

Joint Statement by the Prime Minister and the
Queensland Premier

Recognising our mutual obligation with regard to the wishes and the welfare of the Aboriginal peoples at Aurukun and Mornington Island, the two Governments after long and earnest discussion, have reached the following agreement that in order to achieve self-management for Aurukun and Mornington Island communities:

- (a) a local government authority for each to be created on the boundaries of the existing reserves;
- (b) the local government council will consist of the existing councils until the next State Local Government council elections which will take place next April. These councils will be the managing authority;
- (c) in order to support the communities, there will for each one be a co-ordinating and advisory committee to the Council consisting of people representative of authorities delivering services including one representative of the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

The Queensland Government has offered to consult with the Commonwealth Government on the terms of legislation required to provide for self-management through the operations of local government, in order to achieve mutual agreement between the relevant Ministers. In the context of that agreement, the Queensland Government plans to grant to each local government authority a special lease of the area, to secure the preservation of the people's traditional rights, use and occupancy of the land.

The Premier of Queensland, after conferring with his Minister for Aboriginal and Island Affairs (Mr Porter) and his Minister for Local Government (Mr Hinze) believes that action in terms of this agreement could be introduced next week into the Queensland Parliament.