

30 YEARS OF THE KENBI LAND CLAIM

Almost thirty-years to the day since it was first lodged on behalf of the Larrakia traditional owners by the Northern Land Council (NLC) the Kenbi Land Claim today moved a step closer to a successful resolution.

In a significant milestone the Larrakia traditional owners, the NLC and the Northern Territory Government have reached an in-principle agreement on the settlement of the Kenbi Land Claim which was first lodged on 20 March 1979.

Under the agreement, 13,000 hectares of the land will be granted as freehold, which will allow for the development of residential and commercial interests.

The remaining 52,000 hectares will be declared Aboriginal land.

Larrakia traditional owner, Ms Raylene Singh welcomed the announcement by Chief Minister Paul Henderson on the in-principle agreement in this long running land claim, and urged the Federal Government to support it.

"I am happy about this proposal. We have been fighting to get our rights to our land recognised and

returned to us for more than thirty-years, and some of my family have passed away waiting for this to happen," said Ms Singh.

"This is an agreement that is good for all Larrakia people, and it is also good for the people of Darwin – so the Federal Government should now finalise the process and hand back our country to us so we can start planning our future."

NLC Chairman, Wali Wunungmurra also welcomed the announcement and supported Ms Singh's call for the Federal Government to grant the claim as Aboriginal land.

"This has been a long and hard struggle for the Larrakia – and they

have been strong in their commitment to regain their rightful ownership of their ancestral lands," said Mr Wunungmurra.

"We still need to have further discussions with various stakeholders including the Federal Government, but we are confident that all

interests will be met through this process in a timely manner."

The agreement is now with the Australian Government for final approval.

Above: NLC members discussing the Kenbi Land Claim settlement



The CLC is listening to your ideas

A survey of traditional owners by the CLC will be used to provide a better service to Aboriginal people in its area.

The Central Land Council wants to find out what CLC work is important for people.

It also wants to find out how CLC could work better for and with communities.

The CLC will use these findings to get better outcomes for Aboriginal people in the future.

The CLC is working with a consultant, Petronella Vaarzon-Morel, to better understand the feedback from Aboriginal people in our communities.

Petronella is undertaking surveys with Aboriginal people across the region.

Petronella has visited communities of Areyonga, Kintore, Bonya, Atitjere, Ali Curung, Yuen-dumu, Utopia, Mutitjulu, Kaltukatjara, Lajamanu and Kalkaringi to talk with people about the CLC work.

She has been asking people what they understand about Land

Council work, what they like and don't like and what could be done better in the future.

People from across the communities have responded well to the survey and Petronella is now writing up her findings in a report.

It is due to be completed in May.

The report will be used by the CLC staff and members to improve our work.

The CLC would like to thank the communities, people and interpreters who were involved in the interviews.



Above: Interpreter Lena Taylor, Millie O'Kai and researcher Petronella Vaarzon-Morel
Right: Lena, Petronella and Jim Nukati

