



Northern Land Council
Larrakia Development Corporation
MEDIA RELEASE

Darla: the dream becoming a reality

3 October 2002

The Larrakia Development Corporation and the Northern Land Council today welcomed a visit to the emerging new Palmerston suburb of Darla by the NT Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Environment, the Hon. Kon Vatskalis.

Work is now well under way at the Darla site, the first major development being undertaken by the LDC following the landmark Native Title agreement reached between the Larrakia people and the Northern Territory Government in December last year.

LDC Executive Officer Greg Constantine said he hoped Minister Vatskalis's visit would be the first of many by NT and Federal Parliamentarians, given the pioneering nature of the Darla development.

NLC Chief Executive Norman Fry said the work taking place on site at Darla showed the practical benefits of the approach taken by the NLC and the Larrakia during their negotiations with the NT Government.

"This development illustrates the benefits of negotiated solutions to native title claims," Mr Fry said. "It will serve as a model for native title agreements throughout Australia, as it so clearly demonstrates that native title is not an impediment to development."

"Here we have a work in progress which is making a significant contribution to the economic well-being of the Greater Darwin area while at the same time providing training and jobs for Indigenous people."

"This is the real meaning of 'Reconciliation' – building a shared future."

The development at Darla is just the first stage of an eventual three-stage, \$24 million project that will see up to 390 residential units constructed over the next three years on 50 hectares of land. The first stage involves the construction of 57 residential lots, 22 of which are already under contract.

Work currently under way includes site clearance, major earthworks and the installation of utility services such as sewerage, drains and water pipes. The first lots are due for completion by the end of this year.