



Northern Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

NLC welcomes housing boost at Gunbalanya, Wadeye, Galiwinku, and Maningrida

11 February 2009

Northern Land Council (NLC) Chief Executive, Kim Hill, today confirmed that the traditional owners in the Aboriginal communities of Gunbalanya, Wadeye, Galiwinku, and Maningrida have agreed to enter into 40-year housing leases with the Northern Territory government, following a meeting of the full membership of the NLC.

“The NLC welcomes the Northern Territory and Federal Government’s commitment of \$159 million to spend on new and upgraded housing over the next 5 years,” Mr Hill said.

“Traditional owners have consistently called for substantial increases in the number of houses in remote Aboriginal communities, as well as a boost in related infrastructure, as it will provide significant and immediate benefits.”

Each of the communities will receive major works including new houses and refurbishments, and include the following allocations: Gunbalanya - \$28.7 million, Wadeye - \$48.7 million, Galiwinku - \$33 million, Maningrida - \$48.7 million.

Mr Hill said the NLC comprehensively consulted with the traditional owners of the four towns over the nature of the lease agreements, and they have agreed to the terms.

“The NLC also welcomes the fact that these housing stocks will be managed and maintained by Territory housing which should provide further employment opportunities for local Aboriginal people in Gunbalanya, Wadeye, Galiwinku, and Maningrida,” Mr Hill said.

Territory Housing has responsibility for delivering the SIHIP on behalf of the Northern Territory and Federal governments.

Mr Hill said access to adequate and appropriate housing is one of the cornerstones of boosting the numbers of healthy Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory, adding that the new housing infrastructure will positively impact in other areas such as education and employment.

Work on the projects is expected to commence in late 2009.

The lease agreements are granted under s.19 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976*.

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