

1994

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS (NORTHERN TERRITORY)
AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1994

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs,
the Honourable Robert Tickner MP)



9 780644 310079

**ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS (NORTHERN TERRITORY)
AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1994**

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 58 separate parcels of land have been scheduled under the Act.

The amendment arises from a settlement agreement reached between the Northern Territory Government, the claimants to the Hodgson Downs Land Claim (No. 139) and the Northern Land Council. This agreement includes a 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 a new parcel of land within 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 (No. 2) 1994*.

Clause 2 - Commencement

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

Clause 3 - Amendment of Schedule 1

This clause amends Schedule 1 of the Principal Act by adding a parcel of land described as Hodgson Downs to the existing Part 4 of Schedule 1 of the Principal Act.