MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

MEDIA RELEASE

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TAMWORTH HOSTS REVIEW OF THE NSW ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS ACT

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello said a forum seeking public input on proposed changes to the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act is being held in Tamworth today.

Mr Dominello, who is attending the consultation at the Ibis Motel, said the proposed reforms aim to improve economic outcomes for Aboriginal people in NSW.

The one-day Tamworth forum, held jointly with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council, is one of nine forums held in separate regions in NSW throughout August and September to discuss changes to the Act, as a result of a statutory review.

“As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of an Act that enshrined Aboriginal land rights in law there is also a realisation that to achieve better outcomes, changes must be made,” Mr Dominello said.

“At the heart of this reform is the shared goal of building a more sustainable land council network that drives greater economic outcomes for all Aboriginal people.”

Reforms designed to cut unnecessary red tape, improve the land claim process, improve management of social housing schemes and reform of the regulatory framework, are up for discussion.

The proposed changes to the Act, which include proposals developed in consultation with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council, are also aimed at increasing the capability and productivity of Land Councils for the good of all Aboriginal people.

“NSWALC and the NSW Government cannot drive the proposed reforms in isolation. We need your input and expertise. This is a chance to shape your future.”

Those who cannot travel to Tamworth can lodge written submissions.

The NSW Government has already moved towards strengthening the Act by introducing a suite of administrative amendments that remove unworkable and inefficient provisions in the legislation and increase the efficiency and governance of land councils.

“Now, in partnership with Aboriginal people, we want to take the next bold step,” Mr Dominello said.

Details are available at www.orala.nsw.gov.au/alrareview.html

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