



Update from the Co-Chair

prepared to the Commonwealth House of Representatives Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs to engage the Commonwealth on these issues.

Basically the SSC has adopted the following positions:

1. The Northern Territory is not democratically governed because of the ability of the Commonwealth to override decisions of an elected NT Government.

2. Statehood for the NT must mean eventual equality with the existing States. Anything less than an equal partnership with the other States in the federation would be unacceptable to most Territorians.

3. Territorians want to know exactly what they would be agreeing to in any future plebiscite or referendum about Statehood.

4. It is important that an agreed process to determine any terms and condi-

tions is adopted. The process should include realistic time frames for planned outcomes. Such an agreement will assist the NT to make budget allocations for timely education programs, plebiscites and other requirements and will identify benchmarks against which progress is being made. The previous NT Committee recommended the negotiation process should go hand in hand with Territory constitutional development.

5. The Committee wants the Commonwealth to be clear on its intentions for NT Statehood. Does the Commonwealth agree the NT should become a State? Residents of the NT lost equal rights as Australian citizens on 1 January 1911. It may be appropriate to target 1 January 2011 as a date for Statehood. One hundred years of inequality is enough.

Look for our stand at your show and tell us what you think.

The Northern Territory Statehood Steering Committee has been in existence for just over one year. During the year we attended the 2005 Show Circuit and by the time you receive this we will be back on the hustings in 2006.

In February this year we published a report of our first year's activities, available on our website www.statehood.nt.gov.au under *Publications*. We are an open and transparent Committee aimed at providing a place for all Territorians to focus on Statehood.

Statehood can only happen if the Commonwealth wants us and we have started discussing these issues with a submission to the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs to approach the Territory Government as well as a submission now being

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Visit us
on line
and
complete
the new
survey or
come and
see us at
the shows.

Office of the Statehood Steering Committee— What have we been doing?

At the time of publication, the Statehood Steering Committee will have undertaken seven deliberative meetings, Committee members and Committee Secretariat staff have provided 53 presentations to community groups, schools, business and other organisations introducing the Committee and the Statehood issues to Territorians.

We have been active in Darwin, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs as well as Maningrida, Daly River, Port Keats, Katherine and Palmerston. We are always available to address your community group or organisations.

The Committee has produced Fact Sheets which are also up on our website and we are also preparing a submission to the Com-

monwealth's House of Representatives Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs to seek the Commonwealth's cooperation with the Territory about Statehood.

The Statehood Steering Committee remains active and committed to educating and informing Territorians about Statehood issues. We have a lot more to do and will be coming to communities and schools across the Territory in the future.

Out and About ... Profile of a Community Meeting

Having visited Wadeye, Daly River, Borroloola, Maningrida and the main centres as well the Committee is starting to get a picture of what Territorians are most concerned about.

Representation and financial issues are often raised. Our Fact Sheets provide some basic background information on those issues.

When we are out and about on the road we learn from you. Funds to undertaken outreach work are limited at this time, but we will endeavour to get around to provide all Territorians a place to speak their mind about Statehood in due course.

On 20 January this year, Co Chair Sue Bradley accompanied Nora Kempster from the Committee office to Jabiru to meet with the Board of the Gagadju Association. We had been invited to give a brief presentation as members had a particular interest in Statehood. They explained that the Commonwealth had only recently stopped the payment of entry fees to Kakadu National Park. We were told that this had been done without any discussion with the traditional owners who relied on a portion of those fees for some of their income. The members were upset at the loss of income but even more upset by the total lack of consultation. The members hoped that Statehood for the NT would mean more control by traditional owners over their own land.

Following the story board presentation the members asked questions about the status of the Kalkaringi statement and commented on the need for a Bill of Rights. The issue of understanding who owns what land was raised. What belongs to the Commonwealth, the Northern Territory and the Traditional Owners is sometimes confusing. After the presentation we met with the President who made several useful suggestions about future presentations to the wider Gagadju community. These included the use of role play, a Parliament doll's house and big maps of Australia.



We are looking forward to broader discussions with the wider community at Jabiru .

Alice Springs Expo

After starting off in April in Alice Springs last year with our first ever meeting and a small public forum we returned for the Show in July and again in March 2006 for the Central Australian Business Expo.

Having a presence at these events provides visibility and the opportunity for Territorians to see what we are all about.

At Expo we spoke face to face with approximately 90 Territorians and pro-

Visibility and Participation are important ~ Tell us what you think

vided printed material to hundreds more. We were visible to thousands as we were located just at the main entrance.

Visibility and participation are important. People seeing us out and about will remember us and if they don't engage the first time they may the second or third time.

Feel free to suggest events or places we should be seen at and where we can provide useful information on Statehood.

In coming months we will be seeking expressions of interest for volunteers to help out at these sorts of events. If you are interested get in touch with the Committee office.

Central School Visits : Tennant Creek & Alice Springs

During March 2006 we took Statehood on the road and presented it to Tennant Creek High School students.



We held a day long Statehood Quest for a number of schools in Alice Springs.

The Quests are a great way for school students to engage in discussions about democracy, representation, identity, Commonwealth and Territory relations and our future.

We run these with an introductory information session then some workshops on topical issues, an examination of the Fact Sheets and finally the students present back to the larger group.

After holding these in Darwin and Alice Springs we will be conducting more in both these centres and seeking interest from other schools across the Territory.

Statehood is relevant to Social Studies and Legal Studies students. Our Statehood Teachers Advisory Group (STAG) generally meets once a term to examine how we can link our material into the curriculum so all students will have some exposure to the issue. Any teacher who would like to be part of STAG may contact the Statehood Office at any time.

Report to Parliament

In February this year, the Statehood Steering Committee reported to the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs. The Report provides a clear account of the Statehood Committee's activities during 2005. You can read the minutes of our meetings, look at our publications and get an understanding of our Work Plan by looking at this report.

The Report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 15 February. On our website you can see the Report and also see the comments of the Members of the Assembly by following the Hansard link.

Your comments on the content of

the Report are welcome. You can comment by the 'have your say' page on the website or by email, telephone or letter.

Statehood can only happen if the Commonwealth wants us. We have started discussing these issues in a submission to the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs to approach the Territory Government as well as a submission now being prepared to the Commonwealth House of Representatives Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs to engage the Commonwealth on these issues. Copies of these submissions will be available to the public on our website once approved by

the Standing Committee.

We have more work to do this year, so stay in touch with us and tell us your ideas.



Commonwealth Standing Committee comes to Darwin

The Commonwealth's House of Representatives Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs is examining the '*Federal Implications of Northern Territory Statehood*'.

The Commonwealth Committee has indicated it will visit Darwin on 2nd and 3rd August 2006 to conduct a Seminar. Interested Territorians should contact the Commonwealth Committee for more details. You can follow the link off our website under 'Events' or call (02)6277 2358.

NT Minerals Council (Inc) Involvement with the Statehood Steering Committee: Kezia Purick



The NT Minerals Council (Inc.) welcomed the opportunity to participate in the Statehood Steering Committee and believes that the work of the Committee reflects the growing

sentiment in the Northern Territory for full and complete control and management over its own affairs particularly, those associated with land management.

The Northern Territory resource industries (exploration, mining and processing of metallic, energy and industrial minerals) are the most valuable contributors to the Northern Territory economy generating over \$4.1 billion in value of production for the 2004/05 year and accounting for 19% of Gross State Product. The major economic benefits generated by the resource industries and captured in the Northern

Territory take the form of regional development, wages, provision of large number of goods and services and royalties collected under Northern Territory legislation.

The Minerals Council and its members work closely with many groups and individuals and are committed to the following values:

- ethical and responsible conduct;
- world class safety and health performance;
- environmental responsibility and excellence;
- minerals education;
- developing sustainable and mutually beneficial relationships with indigenous people;
- technical and operational excellence;
- open and competitive markets; and
- sustainable development.

Through commitment to these values, the Minerals Council believes that it plays an important role in the Northern

Territory's future development as it has done in its past development and history.

Issues of fundamental importance to the resource industry that have relevance to work of the Statehood Steering Committee include:

- the need to have continued access to areas for exploration and mining under multiple and sequential land use principles;
- certainty of title and land tenure;
- management of national parks by the State of the Northern Territory;
- the ownership and management of the uranium industry;
- management of industrial relations within the Northern Territory borders; and,
- operations of the off shore oil and gas industry.

The Minerals Council looks forward to continuing to work with the Statehood Steering Committee and the move towards Statehood for the Northern Territory.

We'll be at the Show—Come and visit us ...

July 2006 NT Show Dates

July 2006 NT Show Dates

Alice Springs

Friday 7th—Saturday 8th
Site: G42 Greatorex Pavilion

Tennant Creek & District

Friday 14th
Site: #44

Katherine & District

Friday 21st—Saturday 22nd
Site: TBA

Royal Darwin Show

Thursday 27th—Friday 28th
Saturday 29th
Site: U 12
(Upstairs Foskey Pavilion)

SSC Members talk to the Alice Springs Show-goers ... July 2005



Please contact the office if you would like to help out at the Show in your area ... we'd love for you to become a 'friend of Statehood'

Follow the
Yellow Brick Road to
Statehood

The 2005 Show Circuit gave the Northern Territory Statehood Steering Committee the opportunity to chat with the 'show-goers', surveyed approx 1500 people, found that the Statehood tattoo was a much sought out item and we were very popular with the kids (young and the not so young kids) with our bright orange and black logo balloons.



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*Together
Towards
Statehood*

MEMBERS of the STATEHOOD STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair ~ Elliot McAdam MLA (ALP)

Terry Mills MLA (CLP)

Lorraine Braham MLA (ind)

Co-Chair ~ Sue Bradley (Community Rep)

Daniel Bouchier (Youth Rep)

Kathleen Chong-Fong (Community Rep)

Pete Davies (Community Rep)

Stuart Kenny (NT Cattleman's Assoc Nominee)

Brian Martin AO MBE (Community Rep)

Jenny Medwell OAM (Multicultural Council Nominee)

Irene Nangala (Community Rep)

Kezia Purick (NT Minerals Council Nominee)

Jamey Robertson (Unions NT Nominee)

Geoff Shaw AM (CLC Nominee)

Margaret Vigants (Territorians for Statehood Rep)

WEB DEVELOPMENT

We try to keep our Website up to date with all our material.

Have a look and tell us what you think.

Recent additions include the new Storyboards at the 'Publications' page

We're on the Web
www.statehood.nt.gov.au