



Northern Land Council

MEDIA STATEMENT

NLC supports Mirrar on Kakadu planning fiasco

13 October 2008

Northern Land Council (NLC) Chief Executive, Mr Kim Hill, today announced support for the Mirrar traditional owners in Kakadu National Park regarding unauthorised development in Jabiru by the West Arnhem Shire Council (WASC).

“The NLC supports the Mirrar people and we share their concerns over the cavalier actions of the WASC which appears to be engaged in land clearing and construction in violation of the planning processes at Jabiru and the spirit of negotiation required to settle the Jabiru native title claim,” said Mr Hill.

“Being part of Kakadu National Park, Jabiru is in a world heritage protected area which is listed for both its natural and cultural values.

“The NLC condemns the WASC’s lack of cooperation and consultation with the provisions of the development process at Jabiru,” said Mr Hill.

“The NLC calls on both the Australian and Northern Territory governments to intervene immediately in this matter.

“All construction should be ceased forthwith and the traditional owners provided with an opportunity to participate in a proper planning process.

“This is a significant problem with many shires where proper consultation didn’t occur before the 1st of July and they’re now operating without proper agreements on Aboriginal land.

“What’s required is a proper agreement between the government and the traditional owners, and the NLC is prepared to assist in resolving these issues.”

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