



MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS

Parliament House
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THE HON ROBERT TICKNER MP

Mr Darryl Pearce
Director
Northern Land Council
PO Box 42921
CASUARINA NT 0811

Dear Mr Pearce

I am pleased to inform you that I have decided to accede to the recommendation of the Aboriginal Land Commissioner that Area 4 in the Mataranka Area land claim be granted to an Aboriginal Land Trust. The land comprises a section of the Urapunga Stock Route, stretching from the most western boundary of Roper Valley station easterly to longitude 134 degrees 18 minutes east.

I am writing also to the lessees of Roper Valley station informing them of my decision and that I will defer the grant of land for three months to allow them a further opportunity to discuss with the Northern Land Council issues such as the exact location of the stock route and a possible lease of part of the stock route land, with a view to minimising any detriment which might otherwise result from the grant.

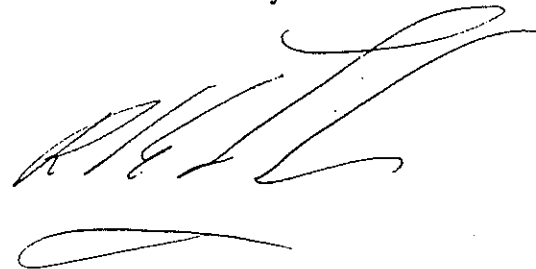
I am advised that the Northern and Central Land Councils have agreed that the purchase of all or part of Roper Valley station be accorded very high priority, subject to the lessees being willing to sell and to agreement as regards price.

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I would be grateful for your confirmation of this and for your early advice as to progress, as it would not, of course, be necessary to proceed with an expensive survey of the stock route if there is a strong prospect of either the station being purchased or the lessees being offered a lease over all or part of the stock route.

Yours sincerely



ROBERT TICKNER

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