Mr Stone ... 'reeling in disbelief'

$120m claim for railway corridor

Aborigines in the Northern Territory have demanded $120 million during land rights negotiations over the Alice Springs-Darwin rail link.

The figure revealed for the first time yesterday by sources close to the NT Government is believed to be the principle reason for the breakdown in talks with the Northern Land Council.

An incensed Northern Territory Chief Minister, Shane Stone, described the claim as "beyond the pale".

"Everyone is reeling in disbelief," he said between races at the Touring Car Championships at Hidden Valley yesterday.

Unexpected

Mr Stone said the claim was lodged unexpectedly by the Northern Land Council early this month.

Since then, he and the South Australian Premier, John Olsen, have appeal to the Prime Minister, John Howard, to legislate secure land access for the railway line.

Mr Stone said he was determined the claim would not stop the rail line being built, adding it would have to be withdrawn or federal legislation passed to overcome it.

Outback

Since then their bright blue painted van has gone on a 10,000km trip from Far North Queensland and across the Outback to Darwin.

In a nutshell: Picture: PETER BENNETT

Mrs Zwinkels said: "We only had a spanner and no jack but it got us here with no problems."

They were dismayed to discover that selling their van on the street was illegal.

Mr Stolker said: "I don't see why we can't sell it here."

"We can't leave Darwin for Indonesia unless we do. So how do we get rid of our car? We have to park it on Mitchell St to do our daily things. It's ridiculous and stupid."

Think you don't have time to see KAKADU??