

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

### Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) (Land Description) Regulations

Statutory Rules 1990 No. #82- . Issued by the Authority of the Minister of State for Aboriginal Affairs.

These Regulations were made under section 78 of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (the Act) which provides that the Governor-General may make regulations for the purposes of the Act.

Subsection 4(1) of the Act provides for grants of land to Aboriginal Land Trusts, to hold Crown land as described in Schedule 1 to the Act. Schedule 1 consists of Parts 1 to 3.

Section 77C of the Act permits the description of an area of land in Part 2 or 3 of Schedule 1 to be modified by the regulations. The power to modify in respect of a given description ceases when the land is vested in a Land Trust. Section 77C was included in the Act to allow for minor correction of descriptions of the land (prior to the vesting of that land in an Aboriginal Land Trust) where survey or other evidence enables the boundaries of the land included in Part 2 or 3 of Schedule 1 to be described with a greater degree of precision.

Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Act includes the description of an area of land known as the Newcastle Waters Locality, situated in the vicinity of the Town of Newcastle Waters in the Northern Territory. The land has not yet been vested in a Land Trust. The Newcastle Waters Locality was originally described in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Act as accurately as was then possible, by means both of a diagram and a reference to a description of the relevant parcel of land contained in the Northern Territory Government Gazette of 23 December 1986.

The Newcastle Waters Locality land has now been surveyed, and the Regulations provided for the substitution in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Act of a new description referring to the survey plan.

The Regulations took effect from the date of notification in the Gazette.