



Northern Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

NLC welcomes Larrakia decision to withdraw claim over Darwin port development area

27 March 2001

The Northern Land Council welcomes the decision by the Larrakia people to withdraw their native title claim over Darwin's port development area.

Chief Executive Officer Mr Norman Fry said that the agreement reached between the Larrakia and the NT Government means that the port development can proceed; all Larrakia people will benefit from the deal; and it has brought to a halt the potential for protracted and expensive court cases.

"The agreement illustrates how cooperation and good communication can successfully deal with native title issues in the Territory," Mr Fry said.

"It is lack of communication about native title – not native title itself – that can stifle progress.

"The Larrakia have always stated that they are in favour of good development – and this agreement paves the way for a project that will benefit all Territorians.

"The agreement between the Larrakia and the NT Government involves commercial opportunities for all Larrakia people."