

THE MINISTER

The Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Mal Brough is responsible for ensuring that the CLC carries out its statutory functions and requirements in accordance with the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* and the *Native Title Act 1993*.

ENABLING LEGISLATION

The Land Rights Act

The Central Land Council is a Commonwealth statutory authority operating under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*.

It is first and foremost a representative organisation for the Aboriginal people in its area.

Statutory functions

The statutory functions of a Land Council as described in section 23 (1) of the ALRA are:

- to ascertain and express the wishes and the opinion of Aboriginals living in the area of the Land Council as to the management of Aboriginal land in that area, and as to appropriate legislation concerning that land;
- to protect the interests of traditional Aboriginal owners of, and other Aboriginals interested in, Aboriginal land in the area of the Land Council;
- to assist Aboriginals in the taking of measures likely to

assist in the protection of sacred sites on land (whether or not Aboriginal land) in the area of the Land Council;

- to consult with traditional Aboriginal owners of, and other Aboriginals interested in, Aboriginal land in the area of the Land Council with respect to any proposal relating to the use of that land;
- where the Land Council holds in escrow a deed of grant of land made to a Land Trust under section 12 —
 - (i) to negotiate with persons having estates or interests in that land with a view to the acquisition of those estates or interests by the Land Trust; and
 - (ii) until those estates or interests have been so acquired, to negotiate with those persons with a view to the use by Aboriginals of the land in such manner as may be agreed between the Land Council and those persons;
- to negotiate with persons desiring to obtain an estate or interest in land in the area of the Land Council —
 - (i) where the land is held by a Land Trust — on behalf of traditional Aboriginal owners (if any) of that land and of any other Aboriginals interested in the land; and
 - (ii) where the land is the subject of an application referred to in paragraph 50 (1) (a) - on behalf of the traditional Aboriginal owners of that land or on behalf

of any other Aboriginals interested in the land;

- to assist Aboriginals claiming to have a traditional land claim to an area of land within the area of the Land Council in pursuing the claim, in particular, by arranging for legal assistance for them at the expense of the Land Council;
- to negotiate and enter into agreements, as necessary, for the purposes of subsection 70(4);
- to compile and keep —
 - (i) a register recording the names of the members of the Land Council; and
 - (ii) a register recording the names of the members of the Land Trusts holding, or established to hold, Aboriginal land in its area and descriptions of each area of such Aboriginal land; and
- to supervise, and provide administrative or other assistance for, Land Trusts holding, or established to hold, Aboriginal land in its area.