



Northern Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Aboriginal name for Australia's biggest diamond

16 August 2003

Traditional owners from the Northern Territory's Borroloola region gathered at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory on Saturday 16 August to take part in a naming ceremony for the biggest diamond ever found in Australia.

Elders from the Garrawa and Gurdanji clans have named the diamond 'Jungila-Bunajina', which means 'Star Meteorite Dreaming Stone'. The name was revealed for the first time at the ceremony.

The 104.73 carat diamond, which is worth more than \$1 million, was found in March 2002 at the Merlin diamond mine located some 80 kilometres south of Borroloola. Mine owner Argyle Diamonds has indicated the stone will eventually be taken to the international diamond centre of Antwerp, Belgium, where its future as a world class stone will be evaluated.

NLC Chief Executive Norman Fry welcomed the decision by Argyle Diamonds to seek an Aboriginal name for the diamond, which will preserve the link to its place of origin.

"This diamond will take its place on the international stage alongside other world class gemstones such as the famous Hope and Dresden diamonds," Mr Fry said. "It goes out into the world with the full blessing of the Garrawa and Gurdanji peoples."

"The naming ceremony demonstrates the positive relations that exist between traditional owners and the Merlin mine, which began operation in 1998 following the signing of an historic native title agreement."

The diamond will be on display at the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT until Sunday 31 August – the first and only time members of the Australian public will be able to view the diamond in its original state.