



Northern Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Traditional Owners Appeal Federal Court Decision on McArthur River Mine

7 July 2008

Northern Land Council (NLC) Chairman, Wali Wunungmurra, today confirmed that traditional owners in the Borroloola region filed an appeal last week against the recent Federal Court decision which allowed Xstrata to divert the McArthur River and expand its mining operation.

“Traditional owners are deeply upset regarding the diversion of the river, and its effect on their sacred sites, culture and the environment”, Mr Wunungmurra said.

“The grounds of appeal include that the former Commonwealth Environment Minister, Ian Campbell, claimed he had considered Xstrata's mining management plan when approving the diversion, when in fact it was never in his possession.”

“The grounds also include that there was no public comment regarding additional material provided by Xstrata as required by Commonwealth legislation”, Mr Wunungmurra said.

Traditional owners today sought an urgent hearing of their appeal, and it is anticipated that it may be heard in late August or September.

Available for comment between 3.00pm and 3.30pm today are:

Mr Wunungmurra, NLC Chairman

Mr Jacob Lansen – traditional owner and Executive Council Member

Mr Kim Hill - CEO

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