



NORTHERN  
LAND COUNCIL

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life*

## **Pastoral Land Legislation Amendment Bill 2017**

19 October 2017

The Northern Land Council has called on NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner to withdraw a bill introduced to Parliament yesterday which would enable the grant of subleases on pastoral leases for non-pastoral purposes.

NLC CEO Joe Morrison said he was deeply concerned that the government had introduced the legislation without consulting the NLC, which represents native title holders in the Top End.

“The pastoral rangelands of the Northern Territory are not owned by the pastoral industry,” Mr Morrison said.

“They are also the traditional country of the Aboriginal native title holders and the Native Title Act recognises that it is shared country in Australian law.

“If these amendments are passed, they will entrench the Howard Government’s 10-Point Plan changes to the Native Title Act in 1998. These changes diminish Indigenous rights and preclude native title holders from being involved in economic developments on their traditional lands.

“It’s outrageous that there has been absolutely no discussion with the NLC or native title holders about these proposed changes.

“The Northern Territory Government needs to include Aboriginal people in the future development of the pastoral estate as is their right as native title holders.

“This government should know better than to further marginalise us through discriminatory legislation. We want to be involved in economic development while protecting our culture and sacred sites.

“The NLC calls upon the Chief Minister Michael Gunner to stop these amendments and negotiate with us in an inclusive and respectful manner.”

CONTACT: Martha Tattersall 0413 129 503