



Northern Land Council

MEDIA STATEMENT

ARNHEM LAND FIBRE OPTIC PROJECT

FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT: 19 SEPTEMBER 2008

**KIM HILL, CEO
NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL**

The Northern Land Council is very pleased to support this project and we welcome the major infrastructure opportunity for all people living across northern Arnhem Land.

We have consulted with traditional owners along the route of this fibre optic cable and they are looking forward to the opportunities it will bring them.

In particular, we are very interested in remote communities benefiting from the additional services that will increase their capacity to effectively communicate with the rest of the world, and to enjoy the increased knowledge, information, education and entertainment this will give them.

Benefits include high speed broadband access which is essential for remote Aboriginal enterprises, land management as well as general communications such as video-conferencing. We should also see considerable benefits to education, as e-learning opportunities will be opened up with high speed broadband.

So we welcome this project - the work teams are out there, it's happening, and we look forward to its completion.

Thank you Telstra, the Northern Territory Government and Rio Tinto for working with us on this and we look forward to an ongoing and productive working relationship.

Thanks.

Ends
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