



Northern Land Council

MEDIA STATEMENT

30-years on Larrakia welcome in-principle agreement to Kenbi Land Claim

30 January 2009

Almost thirty-years to the day since it was first lodged on behalf of the Larrakia traditional owners by the Northern Land Council (NLC) the Kenbi Land Claim today moved a step closer to a successful resolution.

In a significant milestone the Larrakia traditional owners, the NLC and the Northern Territory Government have reached an in-principle agreement on the settlement of the Kenbi Land Claim which was first lodged on 20 March 1979.

The agreement designates the northern zone of the Cox Peninsula (including the entire northern coastline) for the expansion of Darwin as NT freehold; and the remainder of land as Aboriginal land.

Larrakia traditional owner, Ms Raylene Singh welcomed today's announcement by Chief Minister Paul Henderson on the in-principle agreement in this long running land claim, and urged the Federal Government to support it.

"I am happy about this proposal. We have been fighting to get our rights to our land recognised and returned to us for more than thirty-years, and some of my family have passed away waiting for this to happen," said Ms Singh.

"This is an agreement that is good for all Larrakia people, and it is also good for the people of Darwin – so the Federal Government should now finalise the process and hand back our country to us so we can start planning our future."

Northern Land Council Chairman, Wali Wunungmurra also welcomed today's announcement and supported Ms Singh's call for the Federal Government to grant the claim as Aboriginal land.

"This has been a long and hard struggle for the Larrakia – and they have been strong in their commitment to regain their rightful ownership of their ancestral lands," said Mr Wunungmurra.

"We still need to have further discussions with various stakeholders including the Federal Government, but we are confident that all interests will be met through this process in a timely manner."

Ends.

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