



The Hon Catherine King MP
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local
Government

The Hon Linda Burney MP
Minister for Indigenous Australians



The Hon Natasha Fyles MLA
Chief Minister

The Hon Eva Lawler MLA
Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and
Logistics
Minister for Education
Minister for Territory Development

MEDIA RELEASE

LARRAKIA LAND DEAL BRINGS CULTURAL CENTRE CLOSER

Larrakia Development Corporation (LDC) has finalised an agreement with the Northern Territory Government providing land to develop the Larrakia Cultural Centre.

The Larrakia Cultural Centre is a cornerstone of the LDC's plan to showcase Larrakia culture, history and language supported by the Darwin City Deal.

Since 2005, the LDC has negotiated with the Northern Territory Government for the development of a Cultural Centre on a suitable site based on a 1998 Native Title extinguishment agreement related to the railway corridor from Alice Springs to Darwin.

This has culminated in securing a culturally significant and suitable site next to Stokes Hill which is a registered Larrakia sacred site.

This site and the \$40 million Larrakia Cultural Centre will be held by the Larrakia Development Trust (LDT), as freehold. The LDT is the only trust of its type which is inclusive of all Larrakia families and individuals.

This site and the Larrakia Cultural Centre to be built upon it, will be owned by all Larrakia families and their future generations.

The Larrakia Cultural Centre is a key commitment of the Darwin City Deal – a 10-year partnership between the Australian and Northern Territory governments and the City of Darwin to position Darwin as a vibrant and liveable tropical capital city, supported by a growing population and diversified economy.

For more information on the Darwin City Deal, visit www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/cities/city-deals/darwin-city-deal. Further details on the LCC can be found at www.larrakiaculturalcentre.com.au.

Quotes attributable to Federal Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Minister Catherine King:

“The transfer of land from the Northern Territory Government to LDC marks a significant point of progress for the development of the Larrakia Cultural Centre.

“The Australian Government is looking forward to seeing the Larrakia Cultural Centre operational on the Darwin waterfront at Stokes Hill – a sacred site, with spiritual and cultural links for the Larrakia people.”

Quotes attributable to Federal Indigenous Australians Minister Linda Burney:

“The Larrakia Cultural Centre will provide an important opportunity to share and celebrate Larrakia language, culture, art and history with the world.

“Developed on sacred land, the centre will also play a significant role in preserving and maintaining culture for future generations of Larrakia people.”

Quotes attributable to Northern Territory Chief Minister, the Hon Natasha Fyles MLA:

“The Larrakia Cultural Centre is a landmark project that the Northern Territory Government is committed to supporting through the Darwin City Deal.

“We know that one of the many reasons that people come to the Northern Territory is for an authentic Aboriginal cultural experience that is like nowhere else.

“This land transfer will enable Larrakia Development Corporation to build a home in Darwin City for the Larrakia people, as Darwin’s first people, to preserve and share their rich story, culture and language with locals and visitors alike.”

Quotes attributable to Northern Territory Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, the Hon Eva Lawler MLA:

“Stokes Hill is a highly significant and sacred site to the Larrakia people, also known as the Saltwater People.

“This agreement secures freehold land connected to the sacred site and the sea to enable the Larrakia to share the deep spiritual and cultural significance of these important assets.”

Quotes attributable to LDC CEO, Nigel Browne:

“The development of the Larrakia Cultural Centre is a primary example of the LDC developing a centre that has a focus on creating economic and social benefits for Larrakia people and the community at large.

“The negotiations to acquire freehold took longer than anticipated, but is a significant transaction, not only for the fact that we, as Saltwater People, will have a permanent presence in the immediate vicinity of one of our last remaining sacred sites, but the transfer also signifies the formal extinguishment of our last Native Title rights, which had been secured as part of the Larrakia Native Title claim in the late 1990s.

“Our elders, those who fought so long for Larrakia rights, this is one of their greatest legacies.”

21 SEPTEMBER 2022

MEDIA CONTACT:

LDC – KATE FINCH 0413 633 750