



Northern Land Council
Larrakia Development Corporation
MEDIA RELEASE

Larrakia set to begin \$24 million urban project

28 June 2002

A five-year, \$24 million development project is poised to commence in Darwin's satellite city of Palmerston within the next eight weeks following the landmark Native Title agreement reached between the Larrakia people and the Northern Territory Government in December last year.

Spearheaded by the Larrakia Development Corporation (LDC), the first stage of the project will see up to 57 residential lots developed in the new Palmerston subdivision of Darla between July and November this year at a cost of about \$2.5 million. The first lots will hit the market by the end of this year.

Project funding has been agreed in principle with funding organisations and an announcement is imminent on the civil contractor.

LDC Chairman Bill Risk said the project would continue to set a benchmark for successful Native Title negotiations and resolutions across Australia.

"This project not only gives Darwin the room to grow it so desperately needs, it also provides our people with training, jobs and a stake in a project which for the first time holds out the hope of real economic independence for the Larrakia people," he said.

"Our thanks go to the Northern Land Council and our other backers for making this project possible."

NLC Chief Executive Norman Fry described the Darla development in the Rosebery/Bellamack area of Palmerston as a "terrific outcome" for all concerned. Mr Fry said the project was hard evidence that Aboriginal people were not anti-development so long as their rights were respected.

"Twelve months ago, the Larrakia had nothing beyond an agreement," he said. "Today we learn that not only are they about to commence stage one of a multimillion dollar development, but in doing so, have set the standard in relation to native title negotiations between Indigenous and Government interests."

"I congratulate the LDC for all they have achieved. They are now one step closer to making their dream a reality."