



# Northern Land Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Borroloola safe-house given the go-ahead**

**10 April 2003**

The Northern Land Council has broken new ground with the endorsement of an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) between traditional land owners and the NT Government.

The construction of a women's Safe-House in the township of Borroloola is just one of the agreements that has been given the go-ahead at the Northern Land Council's 84<sup>th</sup> Full Council Meeting which took place at the South Alligator Resort from 7 to 10 April.

The agreement is unique, as it allows the development of the safe-house to proceed, while retaining native title rights and interests of traditional owners for the future.

An ILUA established under the Native Title Act 1993, will be entered into between traditional owners and the Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Centre for 25 years. At the end of this term, native title will still exist and further negotiations regarding the land can occur.

NLC Chairman Galarrwuy Yunupingu said the outcome was a win-win solution for both parties.

"This issue was at a stalemate until native title rights were guaranteed." Mr Yunupingu said "People wanted the facility built, but not if it meant they were going to be denied native title rights. But now, this much-needed facility can be constructed free from uncertainty."

"The NLC has worked hard to broker a deal, and this is a positive sign of the type of developments that can be achieved with the right approach and a government willing to listen and work with people on the ground."

Agreements have also been entered into with the Dhimurru Aboriginal Land Management Corporation, which has been given the go-ahead to continue to manage tourism activities in the East Arnhem Land region and the Bureau of Meteorology which has been granted access to establish an automatic weather station in Milingimbi.

In another unique agreement Film Australia and Yolgnu traditional owners have signed off on the "Law & Order" documentary in the East Arnhem Land region.

"There are many other business arrangements in place across our regions that have benefited from the full and proper consultation procedures over seen by the NLC." Mr Yunupingu said. "This is

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