



Northern Land Council

MEDIA STATEMENT

6 July 2007

Northern Land Council (NLC) Chief Executive, Norman Fry, today rejected speculation in an article by “Henri Ivrey” on the Crikey website that it is secretly brokering a \$600 million deal for the compulsory acquisition of 60 Aboriginal communities in both the Northern and Central Land Council regions as “mischievous nonsense”.

“The NLC is not engaged in “secret negotiations” to compulsorily acquire Aboriginal land, and has always opposed compulsory acquisition of Aboriginal land, or removal of the permit system,” Mr Fry said.

“I publicly said so when Minister Brough announced a permit review in October 2006, and again when he announced compulsory acquisition and removal of permits for communities in June 2007.”

“In consultations earlier this year traditional owners and residents of Aboriginal communities in the NLC's region overwhelmingly rejected Minister Brough's position regarding compulsory acquisition and the removal of the permit system,” Mr Fry said.

“The permit system is widely recognised as a valuable policing tool, and ensures communities and fragile ecosystems are protected from rampant tourism - facts which the Commonwealth Government should recognise and should discuss with all Aboriginal communities before making any amendments.”

“The baseless claims by one ‘Henri Ivrey’, a ‘Darwin insider’ nobody has heard of, are mischievous nonsense which cannot be taken seriously.”