



Northern Land Council

MEDIA RELEASE

NLC welcomes Mirarr native title settlement for Jabiru township

25 November 2009

The Northern Land Council (NLC) today welcomed the in principle settlement of the Mirarr people's native title claim to the small town of Jabiru in the heart of Kakadu National Park, 250 kilometres south east of Darwin.

NLC Chief Executive, Kim Hill said the decision to settle this matter finally recognises the Mirarr people's traditional ownership of Jabiru.

"It's a good decision and the land will now be legally recognised as Aboriginal land under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act*, with a lease back to the Commonwealth government for 99-years," he said.

"This proposed settlement provides certainty for the future of Jabiru, and the NLC congratulates the Mirarr people on their tenacity and their strength to keep fighting for their native title rights and their willingness to reach a negotiated settlement with the Commonwealth government for the benefit of all Australians.

"The NLC also acknowledges Energy Resources Australia Ltd for its pivotal role in supporting the Mirarr regarding this settlement.

"Jabiru is a mining town with the nearby Ranger Uranium Mine and the Jabiluka Mineral Lease both on Mirarr land and the Mirarr have a long history of standing strong and ensuring their voice is heard, and their rights upheld regarding business matters on their country.

"The NLC will continue to work closely with the Mirarr people and the Commonwealth to finalise the leasing arrangements and the scheduling of the claim areas as Aboriginal land."

1977 – Jabiru was excluded from the Alligator Rivers Region Stage 1 land grant.

1979-1991 Kakadu National Park declared in three stages

1982 - Jabiru town established, completely surrounded by Kakadu National Park, and owned as freehold by the Director of National Parks and Wildlife with the head lease held by the Jabiru Town Development Authority.

1997 – Jabiru Native Title claim lodged.

2009 – In principle settlement announced by all parties, includes: claim area declared Aboriginal land And leased back to the Commonwealth government for 99-years.

Ends.