



Northern Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday October 15, 2001

Galarrwuy Yunupingu re-elected chair of the NLC

Mr Galarrwuy Yunupingu has been re-elected chairman of the Northern Land Council.

Deputy chair is Mary Yarmirr, from Croker Island. This will be her second term as Deputy Chair.

The election of the two top positions took place today during the first meeting of the new NLC Full Council, which runs for a three-year term. The meeting took place at Lake Bennett, south of Darwin.

The Northern Land Council represents Aboriginal people throughout the Top End of the Territory

This is the seventh consecutive time that Mr Yunupingu, from Melville Bay near Yirrkala on the Gove Peninsula, has been elected chairman of the NLC.

He was first elected Chairman in 1977, and has held the position continuously since 1983.

One of his first tasks as the newly elected chairman will be to attend the opening of the NT Parliament in Darwin tomorrow (Tuesday).

Mr Yunupingu said that the coming term would be particularly interesting, as the NLC would be working closely with the new ALP government in the Territory.

“Now it is time to work with the new government to make sure that Aboriginal people in the NT play an equal and important role in the future development of the Territory,” he said.

“The NT Economic Development Summit in early November will be the first opportunity to start that process.”

Mr Yunupingu was honoured as Australian of the Year in 1978 and was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1985.