



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016–17





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CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

20 September 2017

Senator Nigel Scullion
Minister for Indigenous Affairs
Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, the *Native Title Act 1993* and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, I am pleased to approve and submit the 2016-17 Annual Report on the operations of the Central Land Council.

I am authorised by the Central Land Council to state that the Accountable Authority is responsible under section 46 of the PGPA Act for the preparation and content of the report.

Yours faithfully

Mr Francis Kelly
Chair
Central Land Council

OVERVIEW OF THE CLC		
	Chair's report	3
	Director's report	5
	About the CLC	7
	CLC executive committee & council members	17
	CLC governance	20
	Organisation structure	23
	Performance report	24
OUTPUT GROUP 1		27
Land & natural resource management	1.1 Permits	28
	1.2 Land & natural resource management	30
OUTPUT GROUP 2		42
Land claims & acquisition support	2.1 Land claims	43
	2.2 Land acquisition	44
OUTPUT GROUP 3		45
Economic development & commercial services	3.1 Land use agreements	46
	3.2 Employment, education & training	51
	3.3 Mining	60
	3.4 Commercial assistance	71
OUTPUT GROUP 4		74
Advocacy services	4.1 Public awareness & education	75
	4.2 Advocacy & representation	79
	4.3 Cultural & heritage support	87
	4.4 Community development support	90
OUTPUT GROUP 5		101
Administration & support services	5.1 Distributions	102
	5.2 Administer land trusts	103
	5.3 Dispute resolution	106
OUTPUT GROUP 6		107
Native title	Native title	108
CORPORATE MANAGEMENT		117
Annual performance statement		126
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS		129
GLOSSARY		189
COMPLIANCE INDEX		192

CHAIR'S REPORT



Francis Kelly

I can't remember a year so packed with big anniversaries: 50 years since the Wave Hill Walk Off that kicked off land rights, 40 years since the Aboriginal Land Rights Act changed the power relations in the Territory forever, and 25 years since the High Court's Mabo judgement exposed the lie of *terra nullius* and brought us native title.

We celebrated the anniversaries at a joint council meeting with the Northern Land Council at Kalkaringi in August and marched on Freedom Day together with hundreds of people from all over the region and beyond, including the families of Vincent Lingiari and Eddie Mabo.

Mr Lingiari's son, Timmy Vincent, joined us a few weeks later in Alice Springs when we launched the first Vincent Lingiari Art Award at the *Our Land Our Life Our Future* exhibition. When the winner, Marlene Rubuntja, recovered from her shock she told us she made her sculpture *My future is in my hands* to show that she is strong. She also wanted to honour her father, the first full-time CLC chair, Wenten Rubuntja.

We had plenty of other reasons to celebrate. During the past 12 months, families travelled to five native title determinations over country that has nurtured their ancestors for tens of thousands of years. I shared their joy at Victory Downs near the South Australian border in June, when Justice Reeves handed down a consent determination over the second-largest determination area in our region. It's been a big year for native title, but there were other records.

Never before did our communities invest so much of their mining compensation income in community driven development. Between them, nine Tanami communities allocated more than \$7 million in projects, many of them designed to support our young people and strengthen our culture. I am pleased that half of the decision makers on the community-based committees that prioritise and plan these projects are women.

I felt particularly proud of our women as I sat in the audience of the ABC's Q&A program in Alice

Springs in July. I was listening to our senior policy officer Josie Douglas who was part of the panel, our delegate Barbara Shaw who challenged the panel about the ongoing hurt the Intervention has caused, and my sister-in-law Valerie Patterson from Lajamanu community who asked about bilingual and bicultural education.

Valerie is an experienced teacher, language worker, and member of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT), the best hope for our young people in the Tanami region. She was fresh from a WETT meeting that morning that had talked about a review of the first 10 years of this successful community development program and begun to plan for its next decade. She stood up and described how a lack of support and respect is driving Yapa school staff away. Then she asked what it would take for the education department 'to work side by side *with* us, and respect our language and culture being taught in our community schools'.

It was the kind of question we ask all the time. Governments keep making policies for us, not with us. We have heard many fine words from the new NT Government about regaining our trust by giving us control over community housing and jobs in construction, but things are moving as slowly as a car that needs a bush mechanic. We hear this car can't be fixed without Canberra.

My neighbours in Yuendumu still crowd too many people into too few houses and our school kids still miss out on a good night's sleep. We got some rushed repairs in late 2016, after we threatened to take legal action and went to the media, but the repair and maintenance services out bush have not improved.



Francis Kelly meets with custodians at Karlu Karlu/ Devils Marbles to discuss the desecration of the sacred site.



Warren Snowden (left), Francis Kelly and Tony Burke share a joke at the 2017 ranger camp at Ross River.

Housing was a big deal in the last Territory election and our people again threw out a government that had failed to deliver. It is time we woke up and realised how powerful we are when we take political action together.

Our campaign for more ranger funding is a good example. Minister Scullion said that the Federal Government would fund our Ranger Program until 2020 and, for the first time, the NT Government is also contributing. Federal Labor has promised to double ranger funding if it wins the next federal election. This was not lost on our rangers who hosted Shadow Environment Minister Tony Burke at their annual ranger camp at Ross River in May.

I was proud to join Anangu elders as they took back control of Mutitjulu in March. When we first talked about our new model for community township leasing in Canberra in 2010 neither side of politics took it seriously. Seven years later there were smiles all around and everyone was ready to sign up to a new kind of lease that puts the community in the driver's seat.

Watarrka traditional owners taught us two good lessons about why it pays to be united and never give up. They have fought against plans for mining and fracking in Watarrka (Kings Canyon) National Park since 2012 and even took their campaign to Canberra. In June, the NT Government banned mineral and energy exploration and mining in the park. The families also spoke up in the media about the Kings Canyon Resort's plans to bring in poker machines. When they explained how pokies gambling would harm their communities, the resort dropped the idea, much to everyone's relief.

The mood at my meeting with the traditional owners of Karlu Karlu (Devils Marbles) could not have been more different. The elders there were very hurt and

angry after individuals desecrated their sacred site in April and a video of it was widely shared on social and national media. I wrote to the Aboriginals Area Protection Authority, asking it to take legal action against those responsible. AAPA promised to do all it can to bring them to justice but the elders are still waiting.

We can't wait for the NT and Federal governments to stop pointing the finger at each other, and get on with removing dangerous asbestos from our communities. In Yuendumu we have used our compensation income from The Granites gold mine to set up the Yapa Kurlangu Ngurrara Aboriginal Corporation, a business that employs local people to look after outstations, and carry out recycling and contract work. The business is keen to clean up the asbestos but sadly has been unsuccessful in getting the Aboriginals Benefit Account to fund this urgent work. This is just one example of why the ABA needs reform. As we agreed at Kalkaringi, the land councils are working together to develop a better model that will shift control of the fund from the minister to Aboriginal people.

Also at Kalkaringi, our members made it very clear that jail is the wrong answer for our young people when they get in trouble with the law. They are not safe there. I spoke about my grandson who sported a black eye when I visited him in juvenile detention and he told me that the prison guards are too rough. We know from our successful Mt Theo project that the solutions lie at home, on country, where we can keep an eye on our young people and bring them back to our law. The Royal Commission into Juvenile Detention heard our message loud and clear. Let's hope governments listen to the commission when it reports later this year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



David Ross

A decade has elapsed since John Howard sent the army into our communities, yet the 'torment of our powerlessness' the Intervention brought home still reverberates across the Northern Territory. It has taught us valuable lessons about the change we need if we are to regain control over our lives. Ten years later, delegates at the First Nations regional dialogues about constitutional reform in Darwin and at Ross River agreed that any change to Australia's constitution must ensure that there is no repeat of the most disempowering chapter in our recent history.

The delegates elected at the dialogues took this conviction to the Uluru Convention in May. We argued for constitutional reform that would stop the parliament from using the race and territories powers to hurt our peoples again. After two days of passionate debate, we settled on the Uluru Statement which calls for an indigenous voice to parliament, and a makarrata commission to drive a process of treaty making and oversee the truth-telling that must occur for our nation to heal.

While at Uluru, the NLC executive took the opportunity to hear directly from the traditional owners of the national park how they planned and implemented their successful community development initiative, the Uluru rent money project. For the past 12 years Muṯiṯjulu has invested its share of the rent money from the surrounding national park in its young people. The visitors from the Top End inspected the pool the community has operated since 2013 and other youth-focused initiatives, keen to see what they could learn for their own fledgling community development project.

It has been a good year for Muṯiṯjulu. In March it signed off on a profoundly important settlement between residents and traditional owners about future responsibilities for community land use. The innovative township leasing model they developed with the CLC keeps decision making in Aboriginal hands but also acknowledges the need to build community capacity and strong governance. Like our community development program, the model deserves to be widely emulated.

Our advocacy is paying off on many fronts. Following the latest change of government in the Territory all parties are keenly aware of the power of the Aboriginal vote. Our peak bodies, such as the Aboriginal Housing Association NT and Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT (APO NT), have the government's ear when it comes to the need to support and return control to our communities and organisations. Improvements on the ground however, especially around remote housing, proceed at a glacial pace.

The Australian Government has acknowledged that its remote work-for-the-dole scheme, the misnamed community development program (CDP), needs to be reformed and that Aboriginal communities and organisations must lead the way. The CLC has driven the development of an alternative to the CDP. The



Aboriginal Interpreter Service staff interpreted during the First Nations regional dialogue at Ross River.



Northern Territory delegates and supporters at the Uluru Convention in May.

APO NT model aims to eliminate discrimination, prevent hardship and get more people into real jobs. It has been encouraging to see many Aboriginal organisations, job service providers and national peak bodies endorse our model. I look forward to the Australian Government's costing of its centrepiece, a remote jobs investment fund.

A small, but I hope growing, source of meaningful paid work in our region's north are carbon credits. The Karlantijpa North Kurrawarra Nyura Mala Aboriginal Corporation we set up and support has earned its first income from cool season fuel reduction burning northwest of Tennant Creek. Our rangers and 20 traditional owners burned more than 80,000 hectares of savannah country in order to prevent large, uncontrolled bush fires during the hot season. The emerging enterprise is investing the income to finance more ground and aerial burning next year. I hope that, as the methodology for measuring carbon abatement matures, more remote communities will jump on the chance to create jobs protecting our climate and our culture.

Working on country, let alone running a carbon enterprise, requires a good bicultural and bilingual education. More than 10 years ago, we set up the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust to promote just that. An independent review of WETT found that since then the community development program created jobs for at least 40 Yapa (Aboriginal people) in four Tanami communities. The review found that the

royalty-funded program responds to Yapa education priorities and is well governed by highly committed and experienced Yapa.

Their input has also enhanced our research into how royalty distributions affect attendance at remote schools. As we finalise our research report the small team at our Aboriginal Associations Management Centre has begun to move bigger distribution meetings to the school holidays where possible. This is no mean feat because the centre supports many associations that all need to comply with strict statutory deadlines. We will share our research findings with governments, royalty associations, schools and parents to find solutions that are both evidence-based and workable.

After more than 12 months of extensive consultations and negotiations about the proposed northern gas pipeline the traditional owners and affected native title holders agreed to the pipeline route agreements in December 2016 and all parties executed them in early 2017.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the efforts of our dedicated staff and the guidance of our members and executive committee. My thanks go out to them all.

ABOUT THE CLC

The Central Land Council (CLC) is a Commonwealth corporate entity operating under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cwlth) (the Land Rights Act, or the ALRA) and as a Native Title Representative Body under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) (the Native Title Act).

The CLC has performed its statutory functions with outstanding success, with more than 417,000 square kilometres of land now Aboriginal freehold under the Land Rights Act.

From 1983, as land began to be returned to its traditional owners, the CLC invested increasingly in land management to enable them to benefit from opportunities on their land and deal with threats to its cultural and natural values. It has supported traditional owners' aspirations in the areas of pastoral activity, feral animal control, fire management, and biodiversity conservation.

The CLC's community development program is now the leading example of similar programs in the country. More and more, constituents use income from land use agreements to build and maintain infrastructure and to fund community driven education and culture initiatives that benefit them.

The CLC is one of four Northern Territory (NT) land councils operating under the Land Rights Act. It carries out its statutory functions across the southern half of the NT – some 780,000 square kilometres. Its members belong to more than 15 language groups.

A 90-member council governs the CLC. The council representatives are elected from Aboriginal communities across the CLC's region and meet three times a year in various bush locations. Council delegates many of its functions to a nine-member executive committee elected by council members; this executive is headed by a chair and deputy chair.

The CLC consults with Aboriginal landowners on mining, land management, tourism, employment and other development proposals for their land.

It operates under the Commonwealth *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act*

2013 (the PGPA Act) and every year is audited by the Australian National Audit Office.

The CLC's sources of revenue reflect its evolution: in 2016–17 Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) funding comprised \$18.027 million of total revenue of \$41.9 million. Total operating expenses were \$39.9 million, and capital expenditure was \$2.6 million. The CLC is one of the largest employers of Aboriginal people in the NT and employs a staff of 217.3 full-time-equivalent staff, of whom 48.3 per cent are Aboriginal.

HISTORY

The CLC's roots reach deep into the Aboriginal struggle for justice in Central Australia. The most prominent example is the famous 1966 Gurindji strike and walk-off at Wave Hill cattle station whose 50th anniversary we celebrated in August 2016. In response to Aboriginal demands at the walk-off, the Whitlam government set up a royal commission into land rights in the NT in 1973. One of its recommendations was that Central and Northern land councils be established to present the views of Aboriginal people.

A 1975 meeting of representatives of Central Australian Aboriginal communities elected Charlie Perkins and Wenten Rubuntja as chair and vice-chair respectively of the Central Land Council, and the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service assigned a lawyer to work with them.

Later that year the Land Commissioner began hearing claims about the needs of Alice Springs' town camp residents. The Whitlam government drew up an Aboriginal Land Rights Bill; however, the government was dismissed before the bill could be passed.

In June 1976 the new Liberal–Country Party government passed the legislation but omitted



The CLC has acquired Vincent Namatjira's 2016 painting *Vincent Lingiari and Gough Whitlam*, a shortlisted entry in the Vincent Lingiari Art Award, for its collection.

provisions for land claims based on need and various other features of the original bill. In the same year, the CLC published the first edition of *Land Rights News*, now Australia's oldest Aboriginal-owned newspaper.

The Land Rights Act came into operation in January 1977. It gave Aboriginal people title to most of the Aboriginal reserve lands in the NT and the opportunity to claim other land not already owned, leased or used.

One year later the CLC celebrated its first successful land claim. Like almost all claims that followed, the Warlpiri and Kartangarruru–Gurindji land claim was won against the bitter opposition of the NT's Country–Liberal Party government.

The CLC's constituents began to set up outstations on their country but some were unable to return because their country lacked water and other essential infrastructure.

In 1983, in line with the recommendations of HC Coombs, members elected a new, regionally based executive. The CLC hired Kimberley priest Patrick Dodson to manage what would become its directorate and regional services section, while two research officers started the land management section.

In the same year, traditional owners set up a protest camp at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station to stop an

NT Government proposal for a recreational lake that would have flooded sacred sites. The Commonwealth followed up on its promise to protect sacred sites with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cwth) but left the protection of sites to ministerial discretion.

In 1984, traditional owners gave the Alice to Darwin railway the all-clear, though it was not completed until 2003. Two years of attempts to establish a Central Australian women's council failed.

In 1985 the Governor General handed back the title for the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park to the traditional owners, who leased it back to the Commonwealth for joint management. Patrick Dodson became the CLC's first director and the CLC opened its first regional office, in Tennant Creek, followed by seven more offices in remote communities in subsequent years.

In 1986, in response to a mining industry campaign, the Commonwealth abandoned its commitment to national land rights legislation and tried to weaken the Land Rights Act.

The following year, the CLC helped Ipolera outstation near Hermannsburg to become the first community to open a small tourism business, and the Commonwealth inserted a 1997 deadline on all land claims in the Land Rights Act.

In 1988 the CLC and traditional owners signed an exploration agreement for the area around The Granites in the Tanami desert – the first agreement negotiated from scratch under the Land Rights Act.

Later that year CLC members joined a convoy to the bicentenary protest march on Australia Day in Sydney. CLC chair Wenten Rubuntja and Northern Land Council (NLC) chair Galarrwuy Yunupingu presented Prime Minister Bob Hawke with the Barunga bark petition calling for a treaty.

In 1990 the NT Government tried again to dam the Todd River, against the will of the traditional owners, and damaged sacred sites near Junction Waterhole. After a long CLC campaign, in 1992 the Commonwealth declared the sites protected for 20 years.

The Barrow Creek Telegraph Station, site of an 1874 massacre of Kaytetye people, was handed back in 1992 to the traditional owners, despite NT Government obstruction.

The CLC became a Native Title Representative Body in 1994, following the passage of the Native Title Act. It lodged its first, and ultimately successful, native title claim over the town of Alice Springs. It also won a

settlement of the long-running Lake Amadeus land claim.

Central Australian women formed an independent women's council in 1995. Set up with the support of the CLC, the council had been 15 years in the making.

In 1997 the sunset clause in the Land Rights Act came into effect. The CLC managed to lodge several claims before the deadline, especially over parks and reserves.

Lands rights came under siege again in 1998 when the Howard government launched reviews of both the Land Rights Act and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act, and sought to weaken the Native Title Act following an unprecedented scare campaign.

The CLC's mining and employment unit commenced operations in 1999. Five years later, 20 per cent of the mining workforce in the Tanami was Aboriginal. Also in 1999, the NT Government gained control of parts of the Native Title Act and replaced the right of Aboriginal people to negotiate with a limited right to be consulted and to object.

The House of Representatives launched an inquiry into the Reeves Review of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. Its recommendations, which included the dismantling of the NT land councils, had sparked an outcry.

The CLC's first ranger group started in Lajamanu in 2000, in part funded by royalty payments.

In 2004 the CLC and the NT Government negotiated joint management arrangements for 20 national parks



Traditional owners spoke up strongly about bicultural education during the declaration ceremony for the Katiti Petermann IPA in October 2015.

and reserves. Sixteen were to be handed back to their traditional owners and leased to the NT Government for 99 years, with four jointly managed under indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs).

Following requests by Aboriginal educators in the Tanami, the CLC established its community development program in 2005. The first program initiatives, the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) and the Uluru rent money project, saw Aboriginal groups plan and implement community benefit projects with their collective income from royalty and rent payments.



The Lajamanu GMAAAC committee, which makes decisions about community benefit projects, has equal numbers of men and women following its July 2016 election.

Land Rights

1978

The Warlpiri Kartangaruru-Gurindji claim becomes the CLC's first successful land claim.



1975

Charlie Perkins and Wenten Rubuntja elected CLC's first chair and deputy chair.



1976

The Australian parliament passes the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act* and the CLC publishes the first issue of *Land Rights News*.



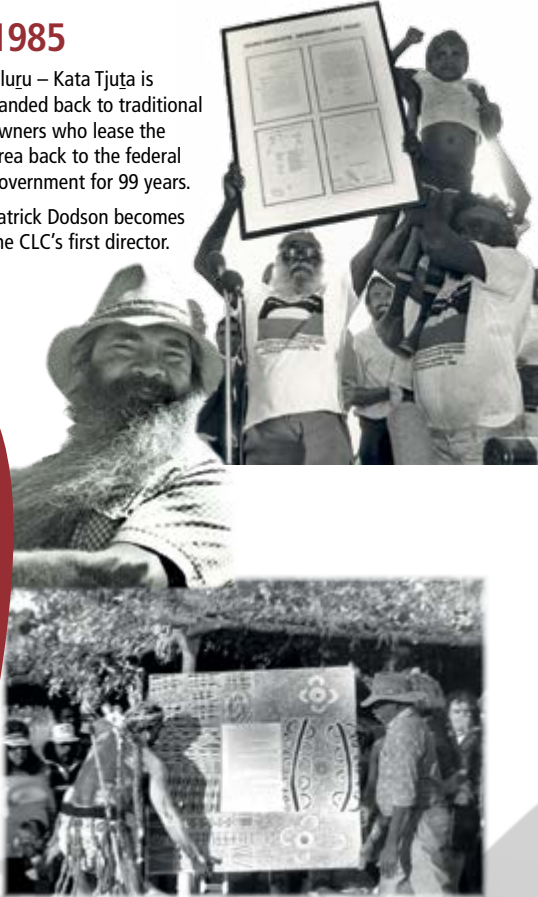
1983

Aboriginal custodians protest against a dam that would have flooded sacred sites north of Alice Springs.



1985

Uluru – Kata Tjuta is handed back to traditional owners who lease the area back to the federal government for 99 years. Patrick Dodson becomes the CLC's first director.



1988

Wenten Rubuntja (CLC) and Galarrwuy Yunupingu (NLC) present Prime Minister Bob Hawke with the Barunga Statement calling for a treaty. Mr Hawke promises a treaty by 1990.

A convoy of NT Aboriginal leaders drives to Sydney to protest against the Bicentennial celebrations.



1993

The Australian parliament passes the Native Title Act.

One year later, the CLC becomes a Native Title Representative Body.

1997

The sunset clause in the Aboriginal Land Rights Act takes effect.

No more new land claims can be lodged.



1976–2017

2005

The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust and the Uluru rent money projects kick off the CLC's community development program.

Since then, the program has helped Aboriginal groups to drive their own development by investing \$58 million of their royalty, compensation and rent income in many hundreds of community projects.



2004

The CLC negotiates the joint management of 20 national parks leased back to the NT Government.

Since 2012 members have invested all rent income from the park leases in community development projects.

2000

Lajamanu's Wulain Rangers (now North Tanami Rangers) become the CLC's first ranger group.

Today the CLC's ranger program supports 10 ranger groups managing more than 300,000 square kilometres of Indigenous Protected Area and other Aboriginal land.



2015

The CLC marks its 40th birthday with the launch of the oral history collection *Every Hill Got A Story*.

It celebrates winning back more than 417,000 square kilometres of Aboriginal freehold land.



2016

A joint meeting of Territory land councils at Kalkaringi celebrates 40 years of Land Rights and half a century since the Wave Hill Walk Off.

2008

Traditional owners commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Coniston Massacre.



The Howard Coalition government amended the Land Rights Act again in 2006, allowing the Aboriginal Affairs Minister to delegate core land council functions to Aboriginal corporations that may not be made up of traditional owners and/or may lack the capacity to carry out CLC functions.

The first indigenous protected area (IPA) in the CLC region, the Northern Tanami IPA, was declared in 2007. This was followed by the 10-million-hectare Southern Tanami IPA in 2012, the largest protected area in the country, and, in 2015, the newest, the Kaṯiṯi Petermann IPA that completely surrounds and dwarfs the Uluru – Kata Tjuṯa National Park. 2007 was also a low point in indigenous affairs in the NT with the declaration by Prime Minister Howard of the NT National Emergency Response.

In 2008 the CLC commemorated the 80th anniversary of the 1928 Coniston massacre. In the same year, the community development unit started the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) project, which invests compensation income in community benefit projects throughout the Tanami region.

In 2009, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, opened the CLC's new building, where all sections could be located together for the first time since 1986. Minister Macklin also handed back seven national parks at this time.

The CLC delegates elected Tennant Creek's Gina Smith as the first female deputy chair in 2010, and decided to use all rent income from jointly managed national parks for community benefit projects through the CLC's new NT Parks rent money project.



Eddie Robertson addresses the Strong Aboriginal Governance Summit in Tennant Creek in 2013.

In 2012 the CLC delegates voted unanimously to spend the majority of the Commonwealth's compensation for the compulsory community leases it took out during the Northern Territory Emergency Response on community benefit projects with the support of the community development program.

Following the Strong Aboriginal Governance Summit in Tennant Creek, organised by the Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT (APO NT), the Commonwealth in 2013 invested in a new Aboriginal Governance and Management Program to assist Aboriginal organisations.

In 2014 the handback of Yurrkuru (Brooks Soak) concluded a 22-year struggle for justice. The CLC celebrated the opening of a new operational and training centre in Alice Springs, supporting its 11 ranger groups.

The community development program celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2016. With its support, Aboriginal groups in 31 communities have driven their own development by investing \$58 million of their royalty, rent, and compensation income in many hundreds of projects that benefit their communities.

STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

The statutory functions of the CLC are described in s.23(1) of the Land Rights Act. Although they are determined by the Act, the CLC is first and foremost a representative organisation for the Aboriginal people in its area.

Pursuant to s.23(1) of the Land Rights Act, the functions of a land council are:

- to ascertain and express the wishes and the opinion of Aboriginals living in the area of the land council as to the management of Aboriginal land in that area and as to appropriate legislation concerning that land
- to protect the interests of traditional owners of, and other Aboriginals interested in, Aboriginal land in the area of the land council
- to assist Aboriginals in the taking of measures likely to assist in the protection of sacred sites on land (whether or not Aboriginal land) in the area of the land council
- to consult with traditional owners of, and other Aboriginals interested in, Aboriginal land in the area of the land council with respect to any proposal relating to the use of that land
- where the land council holds in escrow a deed of grant of land made to a land trust under s.12:
 - i. to negotiate with persons having estates or interests in that land with a view to the



CLC and NLC members and staff were front and centre at the 2016 Kalkaringi Freedom Day celebrations.



In April 2016, the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust's founders and advisory committee members celebrated 10 years of work to improve education and training outcomes in Willowra, Nyirripi, Yuendumu and Lajamanu.

The Territory's two largest land councils marked the 40th anniversary of land rights with a joint council meeting at Kalkaringi in August 2016.







acquisition of those estates or interests by the land trust; and

- ii. until those estates or interests have been so acquired, to negotiate with those persons with a view to the use by Aboriginals of the land in such manner as may be agreed between the land council and those persons
- to negotiate with persons desiring to obtain an estate or interest in land in the area of the land council:
 - i. where the land is held by a land trust – on behalf of traditional owners (if any) of that land and of any other Aboriginals interested in the land; and
 - ii. where the land is the subject of an application referred to in paragraph 50(1)(a) – on behalf of the traditional owners of that land or on behalf of any other Aboriginals interested in the land
- to assist Aboriginals in the area of the land council to carry out commercial activities (including resource development, the provision of tourist facilities and agricultural activities) in any manner that will not cause the land council to incur financial liability or enable it to receive financial benefit
- for land that is a community living area and in the area of the land council – to assist the owner of the land, if requested to do so, in relation to any dealings in the land (including assistance in negotiating leases of, or other grants of interest in, the land)
- to assist Aboriginals claiming to have a traditional land claim to an area of land within the area of the land council in pursuing the claim, in particular,

by arranging for legal assistance for them at the expense of the land council

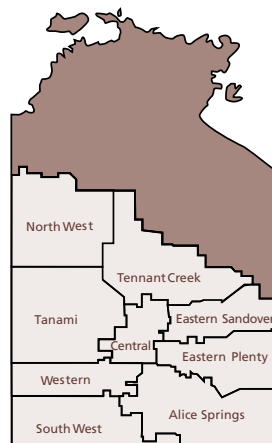
- to negotiate and enter into agreements, as necessary, for the purposes of subs.70(4)
- to compile and keep:
 - i. a register recording the names of the members of the land council, and
 - ii. a register recording the names of the members of the land trusts holding, or established to hold, Aboriginal land in its area and descriptions of each area of such Aboriginal land
- to supervise, and provide administrative or other assistance for, land trusts holding, or established to hold, Aboriginal land in its area.

ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY

The accountable authority of the CLC is comprised of Francis Kelly (chair) and David Ross (director). Mr Kelly is a Warlpiri elder, filmmaker and a leading figure in the Aboriginal media industry. He has been a health worker, mechanic, machine operator, council supervisor, and community advisor. A former deputy chair of the CLC, Mr Kelly has been a delegate for 15 years. Mr Ross has been a CLC staff member since 1979. He has also worked for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and was the inaugural executive chair of the Indigenous Land Corporation. He holds an associate diploma in business management. The accountable authority met 11 times during the reporting period.

CLC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & COUNCIL MEMBERS

The CLC covers nine regions and has 90 members who represent 75 communities. Its chair is Francis Kelly and its deputy chair is Sammy Butcher. Elected members of the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) advisory committee are Valerie Martin, Kelvin Morrison, Harry Nelson, Barbara Shaw and Philip Wilyuka.



CLC CHAIR



Francis Kelly

CLC DEPUTY CHAIR



Sammy Butcher

ABA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Valerie Martin



Kelvin Morrison



Harry Nelson



Barbara Shaw



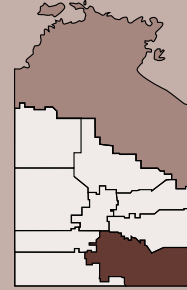
Philip Wilyuka

REGION 1 • ALICE SPRINGS



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Bernard Abbott (replaced Ngarla Kunoth-Monks in May 2017, alternate: Raelene Silverton)

Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa): Raymond Palmer; **Titjikala:** Philip Wilyuka; **Wallace Rockhole:** Bernard Abbott; **Amoonguna:** Rosanne Ellis; **Uruna:** Raelene Silverton; **Yateman's Bore outstations:** Patrick Oliver; **Alice Springs town camps:** Barbara Shaw; **Alice Springs native title holders:** Ngarla Kunoth-Monks, Raymond Peters; **Alice Springs outstations:** Matthew Palmer; **Iwupataka:** Sidney Campbell Snr; **Ntaria (Hermannsburg):** Mark Inkamala; **Ntaria outstations:** Mildred Inkamala, Conrad Ratara, Eric Fly

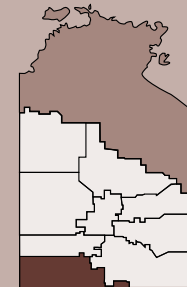


REGION 2 • SOUTHWEST



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Sammy Wilson
(alternate: Louis Clyne)

Walatjata outstation: Colin Paddy; **Imanpa (Mount Ebenezer):** David Wongway, Sandra Armstrong; **Utju (Areyonga):** Gordon Tiger; **Aputula (Finke):** Jeffrey Doolan; **Kaltukatjara (Dockert River):** Clive Shaw; **Kaltukatjara outstations:** Sidney James; **Mutitjulu:** Sammy Wilson; **Watarrka (Kings Canyon) outstations:** Louis Clyne; **Ukaka (Tempe Downs):** Bruce Breaden

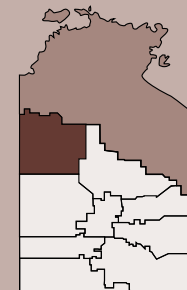


REGION 3 • NORTHWEST



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Norbert Patrick
(alternate: Desley Rogers)

Bamboo Springs: Desley Rogers; **Mistake Creek:** Ray Clyden; **Daguragu:** Howard King; **Daguragu outstations:** Michael George, Jimmy Wavehill; **Lajamanu:** Geoffrey Barnes, Willy Johnson; **Lajamanu outstations:** Norbert Patrick

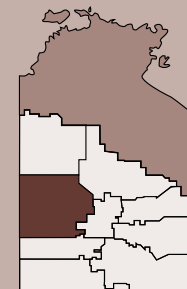


REGION 4 • TANAMI



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Teddy Long
(alternate: Harry Nelson)

Nyirripi: Jacob Spencer; **Yuendumu:** Harry Nelson, Francis Kelly; **Yuendumu outstations:** Valerie Martin, Tommy Watson; **Tanami Downs:** Peggy Granites; **Willowra:** April Martin, Teddy Long; **Mount Barkly:** Ashley Martin; **Mount Denison:** Roslyn Jones



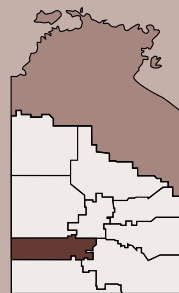
REGION 5 • WESTERN



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Sid Anderson

(alternate: Douglas Multa)

Papunya: Sammy Butcher; **Papunya outstations:** Sid Anderson; **Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff):** Gordon Butcher; **Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff) outstations:** Douglas Multa; **Amundurrngu (Mount Liebig):** Neil Peterson; **Amundurrngu outstations:** Roderick Kantamara; **Walungurru (Kintore):** Joe Young; **Walungurru outstations:** Raymond Maxwell; **Mbunghara:** Terry Morris



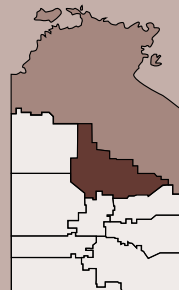
REGION 6 • TENNANT CREEK



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Michael Jones

(alternate: Kelvin Morrison)

Mangalawarra: Dianne Stokes; **Ngurratiji (Nguyarrmini):** Geoffrey Murphy; **Kunayungku:** Ronald Brown; **Karlanjarriyi:** Kelvin Morrison; **Wutunurrurga (Epenarra):** Owen Torres; **Tennant Creek native title holders:** Vacant; **Tennant Creek:** Heather Rosas, Michael Jones; **Canteen Creek:** Adrian Mick; **Wunara:** Tony Willy; **Alekareng:** Peter Corbett, Ethan Wilson; **Imangara (Murray Downs):** Phillip Dobbs



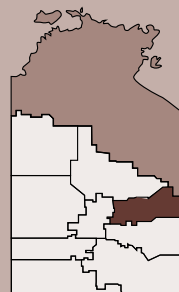
REGION 7 • EASTERN SANDOVER



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Michael Liddle

(alternate: George Club)

Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash): Maurice Drover; **Ampilawatja:** Peter Morton; **Utopia homelands:** Michael Liddle, Casey Holmes; **Alparra:** George Club, Rosco Loy; **Irrultja:** Eldon Ross; **Areyn (Derry Downs):** Kenny Woodman; **Atnwengerrpe:** Tex Lewis



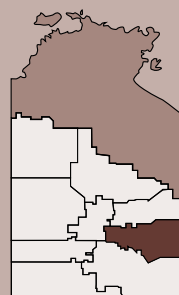
REGION 8 • EASTERN PLENTY



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Leo Petrick

(alternate: Kenny Martin)

Bonya: Andrew Reiff; **Urlampe outstations:** Shirley Dempsey; **Alcoota:** Kenny Martin; **Irrerlirre (McDonald Downs):** Leo Petrick; **Mount Eaglebeak:** Herbert Bloomfield; **Akarnenhe Well:** Michael Williams; **Atitjere (Harts Range):** Raymond Webb



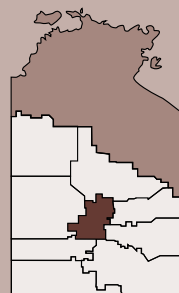
REGION 9 • CENTRAL



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Jasper Haines

(alternate: Ron Hagan/Kim Brown)

Adelaide Bore (Woola Downs): Ross Purvis; **Yuelumu (Mount Allan):** David Stafford, Ron Hagan; **Pmara Jutunta (Ti Tree Six Mile):** Kim Brown; **Nturiya (Ti Tree Station):** Jasper Haines; **Wilora (Stirling):** Harry Moore; **Laramba (Napperby):** Peter Stafford; **Barrow Creek outstations:** Timothy Price, Tommy Walkabout



CLC GOVERNANCE

The CLC operates under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cwlth) (PGPA Act, previously the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997).

PURPOSES STATEMENT

The purposes ascribed to the Central Land Council (CLC) comprise the powers and functions assigned by ALRA and the responsibility as a native title representative body under the *Native Title Act 1993*. The role of the CLC is described in published documents including the corporate plan, this annual report and a half-yearly report to its minister. The Australian Government has not published a key priorities and objectives statement under s.34 of the PGPA Act (refer page 7, *CLC Corporate Plan 2016–2020*).

ENABLING LEGISLATION

The CLC's enabling legislation is the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cwlth) (the Land Rights Act, or the ALRA).

RESPONSIBLE MINISTER

The responsible minister is Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

MINISTERIAL DIRECTIONS

There were no directions, general policies or general policy orders issued by the Australian Government's Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

The statutory functions of the CLC are described in s.23(1) of the Land Rights Act and are detailed on pages 12 and 16 above.

COUNCIL

The CLC is a council of Aboriginal people from across the southern half of the NT. Its 90 members



At the council meeting at Ross River, members honoured former chair Bruce Breden for his long and distinguished contribution to the CLC and the fight for land rights.

represent 75 remote communities and outstations. Any Aboriginal person is eligible for membership provided they are living in or are traditional owners of land within the CLC area, and meet the eligibility requirements set out under the Land Rights Act. Council elections are held every three years.

COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS

The process for choosing council members is determined by the council and is subject to approval by the minister. The method of choice sets out the list of communities and outstations that can nominate members and the allocation of representatives from each community. Small communities and outstations meet to nominate their representatives, while larger communities vote for their representatives at community meetings convened by the CLC. In a small number of cases representative Aboriginal organisations are invited to nominate representatives at a properly convened meeting.

COUNCIL GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

Last financial year the council put considerable effort into reviewing and amending a number of critical council governance documents, prior to the elections held in April 2016. Building on this strong governance work, the executive has further refined processes for considering third-party requests to present to the executive or the council.

Table 1. Council meetings, 2016–17

Meeting dates	Location	Resolutions passed
16, 17 and 18 August 2016 (joint meeting of CLC and NLC)	Kalkaringi	11
8, 9 and 10 November 2016	Ross River	3
9, 10, 11 and 12 May 2017	Tennant Creek	7



CLC delegate Patrick Oliver speaks up at the Ross River council meeting.



Harry Nelson, from Yuendumu, addresses the joint land councils meeting at Kalkaringi.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 11-member executive committee is a committee of the council, pursuant to s.29A of the Land Rights Act. The executive comprises nine members representing the CLC's nine administrative regions plus a chair and deputy chair.

The executive held eight meetings in the 2016–17 financial year, all in Alice Springs.

Pursuant to s.28 of the Land Rights Act, the council has delegated all of its powers capable of delegation to the executive (except those powers delegated to the director, chair, and financial controller). In practice, this means that most matters requiring a formal resolution, such as land use agreements and mining

matters, are brought to the executive, leaving the council to make decisions on policy.

At council's April 2017 meeting, membership of the executive changed: Bernard Abbott replaced Ngarla Kunothe-Monks as representative for Region 1.

Table 2. Executive meetings, 2016–17

Executive meetings	Resolutions passed
4 August 2016	14
7 September 2016	21
19 October 2016	11
7–8 December 2016	46
22 February 2017	17
20 March 2017	19
12 April 2017	25
21 June 2017	55

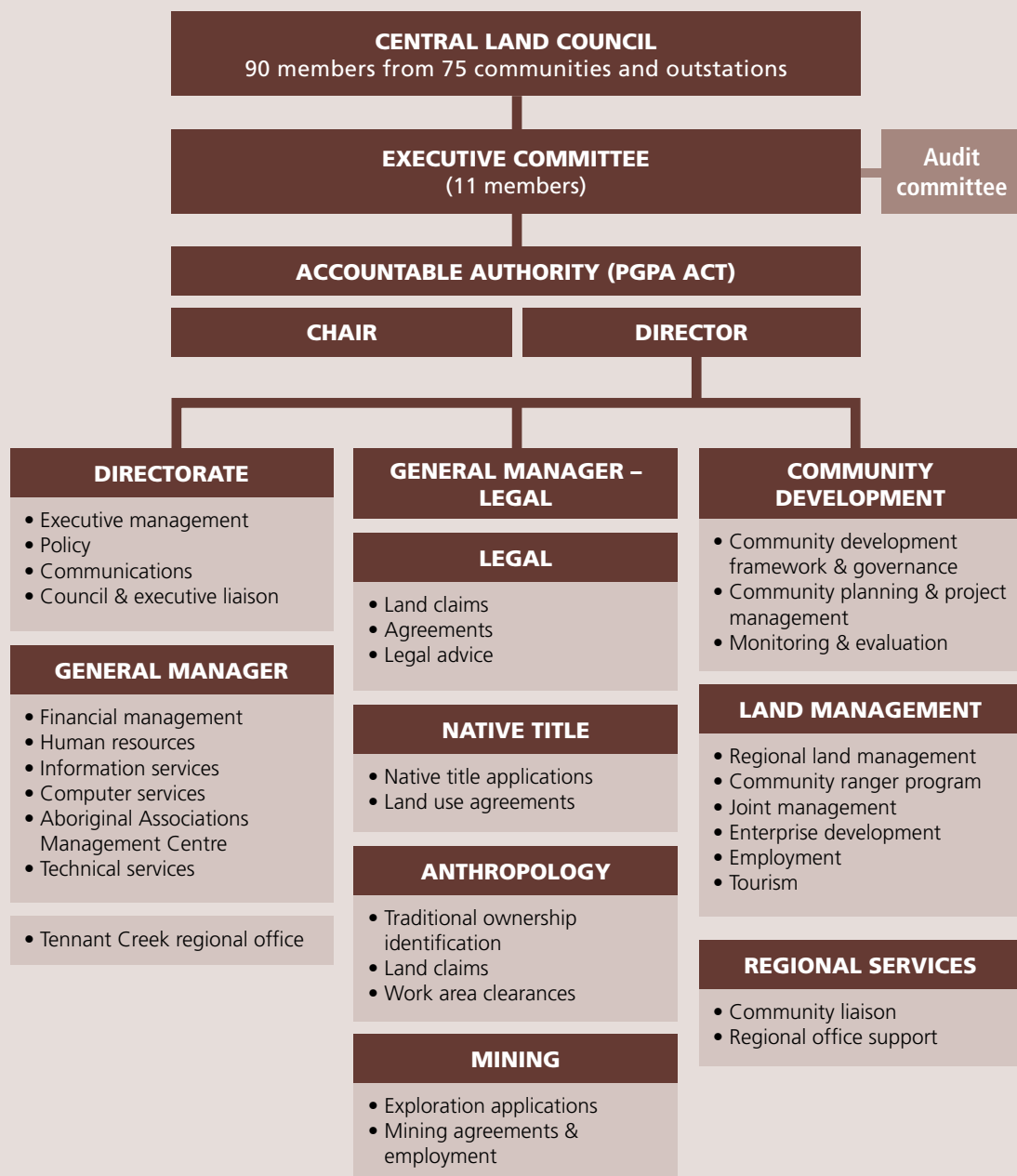


Valerie Martin speaks up at the Tennant Creek council meeting.

ROLE OF THE CHAIR

The chair is elected by members of the council for a three-year term. The chair is also a member of the accountable authority in accordance with the PGPA Act. The previous chair, Francis Kelly, was returned at the April 2016 election for a further term, along with the deputy chair, Sammy Butcher.

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



PERFORMANCE REPORT

LAND & NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

OUTPUT	1.1	PERMITS
	1.2	LAND & NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

LAND CLAIMS & ACQUISITIONS SUPPORT

OUTPUT	2.1	LAND CLAIMS
	2.2	OTHER LAND ACQUISITION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCIAL SERVICE

OUTPUT	3.1	LAND USE AGREEMENTS
	3.2	EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & TRAINING
	3.3	MINING
	3.4	COMMERCIAL ASSISTANCE

ADVOCACY SERVICES & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

OUTPUT	4.1	PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION
	4.2	ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION
	4.3	CULTURAL & HERITAGE SUPPORT
	4.4	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT SERVICES

OUTPUT	5.1	DISTRIBUTIONS
	5.2	ADMINISTER LAND TRUSTS
	5.3	DISPUTE RESOLUTION

NATIVE TITLE

OUTPUT 6	NATIVE TITLE
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OUTCOMES

Enhanced social, political and economic participation and equity for Aboriginal people in the Central Land Council's area as a result of the promotion, protection and advancement of their land rights, other rights and interests.

CORPORATE PLANNING, PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FRAMEWORK AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The CLC approach to corporate planning integrates longer-term objectives with performance driven by outputs and outcomes, and includes long-term financial planning. A corporate plan that will guide future activities and priorities for the four-year period from 2016–17 was published and presented to the minister in accordance with the PGPA Act. Action planning ensures that the aspirations in the plan are achieved within the designated time frame. The PGPA Act requires that the CLC, as a Commonwealth corporate entity, revises its corporate plan annually.

Section 16 of the PGPA Act requires the accountable authority of a Commonwealth corporate entity to maintain a system of risk oversight and management. The annual review of the plan was completed, including a revised risk profile and action plan aligned to the corporate plan. The Comcover annual best-practice benchmarking already is a basis for continuous risk management improvement. The CLC will update the business continuity plan to take into consideration the impact of the severe storm in 2016, but a new off-site storage for data backup has already been completed to strengthen data security during natural disasters.

PERFORMANCE

Key organisational achievements are described in the respective output chapters. In summary, these include:

- working with traditional owners to manage their land and resources, protect sacred sites and foster economic development (Outputs 1.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, and 4.3)
- pursuing traditional owners' native title interests (Output 6)
- supporting traditional owners and other constituents to realise their aspirations for community development (Output 4.4)
- negotiating commercial agreements with parties interested in using Aboriginal land and managing income arising from land use agreements
- representing the land interests and aspirations of Aboriginal people in Central Australia
- managing community-based ranger groups to deliver a range of land management services.



Tony Renehan co-ordinates the CLC's employment and enterprise unit.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

NT land councils are funded on a cash basis, with the annual estimates of revenue less expenditure forecast on a break-even basis. The actual deficit for the financial year ended 30 June 2017 was \$2.485 million compared to a deficit of \$60,000 in the previous year.

Operational sources of revenue are detailed below. Continuing the trend of recent years, outputs and outcomes were further improved, despite funding constraints.

Outputs of \$9.7 million, or 27 per cent, classified under natural resource management, were the largest expenditure and greater than the expenditure level of the previous year (\$9.2 million). As well as achieving land management objectives, significant program elements relate to employment, education and training (Output 3.2). Funding for the ranger program is now more secure with the minister advising that funding will be available until 2020, and that 12 months' funding for a Mutitjulu ranger group was approved.

The next largest expenditure output group, \$8.6 million (24% of total expenditure), was for economic development and commercial services, incorporating land use agreements, employment, education and training, mining, and commercial assistance. This includes core statutory mining and land use agreement assistance functions, applications for consent to explore on Aboriginal land, employment unit costs, tourism development, and pastoral development projects.

Advocacy and community development expenditure of \$5.6 million, or 16 per cent, was similar to the previous year due to budget constraints. There continues to be unmet demand for community development resources. Further details of work performed within the output groups are contained elsewhere in this report.

Cost-recovery opportunities are actively identified to lessen the effect of any reduction in the level or quality of service delivery. Productivity improvements have been proposed during the enterprise bargaining process, to be progressively implemented when the final agreement is approved.

The financial statements follow Australian accounting standards, including stipulating that all receipts for special-purpose programs are recognised as current year revenue, although services may remain unperformed and matching expenditure will occur in future years. The CLC is not funded on an annual basis for non-financial asset depreciation or leave liabilities accrued. The schedule of commitments provides further detail of obligations against recognised revenue, which will be met in future years. Net comprehensive income of \$2.485 million is attributable to the Australian Government, which is approximately 6 per cent of operating expenditure.

Figure 1. Sources of revenue, 2016–17

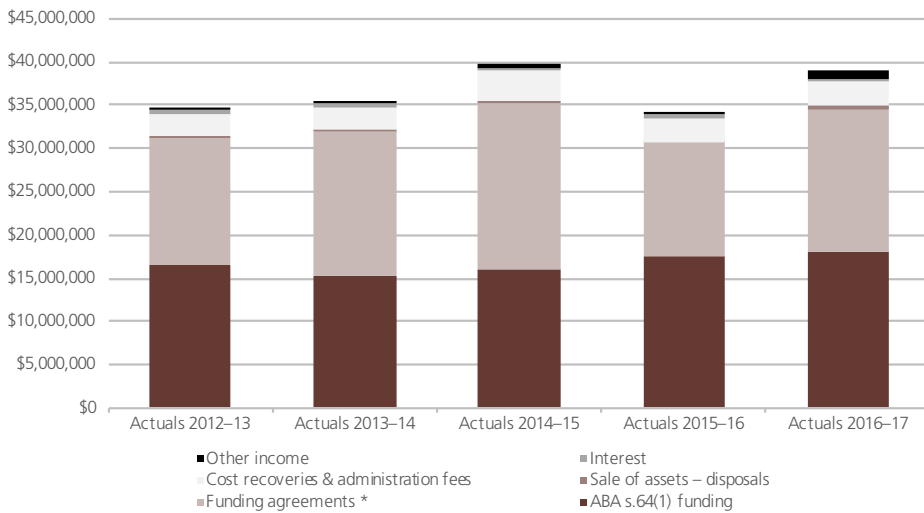
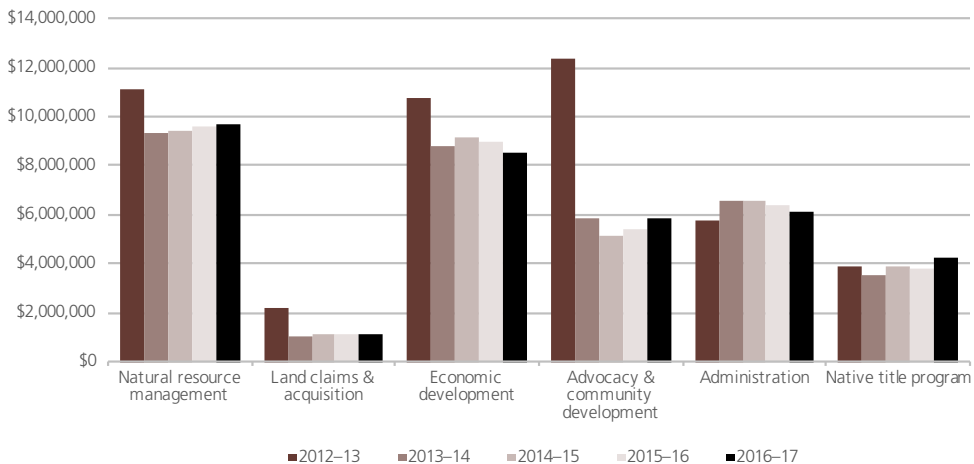


Figure 2. Expenditure by output groups, 2016–17



* 2012-13 community development includes Mutitjulu pool and Willowra centre construction values

OUTPUT GROUP 1

LAND & NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

OUTPUT	1.1 PERMITS
	1.2 LAND & NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



OUTCOMES	Enhanced social, political and economic participation and equity for Aboriginal people in the Central Land Council’s area as a result of the promotion, protection and advancement of their land rights, other rights and interests.
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OUTPUT 1.1 PERMITS

Access to Aboriginal land is managed effectively and efficiently.

The use of permits to enter Aboriginal land is authorised in s.73 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cwlth) and contained within the Aboriginal Land Act (NT). The permit system, administered by land councils, gives all visitors, workers, and researchers regulated access to Aboriginal land. Traditional owners use permits to manage visitation to their lands and to uphold their responsibilities to visitors. Visitors to Aboriginal lands can apply for entry, transit, media (news of the day), mining, and special purpose permits.

In 2007, amendments were made to the system that allowed access to public areas of larger communities

without a permit. Permits to visit land outside these public areas is still required. In accordance with the wishes of traditional owners, however, many visitors to communities apply for permits even if not required to assure themselves of the consent of residents. The CLC appreciates these displays of goodwill.

Nonetheless, the CLC believes that changes to the permit system have led some to assume they are free to visit Aboriginal land outside communities as well. Traditional owners are particularly concerned about theft of equipment (most commonly solar panels and bore equipment) and damage to sacred sites.

Figure 3. Permit data, 2016–17

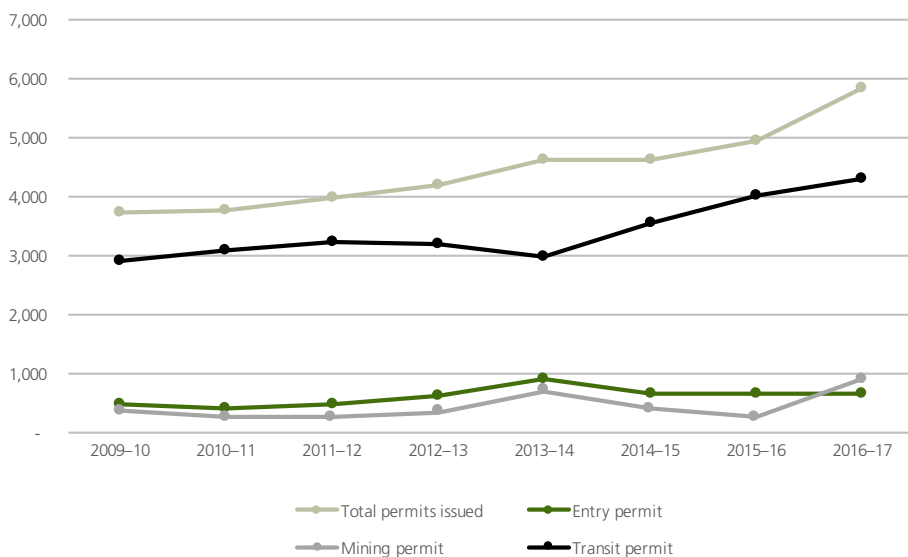


Table 3. Permit applications for the last eight years

Permits	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Entry	475	427	495	634	913	670	678	658
Mining	372	273	270	349	710	405	266	910
Transit	2,908	3,079	3,232	3,211	2,996	3,552	4,008	4,293
Total permits issued	3,755	3,779	3,997	4,194	4,619	4,627	4,952	5,861



Julie Clyne, Bruce Breaden and Hubert Pareroultja (with Watarrka ranger Amber Clarke) contributed ideas for the design of the visitor information shelter at Watarrka.

ENTRY AND SPECIAL PURPOSE PERMITS

In spite of the small number of applications for entry and special purpose permits, the work of processing them takes up a significant amount of staff time and resources. The CLC consulted with traditional owners and negotiated with proponents about special purpose and entry permit applications.

The applications were, as ever, very diverse. They included land management activities at Salt Springs on the Santa Teresa Aboriginal Land Trust (ALT), a research project on Emily Kngwarreye, research on fossils in the Cleland Hills on the Haasts Bluff ALT, and tourist access to Hatches Creek, Anurrete ALT.

Discussions were ongoing with traditional owners concerning the development of a new permit system for visitors wishing to drive the Madigan Track, which crosses the Atneye ALT.

Additional 'restricted entry' signs were installed in an effort to reduce the incidence of illegal entry onto Aboriginal lands. Traditional owners reported illegal shooting on the Petermann ALT and, in response,

signs were erected at entry points to remind visitors of the need to obtain a permit.

Aboriginal land under joint management received 29 permit applications requiring consultations through the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT (PWCNT) for NT parks and reserves.

Tourism related permit requests included one from a 4WD tour group to visit the Petermann ALT (guided by a traditional owner), one from SEIT Outback Australia to visit the Petermann ALT as far as Patji in partnership with Uluru Family Tours, and one from Uluru ATV Adventures to visit the Kaṯiṯi ALT.

OUTPUT 1.2

LAND & NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Traditional owners are assisted to manage their land and natural resources in a sustainable manner.



Kaḷukatjara rangers and traditional owners plan a burning trip at Tjunti (Lasseter's Cave) in May 2017.

More than half of the CLC region is Aboriginal freehold land under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. The CLC's constituents also live under different land tenure arrangements, including townships, community living areas and pastoral leases. Land continues to be of immense cultural and spiritual significance to its Aboriginal owners. A fundamental aspiration of traditional owners is to maintain cultural and spiritual connection to their country and ensure that future generations have the same opportunity.

The region contains landscapes of national and international significance that support threatened species and habitats of high conservation value. However, there are threats to both the natural and cultural integrity of the land, including the impact of feral animals, inappropriate fire regimes, invasive plant species and other threats to biodiversity.

Traditional owners aspire to sustainably manage and generate livelihoods from their land. The CLC supports them to build the capacity of people to manage and protect environmental and cultural

values. The CLC provides advice and assistance with land use and management planning, fire management, cultural heritage protection, feral animal and weed management, and traditional owner involvement in the management of protected areas.

Most of the 127 positions in the CLC's land management section are indigenous rangers. The rangers are the eyes and ears of the bush and respond to natural and cultural management issues (see ranger program annual report annexure for details).

REGIONAL LAND MANAGEMENT

Land resource information and planning

The CLC continued to review and store new data collected by ranger groups. The land resource information officer updated the ranger tablets and CyberTracker data collection apps following feedback from ranger groups. The CLC is currently investigating options for new data collection systems and has obtained funding from the Australian Government

to trial the development of a custom-made data collection app for track-plot surveys of bilbies. The app will be developed over the next financial year and will support CLC rangers and people across Australia to collect data about the threatened marsupial.

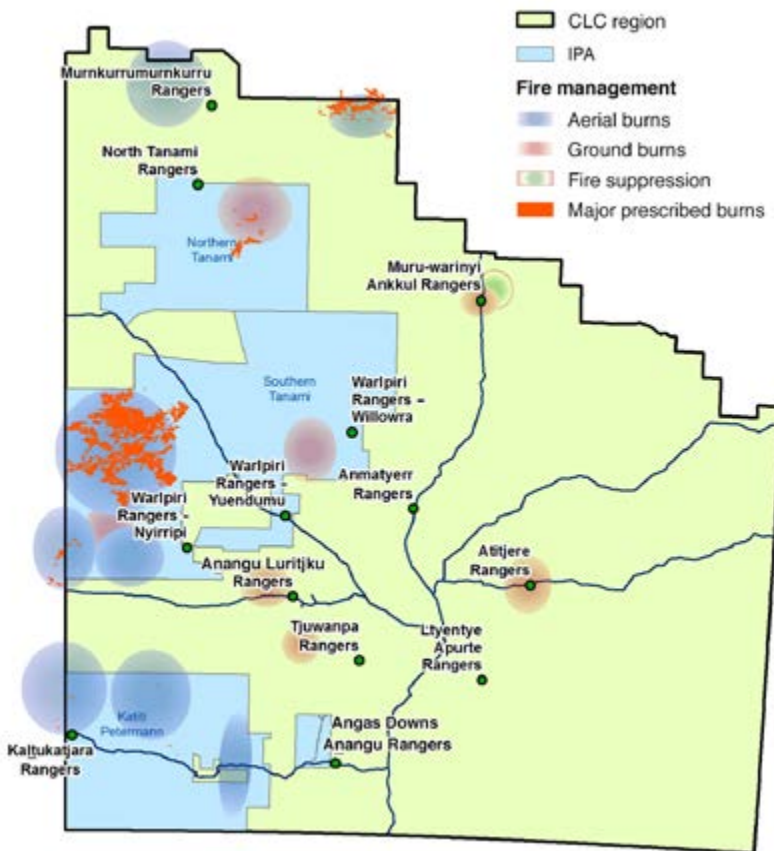
The CLC is a leading member of the national Greater Bilby Recovery Team and was instrumental in the formation of an indigenous subcommittee (the first for a national threatened species recovery team) to ensure recognition of indigenous aspirations for management of bilbies. More than 70 per cent of bilbies are found on Aboriginal owned and managed land. The team is developing a new Greater Bilby recovery plan, which will identify management and research aspirations for the species.

The CLC continues to review land resource data. The Tanami regional biodiversity monitoring database is on track for completion, with the assistance of Low Ecological Services, and will be shared externally in 2017. All CLC ranger groups and traditional owner ranger advisory committees have reviewed weed

data and approved its release. The CLC hopes to gain better access to weed planning and biodiversity management advice following the release of these datasets. A workshop on data sharing was held with the Katiiti Petermann IPA subcommittee. Traditional owners recognised the value of sharing data publicly but wanted to ensure appropriate recognition of their work and to protect species that may be sensitive to visitor interference. They also highlighted that their understanding of 'data' and digital technology was limited, making it difficult to make decisions. Therefore, they wanted rangers and young people to be trained in both indigenous knowledge systems and new technologies.

In response to interest and capacity across the ranger groups, the CLC formed a digital knowledge group of 14 skilled rangers. Two workshops have provided training in digital technology, data collection and management, and development of newsletters. Rangers have also learnt more about mapping technology and undertaken training in map requests with the CLC's spatial information services unit.

Figure 4. Fire management activity, 2016–17





Daguragu ranger Phillip Jimmy returned to his father's country on the Karlantijpa North ALT to undertake controlled burning in April.

The CLC continued to develop strategic land management plans during this period, including:

- Continuation of work on a plan of management for the Haasts Bluff ALT, an area covering approximately 40,000 square kilometres. This involved meetings, consultations, and field trips with more than 200 traditional owners. The meetings and consultations have developed a vision and management targets for the plan. The CLC successfully submitted a small funding application to Territory Natural Resource Management to assist with completion of the plan.
- Completion of consultations to finalise the plan for the management of the Madigan Track corridor on the Atnetye ALT.
- Development of a plan of management for the threatened Sandover lily at a waterhole on the Angarapa ALT and support for the involvement of traditional owners in data collection and site management activities.
- Completion of the management plan for Kunjarra (Warti-Yangu ALT).

Staff reviewed the management plan for the Edna Beryl mine on the Phillip Creek Mission block. They provided follow-up support for traditional owners, including liaison with the mine owner in relation to road access on the block.

Fire management

A Biodiversity Fund project, Extending Traditional and Contemporary Fire Management Across Central Australia, completed its fourth and final year. The project focused on the Kaṭiṭi Petermann, Haasts Bluff, Daguragu, and Karlantijpa North ALTs. It also delivered the nationally accredited Work Safely around Aircraft and Operate Aerial Incendiary Equipment training to 12 rangers from across Central Australia. Without the project the CLC's ability to support fire management will be significantly diminished.

The CLC became a member of the NT Bushfires Council and attended meetings of the Southern, Barkly and Savannah regional bushfire committees. This enabled it to better represent and incorporate the aspirations of the two regional Aboriginal fire management committees (warlu and waru) in fire planning across tenures. It supported two meetings of these committees. The warlu committee met at Jiwaranpa outstation in the North Tanami IPA in October 2016. The waru committee meeting was held in Pipalyatjara in February 2017 and was attended by 42 ranger and traditional owner representatives from the southwestern NT, northern SA and eastern WA.

The CLC received a small grant from the Territory Natural Resource Management Board to develop a co-ordinated fire management strategy for the Tennant Creek region. A workshop attended by a mix of regional stakeholders identified a number of

Pintupi fire planning calendar

This year saw the completion of a community fire planning calendar for the Kintore region. The community created the calendar, in both Pintupi and English, in consultation with the CLC. It will guide future fire management in Kintore and will be applicable to other Pintupi speaking communities.

The four-year Biodiversity Fund project, Extending Traditional and Contemporary Fire Management Across Central Australia, finished in June 2017. Kintore was a focus for the funding, with regular community consultation and fire management work in the last week of each month during the cool season. The project included all Kintore families, as well as people from Kiwirrkurra, Tjukurla and Nyirrpi, as necessary. It has protected outstations from fire and reduced the risk of large summer fires at a time when very high rainfall in the region has resulted in high fuel loads.

The CLC led 11 burning trips with Kintore families across the Haasts Bluff ALT. Participants conducted burns with a mix of on-ground and aerial techniques and took the opportunity to visit and teach younger family members about remote sacred sites. The project employed Kintore residents in land management work for the first time, and built a platform for future programs.



Walungurruku Waru Kutjalpayitjarra

Kintore annual fire cycle

Walpa kulira yaltjinguru wangka – waru tilinytjaka
How to burn

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL



Tjukurla traditional owners plan site visits in September 2016.

Camilla Young (pictured during a cool season burn near Tjukurla) would like to become a ranger at Kintore, a community that has long wanted to establish its own ranger group.

fire-related issues that informed the completion of a draft strategy.

The CLC worked extensively through numerous joint operations with Bushfires NT and neighbouring landholders to ensure that its fire operations did not adversely affect them. The work included negotiated shared firebreaks, joint prescribed burns, and other collaborative fire planning exercises.

Climate change and carbon economies

Most of the CLC region lacks an approved carbon abatement plan. The CLC continued to pursue options for a research project to assess the potential of a carbon abatement plan for low rainfall areas. It participated in a forum with other indigenous land management agencies and research institutions to compile a research proposal.

Water resource management

The CLC assisted traditional owners to manage culturally and ecologically significant water resources on their lands. Staff met with traditional owners of Running Waters on Henbury Station about the management of the site and reflected those views to the lessee. Staff also provided planning and technical support to set up monitors to assess the impacts of

feral animals on culturally significant water sites on the Haasts Bluff and Urrampinyi Itjiltjarri ALTs. The condition of a number of other significant water sites across the Kaṭiṭi Petermann IPA were also assessed.

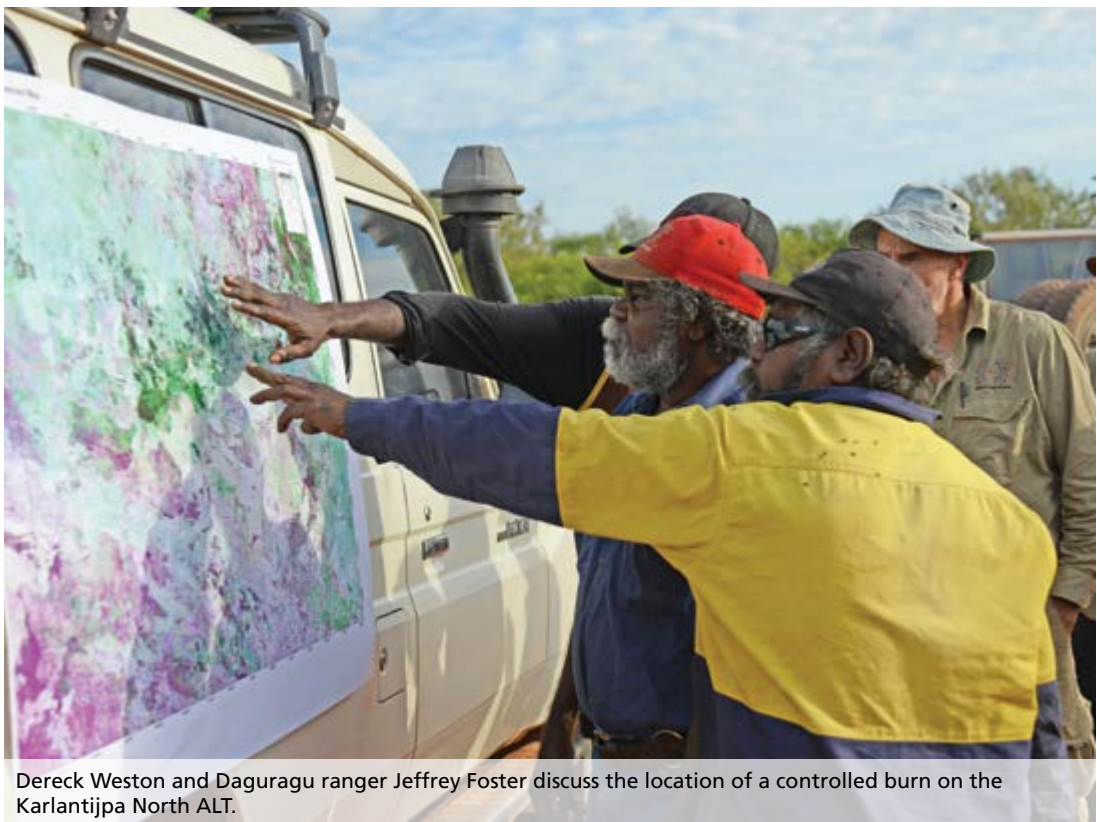
After consultation with traditional owners, the CLC made a submission to the NT Department of Environment and Natural Resources on the Draft Western Davenport Water Allocation Plan 2017.

Invasive species management

Feral animals

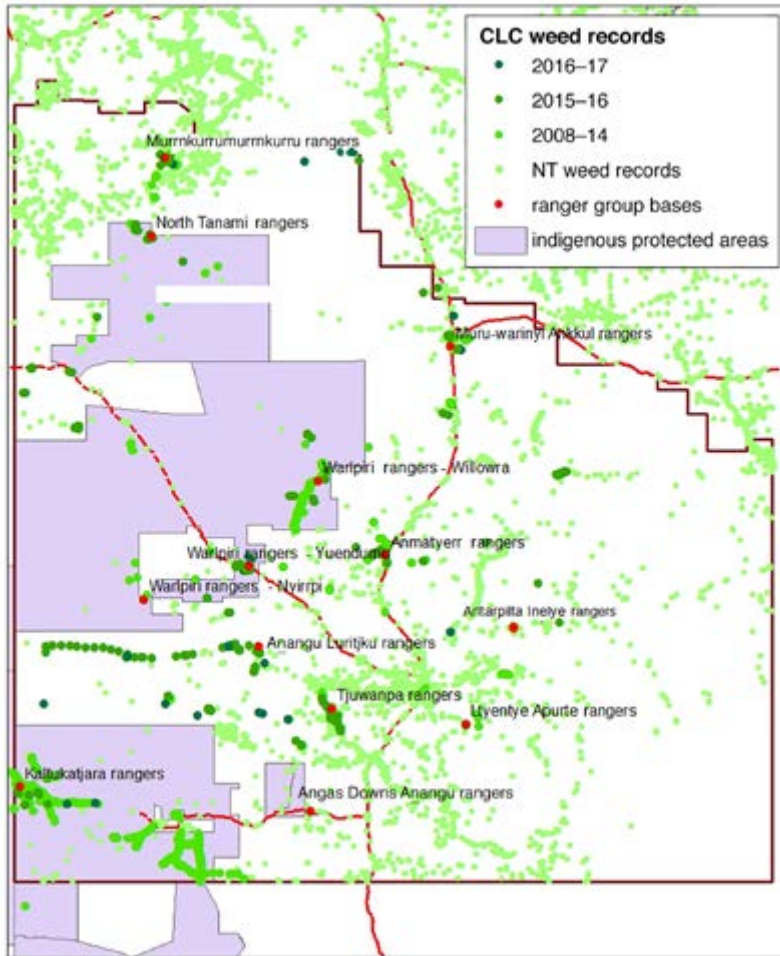
The CLC helped traditional owners manage feral cattle, horses, donkeys and camels through planning, consultation and partnerships. It convened planning meetings with traditional owners within the Haasts Bluff and Kaṭiṭi ALTs to determine site-specific strategies for the long-term management of feral herbivores.

The Urrampinyi Itjiltjarri ALT continued to be a key focus of feral herbivore control efforts. An 18-month management program resulted in the removal of 1466 cattle, and 407 horses, camels and donkeys from the ALT. Regionally, a further 750 large feral herbivores were removed from Aboriginal land. Most of them were removed by a contractor who also



Dereck Weston and Daguragu ranger Jeffrey Foster discuss the location of a controlled burn on the Karlantijpa North ALT.

Figure 5. Weeds recorded across the CLC region collected by CLC and held by the NT Government



restored property roads and employed 18 Aboriginal stockmen. Culling was funded by a PWCNT project under the Australian Government's biodiversity fund program. As this project is no longer funded, options for feral animal management are now limited.

Weeds

CLC ranger groups continued to do most of the weed management work on Aboriginal land. Significant weed control activities occurred across the Mungkarta, Karlantijpa North, Warumungu, Warti-Yangu and Haasts Bluff ALTs (see ranger program annual report annexure for details).

Biodiversity management

The CLC conducted biodiversity surveys and monitoring projects guided by traditional owner interests and priorities identified by science specialists. With the assistance of Territory Natural Resources

Management, the CLC facilitated a two-day forum highlighting issues and management options, and the exchange of information about the nationally endangered Slater's skink. Threatened species surveys were carried out for the purple-crowned fairy wren on the Daguragu ALT, bilby, and black-footed rock wallaby and mulgara in the Tennant Creek region.

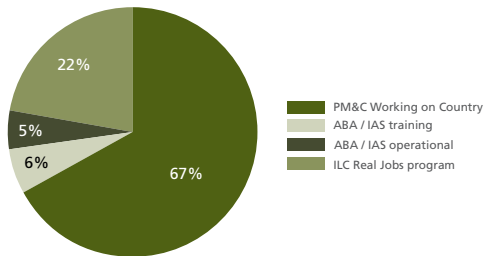
STRUCTURED COMMUNITY-BASED LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

In the seventh year of consolidated funding from the Working on Country and Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) Real Jobs programs, the CLC's 11 ranger groups continued to manage cultural and natural resources on Aboriginal land. Four groups manage IPAs that contribute more than 195,000 square kilometres to the national reserve system (see ranger program annual report annexure for details).

Table 4. Ranger groups and areas of operation

Ranger group	Areas of operation
North Tanami	Lajamanu and Northern Tanami IPA
Warlpiri	Yuendumu, Nyirripi, Willowra and Southern Tanami IPA
Muru-warinyi Ankkul	Tennant Creek region
Tjuwanpa	Hermannsburg ALTs and adjoining national parks
Kaltukatjara	Kaltukatjara (Docker River) and Katiti Petermann IPA
Ltyentye Apurte	Santa Teresa ALT and surrounds
Anmatyerr	Ahakeye ALT (Ti Tree) and wider Anmatyerr region
Anangu Luritjiku	Papunya and surrounding Haasts Bluff ALT
Murnkurrumurnkurrurru	Daguragu ALT and surrounds
Arltarpilta Inelye	Atitjere region, Huckitta Station and surrounds
Angas Downs Anangu (under review)	Angas Downs IPA, Imanpa

Figure 6. Ranger program funding, 2016–17



A significant body of evidence demonstrates the benefits of indigenous ranger programs. Not only do they successfully tackle broad-scale environmental issues, such as wildfires and weed infestations, they also provide demonstrable social benefits such as improved health and wellbeing, increased individual confidence and role models for young people. The program is also critical to the maintenance of cultural knowledge and the protection of important sites.

The CLC’s ranger program employs and trains people in remote communities where real jobs are scarce. That Aboriginal communities value the program is evident from the large numbers of people applying for a limited number of ranger jobs. Traditional owners play a critical role in directing and overseeing the work of the rangers, strengthening intergenerational knowledge exchange and community engagement.

The CLC’s employment model emphasises training and mentoring and provides a career pathway, both within the program and to other employment. One of the program’s four Aboriginal ranger co-ordinators began as a CLC ranger. The skills and capacities rangers develop are transferrable to other employment and leadership roles.

The 11 ranger groups and their areas of operation are presented in Table 4.

Of the CLC’s 72 rangers, two were employed full time, 58 worked part time and 12 were casuals. Ten ranger group co-ordinators and nine program staff support the groups.



A land management forum at the Alice Springs Desert Park in April 2017 brought together rangers’ monitoring data with the latest scientific research from around the country. The information will be used to protect threatened reptiles.



The vast Katitj Petermann IPA will be the workplace of the new Mutitjulu ranger group.

Community demand for ranger employment is high and there is scope to expand the capacity of existing groups and to develop new groups. The CLC continued to lobby for funding from the Australian Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) and the ABA to meet this demand and expand the program. In October 2015, the Indigenous Affairs Minister committed the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) to work with the CLC to establish a ranger group at Mutitjulu. Subsequent negotiations between the CLC, PM&C and Parks Australia have concluded and an agreement was signed in April 2017, and the recruitment process has begun.

The CLC is unable to satisfy the constituent demand for new ranger groups.

Funding

Funding for 12 ranger groups, including Angas Downs and a new group at Mutitjulu, is secure until 30 June 2018 under a number of arrangements. IAS funding for the Angas Downs Anangu rangers, under review in 2016–17, was maintained and allows the group to restart in 2017–18.

A five-year Working on Country agreement with PM&C continued to provide salaries, and capital, operational and administrative resources to support 45.2 full time equivalent (FTE) positions across the North Tanami, Warlpiri, Muru-warinyi Ankkul, Anmatyerr, Tjuwanpa, Anangu Luritjiku

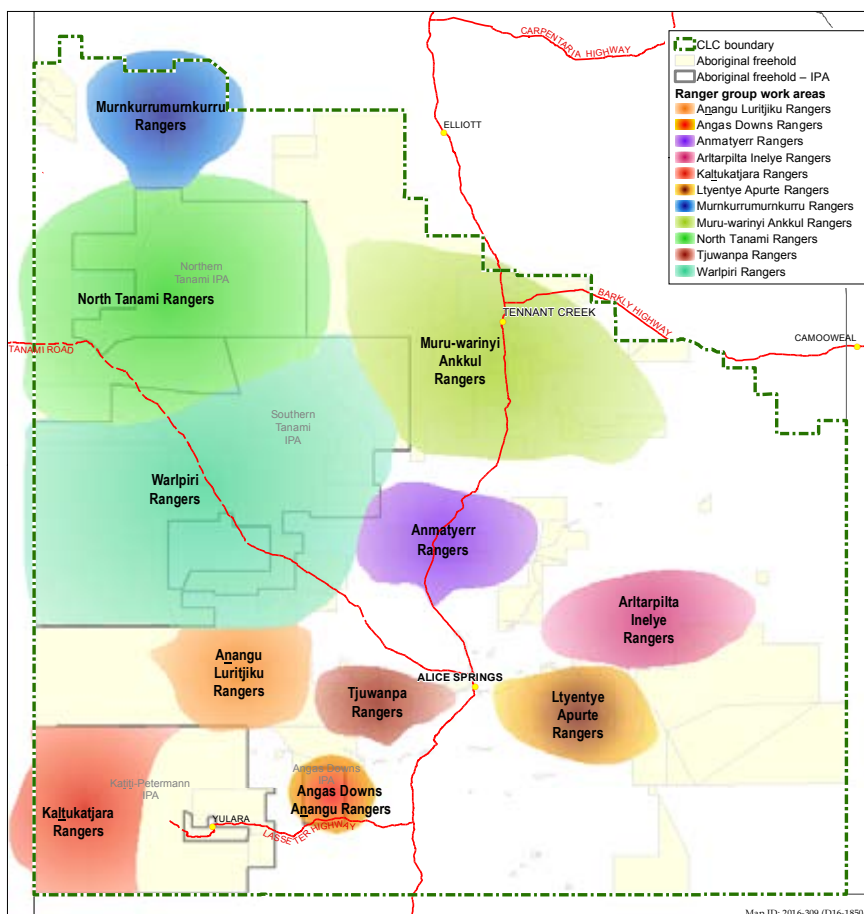


Charles Lechleitner (left) and Craig Le Rossignol with a Slater's skink. Their ranger teams protect the skinks by spraying buffel grass and fencing out cattle.

and Kaltukatjara ranger groups. The ILC Real Jobs (Rangers) Program supported 18 FTE positions within the Murnkurrumurnkurru, Arltarpilta Inelye and Ltyentye Apurte rangers. A five-year Caring for our Country agreement with PM&C supports the operations on the Northern Tanami IPA and covers wage support for the North Tanami ranger co-ordinator.

The effectiveness, recruitment and retention of ranger groups remain heavily dependent on work health

Figure 6. Ranger group areas



and safety compliant infrastructure for co-ordinator housing, ranger offices and workshop facilities. Persistent funding shortfalls continue to leave some groups operating in substandard facilities.

Attempts to secure additional funding through IAS and ABA applications to remedy infrastructure shortfalls were unsuccessful.

Minister Scullion committed to future funding for all ranger groups for two more years until 30 June 2020. Stakeholder consultations have not yet started.

Work program development

The program develops not only individual rangers but also the capacity of traditional owners through their involvement in the development and oversight of work plans through traditional owner ranger advisory committees and IPA management committees. This governance framework enables traditional owners to incorporate their land management aspirations in the cultural and natural resource management objectives of the program.

To sustain and grow the program the CLC focused on developing partnerships and alternative sources of revenue. CLC rangers undertook some commercial activities, such as weed management, fencing and dust monitoring, which generate alternative revenue and provide new work opportunities.

WOMEN'S LAND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The CLC strives to increase the involvement of women in land management. It supported the planning and implementation of the Kungka Kutjara Tjukurrpa Project initiated by a group of senior female traditional owners. This project involved approximately 60 women from across the southwest region of the NT. The women accessed a number of sites associated with the Kungka Kutjara songline, performing and recording ceremony of those sites and surrounding country. This will build the capacity of younger women to manage natural and cultural resources.

The CLC also supported female Ltyentye Apurte rangers to deliver a bush medicine program in their community.

MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS

Joint management of NT national parks and reserves

The CLC has statutory consultative and representative functions under the *Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* in respect to the joint management of 20 NT national parks and reserves. Sixteen of these are held by traditional owners as either Aboriginal freehold or NT Parks freehold and leased back to the NT Government to be jointly managed with the PWCNT. The other four are subject to joint management under ILUAs registered with the National Native Title Tribunal.

The CLC has consulted traditional owners and supported their involvement in joint management of these 20 parks and reserves since 2004. A joint management officer at the CLC is funded by the PWCNT.

Park management planning and governance

The CLC worked with traditional owners to ensure their effective involvement in management, planning and decision making in NT parks and reserves. It facilitated 13 joint management committee and working group meetings for specific projects such as the development of interpretive signs for the Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park. Consultations with traditional owners ranged from assessing proposed exclusive-use commercial campsites to the use of drones within parks.

Park permits and concessions

The majority of the jointly managed parks and reserves have permit guidelines allowing for the efficient processing of permit applications where they meet standard terms and conditions. However, a number of permit applications that fell outside standard permit conditions required consultation and review. Table 5 lists the park permit consultations the CLC conducted.

ULURU – KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK

Since 1985 the CLC has carried out statutory functions in respect to the management of Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park (UKTNP) under the terms

Table 5. Park permit applications, 2016–17

Park/reserve	Number	Type
Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park	16	Research, bushwalking, camping, commercial film and photography (including the use of drones), tourism
Watarrka National Park	6	Research, photography, bushwalking
Finke Gorge National Park	3	Research, bushwalking
Iytwelepenty/Davenport Ranges National Park	1	Research
East MacDonnell Parks and Reserves	3	Film and photography, research

of the lease to the Director of National Parks. It has maintained a joint management officer position to consult traditional owners and support their involvement in joint management since 2002. The position has been extended until the end of 2019.

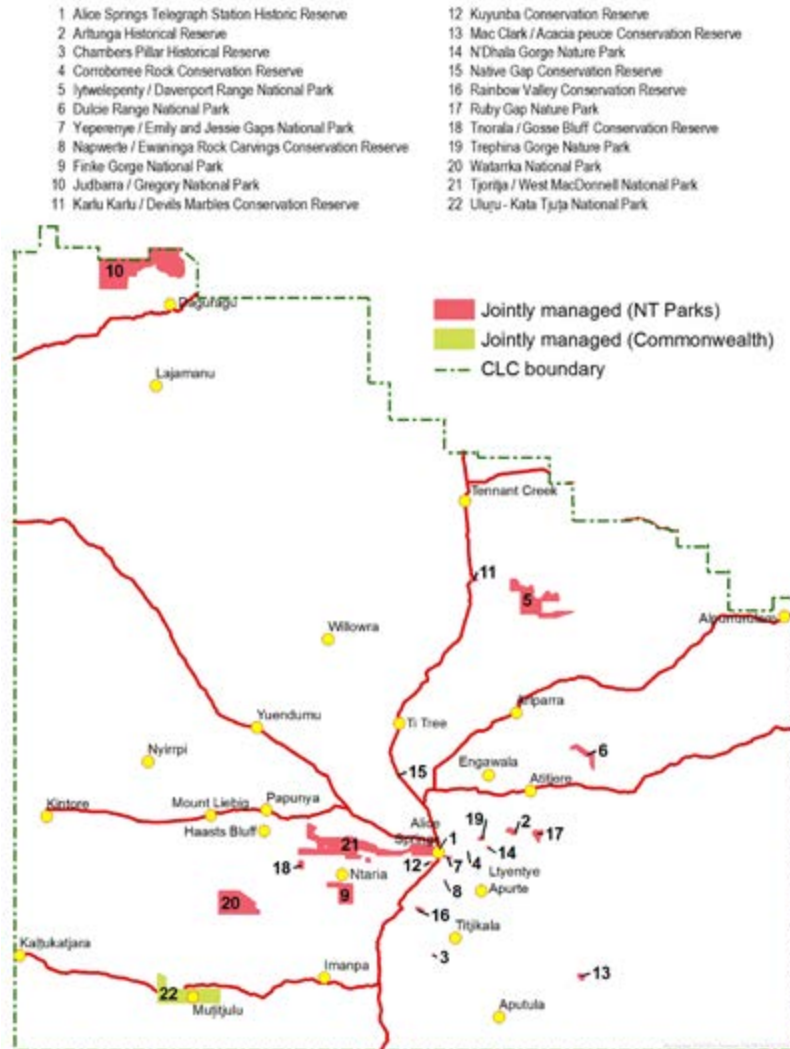
The CLC continued to support the UKTNP board of management and other park-specific consultative committees. It assisted Anangu board members with preparation for four board meetings and representation and support at five consultative committee meetings. Numerous consultations with traditional owners occurred about park management programs, permit requests, commercial tourism proposals and the media guidelines review.

INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS

The CLC continued to support traditional owners to develop and manage IPAs. These are voluntary agreements between landowners and the Australian Government to manage land for its natural and cultural values. They do not affect land tenure. The four IPAs in the CLC region cover a total area of approximately 195,000 square kilometres. The Kaṯiṯi Petermann, Angas Downs, Southern and Northern Tanami IPAs each has a management committee that helps to develop and review annual work plans.

All committees met to determine work priorities, except for the Angas Downs IPA where work remains on hold. The owners of Angas Downs, the Imanpa Development Association, and the CLC agreed on a plan to reinstate the program in the next reporting period.

Figure 8. Jointly managed national parks and reserves in the CLC region



A major highlight was the completion and launch of the Southern Tanami digital storybook, which is an interactive version of the IPA management plan in Warlpiri and English. The digital storybook was launched at the annual Territory Natural Resource Management conference in Darwin, followed by community launches in Yuendumu and Nyirripi. The storybook can be viewed at <http://walyaku.org.au/#/st/0> and on community computer portals, and is available on USB to all Warlpiri families in the region. The storybook has been well received by them and the broader community and was nominated for an award from the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence. The project inspired traditional owners of the Northern Tanami IPA to invest \$250,000 of their

mining compensation income for the production of their own digital storybook.

Cross-border collaboration

CLC staff attended the annual meeting of the Indigenous Desert Alliance in Perth. The alliance brings together seven indigenous land management organisations that work across the desert regions of the NT, SA and WA. The CLC collaborated in the development of a cross-jurisdictional natural and cultural resource management project seeking to attract philanthropic funding to address gaps.

The CLC also met with members of the Witjira National Park (SA) board of management to represent

the interests of traditional owners in the NT regarding cross-border land management issues.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

The CLC supported traditional owners to undertake pastoral activity ensuring the sustainable management of Aboriginal land. It facilitated greater awareness of natural resource management issues among Aboriginal pastoralists and conducted periodic pastoral monitoring with traditional owners for a number of grazing licences. It also investigated improvements to the pastoral monitoring methodology based on advice from the NT Department of Primary Industry and Resources.

The CLC provided planning support for the future management of the Mangkururpa ALT (Tanami Downs Station) that identified both culturally and environmentally sensitive areas that should be excluded from future grazing arrangements.



Robin Granites (pictured here at the Yuendumu launch) is one of many Yapa who worked on the Southern Tanami digital storybook.



Warlpiri elders and rangers at Sangsters Bore on the Southern Tanami IPA take part in production of the Southern Tanami digital storybook. (Photo: Ken Johnson)

OUTPUT GROUP 2

LAND CLAIMS & ACQUISITION SUPPORT

The Central Land Council aims to provide Aboriginal landowners with information, advice and support to enable them to manage their land in a sustainable and productive way.

OUTPUT

2.1 LAND CLAIMS

2.2 OTHER LAND ACQUISITION

OUTCOMES

Enhanced social, political and economic participation and equity for Aboriginal people in the Central Land Council's area as a result of the promotion, protection and advancement of their land rights, other rights and interests.

OUTPUT 2.1

LAND CLAIMS



WAKAYA ALYAWARRA

Following meetings with the Canteen Creek community in 2016 that indicated some uncertainty about proposed settlement arrangements reached between the NT Government and the CLC (on behalf of traditional owners), the CLC arranged independent legal representation to assist the Owairtilla Aboriginal Corporation.

The Aboriginal Land Commissioner set the claim down for hearing in November 2017 and the CLC has prepared all required land claim documentation for the hearing. The parties continue to pursue settlement of the claim and those discussions will not be impeded by the hearing.

FRANCES WELL

Negotiations with the NT Government and the proprietors of Maryvale Station continue on the issues of detriment commented upon by the Commissioner. These are claims of detriment (loss, damage or injury) the pastoral lease holder claims he would suffer if the land was handed back and which need to be resolved.

The CLC continued to correspond with the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the NT Government and the proprietors of Maryvale Station, and convened meetings with traditional owners, including at Titjikala on 1 March 2017.

It is pressing for a survey to enable the grant of the land in 2018.

OUTPUT 2.2

LAND ACQUISITIONS

Pursue all other appropriate avenues to achieve the acquisition of land for the benefit of Aboriginal people.

The CLC assisted with the handback to the Warti-Yangu ALT of an area of land on the Barkly Highway. A small corridor of land on the land trust was relinquished to the NT Government in exchange for an adjacent corridor, to improve safety on the

highway at its junction with the Stuart Highway. Minister Scullion presented the title deeds to traditional owners on 12 May 2017.



Members of the Warti-Yangu ALT: (left to right) Roy and Norman Frank, Ronald Plummer, Ross and Lennie Williams, Rosemary Plummer, Francine McCarthy and Marlene Plummer with Minister Scullion.

OUTPUT GROUP 3

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

OUTPUT	3.1	LAND USE AGREEMENTS
	3.2	EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & TRAINING
	3.3	MINING
	3.4	COMMERCIAL ASSISTANCE



OUTCOMES	<p>Enhanced social, political and economic participation and equity for Aboriginal people in the Central Land Council's area as a result of the promotion, protection and advancement of their land rights, other rights and interests.</p>
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OUTPUT 3.1

LAND USE AGREEMENTS

The CLC has statutory functions to help traditional owners manage their land and to negotiate, on their behalf, with people wanting to use Aboriginal land.

NORTHERN GAS PIPELINE

On 17 November 2015 the Northern Territory government announced that it had selected Jemena Northern Gas Pipeline Pty Ltd to construct, own and operate the North East Interconnector Gas Pipeline, now known as the Northern Gas Pipeline. Jemena is 60 per cent owned by the State Grid Corporation of China and 40 per cent owned by Singapore Power International Pte Ltd.

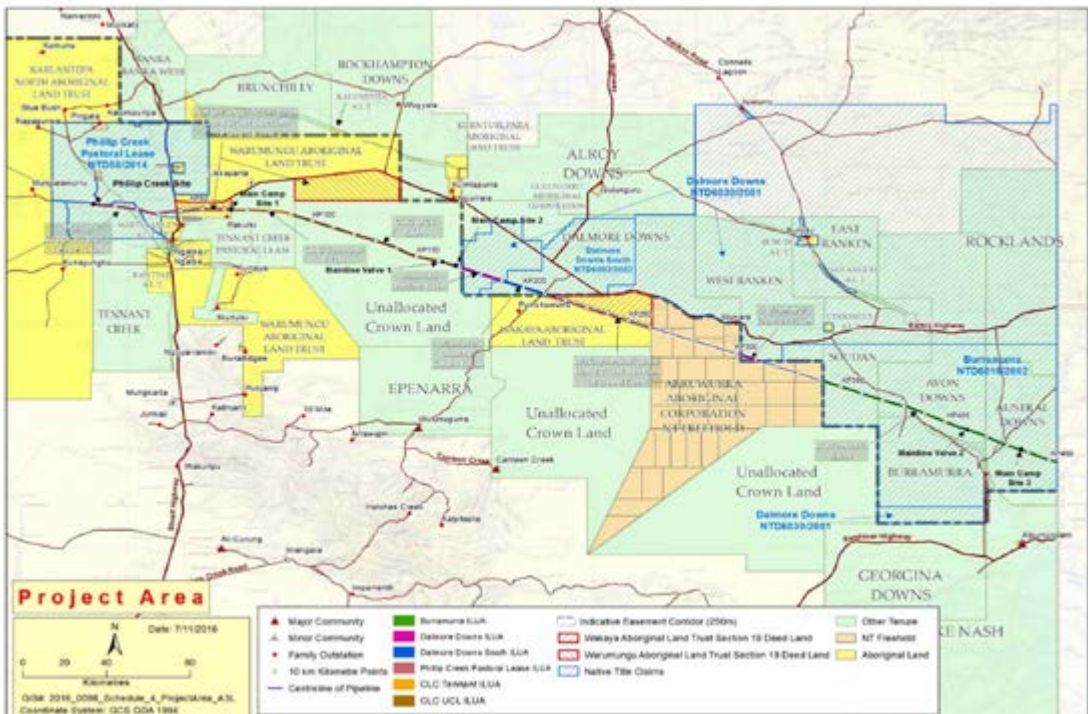
The proposed high-pressure 12-inch steel underground pipeline will connect the Amadeus–Darwin Gas Pipeline in the NT to the Carpentaria Gas Pipeline in Queensland and links gas production in the NT to markets in the east of Australia. It will be 622 kilometres long, running from Warrego near Tennant Creek to Mount Isa in Queensland.

As the pipeline route crosses the boundaries of both land councils, the CLC and NLC worked collaboratively to consult landowners and negotiate sacred site protection, cultural monitoring, employment and contracting, financial compensation and other benefits.

The pipeline route also crosses freehold land held by the Arruwurra Aboriginal Corporation, which sought alternative representation in relation to that portion of the pipeline. The CLC and the NLC convened three large meetings for all affected Aboriginal groups together in Tennant Creek on 10 March, 27 July and 29 September 2016.

At the outset the land councils were instructed to start negotiations with Jemena over both Aboriginal land and all other tenures with native title rights and to report back to traditional owners when

Figure 9. Northern Gas Pipeline project area



Map courtesy Northern Land Council

negotiations were complete. These consultations and negotiations represented a major deployment of resources for the land councils and involved more than a dozen staff for more than 12 months.

The land councils obtained independent economic advice and produced draft agreements for site and environmental protections, compensation, employment and works contracting provisions for negotiations.

In early September 2016 the land councils convened meetings with small groups of traditional owners to present Jemena's proposals, the pipeline route and its impacts, and potential compensation and benefits offered. Traditional owners asked questions and discussed the issues in family groups. The CLC held more than a dozen of these smaller consultations with the Pirtangu, Purrurtu, Kurtinja, Kankawalla, Kanturrra, Yurtiminyi, Purrukwarra, and Arruwarra groups.

The outcomes were reported to a combined meeting attended by approximately 200 people, with all of the affected Aboriginal groups represented, on 28 September at the Tennant Creek Show Grounds

Following the meeting the CLC held further discussions with Jemena and obtained improved terms. It confirmed that traditional owners consented to the agreements being entered into by the Warumungu and Wakaya ALTs and by affected native title holders.

The CLC executive committee considered the outcomes of the group consultations and the terms and conditions and directed the CLC to enter into the proposed pipeline route agreements in December 2016.

The final documentation for the project included:

- Pipeline Benefits and Impacts Agreement
- Warumungu Aboriginal Land Trust Section 19 Deed
- Wakaya Aboriginal Land Trust Section 19 Deed
- Phillip Creek pastoral lease ILUA
- Tennant Creek pastoral lease ILUA, and
- unallocated Crown land ILUA.

All of these documents were executed by the parties in early 2017 after confirmation meetings in Tennant Creek.

Construction of the pipeline is due to commence in the NT in July 2017.

KARLANTIJPA NORTH CARBON FARMING LICENCE

Following numerous consultations with traditional owners over a number of years, in September 2016



CLC ranger Helma Bernard helps traditional owners to earn carbon credits through fire management.

the CLC directed the Karlantijpa North ALT to enter into a carbon farming licence with an Aboriginal corporation comprised of traditional owners.

The licence allows the corporation to conduct carbon farming activities on a part of the land trust. It will earn carbon credits through fire management activities in the licence area, which it intends to sell to government, businesses and individuals wishing to offset their carbon emissions.

The licence gives traditional owners an opportunity to participate in land management activities on their country and to realise economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits from those activities. The CLC will continue to work closely with the corporation to assist with the fire management activities and governance support.

MUTITJULU SUBLEASE

On 16 March 2017, and with consent of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta Aboriginal Land Trust, the Director of National Parks entered into a sublease with the Executive Director of Township Leasing over the community of Mutitjulu, which is located in the national park.



Muṭiṭjulu residents and traditional owners celebrated the successful negotiations on the CLC's innovative township leasing model in November 2016.



Bessie Liddle and Judy Trigger at the signing ceremony of the Muṭiṭjulu sublease in March 2017.

The execution of the sublease was the culmination of more than six years of stakeholder negotiations and consultations with traditional owners and affected residents.

In contrast to a typical township lease under s.19A of the Land Rights Act, the Muṭiṭjulu sublease contains an innovative provision allowing the sublease to be transferred to a community Aboriginal corporation in future, if the CLC considers the corporation to have suitable capacity.

The sublease enables the Executive Director of Township Leasing to formalise tenure of organisations and individuals occupying land at Muṭiṭjulu in return for leasing income that will be applied towards community benefit projects at Muṭiṭjulu.

The CLC will continue to work with traditional owners of the Uluru – Kata Tjuṭa ALT on the Muṭiṭjulu sublease by attending meetings of the sublease consultative forum and by working towards the eventual transfer of the sublease to an Aboriginal corporation.

LAND USE AGREEMENTS

The CLC received fewer applications for leases and licences on Aboriginal land than during the previous period. This is because most community infrastructure is now subject to lease and there has been little development of additional serviced lots. Nevertheless, leasing on Aboriginal land requires the CLC to dedicate significant efforts to processing of consents to construct on leased premises, and consulting on and progressing requests for variations, assignments, subleases and surrenders in connection with leased premises.

It continued to implement the instructions of traditional owners about the application of rent from leases. Leasing income that they wish to apply to the benefit of the community has been incorporated into existing plans and priorities facilitated by the CLC's community development program. Where there were instructions that this money be distributed to traditional owners, the CLC's Aboriginal Associations Management Centre (AAMC) managed that distribution.

The CLC conducted further consultations with traditional owners of communities subject to leases about the application of rent, where required.

It continued to receive into its land use trust account rental payments owed to 10 Aboriginal corporations and associations which hold community living area (CLA) titles. The CLC provided community development and legal assistance to these organisations to allow the funds to be used in accordance with their rules for the benefit of their communities.

Australian Government

The Australian Government holds leases over 1,389 lots in 26 communities on Aboriginal land or in CLAs throughout the CLC region. This number includes lots leased by the Australian Government for the purpose of providing community housing and services.

Following a new offer from the Australian Government in early 2017, the CLC consulted with traditional owners of four communities that are not currently subject to a community housing lease. These consultations are ongoing.

The CLC continues to receive reports about the poor quality of community housing on these leases. Local surveys indicate that the NT Department of Housing has failed to attend to repairs and maintenance in communities throughout the region in a timely manner, as required under the Residential Tenancy Act. Claims brought by residents of Santa Teresa and Papunya under the Act are ongoing.

When it negotiated community housing leases, the Australian Government committed to making investments in improved community housing under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. In an effort to hold the Australian Government accountable for its promise, the CLC will continue to press for information about the levels of funding committed and acquitted under the agreement.

NT Government

The NT Government holds leases over 336 lots in communities on Aboriginal land and a further 76 lots in CLAs throughout the CLC region. It obtained consent for leases over 28 lots during the year.

The CLC looks forward to the completion of the NT Government's remote communities cadastre survey, which aims to formalise land boundaries in remote Aboriginal communities and satisfy the requirements under the Planning Act to enable leases of more than 12 years. The lack of adequate cadastre in communities has been a significant detriment to land development in the past.

Discussions are progressing with the NT Government to finalise the leasing of airstrips and reticulated services in communities and to ensure the ongoing management and compliance with existing leases.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Central Desert, MacDonnell, Barkly and Victoria Daly regional councils are responsible for local government services in communities of the CLC region.

These regional councils collectively hold land use agreements, including leases and licences, over 217 lots in communities on Aboriginal land in the CLC region and 69 lots on CLAs. The CLC continues to consult traditional owners, communities and CLAs about new and outstanding land use applications and engages with the councils about the ongoing management of land use agreements.

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Non-government organisations (NGOs) that operate in communities – mostly Aboriginal organisations such as art centres and stores – currently hold leases over 249 lots on Aboriginal land and 11 lots on CLAs in the CLC region. These organisations continue to demonstrate a commitment to securing tenure over assets on Aboriginal land by negotiating land use agreements, and the CLC continues to receive lease and licence applications from NGOs operating on Aboriginal land and on CLAs in its region. The tables below summarise the number of applications



Lena Pwerl is looking forward to moving into one of Arlparra's three new emergency shelters.

for leases and licences, the number of consultations concerning applications to lease and licence and/or the management of a lease or licence agreements, the number of leases and licences to which consent has been provided and the total number of current leases and licences in the CLC region.

Table 6. Applications received, 2016–17

Lessee / licensee	ALRA communities	CLAs
Australian Government	2	0
NT Government	3	4
Local government	14	3
Non-government	30	5

Table 7. Consultations conducted, 2016–17

Lessee / licensee	ALRA communities	CLAs
Australian Government	9	1
NT Government	9	4
Local government	23	10
Non-government	38	5

Table 8. Consents obtained, 2016–17

Lessee / licensee	ALRA communities	CLAs
Australian Government	134	0
NT Government	27	1
Local government	32	22
Non-government	15	0

Table 9. Leases and licences at 30 June 2017

Lessee / licensee	ALRA communities	CLAs
Australian Government	1,053	336
NT Government	336	76
Local government	217	69
Non-government	249	11

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

The CLC supports traditional owners in negotiations with proponents seeking grazing licences over Aboriginal land, and provides ongoing monitoring of licence conditions.

It ensures that proponents create training and employment opportunities for traditional owners and

residents of remote communities, adhere to grazing levels compatible with cultural and natural resource values, and develop pastoral infrastructure that continues to benefit traditional owners.

Grazing licences occur on land being developed under the collaborative Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP) and other areas of Aboriginal land. Typically, they are issued for five years with an option of a further five years but may be longer. Grazing licences or subleases are also issued to Aboriginal pastoral companies to enable them to operate commercially on Aboriginal land.

The CLC continued to monitor the terms and conditions of 11 grazing licences and subleases over Aboriginal land and received two new applications for grazing licences. It held a number of consultations on new and existing applications with traditional owners of the Mungkartia, Karlantijpa, Angarapa and Alkwert ALTs. Negotiations in relation to these proposed grazing licences are ongoing. The CLC also consulted traditional owners about proposed changes to the grazing licence over part of the Haasts Bluff ALT.

Commercial feral animal harvest

The CLC continued to monitor the terms and conditions of a commercial harvest agreement which permitted the removal of feral herbivores from the Urrampinyi Iltjiltjarri ALT in return for benefits, such as income, employment and road maintenance, to traditional owners.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The CLC continued to raise awareness of its statutory responsibilities and processes among tour operators and potential partners and facilitated preparations for the development of tourism proposals on Aboriginal land. It consulted traditional owners for proposed tourism developments at Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park and other NT national parks, including Tjoritja/ West MacDonnell National Park and Finke Gorge National Park. The CLC has also been working closely with traditional owners to help them implement tourism development at Palm Valley in the Finke Gorge National Park.

The CLC also consulted with traditional owners from a number of ALTs who hosted The Track Outback Race in May 2017. The ultra marathon traversed numerous ALTs and other forms of land tenure in the CLC region.

OUTPUT 3.2

EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Assist as appropriate in the economic advancement of Aboriginal people through employment, education and training, particularly in relation to land use proposals.

The CLC continued to maximise sustainable Aboriginal employment and training outcomes through advocacy with government and industry, direct job placement, and workplace support for employee retention. Among the advantages the CLC brings to the task of addressing employment aspirations in the challenging context of remote Australia are its capacity to broker employment opportunities arising from land use agreements, its relationships, and its reputation for placing people from disadvantaged communities in resource industry employment. The CLC also offers land management and enterprise development partnerships, strong community networks and familiarity with constituent aspirations and circumstances.

MINING AND EXPLORATION

The CLC added 127 Aboriginal people to its register of jobseekers and provided pre-employment support for job applications and placements into employment. It visited and provided support to Aboriginal jobseekers and employees of Newmont's Tanami operation, the Northern Gas Pipeline in Tennant Creek, and Australian Abrasive Minerals operation near Atitjere community. The latter has started to operate a garnet sands mine and the CLC helped Aboriginal people from the Atitjere community gain employment with the company.

As the commencement of the Jemena Northern Gas Pipeline was delayed, the CLC continued to register Aboriginal jobseekers on the company's job portal. It also assisted Aboriginal businesses to engage with the company as it formulated and negotiated a traditional owner civil works package.

The CLC also helped to recruit and retain 15 Aboriginal people in employment in mining and related industries and provided pre-employment training and support to young people, particularly through initiatives of Clontarf and the Girls Academy.

PASTORAL

The CLC continued to support pastoral employment and training through the Pastoral Futures and Real Jobs Pastoral programs, initiated under the IPP. The program placed and retained 15 FTE trainees in Aboriginal pastoral enterprises. The CLC mentored participants and helped station managers to co-ordinate training.

It supported cattle handling training through the Rural Operations Vocational Training-in-Schools Program and facilitated first aid training at Huckitta Station. It also helped staff from Huckitta and Blue Bush stations to attend a stock-handling course at Mistake Creek Station.

NATIONAL PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT

The CLC secured employment and training for four Aboriginal people in national parks: in the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park (UKTNP) through Parks Australia, and in NT national parks and reserves through the PWCNT. Employment of Aboriginal people in all these jointly managed parks remains extremely limited and well below the expectations of traditional owners.

The CLC participated in the UKTNP employment, education and training committee, which aims to increase Anangu employment at Mutitjulu. The establishment of a ranger group in Mutitjulu working across the UKTNP and the surrounding Katiti Petermann IPA – a long-term aspiration of traditional owners – moved a step closer with an agreement being executed between the CLC and PM&C to set up the group.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: CLC RANGER PROGRAM

The CLC's ranger program remains one of the most successful and popular models for Aboriginal



Troy Erlandson has worked at Newmont's Granites Mine for more than a decade.



Anslem Impu, Tjuwanpa ranger Malcolm Kenny and Robert Brown muster camels near Ntaria.

employment and skills development (see ranger program annual report annexure for details).

During the period, the CLC employed 82 rangers across 10 ranger groups permanently or casually through Working on Country and ILC Real Jobs (Ranger) funding for 66.2 FTE positions. The ILC Real Jobs (Ranger) Program funded 18 positions (27 per cent of the CLC rangers).

The CLC occasionally employs rangers to build capacity and interest among young Aboriginal people with little or no previous work experience. This casual employment is on larger scale projects requiring more staff, such as surveys, fire management and large scale weed control. Casual rangers often progress to permanent positions when they gain experience.

Employment outcomes and ranger retention

At the end of the period, 72 Aboriginal rangers were engaged in the 10 groups. Two worked full time, 58 worked part time and 12 were casuals.

From 2010 to 2017 a total of 677 Aboriginal people worked as CLC rangers. They were aged between 20 and 67 years, with a wide range of knowledge and skills.

The CLC's first female ranger program support officer continued to relieve ranger group co-ordinators in various ranger groups. She rose through the ranks

and now aspires to become the CLC's first Aboriginal female ranger group co-ordinator.

At 30 June 2017, 60 permanent positions were filled, five permanent positions in Angas Downs were suspended with the local ranger program under review, and recruitment for nine positions was in progress, offering opportunities for casual employees to progress to permanent positions. Figure 10 shows that of a maximum of 83 positions, 87 per cent were filled.

At first glance, Figure 11 shows a decline in ranger employment over the last three years. In fact, 18 positions were lost due to cuts in funding.

However, there is also a positive development hidden in this graph: ranger teams are maturing and have increased their work hours from three to four days. This means that, while there are fewer people working, they earn more and move closer to working a standard five day week.

Figures 12 and 13 show that a gender ratio of men to women of approximately 2:1 was maintained due to the employment of female rangers who are role models and a greater effort to recruit young women.

Quality targeted training and professional development

Training and professional development continue to be important components of the CLC's ranger program.

Figure 10. Ranger employment snapshot at 30 June 2017

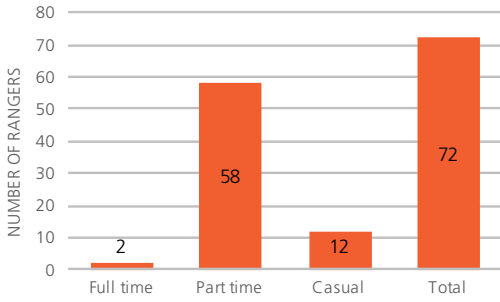


Figure 11. Ranger employment type, 2010–17

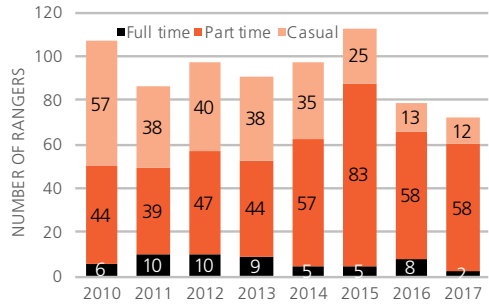


Figure 12. Male and female rangers, 2010–17

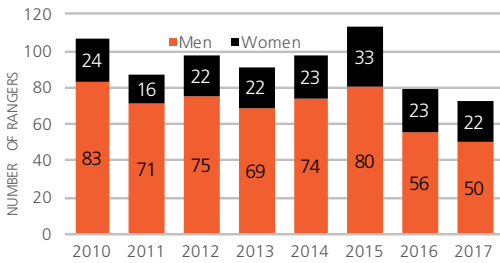


Figure 13. Percentage of women rangers, 2010–17

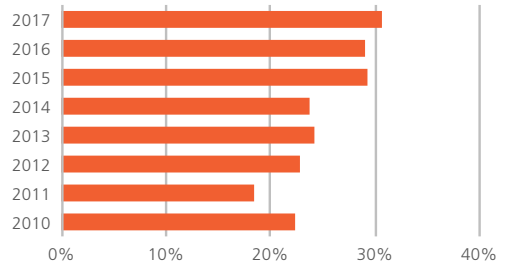


Figure 14. Ranger retention at 30 June 2017

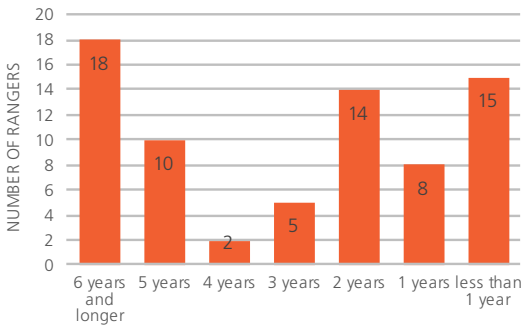


Figure 15. Ranger accredited training, 2016–17

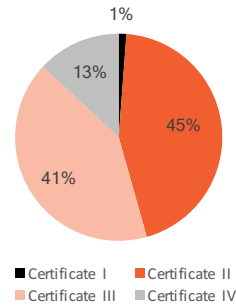
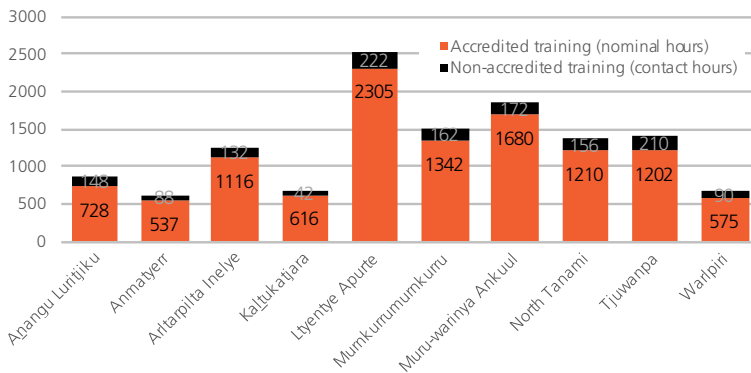


Figure 16. Training hours by ranger group, 2015–17



Training activities focus on three key areas: developing basic work skills and competencies for new rangers, supporting experienced rangers to complete studies in conservation and land management, and facilitating the career progression of rangers into ranger support officer and co-ordinator roles.

Rangers participated in 50 separate training events across the program. This included the delivery of 11,311 hours of accredited training through 35 separate training events, and 1,422 hours of non-accredited training through 15 separate training events.

Fifty-five rangers were enrolled in nationally accredited conservation and land management courses. Six were enrolled in Certificate I, 28 in Certificate II, 15 in Certificate III, and six in Certificate IV level training.

The majority of training hours were undertaken at Certificate II level (45%) and Certificate III level (41%). This reflects the requirements of the workplace to develop skills for new and continuing rangers. Maturity of the program, with rangers progressing through training pathways, is evident in the increase of Certificate III level training compared to previous years.

Significantly, fewer training hours were dedicated to Certificate IV (13%) by senior rangers and ranger support officers. The decrease can be attributed to relatively higher retention in those roles in combination with graduations and course completions in previous years. Only 1 per cent of training hours was dedicated to Certificate I level training, which comprised literacy training or specific short courses.

As the ranger program continues to expand, equitable distribution of training resources is an increasing challenge. Several factors influence how much training different ranger groups complete. Certificates III and IV require completion of more training hours than other certificate levels, and the groups with the most rangers undertaking these certificates receive more training hours than other groups. Muru-warinyi Ankkul and Ltyentye Apurte ranger groups have a high number of rangers studying certificate levels III and above and, consequently, attended more training hours than other groups.

Higher training participation rates also reflect higher ranger retention rates. Staff turnover places pressure on work programs, and groups with higher rates of turnover focus on establishing good work routines before moving into training. This is reflected in the



CLC rangers with brand new conservation and land management certificates made up a record number of Batchelor graduates in 2016. Frazer Oliver, Craig Le Rossignol, Farron Gorey, Shannon Lander, Christopher Ungwanaka, Obed Ratar, Preston Kelly, Ryan Raggett, Dan Pepperill, Georgina Yates, Anthony Petrick, and Malcolm and Jeremy Kenny.

Figure 17. Number of rangers undertaking conservation and land management certificates, 2016–17

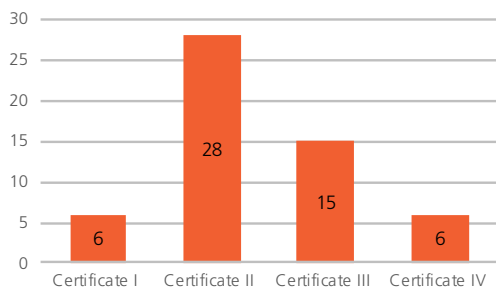


Figure 18. Number of rangers undertaking WHS training, 2016–17

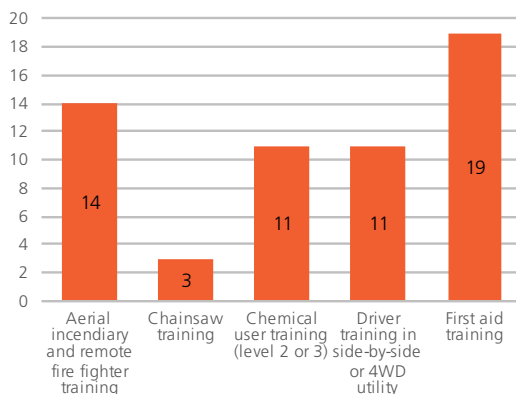


Figure 19. Ranger mentor activity: type of engagement, 2016–17

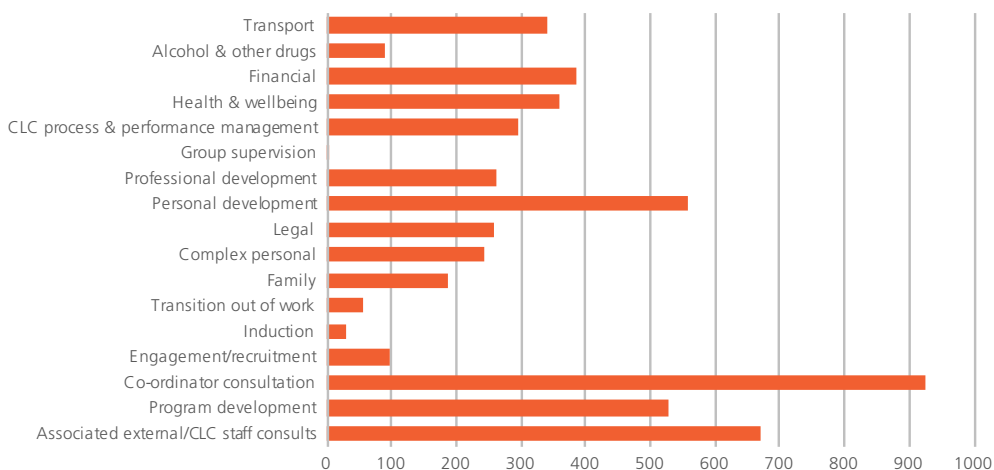
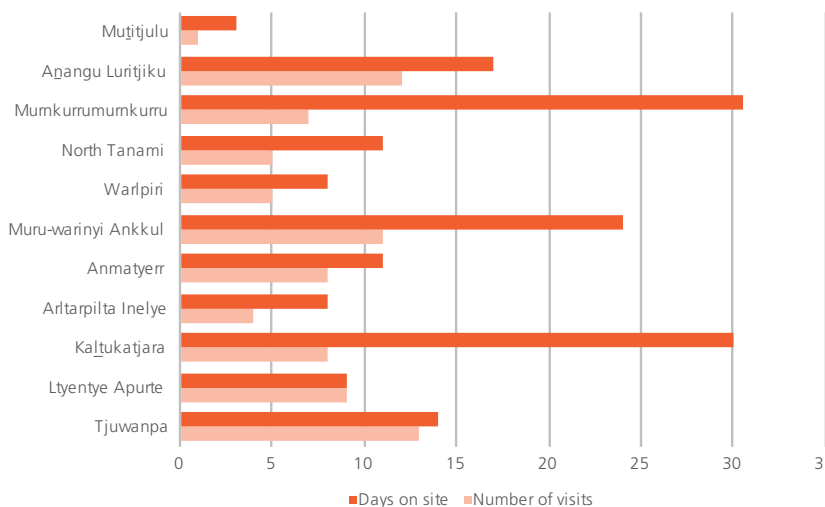


Figure 20. Ranger mentor activity: visits to ranger groups, 2016–17



lower rates of training undertaken by the Anmatyerr, Arltarpilta Inelye and Anangu Luritjiku ranger groups.

The Tjuwanpa, Tyentye Apurte, and Muru-warinyi Ankkul ranger groups have benefited from their close proximity and transport links to Alice Springs. Access to classes or workshops in Alice Springs increases the groups' training participation rates (64% of training events took place in Alice Springs).

The relatively high expense and other viability challenges of remote delivery models has limited training in very remote communities. This accounts for the fewer training hours completed by the Kaltukatjara ranger group.

The CLC continues to improve training outcomes by developing the capacity of training providers who can deliver training in remote communities, and by activities that support ranger retention.

Ranger workplace health and safety

In response to ongoing risk assessments and implementation of standard operating procedures, the ranger program has developed a suite of compulsory workplace health and safety training. One-off



Ranger Barbara Petrick enjoys the view at Ross River.



Rangers keep their distance as Tyentye Apurte ranger Leon Davis demonstrates snake removal at the 2017 ranger camp at Ross River.



Daguragu ranger Krisilla Patrick services a chainsaw at the 2017 ranger camp at Ross River.

accredited training to maintain specific work skills that contribute to a safe and productive workplace has included training for all-terrain vehicles undertaken by 11 rangers, and accredited training in the preparation, storage and safe handling of chemicals enabled 11 rangers to obtain an occupational licence. Due to the significant burning activities in the final year of the Biodiversity Fund project, there were substantial training outcomes in aerial incendiary operation, firefighting and wildfire suppression, with 14 rangers completing this training.

Workplace skills and knowledge

Non-accredited training refers to training that sits outside the Australian qualifications framework, and typically includes workshops delivered internally and/or for specific work related activities. The program facilitated non-accredited training events that included a digital knowledge group forum, a senior ranger forum, a significant species mapping workshop and other workshops.

Ranger camp

More than 80 Aboriginal rangers and land managers attended the 11th annual CLC ranger camp. They represented the 10 CLC ranger groups (68 participants), PWCNT rangers from Watarrka (4), Jigalong Rangers (Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa) (6), and Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Management rangers (8).

The camp continues to provide an effective opportunity for Aboriginal rangers to network and build relationships across the vast and remote Central

Australian region. Information sharing across groups is critical for building the capabilities of rangers. Group presentations about achievements and challenges, guest speakers and the ranger forum – an independently facilitated feedback session – empower rangers to improve the program's operational, management and governance procedures.

Six providers delivered 11 training workshops on using chemicals, chainsaws, computers, 4WD vehicles and trailers, all-terrain vehicles and on equipment use and maintenance, safe food and snake handling, media skills and weed control planning. As well, social and health promotional activities included eye health checks, the healthy wok cooking competition and other team building activities.

School-based capacity building

The program increasingly produces role models for students in remote community schools. Classroom and on-country interactions with rangers contribute to learning outcomes while demonstrating employment pathways and motivating students to stay in school longer.

All ranger groups promoted the values of ranger employment to schools, junior ranger programs, traditional owners, parents and other interest groups. They facilitated the intergenerational transfer of knowledge and provided work experience by sharing their skills.

The number of rangers has increased significantly over the past 10 years. However, the program has lacked the resources to deliver an equivalent increase in mentoring support. The two existing mentors have maximised their impact by educating and empowering co-ordinators to foster ranger groups with in-built resilience and support mechanisms. Almost one-third of mentor efforts were devoted to working with program-level staff.

Personal development was the next largest area of mentor effort. This involved workplace coaching and assisting the rangers to identify challenges and develop life skills.

A third regional workplace mentor started work in May, resulting in a distribution of 33 mentees per mentor. This positions the program to meet the increasing demands of the new recruits in the start-up groups at Mutitjulu and Angas Downs.



Tennant Creek ranger Jeffrey Curtis learns about maintenance of all terrain vehicles.

OUTPUT 3.3

MINING

Mining on Aboriginal land continues to contribute significantly to the NT's mining and energy industries. One of the most productive gold mines in Australia is in the Tanami Desert, some 500 kilometres northwest of Alice Springs. Newmont's mine at The Granites has yielded millions of ounces of gold over the past 20 years and reports a further 3 million ounces of gold reserves and a further 10-year mine life. Gold exploration remains active in the Tanami and Tennant Creek regions. Onshore oil and gas production occur at Palm Valley and Mereenie, west of Alice Springs, and at the new Dingo field south of Alice Springs on pastoral land. All these sites operate under agreements made with the CLC on behalf of traditional owners since 1981.

The agreements deliver benefits to traditional owners, such as community-driven development projects, compensation payments, employment, training, sacred site and environmental protection and cultural awareness.

When negotiating with exploration companies about access to Aboriginal land the CLC must ensure that traditional owners are fully informed before they make decisions about exploration and mining. Only where there is informed group consent can agreements be made. Adherence to the legislative process provides certainty to both Aboriginal people and proponents.

EXPLORATION LICENCE AND PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Exploration for minerals and petroleum is regulated under the NT's *Mineral Titles Act 2016* and the *Petroleum Act 2009*. Exploration licences allow the holder or operator to explore for minerals over the area of the licence. Exploration permits generally cover the very large areas that are required for oil and gas exploration.

On Aboriginal land, exploration licences and permits can only be granted with the consent of the CLC. The mining provisions (Part IV) of the Land Rights Act set out a clear process for accessing Aboriginal land. The responsible NT minister, now the Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, initiates the process by consenting to exploration applicants entering into negotiation with the CLC. Applicants then have three months to lodge an application with the CLC.

In response, the CLC organises meetings to consult the relevant traditional owners and ascertains their

views. The applicant is entitled to present their exploration proposals to the traditional owners at the first meeting. A representative of the minister can also attend this part of the meeting.

Where instructed by the traditional owners, the CLC negotiates an agreement about the terms and conditions of the grant. Through this process the rights and interests of traditional owners are protected and, once a decision is made, the applicants have the certainty required to invest in exploration.

Where Aboriginal landowners consent to exploration, they cannot refuse any subsequent mining. A mining agreement must be made to allow mining to proceed. Mining generally involves significant impacts on the environment and can affect neighbouring communities. The decision, therefore, that landowners are required to make at the exploration application stage is very onerous. It occurs at the earliest point in the development process, when the least information about the nature of the possible development is available.

The CLC's statutory obligation is to ensure traditional owners are informed as far as possible when making such decisions. Where an exploration agreement is made, it must be satisfied that landowners understand the nature and purpose of the agreement and, as a group, consent to it. The CLC organises and conducts exploration and mining consultation meetings to ensure that the relevant owners of land affected by applications are able to exercise their rights under the Land Rights Act. Table 10 shows recent data for the processing of applications.

The CLC conducted 11 consultation meetings with traditional owners who considered 35 individual

exploration titles. The low number of applications processed this year and last year – when 48 titles were considered at 12 meetings – compared with the previous two reporting periods, reflects very difficult market conditions and the low commodity prices in the exploration sector. Of the 35 titles considered in 2016–17, 18 were discussed for the first time, which is the equal lowest number of titles discussed at first meetings in more than a decade. Of the 35 exploration titles considered, two individual exploration permit applications (EPA) for oil and gas were discussed: this is considerably less than for 2014–15, when 14 applications for oil and gas were considered for the first time. The reason is that very little land is available for new oil and gas EPAs and current uncertainty about a shale gas industry in the NT has stalled progress on many titles.

The CLC held meetings in Tennant Creek, Kintore, Alcoota, Alice Springs, Yuendumu, Yuwalki and near Kaltukatjara (Docker River). Remote area meetings require careful planning and are resource intensive. Meetings can involve several mining companies

and numerous traditional owner groups, as well as various mineral commodities and may cover many thousands of square kilometres. Grouping of titles for consideration at a single meeting saves resources but is complex and challenging. It depends on factors such as the number of traditional owner groups, whether it is appropriate to bring groups together, the number of companies involved, the ability of companies to progress negotiations, and the availability of CLC staff and vehicles to bring the traditional owners to the meeting.

Table 11 shows the number of exploration titles processed during the reporting year and, for comparison, for the most recent four-year period. It includes both exploration licences and exploration permits.

This financial year saw a continuation of the low processing figures of last year, reflecting the ongoing downturn in minerals and energy exploration. The NT Government issued 18 titles with consent to negotiate, a new record low.



Roger and Freda Jurrah visit the Dead Bullock Soak mine.

Despite the difficult investment climate, interest in gold exploration continues, reflecting the high and stable commodity price and the shifting global political landscape that has led to increased investment in gold. Other mineral commodities in the CLC region are copper, rare earths, base metals, uranium, tungsten, phosphate and potash.

Mineral explorers and miners alike continue to struggle to raise capital. Poor oil prices, a lack of new gas markets and investor caution impacted upon oil and gas exploration, including the unconventional hydrocarbon industry. Exploration expenditure in the CLC region is lower than in previous years with no petroleum exploration drilling since 2014. Progress of EPAs has stagnated as many companies take a measured approach to agreement negotiations, both on and off Aboriginal land, for economic reasons, but also because of political uncertainty around regulation of fracking (hydraulic fracturing) used for shale gas and gas trapped in rock (tight gas).

Even though Central Australia is an attractive exploration destination with highly prospective geology, low commodity prices and a lack of investor confidence continues to impact on the number of new exploration applications. Eight of the 29 applications received were new and 21 were out of moratorium (when traditional owners refuse consent and the exploration license is frozen for five years). Many explorers withdrew applications before the processing of the title was complete. Eleven titles were withdrawn during the negotiation period, many fewer than the high figures of the past three years, suggesting that many of the more speculative titles and junior applicants have been forced to withdraw. The Australian Bureau of Statistics' figures for mineral exploration expenditure in the NT continue to show a downward trend from the record high years of 2010–12.

Table 10. Processing of applications for consent to the grant of exploration titles under mining provisions of the Land Rights Act

Performance measures	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17
Number of exploration titles (exploration licence applications and exploration permit applications) effectively progressed to an initial traditional owner meeting	88	64	18	18
Total number of exploration titles considered at traditional owner meetings (includes first and further meetings)	116	115	48	35
Number of exploration titles processed to a final decision	13	25	44	13
Number of exploration titles completed in total (includes those withdrawn during negotiating period)	67	62	77	24
Average time taken (in years) from date application is received to either CLC consent or refusal	4.0	2.9	3.0	3.0

Table 11. Exploration titles (exploration licence applications and exploration permit applications) on Aboriginal land

	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17
Consent to negotiate from NT Government	25	74	25	18
Application for consent to the grant*	37	72	33	29
Withdrawn during negotiating period	54	37	43	11
Refused	8	9	12	10
Consent to the grant	5	16	22	3
Granted by NT Government	20	6	8	30
Under negotiation as at 30 June 2017	226	220	169	149

*Count of 'Applications for consent' includes applications following expiry of moratorium period.

Oil and gas

The NT experienced an oil and gas rush several years ago. EPAs and granted titles blanketed the jurisdiction, reflecting the upgraded prospectivity of the region's hydrocarbon basins, sustained higher oil prices and increased global demand for energy, as well as new technologies for exploration and recovery of oil and gas. There is interest in unconventional gas exploration in the sedimentary basins in the CLC region, targeting very deep shales. The vast Wiso and Amadeus basins are subject to numerous applications covering several Aboriginal land trusts. Some of these areas have never before been considered at meetings with landowners. The huge Georgina Basin, northeast of Alice Springs, initially had blanket coverage of applications and granted titles; however, three exploration permits were recently surrendered, comprising a total of nearly 35,000 square kilometres, following an unsuccessful exploration campaign targeting deep shales. Explorers are also interested in the Pedirka Basin, southeast of Alice Springs, which is prospective for underground coal gasification and thermal coal.

Individual application areas for oil and gas may be up to 16,000 square kilometres each and are generally very remote, often with minimal or no established access. In terms of processing and counting outcomes, one EPA is counted as one title even

though it may coincide or equate with the total area covered by 20 or more exploration licence applications (ELAs), which, when processed, are counted as 20 titles.

The significant drop in the oil price in 2014, together with fiscal tightening, has resulted in minimal oil and gas exploration in the CLC region, with only a single seismic survey in the reporting period. Furthermore, shale gas exploration is on hold while the NT Government awaits the findings of the second inquiry into fracking. The independent Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing of Onshore Unconventional Reservoirs in the Northern Territory, chaired by Justice Rachel Pepper, is expected to release its report in late 2017.

Processing applications

Following consultations with landowners and successful negotiations with applicants, the CLC consented to three exploration licence applications. This is a record ten-year low and reflects the downturn in exploration investment. The three exploration licence applications cover 4,255 square kilometres northwest of Tennant Creek on the Karlantijpa North ALT.

Many applicants are currently unable to progress their titles because they lack capital for mineral



(Left to right) Peter Norman, Andrew White, David Wongway, Geoffrey Mumu, Ronald Connelly and Anthony Smith inspect a seismic survey near Imanpa.



exploration. Of the 29 titles received, many are out of moratorium and are not actually new, and the number of applications for consent to negotiate – 18 – is also low.

As was the case last financial year, significant ground remains available for application by mineral explorers. This contrasts sharply with the exploration boom years of 2010–12 when there was blanket coverage of available ground, not all of it necessarily prospective.

Figure 21 compares the number of ELAs both consented to and refused during this period, compared with previous periods.

The average time for processing applications that were either consented to or refused was again three years, only slightly higher than 2014–15, and above the standard negotiating period specified under the Act of two field seasons or 22 months. The average was skewed by three titles with combined negotiating periods of more than 26 years (they were applied for in 2008) that were finalised during the reporting period. The required time to negotiate an agreement varies considerably and depends on factors such as applicants' familiarity with the process and access to exploration capital. The CLC has to wait until the company is ready to progress negotiations or to refuse the titles due to lack of progress and place them in moratorium. In this case the company found the funds to proceed and the titles were finalised.

The negotiating period can be extended by agreement between the parties. However, many of the

applications, which may take years to conclude, are hampered by applicants seeking joint venture partners – often unsuccessfully – when they are unable to explore in their own right. Funding for exploration programs in Central Australia remains extremely tight, resulting in serious delays in applications, which are a key performance indicator for the CLC.

Application numbers were consistently high over the last five years, except for 2013–14, resulting in a corresponding rise in the number of titles with open negotiating periods. However, this situation has changed. The CLC has again met its target of less than 200 applications under negotiation at the end of the financial year with 149 titles. This represents a drop of 20 from last year's 169 ELAs under negotiation. The exploration downturn and depressed investment markets account for this low figure, with fewer new applications received by the CLC than ever before. Of the 29 ELAs received, the NT minister gave consent to negotiate to only 18 applications.

The CLC processed as many applications to first meeting stage as possible. Negotiations can take considerable time. Applicants can spend time finding joint venture partners, or coming to terms with the draft deeds, or making changes to their funding or exploration priorities. Uncertain economic conditions also influence the completion of negotiations. The large meetings of recent years can continue to lead to consent decisions in the future, provided the applicants have the financial capacity to conduct

exploration. The CLC anticipates ongoing delays in negotiation for many applicants until the commodity and financial markets improve.

The NT Government has used s.41A of the Land Rights Act to withdraw consent for seven ELAs when a company is not performing. While this has helped avoid 'warehousing' of titles and has improved the active participation of bona fide applicants in negotiations, some applicants still find excuses not to attend CLC meetings with traditional owners. This can make for slow and frustrating progress. The global shortage of exploration capital appears to be the major factor limiting these applicants.

The CLC received a single EPA (out of moratorium) covering some 377 square kilometres of Aboriginal land but few prospective areas remain available for new applications. If the economic and political climate change, the size and complexity of consultations required for oil and gas exploration permits may continue to present a challenge in processing titles for the CLC.

Uranium and other commodities information meetings

Interest in uranium exploration continued even though the uranium price has dropped from US\$130

Figure 21. Exploration titles on Aboriginal land applied for and processed

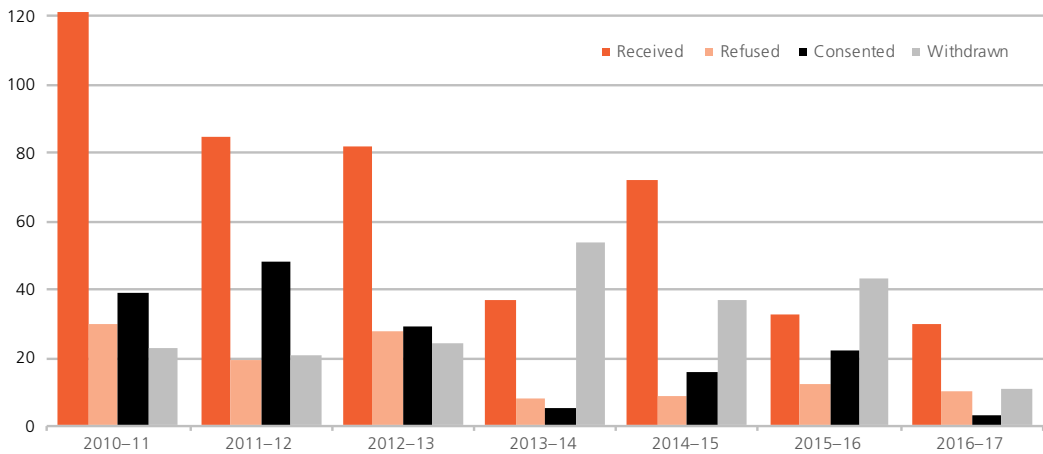
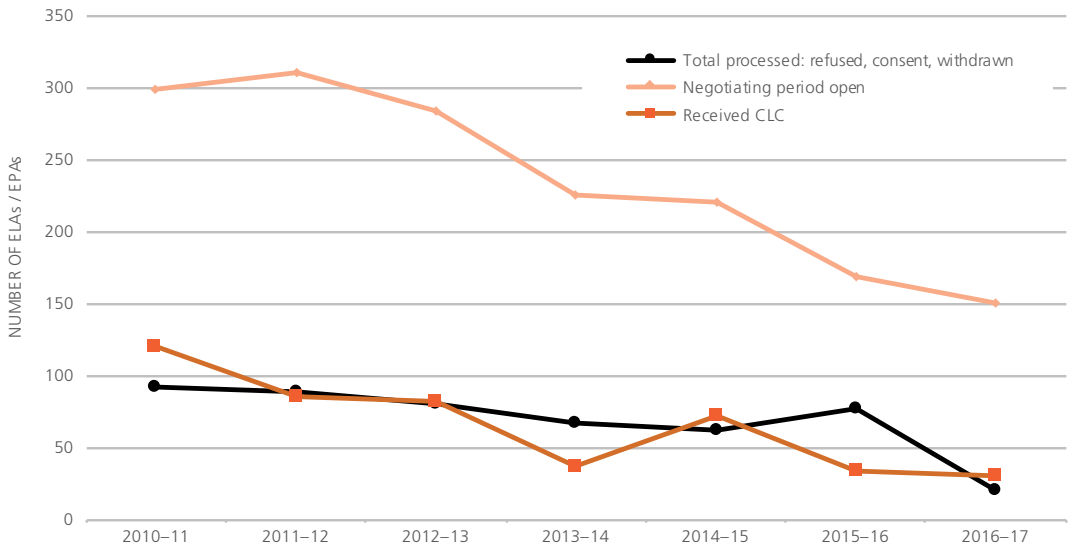


Figure 22. Trends of the processing of exploration titles on Aboriginal land



per pound in 2007 to less than US\$30 per pound. Eleven per cent of the exploration applications received this reporting period aimed at discovering uranium. Previously this was as high as 95 per cent. The low price of uranium and the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan continue to have an impact. Traditional owners have mixed views on the exploration, mining and downstream use of uranium. However, their opposition to uranium and the proposed nuclear waste repository at Muckaty Station, the Tanami and the date farm south of Alice Springs have been widely reported.

Proposals for uranium exploration raise specific issues unique to uranium mining: transport, use, regulation, radiation protection and waste storage. Traditional owners need to be aware of these to make informed decisions. Many have broadened their knowledge of the unique properties of uranium and of radiation monitoring at a mine or exploration site.

Provision of balanced information about the nuclear industry is fundamental to facilitating informed consent. The CLC continues to disseminate information within the framework of its uranium information strategy, which aims to give affected Aboriginal communities and traditional owners facts on uranium mining, radiation, downstream processing and storage. It facilitated discussions about uranium at major traditional owner meetings using plain-English written and visual information and DVDs.

The CLC is replicating its uranium information strategy approach for unconventional oil and gas, and regularly delivers education sessions. Sessions were limited to Muñitjulu, Yuendumu and Tennant Creek due to inactivity of oil and gas applicants. Further fora will be planned as requested by traditional owners. The CLC continues to collaborate with the CSIRO, the Australia Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, governments, and other parties with land and environmental interests in unconventional oil and gas to provide comprehensive, balanced and appropriate information to traditional owners.

AGREEMENT-MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Where the CLC enters into agreements with mining companies it assumes a range of obligations and responsibilities. The agreements generally provide for payments to traditional owners; procedures for the protection of sacred sites; approvals for work programs and access permits; environmental protection and rehabilitation; employment, training and contracting; and liaison, reporting and inspection.

Table 12 summarises the new and current exploration and mining agreements for the CLC, including the total area of land involved under agreements for exploration. As at 30 June 2017 the CLC has 65 current exploration agreements in respect of 182 exploration titles. The total area of land under agreement at 30 June 2017 is 70,000 square kilometres.

The CLC has 11 mining agreements relating to 16 mineral leases or production licences for operations at Tanami, The Granites, Utju (Areyonga) and Tennant Creek, as well as oil and gas fields at Mereenie, Palm Valley and Surprise. These totals do not include native title agreements.

It finalised a new exploration agreement, relating to three individual exploration licences, with Asian Minerals Pty Ltd for remote land northwest of Tennant Creek, and signed an agreement covering one exploration licence with Ferdies Find Pty Ltd for land in the Tanami. The total land area under new agreements is 4,695 square kilometres.

Tanami mining agreements

Newmont's Tanami operations mine gold ore from the Callie deposit, which is hauled to and milled at The Granites, 45 kilometres to the east and adjacent to the Tanami Road. This is one of Australia's most productive and remote gold mines. It has produced around 8 million ounces of gold to date and as of December 2015 had total reserves and resources of 5.6 million ounces.

Table 12. New and current exploration and mining agreements

Agreements	New in 2016–17	Total current at 30 June 2017
Exploration agreements (number of exploration licences and permits is shown in brackets)	2 (4)	65 (182)
Area of Aboriginal land under ELAs and EPAs	4,695 km ²	71,314 km ²
Mining agreements (number of mineral and production leases is shown in brackets)	0	11 (16)

Ongoing monitoring of the mining agreements occurred during the year. The Granites and Kurra liaison committee met in October 2016 and June 2017, and toured the mine. In June the traditional owners and representatives of four Tanami communities endorsed a ten-year plan which covers the estimated mine life to 2026. The purpose of the plan is for Yapa (Warlpiri people), Newmont and the CLC to collaborate better in order to improve Yapa employment and education outcomes and to strengthen their voice in the region.

Tanami Gold acquired Newmont's tenements around the Tanami mine in 2010 but was unable to return the mine to production. Across the entire Groundrush and Tanami mines area there is currently a total resource of 2.6 million ounces of gold, including the Groundrush deposit and other previously mined areas. A meeting of traditional owners in August 2016 discussed the project with Tanami Gold's new partner, Northern Star, which is trying to revive the project.

On 6 July 2015, traditional owners visited the Malbunka mine near Areyonga, where Dehne McLaughlin and his wife have a small operation mining for azurite 'suns', disks of a soft deep blue copper mineral on a matrix of white clay, which they sell to collectors.

A liaison committee meeting was held in August 2016 and a site visit made to Edna Beryl mine north



Tanami mine, October 2016.

of Tennant Creek in March 2017 to discuss the re-opening of a small-scale underground operation planned for July 2017.

Oil and gas production agreements

Central Petroleum acquired a 50 per cent stake in the Mereenie oil and gas field from Santos and became the operators. Santos is in the process of transferring its remaining interest to Macquarie Mereenie Pty Ltd. The field is mature but still producing after more than 30 years. Plans for further exploration and production await the completion of the Northern Gas Pipeline which will provide a connection from the existing



Traditional owners pay a liaison visit to The Granites mine, October 2016.

Mereenie to Darwin Pipeline to Mount Isa, and to eastern Australian markets.

A liaison committee meeting was held at the Mereenie field in October 2016 at which Central Petroleum reported on the previous year's activities and future plans.

Central Petroleum owns the Palm Valley gas field which produces a small amount of gas at present and also awaits completion of the Northern Gas Pipeline, which will provide opportunity to tap into new markets.

A further Central Petroleum asset, the Surprise oil field, remains closed since August 2015 due to the low price of oil.



Jimmy Tchooga, Peter Jigili, Jasper Burns, Tommy Watson, Leslie Robertson and Henry Burns with CLC mining officer Gary Scott at a sacred site clearance for exploration work on Tanami Downs Station.

Exploration agreements: minerals

Exploration under agreements throughout the CLC region slowed this year as some companies found investment difficult to secure. Exploration continued in the Tanami and Tennant Creek regions, mainly near existing mines, and a number of liaison committee meetings were held.

Traditional owners were updated at liaison committee meetings in August 2016 and March 2017 about exploration on the old Tennant Creek gold field on titles held by Emmerson Resources in a joint venture with Evolution Mining.

Westgold (formerly MetalsX) updated landowners at a meeting in October 2016 about the future of the Rover 1 ore body where development has stalled because the company is focussing on more advanced projects elsewhere.

A liaison meeting was held in May 2017 in conjunction with a s.42 meeting to discuss drilling results for the Hatches Creek tungsten project of GWR Resources. The company plans further drilling at the historic mining centre.

A liaison meeting and s.42 meeting in June 2017 discussed drilling and soil sampling results from Independence Group's Lake Mackay exploration project.

ABM Resources re-grouped as an exploration company following the closure of the Twin Bonanza mine in April 2016. It continues as a significant explorer across the Tanami.

Other meetings of traditional owners with companies with agreements over pastoral leases adjoining



A liaison visit to the Groundrush mine, October 2016.



Traditional owners, CLC and Santos staff inspected a seismic survey near Imanpa in January 2017.

Aboriginal land included Tellus' Chandler project near Titjikala, KGL's Jervois base metal project, TNG's Mount Peake vanadium project west of Wilora, Aveniras' Wonarah phosphate project in the Barkly region, Arafura Resources' Nolans rare earth project near Aileron and Australian Abrasive Mineral's garnet mine near Atitjere.

Exploration agreements: petroleum

Except for a seismic survey on one exploration permit off Aboriginal land, all exploration activity was on hold amid poor market conditions, the NT fracking moratorium and uncertainty over future regulation of the shale gas industry, and while the industry awaits access to east coast gas markets.

Unconventional oil and gas exploration targets deep shales and 'tight' rocks trapping gas. Fracking cracks the rock and allows gas to flow to the surface. Central Australia is prospective for deep shales, and fracking has been used at Mereenie and Palm Valley to enhance recovery in conventional vertical wells. The first horizontal wells fracked in Central Australia were drilled in 2014 and 2015 in the Georgina Basin. The recent rush in the unconventional oil and gas industry worldwide has resulted in close scrutiny of the industry as fracking has reportedly resulted in significant environmental and health impacts, particularly with respect to groundwater use



Traditional owners discuss Tellus' Chandler project in June 2017.

and pollution and fugitive gas emissions linked to climate change.

The controversy around fracking in Australia coincides with the sudden expansion of the coal seam gas industry in eastern Australia. There have been calls for a more cautious approach and a moratorium on the industry nationally.

The CLC made a submission to the current independent scientific inquiry into hydraulic fracturing in the NT. The chair of the inquiry, Justice Rachel Pepper, informed CLC delegates about the inquiry at a meeting in Tennant Creek in May 2017. A large fracking forum at the joint CLC-NLC meeting at



Jimmy Wave Hill and Barbara Shaw speak out at the CLC–NLC fracking forum at Kalkaringi in August 2016.

Kalkaringi in August 2016 featured presentations by participants from the environmental sector, governments and a scientist, the second such forum for the CLC delegates.

GOVERNMENT LIAISON

The CLC continues to hold discussion with the Petroleum Division of the NT Department of Mines and Energy regarding the rapid growth in the number of EPAs in its region, both on and off Aboriginal land. Both parties acknowledge the size of the applications and the complexity and logistical challenges these titles present for processing. The CLC has provided input with respect to the department's review of the petroleum regulations and a more strategic approach for dealing with the numerous applications in the CLC region. Consultations with traditional owners regarding shale gas applications are on hold until there is clarity about the future of the industry in the NT. Discussions are held when needed regarding the processing of mineral exploration titles and the current impediments to exploration. The NT Mining Minister has been delegated many of the federal minister's functions under the Land Rights Act. His staff regularly attend the first meetings of traditional owners about exploration titles.

During the reporting period, the CLC has reviewed and commented to the NT Environmental

Protection Agency on Tellus' Chandler project's environmental impact statement, commented on the supplement released for TNG's Mount Peake Project environmental impact statement, and reviewed the DPIR's environmental regulatory reform discussion paper.

The CLC has commenced discussions with the NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics regarding formalising access arrangements for gravel to support the NT Government's road building program. It has developed a better internal process for responding to, monitoring and managing gravel extraction on Aboriginal land.

OUTPUT 3.4 COMMERCIAL ASSISTANCE

Provide research and assistance and identify infrastructure requirements as appropriate to enable Aboriginal landowners and other Aboriginal people to undertake commercial activities.

Section 23(1)(ea) of the Land Rights Act assigns a function to the CLC to ‘assist Aboriginals in the area of the Land Council to carry out commercial activities (including resource development, the provision of tourist facilities and agricultural activities)’.

The CLC provided development and operational assistance in two streams of commercial activity: tourism development and the pastoral industry.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The CLC’s tourism development resources continued to be inadequate for responding effectively to its constituents’ needs. The sole ABA-funded Aboriginal tourism development officer provided planning and support to emerging Aboriginal tourism enterprises.

On the Atnetye ALT, the CLC assisted Batton Hill Bush Camp and Tours to identify suitable infrastructure for campground improvements and product development, and with the acquittal of an associated tourism infrastructure development fund grant. It also helped with preparations for the re-opening of the

campground for the 2016–17 tourism season and with the processing of permit applications to transit the Hay River Track. It supported the Ryder family’s horse riding tours proposal with business planning and Horse Safety Australia accreditation.

On the Petermann ALT, the CLC provided support to Ngankur Tours to plan and develop a tag-along tour to Lassetter’s gravesite through facilitating a trial tour and planning assistance. Also on the Petermann ALT, the CLC researched and prepared an environmental assessment and management plan to mitigate the impact of an all-terrain vehicle adventure tour proposal.

It supported traditional owner proponents engaged in negotiations with the PWCNT and Parks Australia. Ngyari Tours want to deliver plant walks at the Cultural Centre at Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park, and Yalka Ratarra Aboriginal Corporation wants to do the same at Palm Valley.

The CLC represented the tourism interests and perspectives of its constituents at interagency



The Bookie family made improvements to their popular Batton Hill tourist camp with help from the CLC.

Uluru family tour



Sammy Wilson's tourism business near Uluru has had a successful year.

The Uluru family has been taking visitors to their outstation, Patji, and the eponymous waterhole since the 1980s to show them another side of the iconic rock.

The family was ready to take their business to a new level but discovered that suitable business partners were thin on the ground. Their long search ended in 2016, when they joined forces with SEIT Outback Australia. The partnership won the Centrecorp Indigenous Tourism Award at that year's Tourism Central Australia Awards.

'It's good to be able to go back to our homeland and take visitors too,' Mr Wilson said. 'It makes the country happy to have people there and you come back happy.'

Mr Wilson, the chair of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park's joint management board, treats guests to a personal perspective on Anangu culture over afternoon tea at Patji, while watching the sunset from a red tali (sand dune). Guests learn about his grandfather Paddy Uluru, his life near the rock and his fight for land rights in the 1970s.

The CLC helped Mr Wilson plan his business and negotiate the consent of the traditional owners of the Petermann ALT. With their blessings, he takes tourists on the old road,

Sammy Wilson shows tourists a thorny devil near Patji outstation. (Photo: SEIT)



Sammy Wilson and Kathy Tozer (in centre) with SEIT representatives at the 2016 Tourism Central Australia Awards. (Photo: TCA)

beyond the original gates of the national park. Along the way they see wildflowers and smell and taste kalinpa-kalinpa (honey grevilleas).

During the tourist season the tours run on three afternoons a week. The business has a friendly message that never changes: 'Pukulpa ngalya yanama, nganampa ngurakutu – welcome to our country'.



Alyawarr and Anmatyerr bush harvesters gathered at Arlparra in June 2017 for a week-long workshop to discuss various issues affecting their industry. (Photo: Else Kennedy-iTalk)

meetings and regional tourism and economic development fora such as the stakeholder meetings associated with Ntaria's visitor experience masterplan.

BUSHFOODS INDUSTRY

The CLC, in collaboration with the NT Department of Primary Industry and Resources, delivered an industry forum and workshop to support bush foods harvesters from the Sandover region. Thirty-five participants from nine communities met over five days to discuss industry developments and ongoing trade in native seeds and bush foods. Based at Arlparra, the workshop incorporated a field trip with students from the regional senior school to enable intergenerational knowledge transfer and support for succession. Recommendations identified at the meeting form the basis of a report that will shape ongoing support and industry development. In response to harvesters' concerns, fire management activities that will increase bush foods production have been scheduled with support from the CLC.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

The CLC provided representation, support and advice to traditional owners involved in both large commercial enterprises and small community-based projects. It continued to participate in the IPP by attending working group and steering committee meetings. The program, which has improved long-term links between agencies supporting Aboriginal pastoralism in the NT, is being reviewed.

With the support of an ILC subsidiary, the CLC completed a pastoral development strategy that will guide delivery of services to Aboriginal pastoralists for the next five years. The CLC executive and council were consulted and the executive endorsed the strategy in June.



The bush foods workshop at Arlparra included a field trip where harvesters taught participants about anatyé (bush potato). (Photo: Fiona Walsh)

The CLC continued to assist traditional owners involved in pastoral enterprises with governance and planning by providing secretariat and legal support for company boards, property management planning and advice, and support for the implementation of the IPP's business management advisory project. This year, a management support agreement between the CLC and Huckitta Enterprises Pty Ltd board was signed. This agreement formalises the relationship between the parties and clearly defines roles and responsibilities. The CLC facilitated board meetings and helped recruit a new station manager/pastoral co-ordinator. It also provided practical assistance for three months while there was no manager in place.

After a long interval of unsatisfactory financial returns and attempts to improve production, the directors of Peake Pty Ltd (Mangkururpa ALT) entered into voluntary liquidation and destocked the station. This was a very difficult decision for the directors; however, after an analysis of the business they realised that the company could not continue. The CLC engaged external liquidators and oversaw the mustering and destocking.

OUTPUT GROUP 4

ADVOCACY SERVICES

OUTPUT

4.1 PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION

4.2 ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION

4.3 CULTURAL & HERITAGE SUPPORT

4.4 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT



OUTCOMES

Enhanced social, political and economic participation and equity for Aboriginal people in the Central Land Council's area as a result of the promotion, protection and advancement of their land rights, other rights and interests.

OUTPUT 4.1

PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION

The Central Land Council informs its constituents and the wider public of issues of importance to Central Australian Aboriginal people and promotes their achievements and aspirations. Many sections of the CLC contribute to the production of a wide range of information and education materials and presentations. Its communications unit is often the first port of call for members of the media and the public wishing to know more about contemporary Aboriginal culture and society in Central Australia.

VINCENT LINGIARI ART AWARD

The CLC marked the twin milestones of 40 years since the passing of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and 50 years since the Wave Hill Walk Off with the inaugural Vincent Lingiari Art Award. The eldest daughter of the CLC's first chair, art curator Hetti Perkins, selected the winning work: Marlene Rubuntja's soft sculpture *My future is in my hands*. Ms Rubuntja, an artist from the Larapinta town camp, learned of her win at the packed opening of the *Our Land Our Lives Our Future* exhibition at Tangentyere Artists in Alice Springs in September 2016.

The award, a partnership with peak Aboriginal art organisation Desart, attracted 45 entries in a range of media from artists in the CLC region and beyond. The exhibition featured a selection of works shortlisted by Brenda Croft from the National Gallery and Stephen Gilchrist from the Sydney Museum of Modern Art. The exhibition was a professional development opportunity for Aboriginal staff from Desart member art centres, exposing them to many aspects of curatorial practice.

The CLC acquired four paintings for its collection, including *Our Future* by the winner of the CLC



The cover of a joint CLC–NLC statement presented at the historic meeting of both councils at Kalkaringi in August 2016 features Vincent Namatjira's painting, *Vincent Lingiari and Gough Whitlam*. Mr Lingiari's great great great grandson Zaccheus Rogers-Maylay reads along with his grandmother and CLC delegate Desley Rogers and mother Juanita Rogers.



At the Kalkaringi council meeting, CLC members voted for the Delegates' Choice Art Award.

Delegates' Choice Award, David Frank. Members chose his painting at the joint land councils meeting in Kalkaringi in August. Funding from Newmont allowed Desert and the CLC to produce a commemorative exhibition catalogue. The Peter Kittle Motor Company donated the prize money for the award.

CLC PUBLICATIONS

During a period dominated by Federal and Territory elections, the NT's remote housing and youth justice crises, constitutional reform, and the Commonwealth's controversial work for the dole scheme, the CLC continued to respond to a high volume of media inquiries. The communications unit supported advocacy activities such as the successful campaign by Watarrka traditional owners to keep poker machines out of their national park. It generated media coverage of the achievements of CLC constituents, members, and staff and ensured that custodians were able to air their views about a sacred site desecration at Karlu Karlu (Devils Marbles).

Brochures and posters produced included bilingual resources; for example, to support informed decision making about the CLC's community leasing model in Mutitjulu, to inform constituents about the Kurra-Granites Ten-Year Plan and to guide fire management planning.

It updated the tourist brochure sold with the Mereenie Loop entry permit and advanced a draft of the next instalment of its chronology, *The Land Is Always Alive*. The new publication will cover milestones of the years 1994–2016.



Marlene Rubuntja from the Larapinta town camp won the Vincent Lingiari Art Award for her soft sculpture *My future is in my hands*.



David Frank's painting *Our Future* won the Delegates' Choice Award.



Senior policy officer Josie Douglas (right) argues her point on the ABC's Q&A program filmed at Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, in June 2017. (Photo: ABC)



Digital archive officer Will Foster (right) shows the Tjuwanpa rangers how to tag photos and search records.



Teacher Valerie Patterson told the ABC's Q&A panel that Lajamanu needs more support for Warlpiri language and culture programs. (Photo: ABC)



Digital archive officer Will Foster assists CAAMA at the ranger camp.

The CLC published and distributed three editions each of *Land Rights News*, including a special land rights anniversary issue, and of *Council News*. The latter updates constituents about the outcomes of the CLC’s council meetings.

Galaxy Research completed a report about its market research into the format, distribution, legibility, comprehension, and content relevance of *Land Rights News*, *Council News*, *Community Development News*, the CLC website and Facebook page.

The research drew on focus group discussions in six locations with seven representative constituent groups and found that most print publications were performing well. *Community Development News* stood out as ‘ticking all the boxes’ while there is room for improvement in the distribution of *Council News*. Galaxy and the communications team presented the report to the executive and members. Some recommendations have already been implemented.

CLC ONLINE

The report also raised questions about the effectiveness of the CLC’s online presence in remote communities. Constituents’ poor internet and mobile phone access are the major factors, as is the age of the website that the CLC launched six years ago.

The number of visits to the site has dropped slightly, with just over one quarter of all visitors accessing the site with mobile phones or tablets. The high bounce rate (single-page visits in which the visitor left the site without interacting with the page) for these devices confirms that the site is now overdue for a redesign making it mobile friendly, more intuitive and easier to navigate.



Fiona Kitson reads *Community Development News* – the CLC publication that ticks all the boxes according to independent research.

Podcasts based on 37 of the more than 200 original interviews recorded for the CLC’s oral history book *Every Hill Got A Story* were published on the CLC website.

Constituents will also soon be able to access the original interviews and numerous previously unpublished images through the CLC’s digital archive (<http://clc.keepingculture.com/archive/index.php>). This is because, since March and for the first time since funding for the digital archive officer position ran out in October 2014, a dedicated staff member is again in charge of the archive and has begun to upload new records.

The CLC has maintained and often exceeded the level of Facebook activity achieved in the previous reporting period. Its rangers provided input into a strategy for strengthening the CLC’s social media presence in remote communities and have taken part in writing and media interview training.

Table 13. Communications activities, 2014–17

Activity	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17
Media releases	23	23	20
CLC website visits	121,312	135,840	132,838
CLC newsletters	24	24	42
<i>Land Rights News Central Australia</i>	2	3	3
Special purpose videos	0	2	34*
Information booklets and brochures, interactive features	5	15	21
Posters	5	16	14

* Most of these videos were produced for the Southern Tanami IPA digital storybook (see page 40)



Vincent Lingiari Art Award judge Hetti Perkins.

OUTPUT 4.2 ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION

Provide advocacy and representation as appropriate to the traditional owners and other clients of the CLC.



Delegates from across Central Australia met at Ross River to discuss constitutional reform in April 2017.

The CLC has a statutory responsibility to ascertain, express and represent the wishes and the opinion of Aboriginal people living in the CLC area, and to protect the interests of Aboriginal people living in the area. To fulfil this responsibility, the CLC identifies significant legislative and policy matters, consults with traditional owners and Aboriginal people to ascertain their views, and establishes positions on significant policy issues through the council and executive.

The CLC also works on a number of research projects to assist in formulating policy positions and responses. This allows the CLC to represent with a high degree of authority the Aboriginal views and aspirations on issues and engage with all levels of government and other stakeholders to ensure that Aboriginal interests are taken into account.

The CLC’s policy priorities were reviewed and confirmed in April 2015 and are summarised in the illustration below.

PERFORMANCE

The CLC made submissions to the Australian or NT governments on numerous policy matters, including:



Watarrka mining ban: Julie Clyne and David Morris face the media at Parliament House, Canberra, in 2016.

- initial and final submissions to the Royal Commission into Child Protection and Youth Detention
- submission to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee Inquiry into the appropriateness and effectiveness of the objectives, design, implementation, and evaluation of the community development program (CDP)
- joint Northern and Central land councils’ submission to the Northern Territory Department of Environment and Natural Resources Strategic Indigenous Reserve Stakeholder Discussion Paper
- joint Northern and Central land councils’

- submission to the Northern Territory Department of Environment and Natural Resources Environmental Regulatory Reform Discussion Paper
- CLC submission to Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the NT.

The CLC also assisted the Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APO NT) submissions to:

- Parliamentary Joint Committee Inquiry into the operation of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cwlth) and the Australian Human Rights Commission
- Review of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH)
- Productivity Commission Inquiry into the increased application of competition, contestability and informed user choice to human services
- National Mental Health Commission consultation on Housing, Homelessness and Mental Health
- Royal Commission into Child Protection and Youth Detention, and
- comments to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Land Rights Act

In response to the Council of Australian Governments' investigation into indigenous land tenure and administration, the four land councils and the Australian and NT governments now meet twice a year to discuss policy matters relating to the Land Rights Act and operations of the land councils. The CLC attended the bi-annual strategic forum meeting on Groote Eylandt in October 2016, and hosted the next meeting in Alice Springs in May 2017.

Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the Northern Territory

The Northern Territory election held in August 2016 resulted in a landslide victory for the Labor Party.



Council member Valerie Martin discusses alternatives to jail with Commissioner Mick Gooda at the Kalkaringi council meeting.



Watarrka pokies win: Anslem Impu Junior was one of the traditional owners of the park who opposed gambling machines at the Kings Canyon Resort. (Photo: *The Australian*)



Warlpiri ranger Preston Kelly puts up warning signs near the Yuendumu air strip. CLC delegates want governments to urgently fund the removal of legacy asbestos.

The new NT Government has an ambitious policy agenda including commitments to devolve powers to local decision-making bodies; commence discussions regarding a treaty; overhaul community housing arrangements; reform environmental protection laws, alcohol policy, Indigenous justice and child protection arrangements; and a moratorium and review of fracking. The CLC and the APO NT have participated in numerous forums and consultation processes on key policy issues.

The APO NT was formed in October 2010 and comprises the CLC, the NLC, the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the Northern Territory, the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service and the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency.

The new NT Government is working closely with the APO NT and has committed five years of funding to support APO NT operations. This year's work has focused on the Royal Commission, advocating for an alternative remote employment program, supporting the work of Aboriginal Housing NT, supporting the Aboriginal Governance and Management program, and liaison with the NT Government.

Royal Commission into Child Protection and Youth Detention

The Royal Commission into Child Protection and Youth Detention was announced in July 2016 in response to the revelations of shocking and inhumane

treatment of detainees at Don Dale juvenile detention facility. The two appointed commissioners attended the August and November 2016 council meetings, which allowed members to provide input into the work of the Royal Commission. In addition, the CLC provided two submissions and attended a policy roundtable. The Royal Commission released an interim report in March 2017, with the final report expected in September 2017.

Reform of Environmental Protection Laws

The NT Department of Environment and Natural Resources released the Environmental Regulatory Reform Discussion Paper in May 2017. The CLC and NLC jointly prepared a submission in response to the discussion paper, as well as commissioning Westwood Spice to provide expert advice on reform of environmental assessment and approval laws. These were provided to the NT Government in late June 2017.

Muṯitjulu Taskforce

Traditional owners consented to the proposed Muṯitjulu sublease at a meeting held in November 2016, concluding six years of work and consultations. This was a huge step forward for Muṯitjulu. It is the first example in the NT of a township lease, which will, in time, be held by a community corporation comprising traditional owners and residents of Muṯitjulu. Initially the sublease is held by the

Executive Director of Township Leasing to allow capacity development and the formation of a new corporation at Mutitjulu. Once the corporation is ready, the sublease will be transferred. While the work of the Mutitjulu Taskforce is now formally concluded, there is still much work to be done. The CLC attended consultative forum meetings on 17 March and 15 June 2017, and is working to ensure that the Mutitjulu sublease implementation is smooth and successful.

School attendance and royalties

The CLC is keen to ensure that the income from land use agreements is used wisely and for maximum benefit. In its region, income from land use agreements is either used for community-driven development, invested according to corporation rules, or distributed directly to individuals and family groups. The CLC policy unit has conducted research to explore any possible relationship between the income distribution processes of three Aboriginal corporations it administers and the attendance figures at nine schools over a five-year period (2011–2015). The evidence indicates that:

- Three schools show a statistically significant or borderline reduction in attendance during royalty meeting weeks.
- No school shows a statistically significant reduction in attendance during royalty payment weeks.
- Four schools show a statistically significant or borderline reduction in attendance during the first week after payment.
- No school shows a statistically significant reduction in attendance during the second week after payment.

The research shows that not all royalty distribution meetings have a negative effect on school attendance. Many corporations have distribution processes that do not create harm and work well for the traditional owners involved. However, the impact of royalty distribution processes on an already low attendance rate can hinder efforts to increase attendance in some locations. The purpose of the research is to present objective information on CLC distribution processes: to reduce misperceptions of the impacts, to better understand the concerns of school staff, and, where necessary, to present recommendations for improvement. The CLC will be using this evidence to assess the implementation and influence of any recommendations for reform. It provided a detailed presentation of the findings to its elected members at the bi-annual strategic forum, and to a meeting with officials from the PM&C in May 2017.



Reggie Uluru signed the Mutitjulu sublease at a ceremony in March 2017.



CLC policy officer Peta Braedon with grandmother Bessie Liddle at the Mutitjulu signing ceremony, March 2017.

CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION AND TREATY

In August 2016, at a joint meeting to mark the 40th anniversary of the Land Rights Act, members of the CLC and the NLC expressed support for constitutional reform that delivered meaningful and enduring benefit for indigenous peoples. Members passed a resolution agreeing to examine models for constitutional recognition that could deliver such benefits and recommended that indigenous constitutional fora be held in bush locations across the NT. Following this resolution, the CLC agreed to assist the work of the Referendum Council by supporting and hosting the consultation process in Central Australia. In April 2017, more than 100 Central Australian delegates met at Ross River as part of a series of regional dialogues held across Australia. The CLC ensured that the Aboriginal Interpreter Service was key to the dialogue and that complex legal concepts were presented and discussed in people's first language. The three Aboriginal languages used at the meeting were Arrernte, Warlpiri and Pitjantjatjara.



Elders Johnny Tjing, Malya Teamay, Clem Toby and Reggie Uluru sang at the opening ceremony of the Uluru Convention.



Central Australian delegates elected Barbara Shaw and Vincent Forrester to further develop the Uluru Statement.



CLC delegate Philip Wilyuka and Referendum Council's co-chair Pat Anderson front the media during the Uluru Convention.



The CLC's Francine McCarthy and Peta Braedon and the NT Government's Mischa Cartwright sign the Uluru Statement.



Jayne Weepers and Josie Douglas from the CLC policy team at the joint CLC-NLC meeting at Kalkaringi in August 2016.

Delegates at Ross River supported a constitutional guarantee to protect treaties enabled by legislation. They argued that supporting treaties would put Aboriginal law, land, language and culture at centre stage. The delegates were worried about the ‘races power’ and strongly supported a new non-discrimination clause in the constitution to prevent discriminatory laws being enacted. They also supported an Aboriginal voice in parliament.

At Ross River, 10 delegates were selected to attend the national constitutional convention at Uluru in May 2017. More than 250 indigenous delegates met there to talk about changes to Australia’s constitution. The delegation from Central Australia supported the ensuing Uluru Statement. However, there are concerns that important Territory issues have been forgotten, particularly the constitution’s ‘territories power’ which allows the Australian Government to make laws that apply to territories, such as the Northern Territory.

The NT Government has signalled an intention to commence treaty discussions in the Territory. The CLC and the NLC have been working together to prepare for these discussions. Work has included commissioning of an internal discussion paper and seeking legal advice.

Aboriginals Benefit Account

Since 2014 the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator Nigel Scullion, has been proposing changes to the ABA Advisory Committee, namely the reduction in land council nominees to the committee and the appointment of two independent members. Despite opposition from the land councils, the minister advised that he would proceed regardless, with changes to take effect from November 2016. However, delegates raised the matter with the minister at the August 2016 joint land council meeting at Kalkaringi, and at that time the minister

stated that he would not proceed with reducing the number of land council nominees to the committee. The CLC welcomed this announcement, and sought a commitment to further consultation regarding the appointment process for the two independent members. The CLC and NLC also committed to considering options for reform of the ABA to deliver greater transparency and Aboriginal control. This work has just commenced.

Review of the NT Sacred Sites Act 1983

In September 2015, the NT Government announced a review of the Sacred Sites Act, to be undertaken by PwC Australia Indigenous Consulting. The CLC provided a comprehensive submission to the review. The review report was released on 13 July 2017 just prior to the NT election. The current NT Government has not responded to the review report.

Small communities and homelands

The CLC continues to advocate for a sustainable future for small communities, outstations and homelands. Financial responsibility for homelands now sits with the NT Government after the Australian Government provided a final \$155 million payment to the NT Government in 2015–16. It remains unclear where the previous NT Government spent this sum. The current NT Government has maintained a commitment to funding homelands but has not increased funding allocations. The land councils remain concerned about the future viability of these small living areas and continue to urge ongoing federal involvement. The ABA Advisory Committee has also made progress with guidelines for the ABA homelands allocation of \$40 million, and the CLC anticipates this funding program will be rolled out next financial year.

Community development program

The CLC provided a submission to the 2016 senate inquiry into the Social Security Legislation Amendment (Community Development Program) Bill, and appeared at the hearings. It did not support passage of the bill, which lapsed when parliament was dissolved prior to the general election on 2 July 2016. During this reporting period, the CLC and the APO NT worked on an alternative remote employment model. It was developed over a six-month period based on extensive consultations with our constituents, Aboriginal and peak organisations, and community development program (CDP) providers. It reflects strong concerns about the current CDP and the CLC’s commitment to ensuring Aboriginal-led policy solutions. It also reflects the CLC’s view that remote community residents, like other Australians, should have access to the social security safety net, and that a

Raelene Silverton addresses the regional dialogue on constitutional reform at Ross River in April 2017.



remote employment program must be implemented to suit the local context and drive economic participation. The proposed model aims to stimulate labour demand, encourage and reward job seekers, and ensure more remote residents are engaged in work rather than welfare. Importantly, it aims to increase local control, respond flexibly to suit local conditions, and encourage participation through local engagement in setting priorities and measuring outcomes.

Specific policy work on the CDP has included:

- attending the Jobs Australia CDP provider forum in Alice Springs in August 2016
- convening the APO NT forum of CDP providers and Aboriginal organisations to consider the impacts of CDP in December 2016
- co-ordinating a letter to Minister Scullion outlining concerns with CDP and seeking a collaborative redesign process, endorsed by more than 25 organisations
- convening further APO NT forums in Alice Springs and Canberra to workshop the proposed alternative model, in May 2017
- inviting Minister Scullion to address the CLC's council meeting in May 2017
- writing to Minister Scullion regarding the CDP review process announced in the budget and discussed at the council meeting
- finalising the APO NT alternative model, endorsed by 32 organisations in June 2017
- sending submission to the Senate inquiry into the appropriateness and effectiveness of CDP in June 2017.

The CLC is heartened that there appears to be an appetite and bi-partisan support for change, and is working to ensure that the alternative model is considered in current CDP review processes.

Aboriginal community governance

The CLC continues to support the APO NT Governance and Management Program through participation in the program steering committee. This innovative program aims to strengthen and support Aboriginal organisations in the NT through workshops and governance support at specific sites and with advice, resources, referrals and research.

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs made a further significant three-year contribution to funding this program, while the NT Government has also provided some additional resources to support this work.

The CLC's community governance (Kurdiji) project at Lajamanu received a small amount of funding in May 2016 to continue project work. The project co-ordinator was available to recommence work

in October 2016. Kurdiji meetings are now being held regularly and priority issues are progressing. Highlights include Kurdiji members sitting at the front of the court with the magistrate for the first time, community dispute resolution in a number of serious disputes, participation in the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT, and continued engagement with the Department of Corrections regarding diversion options and the elders' visiting program. Preparations for incorporation have commenced. The CLC helped Kurdiji plan a project which is jointly funded by Lajamanu residents through the Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation and PM&C.

Housing

Advocacy work by the CLC, the APO NT and the Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT) committee paid off with the incoming NT government committing record funds to remote housing, and promising to radically overhaul the remote housing system. The NT Government's substantial commitment to remote housing of \$1.1 billion over 10 years includes funding for new houses, repairs and maintenance, government employee housing and the Room to Breathe program. This is the first commitment by an NT Government of money for remote housing. In the past, all community housing funds have been the result of national partnership agreements with the Australian Government. The current agreement is due to expire in June 2018 and it is critical that the Australian Government makes a new commitment to fund Aboriginal housing in the NT.

The CLC's work on housing includes supporting and attending AHNT meetings, participating in workshops led by Ernst & Young exploring new remote housing models, participating in NT Government engagement meetings to design the Room to Breathe program, and consultations and advocacy regarding new houses at Arlparra in the remote Utopia region northeast of Alice Springs.

Ranger program advocacy

The CLC is an active member of Country Needs People, a national campaign by organisations advocating for the expansion of the Australian Government's successful IPA and Working on Country programs. The Pew Charitable Trusts co-ordinate the campaign which has supported media events and other efforts to communicate the multiple benefits of indigenous land management to decision makers and the public.

OUTPUT 4.3

CULTURAL & HERITAGE SUPPORT

Provide cultural and heritage support as appropriate to the traditional owners and other clients of the land councils.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND CUSTOMARY PRACTICES

The CLC continued to assist traditional owners to visit country to fulfil their cultural obligations, maintain sacred sites, pass on cultural knowledge and undertake customary land management practices. It provides such opportunities in association with a wide range of other activities, for example, through the IPA or ranger programs. Traditional owners especially value extended trips to seldom-visited country as it rejuvenates their knowledge of more remote parts of the region.

Country visits across the IPAs are multipurpose, creating opportunities for the intergenerational transfer of knowledge and involving traditional owners in identifying appropriate measures to ensure the ongoing protection of the cultural and natural values of their country.

In the Southern Tanami IPA, the CLC made 15 multi-day country visits, involving 88 traditional owners. During each of these trips they undertook cultural activities such as singing, burning, spear and clap stick making, ochre harvesting, body painting, sacred site visits, and cultural teaching. The CLC also supported the Yuendumu and Nyirrpi schools with its school country-visit program, where rangers and senior traditional owners teach schoolchildren about country.

The CLC conducted eight country visits in the Kaṯiṯi Petermann IPA, facilitating knowledge transfer and practical land management outcomes. The trips involved fire management and protection of waterholes, soakages and sacred sites. These trips also included a Learning on Country program with Nyangatjatjara College, during which elders taught young men and women.

In the Northern Tanami IPA, the CLC conducted seven country visits and started to develop a country visit program to close gaps in existing cultural and ecological information regarding significant sites in the IPA.

The first three stages of the Kungka Kutjara songlines project by senior women from Muṯitjulu and traditional owners from the Kaṯiṯi Petermann



Students collect small water animals to monitor water quality at Ilpili and to learn first-hand about the damage caused by feral camels. (Photo: CSIRO)

IPA were completed. The Muṯitjulu Foundation funded the project, and Parks Australia, Maruku Arts, APY Land Management, Tangentyere Council and PWCNT provided significant practical and in-kind support. Approximately 60 women participated in the successful site visits, performing and recording ceremony and knowledge of country related to the songline.

Elsewhere in the CLC region, traditional owners visited the Lake MacDonald area of the Haasts Bluff ALT and Horseshoe Bend Station to record oral histories. They also visited a significant site on Andado Station to discuss site protection measures and several major sacred sites on the Angarapa ALT.

CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION

The CLC met regularly with traditional owners and past residents of Jay Creek and other stakeholders to record oral histories and prepare celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Jay Creek church. It used NT Government funding to restore the Jay Creek cemetery and develop information signs about past residents buried there. The work culminated in an open day and a service for families in May 2017.

CULTURAL SUPPORT AND SACRED SITES

Sacred sites are places of deep spiritual significance and are integral to Aboriginal culture. Their identification and protection ensure the continuity of religious and cultural practices and sustain identity. Confidence in the protection of sacred sites also allows traditional owners to make sound decisions about using land for development and other purposes.

The CLC receives many requests from government agencies, public sector corporations, mining and exploration companies, and others who wish to develop proposals on land in its region. Proposals undergo a work area approval process that ensures traditional owners are consulted and sacred sites are protected by a sacred site clearance certificate.

The CLC conducted research or issued advice on the maintenance of Aboriginal culture and heritage in 267 instances. It issued 182 sacred site clearance certificates. This reflects an increase in community infrastructure and road related requests.

Its genealogical information service is valued by Aboriginal people and often enables them to

reconnect with family members. The CLC responded to more than 40 requests for genealogical information. It also maintains a database of sacred sites recorded in the region and analysed how to improve it. It intended to continue improvements during the year, but this was delayed due to the introduction of the new electronic document management system.

The CLC continued to repatriate sacred objects, both from its own collection and from museums. It significantly progressed repatriation of collections held in German museums. It obtained funding through the ABA to continue the project, although the funding agreement is not yet finalised. German museums are very willing to continue negotiating a satisfactory outcome. The CLC also progressed work with the Strehlow Research Centre which agreed to store sacred objects held by the CLC until they are identified and can be repatriated.

The CLC continued to safely store and manage anthropological and cultural materials that are part of the cultural heritage of its constituents.

It partnered with the Australian Research Council in a grant application to repatriate cultural information.



Jay Creek residents, past and present, marked the 75th anniversary of the Jay Creek church and cemetery.



Table 14. Communities supported to conduct ceremonies

Region 1:	Ntaria, Titjikala, Santa Teresa, Alice Springs
Region 2:	Mutitjulu, Kaltukatjara, Aputula, Utju
Region 3:	Kalkaringi, Daguragu, Lajamanu, Pigeon Hole
Region 4:	Yuendumu, Nyirrpi, Willowra
Region 5:	Kintore, Ikuntji, Papunya
Region 6:	Tennant Creek, Canteen Creek
Region 7:	Soapy Bore, Atheley, Arlparra, Irrultja Atnwengerrpe, Ampilatwatja, Alpururulam
Region 8:	Mulga Bore, Mount Eaglebeak, Irrerlirre, No. 5 Block, Engawala, Atitjere
Region 9:	Laramba, Yuelamu

The project is conducting fieldwork after digitising much of the CLC’s collections of important material.

The CLC also supports a mapping project in Willowra. This is a community-led and funded initiative to record and map sacred sites along the Lander River. The sites will then be painted on a large canvas map to be housed in the Willowra learning centre. The project allows people to collaboratively transfer knowledge, particularly to younger generations. It is funded by traditional owners through the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT), and involves all major families and senior people in the community. The CLC facilitated two country visits that elicited additional information for the map. The project recorded cultural information from elders, some of whom are the last generation to have lived off the land. The nearly completed project has sparked interest in other communities in the region.

ABORIGINAL CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES AND FUNERALS

The ABA funds the CLC to support Aboriginal families with the high cost of funerals and summer ceremonies. The funds contribute to the costs, as do families. Traditional owner groups and communities also use leasing and compensation income streams to set up funeral funds.

The CLC allocated the ABA funds according to strict guidelines. It helped 162 families with funeral expenses and Table 14 shows the communities that the CLC supported with resources for ceremonies.

WOMEN’S LAW AND CULTURE MEETING

Willowra community hosted a Women’s Law and Culture meeting in September 2016. Almost 200 Aboriginal women, including 10 from outside the CLC region, took part in the event.

Over the past 24 years, the CLC has used ABA funds to assist Aboriginal women host and participate in these important events. They are unique opportunities to:

- exchange cultural knowledge and practices and to transfer them to younger women
- renew friendships and discuss individual, family and community, cultural and social issues
- celebrate their living culture without the stresses of family and community life, such as overcrowded houses, violence and poverty, and
- undertake ceremonies, particularly sorry ceremonies, which enable women to deal with all too frequent grief, and participate more fully in community and ceremonial life.

OUTPUT 4.4

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Facilitate targeted Aboriginal community development initiatives as appropriate with the traditional owners and other clients of the land council.

Aboriginal people in Central Australia are using their own assets to drive their social, cultural and economic development. With strong leadership from the organisation's council, groups and families are working together to identify, plan, implement and monitor projects that benefit people at a regional, community and homeland level. The CLC's facilitated community development processes have proven to be an effective engagement strategy. With meaningful local participation at its core, these processes are achieving sustainable social, cultural and economic outcomes and building individual and collective capacity, self-reliance, good governance, and stronger individuals and communities.

The CLC's community development program works with Aboriginal people who direct their own resources to projects that maintain their identity, language, culture and connection to country, and strengthen their capacity to participate in mainstream Australia through improved health, education and employment outcomes.

The four objectives of the program are to:

1. maximise opportunities for Aboriginal engagement, ownership and control, particularly in relation to the management of resources that belong to them

2. generate outcomes prioritised and valued by Aboriginal people and which benefit them, including social, cultural and economic outcomes
3. monitor and evaluate to support continuous improvement and build an evidence base for the CLC's community development approach
4. share lessons learned from effective community development in Central Australia with other agencies to promote support for community development approaches.

Since it started in 2005, the program has expanded significantly. It is now active in all 31 communities in the CLC region, as well as in numerous homelands and some communities in South Australia and Western Australia where traditional owners live. Funding has grown from two to six major regional income streams plus a growing number of smaller sources of funding, mainly linked to new mining activities.

Additional smaller projects also continue. Traditional owners of the Wangarri-Kari Aboriginal Corporation, Nolan Bore, Loves Creek, the Rover mine and Twin Bonanza projects all direct mining exploration compensation to community benefit rather than individual distribution. During the reporting period,

Table 15. Main income streams, 2016–17

Income stream	Purpose
Uluru rent money	Use rent paid to traditional owners of Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park for a range of sustainable regional initiatives.
Warlpiri Education and Training Trust	Use mining royalties of The Granites mine in the Southern Tanami for sustainable education, training and employment benefits.
Tanami Dialysis Support Service	Use interest earned on mining royalties of The Granites mine to support dialysis facilities and patient support services in remote communities in the Southern Tanami.
Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation	Use affected area monies from The Granites mine to support nine communities in the Southern Tanami to apply those towards broad community benefit activities.
NT parks rent money	Use rent paid to traditional owners of national parks, conservation and nature reserves for a range of sustainable initiatives.
Community lease money	Use rent paid for community leases to community members in 31 communities for a diverse range of community benefit projects.



The Mutitjulu working group members and Reggie Uluṛu (in wheelchair) with NLC representatives after inspecting the community's swimming pool.

CLC staff consulted with the Kurtinja group, near Tennant Creek, who agreed to allocate a significant portion of their share of the compensation money from the northern gas pipeline to community development projects. At Yuendumu, traditional owners invested some compensation money for gravel extraction in community development. These decisions reflect the ongoing demand from groups to allocate their own resources to development projects they drive.

PERFORMANCE

The CLC community development program created lasting community benefits. This is demonstrated by the number of community consultations undertaken, community benefit projects planned and funded, and the variety of sources of Aboriginal people's own money invested in social, cultural, and economic projects. The independent monitoring of the program for the period 2016–17 confirmed the positive value Aboriginal participants place on the tangible and intangible community development outcomes they achieve with the CLC's support.

The program held 257 consultations with Aboriginal governance groups (traditional owners and other residents as appropriate) which resulted in groups committing \$12.7 million to 196 new community benefit projects. The CLC signed 121 new agreements with a wide range of partner organisations to deliver the projects.

Each year it publishes two editions of *Community Development News* to promote the diverse range of community projects. It is a valued source of ideas for project planning and decision making and reflects positively on the capabilities of Aboriginal people.

Each year Aboriginal groups choose to forgo individual distributions to direct their income for lasting community benefit. The ongoing and growing demand from CLC constituents for the program indicates that it is achieving tangible and valued benefits for Aboriginal people.

PROCESS

The CLC supports Aboriginal groups to prioritise, plan and develop projects, and identify partner organisations that can implement them. Once the group takes a decision, the CLC director reviews the consultation process and signs off on completed project plans and funding allocations. The CLC negotiates funding agreements for the delivery of projects by partner organisations. It then plays an active role in contract and project management to ensure the projects meet or exceed the expectations of the groups.

ULURU RENT MONEY INCOME STREAM

Each year, the traditional owners of the Uluṛu – Kata Tjuta National Park allocate some of their rent income to community development projects in selected

communities in the NT and SA, and regionally. Considerable project effort is devoted to Muṯitjulu community, which receives a portion of rent every year because many traditional owners live there.

Since the CLC began working with Muṯitjulu in 2007, the community has invested its income in recreation projects. This has included the construction of the Muṯitjulu Tjurpinytjaku Centre (swimming pool) and the development of the sport and recreation facilities. The strong local ownership and engagement is reflected in the community's decision to fund the pool's running costs. The pool hosted 6,800 visits during its seven-month season. The 'Yes School Yes Pool' program continued its success with strong guidance from a Muṯitjulu working group and the CLC. Anangu employment at the pool is a key focus but remains a challenge.

The national park's broader traditional owner group continued to implement its strategic plan in response to the 2014 independent evaluation of the CLC's community development program, and encompassed smaller regional planning.

The broader traditional owner group determined a more appropriate and legitimate governance process in which the broader group sets the strategy and priorities, and makes funding decisions, while a representative regional working group plans the

projects. The working group planned and the broader traditional owner group approved five projects worth a total of \$1.24 million over three years. They include four regional projects that focus on language and cultural maintenance. The project partners are the NPY Women's Council, APY Council, Aṛa Irititja, and the CLC ranger program. These four projects will receive \$1.02 million over three years.

The projects commenced in April 2017 with a bush trip by men from Muṯitjulu (see page 93).

WARLPIRI EDUCATION AND TRAINING TRUST INCOME STREAM

Newmont Australia pays mining royalties for its gold mine in the Tanami to the Kurra Aboriginal Corporation (Kurra). Kurra invests some of this income in the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) of which it is the trustee. The CLC acts as Kurra's agent with responsibility for administering the WETT. The trust, set up in 2005, improves education and training outcomes for Yapa (Warlpiri people) in four Tanami communities. The CLC consults Yapa about their education and training priorities and then facilitates the development of projects, with the help of project partners. The WETT advisory committee – 12 experienced Yapa educators, a representative each from the CLC and Newmont, and an independent



Muṯitjulu working group members Rita Tjinggo (at back with grandson Jeremy) and Evonne Taylor (with her children Liam, Desmond and Justin) featured on the front page of *The Australian* in May 2017.

'Not salty at all': Ngatunitja revisited

In 1902, an Anangu man from Mount Currie led the explorer Richard Thelwell Maurice to Ngatunitja waterhole in the sandhill country around Pantu (Lake Amadeus). The explorer was crossing the continent from South Australia to the Kimberley. With him were an Aboriginal man from Yalata and an Anangu man from near Ernabella, and they met two other young Anangu men at the waterhole. Mr Maurice etched his initials into a tree by the waterhole.

Nobody had been to Ngatunitja since the 1930s but it was rediscovered by traditional owners Malya Teamay and Wangin during a helicopter search five years ago. The elders were surprised to find the tree marked with 'RTM' was still standing.

Nobody had ever driven there – until this April. Mr Teamay, a member of the Uluru rent money community development working group, was one of the organisers of the three-day visit to the waterhole by three generations of men. The trip was to look for water and teach Tjukurpa – the foundation of Anangu life – to the young men. It was funded with rent money from the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park.

At Ngatunitja the grandfathers showed their sons and grandsons how to burn country and supervised them as they cleaned the waterhole.

'The young fellas, they have just dug out and opened up the waterhole and now there is lots of water,' Mr Teamay



Frankie Moneymoon is holding up the first kapi (water) collected from Ngatunitja since the 1930s while Malya Teamay, Craig Woods, Henry Norman and Timo Connick savour the moment.

said. 'The young fellas are happy and satisfied. They did the work.'

Senior man Hezekiel Tjingoonya said the water quality was very good.

'We tried it. It was like rain. Not salty at all. They always drank the water here, long before our time.'

Johnny Tjingo, another elder, was excited when the group discovered a grinding stone.

'This stone is for grinding bushfoods to eat,' he said. 'It could be my elder sister's or mother-in-law's maybe.'

Nine Anangu were employed on the Ngatunitja trip. Their job was to navigate and clear the route, drive the vehicles and lead activities at the site, teaching young men along the way.

The trip was the first of a number of regional language and cultural support projects to which the Anangu owners of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park have allocated more than \$1million over three years.



Hezekiel Tjingoonya and Malya Teamay inspect the tree marked by explorer RT Maurice in 1902.



WETT advisory committee met with NT Minister for Education Eva Lawler in March 2017.

remote education expert – further develop the projects and recommends them for funding to the WETT committee of Kurra’s board of directors. Project partners implement approved projects.

The CLC staff continued to support the WETT’s committees, Yapa communities and partner organisations to implement and develop its five regional programs:

1. The **Willowra early childhood program** continued to run successfully in collaboration with project partner, the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE). Seven Yapa staff increasingly are responsible for running the centre on the days the co-ordinator is away. Five of the staff undertook training and two graduated with a Certificate I in Work Preparation.
2. The **language and culture in school program** continued across the schools in the four communities. There was an important development at Yuendumu’s bilingual resource development unit, which now produces e-learning resources in Warlpiri. With increased WETT funding, the school made a record number of bush trips and country visits. All four schools joined in an interstate excursion, with two schools stretching the money to undertake multiple excursions for the first time. Lajamanu students made a splash on the Gold Coast, Yuendumu and Nyirрпи students got up close with elephants at the Melbourne Zoo, while Willowra students donned snorkels on the Great Barrier Reef. All the trips included visits to boarding schools to give students a taste of school life away from the bush.
3. As part of its **school support program** the trust helped 14 secondary students to study away from home. Two Year 9 students from Nyirрпи attending Kardinia College in Geelong spent two months in Thailand on a cultural exchange.

4. The WETT and the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC) celebrated a decade of their **youth development and media** program partnership by entering a new three-year funding agreement. The program aims to improve training and education opportunities for young people and has Yapa employment targets.
5. The WETT continued its partnership with BIITE on the **learning centre program** in Willowra, Nyirрпи and Lajamanu. It successfully trialled training workshops, for example, a popular Safe Families workshop in Lajamanu. It also trialled a different learning centre model in Yuendumu where its partner, the WYDAC, brought in trainers from far and wide to work with a pool of Yapa staff to meet the community’s local needs and interests. As part of their work, the WYDAC introduced a sport and recreation certificate and collaborated with PAW Media to deliver IT training.

The WETT advisory committee met with the NT Minister for Education Eva Lawler in March 2017 to promote the importance of Warlpiri and language and culture in schools. The committee used the metaphor of an umbrella to explain how the WETT protects Yapa education initiatives from the constant change in government policy raining down on them. The minister invited the committee to meet with the chief executive of her department to strengthen bilingual and bicultural education in Warlpiri communities.

In 2016, the trust celebrated its 10th birthday, recognising a decade of strong leadership by the WETT advisory committee and Kurra in delivering education and training benefits to Yapa. Kurra directors approved funding for a comprehensive review of the trust and the CLC commissioned Ninti One Ltd to undertake the review.

The consultants examined the achievements and effectiveness of the WETT and its programs since its inception. With support from community researchers, they undertook extensive community consultation, interviewing or surveying 132 Yapa and 42 non-Aboriginal staff involved with WETT projects, and reported back to the WETT advisory committee. The review’s report made 32 recommendations to inform strategic planning and decision making.

It concluded that the trust has made significant achievements including:

- building Warlpiri voice and power through self-determination
- improving local employment
- maintaining Warlpiri language, culture, and strengthening Warlpiri identities

- increasing participation in school learning
- increasing youth leadership and wellbeing.

The WETT advisory committee and Kurra's WETT directors have begun planning to prioritise and implement the review's recommendations.



Javen Brown from Willowra took part in a WETT-funded anti-bullying workshop.



Shirley Turner, who attends Kardinia International College in Victoria with the assistance of the WETT's secondary school support program, visited Thailand as part of a school exchange.

Tanami Dialysis Support income

Part of the interest the Kurra Aboriginal Corporation earns on the investments of royalties supports dialysis services. The CLC oversees the implementation of the Tanami Dialysis Support Service income stream on behalf of the corporation. The CLC prepares and monitors funding agreements, and ensures regular reporting to Kurra. Managed by the Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (WDNWPT), the income stream provides much needed health services to kidney patients in Yuendumu, Lajamanu and surrounding communities. The WDNWPT supports Yapa patients in Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin.

In the first six months of the reporting period, the Lajamanu dialysis unit delivered 365 individual dialysis sessions to 28 renal patients, which allowed them to return home for long visits. It also funded continued social support for the patients in Darwin and Katherine.

The Yuendumu dialysis unit provided 506 dialysis sessions to 27 patients, which allowed them to return to Yuendumu for long visits. In addition, 26 renal patients and their families received social support in Alice Springs.

Kurra invested additional funding to support a governance project in Yuendumu to strengthen the unit's local reference group and mentor local staff to work in the unit.

Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation income

The GMAAAC continued to apply half of its affected area compensation for The Granites gold mine to community benefit in nine Tanami communities. The other half was invested for future use after the mine closes. In each community an elected committee prioritises, plans and decides which projects to implement. The CLC facilitates this process, helps with the selection of partners and prepares the partnership agreements. It worked with the nine GMAAAC communities to decide how to allocate funds to develop projects aligned with the objectives of the corporation: to improve housing, health, education, essential services, employment, and training, as well as promoting Aboriginal self-management.

The GMAAAC is now the largest income stream of the CLC community development program. In 2016, it increased to \$9.4 million. The CLC facilitated 18 GMAAAC committee meetings, 13 community meetings and nine community consultations. GMAAAC committees planned and approved funding for 81 projects.



Patrick Jimmy regularly drives Kalkaringi patients Carol Cook and Christine and Hilda Alec to the Lajamanu dialysis centre.

Communities funded projects supporting men's and women's sports, funerals, sorry business and ceremony. The Yuendumu and Nyirripi committees allocated funds to homeland support to be delivered by the local Aboriginal homeland service provider, the Yapa Kurlangu Ngurrara Aboriginal Corporation. Yuendumu continued to fund the operations of its swimming pool. Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Yuelamu and Billiluna funded projects that improved school attendance, including the operation of the Yuendumu Sports Academy, upgrades to an outdoor recreation area in Lajamanu, a school vehicle in Yuelamu, and a school vehicle and school excursion in Billiluna.

Health projects remained a priority for communities. The GMAAAC funded an additional dialysis nurse position and an ambulance for Lajamanu, an aged/disability care vehicle to help transport frail community members in Yuelamu and a mediation program for Willowra. The Willowra committee also contributed to the construction of a recreation hall.

The CLC supported the implementation of 59 projects that started between 2011 and 2015. Assistance included processing payments, working with recipients to ensure submission of reports and financial acquittals, and supporting the nine GMAAAC committees to review project outcomes and hold project partners to account.



Adam Hagan, Reagan Stafford, Zachariah Hagan, Jordan Patterson, Wendell Patterson, Zac Stafford and Jarrod Pepperill at Yuelamu's footy oval which was upgraded with compensation money from The Granites mine.



WETT members told the indigenous affairs editor of *The Australian* that the WETT shields Yapa education initiatives from ever changing government policies.

In 2016, the GMAAAC committees and the GMAAAC's board of directors came to the end of their three-year terms. In the first half of 2017, all nine communities organised elections. Across the nine communities 79 people were elected: 38 men and 41 women. In previous elections women made up 47% of members, compared to 52% in 2017. Committees range in size from 18 members in large communities to six members in smaller communities. The newly elected committees went on to elect 18 new directors for the GMAAAC board. All committees engaged in a detailed induction to the corporation and prioritised planning focus areas for their terms. Four committees have embarked on a detailed planning cycle for 2017, and the other five will follow in the second half of 2017.

The affected areas payments of The Granites mine increased again in 2017: the amount available for community development projects increased to \$10.4 million. In response to the extra funds, the GMAAAC committees have developed larger, multi-year funded projects. As in 2016, some of the income may be invested for future years.

NT parks rent income

The NT parks income benefits the traditional owners of 16 NT national parks and reserves across the CLC region. Traditional owners who jointly manage parks with the NT Government have received the rent since 2010. The traditional owners use all this income for

community benefit projects, and the CLC facilitates the process.

The CLC conducted 56 consultations, including 27 planning and decision making meetings, with traditional owners and their governance groups. The groups approved \$1,089,671 for 35 new community benefit projects. The number of projects approved and amount allocated is similar to 2015–16.

Many projects focus on upgrading homelands infrastructure so that traditional owners can visit and maintain their homelands. This long term thinking reflects a desire to exercise more control over where and how Aboriginal people and control over where and how they live. Almost all projects include local Aboriginal employment and training.

Several groups have revised their governance arrangements and undertook long-term planning of community benefit projects. The Watarrka National Park traditional owner group worked with CLC staff to review its governance arrangements and the process it uses in planning and prioritising community benefit projects. It has prioritised education support, homeland infrastructure, funeral support and a tourism and education enterprise at the recently constructed Watarrka meeting place. The Yeperenye National Park traditional owner group elected a new working group and decided to continue developing Yeperenye. It has prioritised development of a mobile phone app to educate tourists about the cultural and

environmental values of Anthwerke (Emily Gap) and give information on a walking trail between Emily Gap and Jessie Gap.

Community lease income

Community lease income started in 2011. It makes use of one-off rent for the compulsory five-year leases taken out during the Northern Territory Emergency Response and ongoing rent payments for leases in all 31 remote communities in Central Australia. The CLC's council decided that at least half of the compensation income would go to community development projects. This income is complemented by other lease income directed to community benefit. Elected working groups and committees in the communities prioritise, plan and decide on the most appropriate community benefit projects. The income stream is now in its fifth year, and the CLC continues to facilitate project planning with communities and working groups and to support effective governance.

Communities developed and funded projects with a broad range of cultural, economic and social outcomes. Local Aboriginal employment remains a key priority in most project plans and features in many construction projects. Many communities have invested their lease money in music studios, church infrastructure and sports facility upgrades. Aboriginal groups also continue to support education through initiatives such as school excursions.

The Alekarenge working group has fully allocated its lease money. The community started working on projects in 2012, and prioritised activities for young people. It invested a total of \$771,356 in 16 community benefit projects: \$166,611 was spent on employment for local people, and \$61,205 on providing training to the community. Projects include employing a female youth worker to provide activities for young people during the school holidays, running a driver education course that allowed 12 residents to regain their licences, and upgrading the football oval and the basketball court and its change rooms. Members of the group have presented the communities' work at a national conference as well as at regional and local fora.

In the northwest region, Daguragu and Nyirрпи have allocated all their lease money to community development. From 2014 to 2017 Daguragu allocated \$272,226 to seven community projects, including refurbishing the recreation hall kitchen and upgrading the basketball court and oval. The community also allocated \$45,843.16 to the Daguragu funeral fund.

In the southwest region, highlights include the completion of the Papunya sporting upgrades project, the Amundurrngu (Mount Liebig) church renovations, and Kintore's Western Desert Sun community festival. Other developments funded include the Imanpa church project (\$224,152), and support for Kaltukatjara's art centre (\$88,000.00).



Food for thought: the GMAAAC funds 150 healthy school meals each day in Lajamanu.



Rex Morrison and Ethan Jones worked with Tangentyere Constructions to build the shelters at the Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles traditional owner camp ground.



Tara Morton (centre) and Evangeline Gumbula clean and help to set up the new lathe in the Lajamanu school's trade centre.

From 2013 to 2017 Nyirrpi allocated \$184,129 of community lease monies to 14 community projects. These included three cemetery upgrade projects, funding for men's and women's support, and music studio equipment for the youth program.

Other community development initiatives

Traditional owner groups continue to support the application of income from land use agreements to community development.

The Kurtinja traditional owner group allocated a significant proportion of its royalty income from the Tennant Creek to Mt Isa section of the Northern Gas Pipeline to community development. The group has established its governance arrangements and started planning for its community benefit projects. It has prioritised the improvement of infrastructure at its homeland to assist traditional owners to visit their country, and the improvement of education and the tourism enterprise at the homeland.

In 2017, the CLC started work with the Western Outstations Enterprise Development Aboriginal

Corporation, which has invested more than \$1.2 million in job creation, enterprise development, and education projects.

The CLC worked with six other traditional owner groups to develop community benefit projects using mining exploration and investment income. The Wangarri-Kari Aboriginal Corporation has built ceremonial shelters, expending the groups' funds. The Twin Bonanza traditional owners completed their first two projects: a detailed water feasibility study and grading the road to their outstation to allow access for future infrastructure works. The Rover group allocated funding to a cultural support project. The Loves Creek traditional owners continued to develop their governance and project planning.

Working group meetings were held in each of the four affected area communities of Surprise Well oil field where the groups planned and allocated funds to four community benefit projects. This money is now expended as the Surprise Well mining operation has put production on hold.

OUTPUT GROUP 5

ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT SERVICES

The Central Land Council aims to provide Aboriginal landowners with information, advice and support to enable them to manage their land in a sustainable and productive way.

OUTPUT	5.1	DISTRIBUTIONS
	5.2	ADMINISTER LAND TRUSTS
	5.3	DISPUTE RESOLUTION



OUTCOMES	Enhanced social, political and economic participation and equity for Aboriginal people in the Central Land Council's area as a result of the promotion, protection and advancement of their land rights, other rights and interests.
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OUTPUT 5.1

DISTRIBUTIONS

Administer and distribute statutory, negotiated and other payments to the traditional owners and other clients.

Receipts for third-party use of Aboriginal land are deposited in the land use trust account and are distributed only in accordance with council decisions. Funds are mainly distributed to Aboriginal associations incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act) and must be paid to a corporation incorporated under that Act.

Pursuant to s.35C of the Land Rights Act, recipient corporations are required to provide the CLC with their financial statements and a written report containing the information specified. There is no statutory mechanism to enable enforcement of these reporting requirements other than where payments were made to a corporation pursuant to a determination. However, financial statements are publicly available on the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations website.

When funds are distributed to the recipient corporations, the CLC's Aboriginal Associations Management Centre (AAMC) assists the corporations with the administration of their corporate and accounting obligations under the CATSI Act, and distribution of funds or benefits to or on behalf of their members. Corporations may engage the services of the AAMC on an opt-in basis, subject to an engagement agreement on cost recovery arrangements. The role with each corporation is specified in a letter of engagement confirmed at each annual general meeting. Total distributions to all corporations during 2016–17 was \$17.7 million.

PERFORMANCE

Table 16. Details of compliance to the CATSI Act and governance

Annual general meetings and directors' meetings held/income distribution instructions taken	30
Directors' meetings held	30
Income distribution instruction meetings held	73
Corporations' statutory financial statements to be lodged with ORIC	30
Trust statements lodged with ACNC	2

LEASING

The leasing of Aboriginal land continues to generate a significant amount of income for traditional owners. Leasing income that they have instructed be applied for the benefit of the community is incorporated into existing plans and priorities facilitated by the CLC's community development program. The AAMC manages the distribution of leasing income when the traditional owners want to distribute this money among themselves.

Details of the traditional owner identification reports prepared by the CLC to facilitate distribution meetings are set out in Table 17.

Table 17. Traditional Owner Identification Reports prepared for administration and distribution of payments

Leasing	1
Exploration and mining	27
Total traditional owner identification reports	28

OUTPUT 5.2

ADMINISTER LAND TRUSTS

Aboriginal land is formally held by land trusts; that is, Aboriginal people who hold the title for the benefit of all the traditional owners and people with traditional interests in the land. Aboriginal land trusts (ALTs) are statutory entities and usually consist of a chair and not less than three members who hold office for periods not exceeding five years. Land trust members are usually drawn from among traditional owners of the land held in trust.

The functions of a land trust are to hold title to land; exercise powers to acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property for the benefit of the traditional owners; and, where land is granted in a deed of grant held in escrow (the land council holds the title deed in trust until a specific event or condition takes place, such as the lapse of a lease or interest), to acquire the estates and interests of other

persons with a view to gaining the delivery of the title to the land trust.

A land trust may only deal with the land as directed by the land council, and such directions are provided only after identification of, and consultation with, the traditional owners and on the basis of their informed consent.

Figure 23. Land tenure in the CLC region, 2016–17

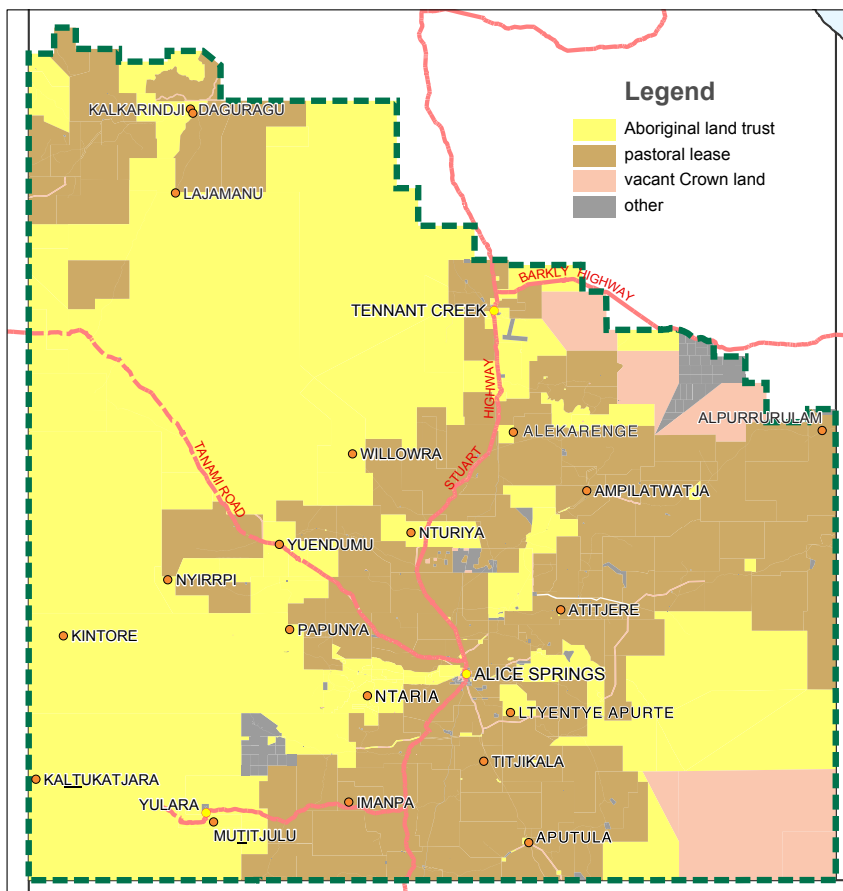


Table 18. Aboriginal land trusts in the CLC region, 2016–17

Ahakeye Aboriginal Land Trust
Aherrenge Aboriginal Land Trust
Akanta Aboriginal Land Trust
Akekarrwenteme Ureyenge Aboriginal Land Trust
Alatjuta Aboriginal Land Trust
Alkeperre-Atwarte Ayepe-Arenye Arleye Aboriginal Land Trust (Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Reserve)
Alkwert Aboriginal Land Trust
Alyawarra Aboriginal Land Trust
Amoonguna Aboriginal Land Trust
Anatye Aboriginal Land Trust
Angarapa Aboriginal Land Trust
Ankweyelengkwe Aboriginal Land Trust
Anurrete Aboriginal Land Trust
Aputula Aboriginal Land Trust
Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust
Arltunga Aboriginal Land Trust (Arltunga Historical Reserve)
Arnapipe Aboriginal Land Trust
Athenge Lhere Aboriginal Land Trust
Atnerperrke Aboriginal Land Trust (Trephina Gorge Nature Park)
Atnetye Aboriginal Land Trust
Atwengerrpe Aboriginal Land Trust
Ayleparrarntenhe Aboriginal Land Trust (Devils Marbles)
Bilinarra-Jutpurra Aboriginal Land Trust (Gregory National Park)
Central Desert Aboriginal Land Trust
Daguragu Aboriginal Land Trust
Erlerlapentye Aboriginal Land Trust (Davenport Range National Park)
Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust
Hooker Creek Aboriginal Land Trust
Iliyarne Aboriginal Land Trust
Iparle Aboriginal Land Trust
Inarnme Aboriginal Land Trust
Irlwentye Aboriginal Land Trust (N'dhala Gorge Nature Park)
Irrinjirinjirr Aboriginal Land Trust
Irrmarne Aboriginal Land Trust
Interrkewarre Aboriginal Land Trust (Chambers Pillar)
Iwupataka Aboriginal Land Trust
Kanttaji Aboriginal Land Trust
Karlantijpa North Aboriginal Land Trust
Karlantijpa South Aboriginal Land Trust
Kaṯiṯi Aboriginal Land Trust
Lake Mackay Aboriginal Land Trust
Lhere Pirnte Aboriginal Land Trust (Finke Gorge including Palm Valley)
Ltalaltuma Aboriginal Land Trust
Mala Aboriginal Land Trust
Malngin 2 Aboriginal Land Trust
Malngin Aboriginal Land Trust
Mangkururpa Aboriginal Land Trust
Melknge Aboriginal Land Trust
Mount Frederick Aboriginal Land Trust
Mpwelarre Aboriginal Land Trust

Mpweringe-Arnapipe 2 Aboriginal Land Trust
Mpweringe-Arnapipe Aboriginal Land Trust
Mount Frederick No.2 Aboriginal Land Trust
Mungkarta 2 Aboriginal Land Trust
Mungkarta Aboriginal Land Trust
Ngalurr̄tju Aboriginal Land Trust
Ntaria Aboriginal Land Trust
Pantyinteme Aboriginal Land Trust
Pawu Aboriginal Land Trust
Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust
Pmer Ulperre Ingwemirne Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust
Pmere Nyente Aboriginal Land Trust
Purta Aboriginal Land Trust
Pwanye Aboriginal Land Trust
Pwanye No. 2 Aboriginal Land Trust (Corroboree Rock Carvings Conservation)
Rodna Aboriginal Land Trust
Roulpmaulpma Aboriginal Land Trust
Rrurtenge Aboriginal Land Trust
Santa Teresa Aboriginal Land Trust
Thakeperte Aboriginal Land Trust
Thangkenharengge Aboriginal Land Trust
Twertentye Aboriginal Land Trust (Rainbow Valley excision swap – dissolved)
Tyurretye Aboriginal Land Trust (West MacDonnell National Park including Simpson's Gap and Simpson's Gap Extension)
Uluru – Kata Tjuṯa Aboriginal Land Trust
Uremerne Land Aboriginal Land (Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation)
Uretyingke Aboriginal Land Trust
Urrampinyi Itjiltjarri Aboriginal Land Trust
Uruna Aboriginal Land Trust
Wakaya Aboriginal Land Trust
Wampana-Karlantijpa Aboriginal Land Trust
Warrabri Aboriginal Land Trust
Warti-Yangu Aboriginal Land Trust
Warumungu Aboriginal Land Trust
Watarrka Aboriginal Land Trust
Wirliyajarrayi Aboriginal Land Trust
Yalpirakinu Aboriginal Land Trust
Yewerre Aboriginal Land Trust
Yingualyala Aboriginal Land Trust
Yiningarra Aboriginal Land Trust
Yuendumu Aboriginal Land Trust
Yunkanjini Aboriginal Land Trust
Yurrkuru Aboriginal Land Trust

Table 19. NT park land trusts

Note: Park freehold title is a distinct form of fee simple estate created under the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act 2003* (NT).

Arrelte Twatye Park Land Trust (Native Gap Conservation Reserve)
Atnwarle Park Land Trust (Dulcie Ranges)
Kweyeunpe Park Land Trust (Kuyunba Conservation Reserve)
Watarrka Park Land Trust (Watarrka National Park)

OUTPUT 5.3

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Assist in the resolution of disputes with respect to land as appropriate.

There are various types of disputes that may occur in the CLC region but analysis of those affecting its constituents indicates that they can be broadly grouped into four inter-related categories: those based on land and traditional ownership, competition for money or resources, family matters, and individual behaviours.

The CLC has statutory functions under both the Land Rights Act (s.25) and the Native Title Act (s.203BF) to assist with the resolution of disputes that relate to land; however, disputes within each of the identified categories affect the council's functions.

There are a growing number of communities and groups in the CLC region where entrenched conflicts (some arising as a result of a dispute over traditional ownership of land, including group composition and boundaries) are causing significant stress and anxiety for traditional owners and other Aboriginal people, and making it difficult for the CLC to fulfil its duties to them.

To better manage these functions the CLC developed a traditional owner dispute management framework and an engagement strategy, which are being implemented within the 2015–2019 Corporate Plan. The dispute management framework reflects the following principles:

- Empowerment of Aboriginal groups, families and individuals to identify and manage their own disputes
- Reduced reliance on the CLC or any external parties in relation to mediating disputes

- 'Wait to be asked' to assist but be able to respond in a consistent and timely manner, recognising that a timely response can lessen the likelihood of exacerbation of a dispute
- Recognition that disputes are nested in systems and structures, meaning that numerous external parties and factors are likely to be causing or exacerbating disputes
- Recognition that the work of the CLC may unintentionally cause or exacerbate a dispute
- Recognition that getting the decision-making processes of the group right is a major preventative measure
- Determination that engagement processes should do no harm
- CLC support is conditional on the disputing parties demonstrating a commitment to managing a dispute, and that the CLC may withdraw ongoing support, services and resources where parties are not committed.

The CLC continued to brief its executive committee about progress of disputes that have arisen and to advise the committee when any parties repeatedly breach agreed processes or show little or no interest in resolving a dispute. The executive committee may decide to withdraw CLC services from the disputing party or parties for a period of time. To ensure that disputes are not exacerbated by identification of those involved, disputes are not the subject of individual reports.

OUTPUT GROUP 6

NATIVE TITLE

The Central Land Council aims to provide Aboriginal landowners with information, advice and support to enable them to manage their land in a sustainable and productive way.

OUTCOMES

Enhanced social, political and economic participation and equity for Aboriginal people in the Central Land Council's area as a result of the promotion, protection and advancement of their land rights, other rights and interests.

OUTPUT 6

NATIVE TITLE

NATIVE TITLE

Native title is the legal term used by the Australian High Court to describe the rights and interests that Aboriginal people have over their lands since long before European settlement of Australia. These rights and interests are common law indigenous property rights and were recognised by the High Court in the Mabo judgment of June 1992, and were legislated in 1993. The subsequent High Court's Wik judgement of December 1996 further determined that native title could co-exist with other rights held under a pastoral lease.

While native title recognises that indigenous people have traditional rights to speak for country, to protect sites and to be consulted regarding developments on their land, it does not give indigenous people ownership of land as the Land Rights Act does.

THE CLC'S NATIVE TITLE PROGRAM

In 1994 the CLC became a recognised native title representative body for Central Australia under s.203 of the Native Title Act 1993. In that capacity, the CLC has statutory functions to facilitate and assist

native title holders to make native title applications (NTA), respond to proposed future Acts and negotiate agreements, resolve disputes between groups, and assist prescribed bodies corporate (PBC) to manage and protect native title rights and interests. In 2016, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs granted the CLC re-recognition as a native title representative body for a maximum of two years to June 2018.

During 2016–17, the CLC continued to certify NTAs for determination and applications for registration for indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs) in a timely manner. Native title determination and ILUA applications are presented to the council or the CLC executive before going to the National Native Title Tribunal for registration.

The CLC has a multidisciplinary team of 20 native title-funded positions and engaged 17 consultants on native title matters.

National Native Title Council

The CLC has been a member of the National Native Title Council since its inception in 2005



Dorothy Ross at the Aileron and Nolan Bore native title consent determinations.



Justice Griffith with Eric Penangke, Dorothy Ross and Doris Napangardi at the Aileron and Nolan Bore native title consent determination in April 2017.

and contributed to the council's submissions, and discussions and representations to government on matters of national importance. The CLC attended consultative fora on amendments to the Native Title Act and the tribunal's PBC support forum.

Native title consent determinations Nolan Bore and Aileron

On 6 April 2017, the Federal Court sat at Pretty Camp Dam on Aileron Station, approximately 125 kilometres north of Alice Springs. At the sitting Justice Griffiths handed down a determination by consent of non-exclusive native title of 4,210 square kilometres comprising all of Aileron Station plus the Nolan Bore mineral lease which covers the northwestern portion of the station and southwestern portion of Pine Hill Station. The determination recognised the rights and interests of the Central and Eastern Anmatyerr and northern Arrernte native title holders – a total of seven separate landholding groups – to access, hunt, gather and fish on these lands and waters, to use their resources, and to conduct cultural activities and ceremonies in the area. The native title holders' rights will co-exist with the rights of the pastoral leaseholders who will continue to operate Aileron Station.

The original NTA for the Nolan Bore mineral lease was filed with the Federal Court in December 2007, and the application for Aileron Station was filed in March 2014. The CLC lodged the applications because of

possible future acts resulting from mining exploration licence applications that raised concerns over the protection of sites and areas of cultural significance to the Alhankerr, Atwel/Alkwepeyete, Ilkewarn, Kwaty, Tywerl, Mpwerkingke and Ntyerlkem/Urapentye landholding groups on Aileron Station and the Nolan Bore mineral lease. The native title holders instructed the CLC to lodge NTAs, as they were anxious to protect their cultural areas and have a say over exploration on their traditional country.

The Irretyepwenty Ywentent Pwert Aboriginal Corporation will hold the native title rights and interests for Aileron Station, and the Kwaty Aboriginal Corporation will hold the native title rights and interests for the Nolan Bore mineral lease; both corporations registered as native title body corporates on 17 March 2017.

MOUNT RIDDOCK

On 7 April 2017, Justice Griffiths handed down a determination by consent at a special sitting of the Federal Court at Harts Range Racecourse. The determination area comprised the whole of Mount Riddock Station, approximately 2,700 square kilometres, and recognised the native title rights and interests of the Eastern Arrernte native title holders to access, hunt, gather and fish on the land and waters, to use its resources, and to conduct cultural activities and ceremonies in the determination area.



Eileen Hoosan and Justice Reeves at Victory Downs.

The court's determination recognised the Akerte, Atwele, Irrelerre, Ulpmerre and Warrtharre landholding groups' non-exclusive native title rights and interests, which will co-exist with the rights of the pastoral leaseholder.

The Tywele Aboriginal Corporation will hold the native title rights and interests for the area; the corporation registered as a native title body corporate on 17 May 2017.

VICTORY DOWNS, MOUNT CAVENAGH, UMBEARA AND MULGA PARK



Yilpi Lewis, Keiran Roberts, Kathy Maringka, Renita Stanley, Eileen Hoosan, Amos Frank, Tjulapi (Alison) Carroll and (back) Robert Doolan, David Doolan and Carl Roberts celebrate at Victory Downs in May 2017.

On 4 May 2017, the Federal Court sat at Victory Downs Station, where Justice Reeves handed down a non-exclusive native title consent determination over Victory Downs, Mount Cavenagh, Umbeara and Mulga Park stations. The determination area, comprising approximately 12,500 square kilometres, recognises the native title rights and interests of the Yankunytjatjara and Matutjara speakers.

The determination recognised the native title holders' rights and interests to access, hunt, gather and fish on the land and waters, to use its resources, and to conduct cultural activities and ceremonies in the determination area. The native title rights will co-exist with the rights of the pastoral leaseholders.

The NTA was filed in 2015 as the result of mining exploration licence applications and activities on and



Justice Griffith hands the Mount Riddock native title consent determination to traditional owners Frederick Mulladad and Stanislaw 'Shorty' Mulladad in April 2017.

near the claim area which raised concerns about the protection of significant places in the area. The claim is the first NTA lodged in the NT's south and is the second largest area in the CLC region to receive native title recognition.

The Yankunytjara Matutjara Aboriginal Corporation will hold the native title rights and interests for the area; the corporation registered as a native title body corporate on 18 May 2017.

COMPENSATION APPLICATIONS

Where possible the CLC seeks to deal with compensation matters by negotiation. When deemed appropriate and instructed by native title holders, the CLC seeks to secure compensation for acts resulting in the extinguishment or impairment of native title rights and interests. The CLC lodged no new native title compensation applications.

CLAIMANT APPLICATIONS

The CLC pursues native title determinations that will achieve recognition and protection of native title rights and deliver outcomes that the native title holders seek. At 30 June 2017 it had five active native title claimant applications registered with the tribunal. It undertook 36 meetings and consultations relating to native title applications and made significant progress in anthropological research, preparation, and delivery of consent determination reports.



Peta Braedon, MK Turner and Josie Douglas attended the Mount Riddock native title consent determination in April 2017.

The CLC completed nine native title holder identifications in preparation for meetings where the native title holders considered exploration licence applications and exploration permit applications, and other native title activities. In gave advice and logistical assistance at meetings that assisted the reporting of the validity of native title holder instructions.

NEW APPLICATIONS

Applications lodged with the National Native Title Tribunal are listed in Table 21.

FINALISED APPLICATIONS

Applications finalised by the National Native Title Tribunal are listed in Table 22.

Table 20. Claimant application progress

Anthropological reports completed	Research or assistance	Anthropological research commenced or progressed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennant Creek Station Jinka/Jervois Station Maryvale Station Phillip Creek Station Pine Hill Station (west) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andado/New Crown Station Maryvale Station Tennant Creek Station Phillip Creek Station Pine Hill (west) Station 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simpson Desert Anningie Station Karinga Lakes (Curtin Springs, Lyndervale and Erldunda) Ambalindum/The Garden Station Mount Skinner/Woodgreen Station

Table 21. New applications to the NNTT, 2016–17

Application	Date filed	Date registered with NNTT
Pine Hill (west) Station (NTD44/2016)	31 August 2016	2 June 2017
Henbury Station (NTD47/2016)	6 September 2016	9 December 2016
Wave Hill Station (NTD62/2016)	25 November 2016	2 March 2017
Limbunya Station (NTD1/2017)	19 January 2017	4 May 2017

Table 22. Applications finalised by the NNTT, 2016–17

Application	Date determination handed down by NNTT
Aileron (Nolan Bore) (NTD20/2007) and Aileron (whole of lease) (NTD8/2014)	5 April 2017
Mount Riddock (NTD6/2013)	6 April 2017
Mount Cavenagh/Victory Downs (NTD20/2015)	4 May 2017

CURRENT APPLICATIONS

The anthropological reports and material in respect of Tennant Creek Station, Jinka/Jervois Station, Maryvale Station, Phillip Creek Station and Pine Hill (west) Station were finalised and lodged with the NT Government. Anthropological research commenced or progressed on Simpson Desert, Anningie Station, Karinga Lakes (Curtin Springs, Lyndervale and Erldunda), Ambalindum/The Garden Station and Mount Skinner/Woodgreen Station.

The CLC received provisional consent for an NTA over Rainbow Valley National Park and tenure history from the NT Government, with consent to file the NTA granted in May 2017.

Table 23 summarises the current applications lodged with the NNTT.

New Crown/Andado (NTD20/2014)

To progress native title claims in its southern region, the CLC has documented expressions of interest from the area's traditional owners since 2007. In 2008 it commissioned a scoping study to assess the needs of, factors affecting, and viability of potential claims in that region and received the consultant's report in 2009. The report identified traditional owners' concerns over site protection, impacts of exploration and mining, and the perception that recognition of native title over pastoral leases improves access to country. Having considered the recommendations of the study, the CLC has progressed two claims in its southern region: a combined NTA over New Crown and Andado stations and a combined NTA over Mount Cavenagh and Victory Downs stations. The claim area borders South Australia, and claimants are



Justice Reeves, Reggie Kenny, Margaret (Kenny) Orr, Mary Le Rossignol, Julia Kenny, Peter Kenny and Dennis Kenny at Victory Downs Station.

Table 23. Applications lodged with the NNTT, 2016–17

Application	Date filed	Date registered with NNTT	Issues
New Crown/Andado (NTD20/2014)	24 June 2014	–	Under review (see below for more information)
Phillip Creek (NTD50/2014)	28 November 2014	23 February 2015	A determination by consent expected on 3 August 2017 (see below for more information)
Maryvale (NTD35/2015)	24 June 2015	9 September 2015	NTA was amended due to an error in the description of the claim area. Following further research and amendments, the application was re-authorised in March 2017.
Henbury (NTD47/2016)	6 September 2016	9 December 2016	–
Pine Hill (west) (NTD44/2016)	31 August 2016	2 June 2017	A delay in the registration process due to an error in the description of the claim area.
Wave Hill (NTD62/2016)	25 November 2016	2 March 2017	–
Limbunya (NTD1/2017)	19 January 2017	4 May 2017	–

widely dispersed in the cross-border region. Extensive field research commenced in 2010–11. The NTA was filed on 24 June 2014.

The CLC amended the NTA following a decision not to pursue exclusive possession (s.47B) because of issues within the claim area. The NT Government requested further information, which the CLC sought from experts and is currently reviewing.

Phillip Creek (NTD50/2014)

The CLC filed an application on 28 November 2014 and registered it with the tribunal on 23 February 2015. It completed a summary anthropological report and served it on respondents, with the NT Government requesting further information. The application required amendment because of the death of a named applicant.

The Federal Court is expected to hand down a determination by consent on 3 August 2017.

FUTURE ACTS

Mining future acts are the largest driver of the CLC’s native title work program. The number of exploration tenements notified under s.29 of the Native Title Act has fluctuated considerably over recent years, and the CLC needs instructions from native title holders to respond to these notifications in a timely manner.

Administration of future acts, as defined by the Native Title Act, is ongoing and a high priority for

the CLC. During this period, all reasonable steps were undertaken to notify native title holders and claimants on future acts affecting their native title rights and interests. The CLC monitors the media daily and maintains a register of applications. It informs all applicants about the native title process and its preference for a negotiated agreement.

Mining and exploration future acts

All applications for exploration licences within the NT include a statement from the NT Government that the grant attracts the ‘expedited procedures’ as laid out in the legislation. This determines a strict time limit set by the Native Title Act. The CLC responded to 64 notifications under s.29 of the Act of which 43 were exploration licence applications and 21 were mineral authority applications. It assessed each notification for its potential impact on the exercise of native title rights and interests.

There were 28 future act mining and exploration related field trips, meetings and consultations with affected native title holders. In other instances, existing instructions adequately dealt with the application. Contact with the applicant is required at some stage of all notifications; however, an ongoing difficulty is determining whether an application is a genuine exploration proposal or the development of saleable property.

Mining and exploration agreements

Table 24. Native title exploration and mining matters and decisions in respect of the allocation of compensation to native title holders flowing from agreements, 2016–17

Exploration agreements	0
Deeds of assumption	1
Distribution of compensation monies	10
Miscellaneous	1
Total	12

Non-mining future acts

The CLC undertook 15 field trips, consultations, instruction meetings, and activities related to non-mining future acts.

It received notification and commenced consultations on a major project relating to the construction, operation, and maintenance of a pipeline to transport gas to eastern Australia. The proposed route includes

land over which native title applications are lodged or research undertaken, vacant crown land, Aboriginal freehold land and land held for private interests.

The CLC consulted with native title holders and traditional owners and represented their views and concerns about the proposal. It negotiated an ILUA that protects native title holder rights and interests, provides compensation and enables the construction, operation, and maintenance of the pipeline.

INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENTS

The CLC has implemented a clear strategy to secure beneficial outcomes for native title holders through negotiated ILUAs and other agreements, including good faith agreements under s.31 of the Native Title Act. The CLC currently has 79 ILUAs registered with the tribunal.

It finalised and registered two ILUAs, and entered into negotiations in relation to a further three ILUAs which will be registered in the next reporting period.



As part of anthropological fieldwork to support the native title application for Anningie Station, women and children dig white ochre at a quarry at Kaljiparnta in July 2016.

POST-DETERMINATION ASSISTANCE

Table 25. Assistance delivered to Aboriginal corporations

Aboriginal corporation	Type of assistance from the CLC
Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation (Alice Springs PBC)	Participated in discussions and meetings with the corporation, including the administration of a \$50,000 grant from PM&C under the basic PBC support program for operational expenses.
Ilperrelhelam Aboriginal Corporation (Lake Nash and Georgina Downs Station)	Assisted to hold a general meeting, and provided information and advice on a proposal from the NT Government to establish a bore field and construct a power line to service the Alpururulam community and the Lake Nash homestead. Presented information on a service agreement outlining an arrangement between the CLC and the corporation at a directors' meeting. The directors agreed to the service agreement.
Gurindji Aboriginal Corporation (Kalkaringi township)	Administered a grant of \$50,000 from PM&C to the corporation under the basic PBC support program for operational expenses.
Kaytetye Alyawarr Awenerraperte Ingkerr-wenh Aboriginal Corporation (Sandover)	Facilitated a liaison meeting between affected native title holders, corporation members, and company staff, at which an update on exploration licences was received and plans for proposed future works presented. Assisted with the corporation's AGM and with lodgement of the general report. At the AGM, presented information on a service agreement between the CLC and the corporation. The members agreed to the service agreement.
Mitata Aboriginal Corporation (Kurundi)	Assisted to hold the corporation's AGM and lodge its general report. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the AGM was postponed.
Iytwelepwenty Aboriginal Corporation (Davenport Range National Park)	Assisted to hold the corporation's AGM and lodge its general report. Due to unforeseen circumstances the AGM was postponed.
Mpwerepwer Aboriginal Corporation (Singleton)	Consulted on an NT Government proposal to carry out soil testing. Site protection instructions were received and the CLC provided instructions to the government.
Ngalyia Aboriginal Corporation (Mount Doreen)	Conducted several consultations on the construction and installation of an optic fibre cable network through Mount Doreen Station. The CLC obtained instructions, provided a work area clearance, and assisted native title holders monitor the installation. Assisted to hold the corporation's AGM. Due to unforeseen circumstances the AGM was postponed. Presented information on a service agreement between the CLC and the corporation at a directors' meeting. The directors agreed to the service agreement.
Kaytetye Tywerate Areng Aboriginal Corporation (Neutral Junction)	Assisted to hold the corporation's AGM and presented information on a service agreement between the CLC and the corporation. The members agreed to the service agreement.
Eynewantheyne Aboriginal Corporation (Neutral Junction/Stirling)	Updated affected native title holders on exploration licences and informed them about plans for proposed future works. Assisted at a directors' meeting where the CLC presented information on a service agreement between the CLC and the corporation. The directors agreed to the service agreement.
Ilkewartn Ywel Aboriginal Corporation (Pine Hill East)	Assisted at the corporation's AGM and presented information on a service agreement between the CLC and the corporation. The members agreed to the service agreement.

Aboriginal corporation	Type of assistance from the CLC
Akwerrperl Aboriginal Corporation (Bushy Park)	Assisted with the corporation's AGM and presented information on a service agreement between the CLC and the corporation. The members agreed to the service agreement.
Irretyepwenty Ywentent Pwert Aboriginal Corporation (Aileron)	Assisted at the corporation's AGM and presented information on a service agreement between the CLC and the corporation. The members agreed to the service agreement.
Kwaty Aboriginal Corporation (Nolan Bore/Aileron)	Assisted at a directors' meeting and presented information on a service agreement between the CLC and the corporation. The directors agreed to the service agreement.
Mount Denison Aboriginal Corporation (Mount Denison)	Helped hold corporation's AGM and lodge its general report. The scheduled AGM was postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. Responded to a request from members to assist at a directors' meeting. At the meeting, it presented information on a service agreement between the CLC and the corporation. The directors agreed to the service agreement.
Alherramp Illewerr Mamp Arrangkey Tywerl Aboriginal Corporation (Napperby)	Assisted to hold the corporation's AGM and presented information on a service agreement between the CLC and the corporation. The members agreed to the service agreement.
Yankunytjara Matutjara Aboriginal Corporation (Victory Downs, Mount Cavenagh, Umbeara, Mulga Park)	Assisted to hold the corporation's AGM and a directors' meeting. At the meetings, it presented information on a service agreement between the CLC and the corporation. The directors agreed to the service agreement.
Yankanjini Aboriginal Corporation (Newhaven)	Assisted to hold the corporation's AGM and lodge its general report. The scheduled AGM was postponed several times due to unforeseen circumstances. Assisted with the consultation and issuing of a sacred site clearance certificate for the construction of a fence line, and to negotiate an ILUA with the leaseholder to incorporate current and future works.
Ooratippra Aboriginal Corporation (Ooratippra)	Consulted and negotiated amendments to the sublease over Ooratippra Station. Assisted to hold the corporation's AGM and lodge its general report. At the AGM it presented information on a service agreement between the CLC and the corporation. The directors agreed to the service agreement.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

There have been no major disputes relating to overlapping native title claims in the CLC region. In anticipation of future disputes, the CLC gave eight staff the opportunity to develop negotiation and mediation skills.

Alternative procedure agreements

The CLC did not enter into alternative procedure agreements during this period.

Body corporate agreements

The CLC did not enter into body corporate agreements.

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Responsibilities

- best practice accounting, financial management, and performance reporting, unmodified annual audit reports and financial sustainability
- robust corporate financial planning
- relevant, accurate and timely performance-based management and environmental impact reporting
- effective risk management, including managing appropriate governance and risk management frameworks and understanding management risk appetite
- procurement of funds to sustain and advance corporate and operational plans and performance of statutory functions
- compliance with all statutory regulatory requirements
- staff recruitment, training and development opportunities for administering Aboriginal corporations.

MINISTERIAL DIRECTIONS

There were no directions, general policies or general policy orders issued by the responsible minister for the financial year.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Estimates and review

Estimates of administrative expenditure submitted annually to the minister. 'Additional estimates' requests for essential additional resources are submitted as required. Approved estimates fund operational expenses, salaries and wages, and capital expenditure. The minister originally approved **\$17.872 million** of funding from the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) and a variation of **\$154,000** approved for building repair works related to the June 2016 storm damage to the Alice Springs offices.

Reporting

A half-yearly performance and operations report submitted to the minister in February 2017 met funding agreement and legislative obligations.

The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) performs the annual audit of the financial statements to determine compliance and whether they present fairly financial position, performance and cash flows. ANAO's audit opinion indicates that the statements are free from material misstatement.

Risk management and fraud control

An annual review of the risk management plan and framework, including a risk profile and a 'risk appetite' reassessment, by the accountable authority (the chair and director of the CLC) took place in December 2016. The CLC uses the annual Comcover risk management benchmarking survey for assessing improvements.

The Commonwealth's fraud control framework informs the CLC's framework. The accountable authority takes all reasonable measures to prevent, detect and deal with fraud, including data collection, reporting, and investigation. It certified that the required fraud data was collected and reported as required, based on the ongoing maintenance of the fraud incident register. New staff complete the Commonwealth's online fraud awareness training.

Internal practices and procedures ensure that appropriate financial authorisations and financial delegations are in place for rigorous monitoring and detection of anomalies. Accountable authority instructions are the appropriate financial expenditure authorities framework and are reviewed every July, taking into account changes in the value of money and organisation structure.

A code of conduct prescribes workplace personal and professional behaviour.

Audit Committee (s.45, *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cwth) (PGPA Act))

The committee now comprises four independent members: Adrian Watts (accountant, appointed 2013); and Danny Masters (lawyer) and Bruce Walker (chair/director) appointed in 2010. During the year, the accountable authority increased the membership of

the committee as part of a member rotation strategy, appointing Beverley Russ (accounting manager). The committee met three times during the year. It oversees an agreed work plan and audit charter and reports annually to the accountable authority.

Indemnities and insurance premiums for officers

No indemnity against liability has been given by agreement or other means to a current or former officer. The CLC holds general liability and professional indemnity insurance, including directors' and officers' liability provisions, with Comcover and the compulsory professional indemnity insurance required by the Law Society Northern Territory for its legal practitioners.

Duty to keep the Minister/Finance Minister informed (s.19, PGPA Act)

In accordance with s.19 of the PGPA Act the CLC informed the Minister for Indigenous Affairs on 3 November 2016 that the accountable authority had become aware of a significant issue affecting the CLC. Comcover declined to fully meet the repair cost of the storm damage to the CLC's Stuart Highway building. The minister subsequently assisted with an estimates' variation and advice that the building subsidence issue would be dealt with on receipt of the engineer's recommendations as part of the 2017–18 estimates budget.

Freedom of information

Aboriginal land councils and land trusts are listed in Part I of Schedule 2 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Fol). Pursuant to s.7 the CLC is not subject to Fol requests.

Judicial decisions and reviews by outside bodies

There were no judicial decisions or decisions of administrative tribunals that have had, or may have, a significant effect on CLC operations.

Human resources

Workforce engagement, training and development, and system improvement initiatives continue to be a priority of the human resources team. Automating and streamlining processes improved staff access to its services. A dedicated human resources service provider improved communication and service delivery and the team focused on robust reporting of metrics and continuous improvement.

Ongoing system improvements included a review of the current human resources and payroll system, resulting in system modifications and the establishment of an electronic help desk enhancing compliance, productivity and efficiency.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Table 26. Full time and part time staff expressed as full time equivalent, 2016–17

Salary classification	Total FTE	Aboriginal	%	Non-Aboriginal	%	Female	%	Male	%
ASO1	7.6	7.6	3.5	0.0	0.0	3.8	1.7	3.8	1.8
ASO2	34.6	34.4	15.9	0.1	0.1	7.7	3.6	26.8	12.4
ASO3	14.8	13.1	6.0	1.7	0.8	9.1	4.2	5.7	2.6
ASO4	26.9	21.6	9.9	5.3	2.5	12.3	5.7	14.6	6.7
ASO5	17.6	9.6	4.4	8.1	3.7	9.8	4.5	7.8	3.6
ASO6	69.0	8.2	3.8	60.7	28.0	35.5	16.3	33.5	15.4
SOGC	27.0	5.0	2.3	22.0	10.1	12.4	5.7	14.6	6.7
SOGB	5.8	1.0	0.5	4.8	2.2	3.8	1.8	2.0	0.9
SOGA	11.1	0.0	0.0	11.1	5.1	6.5	3.0	4.6	2.1
SES1	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.9
SES2	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.4
Total	217.3	101.4	46.7	115.8	53.4	100.9	46.5	116.3	53.5

Note: Sums may vary due to rounding

Table 27. Part time and full time staff (headcount) at 30 June 2017

Salary classification	Total	Aboriginal	%	Non-Aboriginal	%	Female	%	Male	%
ASO1	9	9	3.9	0	0.0	5	2.2	4	1.7
ASO2	44	44	19.1	0	0.0	8	3.5	36	15.7
ASO3	16	14	6.1	2	0.9	10	4.3	6	2.6
ASO4	26	21	9.1	5	2.2	14	6.1	12	5.2
ASO5	19	9	3.9	10	4.3	11	4.8	8	3.5
ASO6	71	7	3.0	64	27.8	34	14.8	37	16.1
SOGC	25	5	2.2	20	8.7	11	4.8	14	6.1
SOGB	6	1	0.4	5	2.2	4	1.7	2	0.9
SOGA	11	0	0.0	11	4.7	6	2.6	5	2.1
SES1	2	0	0.0	2	0.9	0	0.0	2	0.9
SES2	1	1	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4
Total	230	111	48.3	119	51.7	103	44.8	127	55.2

Table 28. Casual staff expressed as full time equivalent, 2016–17

Salary classification	Total	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Female	Male
ASO1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
ASO2	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.7	2.1
ASO3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
ASO4	1.3	1.2	0.0	0.2	1.1
ASO5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.3
ASO6	1.7	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.7
Total	6.3	5.2	1.1	2.0	4.4

Table 29. Full time equivalent staff by ranger group, 2015–17

Ranger group	2015–16			2016–2017		
	Ongoing	Casual	Total	Ongoing	Casual	Total
Anangu	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Anangu Luritjiku	4.6	0.4	5.0	3.7	0.1	3.8
Anmatyerr	7.7	0.0	7.7	5.7	0.0	5.7
Arltarpilta Inelye	4.3	0.1	4.4	4.3	0.0	4.3
Kal̕ukatjara	4.1	0.2	4.4	3.8	0.0	3.8
Ltyentye Apurte	7.1	0.0	7.1	6.0	0.0	6.0
Murnkurrumurnkurru	5.6	0.0	5.6	5.7	0.0	5.7
Muru-warinyi Ankkul	7.6	1.4	9.0	5.8	0.1	5.9
Northern Tanami	6.1	0.0	6.1	5.7	0.0	5.7
Tjuwanpa	8.0	0.4	8.4	7.1	0.0	7.1
Warlpiri	4.6	1.2	5.7	2.7	0.7	3.4
Program administration/support	8.2	0.0	8.2	6.3	0.0	6.3
Total	68.5	3.6	72.1	56.8	0.9	57.7

Note: Sums may vary due to rounding

Employee relations

The *Fair Work Act 2009* and the CLC's enterprise agreement 2012–15 establish employment terms and conditions and entitlements. Negotiations are ongoing to establish a new agreement. The Australian Public Service Commissioner approved a revised draft enterprise agreement and remuneration proposal, in accordance with the Commonwealth Government's bargaining policy in June 2017.

Salary progression is subject to meeting the required performance standards. Performance bonuses were not paid.

Work health and safety

The CLC met its obligations under the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011*. Its review of the work health and safety (WHS) management system, started in 2014, is almost complete.

The WHS committee met five times. Its focus remained on maintaining the WHS management system; conducting workplace inspections and emergency evacuation drills at all sites; and reviewing and updating WHS policies, procedures and standard operational procedures.

Reporting requirements under the WHS Act

The following statements are provided in accordance with the Act:

- There were no notifiable incidents reported to Comcare under s.38.
- No notices were issued under s.90 (provisional improvement notices), s.191 (improvement notices), s.195 (prohibition notices) or s.198 (non-disturbance notices).

WHS Committee Statement

The CLC is committed to providing a safe workplace. It has a primary duty of care to its employees, traditional owners and other persons.

It provides a safe environment for all employees, constituents, contractors and visitors at all work places by:

- implementing safe work systems meeting legislative requirements. The responsibilities and system framework are outlined in its WHS management arrangements
- consulting with and educating employees in safe work practices and their responsibility to work safely
- regularly monitoring work practices through internal and external audits and improving by

measuring performance against safety objectives and targets

- identifying risks and implementing controls to reduce risk as far as practical
- encouraging safety leadership throughout the organisation and celebrating safety achievements.

Workforce development

The CLC continues to demonstrate its strong commitment to workforce development and training by appointing a dedicated human resources training and development officer. This has enabled employees to receive support to undertake vocational education and training, and tertiary and other learning opportunities.

Table 30. Staff vocational education and training, 2016–17

Type of vocational education and training	Number of employees
Study agreements (a further two staff are negotiating study agreements)	7
Accredited training by the CLC, including in dispute resolution	78
Needs-based short courses, conferences, information seminars and workshops	217
National indigenous cadetship support program (one graduated with a Bachelor of Computer Science and secured full time employment in Queensland)	3
Total staff undertaking vocational education and training	305

Aboriginal manager development

A development pilot program, supported by specific funding approved by the minister, commenced with six Aboriginal senior staff who are employed as managers or co-ordinators and informally coach and mentor other Aboriginal employees. The program provides a structured path for Aboriginal employees to advance to more senior and leadership positions.

Information services

The implementation of the electronic document and records management system (EDRMS) known as eDIS (electronic Document and Information System) has made for a demanding time for the information services team. Taxonomy adjustments, functional development and subprojects, such as project and contract registers, are ongoing.

Weekly eDIS training sessions are becoming increasingly popular. The sessions provide a refresher



CLC staff farewell mentor and project officer Becky Mack (centre), who moved to her first position outside the CLC after 15 years.

following the general training delivered to all staff in October 2016, including more than 200 staff inductions.

During the year, the resource centre/library doubled as office space to enable continuous operation of other sections that had to move temporarily due to office repairs. Accommodating the significant changes to allow other staff to move temporarily into the library space over a six-month period has been challenging for the library team. It limited some projects, while others had to be stopped intermittently as resources were stored off-site. Regular events continued, however, such as promoting a new-item notification. Sharing the library space with other staff has also created the opportunity to rearrange its layout to make room for future developments.

In May 2017, the CLC commenced scanning and registering incoming mail in eDIS and distributing it electronically as an additional service to meet compliance.

Archival space has become scarcer, particularly with the inclusion of records previously stored and managed off-site. To counteract this, a major disposal is underway. Some collections have been returned to their owners or to more suitable archives.

Archives staff are heavily involved in a joint project with the Australian Research Council. *Memory of the Centre* aims to reintegrate Central Australian



Jody Lynch and Cherisse Buzzacott with the CLC's senior policy officer Josie Douglas during an Oxfam leadership summit in Canberra.

community cultural collections, by digitising CLC material and making it accessible to constituents via the CLC's digital archive at <http://clc.keepingculture.com/archive/index.php> (see also page 78).

The information services electronic help-desk has handled more than 500 support requests since it started in October 2016.

An information management framework was approved and a major operational review is ongoing.

The information services team supported the review and redevelopment of some of the CLC's business templates and logos and staff development in digital information and records management.



Doris Stuart is pleased to view photos of her taken near Alice Springs in the 1980s on the CLC's digital archive. (Photo: Jenny Green)



Leonard Kunoth, son Jimmy and daughter Sherana viewing photos and audio recordings of Leonard's father at Utopia in the 1980s. (Photo: Jenny Green)

Continuous staff development focussed on the Digital Information and Records Management Capability Matrix for Australian Government Employees.

Computer services (information systems)

The CLC's computer services team develops, supports and maintains modern computing infrastructure, and provides a high level of service including to regional offices, through the provision of the best available communication systems and remote support services.

Each of more than 200 employees, with the exception of rangers, has a fully networked, standardised computer workstation with access to email, word processing, internet and other services. The computer services team ensures the integrity and security of

the electronic data through backup systems, secure network access, and virus protection. It also facilitates increased efficiency through the development and implementation of new systems that provide improved access to information and communications.

Three specialist staff maintain an extensive geographical information system and manipulate geographic data sets to produce customised maps for projects. Work is in progress to expand the services through web-based mapping systems.

The major goals included finalisation of the EDRMS deployment, exchange mail server upgrade, a major wide area network (WAN) data service migration and procurement of a new phone system. Ongoing building damage, employee relocations and some employee issues prevented some planned visits to regional offices.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Fleet management

The CLC owns and manages a substantial vehicle fleet, including 4WDs, people movers, all-terrain vehicles, and medium and rigid trucks. The fleet management strategy ensures reliable, safe, and robust vehicles that are fit for purpose. It replaces the majority of the fleet every three to four years, depending on use, as by that time remote operational vehicles reach their optimal age and maintenance expenditure escalates.

It implemented a transport study, including a review of the fleet mix and type of vehicle, in consultation with the WHS committee, developed key performance indicators to monitor the implementation phase, reviewed the current booking system, and changed the fleet mix as per the study's recommendations. The implementation is now into its third year and next will move into the monitoring phase. A business systems analyst reviewed the vehicle booking and fleet management processes, and developed a technical specification to further explore a new booking system.

Monitoring and reviewing the emergency response function continued to ensure functionality of the Navman GPS Tracking systems, for example, GPS critical duress, rollover and impact alerts. Of three alerts generated, none were genuine emergencies.

Property management

There are three CLC offices in Alice Springs and eight regional offices, as well as local and regional staff accommodation. The building asset management strategy combines engineering and financial and economic practices with an acceptable and cost

Table 31. Computer services' major achievements, 2016–17

Major achievements	Outcome
General operations	Maintained a large, complex information and communication technologies (ICT) network in regional and remote areas with no significant downtime or data loss; 2,118 support cases actioned, 65 new user accounts created, 220 access control cards issued.
Flood damage relocations	During the main office building repairs CS planned and executed more than 300 computer, phone, printer and account relocations, which provided employees with normal access to all ICT services while working at temporary desks. During this process, staff packed, relocated, and returned all their office and storeroom equipment and consumables.
Exchange mail server upgrade	Major upgrade completed with no unplanned downtime or data loss incurred, and no significant post-migration issues: a difficult project delivered successfully with minimal concern. Migrated meeting room bookings to electronic resource calendars to simplify booking process.
EDRMS implementation	Implemented desktop environment changes and deployed the eDIS standard opening environment to 250 desktop clients. Included organisation-wide upgrade to Microsoft Office 2016.
WAN service migration	Replaced inadequate ADSL internet connection with a symmetrical 50Mbps business-grade service. Commenced upgrade and migration of WAN data services across 14 offices, very near to completion.
AAMC office relocation and recovery site	Assisted in the renovation, planning and relocation of AAMC staff to the renovated Bath Street office. Installed the infrastructure required to allow the site to provide ICT business continuity in the event of a disaster at the main office.
PBX system upgrade planning and procurement	Thoroughly investigated and assessed current telephony technologies. Selected a new PBX system that will offer more features to more offices, while also improving quality and reliability.
SharePoint development	Planned and implemented numerous support SharePoint request lists, calendars and workflows that have improved co-ordination and service provision across multiple sections.
Finance system migration	Participated in the planning and implementation of the new finance system, including provision of additional servers, a new database, and deployment of client software.
Spatial services unit	Made good progress since a restructure, implementing a geodatabase and new processes that have significantly streamlined day-to-day duties, allowing the unit to spend more time supporting other sections, and planning a new online mapping platform. Continues to produce essential high-quality geographical information system (GIS) products.

effective service. A panel of contractors selected by tender regularly undertakes maintenance across the region. The contractors are based in Alice Springs and some regional areas, enabling a quicker response to critical infrastructure issues.

In June 2016 two severe weather fronts moved through Alice Springs, substantially damaging the main office at 27 Stuart Highway. Repairs costing in excess of \$750,000 were completed during the year and included some minor maintenance upgrades, such as replacement of all floor coverings throughout the building, painting and some internal layout changes. Management successfully minimised disruption to service delivery. During the repairs it was noticed that the building was subsiding since 2009, particularly along the eastern side. A full structural review and internal survey was undertaken by Opus

engineers to review the extent of the subsidence and provide recommendations to rectify the problem. These recommendations include major civil works to the onsite stormwater management, replacement of some internal glass office partitions and upgrades to the syphonic roof drainage. It is expected that this work will commence in the 2017–18 financial year as the minister has authorised funding.

The construction of a new regional office in Papunya commenced this year. The design includes a regional office, training room and visitor accommodation. Following a full open tender process Tangentyere Constructions was awarded the project and as part of the project local Papunya CDP participants will be directly involved in the construction. The minister's funding support for the project is much appreciated.

Section 19 leases have been sought for various lots in Papunya, Mutitjulu and Aputula (Finke) as part of future planning and development for ranger, staff and office accommodation

- impacts upon the environment and measures taken to minimise them
- review mechanisms for actions to minimise environmental impact.

Environment protection and biodiversity

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* requires Commonwealth authorities to report on environmental matters:

- how activities meet principles of ecologically sustainable development
- how outcomes contributed to ecologically sustainable development

Various operational aspects are specifically concerned with the environment. Refer to other outputs in this report, in particular, Output 1.2. Corporate management actions on environmental matters include:

- ongoing development of performance information framework and metrics
- production of the recommended environmental measures for all Commonwealth entities (see Table 32 below).

Table 32. CLC's performance against Commonwealth recommended environmental measures

Theme	Performance measure	Indicator(s)	Measure	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17
Energy efficiency	Total consumption of energy – includes all energy consumed when undertaking the functions of the agency, such as energy consumed for office buildings and transportation	Electricity purchased	\$	169,668	210,865	163,304	230,688	220,415
		Electricity consumed	kWh	691,822	708,093	702,904	720,568	692,957
		Gas purchased ⁴	\$	24,803	23,979	27,229	16,884	21,410
		Other fuels purchased/ consumed	L	472,704	569,524	541,876	537,229	566,140
		Air travel distances	km	808,780	903,664	691,312	608,154	757,791
	Greenhouse gas emissions	Air travel greenhouse gas (CO ₂)	tonnes	101.6	103.6	85.6	78.0	92.3
		Electricity greenhouse gas (CO ₂)	tonnes	844.0	863.9	857.5	879.1	845.4
		Gas greenhouse gas (CO ₂)	tonnes	27.5	29.3	33.2	14.4	14.9
		Other fuels greenhouse gas (CO ₂)	tonnes	1,276.3	1,537.7	1,463.1	1,343.1	1,415
		Total CO ₂ emissions	tonnes	2,249	2,534	2,439.4	2,314.5	2,368
	Relative energy use per employee	Electricity used	KWh per employee	3,057.1	3,133.2	3,016.8	3,044.2	2,999.8
		Gas used	Gj per employee	109.6	106.1	116.9	49.7	64.7
		Other fuels used	L per employee	2,089	2,520	2,326	2,270	2,451
Renewable energy	Renewable energy ¹	Electricity produced	kWh	17,610	34,833	56,634	51,178	51,201
		Savings	\$	4,050	10,910	13,026	11,771	11,776
		CO ₂ savings	tonnes	12.2	24.0	39.1	35	35.3
		Renewable electricity in % of total electricity consumed and produced	% kwh	2.5	4.7	7.5	7	6.9

Theme	Performance measure	Indicator(s)	Measure	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17
Waste	Total waste – going to landfills	Amount – going to landfills	cbm	464.0	466.6	355.7	356	410
	Total waste – going to recycling facilities	Amount – going to recycling facilities	cbm	187.1	177.0	156.0	156	260
	Relative waste production	Amount of waste per employee	cbm	2.9	2.8	2.2	2	1.8
	Total consumption of water	Amount of water consumed	kl	9,722.0	5,851.0	8,811.2	11,391	7,522
Water	Relative water consumption	Total water use	kl per employee	43.0	25.9	37.8	48	32.6
CO ₂ offsets	Feral animals removed under National Feral Camel Project	Feral animals removed	number	27,994.0	6,014.0	0.0	0	0
		CO ₂ emission savings (0.96t CO ₂ e/camel/year)	tonnes	26,874.2	5,773.4	0.0	0	0
	Feral camels removed ²	Feral animals removed	number	480.0	6,294.0	244.0	718	0
		CO ₂ emission savings (0.96t CO ₂ e/camel/year) ⁵	tonnes	460.8	6,042.2	234.2	689	0
	Other feral animals removed Note 3	Feral animals removed ³	number	3,573.0	11,128.0	4,651.0	1,316	2,280
		(1.29t CO ₂ /horse/year) ⁵	tonnes	4,609.2	14,355.1	5,999.8	1,698	2,375

Notes:

- 20KW at Stuart Highway, 6KW at Cameron Street, 6KW at Kennett Court, total 32KW.
- Removed by muster off grazing licence or elsewhere.
- Other feral herbivores removed (horses, donkeys, etc.).
- Reduction in gas prices secondary to formal contract with supplier; and changes to the supply of gas in remote accommodation (moved to electric cooktops).
- United Nations FAO 2006.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

The accountable authority hereby presents the 2016–17 annual performance statement. In our opinion, it is based on properly maintained records accurately reflecting the CLC’s performance, and comply with subsection 39(2) of the PGPA Act.

CLC purpose

As described in the 2016–17 Corporate Plan, the purposes of the CLC are its powers and functions within the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and its responsibilities as a Native Title Representative Body under the Native Title Act 1993. These functions and powers are embodied in the strategic goals listed below. For the qualitative assessment of the achievement of these goals refer to the pages of this annual report referenced:

1. good governance (refer pages 20–22)
2. Aboriginal rights and interests protection (refer pages 75–86, 103–5)
3. land ownership and interests (refer pages 28–9, 43–4, 107–16)
4. culture and heritage protection (refer pages 87–89)
5. economic development and income management (refer pages 46–73, 102)
6. strong communities, outstations, and regions (refer pages 90–100)
7. sustainable land use and management (refer pages 30–41)
8. corporate management (refer pages 25–6, 117–125).

Results against each performance criterion

A performance information framework ensures that properly maintained records are the basis of the reported performance and facilitates the selection of performance information and metrics to measure organisational performance. Performance is monitored by metric ‘dashboards’, each including measures categorised by each of the eight strategic goals. The dashboards include a six-year history of actual performance, the corporate plan target, and the forecasts for the following three financial years.

Table 33 contains 46 key performance items reported against the targets presented in the *CLC Corporate Plan 2016–2020*.

Analysis of performance against purpose

The factors that influence achievement of purpose are mainly:

- **Resource constraints:** reliance upon estimates (budget) approved by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs for allocations from the ABA and the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (for programs such as native title representative body functions and the ranger program) – the Australian Government pursues a policy of strict control and productivity improvement.
- **External demand:** key statutory functions include obtaining traditional owner consent for use of Aboriginal land, largely related to mining exploration and mining agreements. The downturn in the mining industry is continuing to have impact on the level of use applications. However, in some functions (such as anthropological) the mining downturn has been offset by increases in other activities related to community development and leasing of Aboriginal land.
- **Aboriginal constituent demand:** income due to traditional owners for royalties and compensation related to mining and other land use activities. Increasingly, communities assign some of these proceeds to community development activities supported and administered by the CLC’s community development unit.
- **Improved productivity:** productivity improvement enables the organisation to improve services. A key project has been the implementation of a ‘transportation’ strategy to simultaneously improve productivity and achieve cost savings. The strategy, based on a transportation expert study, has resulted in a progressive change in the type of vehicle and a reduction in the number of vehicles. The strategy commenced in late 2015–16, but is being progressively implemented over three years as vehicles are replaced. The financial and operational benefits will be maximised in 2017–18.

The non-financial results for 2016–17 generally indicate outcomes aligned to expectations, with economic demand related variations offset by other social demands.

Table 33. Annual performance statement: actual v target

Target as per 2016–17 Corporate Plan	Target 2016–17	Actual 2016–17	Variance
GOOD GOVERNANCE			
Council meetings	3	3	–
Executive meetings held	9	8	(1)
ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND INTERESTS PROTECTION			
Publications produced (e.g. <i>Land Rights News</i> , <i>Council News</i> , <i>CD News</i> , ranger newsletters, CD community newsletters)	20	45	25
CLC web page access rate (visits)	150,000	132,838	(17,162)
LAND OWNERSHIP AND INTERESTS			
Finalised – consent determination handed down	4	4	–
CLC – total region size (square km)	776,549	776,549	–
Traditional owner ‘ownership’ (square km)	417,448	418,548	1,100
Land claims finalised	1	–	(1)
Mining – future act meetings – NT holder identification field trips	24	9	(15)
Non-mining – indigenous land use agreements – negotiated and registered	2	1	(1)
Native title – mining agreements	2	0	(2)
Native title meetings and consultations – post determination	30	41	11
Leasing – consents obtained – all	88	231	143
Leasing – current leases and licences – all	2,109	2,347	238
Anthropological advice issued – total	437	370	(67)
Permits issued – access/entry Aboriginal land (all types)	5,200	5,861	661
Ranger program – rangers employed FTE	75	72	(3)
Ranger program – turnover (annual/trend) as %	28%	20%	(8)
Ranger program – fire management burns	15	17	2
Ranger program – training – certificates awarded	16	–	(16)
CULTURE AND HERITAGE PROTECTION			
Funerals assisted	285	319	(34)
Cultural heritage management plans/projects completed, progressed or supported	10	27	17
Sacred site clearance certificates/other advice issued	180	182	2
Ceremonial activity – regional payments – ABA s.64(4) funded (\$000)	90	84	6
Funeral payments – ABA s.64(4) funded (\$000)	260	243	(7)
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INCOME MANAGEMENT			
Exploration titles applications – completed (includes those withdrawn during negotiating period)	100	45	(55)
Exploration agreements (ELAs and EPAs)	73	65	(8)
Mining agreements	11	11	–

Target as per 2016–17 Corporate Plan	Target 2016–17	Actual 2016–17	Variance
Employment – placements (mining, exploration, road construction, rail line maintenance, remote employment services, pastoral industry)	40	50	10
AAMC meetings held – AGMs	31	31	–
ORIC general reports lodged	32	31	(1)
STRONG COMMUNITIES, OUTSTATIONS AND REGIONS			
Five-year lease money – annual community development expenditure (\$000)	3,000	1,583	1,417
GMAAAC – annual community development expenditure (\$000)	1,500	1,500	–
Total community development project expenditure (\$000)	9,000	7,292	1,708
CORPORATE MANAGEMENT			
Vehicles	95	98	(3)
Total working days in field	6,852	7,589	737
Renewable energy – electricity produced (kWh)	65,000	51,201	(13,799)
Renewable energy – CO ₂ savings (tonnes)	48	35	(13)
Staff turnover (terminations/average staff) (%) – ranger program	19	10	9
Staff turnover (terminations/average staff) (%) – other	14	16	(2)
Lost days	65	60	5
New study agreements	9	9	–
Health and safety representatives	5	5	–
Information systems – user roles supported	210	216	6
Maps produced	670	702	32
Records – new files added (paper)	1,000	196	(804)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Central Land Council financial statements

Independent auditor's report	130
Statement by Accountable Authority and Chief Financial Officer	132
Statement of comprehensive income	133
Statement of financial position	134
Statement of changes in equity	135
Cash flow statement	136
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements	137

Central Land Council Native Title Representative Body financial statements

Independent auditor's report	166
Statement by Accountable Authority and Chief Financial Officer	168
Statement of comprehensive income	169
Statement of financial position	170
Statement of changes in equity	171
Cash flow statement	172
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements	173



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Central Land Council for the year ended 30 June 2017:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and
- (b) present fairly the financial position of the Central Land Council as at 30 June 2017 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Central Land Council, which I have audited, comprise the following statements as at 30 June 2017 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Accountable Authority and Chief Financial Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to and forming part of the financial statements, comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Central Land Council in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements for financial statement audits conducted by the Auditor-General and his delegates. These include the relevant independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* to the extent that they are not in conflict with the *Auditor-General Act 1997* (the Code). I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Accountable Authority's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

As the Accountable Authorities of the Central Land Council the Chair and Director are responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the rules made under that Act. The Chair and Director are also responsible for such internal control as the Chair and Director determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Central Land Council is responsible for assessing the Central Land Council's ability to continue as a going concern, taking into account whether the entity's operations will cease as a result of an administrative restructure or for any other reason. The Chair and Director are also responsible for disclosing matters related to going concern as applicable and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

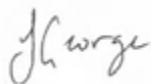
My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Authority;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Australian National Audit Office



Jodi George
Acting Executive Director
Delegate of the Auditor-General
Canberra
18 August 2017

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL
STATEMENT BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2017 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsection 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Central Land Council will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This Statement is made in accordance with this declaration of the Accountable Authority.



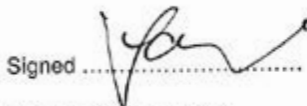
Signed

Mr. David Ross
Director
Accountable Authority
Date: 18/8/17



Signed

Mr. Francis Kelly
Chair
Accountable Authority
Date: 18/8/17



Signed

Dr Nigel Graves FCPA
Chief Financial Officer
Date: 18/8/17

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	NOTES	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
EXPENSES			
Employees and council members benefits	3(a)	22,608	22,942
Suppliers	3(b)	14,714	14,412
Depreciation and amortisation	3(c)	2,559	2,277
Write-down and impairment of assets/receivables	3(d)	–	44
Total expenses		39,881	39,675
LESS:			
OWN-SOURCE INCOME			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4(a)	3,528	2,901
Interest	4(b)	353	381
Rental	4(c)	13	28
Other revenue	4(d)	3,456	4,789
Total own-source revenue		7,350	8,099
Gains			
Gains from sale of assets	4(e)	448	135
Reversals of previous asset write-downs and impairments	4(f)	35	13
Total gains		483	148
Total own-source income		7,833	8,247
Net cost of services		32,048	31,428
Revenue from government	4(g)	34,533	31,368
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Australian Government		2,485	(60)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services			
Changes in asset revaluation reserves	7(a)	–	1,614
Total other comprehensive income		–	1,614
Total comprehensive income attributable to the Australian Government	4(h)	2,485	1,554

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2017**

	NOTES	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		15,849	10,673
Trade and other receivables	6(a)	797	962
Total financial assets		16,646	11,635
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	7(a)	24,958	25,039
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	7(a)	6,031	6,390
Inventories	7(b)	25	46
Total non-financial assets		31,014	31,475
Total assets		47,660	43,110
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	8(a)	3,466	1,504
Other payables	8(b)	597	526
Total payables		4,063	2,030
Provisions			
Employee provisions	9(a)	3,999	3,967
Total provisions		3,999	3,967
Total liabilities		8,062	5,997
NET ASSETS		39,598	37,113
EQUITY			
Asset revaluation reserve		7,075	7,075
Retained surplus		32,523	30,038
TOTAL EQUITY		39,598	37,113

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	Retained earnings		Asset revaluation reserve		TOTAL EQUITY	
	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Opening balance	30,038	30,098	7,075	5,461	37,113	35,559
Comprehensive income						
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	2,485	(60)	–	–	2,485	(60)
Other comprehensive Income	–	–	–	1,614	–	1,614
Total comprehensive income	2,485	(60)	–	1,614	2,485	1,554
of which:						
Attributable to the Australian Government	2,485	(60)	–	1,614	2,485	1,554
Transactions with owners	–	–	–	–	–	–
Transfer between equity components	–	–	–	–	–	–
Closing balance as at 30 June 2017	32,523	30,038	7,075	7,075	39,598	37,113

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Notes	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Sales of goods and rendering of services		7,261	8,278
Receipts from government		36,674	33,418
Rental income		13	28
Net GST received from ATO		575	–
Interest		318	380
Total cash received		44,841	42,104
Cash used			
Employee benefits		22,505	22,776
Suppliers		15,489	17,319
Net GST paid to ATO		–	93
Total cash used		37,994	40,188
Net cash from / (used by) operating activities		6,847	1,916
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		934	452
Total cash received		934	452
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	7(a)	2,605	2,670
Total cash used		2,605	2,670
Net cash (used by) investing activities		(1,671)	(2,218)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		5,176	(302)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		10,673	10,975
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		15,849	10,673

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Objectives of the entity

The Central Land Council (the 'CLC' or the 'Council') is a statutory authority formed within the provision of section 21 of the *Aboriginal Land Right (NT) Act 1976* (the 'Act'). It is a not-for-profit entity. The CLC receives appropriations from the Aboriginal Benefits Account (the 'ABA') pursuant to ministerially approved estimates prepared in accordance with section 34 of the Act and made available under section 64 of the Act. The CLC in its present form with its present programs is dependent on government policy and continuing funding by Parliament.

The CLC is structured to meet outcomes in the Act and the outcomes (output groups) reported upon in this annual report, which are as follows:

- protect and represent the rights and interest of the Aboriginal people,
- pursue and protect Aboriginal ownership and land interest,
- support Aboriginal people in land protection of significant sites and maintaining their culture, heritage and languages,
- enable Aboriginal people to sustainably use and manage land,
- follow best practice for processing development proposals and managing income arising,
- facilitate Aboriginal people to develop strong communities, outstations, and regions, and
- follow best practice corporate management.

The funding conditions of the council are laid down by the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976*, and any special purpose agreement guidelines. Accounting for monies received from the ABA is subject to conditions approved by the Minister for the Indigenous Affairs.

1.2 Basis of preparation of the financial statements

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements and are required by section 42 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015* (FRR) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2015; and,
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations – Reduced Disclosure Requirements issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand unless otherwise specified.

Unless an alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard or the FRR, assets and liabilities are recognised in the statement of financial position when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity or a future sacrifice of economic benefits will be required and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under executory contracts are not recognised unless required by an accounting standard.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, income and expenses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when and only when the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

1.3 Significant accounting judgements and estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in this note, the CLC has made the following judgement that has the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements:

- The fair value of land and buildings has been taken to be the market value or the depreciated replacement cost of similar properties as determined by the directors or an independent valuer.

No other accounting assumptions or estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

1.4 New Australian Accounting Standards

Adoption of new Australian Accounting Standard requirements

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the applicable dates as stated in standard.

All new standards/revised standards/interpretations/amending standards issued prior to the sign-off date applicable to the current reporting period did not have a financial impact on the council and are not expected to have future financial impact on the council.

Future Australian Accounting Standard requirements

The following new standards/revised standards/interpretations/amending standards were issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board prior to the sign-off date, of which the financial impact has yet to be determined.

Standard	Nature of impending changes	Expected application date for CLC
<i>AASB 9 Financial Instruments</i>	CLC expects to apply <i>AASB 9 Financial Instruments</i> in 2018–19. This standard will require most financial assets to be measured at fair value, except for those that are held only for the collection of the principle and interest. Also, wherever there has been a significant increase in credit risk, the Standard will require an expense to be recognised for all expected losses over the life of financial assets. In other cases, an expense will be recognised for losses expected in the year after the reporting date.	2017–18
<i>AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement</i>	Exception in paragraph 48 applies only to financial assets, financial liabilities and other contracts within the scope of <i>AASB 9 Financial Instruments</i> (or <i>AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement</i> , if <i>AASB 9</i> has not yet been adopted). [AASB 2014–7]	2017–18

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Standard	Nature of impending changes	Expected application date for CLC
<p><i>AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurements</i></p>	<p>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards that arising from <i>AASB 15</i> regarding the rights and obligation for the purpose of recognising impairment losses. <i>AASB 2014–15</i> issued in December 2014, amended paragraphs 2, 9, 43, 47, AG52, AG4 and AG48 and added paragraphs 2A, 44A, 55A and AG8A–AG8C. An entity shall apply those amendments when it applies <i>AASB 15</i>. <i>AASB 2015–8</i> deferred the effective date.</p>	2017–18
<p><i>AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i></p>	<p>This standard establishes principles for reporting information about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from CLC’s contracts with customers, with revenue recognised as ‘performance obligations’ are satisfied; and will apply to contacts of NFP entities that are exchange transactions. <i>AASB 1004</i> contributions will continue to apply to non-exchange transactions until the income for NFP project is completed. The effective date was modified by 2015–8 for for-profit entities and 2016–7 for not-for-profit entities. Effective date 1 January 2019 for NFP entities.</p>	2018–19
<p><i>AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities</i></p>	<p><i>AASB 1058</i>, <i>AASB 2016–7</i> and <i>AASB 2016–8</i> clarify and simplify the income recognition requirements that apply to not-for-profit (NFP) entities, in conjunction with <i>AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>. They supersede all the income recognition requirements relating to private sector NFP entities, previously in <i>AASB 1004 Contributions</i>. The requirements of <i>AASB 1058</i> more closely reflect the economic reality of NFP entity transactions that are not contracts with customers (as defined in <i>AASB 15</i>). The timing of income recognition depends on whether such a transaction gives rise to a liability or other performance obligation (a promise to another a good or service), or a contribution by owner related to an asset (such as cash or another asset) received by an entity.</p>	2018–19
<p><i>AASB 16 Leases</i></p>	<p>CLC expects to apply <i>AASB 16 Leases</i> from 2019–20. This standard will require the net present value of payments under most operating leases to be recognised as assets and liabilities. Currently CLC has \$1.4 million in operating lease commitments.</p>	2019–20

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

1.5 Revenue

The revenues described in this note are revenues relating to the core operating activities of the CLC:

- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:
 - the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
 - the council retains no managerial involvement or effective control over the goods;
 - the revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
 - it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the council.
- Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 days credit term, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at the end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.
- Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in *AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*.
- Revenue from the rendering of services, other than those contributions on receipt as per *AASB 1004*, is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date. The revenue is recognised when:
 - the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
 - the probable economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the council.

The stage of completion of the contract at the reporting date is determined according to the proportion that costs incurred to date bear to the estimated total costs of the transaction.

Revenue received free of charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as revenue, when, and only when, a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense. Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

Revenues from government

Amounts appropriated for departmental appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as revenue from government when the entity gains control of the appropriation, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned. Appropriations receivable is recorded at their nominal amounts.

Funding received or receivable from non-corporate Commonwealth entities (appropriated to the non-corporate Commonwealth entity as a corporate Commonwealth entity payment item for payment to this entity) is recognised as revenue from government unless they are in the nature of an equity injection or a loan. These are recognised at the time NTRB becomes entitled to the funding or as contribution on receipt as per *AASB 1004 Contributions*.

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017****1.6 Gains***Sale of assets*

Gains from disposal of assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

1.7 Employee benefits*Employee benefits*

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in *AASB 119 Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits expected within 12 months of the end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

Other long-term employee benefits are measured as net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligations are to be settled directly.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of the Council is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time the leave is taken, including the CLC's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The estimate of the present value of the long service leave liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Superannuation

The majority of employees of CLC are members of REST and Acumen Superannuation Funds. The council makes employer contributions to the REST and Acumen superannuation funds at the rate of 12.5% paid on a fortnightly basis. The council complies with the requirements of the superannuation choice legislation. All superannuation contributions are to accumulated contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions for the final fortnight of the year.

1.8 Leases

Operating lease payments are expensed on a straight-line basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

1.9 Cash

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents includes petty cash and any demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

1.10 Financial assets

The CLC classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- held-to-maturity investments; and
- loans and receivables.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon trade date.

Effective interest method

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis except for financial assets that are recognised at fair value through profit or loss.

Held-to-maturity investments

Non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturity dates that the CLC has the positive intent and ability to hold to maturity are classified as held-to-maturity investments. Held-to-maturity investments are recorded at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment, with revenue recognised on an effective yield basis.

Loans and receivables

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period.

- *Financial assets held at amortised cost* – If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for loans and receivables or held to maturity investments held at amortised cost, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount is reduced by way of an allowance account. The loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.
- *Financial assets carried at cost* – If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred, the amount of the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount of the asset and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the current market rate for similar assets.

1.11 Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

costs. These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective interest basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

1.12 Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are reported in the notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

1.13 Acquisition of assets

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

1.14 Property, plant and equipment***Asset recognition threshold***

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the balance sheet, except for purchases costing less than \$2,000 excluding GST, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located, including any necessary make good provisions.

Revaluations

Fair values for each class of asset are determined as shown below:

Asset class	Fair value measured at:
Land	Market selling price
Building excl. leasehold improvements	Market selling price
Leasehold Improvements	Depreciated replacement cost or market selling price

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Asset class	Fair value measured at:
Motor vehicles	Market selling price
Plant and equipment	Market selling price
Computer equipment	Market selling price
Heritage and cultural assets	Market selling price
Library assets	Market selling price

Assets that are surplus to requirement are measured at their net realisable value. At 30 June 2017 the council held no surplus assets (30 June 2016: \$0). Certain leasehold improvements have been made on land leased from Aboriginal land trusts, for which various fair value measurement methods have been applied.

Following initial recognition at cost, land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets are not materially different from their fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in the market value of the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reversed a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reversed in a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset is restated to the revalued amount.

Frequency

Freehold land, buildings and plant and equipment are subject to a formal independent valuation at a minimum of every three years. The council policy is for formal valuations to be carried out by an independent qualified valuer. Between formal valuations assets are assessed for movements in fair value.

Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the council using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation.

Capital work-in-progress is not depreciated until the asset is ready for use.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are based on the following useful lives:

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017	2016
Buildings on freehold land	40 years	40 years
Leasehold improvements	40 years	40 years
Motor vehicles	4 to 10 years	4 to 10 years
Computer equipment	3 to 4 years	3 to 4 years
Plant and equipment	7 to 10 years	7 to 10 years

The revalued amounts of property, plant and equipment are depreciated for the remaining life of the asset.

The aggregate amount of depreciation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 7. The majority of library asset purchases are individually under \$2,000 (the fixed asset threshold), and are charged directly to expenses. The library assets are not subject to periodic revaluations and are not depreciated, except for the rare book collection which is subject to periodic revaluations.

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2017. Where indications of impairment exist, the assets recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment is made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the CLC was deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

1.15 Inventories

Inventories not held for resale are valued at cost, unless they are no longer required, in which case they are valued at net realisable value.

Costs incurred in bringing each item of inventory to its present location and conditions are assigned as follows:

- raw materials and stores – purchase cost on a first-in-first-out basis; and
- finished goods and work-in-progress – cost of direct materials and labour plus attributable costs that are capable of being allocated on a reasonable basis.

Inventories acquired at no cost or nominal consideration, are initially measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

1.16 Taxation / competitive neutrality

The council is exempt from all forms of taxation except for fringe benefits tax and the goods and services tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST except:

- where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- for receivables and payables.

NOTE 2: EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

There were no significant events after balance sheet date.

NOTE 3: EXPENSES

Note 3(a): Employee benefits

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Wages and salaries	19,314	19,669
Superannuation (defined contribution plans)	2,312	2,353
Leave and other entitlements	234	369
Other employee benefits	748	551
Total employee benefits	22,608	22,942

All payments are within the terms of the 2012–15 CLC enterprise agreement (EA). The CLC makes an additional superannuation contribution of 3% over and above the Superannuation Guarantee Levy of 9.50%.

The CLC pays compulsory professional indemnity insurance to Law Society NT for all its practicing lawyers and pays Comcover a premium for accountable authority and officers insurance.

Note 3(b): Suppliers

Goods and services supplied or rendered

Accounting and audit	231	215
Consultants	792	530
Travel, motor vehicle and meeting expenses	3,467	3,153
Accommodation and utilities	2,641	1,856
Other operating	3,426	2,811
Grant expenses	3,448	5,136
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	14,005	13,701

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Other supplier expenses		
Operating lease rentals (minimum lease payments) – external parties	175	157
Workers' compensation and professional indemnity insurance premium	534	554
Total other supplier expenses	709	711
Total supplier expenses	14,714	14,412

Note 3(c): Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation:		
Buildings	753	653
Motor vehicles	1,344	1,178
Plant and equipment	221	225
IT equipment and software	241	220
Total depreciation	2,559	2,277

The aggregate amounts of depreciation expensed during the reporting period for each class of depreciable asset are detailed in Note 7(a): Analysis of property, plant and equipment.

Note 3(d): Write-down and impairment of assets

Asset write-downs and impairments from:

Impairment of financial instruments – trade receivables	–	44
Total write-down and impairment of assets	–	44

NOTE 4: INCOME
OWN SOURCE REVENUE
Note 4(a): Sale of goods and rendering of services

Rendering of services – external parties	3,528	2,901
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	3,528	2,901

Note 4(b): Interest

Interest from cash and short-term deposits	353	381
Total interest	353	381

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Note 4(c): Rental income

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Operating lease – other	13	28
Total rental income	13	28

Note 4(d): Other revenue / gains

Community project grants	3,456	4,789
Total other gains	3,456	4,789

Note 4(e): Gains from sale of assets

Motor vehicles, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale	934	451
Carrying value of assets sold	(486)	(316)
Net gain from sale of assets	448	135

Note 4 (f): Reversal of previous asset write-downs and impairments

Reversal of impairment losses – loans and receivables	35	13
Total reversals of previous asset write-downs and impairments	35	13

Note 4(g): Revenue from government

From government – ABA s.64(1)	17,927	17,474
From government – special purpose contracts	13,146	12,953
From government – special purpose contracts (revenue received in advance but not yet spent)	3,460	941
Total revenue from government	34,533	31,368

Note 4 (h): Reconciliation of total comprehensive income attributable to Australian Government

Total comprehensive income	2,485	1,554
Unspent grants received FY 2016–17 to be spent in FY 2017–18	(3,460)	(941)
Operational income received FY 2016–17 to be spent in FY 2017–18	(261)	(547)
Adjusted comprehensive income attributable to the Australian Government	(1,236)	66

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Revenue received in advance but not yet spent (unearned revenue)

AASB 1004 requires recognition of revenue once control of assets is with the CLC. Under this standard restrictions over how the money should be spent do not result in obligations. Therefore no liability has been recognised, and the majority of grants are recognised as income when cash is received.

This accounting treatment has the effect of additional revenue being recognised for the CLC in the 2016–17 financial year. For the 2016–17 financial year, \$3,460K (2015–16: \$941K) was received and recognised as revenue, with corresponding outflows of resources expected in the 2017–18 financial year. Refer also Note 14 to these accounts.

NOTE 5: STATEMENT OF BUDGET V ACTUAL ABORIGINALS BENEFIT ACCOUNT APPROPRIATIONS

	ABA approved estimates \$'000 2016–17	ABA actual \$'000 2016–17	Variance \$'000 2016–17
Expenditure			
Salaries and related expenses	13,762	12,283	1,479
Operational expenses	6,927	8,195	(1,268)
Total recurrent expenditure	20,689	20,478	211
Capital	1,435	2,076	(641)
Total expenditure	22,124	22,554	(430)
Income			
ABA s.64(1)	18,027	18,027	(0)
Administration fees	2,422	2,212	(210)
Interest	275	342	67
Sale of assets	553	284	(269)
Recoveries	680	849	169
Other	167	745	578
Total income	22,124	22,459	335
ABA (deficit)/surplus at 30 June 2017	(0)	(95)	(95)

	\$'000 2016–17	Notes
The net deficit of \$95K is accounted for as follows:		
ABA (deficit)/surplus at 30 June 2017	(95)	
(Less) Committed towards building upgrades	(270)	(i)
(Less) Committed towards acquisition of motor vehicles and office equipment	(259)	(ii)
(Less) Committed operational expenses	(98)	(iii)

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	\$'000 2016-17	Notes
(Less) Planned – implementation of electronic data records management system (EDRMS)	147	(iv)
Add: Insurance claim costs included in exp. reimbursement not yet received	301	(v)
ABA deficit after commitments as at 30 June 2017	(274)	

Notes:

- (i) Committed toward building upgrade at Papunya;
- (ii) Committed towards replacement of motor vehicles as per transport strategy and replacement of obsolete office equipment.
- (iii) Pending operational expenses provided for in 2016-17 carried forward to 2017-18;
- (iv) Funding received prior to 30 June 2016 spent during 2016-17; and
- (v) Flood damage to 27 Stuart Highway building, repairs paid for, claim lodged, CLC awaiting Comcover settlement.

Note 5(a): Reconciliation – ABA cash receipts to income statement

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Cash release received during the reporting period:		
ABA Section 64(1)	18,027	17,474
	18,027	17,474

Note 5(b): Reconciliation – ABA special purpose grant: Women's law and culture meeting

Income

ABA grant income / (repayment)	(15)	122
Total income / (repayment)	(15)	122

Expenditure

Operational expenditure	93	14
Total expenditure	93	14
Annual movement in grant funds	(108)	108
Multi-year grant balance of funds:	–	108

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Note 5(c): ABA special purpose grant: Lajamanu Kurdiji governance project phase 2

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Income		
ABA grant income	–	–
Total income	–	–
Expenditure		
Operational expenditure	–	53
Total expenditure	–	53
Annual movement in grant funds	–	(53)
Multi-year grant balance of funds:	–	–

Note 5(d): ABA special purpose grant: Kurdiji law and justice group

Income		
ABA grant income / (repayment)	–	125
Total income / (repayment)	–	125
Expenditure		
Capital and Operational expenditure	58	–
Total expenditure	58	–
Annual movement in grant funds	(58)	125
Multi-year grant balance of funds:	67	125

Note 5(e): ABA special purpose grant: Repatriation of sacred objects

Income		
ABA grant income / (repayment)	–	39
Total income / (repayment)	–	39
Expenditure		
Capital and operational expenditure	1	32
Total expenditure	1	32
Annual movement in grant funds	(1)	7
Multi-year grant balance of funds:	6	7

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Note 5(f): ABA special purpose grant: Men and women of Central Australia oral history project

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Income		
ABA grant income / (repayment)	–	–
Total income / (repayment)	–	–
Expenditure		
Operational expenditure	–	23
Total expenditure	–	23
Annual movement in grant funds	–	(23)
Multi-year grant balance of funds:	–	–

Note 5(g): ABA special purpose grant: ABA ranger capital and operational

Income		
ABA grant income / (repayment)	–	429
Total income / (repayment)	–	429
Expenditure		
Capital and operational expenditure	–	410
Total expenditure	–	410
Annual movement in grant funds	–	20
Multi-year grant balance of funds	–	–

Note 5(h): ABA special purpose grant: Health and wellbeing

Income		
ABA grant income / (repayment)	350	–
Total income / (repayment)	350	–
Expenditure		
Operational expenditure	347	–
Total expenditure	347	–
Annual movement in grant funds	3	–
Multi-year grant balance of funds:	3	–

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Note 5(i): ABA special purpose grant: Aboriginal development project

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Income		
ABA grant income / (repayment)	100	-
Total income / (repayment)	100	-
Expenditure		
Operational expenditure	30	-
Total expenditure	30	-
Annual movement in grant funds	70	-
Multi-year grant balance of funds:	70	-

Note 5(j): Reconciliation – ABA special purpose grant: Funeral and ceremony

Income		
ABA grant income / (repayment)	-	350
Total income / (repayment)	-	350
Expenditure		
Operational expenditure	1	349
Total expenditure	1	349
Annual movement in grant funds	(1)	1
Multi-year grant balance of funds:	-	1

Note 5(k): Reconciliation – ABA special purpose grant: Caring for our country

Income		
ABA grant income / (repayment)	580	574
Total income / (repayment)	580	574
Expenditure		
Operational expenditure	814	635
Total expenditure	814	635
Annual movement in grant funds	(234)	(60)
Multi-year grant balance of funds:	11	245

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Note 5(l): Reconciliation – ABA special purpose grant: Indigenous areas programme

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Income		
ABA grant income / (repayment)	1,768	885
Total income / (repayment)	1,768	885
Expenditure		
Operational expenditure	1,196	1,072
Total expenditure	1,196	1,072
Annual movement in grant funds	572	(187)
Multi-year grant balance of funds:	807	235

Note 5(m): Reconciliation – ABA special purpose grant: Northern Tanami IPA proposal for IPA underspend 2013–14

Income		
ABA grant income / (repayment)	–	–
Total income / (repayment)	–	–
Expenditure		
Operational expenditure	–	–
Total expenditure	–	–
Annual movement in grant funds	–	–
Multi-year grant balance of funds:	18	18

Note 5(n): Reconciliation ABA special purpose grant: IEP–CLC ranger program

Income		
ABA grant income / (repayment)	–	16
Total income / (repayment)	–	16
Expenditure		
Operational expenditure	1	–
Total expenditure	1	–
Annual movement in grant funds	(1)	16
Multi-year grant balance of funds:	74	75

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Note 5(o): Reconciliation – ABA special purpose grant: Mutitjulu rangers, 2017–18

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Income		
ABA grant income / (repayment)	77	–
Total income / (repayment)	77	–
Expenditure		
Operational expenditure	–	–
Total expenditure	–	–
Annual movement in grant funds	77	–
Multi-year grant balance of funds:	77	–

NOTE 6: FINANCIAL ASSETS

Note 6(a): Trade and other receivables

Goods and services:

Goods and services – related entities	–	–
Goods and services – external parties	833	891
Total receivables for goods and services	833	891
Other receivables		
GST receivable from Australian Taxation Office	–	177
Interest receivable	53	18
Total other receivables	53	195
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	886	1,086
Less: impairment allowance account		
Goods and services	(89)	(124)
	(89)	(124)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	797	962

All receivables are current assets. Debtors are recognised at their nominal amounts due less provisions for impairment, if any. Provisions are made when collection of the debt is judged to be less rather than more likely. All debtors are unsecured and as such, the carrying value of the net receivables represents the amount exposed to credit risk.

Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2016: 30 days).

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

NOTE 7: NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

Note 7(a): Analysis of property, plant and equipment

Table (A): Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment 2016–17	Land and buildings \$	Motor vehicles \$	Plant and equipment \$	Library \$	Computer equipment and softwares \$	TOTAL \$
As at 1 July 2016						
Gross book value	25,039	9,358	2,168	500	1,651	38,716
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	–	(4,894)	(1,071)	(50)	(1,271)	(7,286)
Net book value 1 July 2016	25,039	4,464	1,096	450	380	31,430
Additions						
By purchase	671	1,188	190	15	541	2,605
Depreciation expense	(753)	(1,344)	(221)	–	(241)	(2,559)
Disposals – Gross value	–	(2,256)	–	–	(457)	(2,713)
Disposals – Accumulated depreciation	–	1,770	–	–	456	2,227
Net book value 30 June 2017	24,958	3,822	1,065	465	679	30,989
Net book value as of 30 June 2017 represented by						
Gross book value	25,711	8,290	2,358	515	1,734	38,607
Accumulated depreciation	(753)	(4,468)	(1,293)	(50)	(1,055)	(7,619)
Net book value 30 June 2017	24,958	3,822	1,065	465	679	30,989

Table (A): Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment 2015–16	Land and buildings \$	Motor vehicles \$	Plant and equipment \$	Library \$	Computer equipment and softwares \$	TOTAL \$
As at 1 July 2015						
Gross book value	24,723	9,117	2,216	500	1,294	37,850
Accumulated depreciation/ amortisation	(1,229)	(4,754)	(1,027)	(50)	(1,051)	(8,111)
Net book value 1 July 2015	23,494	4,363	1,189	450	243	29,739
Additions						
By purchase	584	1,486	242	–	358	2,670
Revaluation movements						

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Land and buildings \$	Motor vehicles \$	Plant and equipment \$	Library \$	Computer equipment and softwares \$	TOTAL \$
Revaluation increments recognised in equity	1,614	–	–	–	–	1,614
Reversal of accumulated depreciation in gross value	(1,882)	–	–	–	–	(1,882)
Reversal of accumulated depreciation	1,882	–	–	–	–	1,882
Depreciation expense	(653)	(1,178)	(225)	–	(220)	(2,277)
Disposals – Gross value	–	(1,245)	(290)	–	–	(1,535)
Disposals – Accumulated depreciation	–	1,038	180	–	–	1,218
Net book value 30 June 2016	25,039	4,464	1,096	450	380	31,429
Net book value as of 30 June 2016 represented by						
Gross book value	25,039	9,358	2,168	500	1,651	38,716
Accumulated depreciation	–	(4,894)	(1,071)	(50)	(1,271)	(7,287)
Net book value 30 June 2016	25,039	4,464	1,096	450	380	31,429

Note 7(b): Inventory

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Inventories not held for sale (cost):		
Tyres	25	46
Total Inventories	25	46

All inventories are expected to be utilised within 12 months.

NOTE 8: PAYABLES

Note 8(a): Suppliers

Trade creditors	1,398	1,392
Sundry creditors and accruals	1,670	112
GST payable to Australian Taxation Office	398	–
Total supplier payables	3,466	1,504

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Note 8(b): Other payables

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Salaries and wages	597	526
Total other payables	597	526

All payables are expected to be settled within 12 months.

NOTE 9: PROVISIONS

Note 9(a): Employee provisions

Leave	3,999	3,967
Total employee provisions	3,999	3,967
Employee provisions are expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	2,978	2,947
More than 12 months	1,021	1,020
Total employee provisions	3,999	3,967

Long service leave liabilities were calculated using the shorthand method as at 30 June 2017 as detailed in FRR.

NOTE 10: RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE

There were no loans or grants made to directors or director related entities during the period. All transactions with directors or director related entities were made on normal terms and conditions. In cases where transactions occurred, the directors took no part in relevant decisions.

The CLC holds three fully paid ordinary shares issued at \$1.00 each in Centrecorp Aboriginal Investment Corporation Pty Ltd ('Centrecorp'), the trustee of two charitable trusts. Centrecorp itself does not have financial transactions or prepare financial statements. The deeds of both charitable trusts exclude the CLC as a shareholder to benefit from the trusts and precludes the deeds from being amended to ever allow such a benefit. As a result the CLC does not control or have influence over these entities. The fair value of the three shares is zero.

The CLC holds one fully paid share valued at \$1.00 Imparja Television Pty Ltd. The constitution of Imparja Television Pty Ltd paragraph 48(a) states 'surplus shall not be distributed to the members.' The CLC does not control or have influence over the entity. The fair value of the share is zero.

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**
NOTE 11: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL REMUNERATION

	2017 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits:	
Salary	898
Other	61
Short-term employee benefit	959
Post-employment benefits:	
Superannuation (post-employment benefits)	125
Total post employment benefits	125
Other long-term benefits:	
Annual leave accrued	82
Long-service leave	24
Total other long-term benefits	106
Total	1,190

The total number of key management personnel that are included in the table are four.

Two key management personnel, the chair and the director, each has a close family member employed by CLC. These close family members are remunerated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the CLC enterprise agreement. Both close family members were employed by the CLC prior to the commencement of employment for each of the key management personnel.

NOTE 12: REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Remuneration to auditors for the reporting period are as follows:		
Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) – for statutory audit	56	54
KPMG – for acquittal of grants	36	43
PriceWaterhouseCoopers for auditing the accounts of associations assisted by the land council	90	92
	182	189

The audit fees above report the costs associated with auditing each financial year.

No other services were provided by the ANAO during the reporting period.

The CLC incurs the cost of an audit on each of the Aboriginal corporations, trusts and companies for which the Aboriginal Associations Management Centre (AAMC) assists. Subsequently, these costs are covered by fees charged to the associations. PriceWaterhouseCoopers continues to perform the audits and some tax agent services for these entities.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

NOTE 13: LAND USE TRUST ACCOUNT

The CLC maintains a land use trust account. Monies received on behalf of the associations of Aboriginal people and individuals in accordance with section 35 of the ALR (NT) Act, are held in the land use trust account and are disbursed in accordance with the terms of the trust. These monies are unavailable for other purposes of the CLC, and are not recognised in the financial statements.

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Opening balance	30,264	30,232
Add receipts		
Subsection 64(1) and (3) statutory royalty equivalents	21,629	17,659
Section 42, 43, 44, 46, 48a and 48d negotiated monies	21,391	20,123
Section 15,16,19 and 20 rental and lease monies	9,094	8,096
Other monies	5,529	2,041
Total receipts	57,643	47,919
Deduct payments		
Section 35(2) statutory royalty equivalents	21,626	17,659
Section 35(3) negotiated payments	21,622	20,054
Section 35(4) rental and lease monies	6,177	7,450
Northern Territory – <i>National Emergency Response Act 2007</i>	1,507	1,490
Other payments	2,924	1,234
Total payments	53,856	47,887
Closing balance	34,051	30,264
Cash at bank and term deposits	34,051	30,264

Note 13(a): Details of amounts paid – s.35(2)

Details of amounts paid as required by section 37(4) ALR (NT) Act:

Ngurratjuta Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation	25	97
Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation	21,564	17,562
Pulikatjarra Aboriginal Corporation	17	–
Nganampa Aboriginal Corporation	17	–
Ikuntji Artists Aboriginal Corporation	6	–
	21,629	17,659

Determinations under s.35(2) – made 16 August 2016

That all money paid to it under subsection 64(3) in respect of that area affected by The Granites/Callie mining operations shall be paid, within six months of its receipt by the land council, to the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (ICN – 1195).

That all money paid to it under subsection 64(3) in respect of that area affected by the Palm Valley and

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Mereenie Oil/Gas Field operations shall be paid, within six months of its receipt by the land council, to the Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation (ICN – 414).

That all money paid to it under subsection 64(3) in respect of that area affected by the Surprise Well Oil Field operations shall be paid, within six months of its receipt by the land council, 30% to the Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation (ICN – 414), 30% to the Pulikutjarra Aboriginal Corporation (ICN – 2999), 30% to the Nganampa Aboriginal Corporation (ICN – 8292) and 10% to the Ikuntji Artists Aboriginal Corporation (ICN – 3621).

Note 13(b): Details of amounts paid as required by s.35(4A) 'Accountable amounts' ALR (NT) Act

Rent paid by the Director of National Parks under the lease of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park:

Amounts paid	2017 \$'000
Yangkuntjatjara Kutu Aboriginal Corporation	1,079
Tangentyere Constructions	193
CASA Leisure	681
Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation	22
Centre Funerals	15
Pitjantjatjara Council Inc	64
NPY Women's Council Aboriginal Corporation	223
Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yangkuntjatjara	43
	2,320

NOTE 14: SPECIAL PURPOSE CONTRACTS

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Statement of completion for special purpose contracts		
Revenue received in advance but not yet spent		
Contract contributions unexpended at 30 June (refer Note 4(g) for revenue disclosure)	4,105	2,103
Closing balance unexpended grants	4,105	2,103

The total balance of unexpended grants as at 30 June 2017 is \$4,105K of which \$3,460K relates to revenue recognised in the 2016–17 financial year. The revenue received in advance but not yet spent represents recognised revenue (in line with AASB 1004) for which there will be outflows in the following year (services not yet performed). The closing balance represents future year expected cash outflows relating to current or prior year revenue recognised.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

NOTE 15: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Note 15(a): Categories of financial instruments

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Financial assets		
Loans and receivables		
Cash on hand or on deposit	15,849	10,673
Trade and other receivables – net of impairment losses	797	785
Total	16,646	11,458
Carrying amount of financial assets	16,646	11,458
Financial liabilities		
At amortised cost		
Trade creditors	1,398	1,392
Sundry creditors and accruals	1,670	112
Total	3,068	1,504
Carrying amount of financial liabilities	3,068	1,504

The carrying amounts of financial instruments are a reasonable approximation of fair value due to their short term nature. The majority of the financial assets/liabilities above are short term payables and receivables. The CLC has not transferred financial assets in which it has retained an interest. Trade and other receivables of \$797K (2016: \$785K) have been reduced by GST receivable of \$0 (2017: \$398K GST payable) (2016: \$177K receivable). The amount has also been reduced by allowances for impairment amounting to \$89K in 2017 (2016: \$92K).

Note 15(b): Net income and expenses from financial assets and liabilities

Loans and receivables		
Interest revenue (see note 4(b))	353	381
Net gain loans and receivables	353	381
Net gain from financial assets	353	381

There was no income or expense to be recognised from financial liabilities of the CLC.

Note 15(c): Credit risk

Cash at the bank and receivables for goods and services represent the total exposure of the CLC to credit risk. The CLC is exposed to minimal credit risk as the majority of receivables are short term; are due under legislation or contract; or are receivable from the Australian Taxation Office in the form of a GST refund.

All bank accounts and term deposits are held with two of the Australia's big four banks. CLC has a concentration of credit risk with National Australia Bank ('NAB') as the majority of CLC's bank accounts and term deposits are held with NAB. ANZ bank holds \$2 million in TDs.

All debtors are unsecured and as such, the carrying value of the net receivables represents the amount exposed to credit risk. The CLC holds no collateral to mitigate against credit risk.

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017****Note 15(d): Liquidity risk and market risk**

The CLC's financial liabilities are suppliers' payables. The CLC in its present form with its present programs is dependent on government policy and on continuing appropriations by Parliament. The CLC manages its budget to ensure it has adequate funds to meet payments as they fall due. Financial liabilities at 30 June 2017 of \$3,466K (2016: \$1,504K) are all current liabilities (due within 1 year).

There is no market risk relating to the CLC's financial assets or liabilities.

Note 15(e): Interest rate risk

CLC's sensitivity to movement in interest rates in relation to the nature of interest bearing assets in 2017 has been assessed as 1% (100 basis points). Based on cash as at 30 June 2017, movement of 1% would equate to a \$158K increase/decrease in profit and corresponding increase/decrease in equity (2016: \$107K increase or decrease in profit or increase/decrease in equity).

NOTE 16: CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

At 30 June 2017, the CLC had no significant legal claims in progress.

At 30 June 2017, the CLC had no significant contingent assets and liabilities. (2016: \$Nil)

NOTE 17: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT

The different levels of the fair value hierarchy are defined below:

- Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at measurement date.
- Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the assets or liability, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3: Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

The council determines fair value for its non-financial assets using the level 2 and 3 inputs in the fair value hierarchy.

The following table disclose the fair value at 30 June 2017 and the valuation techniques used to derived its fair value:

	Fair value measurement – Valuation technique for non-financial assets		
	Fair value \$'000	Category	Valuation technique
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings			
Freehold land	5,026	Level 2	Market based valuation of direct comparatives
Building on freehold land	13,436	Level 2	Capitalisation on an assumed income based on comparative properties
Work in progress	232	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost
Building on leasehold land	6,264	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost
Plant and equipment			
Motor vehicles	3,822	Level 3	Market comparables

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Fair value measurement – Valuation technique for non-financial assets		
	Fair value \$'000	Category	Valuation technique
Plant and equipment	1,065	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost
Computer equipment	679	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost
Library	465	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost
Total non-financial assets	30,989		

The fair value of the council's freehold land and building, including work-in-progress, as at 30 June 2017 has been determined using the basis of the valuation carried out by Maloney Asset Services as at 30 June 2016, who is a certified practising valuer and with relevant experience in the valuation of property in Alice Springs. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in the market value of the relevant assets. The fair value measurement for the freehold land and building has been categorised as level 2 fair value based on the valuation technique noted above.

The fair value of the council's building on leasehold land as at 30 June 2017 has also been determined using the basis of the valuation carried out by Maloney Asset Services as at 30 June 2017. The fair value measurement for the building on leasehold land has been categorised as level 3 fair value based on the inputs of the valuation technique (see above).

For those infrastructure, plant and equipment that are carried at cost, their cost approximates their fair market value. The highest and best use of the infrastructure, plant and equipment approximates its current use.

The reconciliations for the recurring level 2 and 3 fair market value measurements of land and building, and infrastructure, plant and equipment are detailed in Note 7.

There were no changes in valuation techniques used by council during the year.

NOTE 18: AMOUNTS PAID TO CONSULTANTS

	2017 \$'000
Anthropology	33
David Alexander	5
Geoffrey Bagshaw	18
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel	10
Community development	35
Anthropos Consulting Services	3
La Trobe University	20
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel	12
Corporate services and finance	103
Beit Holmes and Associates P/L	14
Brian Stacey	18

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017 \$'000
David Alexander	27
Ernst & Young	18
Maggie Kavanagh	3
Opus	1
Westwood Spice	12
Sillers Systems Administration .	11
Land management and ranger program	245
Beit Holmes and Associates P/L	24
Bluebush Aboriginal Corporation	47
Bullstrap Contracting	21
Colin Stanton	26
Environmental Systems Solutions Pty Ltd	2
Fiona Walsh	48
Industrial Cuts & Crossfades	21
Integrated Valuation Services	3
Kungkas Can Cook	7
Maggie Kavanagh	2
Social Ventures Australia Ltd	23
Tern Ecosystematics	15
WA Low Ecological Services	8
Mining	45
Pietro Guj	15
Slm Corporate Pty Ltd	30
Native title unit	326
Aka Consulting	53
Dr Natalie Kwok	46
Michael Cawthorn	58
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel	32
R J Howells Pty Ltd	7
R John Morton	4
Sally Hodson	36
Sandra Jarvis	64
Southern Radiation Services	3
Susan Donaldson	23
GRAND TOTAL	788



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Central Land Council as Native Title Representative Body for the year ended 30 June 2017:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and
- (b) present fairly the financial position of the Central Land Council as Native Title Representative Body as at 30 June 2017 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Central Land Council as Native Title Representative Body, which I have audited, comprise the following statements as at 30 June 2017 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Accountable Authority and Chief Financial Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to and forming part of the financial statements, comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Central Land Council as Native Title Representative Body in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements for financial statement audits conducted by the Auditor-General and his delegates. These include the relevant independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* to the extent that they are not in conflict with the *Auditor-General Act 1997* (the Code). I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Accountable Authority's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

As the Accountable Authorities of the Central Land Council as Native Title Representative Body the Chair and Director are responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the rules made under that Act. The Chair and Director are also responsible for such internal control as the Chair and Director determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Central Land Council as Native Title Representative Body is responsible for assessing the Central Land Council as Native Title Representative Body's ability to continue as a going concern, taking into account whether the entity's operations will cease as a result of an administrative restructure or for any other reason. The Chair and Director are also responsible for disclosing matters related to going concern as applicable and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

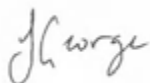
My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Authority;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Australian National Audit Office



Jodi George

Acting Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra

18 August 2017


CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL - Native Title Representative Body
STATEMENT BY ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Central Land Council (CLC) is a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) as prescribed in the *Native Title Act 1993*. Since being recognised as an NTRB, the CLC has performed the functions of the NTRB in association with other CLC mainstream functions.

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2017 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsection 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the NTRB will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

The statement is made in accordance with this declaration of the Accountable Authority.


Signed

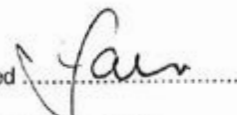
Mr. David Ross
Director
Accountable Authority

Date 18/8/17


Signed

Mr. Francis Kelly
Chair
Accountable Authority

Date 18/8/17


Signed

Dr Nigel Graves FCPA
Chief Financial Officer

Date 18/8/17

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

NET COST OF SERVICES	NOTES	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
EXPENSE			
Employees and council members	3(a)	2,066	1,915
Suppliers	3(b)	1,584	1,402
Depreciation	3(c)	147	155
TOTAL EXPENSES		3,797	3,472
LESS:			
OWN-SOURCE INCOME			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4(c)	72	68
Interest	4(b)	11	21
Total own-source revenue		83	89
Gains			
Gains from disposal of assets	4(d)	65	48
Total gains		65	48
Total own-source income		148	137
Net (cost of) services		(3,649)	(3,335)
Revenue from government – DPM&C operational grant	4(a)	4,288	3,457
Surplus attributable to the Australian Government		639	122
Total comprehensive income attributable to the Australian Government		639	122

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

	NOTES	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash	10	822	269
Total financial assets		822	269
Non-financial assets			
Plant and equipment	6(a)	487	440
Total non-financial assets		487	440
Total assets		1,310	709
LIABILITIES			
Provisions			
Employee provisions	7(a)	336	375
Total provisions		336	375
Total liabilities		336	375
NET ASSETS		973	334
EQUITY			
Asset revaluation reserve		14	14
Retained surplus		959	320
Total equity		973	334

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Retained surplus/ (deficit)		Asset revaluation reserve		TOTAL EQUITY	
	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Opening balance	320	198	14	14	334	212
Surplus for the period	639	122	–	–	639	122
Total comprehensive income	639	122	–	–	639	122
Closing balance as at 30 June 2017	959	320	14	14	973	334

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL NATIVE TITLE REPRESENTATIVE BODY

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	Notes	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Operating activities			
Cash received			
Revenue from government	4(a)	4,288	3,457
Interest	4(b)	11	21
Sales of goods and rendering of services	4(c)	72	67
Total cash received		4,371	3,545
Cash used			
Employees		2,105	1,941
Suppliers	3(b)	1,584	1,402
Total cash used		3,689	3,343
Net cash from operating activities	8	682	202
Investing activities			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		108	106
Total cash received		108	106
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	6(b)	237	202
Total cash used		237	202
Net cash used in investing activities		(129)	(96)
Net increase in cash held		553	106
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		269	163
Cash at the end of the reporting period	10	822	269

CLC NATIVE TITLE REPRESENTATIVE BODY

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Note 1: Summary of significant accounting policies

1.1 Overview

The Central Land Council (CLC) is a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) as prescribed in the *Native Title Amendment Act 1998* and a land council under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*. It is a not-for-profit entity. Since being recognised as an NTRB, the CLC has performed the functions of the NTRB in association with other CLC functions. The CLC has reporting requirements specified in the *Native Title Amendment Act 1998, Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (schedule 1) and through the Financial Reporting Rule.

The NTRB is dependent on the continued release of these funds for its continued existence and ability to carry out its normal activities. The funding conditions of the NTRB are laid down by the Native Title Act, and any special purpose grant guidelines. Accounting for monies received from the Department of The Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPM&C) is subject to conditions approved by the Land Rights Branch.

1.2 Basis of preparation of the financial report

The financial statements of the CLC as an NTRB are required by clause 10.1 of the project schedule of the *Native Title Amendment Act 1998* and section 42 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and are general purpose financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015 (FRR) for reporting period ending on or after 1 July 2015; and
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations – Reduced Disclosure Requirements issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The CLC as an NTRB has prepared the statement of comprehensive income, statement of financial position, statement of changes in equity, and cash flow statement applicable to the NTRB operation and function. All NTRB account balances have been identified from within the CLC financial information and accurately extracted from the CLC accounts, representing the completeness and existence of all assets and liabilities of the NTRB. The CLC maintains an NTRB revenue and expenditure cost centre and the statement of comprehensive income is a complete and accurate record of NTRB revenue and expenditure.

The NTRB statement of comprehensive income and statement of financial position have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position. The financial report is prepared in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest dollar unless otherwise specified.

Unless an alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard or directed by the FRRs, assets and liabilities are recognised in the NTRB statement of financial position when, and only when, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the NTRB or a future sacrifice of economic benefit will be required and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under executory contracts are not recognised unless required by an accounting standard.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, income and expenses are recognised in the NTRB statement of comprehensive income when, and only when, the flow,

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

1.3 Significant accounting judgements and estimates

In the process of applying the accounting policies listed in the notes, the NTRB has not made judgements that have the most significant impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements.

No accounting assumptions or estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next accounting period.

1.4 New accounting standards

Adoption of new Australian Accounting Standard requirements

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the applicable dates as stated in standard.

All new standards/revised standards/interpretations/amending standards issued prior to the sign-off date applicable to the current reporting period did not have a financial impact on the NTRB and are not expected to have future financial impact on the NTRB.

Future Australian Accounting Standard requirements

The following new standards/revised standards/Interpretations/amending standards were issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board prior to the sign-off date, which are not expected to have a material financial impact on the NTRB for future reporting periods:

Standard	Nature of impending changes	Expected application date for CLC
<i>AASB 9 Financial Instruments</i>	CLC expects to apply <i>AASB 9 Financial Instruments</i> in 2018–19. This standard will require most financial assets to be measured at fair value, except for those that are held only for the collection of the principle and interest. Also, wherever there has been a significant increase in credit risk, the standard will require an expense to be recognised for all expected losses over the life of financial assets. In other cases, an expense will be recognised for losses expected in the year after the reporting date.	2017–18
<i>AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement</i>	Exception in paragraph 48 applies only to financial assets, financial liabilities and other contracts within the scope of <i>AASB 9 Financial Instruments</i> (or <i>AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement</i> , if <i>AASB 9</i> has not yet been adopted). [AASB 2014-7]	2017–18

CLC NATIVE TITLE REPRESENTATIVE BODY
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

Standard	Nature of impending changes	Expected application date for CLC
<p><i>AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurements</i></p>	<p>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards that arising from <i>AASB 15</i> regarding the rights and obligation for the purpose of recognising impairment losses. <i>AASB 2014–15</i> issued in December 2014, amended paragraphs 2, 9, 43, 47, AG52, AG4 and AG48 and added paragraphs 2A, 44A, 55A and AG8A–AG8C. An entity shall apply those amendments when it applies <i>AASB 15</i>. <i>AASB 2015-8</i> deferred the effective date.</p>	<p>2017–18</p>
<p><i>AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i></p>	<p>This standard establishes principles for reporting information about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from the CLC’s contracts with customers, with revenue recognised as ‘performance obligations’ are satisfied; and will apply to contacts of NFP entities that are exchange transactions. <i>AASB 1004</i> contributions will continue to apply to non-exchange transactions until the income for NFP project is completed. The effective date was modified by <i>2015-8</i> for for-profit entities and <i>2016-7</i> for not-for-profit entities. Effective date 1 January 2019 for NFP entities.</p>	<p>2018–19</p>
<p><i>AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities</i></p>	<p><i>AASB 1058</i>, <i>AASB 2016-7</i> and <i>AASB 2016-8</i> clarify and simplify the income recognition requirements that apply to not-for-profit entities, in conjunction with <i>AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>. They supersede all the income recognition requirements relating to private sector NFP entities, previously in <i>AASB 1004 Contributions</i>. The requirements of <i>AASB 1058</i> more closely reflect the economic reality of NFP entity transactions that are not contracts with customers (as defined in <i>AASB 15</i>). The timing of income recognition depends on whether such a transaction gives rise to a liability or other performance obligation (a promise to another good or service), or a contribution by owner related to an asset (such as cash or another asset) received by an entity.</p>	<p>2018–19</p>
<p><i>AASB 16 Leases</i></p>	<p>The CLC as NTRB expects to apply <i>AASB 16 Leases</i> from 2019–20. This standard will require the net present value of payments under most operating leases to be recognised as assets and liabilities.</p>	<p>2019–20</p>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

1.5 Revenue

The revenues described in this note are revenues relating to the core operating activities of the NTRB:

- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:
 - the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
 - the NTRB retains no managerial involvement or effective control over the goods;
 - the revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
 - it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.
- Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method as set out in *AASB 139 Financial Instruments, Recognition and Measurement*.
- Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 days' credit term, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed throughout the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.
- Revenue from the rendering of a service, other than those contributions on receipt as per *AASB 1004*, is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract to provide the service at the reporting date. The revenue is recognised when:
 - the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
 - the probable economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the NTRB.

The stage of completion of the contract at the reporting date is determined according to the proportion that costs incurred to date bear to the estimated total costs of the transaction.

Program funding agreements

Most agreements require the grantee to perform services or provide facilities, or to meet eligibility criteria. Receipts from agreements are recognised as income when received. Where agreement funds that have been paid in advance had a stand-ready obligation to return unspent funds, a liability is recognised.

Revenues from government

Amounts appropriated for departmental appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as revenue from government when the entity gains control of the appropriations, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned. Appropriations receivable is recognised at its nominal amounts.

Funding received or receivable from non-corporate Commonwealth entities (appropriated to the non-corporate Commonwealth entity as a corporate Commonwealth entity payment item for payment to this entity) is recognised as revenue from government unless they are in the nature of an equity injection or a loan. These are recognised at the time the council becomes entitled to the funding or as contribution on receipt as per *AASB 1004 Contributions*.

1.6 Gains

Sale of assets

Gains from disposal of assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

CLC NATIVE TITLE REPRESENTATIVE BODY

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

1.7 Employee benefits

Employee benefits

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in *AASB 119 Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits expected within 12 months of the end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provisions for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as it is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of the NTRB is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration, at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time leave is taken, including the NTRB's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The estimate of the present value of the long service leave liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Superannuation

The majority of employees of the CLC are members of Acumen Superannuation Funds. The CLC makes employer contributions to the Acumen superannuation fund at the rate of 12.5% paid on a fortnightly basis. The CLC as an NTRB complies with the requirements of the superannuation choice legislation. All superannuation contributions are to accumulated contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions for the last fortnight of the year.

1.8 Financial assets

The NTRB classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- held-to-maturity investments, and
- loans and receivables.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

Effective interest method

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis except for financial assets that are recognised at fair value through profit or loss.

Held-to-maturity investments

Non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturity dates that the NTRB has the positive intent and ability to hold to maturity are classified as held-to-maturity

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

investments. Held-to-maturity investments are recorded at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment, with revenue recognised on an effective yield basis.

Loans and receivables

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting date.

- *Financial assets held at amortised cost* – If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for loans and receivables or held to maturity investments held at amortised cost, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount is reduced by way of an allowance account. The loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.
- *Financial assets held at cost* – If there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred, the amount of the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount of the asset and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the current market rate for similar assets.

1.9 Contingent liabilities and contingent assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are reported in the notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

1.10 Acquisition of assets

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and revenues at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferer's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

1.11 Plant and equipment

Asset recognition threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the balance sheet, except for purchases costing less than \$2,000 which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located including any necessary make good provisions.

CLC NATIVE TITLE REPRESENTATIVE BODY
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

Revaluations

Fair values for each class of asset are determined as shown below:

Asset class	Fair value measured at:
Plant and equipment	Market selling price
Motor vehicles	Market selling price

Assets that are surplus to requirement are measured at their net realisable value. At 30 June 2017 the NTRB held no surplus assets (30 June 2016: \$0).

Following initial recognition at cost, plant and equipment are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets are not materially different from their fair values as at reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in the market value of the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reverses a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reverse a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amounts of the assets and the asset restated to the revalued amount.

Frequency

Plant and equipment are subject to a formal independent valuation at a minimum of every three years. The CLC (as an NTRB) policy is for formal valuations to be carried out by an independent, qualified valuer. Between formal valuations assets are assessed for movements in fair value.

Depreciation

Depreciable plant and equipment assets are written off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the NTRB using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are based on the following useful lives:

	2017	2016
Motor vehicles	4 years	4 years
Plant and equipment	3 to 10 years	3 to 10 years

The aggregate amount of depreciation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 6(a).

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Impairment

All the assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2017. Where indications of impairment exist, the assets recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment is made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if The NTRB were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

Derecognition

An item of plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

1.12 Taxation/competitive neutrality

The NTRB is exempt from all forms of taxation except fringe benefits tax and the goods and services tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST except:

- where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- for receivables and payables.

NOTE 2: EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

There were no significant events after balance date..

NOTE 3: EXPENSES

Note 3(a): Employee benefits

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Wages and salaries	1,864	1,737
Superannuation	223	193
Leave	(39)	(26)
Other employee benefits	18	11
Total employee benefits	2,066	1,915

There were no expenses incurred for separation or redundancy of employees.

All payments are within the terms of the 2012–15 CLC enterprise agreement (EA). The CLC–NTRB makes regular contributions in addition to minimum superannuation guarantee legislation at a rate of 12.50%.

CLC NATIVE TITLE REPRESENTATIVE BODY
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

Note 3(b): Supplier expenses

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Goods and services supplied or rendered		
Accounting and audit	10	10
Consultants	351	202
Travel, motor vehicle and meeting expenses	337	229
Accommodation and utilities	29	40
Other operating expenses	734	794
Grant expenses	100	100
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	1,561	1,375
Other supplier expenses		
Workers compensation and professional indemnity insurance premium	23	27
Total other supplier expenses	23	27
Total supplier expenses	1,584	1,402

Note 3(c): Depreciation

Motor vehicles	135	132
Plant and equipment	12	23
Total depreciation	147	155

The aggregate amount of depreciation or amortisation expensed during the reporting period for each class of depreciable assets are detailed in Note 6: Analysis of infrastructure, plant and equipment.

NOTE 4: REVENUE

Note 4: Net gains from sale of assets

Motor vehicles, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from disposal	108	106
Net book value of assets disposed	(43)	(58)
Net gain from disposal	65	48

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

NOTE 5: DPM&C GRANT: NATIVE TITLE – OPERATIONAL

	2016–17 approved budget \$'000	2016–17 actual \$'000
INCOME		
Other project income		
Bank interest	24	10
Vehicle trade-in	70	108
AGI – cost recovery	240	240
2014–15 capital funds c/fwd	269	269
DPM&C funding		
Capital	161	161
Operational	3,869	3,869
PBC basic support	258	258
	4,891	4,915
EXPENDITURE		
Capital		
Vehicles	231	215
IT equipment	40	22
	271	237
Operational		
Salaries		
CEO/GM or equivalents	140	180
Corporate staff	327	346
Project staff	2,083	1,803
Services		
Accommodation	210	188
Motor vehicles – Corporate	8	16
Motor vehicles – Attributable	195	117
Repair and maintenance – Equipment	22	7
Repair and maintenance – Buildings	24	26
Bank charges	2	–

CLC NATIVE TITLE REPRESENTATIVE BODY
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

	2016–17 approved budget \$'000	2016–17 actual \$'000
Audit fees	15	10
Consultants – Attributable	402	150
Communications, telephones, fax and IT	78	90
Insurance – Workers' compensation	42	23
Insurance – Assets	18	19
Insurance professional indemnity	26	32
Corporate HR / finance / property serv / library	135	128
Training and development		
Governing committee	3	3
Staff	34	17
Meetings		
Governing committee	6	13
Attributable other meetings expenses	63	59
Travel and allowances		
Chairperson	2	2
Other governing committee members	2	3
Claimants (travel)	60	57
Staff (travel) corporate	19	14
Staff (travel) attributable	70	71
Supplies and consumables		
Corporate office sup / office misc.	5	2
Other		
2015–16 capital funds c/fwd	201	201
Misc recoverable meetings attrib. exp.	170	168
PBC – Lhere Artepe	50	50
PBC – Gurindji Aboriginal Corporation	50	50
PBC – Patta Aboriginal Corporation	82	–
Simpson Desert Native Title claim	59	10

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	2016–17 approved budget \$'000	2016–17 actual \$'000
Victoria River Downs claim	17	–
	4,620	4,093
Balance as at 30 June 2017	–	822

Consistent with Note 1.1, the NTRB maintains accounts on an accrual basis, however, this statement includes elements of cash accounting consistent with the terms and conditions of the native title grant.

The surplus of \$822K includes an amount of \$750K received late June 2017 and is committed for operational expenses, information and technology systems replacement and upgrades and acquisitions of capital items.

At 30 June 2017, the accountable authority believe that all the non-financial assets are carried at the present fair market value and no indicators of impairment were found for non-financial assets.

No plant or equipment is currently held for sale or expected to be sold or disposed in the next 12 months.

NOTE 6: NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

Note 6(a): Analysis of plant and equipment

Table (A): Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of plant and equipment 2016–17	Motor vehicles \$'000	Office equipment \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
As at 1 July 2016			
Gross book value	805	294	1,099
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	(383)	(276)	(659)
Net book value as at 1 July 2016	422	18	440
Additions			
By purchase	215	22	237
Depreciation expense	(135)	(12)	(147)
Disposals – Gross value	(198)	–	(198)
Disposals – Accumulated depreciation	155	–	155
Net book value as at 30 June 2017	459	28	487
Net book value as at 30 June 2017 represented by			
Gross book value	822	316	1,138
Accumulated depreciation	(363)	(288)	(651)
Net book value as at 30 June 2017	459	28	487

CLC NATIVE TITLE REPRESENTATIVE BODY

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

Table (B): Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of plant and equipment 2015–16	Motor vehicles \$'000	Office equipment \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
As at 1 July 2015			
Gross book value	914	278	1,192
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation	(488)	(253)	(741)
Net book value as at 1 July 2015	426	25	451
Additions			
By purchase	186	16	202
Depreciation expense	(132)	(23)	(155)
Disposals – Gross value	(295)	–	(295)
Disposals – Accumulated depreciation	237	–	237
Net book value as at 30 June 2016	422	18	440
Net book value as at 30 June 2016 represented by			
Gross book value	805	294	1,099
Accumulated depreciation	(383)	(276)	(659)
Net book value as at 30 June 2016	422	18	440

NOTE 7: PROVISIONS**Note 7(a): Employee provisions**

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Leave	336	375
Total employee provisions	336	375
Employee provisions are expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	272	305
More than 12 months	64	70
Total employee provisions	336	375

NOTE 9: DIRECTOR REMUNERATION

There were no director remuneration payments made during the period with NTRB funding.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

NOTE 10: CASH

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Cash at bank and on hand – NTU account	822	269
Balance of cash as at 30 June shown in the cash flow statement	822	269

Cash at bank – accounts are recognised at their nominal values. Interest, which is earned at the daily prevailing rate, is credited to revenue as it accrues.

NOTE 11: AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

Remuneration to the Australian National Audit Office for auditing the financial statements for the reporting period.

The fair value of services provided was:	10	10
	10	10

The audit fees disclosed above report the costs associated with auditing each financial year.

Only audit services were provided by the ANAO during the reporting period.

NOTE 12: EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

The staffing levels for the NTRB as at 30 June 2017 were:	19	19
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NOTE 13: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Note 13(a): Categories of financial instruments

Financial assets		
Loans and receivables		
Cash at bank	822	269
Carrying amount of financial assets	822	269

The carrying amounts of financial instruments are a reasonable approximation of fair value due to their short term nature.

CLC NATIVE TITLE REPRESENTATIVE BODY
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017**

Note 13(b): Net income and expenses from financial assets and liabilities

	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Loans and receivables		
Interest revenue (see note 4(b))	11	21
Net gain/(loss) loans and receivables	11	21
Net gain/(loss) from financial assets	11	21

There was no income or expense to be recognised from financial liabilities of the NTRB.

Note 13(c): Credit risk

Where incurred, all debtors are unsecured and as such, the carrying value of the net receivables represents the amount exposed to credit risk.

Note 13(d): Liquidity risk and market risk

The NTRB's liabilities are employee liabilities. The NTRB in its present form with its present programs is dependent on government policy and on continuing appropriations by parliament. The NTRB manages its budget to ensure it has adequate funds to meet payments as they fall due. Financial liabilities at 30 June 2017 are \$Nil.

NOTE 14: CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

At 30 June 2017, the NTRB had no significant legal claims in progress.

At 30 June 2017, the NTRB had no contingent assets or liabilities (2016: \$NIL).

NOTE 15: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT

The different levels of the fair value hierarchy are defined below:

- Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at measurement date.
- Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the assets or liability, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3: Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

The NTRB determines fair value for its non-financial assets using the level 3 inputs in the fair value hierarchy.

The following table disclose the fair value at 30 June 2017 and the valuation techniques used to derived its fair value:

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Fair value measurement – Valuation technique and input used for non-financial assets		
	Fair value \$'000	Category	Valuation technique
Non-financial assets			
Motor vehicles	459	Level 3	Market comparables
Office equipment	28	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost
Total non-financial assets	487		

For those motor vehicle and office equipment that are carried at cost, their cost approximates their fair market value.

The highest and best use of the motor vehicles and office equipment approximates its current use.

The reconciliations for the recurring level 3 fair market value measurements of motor vehicles and office equipment are detailed in Note 6.

There were no changes in valuation techniques used by the NTRB during the year.

GLOSSARY

AAMC	Aboriginal Associations Management Centre
AAI	accountable authority instructions
AAPA	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
AAS	Australian Accounting Standards
ABA	Aboriginals Benefit Account
Aboriginal land	(a) land held by a land trust for an estate in fee simple; or (b) and the subject of a deed of grant held in escrow by a land council (the land council holds the title deed in trust until a specific event or condition takes place, such as the lapse of a lease or interest)
AC	advisory committee
ACNC	Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission
AGM	annual general meeting
AHNT	Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory
ALRA	<i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i> (Cwlth)
ALT	Aboriginal land trust
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
APO NT	Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory
APSC	Australian Public Service Commissioner
BIITE	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education
BMAP	Business Management Advisory Project
cadastre	a register of property titles including accurate description of location of parcel of land and its ownership
CATSI Act	<i>Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006</i>
CD	community development
CLA	community living area
CLC	Central Land Council
CLM	conservation and land management
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
corporate governance	The process by which agencies are directed and controlled; it is generally understood to encompass authority, accountability, stewardship, leadership, direction and control.
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
council	the CLC's 90-member governing council
Cwlth	Commonwealth
depreciation	Apportionment of an asset's capital value as an expense over its estimated useful life to take account of normal usage, obsolescence, or the passage of time.
DIISR	Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
DLRM	NT Government Department of Land Resource Management
DME	NT Government Department of Mines and Energy
eDIS	electronic document information system
EDRMS	electronic document and records management system
EEO	equal employment opportunity

ELA	exploration licence application
EO	equal opportunity
Eol	expression of interest
EPA	exploration permit application
escrow	An agreement between two people or organisations in which property or documents are kept by a third person or organisation until a particular condition is met.
expenses	The full costs of an activity; that is, the total value of all the resources consumed in producing goods and services or the loss of future economic benefits in the form of reductions in assets or increases in liabilities of the entity; includes expenses and cash items such as salary payments, as well as expenses that have been incurred, such as accruing employee entitlements that will be paid in the future.
fair value	The amount for which an asset could be exchanged or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.
FMA Act	<i>Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997</i>
Fol	freedom of information
FTE	full time equivalent
4WD	four-wheel drive (vehicle)
GIS	geographical information system
GMAAAC	Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation
GPS	global positioning system
grants	Non-reciprocal transfers of economic resources, where the payer agency does not receive approximately equal value in return.
HSMA	health and safety management arrangements
HSR	health and safety representative
IAS	Indigenous Advancement Strategy
IBA	Indigenous Business Australia
ICT	information and communication technologies
IDA	Indigenous Desert Alliance
ILC	Indigenous Land Corporation
ILUA	indigenous land use agreement
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area
IPP	Indigenous Pastoral Program; partners are: the CLC; the NLC; the NT Department of Resources; the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations; NT Cattleman's Association
IT	information technology
Kurra	Kurra Aboriginal Corporation
land council	An Aboriginal land council in the Northern Territory established by or under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act to represent Aboriginal people.
Land Rights Act	<i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i> , also ALRA
land trust	An Aboriginal land trust established under the Land Rights Act to hold land on behalf of the traditional owners.
LUTA	land use trust account
mineral royalties	Royalties payable to the Australian Government or the NT Government in respect of the mining of minerals.
Native Title Act	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cwlth)

NGO	non-government organisation
NIPE	national indigenous pastoral enterprises
NLC	Northern Land Council
NNTC	National Native Title Council
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
NRWM Act	<i>National Radioactive Waste Management Act 2012</i>
NRM	natural resource management
NT	Northern Territory
NTA	native title application
NTER	Northern Territory Emergency Response
NTRB	native title representative body
outcomes	Desired results, impacts or consequences for Aboriginal people as influenced by the actions of the CLC. Actual outcomes are assessments of the end results or impacts actually achieved.
PBC	prescribed body corporate
PCBU	person conducting a business or undertaking
PGPA Act	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (Cwlth)</i>
PM&C	Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PWCNT	Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory
RJP Program	Real Jobs Pastoral Program
RTA	<i>Residential Tenancy Act (NT)</i>
SA	South Australia
sacred sites	Areas of spiritual significance to Aboriginal people, marking an association with, or a specific act of, a creation being. They may be parts of the natural landscape such as hills, rocks, trees, springs or offshore reefs and include burial grounds and places where ceremonies have been held.
track-plot survey	a survey in a specified area where the signs of animals are recorded, e.g. animal tracks, scats, burrows, etc.
traditional owners	In relation to land, a local descent group of Aboriginal people who have common spiritual affiliations to a site on the land, being affiliations that place the group under a primary spiritual responsibility for that site and for the land; they are entitled by Aboriginal tradition to forage as of right over that land.
UKTNP	Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park
WAN	wide area network
WDNWPT	Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku
WETT	Warlpiri Education and Training Trust
WHS	work health and safety
WYDAC	Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation

COMPLIANCE INDEX

COMPLIANCE INDEX OF PUBLIC GOVERNANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RULE 2014 (PGPA RULE) REQUIREMENTS FOR CORPORATE COMMONWEALTH ENTITIES

Requirement under 17BE of the PGPA Rule	Page(s)
Details of the legislation establishing the body:	
(i) A summary of the objects and functions of the entity as set out in the legislation;	7
(ii) The purposes of the entity as included in the entity's corporate plan for the period.	12, 16, 25, 126
The names of the persons holding the position of responsible minister or responsible ministers during the period, and the titles of those responsible ministers.	20
Any directions given to the entity by a minister under an Act or instrument during the period.	117
Any government policy orders that applied in relation to the entity during the period under section 22 of the Act.	117
If, during the period, the entity has not complied with a direction or order referred to in paragraph (d) or (e) – particulars of the non compliance.	n/a
The annual performance statements for the entity for the period in accordance with paragraph 39(1)(b) of the Act and section 16F of this rule.	126–8
A statement of any significant issue reported to the responsible minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the Act that relates to non compliance with the finance law in relation to the entity.	118
If a statement is included under paragraph (h) of this section – an outline of the action that has been taken to remedy the non compliance.	n/a
Information on the accountable authority, or each member of the accountable authority, of the entity during the period, including:	
(i) the name of the accountable authority or member; and	16
(ii) the qualifications of the accountable authority or member; and	16
(iii) the experience of the accountable authority or member; and	16
(iv) for a member – the number of meetings of the accountable authority attended by the member during the period; and	16
(v) for a member – whether the member is an executive member or non executive member.	16, 22
An outline of the organisational structure of the entity (including any subsidiaries of the entity).	23
An outline of the location (whether or not in Australia) of major activities or facilities of the entity.	7, 122
Information in relation to the main corporate governance practices used by the entity during the period.	20–22
The decision making process undertaken by the accountable authority for making a decision if:	
(i) the decision is to approve the entity paying for a good or service from another Commonwealth entity or a company, or providing a grant to another Commonwealth entity or a company; and	n/a
(ii) the entity, and the other Commonwealth entity or the company, are related entities; and	n/a
(iii) the value of the transaction, or if there is more than one transaction, the aggregate value of those transactions, is more than \$10,000 (inclusive of GST).	n/a
If the annual report includes information under paragraph (n):	
(i) if there is only one transaction – the value of the transaction; and	n/a
(ii) if there is more than one transaction – the number of transactions and the aggregate of value of the transactions.	n/a
Any significant activities and changes that affected the operations or structure of the entity during the period.	25–26

Requirement under 17BE of the PGPA Rule	Page(s)
Particulars of judicial decisions or decisions of administrative tribunals made during the period that have had, or may have, a significant effect on the operations of the entity.	118
Particulars of any report on the entity given during the period by:	
(i) the Auditor General, other than a report under section 43 of the Act (which deals with the Auditor General's audit of the annual financial statements for Commonwealth entities); or	nil
(ii) a committee of either house, or of both houses, of the parliament; or	nil
(iii) the Commonwealth Ombudsman; or	nil
(iv) the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.	nil
If the accountable authority has been unable to obtain information from a subsidiary of the entity that is required to be included in the annual report – an explanation of the information that was not obtained and the effect of not having the information on the annual report.	n/a
Details of any indemnity that applied during the period to the accountable authority, any member of the accountable authority or officer of the entity against a liability (including premiums paid, or agreed to be paid, for insurance against the authority, member or officer's liability for legal costs).	118

Requirement		Page(s)
ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS (NT) ACT 1976		
Fees	PART IV, s.33A & s.33B	The CLC received \$598,007 in deed administration fees relating to Part IV (Mining). No fee types prescribed under s.33A. No fees were requested under s.33B
Determinations	s.35	160–161
Amounts held in trust	s.37(5)	160
Delegations	s.28 and s.28A	NIL
Committees	s.29A	20–22
Consultants	s.37(8)	164–165
OTHER		
Environmental matters	s.516A EPBC Act	124–125
Work, Health and Safety Act	Item 4, Schedule 2	120
FOI Act	reporting requirements	118



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FRONT COVER IMAGE: CLC executive member Sammy Wilson at the historic joint meeting of Northern and Central land councils at Kalkaringi to mark the 40th anniversary of land rights.

BACK COVER IMAGE: Maisie Kitson, Fiona Gibson, Valerie Patterson and Barbara Martin are guiding plans for the next ten years of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust. (Photo: Chloe Erlich)

