



MEDIA RELEASE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 15 May 2008

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Ms Malarndirri McCarthy, MLA, today announced the new appointment to the position of Co-Chair of the Statehood Steering Committee.

“Following Territory wide advertising for expressions of interest in the position, the Standing Committee met today to decide on the appointment,” said Ms McCarthy. “I am pleased to announce that Ms Fran Kilgariff has accepted the position and will be working with myself and members of the Statehood Steering Committee as we pursue this important next step in constitutional development for the Northern Territory.”

Ms Kilgariff has recently stepped down after eight years as Mayor of Alice Springs and has a long and noteworthy history of contribution to the Northern Territory, as has the Kilgariff family. Her father Bern Kilgariff was the first Speaker of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly in 1974 and subsequently went on to represent the Northern Territory as a senator from 1975 until 1987.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Terry Mills, MLA, who is also a member of the Standing Committee and Opposition spokesman for Statehood, stated that he supports the appointment and agrees with Ms McCarthy’s comments.

“This appointment transcends politics,” said Mr Mills. “Apart from the outstanding contribution Ms Kilgariff has made to the Northern Territory over many years, I believe that she has the personal attributes to lead and inspire as the Territory moves towards full democratic equality with the rest of Australia, adding to the work contributed by her father prior to Self-Government. She is an excellent choice to follow on from the inaugural Co-Chair, Mrs Sue Bradley.”

Ms Kilgariff stated that she has always had a strong interest in Statehood, especially the necessity for strong public involvement and understanding in the Statehood process.

“I look forward to ensuring that the community is fully involved as we progress to Statehood for the Northern Territory,” she said.

Ms McCarthy said the Standing Committee was pleased with the calibre of all persons who expressed interest in the position and especially pleased that the Committee has a Central Australian Co-Chair. She thanked all applicants and will be following up with them how they can help in the Statehood process.

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