult them about the proposed dam at Traveston Crossing'. The group is yet to make a native title claim in the area but the 'consequences will significantly affect the Butchulla people's cultural heritage'.	<i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i> (Hervey Bay, 26 June 2008), 5.

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27-Jun-08	NATIONAL	Complex and essential role to fill	Gilbert + Tolbin have appointed a full time pro bono lawyer, Michelle Hannon. The firm has acted for the Cape York Land Council and Kimberley Land Council.	<i>Australian Financial Review</i> (National, 27 June 2008), 61.
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