



Northern Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

NLC backs NT Parks re-declaration

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“I welcome the Chief Minister’s announcement today that her government has brought legal certainty to 38 Northern Territory Parks and Reserves by re-declaring them under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act,” NLC Chief Executive Officer Norman Fry said.

“We are pleased that the many millions of dollars that would otherwise be spent on litigation can now be put towards much more constructive purposes.”

“We have always extended an invitation to Government to sit down and talk with us about our involvement in parks and reserves rather than fighting us in the courts.”

Mr Fry said today’s re-declaration was an opportunity the whole Northern Territory should support.

“All these parks have enormous natural and cultural value which can now be fully acknowledged and promoted through the enhanced involvement of traditional owners,” he said.

“Having Aboriginal culture recognised in national parks is good for tourism – and tourism is good for everyone. There is nothing to fear from the dawning new era of co-operation and collaboration with the parks’ traditional owners.”

Mr Fry said the NLC would be working to ensure that Aboriginal people were participants in the management and promotion of Territory parks. He said tourism was a key plank in regional development strategies, bringing potential employment, training and enterprise development opportunities.