The Northern Territory Government has negotiated a way forward for the future development and protection of the Cox Peninsula.

Chief Minister Paul Henderson today announced the Northern Territory Government has reached an in-principle agreement with the Northern Land Council and Traditional Owners which will lead to the resolution of the Kenbi Land Claim, the longest running land claim in Australia.

Mr Henderson said through a common sense approach it will now be possible to develop Cox Peninsula while also ensuring the rights of Traditional Owners are recognised and respected.

“The Kenbi Land claim has been fought out over 30 years and today we have reached agreement on a way forward which meets the needs of The Northern Territory Government, The Northern Land Council and Traditional Owners,” said Mr Henderson.

“Together we will now approach the Federal Government to reach a final resolution of the Kenbi Land Claim.

“The Northern Territory Government recognises the rights of Larrakia Traditional Owners over the Cox Peninsula.

“In return Traditional Owners have agreed that part of their land will be granted as Territory freehold, Larrakia Traditional owners will then be able to develop the Territory Freehold land held in trust.

“The Northern Territory Government will work closely with Traditional Owners and the Northern Land Council to ensure appropriate development of Cox Peninsula.

“The agreement also means that the High Court Blue Mud Bay ruling will not apply to Darwin Harbour. However, the area will still be subject to sacred site protection.

“All commercial and recreational fishermen and other recreational users will be able to access the intertidal zone and beaches on Cox Peninsula without fee or permit.

“The Northern Land Council has also been working closely with other interested parties including mining operators and Paspaley to reach agreement on their continued use of land in the area.

“The Northern Territory Government is committed to negotiating fair outcomes with all Traditional Owners.

“With a bit of common sense, determination and goodwill it’s possible to resolve Indigenous Land issues with outcomes which benefit all parties.”

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