



# Northern Land Council

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Beadman report way off the mark**

**27 July 2010**

Northern Land Council (NLC) Chief Executive Mr Kim Hill has described criticism of the NLC's commitment to township leases by the NT Co-ordinator General of Remote Services as "totally unfounded".

In his second report, released last week, Bob Beadman incorrectly stated that the NLC "sees township leasing as a lesser order priority".

Mr Hill said this statement as "way off the mark."

"The NLC has prioritised its resources in accordance with Ministerial approval and has delivered regarding all projects to which it has committed," he said.

"The NLC's priorities are very much set by the Minister and the NLC has simply implemented the Minister's priorities.

"For reasons known only to him, Bob Beadman did not consult with the NLC before publishing his report – hardly an objective approach to a major policy issue."

Mr Hill said it was well known that the setting up of township leases was a complex and time-consuming process.

"We've seen from the experiences at Groote Eyelandt and on the Tiwi Islands that negotiating township leases takes time," he said.

Mr Hill said Bob Beadman's report was a bid for compulsory acquisition of Aboriginal land.

"Bob Beadman is promoting a township leasing model which would ensure that traditional owners have no future role in townships or communities on Aboriginal land, other than to receive rent," he said.

"Current leases seek not only to maximise a rental return for traditional owners, but to also ensure that corporations owned by traditional owners have the chance to participate in development of their land.

"Bob Beadman clearly does not like Commonwealth township leases as he thinks they have too many conditions which favour traditional owners."

Mr Hill said Bob Beadman was advocating for compulsory acquisition of all Aboriginal land on which townships and communities are located.

"If that is what he really means, he should come out and say it, rather than trying to achieve the same result under the radar," he said.