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JAWOYN ASSOCIATION ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Sharing Our Country

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MEDIA RELEASE

Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation Chair, Ms Lisa Mumbin, today announced the appointment of new Chief Executive Officer, Ms Joanna Holden.

“Joanna will head up the management and operations of the Association and will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role,” Ms Mumbin said.

“Ms Holden has a strong commitment to accountability, transparency and operational effectiveness. She has a strong background in the management and operations of Aboriginal organisations in the Katherine region. She has worked for the Commonwealth, Local Government and local Aboriginal organisations.”

“The appointment of a new CEO continues our restructuring process following the election of a new Board of Directors in October last year. With a newly appointed CEO, the Jawoyn Association can continue our back-to-basics approach with a committed focus on our core values and activities.

“The board is very aware of the past problems and difficulties experienced by the Association. There was a great deal of concern from many Jawoyn people about the Association's loss of direction.

“However, we want to look forward and continue to restructure our operations and activities around our core responsibilities as a major representative Aboriginal organisation, responsible for some 35,000 square kilometres of Jawoyn traditional land.

"For a long time after its establishment the Jawoyn Association was recognised as one of the leading Indigenous organisations in Australia. During that period the Association strongly promoted a 'One Jawoyn Nation' approach in the interests of all Jawoyn People.

“Unfortunately that approach was allowed to fragment. In recent times the Association lost focus and became non-representative, with personal interests driving policies and operations rather than the common interests of the Jawoyn people.

"The Board is committed to again focus on a 'One Jawoyn Nation' approach. I am confident that getting back to basics and working for the common good of the Jawoyn people will see our Association become stronger and regain the respect it once had.

“The Jawoyn Association wants to again be a vibrant and meaningful contributor to the Katherine regional community and its economy. The Jawoyn Board, with the support of our membership of Traditional Owners, wants to see the increased utilisation of more of the 35,000 square kilometres of Jawoyn Traditional Land for various economic activities.

"But as part of our return to core values we will always listen to Traditional Owners about what they want and are happy to see happen on their land by their Association," Ms Mumbin said.

“We also want to play a real part in the push to develop Northern Australia, as announced by the Prime Minister and supported by the Northern Territory Chief Minister.

“Jawoyn intends to again be an efficient and effective Aboriginal organisation servicing the needs of its Members, appropriately managing its Traditional Lands and contributing to the economy of the Katherine region.”

“We have a new team and a new approach. Watch this space!”

Authorised by Ms Lisa Mumbin, Chair, Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation

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