



Northern Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Dhimurru ‘sets standard’ for conservation effort

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NLC Chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu today congratulated Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation on the occasion of its 10th birthday celebrations.

“Dhimurru has set the standard for natural resource management since its inception in 1992, not just on Yolngu land but on Aboriginal-owned land across Australia,” Mr Yunupingu said during a ceremony at Yirkala in East Arnhem Land.

“Today, for instance, we will be witnessing the launch of Dhimurru’s new *Visitors Guide* and an upgraded version of the organisation’s website. Dhimurru’s innovative approach to its work is a perfect example of what can be achieved by Aboriginal organisations given an appropriate level of community backing and funding support.”

“Most pleasing of all to me, both as NLC Chairman and a Yolngu elder, is the signing of a section 73 agreement under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Act*. This will usher in a new era of joint land management involving the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service in the administration of an Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) program over a substantial portion of traditional Yolngu lands.”

The establishment of the Dhimurru IPA is a milestone of national significance, as areas subject to IPA declarations are recognised by the Commonwealth as part of the National Reserve System and are managed to World Conservation Standards.

The Dhimurru IPA incorporates a land area of about 92,000 hectares, supplemented by another 8,000 hectares of adjacent marine areas. The terms of the agreement will see NT Parks & Wildlife commit its resources to assist and advise on land and wildlife conservation in accordance with the Plan of Management overseen by Dhimurru.

As a first step, an Advisory Group will provide formal recommendations relating to the management of the land for consideration by the Dhimurru Executive Committee, which in turn will lead onto the development of the formal Management Plan.

“I am proud of the significant contribution made by the NLC during the negotiations that have resulted in this agreement and I wish to extend my appreciation of the constructive approach taken by all concerned: Environment Australia, Parks and Wildlife and Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation,” Mr Yunupingu said.