



City community living in squalor

By **REBECCA HEWETT**

An Aboriginal community near Darwin's city centre yesterday called for living conditions to be improved.

The One Mile Dam community will soon be overlooked by an upmarket apartment complex planned for the old Stuart Park petrol tank site. And in a few years it will be surrounded by

a new housing estate.

Community leader David Timber said One Mile Dam at Dinah Beach was in desperate need of new housing and amenities.

The community is home to between 50 and 100 people and has only tin sheds for housing and a rundown cement toilet block.

"This community has been neglected for the past 30

years," Mr Timber said.

"And now the population is growing because of new itinerant laws.

"The conditions aren't healthy – the houses are hot, even on a cool day, and they're not cyclone-proof."

Mr Timber has lived at One Mile Dam for 18 years.

The community yesterday marked 25 years since the land was handed back to the

Aboriginal owners.

Resident Ernest Shannon, 39, shares a corrugated iron shed with six family members. "It's a good community, we all look after each other," he said.

"But look, it's disgusting. The house has to fit all of us and it's so hot. We need air conditioning, fans."



Ernest Shannon at his home at One Mile Dam yesterday ... 'it's disgusting'. Picture: MICHAEL MARSCHALL