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THE SUPREME COURT OF

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

SCC 22532476

THE KING

and

KENNETH ORMOND

(Sentence)

SOUTHWOOD J

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT DARWIN ON WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2026

Transcribed by:
EPIQ

HIS HONOUR: The offender, Kenneth Ormond, has pleaded guilty to a single count on an indictment dated 31 August 2026.

The count charges that contrary to s 5(1) of the *Misuse of Drugs Act* on 26 May 2025 at Maningrida, the offender intentionally supplied a substance to another person, reckless as to the substance being a dangerous drug, and the quantity of the dangerous drug supplied was a commercial quantity. The dangerous drug was cannabis plant material, which is a schedule 2 substance. The maximum penalty for the offence is imprisonment for 14 years.

The offender is 67 years old. He was born in Darwin on 18 December 1958. He has lived in Darwin for most of his life. As a child he was in foster care in Adelaide between the ages of 8 and 15 and then lived with his sister there until just after Cyclone Tracy, when he moved back to Darwin.

He is in a long-term de facto relationship and has four adult children. He has been employed in various capacities over time, including linesman, labourer, driver and machine operator. He had a good reputation as a worker.

The offender has a criminal record which extends for six pages. Of relevance, the offender has convictions for numerous minor drug offences. However, on 26 November 2019, he was convicted of supplying a commercial quantity of a schedule 2 substance for which he was sentenced to 3 years and 9 months' imprisonment, which was suspended on certain conditions.

The facts of the offending are as follows.

On 26 May 2025, MF, who was acquitted of any offending, and the offender travelled from Darwin towards Maningrida in a Toyota Landcruiser owned by MF. They left at around 5 am. The Landcruiser, as I say, was registered to MF and was in his ownership for two years.

Maningrida and surrounding areas are an alcohol restricted area (ARA). At about 11:30 am two police officers and an Aboriginal liaison officer were conducting an ARA rural patrol of the Maningrida Access Road. This was because the road had recently become passable after flooding.

At about 30 kilometres south of Maningrida on the Maningrida Access Road, the officers came across MF and the offender travelling in the Landcruiser. This area is within the ARA. The officers stopped the vehicle intending to perform a random search of the vehicle for alcohol.

At the time they were stopped MF was driving and the offender was in the front passenger seat. While searching under the driver's seat, police found a black plastic bag containing a smaller bag. Inside the smaller bag were approximately 100 new and used clip sealed bags.

On finding these bags, police cautioned MF and asked if there was any cannabis in the vehicle. The offender, who was nearby, replied words to the effect, “Yes. He’s [Officer Bakker] just got it.” He stated there were four bags, three pounds, before police were able to caution the offender. The offender stated that the cannabis belonged to him and not MF.

During the search, police found a grey, blue and black backpack behind the passenger seat. Inside the bag were four large bags of cannabis bud and six additional 100 packs of unused clip sealed bags. Police seized the bag and contents and placed the offender under arrest.

Police cautioned MF and asked him if he knew what was inside the vehicle, to which he responded, “No. I didn't know.” Police seized the Landcruiser as property used in the commission of a crime. Police took the offender back to the Maningrida Police Station. While being processed and after another caution the offender asked if the police had received a tip before stopping them. He went on to say, “That guy in there, the guy that brought me out here had no idea I had it. I didn't tell him.”

The cannabis was subsequently weighed and tested. The total weight of the cannabis across four bags was 1402.6 grams. Cannabis is a schedule 2 drug pursuant to the *Misuse of Drugs Act* and the amount seized constitutes a commercial quantity of the dangerous drug.

One gram of cannabis has a retail value of approximately $100 in Maningrida, an Aboriginal community. The cannabis seized was worth approximately $140,260.

An order is sought for the forfeiture of the cannabis, clip sealed bags and the Landcruiser. The Landcruiser has since been returned to MF, as it was his motor vehicle and he had no involvement in the criminal offending. However, I make the order sought for forfeiture of the cannabis and the clip sealed bags.

The offending is serious offending. The supply of cannabis into Aboriginal communities causes enormous harm in those communities. It is well established that considerable weight is to be given to both general and specific deterrence.

At one point I did consider a suspended sentence, but since that consideration arose it is apparent that the offender has continued to behave in a recalcitrant manner and has shown no remorse for committing this serious offence.

In all of the circumstances, I sentence the offender to 3 years and 7 months’ imprisonment. The sentence of imprisonment is backdated to 4 October 2026.

I fix a non-parole period of 1 year and 10 months.

As a result of the plea of guilty, I reduced the sentence that I otherwise would have imposed by 5 months. Had there not been a plea of guilty I would have sentenced you to 4 years, not 3 years and 7 months.

THE ACCUSED: So what have I got altogether, your Honour?

HIS HONOUR: Well, 3 years and 7 months and a non-parole period of 1 year and 10 months, backdated to 4 October 2026. If you'd not pleaded guilty, however, I would have sentenced you to 4 years, not 3 years and 7 months.

Now, I think that covers it. Nothing further?

MR NOTTLE: Not from my perspective, your Honour.

HIS HONOUR: Then we will adjourn the matter. I thank you for your assistance.

Please adjourn the court.
