



# Northern Land Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **NLC seeks further details of Commonwealth take-over of Aboriginal communities**

**21 June 2007**

Northern Land Council (NLC) Chief Executive, Norman Fry, said that today's announcement of a Commonwealth take-over of Aboriginal communities for 5 years reflected the abject failure of all Governments and the NT Self Government Act for 30 years to properly resource remote communities.

"Clare Martin, like all Governments for the past 30 years, has failed to provide adequate services, has failed to develop local economies, and has failed to supply the resources to address the true causes of violence and poverty.

"In the circumstances it is hardly surprising that the Commonwealth has chosen to act," Mr Fry said.

"While the Commonwealth response includes positive measures, further detail is required. And the NLC opposes certain proposals, including the removal of the permit system in communities, and the removal of customary law from consideration in bail and sentencing cases. The NLC also seeks clarification as to the extent of compulsory acquisition for five years of land in communities."

"In consultations earlier this year, all communities opposed the removal of the permits system because it allows police to remove drug dealers, carpet baggers, and sexual predators," Mr Fry said.

The NLC looks forward to receiving further details regarding the Commonwealth's proposals.