

1996

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

**ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS (NORTHERN TERRITORY) AMENDMENT
BILL 1996**

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 1996

OUTLINE

The *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* provides a mechanism whereby traditional Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory referred to in Schedule 1 to the Act may be granted to Aboriginal Land Trusts to hold title on behalf of Aboriginal people. Since the Act came into operation in 1977 a total of 60 separate parcels of land have been scheduled under the Act.

The amendment arises from three settlement agreements reached in relation to land claims. They are firstly an agreement between the Northern Territory Government, the claimants to the Bauhinia Downs Land Claim (No. 150) and the Northern Land Council, secondly an agreement between the Northern Territory Government, the claimants to the Brumby Plains Station Land Claim (No. 149) and the Central Land Council and thirdly an agreement between the Northern Territory Government, the claimants to the Kartangurruru, Walpiri and Walmajeri Repeat Land Claim (No.27) and the Central Land Council. Each of these agreements includes clause in which the Northern Territory Government agrees to request the Commonwealth to effect the grant of an estate in fee simple in the land which was the subject of the Land Claim.

Amendment to Schedule 1 of the Act

The amendment to Schedule 1 of the Principal Act is designed to add three new parcels of land to that schedule.

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 1996*.

Clause 2 - Commencement

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

Clause 3 - Schedule

1. This clause provides that the Act specified in the Schedule to the Act is amended as set out in the Schedule

Schedule 1 AMENDMENTS OF THE *ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS (NORTHERN TERRITORY) ACT 1976*

Items 1 and 2 - Amendment of Part 4 of Schedule 1

These items amend Part 4 of Schedule 1 by adding three parcels of land described as Bauhinia Downs, Brumby Plains and Western Desert (North) Locality.



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