

Wetengerr community in their efforts to purchase Epenarra station to secure their community development and cultural interests against a potentially detrimental change in ownership.

The community has outgrown the one square kilometer living area it occupies, having doubled its population to 250 in 15 years. It is without an administrative structure, adequate infrastructure and occupational activity for the growing population and remains dependent on a critical community lifeline provided by the station store.

The relatively harmonious existence it has enjoyed with the lessee family over 50 years was put at risk by their decision to sell the property in March 2006.

Efforts facilitated by the CLC to gain the support of the Indigenous Land Corporation were successful but the offer made by the ILC for the property was rejected in April by the lessee.

The CLC subsequently represented a range of concerns held by the community to the relevant NT Ministers about the ownership change.

These included a need for certainty that their statutory access rights across Epenarra would remain unimpeded and their cultural interests protected (eg. in relation to the potential for locking of station gates), continued access to a store providing reasonably-priced essential supplies, the need for additional land to overcome the inadequacies of the existing living area.