



NORTHERN  
LAND COUNCIL

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## Memorandum of Understanding promotes Indigenous involvement in the Top End

Monday 23 October 2017

Lendlease today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Northern Land Council acknowledging a commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation on Lendlease projects in the Top End of the Northern Territory.

The MoU aims to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through economic participation in construction projects by connecting Indigenous people to work opportunities and Indigenous businesses to supply goods and services to the project.

Other objectives of the MoU, which extends to subcontractors and others involved in projects, include acknowledging Aboriginal peoples in the Top End of Northern Territory as the traditional custodians of the land and making project sites places of cultural competency and cultural safety.

Chief Executive Officer of Northern Land Council, Joe Morrison said the MoU with Lendlease signaled a fresh approach to economic development and a new kind of partnership between Traditional Owners and the business sector.

“Indigenous people are a primary stakeholder in the economic development of the NT. Indigenous people make up 30% of the Territory’s population and are also the fastest growing and youngest sector of the Territory’s population.

“Lendlease and the Northern Land Council share a vision of fostering the permanent economic participation of strong, capable and skilled Aboriginal people and businesses in the region.

“The Northern Land Council has worked with Lendlease to create a MoU that is responsible, realistic and creates business, training and employment opportunities for our constituents, the 36,000 Aboriginal people who live in our region.

“We entered into this MoU and partnership with Lendlease because we have seen how they delivered on Indigenous participation in others parts of the country. We believe Lendlease has a genuine commitment to ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities get a fair go in these development and construction projects.

“We will work with Lendlease to help identify and connect them with Aboriginal individuals and subcontractors who are available and interested in working on projects,” said Mr Morrison.



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Dale Connor CEO for Lendlease's Building business, said the MoU signing was in line with Lendlease's vision for Reconciliation.

“Key to delivering major public projects is providing local opportunities for employment and training. As Australia's largest building contractor, we are in a good position to work with our clients and stakeholders to create real opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people,” said Mr Connor.

“Since 2011, Lendlease has been investing in our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and RAP Partnerships to acknowledge and celebrate the proud heritage of Australia's first people, and promote opportunities for career development, sustainable business growth, and economic participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“This MoU is a real example of our RAP focus in action,” said Mr Connor.

Lendlease has six current and upcoming projects in the Northern Territory spanning the health and defence sectors.

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