



# Northern Land Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Mandorah ramp a victory for common sense

16 September 2002

Northern Land Council Chief Executive Norman Fry today welcomed the Northern Territory Government's decision to fund a new public boat ramp at Mandorah on the Cox Peninsula after consulting with traditional owners.

"This is yet another example of a native title outcome that could have been achieved years ago with good will and the right processes," Mr Fry said. "The traditional owners of the Mandorah area, the Larrakia, have never opposed the building of a boat ramp – all they wanted was a proper consultation process to ensure the protection of sacred sites."

"Once the necessary meetings took place with departmental officials under the new Government's common-sense approach, the native title process worked smoothly and quickly."

Mr Fry said the construction of the single-lane boat ramp, scheduled to begin in November, would be especially important for the local Aboriginal community given their need to access traditional sea country for ceremonial purposes as well as for fishing.

"I congratulate the Larrakia and the Minister, the Honourable Kon Vatskalis, for their positive and constructive approach to the negotiations that have allowed the ramp to proceed," he said. "I look forward to maintaining this positive momentum for resolving native title issues by agreement."