



# Northern Land Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **The Kenbi claim will make planning different – not difficult**

21 February 2001

The Kenbi land claim in favour of the Larrakia people will provide opportunities for a new approach to planning and development issues for Darwin, according to the Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Land Council, Mr Norman Fry.

“It can be different – not difficult and certainly not impossible,” he said.

Responding to a statement by the NT Chief Minister Mr Denis Burke in Parliament today, Mr Fry said that Aboriginal people in the Territory were just as keen to see Darwin and the NT grow and progress as any other Territorian.

Mr Burke’s statement explained the processes and analyses that were involved in planning decisions concerning the growth of Darwin.

The Land Commissioner and previous High Court decisions have been critical of the NT planning processes.

Mr Fry said that Kenbi created the opening for more inclusive planning processes embracing Larrakia people, in shaping the future of Darwin.

“This is an ideal opportunity for real reconciliation to take place – for the NT to show the way,” Mr Fry said.

“This could be an example of government and Indigenous interests working more closely together for the benefit of all.

“If we start working together now, we can iron out these issues before the final determination on the Kenbi land claim is handed down by the Federal Minister,” he said.

“The Land Rights Act actually provides the processes for this to successfully happen.

“Those issues flagged by Mr Burke, such as development and planning issues, and other aspects such as access to beaches, waterways and parcels of land where people have interests, can be dealt with if there is a spirit of co-operation.”