



## Petition

Registration No.	34
Title	Proposed new Maningrida Police Station location
Presented on	Thursday 9 May 2019
Presented by	Member for Wanguri (Hon Nicole Manison, MLA)
Referred to	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and to the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee for consideration to debate
Assembly debate	If the Committee recommends the Petition be debated it will appear on the Notice Paper
Date referred	9 May 2019
Response due	18 September 2019
Response received	1 August 2019
Response presented	6 August 2019

### Petition

Petition to the Chief Minister, Northern Territory Government

We the undersigned, do not want the proposed new Maningrida Police Station to be located on our cultural site. For the past five years, we the community, have been supporting the proposed extension of our Arts and Culture precinct. Our Arts Centre, Women's Centre and Museum hold significant cultural, emotional and economic relevance to the people of Maningrida and Homelands past and present. We, as affected parties, do not support the consultation process of the Northern Land Council, the Traditional Owners and the Government in this decision-making process. We ask that the proposed new Maningrida Police Station be located on another site.

Signed by Maningrida Community and Homeland Members.

### Response

The Northern Territory (NT) Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) commenced inquiries to secure land for a new police facility at Maningrida in February 2018. The current location adjacent to the Maningrida Arts and Culture Centre was not one of the sites originally sought by the NTPFES. There has been ongoing community meetings at Maningrida over the past 16 months organised by the Northern Land Council (NLC) to discuss locations for the new police facility.

In June 2018, during a community meeting at Maningrida, the NLC identified the current site adjacent to the Maningrida Arts and Culture Centre for community consideration. The location was discussed with Traditional Owners (TOs) and the general community. Initial community feedback supported the location, however, final decision was deferred to allow all stakeholders time to consider the location.

In November 2018, the Maningrida community met to progress land tenure. During this meeting, the Maningrida Arts and Culture Centre took the opportunity to present future development plans to all parties for consideration. This presentation confirmed any further development of the centre was confined within the current Maningrida Arts and Culture Centre lease boundaries. None of the proposed infrastructure development encroached upon the land under consideration for the new police facility.

In December 2018, the TOs and the NLC met at Maningrida for further land tenure negotiations. Approval was given by the TOs for the NLC to progress a section 19 Aboriginal Lands Right Act 1976 (Cth) lease with the NTPFES over the land adjacent to the Maningrida Arts and Cultural Centre.

Maningrida is one of the largest Aboriginal towns in the NT and supports a population in excess of 2,600 people and is growing rapidly. I note the Petition identifies 24 names with a total of 19 signatures.

The NT Government is committed to providing services commensurate to that growth. The new police facility will be designed to support growth, including future staff increases. It will provide a 'state-of-art' court facility which has a strong focus on supporting vulnerable persons, such as women and children. A community meeting centre will also be included.

In February 2019, all members of the NLC sat and ratified an agreement on a site for the new police station. However, there are concerns among elements of the Maningrida community about the preferred site.

The NT Government is endeavouring to work with the NLC to reach consensus on a site for the police station and to that end consultation with community stakeholders and concerned parties continues.