12 June 2009

Traditional Owners and Government Working Together Under Joint Management Arrangements

The Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments today handed over title, and leased back nine important Territory parks and reserves to Traditional Owners under joint management arrangements.

Speaking in Alice Springs with Federal Minister Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin, Chief Minister Paul Henderson said joint management provided jobs for Indigenous people, regional development opportunities and led to a better tourism experience for visitors.

“The management of our parks and reserves is enhanced by Government working with traditional owners, combining traditional and contemporary knowledge of land management,” Mr Henderson said.

“The management model means visitors can have an authentic cultural experience – as well as seeing the natural beauty of the Territory.

“It also provides career and lifestyle opportunities for Indigenous Territorians – helping Close the Gap on Indigenous disadvantage.”

Mr Henderson said the joint management arrangements under the Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act also represented the effective resolution of land rights issues.

“It allows us to move towards the common goal of protecting, enhancing and promoting the sustainable use of our parks and reserves.”

Under the arrangements, Territory land title and leaseback to the Territory has been agreed to for the Native Gap Conservation Reserve, Dulcie Range National Park and the Kuyunba Conservation Reserve.

Commonwealth Aboriginal land title and leaseback to the Territory has been agreed to for Airtunga Historical Reserve, Corroboree Rock Conservation

Minister for Indigenous Policy and Minister for Parks and Wildlife Alison Anderson said today marked another achievement on the journey towards joint management of 27 of the Territory’s parks and reserves that the Territory Government first embarked upon in 2005.

“Working together towards joint management has been a learning process for Traditional Owners and for Government, but we are committed to developing and putting in place the best solutions for managing the land so that the country is healthy, for the benefit and enjoyment of all Territorians and visitors,” she said.

The transfers follow the successful Commonwealth land title transfer to Traditional Owners and leaseback to the Territory Government of the Devil’s Marbles Conservation Reserve in October last year.

*Media contact: Geoff Fraser 0407 360256 (Chief Minister)  
Shannon McRae (Minister Anderson) 0419 340735*