Chief Minister, Clare Martin, today said that the announcement by Galarrwuy Yunupingu that he would not continue as chair of the Northern Land Council (NLC) brings to an end an important chapter in Territory history.

Ms Martin said that - as chair of the NLC for more than 20-years - Galarrwuy Yunupingu is recognised as an important leader for Aboriginal rights and is known and respected Australia wide.

"He has fought hard for the rights of, and on behalf of, Aboriginal Australians and his legacy in the NLC will be that of improving the lives of his people,” she said.

“In this position, Galarrwuy served as a strong advocate and a passionate believer of the rights of Aboriginal people and worked hard in recognition of land rights and the importance of economic development on that land.

“This work has also seen him recognised as Australian of the Year and has set the foundation for the next generation of strong indigenous leaders to continue to represent their people.”

Ms Martin said that Galarrwuy Yunupingu would continue to play an important and prominent role in Territory society and would now focus his time on business opportunities.

“On behalf of the NT Government I wish Galarrwuy well in the next phase of his career and thank him for his dedication, commitment and friendship during his time in the NLC.”