

19 February 2009

Territory 2030 Steering Committee Secretariat
Department of the Chief Minister
GPO Box 4396
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Territory 2030 Steering Committee Members

STATEHOOD ESSENTIAL TO TERRITORY 2030 PLANS

I write as Co-Chair of the Northern Territory Statehood Steering Committee. The Statehood Committee is an advisory group to the Northern Territory Parliament and comprises 3 MLA representatives, from Government and Opposition, and 18 community representatives.

The Statehood Committee believes that the Statehood is an essential element to the future development of the Northern Territory and by 2030 the Territory will already be an established State of Australia.

Statehood for the Territory provides the constitutional and democratic foundations on which all the economic, social and environmental goals of the Territory can be achieved:

- As a State, the Territory will have the power to develop and maintain laws that meet the needs and aspirations of Territorians without the uncertainty of being overridden by the Federal Government.
- As a State, the Territory will have a stronger voice in the national Parliament and have more influence on national policies and laws that affect Territorians.
- As a State, Territorians will be recognised as equal Australian citizens under the Australian Constitution and the Territory will be seen as able to thrive under the control of its own people.

These State capacities are critical for the Northern Territory to prosper across all the strategic areas being considered by the Territory 2030 Steering Committee.

As a State the Northern Territory may assume State jurisdiction in areas such as uranium mining, national parks management and industrial relations to the extent held by other States of Australia.

To enable the successful achievement of future plans and policies for the Territory, Statehood needs to be incorporated in the 2030 vision and the Statehood Steering Committee will be raising this issue as they participate in the 2030 consultations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fran Kilgariff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Ms Fran Kilgariff
Co-Chair, Statehood Steering Committee