



Northern Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Approval of nomination of Muckaty Station for Commonwealth radioactive waste repository

27 September 2007

Northern Land Council (NLC) Chief Executive, Norman Fry, today welcomed the decision by the Minister for Education, Science and Training, Julie Bishop, under the *Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act 2005* to approve the NLC's nomination of land at Muckaty Station for consideration as the Commonwealth's radioactive waste facility.

“The Minister's formal approval of the NLC's nomination means that scientific work can now commence to assess the environmental suitability of the Muckaty Station site for a radioactive waste facility,” Mr Fry said.

“The Minister's approval overrides Northern Territory legislation of 2004 which prohibited any environmental assessment of land for a radioactive waste facility.”

“The Minister's approval will be welcomed by the Ngapa traditional owners, who overwhelmingly support the waste facility provided that the environmental assessment is positive,” Mr Fry said.

“The NLC's comprehensive consultations during 2006 and 2007 also establish that there is substantial support for the waste facility from neighbouring Aboriginal groups on Muckaty Station, with only a few individuals in neighbouring groups expressing concerns.”

“This positive outcome is in the national interest, since all Australians benefit from nuclear medicine and other products which derive from the Lucas Heights research reactor,” Mr Fry said.