

2004-2005-2006-2007

The Parliament of the  
Commonwealth of Australia

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Presented and read a first time*

**Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern  
Territory) Amendment (Township  
Leasing) Bill 2007**

**No.     , 2007**

*(Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs)*

**A Bill for an Act to amend the *Aboriginal Land  
Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, and for  
related purposes**



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1 **A Bill for an Act to amend the *Aboriginal Land***  
2 ***Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976, and for***  
3 ***related purposes***

4 The Parliament of Australia enacts:

5 **1 Short title**

6 This Act may be cited as the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern*  
7 *Territory) Amendment (Township Leasing) Act 2007.*

8 **2 Commencement**

9 (1) Each provision of this Act specified in column 1 of the table  
10 commences, or is taken to have commenced, in accordance with  
11 column 2 of the table. Any other statement in column 2 has effect  
12 according to its terms.  
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**Commencement information**

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<b>Column 1</b>	<b>Column 2</b>	<b>Column 3</b>
<b>Provision(s)</b>	<b>Commencement</b>	<b>Date/Details</b>
1. Sections 1 to 3 and anything in this Act not elsewhere covered by this table	The day on which this Act receives the Royal Assent.	
2. Schedule 1	A single day to be fixed by Proclamation. However, if any of the provision(s) do not commence within the period of 6 months beginning on the day on which this Act receives the Royal Assent, they commence on the first day after the end of that period.	
3. Schedule 2, item 1	Immediately after the commencement of item 147 of Schedule 1 to the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment Act 2006</i> .	
4. Schedule 2, item 2	Immediately after the time specified in the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment Act 2006</i> for the commencement of item 111 of Schedule 1 to that Act.	
5. Schedule 2, item 3	Immediately after the commencement of item 224 of Schedule 1 to the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment Act 2006</i> .	

1 Note: This table relates only to the provisions of this Act as originally  
2 passed by both Houses of the Parliament and assented to. It will not be  
3 expanded to deal with provisions inserted in this Act after assent.

4 (2) Column 3 of the table contains additional information that is not  
5 part of this Act. Information in this column may be added to or  
6 edited in any published version of this Act.

### 7 **3 Schedule(s)**

8 Each Act that is specified in a Schedule to this Act is amended or  
9 repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule  
10 concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this Act has effect  
11 according to its terms.

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**Schedule 1—Main amendments**

*Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*

**1 After Part II**

Insert:

**Part IIA—Executive Director of Township Leasing**

**Division 1—Establishment of the Executive Director of Township Leasing**

**20B Executive Director of Township Leasing**

There is to be an Executive Director of Township Leasing.

Note: Division 3 deals with the appointment and terms and conditions of the Executive Director.

**Division 2—Functions of the Executive Director**

**20C Functions of the Executive Director**

The functions of the Executive Director are:

- (a) to enter into, on behalf of the Commonwealth, leases under section 19A; and
- (b) to administer leases granted to the Commonwealth under section 19A, including administering subleases and other rights and interests derived from such leases, in accordance with their terms and conditions; and
- (c) any other functions that are prescribed by the regulations, being functions relating to the matters referred to in paragraph (a) or (b).

1 **Division 3—Administrative provisions about the Executive**  
2 **Director**

3 **20D Appointment of Executive Director**

- 4 (1) The Executive Director is to be appointed by the Governor-General  
5 by written instrument.
- 6 (2) The Executive Director holds office for the period specified in the  
7 instrument of appointment. The period must not exceed 5 years.

8 **20E Appointment to be full-time**

9 The Executive Director holds office on a full-time basis.

10 **20F Terms and conditions—general**

11 The Executive Director holds office on the terms and conditions (if  
12 any) in relation to matters not covered by this Division that are  
13 determined by the Governor-General.

14 **20G Remuneration and allowances**

- 15 (1) The Executive Director is to be paid the remuneration that is  
16 determined by the Remuneration Tribunal. If no determination of  
17 that remuneration by the Tribunal is in operation, the Executive  
18 Director is to be paid the remuneration that is prescribed by the  
19 regulations.
- 20 (2) The Executive Director is to be paid the allowances that are  
21 prescribed by the regulations.
- 22 (3) This section has effect subject to the *Remuneration Tribunal Act*  
23 *1973*.

24 **20H Executive Director not to engage in paid employment**

25 The Executive Director must not engage in paid employment  
26 outside the duties of his or her office without the Minister's  
27 approval.



1 **20J Acting Executive Director**

- 2 (1) The Minister may appoint a person to act as the Executive  
3 Director:  
4 (a) during a vacancy in the office of the Executive Director  
5 (whether or not an appointment has previously been made to  
6 the office); or  
7 (b) during any period, or during all periods, when the Executive  
8 Director is absent from duty or from Australia, or is, for any  
9 reason, unable to perform the duties of the office.

10 Note: Section 33A of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* contains provisions  
11 relating to acting appointments.

- 12 (2) Anything done by or in relation to a person purporting to act under  
13 an appointment is not invalid merely because:  
14 (a) the occasion for the appointment had not arisen; or  
15 (b) there was a defect or irregularity in connection with the  
16 appointment; or  
17 (c) the appointment had ceased to have effect; or  
18 (d) the occasion to act had not arisen or had ceased.

19 **20K Leave of absence**

- 20 (1) The Executive Director has the recreation leave entitlements that  
21 are determined by the Remuneration Tribunal.  
22 (2) The Minister may grant the Executive Director leave of absence,  
23 other than recreation leave, on the terms and conditions as to  
24 remuneration or otherwise that the Minister determines.

25 **20L Resignation**

26 The Executive Director may resign his or her appointment by  
27 giving the Governor-General a written resignation.

28 **20M Termination of appointment**

- 29 (1) The Governor-General may terminate the appointment of the  
30 Executive Director for misbehaviour or physical or mental  
31 incapacity.

- 1 (2) The Governor-General must terminate the appointment of the  
2 Executive Director if:  
3 (a) the Executive Director:  
4 (i) becomes bankrupt; or  
5 (ii) applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of  
6 bankrupt or insolvent debtors; or  
7 (iii) compounds with his or her creditors; or  
8 (iv) makes an assignment of his or her remuneration for the  
9 benefit of his or her creditors; or  
10 (b) the Executive Director is absent, except on leave of absence,  
11 for 14 consecutive days or for 28 days in any 12 months; or  
12 (c) the Executive Director engages, except with the Minister's  
13 approval, in paid employment outside the duties of his or her  
14 office; or  
15 (d) the Executive Director fails, without reasonable excuse, to  
16 comply with section 20N.

17 **20N Disclosure of interests**

18 The Executive Director must give written notice to the Minister of  
19 all interests, pecuniary or otherwise, that the Executive Director  
20 has or acquires that could conflict with the proper performance of  
21 the Executive Director's functions.

22 **Division 4—Staff and consultants**

23 **20P Staff**

24 The staff required to assist the Executive Director are to be persons  
25 engaged under the *Public Service Act 1999* and made available for  
26 the purpose by the Secretary of the Department.

27 **20Q Consultants**

- 28 (1) The Executive Director may, on behalf of the Commonwealth,  
29 engage consultants to perform services for the Executive Director.  
30 (2) The consultants are to be engaged on the terms and conditions that  
31 the Executive Director determines in writing.

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**Division 5—Annual report****20R Annual report**

*Annual report to be given to Minister*

- (1) The Executive Director must, as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year, prepare and give to the Minister, for presentation to the Parliament, a report on the operations of the Executive Director during that year.

Note: See also section 34C of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*, which contains extra rules about annual reports.

*Other reports*

- (2) The Executive Director must give to the Minister such additional reports as the Minister requests and may give to the Minister such other reports as the Executive Director thinks fit.

**Division 6—Repeal of Part****20S Repeal of Part**

- (1) If:
- (a) one or more leases have been granted to the Commonwealth under section 19A; and
  - (b) each such lease has been transferred to an approved entity other than the Commonwealth; and
  - (c) the Minister is satisfied that there is no reasonable likelihood of the Executive Director entering into, on behalf of the Commonwealth, another lease under that section; and
  - (d) the Executive Director has given a report to the Minister under subsection 20R(1) for the last financial year; and
  - (e) the Executive Director has given a report to the Minister under subsection 20R(2) on the operations of the Executive Director for the part of the current financial year requested by the Minister;
- the Minister may, by legislative instrument, specify a day on which this Part is to be repealed.
- (2) This Part is repealed at the beginning of that day.

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## Schedule 2—Technical amendments

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### *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*

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#### **1 Subsection 48B(1)**

6

Omit “a” (last occurring).

7

Note: This item corrects a grammatical error in the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*.

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### *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment Act 2006*

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#### **2 Item 111 of Schedule 1**

12

Omit “either,”, substitute “either”.

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Note: This item corrects a misdescription of text in the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*.

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#### **3 Subitem 224(3) of Schedule 1**

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Omit “117”, substitute “116”.

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Note: This item corrects an incorrect cross-reference.