



# Northern Land Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Traditional Owners of Elliott win native title by Consent Determination

30 July 2009

Tomorrow the Gurungu Kulmintinti Group and the Jingili and Mudburra people will celebrate receiving exclusive native title rights to most of the 143.9 hectares of their traditional country claimed in the town of Elliott on the Stuart Highway half way between Darwin and Alice Springs.

The Northern Land Council's (NLC) Chief Executive, Kim Hill congratulated the Traditional Owners and now native title holders on their achievement and said it is the first time that a native title determination had been granted *by consent* in its region.

"This is a significant achievement for the Gurungu Kulmintinti Group and the Jingili and Mudburra peoples because it also means that, through the NLC, they have successfully negotiated with the Northern Territory Government on having their full native title rights recognised while avoiding a court battle," said Mr Hill.

"So I congratulate them for working efficiently with us, and with the Northern Territory Government, and with the Federal Court to ensure their native title rights are officially recognised.

"This determination includes most of the undeveloped land in Elliott which will ensure that the native title holders are equal partners in the future development of Elliott, and this is a good result for all Territorians."

Mr Hill also paid tribute to senior mangaya for the Gurungu Kulmintinti Group, Harry Bates, Heather Wilson and Christine Limerick; senior kulyungkulyungpi for Gurungu Kulmintinti Group, Lindsay Bostock and senior lawman for the Jingili and Mudburra people Pompey Raymond.

"These people are important under Aboriginal law and custom and have played an important role in this claim. Others, including many who have since passed away, have also assisted in the progression of this claim and with NLC's work over the years," he said.

- The Federal Court will present its Consent Determination to nominated claimant representatives in Elliott.
- Elliott has a mostly Aboriginal population of approximately 800 people.

**2001** – Case is filed with the Federal Court

**2008 – 4 December** - Orders made programming this matter for a consent determination.

**2009 – 31 July** – Consent Determination handed down by Federal Court.