



Northern Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Daly River Aboriginal management framework released

6 September 2006

Northern Land Council Chairman, John Daly, has welcomed the release of a comprehensive indigenous management framework report into the Daly River catchment area.

Released today, the *Daly River Aboriginal Reference Group (ARG) Indigenous Management Framework* is the first time traditional owners have set out their vision for how the Daly River region should be managed.

“This report is important for many reasons,” Mr Daly said. “Not only does it outline traditional owner concerns, but identifies ways and means to preserve the river system for years to come.”

The management framework features a target list of 25 objectives the ARG wish to achieve over the next three-years as part of its catchment management strategy.

Key recommendations from the report include;

- * Support for sustainable economic development;
- * A call for the recognition of the Daly River as a cultural landscape;
- * Greater equity in decision making;
- * A ‘no dams’ policy; and,
- * The establishment of a catchment wide zoning system for managing competing interest within the region.

The ARG also argues for the maintenance of the moratorium on land clearing and the issuing of water licenses until the NT Government can guarantee that Aboriginal concerns are addressed through the strengthening of current policy and legislation.

“Aboriginal people across the NT should be involved in management practices that have a direct impact on their lives and their lands,” Mr Daly said.

“Preservation of significant sites, appropriate use of available resources and the protection of the regions bio-diversity is vital for the continued use and enjoyment of the river and its surrounds.”

The NLC has established the Daly River ARG as a peak consultative body of traditional owners dealing with catchment management issues in the Daly River region. The group consists of 19 traditional owners from eight language groups.

The ARG’s report is in response to the NT Government’s Daly Community Reference Group report released in November 2004.