



# Northern Land Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Stage set for progress on Kenbi

8 May 2002

Northern Land Council Chief Executive Norman Fry today described the Northern Territory Government's decision to drop its appeal against the Kenbi Land Claim recommendation as "sensible" and said it would allow further progress on negotiations towards resolving the future of the Cox Peninsula.

"It is time to move on from the former CLP government's shameful and antagonistic attitude towards Aboriginal rights," Mr Fry said. "The Labor Government is showing by its actions that it is willing to consult with Aboriginal people as equal partners and take into account their concerns when it comes to development proposals."

The NT Government appeal against Land Commissioner Justice Gray's December 2000 decision to recommend the handback of the Cox Peninsula to Larrakia Traditional Owners was the final chapter in a 23-year-long history of CLP opposition to the Larrakia people's land rights.

"Thankfully a further waste of taxpayer funds has been avoided and we can now move on to discuss the real issue – planning for the future of Darwin in a way that delivers the outcomes for Larrakia people and the other people in the Darwin region," Mr Fry said.

"The previous government's approach to the Kenbi Land Claim was characterised by abuse of planning principles and processes – as the Land Commissioner's report shows. The opportunity is now before us to develop a comprehensive and inclusive planning process based on mutual interests rather than political point-scoring."

Mr Fry said the Larrakia people had already shown they could be willing participants in development initiatives with the landmark Rosebery Bellamack land development agreement signed in December last year, and the Port and Wickham Point gas plant agreements.

Commenting on the Federal Court case relating to native title interests in Darwin, Mr Fry said that he expected the court to resolve many of the native title issues.

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