



Northern Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

NLC backs Kakadu traditional owners

18 July 2003

NLC Chief Executive Norman Fry today called on critics of current management arrangements at Kakadu National Park to discuss their concerns with the Kakadu Board of Management rather than engage in self-serving media campaigns.

“Much ill-informed comment has been made about public access to Kakadu and in particular Jim Jim and Twin Falls,” Mr Fry said. “The truth is that Parks Australia has invested a lot of money in upgrading camping facilities at Jim Jim Falls and there are real safety concerns for tourists visiting Twin Falls.”

Mr Fry said the NLC backed yesterday’s comments by Kakadu traditional owner and Kakadu Board of Management chairperson Jonathon Nadji, who stated quite clearly that traditional owners were NOT trying to keep tourists out of Kakadu.

“The traditional owners of Kakadu have a wealth of knowledge about their country built up over thousands of years of occupation that they are keen to share with outsiders,” Mr Fry said.

“It would be better for all concerned if the Kakadu critics started listening to the traditional owners and working with them to improve the visitor experience at Kakadu, rather than poisoning the atmosphere with unfounded conspiracy theories.”