The Alice Springs community is invited to join the celebrations at the signing of the Larapinta Indigenous Land Agreement next week.

Minister for Central Australia Dr Peter Toyne said the ILUA between the Territory Government and the Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation will be signed on Thursday, April 22, 2004.

“This agreement will be the first of its kind in the country and special guests from around the Territory and Australia will be attending the signing ceremony,” Dr Toyne.

“Many different groups around the country have been watching these negotiations with interest as a model for similar native title negotiations over municipal land.

“Alice Springs will have good reason to celebrate as the ILUA will not only lead to the release of blocks at Larapinta, it also sets the framework for the release of residential land in the future.

“The town’s development will no longer be held back by a lack of available residential land.”

The signing ceremony will take place at Albrecht Oval at 10am on April 22.

A free community barbecue will be held following the signing of the ILUA.

“The Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation is planning a special performance by some local children and the young people’s involvement really says what this agreement is all about,” Dr Toyne said.

“It shows that we can build a future for our own town together and that’s a real reason for the entire community to celebrate.”