

**Aboriginal Peak Organisations  
Northern Territory (APO NT)**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

29 June 2022

**APO NT celebrates the public release of the NT Treaty Commission's Final Report, and support its calls for Truth and Treaty**

Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT (APO NT) is proud to recognise the significant achievement of the Northern Territory's Treaty Commission on the public release of its Final Report.

'First Nations across the Northern Territory can boast a long and proud history of calling for recognition, truth, justice and self-determination for our people,' said AMSANT CEO John Paterson. 'From Gwalwa Daraniki, to the Yirrkala Bark Petitions, to the Barunga Statement, to the Wave Hill walk off- all our calls for control of our own affairs are at the heart of our work here at APO NT'.

'Treaty is the obvious next step. We call on Chief Minister Natasha Fyles, Minister for Treaty, Selena Uibo, and the whole NT Government to support the recommendations in the report. We call for commitment especially for those recommendations that honour truth and justice, progress Treaty via independent Aboriginal leadership, and recognise and embed inclusive, representative Aboriginal voices, so that our aspirations can be realised.'

APO NT has always supported the Treaty process with all Land Councils, also members of APO NT, signing the Barunga Memorandum of Understanding, a key moment on the journey to Treaty. We have also supported the Treaty Commission and wish to recognise the leadership of Mick Dodson, Ursula Raymond and Tony McAvoy, along with the hard work of the Commission team in producing this Report.

'We recognise that the path towards Treaty or Treaties will be long, but we are here to stay the course. We know First Nations self-determination/governance provides the best means for better outcomes for our people, the evidence is unequivocal', said Mr Paterson. 'This is about writing past wrongs and working towards a better way forward. This Final report is an important step on that path and shows that we have the courage in the NT to be bold and focus on what is right for First Nations people across the Territory.'

'This is an opportunity for healing for our people, and for all Territorians to build a future that shares and celebrate our strengths, together. Along with the recent commitments from the Federal Albanese Labor Government, for the Uluru Statement from the Heart, we have a real opportunity to unite in a fair and prosperous future for all.'

'In the immortal words of our Yolnu family from Yothu Yindi- Treaty Yeah! Treaty Now!'

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