

1998

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS (NORTHERN TERRITORY)
AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1) 1998

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs,
Senator the Hon John Herron)

**ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS (NORTHERN TERRITORY)
AMENDMENT BILL (No. 1) 1998**

OUTLINE

The Bill makes provision for the following amendments to the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* :

- the Bill would raise the retiring age for the occupant of the position of Aboriginal Land Commissioner from 65 years to 70 years. The occupant of this position is required to be a Judge of the Federal Court or the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory. The present retiring age for Judges of these courts is 70 years.
- the Bill would add 2 new parcels of land to Schedule 1 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* as the result of an agreement reached between the Northern Territory Government, traditional owners and the Land Councils in settlement of prior land claims brought under the Act. This would bring the total number of parcels of land which have been scheduled under that Act since 1977 to 61.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Financial impact of the amendment is expected to be nil.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clause 1 - Short title

This clause provides that the Act may be cited as the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment Act (No. 1) 1998*.

Clause 2 - Commencement

This clause provides that the Act will commence on the 28th day after the day on which it receives the Royal Assent.

Clause 3 - Establishes Schedule of Amendments as follows:

Item 1. - Item 1 would amend subsection 52(3) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* by raising the retiring age for the Aboriginal Land Commissioner from 65 years to 70 years.

Item 2. – Item 2 would add a parcel of land described as Innesvale to the existing Part 4 of Schedule 1 of the Principal Act.

Item 3. – Item 3 would add a parcel of land described as Urrpantyenye to the existing Part 4 of Schedule 1 of the Principal Act.