



# Northern Land Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **SIHIP leases for Ngukurr, Gapuwiyak and Milingimbi** **6 November 2009**

The Full Council of the Northern Land Council (NLC) meeting at Crab Claw Island has today signed off on three more 40-year housing leases covering the Aboriginal communities of Ngukurr, Gapuwiyak and Milingimbi.

Each of the communities will receive major works including new houses and refurbishments, and include the following allocations: Milingimbi - \$24.3 million, Ngukurr - \$26.9 million and Gapuwiyak - \$13.9 million.

NLC Chief Executive, Kim Hill said that comprehensive consultations were undertaken with Traditional Owners of these three communities, and the lease agreements agreed to in accordance with s.19 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976*.

“The NLC has continued to do its job in relation to the SIHIP program, as we are required to do under the Land Rights Act, and we have been out on the ground, in the communities talking to people and explaining what is on offer from the Federal and Northern Territory governments,” he said.

“Aboriginal people need houses and they are keen for it happen as soon as possible.

“Importantly, the hard work by all Traditional Owners and the NLC Full Council to get these leases agreed to in a relatively short amount of time must be recognised.

“We have all been involved in extensive and intensive consultations on this issue, and I congratulate the Traditional Owners and the NLC Full Council on their great efforts to strive for an improved standard of living.

“It is anticipated that consultations in the remaining two communities in the NLC region - Numbulwar and Yirrkala will be completed in the New Year.”

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

*The 98<sup>th</sup> Full Council meeting this week at Crab Claw Island in the Northern Territory ends today. The Full Council consists of more than 80 traditional owners from across the NLC region.*

Ends.