



Northern Land Council

MEDIA STATEMENT

NLC calls for censure of Elliot McAdam

30 November 2006

Northern Land Council (NLC) Chairman, John Daly, called for the censure and admonishment of Elliot McAdam regarding false and misleading statements made to the NT Legislative Assembly on 18 October 2006 (which were reiterated by Alison Anderson), and repeated before a Senate Committee on 27 November 2006.

“Mr McAdam falsely claimed that 'at least 15 to 20 people that I know of personally' have written to the NLC Chairman and 'have not gotten a response'”, Mr Daly said.

“In fact the NLC has received a total of only three letters regarding the waste facility issue, and has responded to all of them.”

“Mr McAdam also falsely claimed that the NLC, due to its own 'selfish interests', had failed to properly perform its statutory functions of consulting traditional owners and representing them”, Mr Daly said.

“In fact, as Mr McAdam was forced to admit to the Senate, he was well aware that formal NLC consultations have not commenced, and will not commence until a formal offer is on the table.”

“Mr McAdam's statements were defamatory, and if repeated outside Parliament would be actionable”, Mr Daly said.

“I have today written to both the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the President of the Senate calling for Mr McAdam and Ms Anderson to be admonished and censured for misleading Parliament.”

“Like the Chief Minister and her Environment Minister, Marion Scrymgour, Mr McAdam knows that a waste facility can be safely located in the Territory - together with economic benefits for remote Aboriginal communities and all Territorians”, Mr Daly said.

“The NLC will not be diverted from its responsibility of ensuring that Aboriginal people are accurately informed regarding uranium issues, and from properly consulting and faithfully representing their interests should a waste facility proposal be received.”