21 March 2012

Native Title Certainty

Local Member for Stuart, Karl Hampton, today joined hundreds of people at Territory Manor in Mataranka to welcome the handing down of a consent determination that will provide certainty regarding native title.

“The Aboriginal land rights movement remains strong in the Territory more than 40 years on, with the Territory Government working with Traditional Owners towards a negotiated resolution of Native Title claims,” Mr Hampton said.

“In August 2002, a native title claim was lodged over land and waters comprising most of the previous local government area of the Mataranka Community Government Council including the Town of Mataranka.

“The Territory Government agreed to resolve this native title claim by entering into a consent determination of native title following resolution of connection and extinguishment issues.

Negotiations between the Northern Territory Government and the Northern Land Council have actively been taking place since February 2009 to resolve this matter.

“The Territory Government agreed to resolve this native title claim by entering into a consent determination of native title as opposed to litigation, to achieve resolution.

“Discussions around the table to reach consent, consistent with this Government’s policy to resolve native title issues by way of a negotiated outcome were obviously the preferred option,” Mr Hampton said.

This will be the third consent determination of native title which includes land within a town (previous determinations relate to Tennant Creek and the Town of Elliot).

“This historic determination is good for residents because it provides certainty as to where native title does and does not exist and identifies the people who hold native title,” Mr Hampton said.

Media Contact: Gino Luglietti 0401 119 794