



Northern Land Council

Media Release

NLC pays tribute to long term Council Member

24 July 2008

Northern Land Council Chairman, Wali Wunungmurra today paid tribute to long term Council member, and senior Mara leader, Mr Hammer of the Borroloola region who passed away early this morning.

“Mr Hammer was a man of exceptional character and energy who was very senior within Aboriginal tradition” he said.

“Mr Hammer was a current council member for the Borroloola/Barkly region – having held that position for 16 years.

“This is a testament to his abilities and the faith of his people in representing them on important land matters and other matters of state.

“He was also a long term member of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority, and Chairman of that Board from 1997 to 2004.

“Mr Hammer was deeply involved in the traditions of his own Mara people and those of neighbouring Aboriginal groups, from south-east Arnhem Land to the Queensland border throughout the Gulf Country,” said Mr Wunungmurra.

“He also travelled overseas to perform Malwa style dance performances of which he was the leading exponent at Borroloola.

“I ask that the media and others take care when dealing with people from the Borroloola region as two senior Yanyuwa leaders have also passed away this week so they are going through major sorry business out there.

“The Northern Land Council members and staff offer our deepest condolences to Mr Hammer’s family and to the Borroloola community.”

Ends.

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