



Northern Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

NLC remains a strong and stable organisation

26 June 2009

Northern Land Council (NLC) Chief Executive, Mr Kim Hill today said that an audit report into the governance structures of the NLC was ancient history and that the NLC has moved on and continues to discharge its legal and administrative responsibilities in a professional manner.

Mr Hill also said that the NLC cooperated fully with both the Office of Evaluation and Audit (OEA) during the audit, and also in relation to a parallel investigation by Comcare under s 41(1) of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991*.

“In the 12-months that I have been the CEO the NLC has moved past the events of 18 months ago that led to the audit, and the NLC is a strong and stable organisation with a professional work force committed to representing Traditional Owners,” he said.

Comcare's report of 25 February 2009 concerned the same evidence and issues in relation to two of the four employment matters considered by OEA. Comcare reported that the actions of the NLC and its officers regarding those matters involved “reasonable administrative actions by management” to resolve serious employment issues. The Comcare report was provided to OEA.

“Comcare's report contradicts and refutes certain findings made by the Office of Evaluation and Audit, a salient fact which exonerated the NLC and its management regarding the events of 18 months ago but which was surprisingly ignored by OEA in its report”, Mr Hill said.

“The NLC looks forward to continuing to work closely with the federal and NT governments regarding leasing and other developments on Aboriginal land, so as to ensure the best outcomes for Traditional Owners.”

The NLC has acted on nine of the eleven recommendations tabled in federal parliament.

Mr Hill is unavailable for interview.

Ends.