



# Northern Land Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

### ANAO Report welcome

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2003

Northern Land Council Chief Executive, Norman Fry, today welcomed the findings of the recently released Australian National Audio Office report into the Northern Territory Land Councils and the Aboriginal Benefits Account (ABA).

Mr Fry said the report highlighted the good work that land councils do in a complex and difficult environment and their compliance with the Land Rights Act.

“We deliver an assortment of services to a diverse range of stakeholders and clients who include groups such as traditional owners, mining companies and tourists, and we deliver these services in accordance with the Act,” Mr Fry said.

“The report is exactly what we expected. We were confident that the ANAO would find that the land councils do a lot of good work.”

The report also makes some very useful comments about management of the ABA. Its findings and recommendations regarding the management and decision making over the ABA are matters the NLC intends taking up with the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Phillip Ruddock, at the end of the month.

“We are keen to explore ways to better explain how and why we do what we do,” Mr Fry said.

“However, such processes are costly and we will also be talking to Minister Ruddock about resources to implement improved reporting systems.”

Mr Fry said the NLC looks forward to implementing the relevant recommendations of the report as resources allow.

