

## Further Submission - Director of National Parks

There have been some changes to details noted in the submission [made by the Director of National Parks]:

- [Name removed] has resigned from the Kakadu Board of Management, and [name removed] has been nominated by the traditional owners of the southern areas of the park to replace [name removed]; and
- the agreement between the Director and the NLC [Northern Land Council] in relation to the NLC Park Officer position has expired and an agreement is not currently in effect.

The summary of the Director's submission in the [Aboriginal Land] Commissioner's interim report does not accurately reflect the status of the NLC in relation to the Kakadu management plan, and under the park leases. The NLC is not a party to the management plan and does not have contractual rights and obligations that would need to be renegotiated if a new Land Council were to be established. The management plan is a legislative instrument under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* that sets out how the Director of National Parks will manage the park and how use of the park by other persons will be regulated under the Act.

The management plan recognises, and gives effect to, the statutory role of the NLC under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* and its role under the Director's leases of Aboriginal land in the park.

If part of the park ceased to be within the area of the NLC it would be necessary to amend the park management plan, and relevant park leases.

The Commissioner's interim report notes the Director's submission was received late in the inquiry process (with the result the applicants had not had the opportunity to comment upon it). We would be grateful if the Commissioner's report could reflect the Director had only been made aware of the application a short time beforehand.

Regards

[Name removed]