



Northern Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

New leadership teams welcomed

26 November 2007

Northern Land Council Chief Executive, Norman Fry, today said the NLC was looking forward to a positive working relationship with the new leadership team in the Northern Territory and at the federal level with the new Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd and his deputy, Ms Julia Gillard.

“Today the NT parliament has been rejuvenated with the election of Mr Henderson to the position of Chief Minister, and Marion Scrymgour as his deputy,” Mr Fry said.

“Mr Henderson’s name had been linked to the top job for some time, so it comes as no surprise to see him elected by his Labor colleagues to the position of Chief Minister.”

“The choice of Ms Scrymgour as deputy is also welcomed, and reflects a maturing approach by the NT Parliament,” Mr Fry said. “Marion is the first ever Indigenous person to be elected to a senior leadership position in an Australian parliament.”

“While we may not have seen eye-to-eye on all occasions, I dip my hat to Clare Martin for her strength and resilience as Chief Minister over the past 6-years. Her performance as Indigenous Affairs Minister will sadly be measured against the former federal government’s intervention into the NT, but it should not be forgotten that Clare Martin inherited 24-years of neglect by former CLP Territory Government’s.”

“Clare Martin should be remembered and congratulated for leading Territory Labor out of the political wilderness and into government after 24-years of CLP rule,” Mr Fry said.

“There is now a very real opportunity for the new government leadership team to engage with Aboriginal people in relation to decision making matters that directly impact on their lives. The NLC, as it has consistently done, will continue to represent the interests of Aboriginal people in the NT, and looks forward to engaging with both the federal and NT Government’s on ways and means to pursue these goals.”

“Both the federal and NT government’s are now of the same political persuasion. There is no room for excuses, and the NLC would expect that matters of workability will be pursued with Aboriginal people and the organisations that represent them,” Mr Fry said.