



## Kimberley Land Council

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **KLC responds to Native Title Amendment Bill**

The Kimberley Land Council (KLC) has welcomed a Senate report supporting the *Native Title Amendment (Indigenous Land Use Agreements) Bill 2017*, but says more needs to be done to protect the rights of native title holders.

KLC Chief Executive Officer Nolan Hunter says acceptance of the Senate Committee's recommendations by Parliament will provide greater certainty for native title holders impacted by the recent decision of the Full Court of the Federal Court of Australia in the *McGlade* decision.

"The Federal Government has been aware of the limitations of the Native Title Act for some time," Mr Hunter said.

"The Senate Committee's recommendations support changes to the Act that will create greater certainty for native title groups, government and industry whose agreements may no longer be valid."

However, Mr Hunter says the changes do not address some of the biggest challenges native title holders face as a result of processes prescribed by the Native Title Act.

"Currently, native title holders have few measures of recourse if they do not agree with the terms of a new development," Mr Hunter said

"Whether through changes to policy or legislation, native title holders must be assured free, prior and informed consent, and a real say, in the negotiation process.

"We want a fairer system that will enable native title holders to have a meaningful say and certainty about managing implications from development.

"The Kimberley Land Council looks forward to working with the Federal Government to address these broader issues in the future."

The Kimberley Land Council is an Aboriginal regional representative body for people living in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.