



# Northern Land Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **NLC Full Council angry at NT Government's Homelands policy – supports Marion**

**11 June 2009**

The Full Council of the Northern Land Council (NLC) today voted unanimously to condemn the Northern Territory Government's policy initiative on Aboriginal homelands/outstations and has thrown its support behind newly Independent MLA, Marion Scrymgour.

The Full Council has also called on other members of the Legislative Assembly to support Ms Scrymgour.

Meeting at the Yilpara homeland, in the heart of the Laynhapuy Homelands in north east Arnhem Land, the Full Council Members said they were angry and felt betrayed that the Government did not honour its commitment to hold another round of consultations before finalising its policy.

The NLC's Full Council, which consists of more than 80 Traditional Owners from across the NLC region, also said that the Government's policy initiative lacked the relevant details so that Aboriginal people could make informed choices and comments about their futures.

The Full Council also said the policy failed to recognise the important health and general wellbeing benefits that homelands provided to Aboriginal people.

NLC Chief Executive Kim Hill said that Full Council Members were very angry when they were briefed on the government's *A Working Future* strategy.

"The Full Council has spoken strongly and passionately about their homelands and what it means to them, and Traditional Owners are very angry and upset that they have been further marginalised, and Traditional Owners feel betrayed by the NT Government," he said.

"The Full Council also support Marion Scrymgour's stand on the lack of consultation on this issue – and they want answers not a half baked policy.

"Traditional Owners want to know what the details are on the service delivery arrangements for homelands; what the details are for both road and air transport links to major communities; what the details are for the "growth towns", and what is to become of all the places in between – basically, their homes."

Ends.

*Yilpara homeland (also known as Baniyala) – population approximately 150 - is one of the earliest homelands established in the early 1970s.*