



# Northern Land Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Rail project delivers on Aboriginal jobs and training**

**4 September 2002**

Northern Land Council Chief Executive Officer Norman Fry today welcomed the release of figures by rail constructor ADrail, showing solid training outcomes for Indigenous people on the Darwin to Alice Springs rail link.

“We are proud to have worked closely with ADrail on ensuring that Aboriginal people get opportunities for training and employment as part of the railway project,” Mr Fry said. “The training figures released today are the result of an arrangement by the parties whose joint interests lie in the progress and further development of the Northern Territory.”

“The creation of jobs for local Indigenous people is a key factor in stimulating regional economies, as our people stay and spend in their own region. The development of a stronger skills base in the region is another invaluable benefit in the long term.”

Since negotiating the agreement over a route for the rail corridor, the NLC has worked hard at securing employment and training initiatives for Indigenous Territorians.

Already 127 Indigenous persons have been employed on the Top End portion of the Rail Link, with a further 124 completing a variety of training courses, including access training and on-the-job training. Of those beginning access training, about 90% completed their courses – well above the total rail project retention average of 79%.

The NLC has also been directly involved in developing a database of Indigenous people with appropriate skills for the variety of railway construction jobs, and has been active in identifying training opportunities for people to develop the requisite skills.

The NLC’s role as an employment facilitator is only in its infancy.

“Given the number of major infrastructure projects slated for Aboriginal land in the near future, the NLC is confident that it will soon be in a position to provide greater employment opportunities for its constituents,” Mr Fry said.