LABOR LEADER WELCOMES FINAL SETTLEMENT OF KENBI LAND CLAIM

Territory Labor leader Michael Gunner today welcomed the Government's announcement of the final settlement of the Kenbi land claim.

"The Kenbi Land claim was always going to be settled through negotiation with the Larrakia people," Mr Gunner said.

"I congratulate the Larrakia people, the Northern Land Council and the Federal and Northern Territory Governments for concluding the negotiations which were commenced by previous Territory Labor Governments."

"While there is more work to do, an opportunity now exists for the Larrakia people and other citizens of Darwin to plan together the future direction and look of our wonderful city.

"This is a unique opportunity- nowhere in Australia has there been the chance for the first Australians and other Australians to work together to shape their capital city.

"Labor consistently proposed negotiating with the Larrakia. And Labor began the settlement process in 2001 when Chief Minister Clare Martin put an end to the 27 years of litigation conducted by previous CLP Governments.

"The CLP saw two High Court challenges defeated over Kenbi and spent more than $20 million opposing the claim.

"It is also important to note that not all Larrakia, many of whom were recognised in the land claim process, have welcomed the settlement deal, a point that was acknowledged by NLC CEO, Joe Morrison.

"I also acknowledge the many senior Larrakia who have passed away before the settlement could be finalized," Mr Gunner said.

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