



# CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21





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14 September 2021

Minister for Indigenous Australians  
Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
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 and Accountability Act 2013*, I am pleased to approve and submit the 2020–21 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 in accordance with the Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011.

Yours sincerely,

**Sammy Wilson**  
**CHAIR**

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# CHAIR'S REPORT

We were off to a great start in July 2020. Having kept our communities safe from the first wave of COVID-19, the executive committees of the four Northern Territory land councils were able to meet in person again and we made the most of it.

Ahead of the NT election the meeting insisted that all Territorians, including our remote communities, must have a legal right to safe drinking water. We called for a Safe Drinking Water Act to protect our water rights, the new land rights, for our grandchildren. The announcement in April 2021 of a four-year funding package to address water security in 10 remote NT communities was a long-overdue move in the right direction and urgently needs to be fleshed out.

I also hope NT Water Security Minister Eva Lawler puts our water rights first as she reviews the Territory's biggest ever water licence. The licence allows a company to extract 40,000 megalitres of water per year for three decades on Singleton Station, south of Tennant Creek, to grow mostly export crops. It was granted even though scientists warn that very little is known about the long-term consequences of taking that much water while the whole world heats up dangerously.

We can't afford to give away that much water for industry when we don't know if our plants, animals and sacred springs and soakages will survive and whether our remote communities will have good drinking water.

There is no more important task for governments than to keep our planet habitable. Remote communities are on the front line of climate change, with our overcrowded hotbox houses becoming less bearable every year and with our people having to travel further and further afield to hunt and find bush foods. That is why the Central Land Council joined more than 50 Aboriginal and community organisations in calling on the NT Government to also legislate a Safe Climate Act. Such a law would force the government to make decisions not just for the short term but also in the best interest of future generations and the plants and animals they will depend on.

We need to be in the driver's seat if we want our communities to have a strong future. The joint land councils meeting in July 2020 urged the NT Government to commit to a new housing model that puts Aboriginal people and organisations in charge of building, repairing and maintaining houses and managing tenancies in remote communities, with the land councils around the decisionmaking table. The Minister for Indigenous Australians, Mr Wyatt, has embraced our proposal and we look forward to working with both governments to progress it.



Sammy Wilson

Another resolution from the meeting asked the Australian Government to replace its work-for-the-dole scheme with a fair remote jobs package. When Minister Wyatt announced that the scheme would be scrapped in 2023 we encouraged him to adopt our proposal for a remote development and employment program instead. He said he would talk with the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT about a trial in 2021. That is most welcome and urgent because we can't afford to wait two more years to get our young people into real jobs.

His announcement of a new Aboriginal-controlled Aboriginals Benefit Account body was more good news and comes after years of us speaking up for Aboriginal control of the ABA. It is about time that we were in charge of deciding how to invest income from mining on our land.

At the time of writing it looks as if the current three-year term of the government of which Mr Wyatt is a part and of the council I chair may end without a breakthrough on the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The big story of a constitutionally enshrined voice to the parliament is not just close to my heart but also to those of an increasing majority of Australians. It is this growing support for our big story – not the little story of a legislated voice to the government of the day – that makes me hope it will prove irresistible to whoever wins the next federal election.

As I come to the end of my term, I remember the induction of our new members in April 2019, in the very hall where the Uluru Statement had been agreed two years earlier. A handful of our early land rights champions lined up in the order of the year they joined the Central Land Council and addressed the new crop of young delegates, many of them women. The late Jakamarra Nelson, who joined the CLC in 1974, told the newly elected members why he joined the land council. 'We are still very strong and still battling with the government and others who are damaging our country. I'm talking about the mining companies,' he said.

Mr Nelson represented his Warlpiri constituents on the CLC executive until he became too weak to zoom into our meetings from his hospital bed. We are mourning his loss, and that of too many leaders of the first hour who stood alongside Jakamarra in 2019 and without whom there would be no land council. Jakamarra was a peacemaker who unified us and broke down walls. He has been a great mentor to me and I have seen his fighting spirit, his wisdom, his humour and his generosity make their mark on our next generation of leaders.

Our young people are among the reasons why I am looking towards the CLC elections in early 2022 with confidence. The young people who accompanied directors of native holder corporations to our prescribed bodies corporate camp in June, the new rangers who took part in their first ranger camp in April, the school kids working at the training farm I visited at Alekarenge and the boys and girls who joined the three native title determinations I attended over the past 12 months all made me proud to lead the CLC and fill me with hope for the years ahead.

I would like to thank outgoing CLC chief executive Joe Martin-Jard for his support and wish him all the best at the Northern Land Council. It gave me great pleasure to introduce interim chief executive officer Lesley Turner to our delegates in April. He hit the ground running by announcing the council's unanimous call for a review of the Singleton water licence decision, and I am looking forward to working with him.



Chairman Sammy Wilson receives his second Pfizer vaccination at Mutitjulu's Congress clinic.



## CEO'S REPORT

As an Arrernte man born and raised in Alice Springs, it is a privilege to return to Central Australia, after 37 years away from home, in the role of CLC interim chief executive officer.

I commenced with the CLC in April 2021, in the final quarter of this reporting period, attending the council meeting at Tennant Creek. At that meeting, the council discussed the policy priorities that currently drive the organisation: housing for our people, jobs, youth justice, Aboriginal control over the decisions that impact our lives, and the cultural and economic importance of water.

Water is critically important to our people, from the right to protect sacred sites to the right to safe and adequate drinking water. Many communities still do not have basic infrastructure services and it is crucial to ensure that potable water supplies are secured for all remote communities as a matter of urgency. Water and land rights go hand in hand. Secure access to water allows families and cultures to survive on that land and offers potential economic benefits.

For this reason, the CLC is contesting the water licence the Northern Territory Government has given to Fortune Agribusiness, a company that proposes to use 40,000 mega litres a year for 30 years to grow crops largely for export, on Singleton Station, south of Tennant Creek. This is the largest water licence allocation in the NT's history and gives water away free of charge.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact on our operations. The CLC is taking an active role in assisting with vaccinating communities and I have strongly encouraged all staff to get vaccinated, especially those who travel to communities. Our members and staff also continue to show leadership by using the media and other channels of influence, and working with Aboriginal health services and the NT Health Department to promote vaccinations and other COVID-safe practices, to keep our constituents safe and prepared for when state and international borders inevitably open up.



Lesley Turner

In May native title holders of the Jinka and Jervois pastoral leases met at Bonya, on Jervois Station, to celebrate the recognition of their native title rights. It was the third and last determination of the reporting period. The determination gives traditional owners a seat at the table with pastoralists and mining companies, but no veto right. As Bonya resident David Blue said, 'Something is better than nothing. Now we have a bit of rights and a bit of a voice.' The prescribed body corporate (PBC), the Ingkekre Aboriginal Corporation, which takes its name from the Arrernte word for eagle claw, will exercise rights for the native title holders, with the CLC's support.

In June we held a PBC camp at Ross River near Alice Springs. The biennial regional forum is an opportunity for PBC directors to discuss rights and empower them to take part in decisions about their country. A highlight was seeing traditional owners, some of whom brought their teenage grandchildren, engaged with the task of road-testing audio translations in six local Aboriginal languages of our Native Title Story booklet.

A positive development for the CLC this year is working with our partners from the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT (APO NT) to progress the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap at the national and territory level. This is a welcome shift in the way governments have previously worked to close the gap. It acknowledges that to close the gap, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must determine, drive and own the desired outcomes, alongside all governments.



Former CLC chief executive Joe Martin-Jard (second from left) handed over the reins to interim CEO Lesley Turner at the Tennant Creek council meeting in April. The meeting was chaired by Sammy Wilson and deputy chair Barbara Shaw.

The CLC has also been a driving force behind the APO NT's remote community job-creation plan. I commend the plan to Minister Wyatt, the Minister for Indigenous Australians, as he embarks on the co-design of a fair and effective program to replace the CDP.

This year is also the start of a three-year trial that sees the Australian Government match our constituents' own investment in community-driven development, dollar for dollar. This has the potential to encourage more Aboriginal groups to work with our community development team and invest more of their income from land use agreements in community development projects, rather than opt for the distribution of this income to individual traditional owners. The projects that are supported will create employment and training in our communities, for example 30 casual jobs in the design and construction of a walking and cycling trail near Alice Springs.

In 2020 Minister Wyatt provided us with economic stimulus funds from the Aboriginals Benefit Account as an important contribution to assist in areas of Aboriginal business, employment, training, land and infrastructure. The funds, which are being managed by the new economic participation unit, are a valuable opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness of Aboriginal-led economic stimulus initiatives.

The CLC has the longest history of the Aboriginal land councils in Australia. As interim CEO my aim is to make sure that the CLC is working as smoothly and effectively as possible, for it is an important organisation with far-reaching influence and the capacity to really improve people's lives. I also acknowledge the professionalism and dedication of the CLC staff and executive. We are all here working to benefit the Aboriginal people of Central Australia.

Doctor Pradeep Mishra and health workers Rhonda O'Keefe and Prisandra Devery from Anyinginyi Health did their best to counter vaccine misinformation guests at the CLC council meeting in April in Tennant Creek.







Native title holder Lindy Brodie's painting *First trip to grandfather's country with ranger mob* was shortlisted for the Vincent Lingiari Art Award 2021. It depicts Singleton Station, where her grandfather worked and where the NT Government has granted a controversial water licence to take 40,000 mega litres annually to grow fruit and vegetables, much of it for export. The decision has raised deep traditional owner concern about community water, biodiversity and sacred sites impacts.



# ABOUT THE CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

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

The CLC has performed its statutory functions with outstanding success, capturing more than 417,000 square kilometres of land as 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 traditional owners to benefit from opportunities on their land, and deal with threats to the land's cultural and natural values. The CLC has supported traditional owners' aspirations in the areas of pastoral activity, feral animal control, fire management and biodiversity conservation.

These activities are at the heart of the CLC's community development program – a program that is now the leading example of similar programs in the country.

Each year, 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 constituents.

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 and headed by the 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 *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) (the PGPA Act) and every year is audited by the Australian National Audit Office.

In 2020–21 Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) funding comprised \$31.7 million of the total revenue of \$79.5 million. Total operating expenses were \$49.2 million, and capital expenditure was \$2.5 million. The CLC is one of the largest employers of Aboriginal people in the NT. It employs 249.1 fulltime-equivalent staff, of whom 47 per cent are Aboriginal.

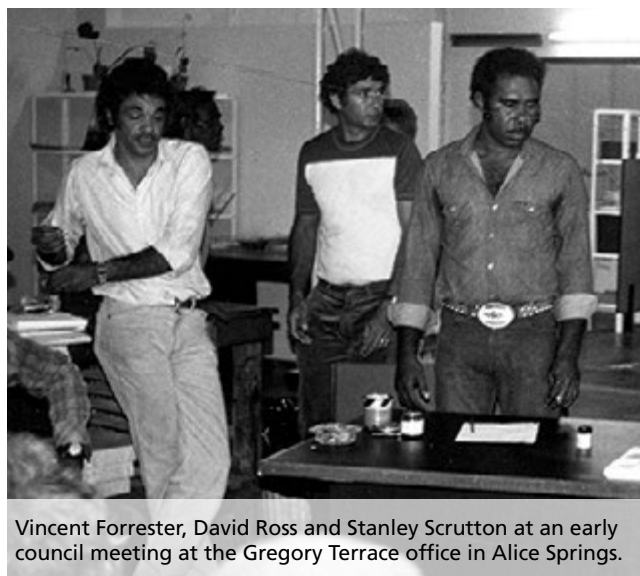
## HISTORY

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, where more than 200 Aboriginal people made history when they walked off the station in protest of the very poor working and living conditions, starting the land rights movement. The CLC celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk Off in August 2016. In response to the demands of the striking families, 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 deputy chair, respectively, of the CLC. 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 residents in Alice Springs' town camps. The Whitlam government drew up an Aboriginal Land Rights Bill, but the government was dismissed before the bill could be passed.

In June 1976 the new Liberal–Country Party federal government passed the legislation but omitted provisions for land claims based on need and various other features of the original bill. In the same



Vincent Forrester, David Ross and Stanley Scrutton at an early council meeting at the Gregory Terrace office in Alice Springs.

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 Kartangarurru–Gurindji land claim was won against the bitter opposition of the NT's Liberal–Country 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 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* (Cth), 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.

In the same year, 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 Statement 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 a massacre of Kaytetye people in 1874, 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,



Protesters speak to the media near the Junction Waterhole site near Alice Springs where works threatened a sacred womens' site.



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.

Land 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 1984* (Cth), and sought to weaken the Native Title Act following an unprecedented scare campaign.

The 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 Land Rights Act in 1999. Its recommendations, which included the dismantling of the NT land councils, sparked an outcry.

The first CLC 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 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.

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 Howard 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 Northern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area, the first IPA in the CLC region, was declared in 2007. That year was also a low point in indigenous affairs in the NT, with the declaration by Prime Minister John Howard of the NT 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 project, which invests compensation income in community benefit projects throughout the Tanami region.

In 2009 the 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.

In 2010 the CLC delegates elected Tennant Creek's Gina Smith as the first female deputy chair 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.

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 NT 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, the Commonwealth invested in a new Aboriginal Governance and Management Program to assist Aboriginal organisations in 2013.

In 2014 the handback of Yurrkuru (Brooks Soak) concluded a 22-year struggle for justice. The CLC celebrated its 40th birthday with the opening of a new operational and training centre in Alice Springs for 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.



Former CLC deputy chair Gina Smith addressed the 2013 Strong Aboriginal Governance summit in Tennant Creek. Right: Former director David Ross.



On 8 June 2018, 30 years after the Barunga Statement that led to the broken promise of a national treaty, the chairs of the four Territory land councils and Chief Minister Michael Gunner signed the Barunga Agreement. The memorandum of understanding sets out the process for consultations about a treaty between Aboriginal Territorians and the NT Government. The CLC contributed to the terms of reference of the independent treaty commissioner, Professor Mick Dodson, who was appointed in February 2019.

In March 2019 a coalition of Aboriginal peak organisations, including the CLC and the NLC, entered into an historic partnership agreement with the Council of Australian Governments to reform the failed Closing the Gap policy. It will be the first time Aboriginal peak bodies will have a say in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policy. Also in March, the Australian and NT governments signed a partnership agreement for remote housing to address the Territory’s housing crisis. For the first time, the NT land councils were represented on a steering committee created by the governments, where they led a review of the existing housing model and associated leasing arrangements, as well as took part in policy and strategy decisions about remote housing spending.

In October 2019 Anangu celebrated the closure of the Uluru climb, righting an historic wrong. After years of climber accidents and deaths and a decline in climber numbers, the board of management of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park decided to end the disrespectful practice.

In January 2020 former CLC director David Ross was awarded membership of the general division of the Order of Australia. The honour came almost a year after he handed over the reins of the organisation, to which he devoted more than 40 years of his life.



David Ross was awarded membership of the Order of Australia in January 2020, but due to COVID restrictions he did not receive his medal until much later in the year. Left: Dawn Ross.



Wenten Rubuntja and Silas Roberts (chairs of the CLC and NLC) led a “Keep the Law in Canberra” march on National Aborigines Day 1977.

## STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

The statutory functions of the CLC, as described in section 23(1) of the Land Rights Act, 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 section 12:
  - to negotiate with persons having estates or interests in that land with a view to the acquisition of those estates or interests by the land trust; and
  - 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:
  - 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
  - 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 interests 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 subsection 70(4)
- to compile and keep:
  - a register recording the names of the members of the land council; and
  - 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

Central Land Council chair Sammy Wilson and chief executive officers Joe Martin-Jard and Lesley Turner comprised the accountable authority. Mr Wilson is a tourism operator and member of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta Board of Management. Elected chair of the CLC in April 2019, he has been a member of the council's executive committee since 2015. Mr Martin-Jard joined the CLC in February 2019. He is a former senior public servant with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and held leadership positions at the Danila Dilba Health Service, the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, and managed a labour hire company in Darwin. Mr Martin-Jard resigned from this chief executive position in March 2021 and he was part of the accountable authority until that time. Following Mr Martin-Jard's resignation, Mr Turner was appointed as chief executive officer in April 2021. He is a former senior federal public servant and led both the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council and the New South Wales Aboriginal Legal Service.

The accountable authority met seven times during the reporting period.



Maggie Kavanagh, Lesley Turner and Sammy Wilson at the prescribed bodies corporate camp at Ross River in April 2021.



# PERFORMANCE REPORT

## LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

OUTPUT 1	1.1	PERMITS
	1.2	LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## LAND CLAIMS AND ACQUISITIONS SUPPORT

OUTPUT 2	2.1	LAND CLAIMS
	2.2	LAND ACQUISITION

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES

OUTPUT 3	3.1	LAND USE AGREEMENTS
	3.2	EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING
	3.3	MINING
	3.4	COMMERCIAL ASSISTANCE

## ADVOCACY SERVICES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

OUTPUT 4	4.1	PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION
	4.2	ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION
	4.3	CULTURAL AND HERITAGE SUPPORT
	4.4	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

## ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

OUTPUT 5	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.

## PURPOSE

### VISION

To promote and support central Australian Aboriginal people's society, country, secured rights, culture and economy to deliver a promising future.

### STATUTORY PURPOSE

As described in the CLC's annual corporate plan, the purposes are the powers and functions legislated in the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and responsibilities as a native title representative body under the Native Title Act. These powers and functions are embodied in the eight strategic goals (refer corporate plan for details), listed below. To see how well these goals have been achieved, refer to the output group sections elsewhere in this annual report referenced in the parentheses as follows:

1. Aboriginal rights and interests protection (output group 4)
2. Land ownership and interests (output groups 2 and 5)
3. Culture and heritage protection (output group 4.3)
4. Economic development and management of income from land (output group 3)
5. Stronger communities (output group 4)
6. Rangers
7. Sustainable land use and management (output group 1)
8. Governance (CLC governance)

## CORPORATE PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FRAMEWORK

Corporate planning integrates longer-term objectives with performance driven by outputs and outcomes, and includes long-term financial planning. A corporate plan that guides future activities and priorities for the four-year period from 2020 to 2024 was published on the CLC website this financial year and presented to the Minister in accordance with the PGPA Act. Action planning ensures that the objectives 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.

In its 2020 corporate plan, the CLC committed to trialling case studies in addition to performance measurement. One such study is the longitudinal study of its Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) outstations project. The commencement of this case study can be found at <https://www.clc.org.au/monitoring-evaluation/>. The CLC's involvement was to choose 105 priority outstations from 310 across Central Australia and to write applications on behalf of the residents. Its involvement concluded in 2019. The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) is responsible for facilitating the works described in the applications, while the CLC will continue to monitor progress (see also Output 4.2).

This project will help the prioritised 105 outstations to each access up to \$150,000 of ABA funding for much needed infrastructure improvements. As such, the project is a clear example of good project governance and well-informed and harmonious decision making to decide which outstations would receive the chance for improvements.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Section 16 of the PGPA Act requires any accountable authority of a Commonwealth entity to maintain a system of risk oversight and management. The annual review of the CLC's risk management plan was completed – including a revised risk profile and action plan aligned to the corporate plan – and endorsed by the audit and risk committee. The Comcover annual best-practice benchmarking is used as the basis for continuous risk management improvement.

## PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The CLC's outcomes and achievements as an organisation are described in the respective output chapters of this report. 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 (Output 3.4)
- representing the land interests and aspirations of Aboriginal people in Central Australia (Output 3.1)
- managing community-based rangers to deliver a range of land management services (Output 3.2).

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. It incorporates 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 forecasts for the following three financial years.

The CLC manages non-metric performance by action planning and qualitative analysis.

## ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

The accountable authority hereby presents the 2020–21 annual performance statement. In its opinion, it is based on properly maintained records accurately reflecting the CLC's performance and complies with subsections 39(1a) and 39(2) of the PGPA Act.



Table 1. Annual performance statement: actual v target

Strategic goal	Performance criteria	Key performance indicators – description	Strategy Ref. (1)	2019–20	2020–21		
				Actual	Target	Actual	Variance
RIGHTS	Successful communication of CLC's 'Rights and Interests' advocacy activities to Aboriginal constituents and key stakeholders.	Number of external publications produced	A9	19	25	<b>146</b>	121
		CLC Web Page Access Rate (visits) - by constituents and stakeholders (000)	A9	109	120	<b>136</b>	16
LAND	ALRA land claims and native title claims - recognition of Aboriginal constituents' interests in land by successfully (in compliance with ALRA and Native Title legislation) negotiating and obtaining land rights and native title determinations.	Land claims finalised (ALRA) (No new ALRA land claims permitted under the legislation - only 2 claims remaining in CLC region)	B1	-	2	-	(2)
		Traditional owner 'ownership' (square kms.) achieved	B1	418,548	418,548	<b>418,548</b>	0
		CLC - total region size (square kms)	B1	776,549	776,549	<b>776,549</b>	0
		Native title meetings and consultations - Post Determination	B10	40	55	<b>45</b>	(10)
		Anthropological advice issued - determines relevant Traditional Owners (claims and interests)	B12	624	624	<b>500</b>	(124)
		Native Title claims finalised - consent determination handed down	B2	1	4	<b>4</b>	0
	Post land and native title claim negotiation and administration - administering ALRA permit access to Aboriginal land and negotiating post claim 'use-of-land' outcomes (leasing consents, exploration and mining consents, other future acts requests).	Total Permits Issued - access to Aboriginal land	B11	8,305	10,852	<b>8,967</b>	(1,885)
		Leasing - consents obtained - all	B11	400	44	<b>76</b>	32
		Leasing - current leases and licences - all	B11	2,844	2,942	<b>2,540</b>	(402)
		Native Title non-mining Indigenous Land Use Agreement - negotiated and registered	B3	1	2	<b>2</b>	0
		Native Title Mining/Non mining - future act meetings - NT holder identification field trips	B5	2	3	<b>5</b>	2
CULTURE	Activities protecting Aboriginal land and culturally significant sites, and to maintain Aboriginal cultural heritage and languages by supporting traditional Aboriginal ceremony and funeral customs and development of heritage management plans.	Sacred Site Clearance Certificates (SSCC) / Other Advice Issued	C1	172	172	<b>193</b>	21
		Cultural heritage management projects completed/supported	C2	2	2	<b>8</b>	6
		Ceremony activity - regional payments - ABA - s64(4) funded	C2	154,365	126,000	<b>116,275</b>	(9,725)
		Total funerals assisted - ABA and community funded	C8	326	330	<b>298</b>	(32)
		Funeral payments - ABA s64(4) funded (\$)	C8	329,553	1,010,000	<b>1,199,000</b>	189,000
ECONOMIC	Activities supporting economic development (including mining and agricultural interests) of Aboriginal land and the effective management of income derived from the use of the land.	Exploration (mining) titles applications - completed (includes those withdrawn during the negotiating period)	D1	16	5	<b>20</b>	15
		Exploration agreements (licences and permits, ELs and EPs) - ALRA	D1	51	53	<b>49</b>	(4)
		Mining agreements - ALRA (cumulative)	D1	11	12	<b>12</b>	0
		Mining agreements - Native Title	D1	2	2	-	(2)
	Pursuing and negotiating employment opportunities derived from the use of the land.	Employment placements (mining, exploration, road construction, rail line maintenance, remote employment services, pastoral industry)	D5	10	20	<b>37</b>	17
RANGERS	Performance measures related to achieving the requirements of this grant funded program - improving employment and training outcomes, ranger program staff retention.	Rangers employed - Full Time Equivalent	F1	76	71	<b>69</b>	(3)
		Turnover - refer to KPI for Ranger Program turnover below at H. Series discontinued.	F1	27%	27%		
		Ranger program - training - certificates awarded	F4	19	16	<b>63</b>	47
		Ranger Program land management activities.	Fire management burns	F8	14	15	<b>18</b>

Strategic goal	Performance criteria	Key performance indicators – description	Strategy Ref. (1)	2019–20	2020–21		
				Actual	Target	Actual	Variance
COMMUNITIES	Actions to support the development of strong communities and outstations.	Community Development expenditure - 5 year lease money (\$000)	E4	34	71	<b>200</b>	129
		Granites Mines Affected Areas Corporation - annual community development value committed (\$000)	E4	7,710	12,300	<b>11,855</b>	(445)
		Community development project expenditure - Total (\$000)	E4	16,610	19,794	<b>10,176</b>	(9,618)
		Outstations (no.) consulted - ABA funding approved by Minister of IA. CLC consultations for ABA Homelands' project finalised in 2018–19	E1	-	-	-	0
USING LAND	Activities to remove feral animals from Aboriginal land.	Feral animals removed	G	2,992	2,000	<b>1,843</b>	(157)
GOVERNANCE	Governance meetings held to administer the requirements of the ALRA and Native Title Act, and to provide council members with regular cultural engagement opportunities.	Council meetings held	H	2	3	<b>3</b>	0
		Executive Committee meetings held	H	9	9	<b>7</b>	(2)
	Effective and sustainable management of CLC operational assets.	Vehicles in operation	H	111	110	<b>111</b>	1
		Vehicle resale - proceeds as a % of purchase price	H	47.4%	47.0%	<b>64.6%</b>	17.6%
	Human resources planning, capability and health/safety.	Total staff Working Days in field (remote working measure)	H	5,740	5,740	<b>7,025</b>	1,285
		Staff Turnover (Terminations/Average Staff) (%) - Ranger program	H	21.0%	20.0%	<b>17.0%</b>	-3.0%
		Staff Turnover (Terminations/Average Staff) (%) - CLC staff excluding Ranger Program	H	24.0%	33.0%	<b>36.0%</b>	3.0%
		Leadership program (Aboriginal) participants (from 2016–17)	H	14	14	<b>4</b>	(10)
		New staff study agreements	H	8	8	<b>4</b>	(4)
		Lost Days - injury	H	189	150	<b>205</b>	55
		Health and safety representatives	H	-	5	-	(5)
	ICT capability	Information systems - user roles supported	H	260	260	<b>260</b>	0
		Maps produced for meetings and logistics	H	731	730	<b>959</b>	229
		Records (move to electronic) - new files added (paper)	H	511	500	<b>1,491</b>	991
	Investments to increase utilisation of renewable energy for operations and reduce carbon emissions.	Renewable energy - solar electricity produced (kWh)	H	97,146	160,000	<b>210,740</b>	50,740
		Renewable energy - Co <sup>2</sup> savings (tonnes)	H	67	110	<b>145</b>	35
Effective and compliant administration of Aboriginal Corporations (CLC engaged under ALRA) in accordance with CATSI Act.	AAMC meetings held - AGMs	H	28	33	<b>29</b>	(4)	
	Office of Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) - general reports lodged by AAMC	H	31	31	<b>31</b>	-	

NOTE:

Strategy reference refers to the primary activity for this measure in the strategy matrix in the Corporate Plan 2020–2024.

## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* requires Commonwealth authorities to report on environmental matters. 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
- increased use of solar energy – the first electric car for local use in Alice Springs was purchased this financial year, and is charged by electricity from the solar panels at the main office
- increased use of lower fuel usage vehicles
- reporting of the recommended environmental measures for all Commonwealth entities (see Table 2).

Table 2. Performance against Commonwealth-recommended environmental measures

Theme	Indicator(s)	Measure	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
ENERGY EFFICIENCY	Electricity purchased	\$	220,415	242,179	233,616	194,023	142,803
	Electricity consumed	kWh	692,957	780,799	748,901	708,348	537,987
	Gas purchased	\$	21,410	25,531	23,523	19,837	18,430
	Other fuels purchased/consumed	L	566,140	556,604	558,145	398,970	568,896
	Fuels purchased	\$	965,203	1,034,513	1,038,150	754,053	910,234
	Air travel distances	km	757,791	887,952	1,066,075	967,434	484,809
	Air travel CO <sup>2</sup>	tonnes	92	108	132	75	56
	Electricity CO <sup>2</sup>	tonnes	845	953	671	864	660
	Gas CO <sup>2</sup>	tonnes	14.9	17.8	15.8	19.2	17.0
	Other fuels Co <sup>2</sup>	tonnes	1,415	1,599	1,507	1,077	1,536
	Electricity used	kWh p/e	3,000	3,295	3,482	2,719	2,881
	Gas used	Gj p/e	64.7	63.2	59.0	46.2	40.9
	Other fuels	L p/e	2,451	2,701	2,052	1,535	2,188
RENEWABLE ENERGY	Electricity produced	kWh	51,201	42,500	46,831	97,146	210,740
	Savings	\$	11,776	9,775	10,770	22,341	48,470
	CO <sup>2</sup> savings	tonnes	35	29	32	67	145
	Renewable electricity	% kWh	6.9	5.7	6.3	13.7	39.0
WASTE	Amount going to landfills	cubic metres	410	435	468	460	420
	Amount going to recycling facilities	cubic metres	260	260	260	240	78
	Amount of waste per employee	cubic metres	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.6
WATER	Water consumption	kL	7,522	8,280	8,855	7,870	7,683
	Relative water consumption - water use	kL p/e	35.6	34.9	33	30	30
CO <sup>2</sup> OFFSETS	Camels removed by muster	number	-	406	2,271	1,264	1,491
	Camels removed by muster - CO <sup>2</sup> emission savings	tonnes	-	-	-	-	62,554
	Horses removed by joint management	tonnes	2,280	-	3,022	1,728	352
	Horses removed by joint management - CO <sup>2</sup> emission savings	tonnes	2,375	-	2,901	1,659	454

## ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

The factors that influence achievement of purpose are mainly:

**Resource constraints:** organisational reliance upon estimates (budget) approved annually by the Minister for Indigenous Australians 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 for all entities.

**External demand:** key statutory functions include obtaining traditional owner consent for use of Aboriginal land by external parties, mostly related to mining exploration and agreements. The downturn in the mining industry is continuing to have an impact on the overall level of applications, although there are continuing signs of improvement. Some functions (e.g. community development, native title and prescribed bodies corporate support) increased their activities, offsetting the decrease in activity due to the mining downturn.

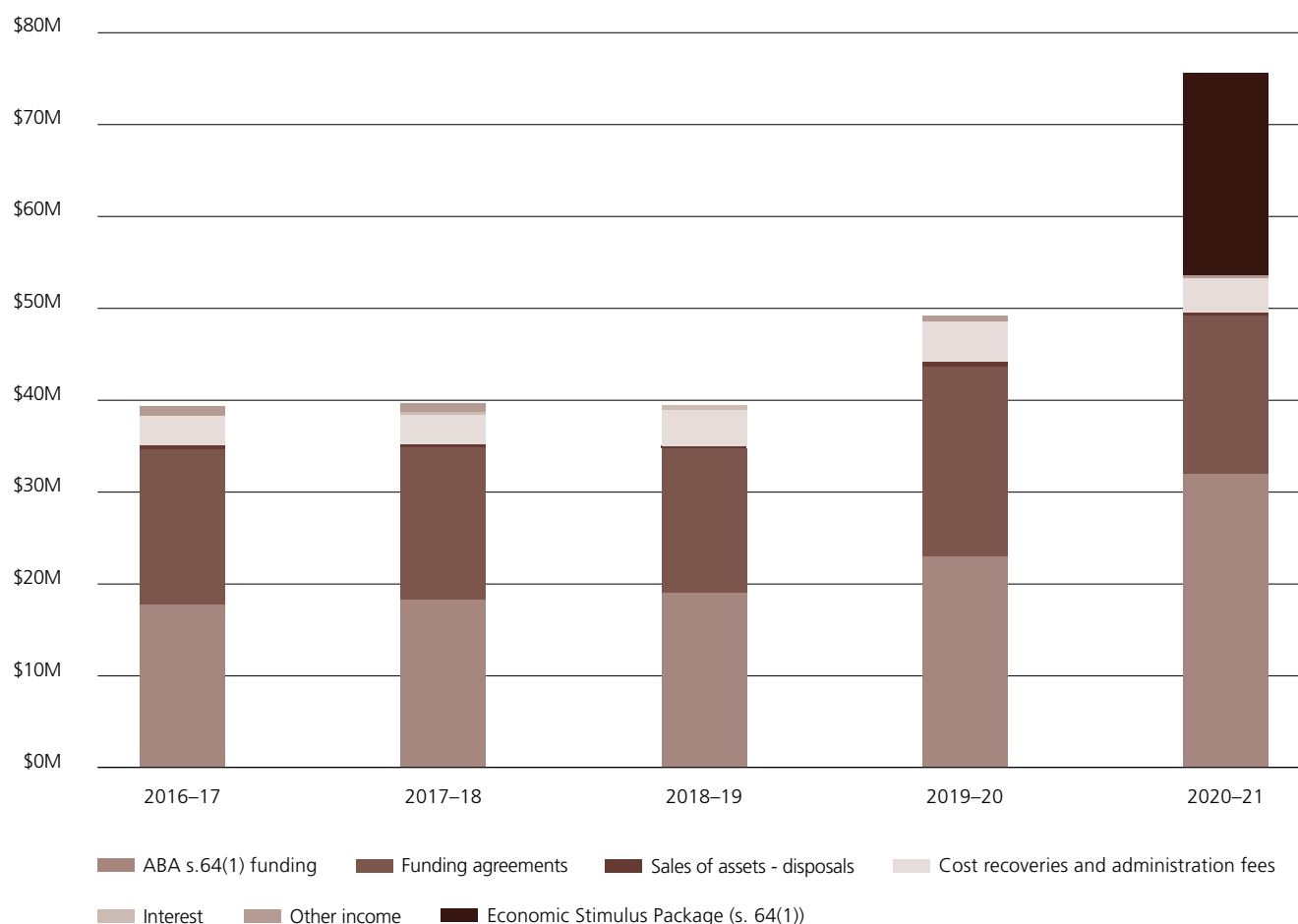
**Aboriginal constituent services demand:** Aboriginal groups receive royalties, rent and compensation related to mining and other land use activities. Groups assigned increased amounts from these proceeds to community development activities that are supported and administered by the CLC's community development program.

**Improved productivity:** greater productivity allows the CLC to improve its services. A key project has been the implementation of a number of (non-cash) productivity improvements that arose from enterprise bargaining under the Australian Government's enterprise agreement policy. These productivity gains exceeded the value of salary increases. The non-financial results for 2020–21 generally indicate outcomes aligned to expectations, with variations related to economic demand offset by other social demands.

### Better than target

- publications – now includes audio-visual materials and booklets
- funeral payments – the increased cap on funeral support approved by the minister enabled greater total financial support to funerals to be substantially increased
- exploration title applications completed – returned to the average level preceding the biosecurity measures, reflecting a quicker upturn than expected
- total staff working days in field (remote working measure) – reflected fewer COVID-19 restrictions on regional travel than expected, still remains below trend
- solar electricity produced – solar array performance exceed expectations.

Figure 1. Sources of revenue, 2016–21





**Targets not achieved**

- permits issued – applications increased on the prior year, though will be some time before they return to pre-COVID application levels
- total current leases and licences – lower due to the expiry of leases predominantly by the Australian Government
- community development project expenditure – COVID-19 biosecurity zones caused project implementation delays by partners, resulting in the deferral of payment instalments.

**FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

NT land councils are funded on a cash basis, with annual estimates of revenue less expenditure forecasts approved on a break-even basis.

The actual surplus for 2020–21 was \$30.4 million compared to a surplus of \$6.3 million in the previous year. The substantial improvement only related to receiving ABA allocations in advance. Figure 1 lists operational sources of revenue. Although as at the end of the year the overwhelming majority of the projects had been committed most capital projects were incomplete. The major delays included the implementation of a number of staff housing and office accommodation projects, partly because of COVID-19 restrictions preventing work in remote communities and obtaining building approvals. Major projects in Mutitjulu were delayed because of utility service approvals. Unfinished building projects will proceed in 2021–22.

The **land and natural resource management** output group expenditure of \$11.5 million, or 25 per cent of total expenditure, was the largest of the output groups and was more than the expenditure level of the previous financial year (\$11 million, 25 per cent).

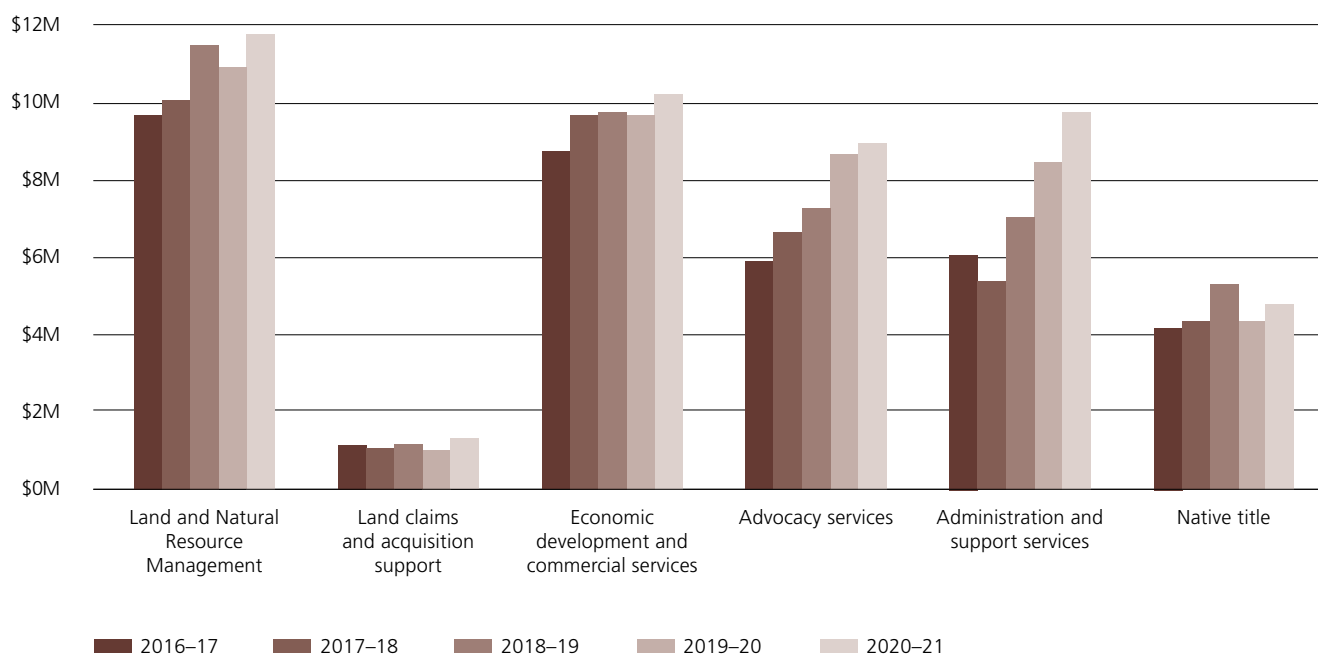
The **economic development and commercial services** output group was the next largest expenditure group (\$10.3 million or 22 per cent of total expenditure). This output group comprises expenditure related to land use agreements, employment, education and training, mining and commercial assistance. It includes 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.

The **advocacy** output group expenditure was \$9 million, or 19 per cent of total expenditure. The demand for community development resources continues to rise and remains unmet. Further details of work performed within the output groups is provided later in this report (see page 60).

The CLC identifies opportunities for cost-recovery to lessen the effect of any reduction in the level or quality of service delivery. It progressively implements productivity improvements proposed during the enterprise bargaining process in order to improve organisational effectiveness.

The financial statements adhere to Australian accounting standards. No annual funding is provided for non-financial asset depreciation and accrued leave liabilities. Net comprehensive income is attributable to the Australian Government.

Figure 2. Expenditure classified by CLC output groups, 2016–21



# CLC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

The CLC has 90 elected members who represent 75 communities across nine regions. Its chair is Sammy Wilson and its deputy chair is Barbara Shaw. Elected members of the ABA advisory committee are Barbara Shaw, Leah Leaman, Harry Nelson (deceased), Robert Hoosan and Jeffrey Zimran.

## CLC CHAIR



SAMMY WILSON

## CLC DEPUTY CHAIR



BARBARA SHAW

## ABA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



LEAH LEAMAN



ROBERT HOOSAN



VACANT



JEFFREY ZIMRAN



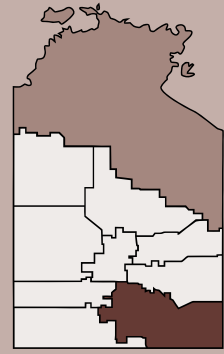
BARBARA SHAW

## REGION 1 • ALICE SPRINGS



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Raymond Palmer**  
(alternate: Conrad Ratara)

Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa): **Raymond Palmer**; Titjikala: **Rodney Katatuna**; Wallace Rockhole: **James Abbott**; Amoonguna: **Rosanne Ellis**; Uruna: **Raeleen Silverton**; Yatemans Bore outstations: **Patrick Oliver**; Alice Springs town camps: **Barbara Shaw**; Alice Springs native title holders: **Sabella Turner, Peter Palmer**; Alice Springs outstations: **Martin McMillan**; Iwupataka: **Alan Campbell**; Ntaria (Hermannsburg): **Conrad Ratara**; Ntaria outstations: **Mark Inkamala, Roxanne Kenny, Eric Fly**.

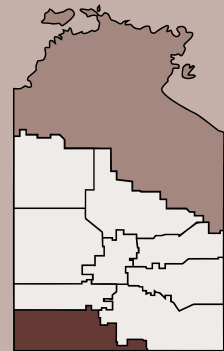


## REGION 2 • SOUTHWEST



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Robert Hoosan**  
(alternate: Craig Woods)

Imanpa (Mount Ebenezer): **David Wongway, Charles Gibson**; Utju (Areyonga): **Gordon Tiger**; Aputula (Finke): **Robert Hoosan**; Kaltukatjara (Docker River): **Marlene Abbott**; Kaltukatjara outstations: **Brendon Mitchell**; Muŋitjulu: **Sammy Wilson, Craig Woods**; Watarrka (Kings Canyon) outstations: **Stephen Clyne**; Ukaka (Tempe Downs): **Bruce Breaden**.

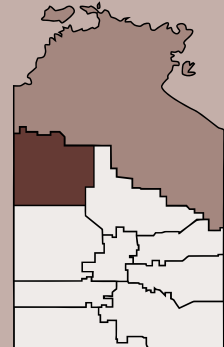


## REGION 3 • NORTHWEST



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Andrew Johnson**  
(alternate: Leah Leaman)

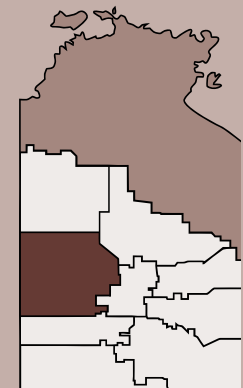
Bamboo Springs: **Juanita Rogers**; Mistake Creek: **Natasha George**; Daguragu: **Dianne King**; Daguragu outstations: **Leah Leaman, Justin Paddy**; Lajamanu: **Sharon Anderson, Alistair Jigli**; Lajamanu outstations: **Andrew Johnson**.



## REGION 4 • TANAMI

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **vacant**  
(alternate: Teddy Long)

Nyirripi: **Jacob Spencer**; Yuendumu: **vacant, Matthew Egan**; Yuendumu outstations: **Tess Ross, Warren Williams**; Tanami Downs: **Ross Rockman**; Willowra: **Teddy Long, Dwayne Ross**; Mount Barkly: **April Martin**; Mount Denison: **vacant**.



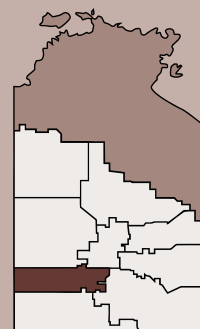


## REGION 5 • WESTERN



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Martin Jugadai**  
(alternate: Lynda Lechleitner)

Papunya: **Jason Butcher**; Papunya outstations: **Lynda Lechleitner**;  
Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff): **Jeffery Zimran**; Ikuntji outstations: **Simon Dixon**;  
Amundurrngu (Mount Liebig): **Martin Jugadai**; Amundurrngu outstations:  
**Roderick Kantamara**; Walungurru (Kintore): **Tommy Conway**;  
Walungurru outstations: **Raymond Maxwell**; Mbunghara: **Terry Morris**.

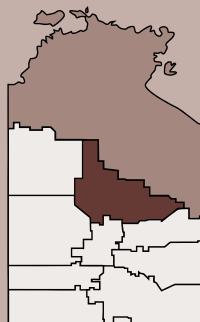


## REGION 6 • TENNANT CREEK



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Sandra Morrison**  
(alternate: Derek Walker)

Mangalawarra: **Dianne Stokes**; Ngurratiji (Nguyarrmini): **Jorna Murphy**;  
Kunayungku: **Ronald Brown**; Karlanjarriyi: **Sandra Morrison**;  
Wutunurrngura (Epenarra): **vacant**; Tennant Creek native title holders: **Brian Crafter**;  
Tennant Creek: **Michael Jones, Patricia Frank**; Canteen Creek: **Basil Mick**;  
Wunara: **vacant**; Alekarengge: **Peter Corbett, Derek Walker**;  
Imangara (Murray Downs): **Ned Kelly**.

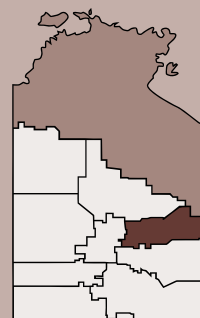


## REGION 7 • EASTERN SANDOVER



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Michael Liddle**  
(alternate: Jackie Mahoney)

Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash): **Pamela (Pam) Corbett, John (Jackie) Mahoney**;  
Ampilatwatja: **Roger Morton**; Utopia homelands: **Michael Liddle, Casey Holmes**;  
Alparra: **Esau Nelson, Sammy Club**; Irrultja: **Eldon Ross**;  
Atnwengerrpe: **John Lewis**.

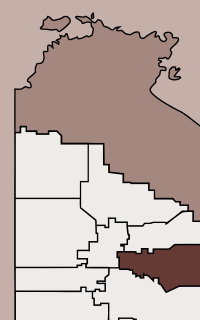


## REGION 8 • EASTERN PLENTY



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Neville Petrick**  
(alternate: Eric Petrick)

Bonya: **Andrew Rieff**; Uralampe outstations: **Joshua Rankine**;  
Alcoota: **Kevin Bloomfield**; Irrerlirre (McDonald Downs): **Neville Petrick**;  
Mount Eaglebeak: **Nigel Bloomfield**; Akarnenhe Well: **Philip Andrews**;  
Atitjere (Harts Range): **Eric Petrick**.

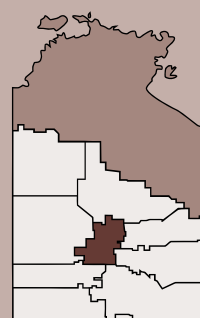


## REGION 9 • CENTRAL



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Ron Hagan**  
(alternate: Timothy Price)

Adelaide Bore (Woola Downs): **Bob Purvis**; Yuelamu (Mount Allen): **David McCormack**;  
Yuelamu outstations: **Ron Hagan**; Pmara Jutunta (Ti Tree Six Mile): **Tony Scrutton**;  
Nturiya (Ti Tree Station): **James Glenn**; Wilora (Stirling): **vacant**;  
Tara outstations: **Timothy Price**; Laramba (Napperby): **Peter Stafford**;  
Barrow Creek outstations: **Kim Brown**.





# CLC GOVERNANCE

The CLC operates under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (Cth)* (PGPA Act).

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

The powers and functions of the CLC are set out in the ALRA. The CLC also has the functions of a native title representative body under the Native Title Act. The CLC's role is described in its 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 section 34 of the PGPA Act (CLC Corporate Plan 2019–2023, p.8).

## ENABLING LEGISLATION

The enabling legislation is the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth)* (the Land Rights Act, or the ALRA).

## RESPONSIBLE MINISTER

The responsible minister is Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians. He is the first Aboriginal Commonwealth cabinet minister and the minister responsible for the new National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA). The NIAA leads and coordinates Commonwealth policy development, program design and implementation and service delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and advises the prime minister and the Minister Wyatt on whole-of-government priorities for these citizens.

## MINISTERIAL DIRECTIONS

The responsible minister did not issue directions, general policies or general policy orders.

## DUTY TO KEEP THE MINISTER / FINANCE MINISTER INFORMED (SECTION 19, PGPA ACT)

The CLC advised the Minister for Indigenous Australians that the chief executive officer had resigned and sought the minister's advice about the appointment of a chief executive officer.

## STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

The statutory functions are described in section 23(1) of the Land Rights Act and are detailed on page 20 of this document.

## COUNCIL

The CLC is a council of Aboriginal people from across the southern half of the NT. Its 90 members represent 75 remote communities and outstations. Any Aboriginal adult is eligible for membership provided they are living in, or are traditional owners of, land within the CLC area, and they 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

The CLC takes seriously its responsibility to ensure that council members are fully informed about their role, rights and obligations. It employs an executive manager policy and governance and a policy and governance support officer responsible for planning and implementing governance training and support for the council.

It has long-established governance processes for meetings of the council and executive committee, including for authorising a proxy and replacing members who miss three consecutive meetings. When participating in governance training, both elected groups use a plain-English governance manual that is updated every three years. Each term, the council has the opportunity to review council meeting rules. The accountable authority approves the agenda for and attends council and executive committee meetings. The chair or deputy chair guides every meeting. Minutes are written and recorded and confirmed at a subsequent meeting.

## THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 11-member executive committee is a committee of the council, pursuant to section 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 committee held seven meetings in Alice Springs in 2020–21. Three of these meetings were conducted via videoconference due to biosecurity restrictions affecting the majority of the executive members. The chair and deputy chair participated in governance training with consultant Maggie Kavanagh in February 2021.

Pursuant to section 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 chief executive officer, 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.

Table 3. Council meetings 2020–21

Meeting dates	Location	Resolutions passed
18–20 August 2020	Ampilatwatja	9
27–29 October 2020	Kintore	7
20–22 April 2021	Tennant Creek	6

Table 4. Executive committee meetings, 2020–21

Meeting dates	Resolutions passed
23–24 September 2020	17
2–3 December 2020	24
3 February 2021	5
2 March 2021 (special meeting)	2
22–23 March 2021	8
12–13 May 2021	10
23–24 June 2021	6

## ROLE OF THE CHAIR

The chair is elected by the delegates of the CLC for a three-year term. The chair is also a member of the Accountable Authority in accordance with the PGPA Act. On 10 April 2019 at Yulara Pulka, the council elected Sammy Wilson as chair and Barbara Shaw as deputy chair. Their terms conclude in April 2022.

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

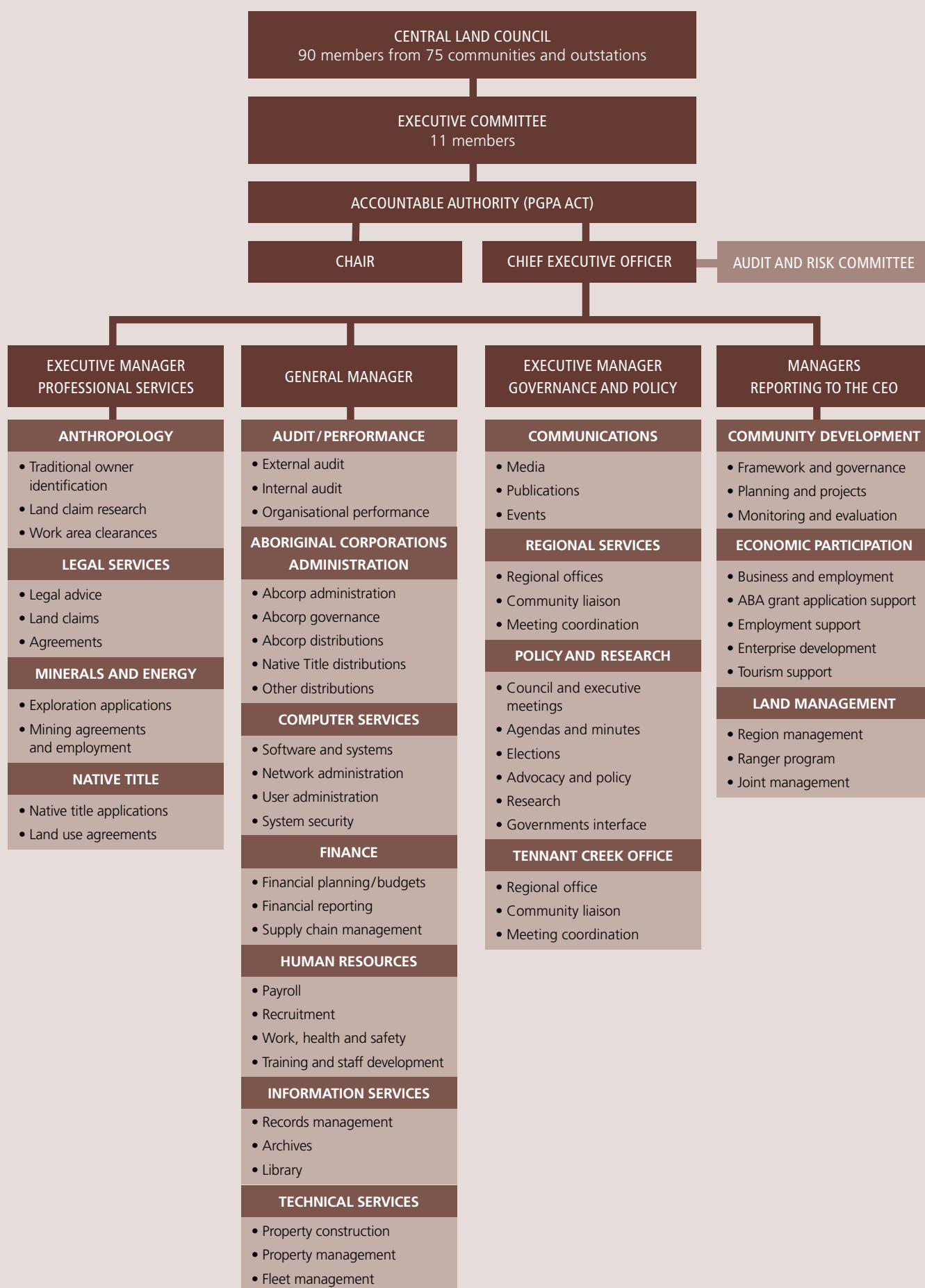
Aboriginal land councils and land trusts are not subject to freedom of information requests (see section 7 and part I of schedule 2 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth)).



CLC chair Sammy Wilson and deputy chair Barbara Shaw at the August 2020 council meeting at Ampilatwatja.



## CLC ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



# OUTPUT GROUP 1

## OUTPUT 1.1. PERMITS

Access to Aboriginal land is managed effectively and efficiently.

The use of permits to enter Aboriginal land is authorised in section 73 of the federal *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* and contained within the Northern Territory's *Aboriginal Land Act 1978*. Traditional owners use the permit system, administered by the land councils, to manage visitation to their lands and to uphold their responsibilities to visitors. Visitors can apply for entry, transit, media, mining and special purpose permits through the CLC website.

Australian Government amendments of the Land Rights Act allow access to public areas of remote communities without a permit, but permits are still required outside these areas. In accordance with the wishes of traditional owners, however, many visitors to communities apply for permits even if not required to, in order to assure themselves of the consent of residents. The CLC appreciates these displays of goodwill.

Changes to the permit system have led some people 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.

In 2020–21 the CLC processed and issued 4,588 permit applications covering 6,926 individuals by consulting with traditional owners and negotiating with applicants. The Madigan Line and the Hay River Track have become very popular, with 384 permits issued to 1,155 visitors of the Madigan Line and 242 permits for 777 travellers along the Hay River Track.

Numerous border restrictions due to COVID-19 affected permit applications and caused unpredictable and sudden increases and decreases in application numbers. Many permits had to be amended and cancelled. Applicants had to complete a CLC COVID-19 declaration for access to Aboriginal land until mid-December 2020. The many designations of hot spots and lockdowns required constant monitoring and updating of the CLC website.

Figure 3. Permits issued to individuals, 2020–21

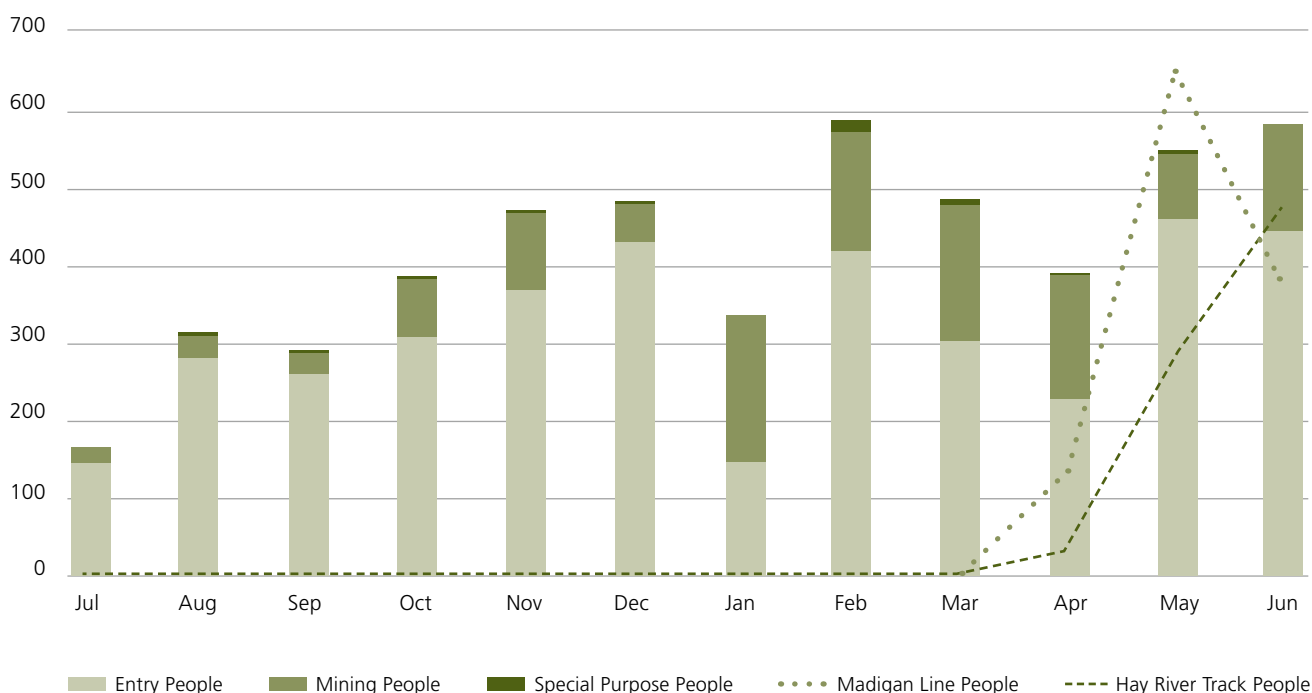


Table 5. Types of permits, 2020–21

Permits	July 2020 – June 2021
Entry	2210
Special purpose (research and media)	15
Mining	62
Transit	2301
<b>Total</b>	<b>4588</b>

## OUTPUT 1.2. LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Central Land Council assists traditional owners to sustainably manage their land and natural resources.

More than half of the CLC region is Aboriginal freehold land. Some CLC constituents live on this land, while others live in towns, on community living areas and on cattle stations. Regardless of where they live, land is of immense cultural and spiritual significance to its Aboriginal owners. They wish to maintain their 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 unsustainable groundwater extraction, feral animals, inappropriate fire regimes, invasive plant species and other threats to biodiversity.

Traditional owners want to manage their land sustainably and generate livelihoods from it. The CLC builds their capacity to manage and protect environmental and cultural values. It provides advice and assistance with land use and management planning, fire management, cultural heritage, feral animal and weed management, and traditional owner participation in the management of protected areas.

Aboriginal rangers occupied most of more than 150 positions in the CLC’s land management section. The rangers are the eyes and ears of the bush and respond to natural and cultural management issues (see the ranger program annual report annexure 2020–21 for more details).

CLC anthropologists prepared 16 traditional owner or native title holder identifications for land management trips and planning meetings. They gave advice and assistance in relation to prescribed burns and incendiary training on the Karlantitjpa, Wirliyajarrayi, Central Desert, Petermann and Haasts Bluff Aboriginal land trusts. Advice and assistance was also provided for activities on the Kaṭiṭi Aboriginal Land Trust and other country visits and threatened species surveys.

### REGIONAL LAND MANAGEMENT

#### *Land resource information and planning*

The CLC rolled out a new data collection app for tablets, and has trained staff in the use of the app. It collaborated with the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education to incorporate it into the certificate in conservation and ecosystem management courses undertaken by CLC rangers.

Traditional owners instructed the CLC to destock the Alrletherre Aboriginal Land Trust grazing licence in 2019 due to earlier dry conditions. A combination of satellite monitoring and field inspection revealed that the land had recovered well where spelling following a good wet season permitted it to be restocked.

An assessment of the condition of the Atnetye (Atula) Aboriginal Land Trust grazing licence was prompted by the expiration of the current licence. The CLC presented the results of the inspection to the traditional owners, who decided to reduce the number of cattle and exclude cattle from damaged areas under the next grazing licence. Land condition assessments were carried out on the Ltalaltuma, Ntaria and Roulpmaulpma ALTs and the results presented to traditional owners as part of the ‘healthy country’ planning process. The CLC also produced carrying capacity assessments for the Angarapa and Angatja ALTs’ grazing licence proposals.

The CLC continued to hold consultation workshops for healthy country plans with rangers in Tennant Creek, Ntaria, Ltyentye Apurte and Ti Tree. Drafts of the Tennant Creek, Ti Tree and Ltyentye Apurte plans are due to be completed in 2021.

The Arltarpilta Inelye Rangers in Atitjere also started consultation workshops for a plan they hope to complete in early 2022. The plans receive funding under the NT Government’s Creating Jobs, Protecting Country policy.

Most bilby populations live on Aboriginal land. Territory Natural Resource Management commenced a bilby recovery program aimed at assessing current populations and implementing activities such as fire management and predator control. The CLC negotiated an agreement with the organisation to share data about bilby populations collected by CLC rangers.



The Threatened Species Recovery Hub, a research project funded by the Australian Government, began to use the rangers' tracking data from across Central Australia to investigate its use for species conservation and mapping, and for improving data collection. The CLC and the hub developed guide books for rangers about surveying significant species.

The CLC has also driven efforts to reestablish a regional biodiversity monitoring project that was created in 2005 to measure changes of biodiversity across parts of the Tanami IPAs following mining and mineral exploration. The project had recorded a wealth of baseline biodiversity data by the time it ceased, in 2012. The CLC and Newmont Tanami Operations convened a workshop with government and industry representatives and researchers to build support for revamping and reimagining the project as an ongoing data set of national significance. The workshop laid the foundations for its next phase, which will incorporate applied research informing improved management of the areas.

### **Fire management**

The CLC facilitated regional fire planning in Tennant Creek in November 2020 and in Yulara in March 2021. At these warlu and waru (Warumungu and Pitjantjatjara for fire) committee meetings traditional owners and rangers plan fire management on the largest IPAs and ALTs in Central Australia. The CLC also advocated for Aboriginal fire management during the NT Bushfires Council and the Alice Springs regional bushfires committee meetings.

It assessed and managed firebreaks at Tennant Creek with Bushfires NT and NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services and highlighted concerns to protect the town at a regional planning meeting.

The CLC conducted on-ground and aerial prescribed burns in the Northern and Southern Tanami IPAs. In the Northern Tanami IPA its rangers conducted asset protection burns with Newmont Tanami Operations under a fee-for-service contract. The 10 Deserts Project funded a fixed wing aerial prescribed burn across Western Australia and parts of the Northern Tanami IPA.

The rangers also participated in additional prescribed burns throughout the CLC region, for example to protect infrastructure and significant sites. Cultural burning, a key objective this year, will no doubt support larger burning operations once the vegetation dries out enough to sustain larger burns.

In the Kaṯiṯi-Petermann IPA CLC rangers, Parks Australia and NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services are managing high fuel loads along roads through roadside burning. This partnership emerged from discussion at a waru committee meeting.

The CLC continued to support the Karlantijpa North savannah burning project by assisting with fire planning, ground operations and governance. Fire management on this previously unmanaged land trust has become more financially sustainable through the income generated from the sale of carbon credits and enabled traditional owners to lead cultural and land management activities. The project emphasis is now on grading fire-breaks and protecting the region from the spread of fire.

The CLC continues to advocate for Aboriginal participation in carbon abatement through fire management projects and has supported the preliminary stages of the Judbarra (Gregory) National Park savannah carbon project.

This joint project with the NT Parks and Willdlife Division and the NLC aims to enable traditional owners to manage fire and earn carbon credits.

The CLC and the 10 Deserts Project contributed to the costs of contracting the Darwin Centre for Bushfire Research at the Charles Darwin University to research how to extend the savannah burning methodology below the 600mm rainfall isohyet (a line on a map or chart connecting areas of equal rainfall), the extent of the current approved methodology. This work included mapping vegetation and a field trip with the North Tanami Rangers to collect data informing the carbon calculations required for the development of a carbon abatement methodology.



Ltyentye Apurte Ranger Malcolm Hayes burned off at Mount Undoolya.



Ranger Enid Long burned near Armstrong Creek on the Kaṭiṭi-Petermann Indigenous Protected Area.

### *Water resource management*

The CLC supported traditional owners, native title holders and affected residents of the Western Davenport water control district in their calls for a review of the NT water controller's decision to issue significant water licences. It sought independent expert advice on the potential impacts of water extraction across the district and facilitated water licensing information and consultation meetings with constituents. It visited sites with traditional owners from three estate groups to consult about the cultural and ecological values of country which may be affected by groundwater extraction and worked on a register of the region's groundwater dependent and culturally significant plants.

The CLC also helped traditional owners to take part in an Alice Springs water allocation plan cultural values workshop. It contributed to workshop discussions and facilitation, took traditional owners on a field trip to groundwater-dependent cultural sites and participated in three water allocation plan review meetings.

### *Invasive species management*

#### FERAL ANIMALS

The CLC helps traditional owners to manage feral animals through planning, consultation and partnerships. Less management was required following recent rains and several years of removal of feral animals from Aboriginal land. Feral horses, cattle, donkeys and camels disperse across the landscape after rains, making culls less viable and urgent. However, traditional owners of the North Tanami IPA still managed to remove more than 1,000 feral animals.

The CLC also supports traditional owners to limit the impact of feral animals on sacred and significant sites. It liaised with Henbury Station about fencing Winbatjara Gorge on the Ntaria Aboriginal Land Trust to prevent horses from entering Waimena Spring through the station. It consulted with traditional owners about ongoing feral horse and cattle management at Running Waters, a sacred site complex on the station, and liaised with the NT Government about earth works to protect it. It also arranged for Deep Well Station to remove its cattle from the Santa Teresa Aboriginal Land Trust.



## WEEDS

Weed infestations impact significantly on the cultural and natural values of the country. Weeds displace bush foods and other important plants, and cause hotter and more destructive fires from which native vegetation cannot recover. This causes declines in native plant diversity.

CLC rangers conduct most of the weed management on Aboriginal land, but as their resources can cover only a fraction of infestations, they prioritise areas of high cultural and ecological value. Table 6 highlights the weed species and areas where rangers conducted weed control activities.

Table 6. Weed species and areas of control work

Name	Status	Work areas
Rubber Bush ( <i>Calotropis procera</i> )	B	Angarapa Aboriginal Land Trust Waramungu Aboriginal Land Trust Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust Dagaragu Aboriginal Land Trust Yuendumu Aboriginal Land Trust Lake Mackay Aboriginal Land Trust
Athel Pine ( <i>Tamarix aphylla</i> )	WONS A/B	Alkwert Aboriginal Land Trust Ntaria Aboriginal Land Trust Uruna Aboriginal Land Trust Lhere Pirnte Aboriginal Land Trust Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust Rodna Aboriginal Land Trust
Prickly pear ( <i>Opuntia spp.</i> )	WONS A	Uruna Aboriginal Land Trust Ntaria Aboriginal Land Trust
Buffel grass ( <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i> )	Not declared	Santa Teresa Aboriginal Land Trust Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust Angas Downs Station Katiti Aboriginal Land Trust Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust
Thornapple ( <i>Datura ferox</i> )	A	Huckitta Station Atijere Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust Yuendumu Aboriginal Land Trust
Rope cactus ( <i>Cylindropuntia spp.</i> )	WONS A	Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust Atnetye Aboriginal Land Trust
Parkinsonia	WONS B	Santa Teresa Aboriginal Land Trust Yuendumu Aboriginal Land Trust Warumungu Aboriginal Land Trust
Mexican Poppy	B	Santa Teresa Aboriginal Land Trust Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust
Kapok bush ( <i>Aerva javanica</i> )	Not declared	Atitjere
Neem tree	B	Dagaragu Aboriginal Land Trust

A/B = necessary to eradicate and prevent introduction into the NT.

B/C = Necessary to prevent the growing, spreading and introduction of the declared weed in the NT.

WONS = Weed of national significance.

## Significant and threatened species management

The CLC relies heavily on external scientific and technical expertise as it helps traditional owners to manage significant and threatened species. One such partnership, with Territory Natural Resource Management, has focused on two joint projects. Rangers participated in intensive surveys of the central rock rat, Australia's most threatened mammal, at Ulumbarru (Mount Edwards) on the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust. They also took part in aerial and ground surveys of the greater bilby across large swathes of the Tanami Desert, a stronghold of this threatened species. The surveys aimed to refine management regimes and better protect the bilbies.

The rangers routinely survey important plant and animal species in the course of their protection work, regardless of whether the species are formally listed or have cultural and local significance to traditional owners. They protected quandong trees from fire and feral animals by clearing vegetation and buffel grass on the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust and Angas Downs Station, and cleared buffel grass and other weeds with staff of Territory Natural Resource Management and the Parks and Wildlife Division of the Northern Territory (PWD NT) in the Finke Gorge National Park to protect endangered cabbage palms. Table 7 summarises management activities.



Ranger Ankin Abbott completed his snake handling training at the annual CLC ranger camp.



Table 7. Significant and threatened species surveys, 2020–21

Survey species	Location	Ranger group
Great desert skink ( <i>Egernia kintorei</i> )	Central Desert Aboriginal Land Trust	Warlpiri Rangers and Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area
	Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust	Kaltukatjara Rangers
	Katitji Aboriginal Land Trust	Tjakura Rangers
Ninu (Greater bilby – <i>Macrotis lagotis</i> )	Central Desert Aboriginal Land Trust	Warlpiri Rangers and Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area
	Alyawarr Aboriginal Land Trust	North Tanami Rangers and North Tanami Indigenous Protected Area
	Karlintjpa North Aboriginal Land Trust	Anmatyerr Rangers
Quandong ( <i>Santalum acuminatum</i> )	Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust	Muru-warinyi Ankkul Rangers
		Tjuwanpa Rangers
		Anangu Luritjiku Rangers
Black-footed rock wallaby ( <i>Petrogale lateralis</i> )	Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust	Ltyentye Apurte Rangers
	Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust	Kaltukatjara Rangers
	Yunkanjini Aboriginal Land Trust	Warlpiri Rangers
Night parrot ( <i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i> )	Lake Mackay Aboriginal Land Trust	Warlpiri Rangers
Marsupial mole ( <i>Notoryctes typhlops</i> )	Ntaria Aboriginal Land Trust	Tjuwanpa Rangers
Spectacled hare wallaby ( <i>Lagorchestes conspicillatus</i> )	Ahakeye Aboriginal Land Trust	Anmatyerr Rangers
Slaters skink ( <i>Egernia slateri</i> )	Rodna Aboriginal Land Trust	Tjuwanpa Rangers
	Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust	Ltyentye Apurte Rangers
	Ntaria Aboriginal Land Trust	Tjuwanpa Rangers
Central rock rat ( <i>Zyzomys pedunculatus</i> )	Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust	Anangu Luritjiku Rangers

## STRUCTURED COMMUNITY-BASED LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation’s real jobs programs and a decade of funding from the Australian Government’s indigenous advancement strategy allowed the CLC’s 12 ranger groups to manage cultural and natural resources on Aboriginal land and indigenous protected areas contributing more than 195,000 square kilometres to the national reserve system (see the ranger program annual report annexure 2020–21 for details).

Both funding agreements ended this year. The Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt, agreed to fund the rangers until 2028 and invited the CLC to apply for existing ranger positions. The CLC is awaiting a response from the National Indigenous Australians Agency to its application from March 2021. In the meantime, the agency provided funding until 31 December 2021. The CLC’s funding application outlined a vision for the future of the program and a plan to ensure that rangers receive the resources they need in order to look after country and employment outcomes improve. Additional funding from the NT Government’s Aboriginal ranger grants program, the Aboriginals Benefit Account and the 10 Deserts Project supported important projects such as developing healthy country plans for groups without strategic management plans, clearing vegetation for firebreaks, grading tracks to improve access to country and establishing emerging ranger groups.

Community demand for ranger employment and additional ranger groups remains high and the CLC continues to advocate for the expansion of the program. It progressed the development of the emerging Walungurru (Kintore) ranger group with support from the agency, the 10 Deserts Project and the Aboriginals Benefit Account. While the latter two funded the establishment of CLC ranger groups in the Utopia region and at Aputula (Finke), the CLC is seeking long-term funding to ensure sustainability. Prospective rangers from both groups have started planning and completed certificate I courses in conservation and ecosystem management.

The CLC’s ranger employment model emphasises training and mentoring, and provides career paths at the CLC and beyond. Rangers regularly transfer the skills and capacities they develop through the program to other employment and leadership roles.

The program employed 130 individuals during 2020–21. Of the 105 rangers employed by CLC on the 30 June, 12 worked full time, 52 worked part time and 41 were casuals. Twelve ranger group coordinators, one ranger group development officer and nine program staff supported 12 established and three emerging groups.

Figure 4. Ranger group areas

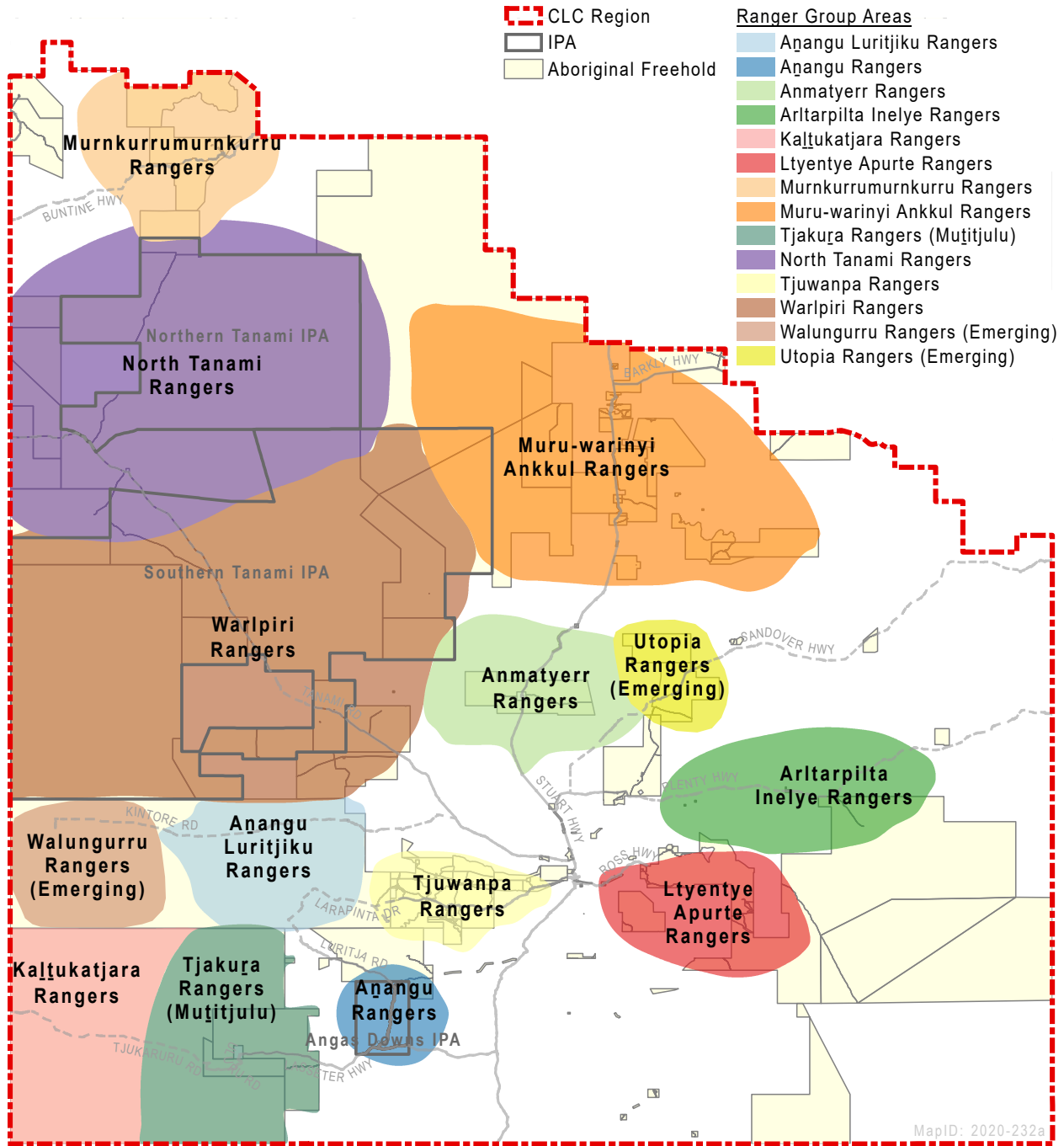


Figure 5. Ranger program funding, 2020–21



Table 8. Ranger groups and areas of operation

Ranger group	Areas of operation
North Tanami	Lajamanu and Northern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area
Warlpiri	Yuendumu, Nyirripi, Willowra and Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area
Muru-wariny Ankkul	Tennant Creek region
Tjuwanpa	Aboriginal land trusts around Ntaria and adjoining national parks
Kaltukatjara	Kaltukatjara and western half of Katjiti-Petermann Indigenous Protected Area
Ltyentye Apurte	Santa Teresa Aboriginal Land Trust and surrounds
Anmatyerr	Ahakeye Aboriginal Land Trust, Ti-tree and wider Anmatyerr region
Anangu Luritjiku	Papunya and eastern half of Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust
Murnkurrumurnkurru	Dagaragu Aboriginal Land Trust and surrounds
Arltarpilta Inelye	Atitjere, Huckitta Station and surrounds
Tjakura	Mutitjulu, eastern Katjiti-Petermann Indigenous Protected Area
Anangu	Angas Downs Indigenous Protected Area
Walungurru (emerging)	Kintore and western half of Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust
Utopia (emerging)	Arlparra and Ampilatwatja – Sandover region

## MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS

### *Joint management of NT national parks and reserves*

The CLC has statutory consultative and representative functions in respect to the joint management of 20 NT national parks and reserves under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976* (NT). Traditional owners hold Aboriginal freehold or NT parks freehold title to 16 of these parks and have leased them back to the NT Government. They jointly manage these parks with the PWD NT. The other four parks are jointly managed under indigenous land use agreements registered with the National Native Title Tribunal.

The CLC has facilitated traditional owner participation in joint management since 2004. The PWD NT funded the equivalent of one position at the CLC to support joint management. The CLC supports joint management through six regional officer positions and their managers. This regional approach facilitates strong relationships with traditional owners and assists them to plan and make decisions about the parks and participate in operational matters such as recruitment, permits, sacred site clearances and land use agreements.

### *Park management planning and governance*

The CLC finalised the joint management plan for the Arltunga Historical Reserve (Arnerre ntyenge), east of Alice Springs, during four working group meetings with traditional owners and the PWD NT. The CLC executive committee approved it in June 2021 and it will be tabled in the NT Legislative Assembly in 2021–22. Traditional owners produced two paintings as part of the development of the draft plan. The CLC facilitated this contribution which strengthened the traditional owners' voices and participation in the process.

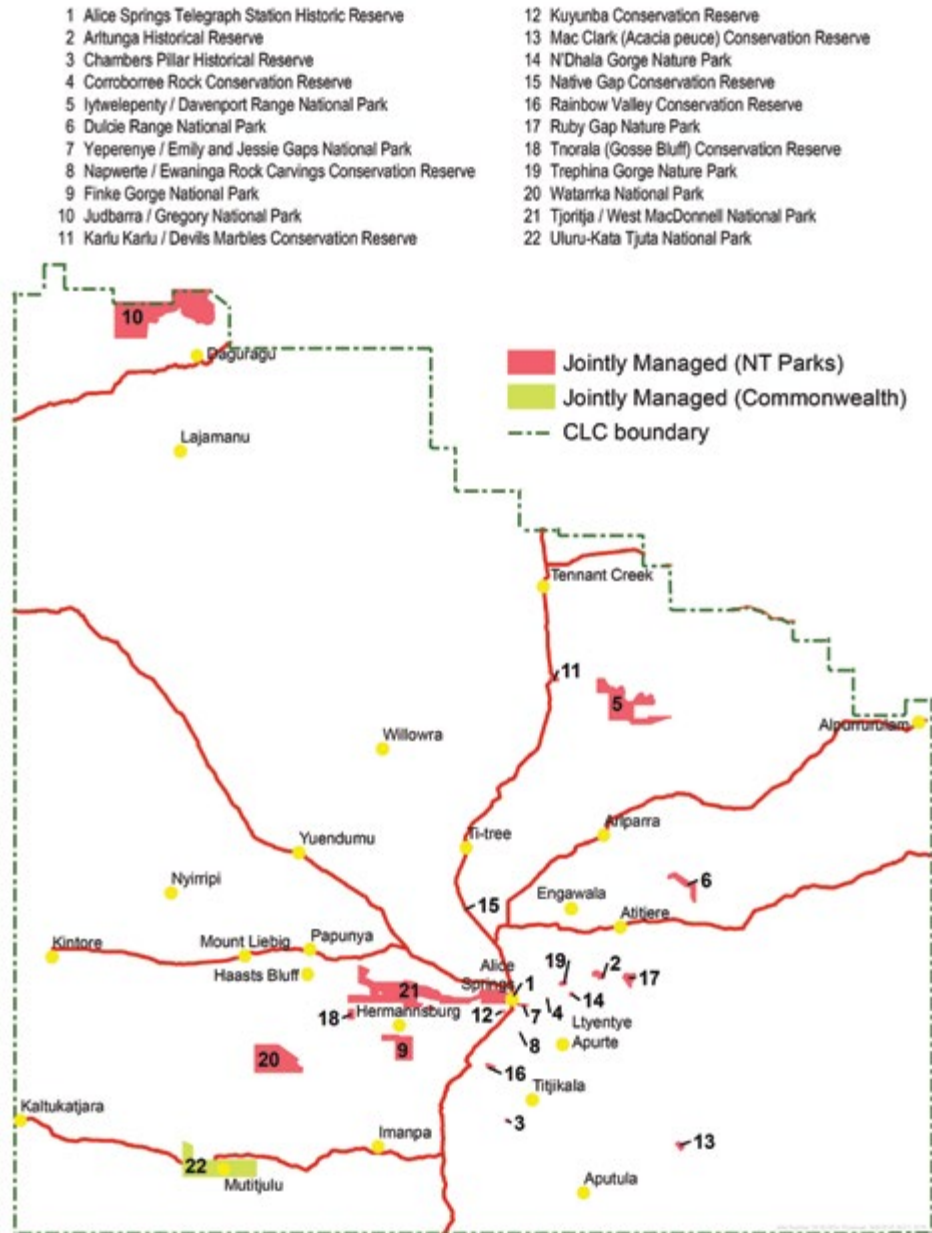
The CLC also facilitated 15 joint management committee and working group meetings. The meetings are an opportunity for traditional owners to visit the respective park and for them and the CLC and PWD NT to review and plan joint management activities.

### *Park management*

The CLC and traditional owners assist the PWD NT with operational tasks such as fire management when possible. The agency agreed to meet with traditional owners at parks prioritised for burning in the 2021 season to plan the prescribed burns. They met at the Arltunga Historical Reserve and Karlu Karlu, but other meetings were cancelled due to limited resourcing. Karlu Karlu traditional owners completed some burning in the park with the agency.



Figure 6. Jointly managed national parks and reserves in the CLC region



### Park permits and concessions

Most jointly managed parks and reserves have guidelines with standard terms and conditions for the efficient processing of permit applications. Applications that fell outside these conditions and required consultation and review by the CLC are listed in Table 9.

Table 9. Park permit applications, 2020–21

Park/reserve	Number	Type
Alice Springs Telegraph Station	1	Access, tourism
Arltunga Historical Reserve	1	Access, filming
Trepkina Gorge Nature Park	2	Access, filming
Finke Gorge National Park	1	Access, filming
Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park	1	Access, tourism
Yeperenye/Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park	2	Access, filming



This painting by Benita Cavanagh will be on the front cover of the joint management plan for the Arltunga Historical Reserve.



Rangers Danisha Gallagher and Marita Maxwell, from Kintore, proudly display their flag at CLC ranger camp at Hamilton Downs.

## ULURU – KATA TJUṬA NATIONAL PARK

Since 1985 the CLC has carried out statutory functions in the management of the Uluru – Kata Tjuṭa National Park under the terms of the lease with the Director of National Parks. A CLC joint management officer has consulted with traditional owners and facilitated their participation in joint management since 2002.

The CLC continued to support the park's board of management and its consultative committees. It helped Anangu board members prepare for six board meetings, represented and supported Anangu at seven consultative committee meetings and consulted with traditional owners about park management programs, permit applications, commercial tourism proposals and the review of the park's plan of management.

Without consulting the CLC, federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley instigated a review of the joint management of Commonwealth national parks by establishing a senior advisory group. The CLC urged the minister to consider past reviews so as to not subject the traditional owners to the same questions they have been asked several times already. It met with the advisory group, liaised with its secretariat and Parks Australia, and held a workshop with traditional owners to discuss past reviews. Traditional owners identified the same issues that they raised in previous reviews, for example that they want joint management to continue but want improved employment outcomes and more control of decision making processes. The group is due to report its findings to the minister in the next period.

## INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS

Since 2007 the CLC has participated in the IPA program, an Australian Government initiative in which traditional owners are supported to protect the natural and cultural values of their country. The CLC administers the Kaṯiṯi Petermann, Angas Downs, and Southern and Northern Tanami IPAs, which together encompass almost 20 million hectares of Aboriginal freehold land. Its rangers undertake the day-to-day management of these areas under the guidance of Aboriginal management committees and in line with comprehensive management plans.

The CLC has begun to review and, where necessary, update the plans for the Angas Downs and Kaṯiṯi Petermann IPAs. It has revamped its monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement plan template to simplify monitoring and make it more achievable.

The CLC has embarked on traditional owner consultations and planning aimed at the possible future declaration of the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust as the CLC's fifth IPA. It builds on two decades of land management projects across the area and the work of the Papunya-based Anangu Luritjiku ranger group.

Some 300 traditional owners have participated in the project to date and have formed a steering committee representing community and outstation residents. The traditional owners are expected to decide whether to proceed with an IPA declaration and to complete a plan of management for the area by mid-2022.



## Cross-border collaboration

### INDIGENOUS DESERT ALLIANCE

The CLC is a member of the Indigenous Desert Alliance, an incorporated coalition of Aboriginal land management organisations in desert regions of Western Australia, South Australia and the NT. The alliance supports Aboriginal rangers across the region to achieve cultural, environmental, economic and social benefits. Two CLC rangers serve as directors on the alliance's board and CLC staff attended its annual conference via video link due to COVID-19.

### 10 DESERTS PROJECT

The 10 Deserts Project is an Aboriginal-led partnership helping traditional owners and rangers to manage the world's largest connected network of protected areas, approximately 2.8 million square kilometres of desert country.

It is funded by the BHP Billiton Foundation and administered by Desert Support Services on behalf of the members, the Central Desert Native Title Services, the Kimberley and Central land councils, Nyangumarta Warrarn, Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara, Indigenous Desert Alliance, Arid Lands Environment Centre, Nature Conservancy and Pew Charitable Trusts. The CLC plays an active role on the project steering committee.

The project continued to fund the development of ranger groups at Walungurru (Kintore) and Utopia, as well as consultations and planning for a ranger group in Aputula (Finke). More than 30 casual rangers work for the three groups and some of them joined the CLC's annual ranger camp in April 2021 at Hamilton Downs. The Walungurru ranger group, which started in late 2018, employed six male and four female rangers, as did the Utopia ranger group. At Aputula, employment fluctuated around one female and five male rangers, with another seven casuals working at least once during the year. The Aputula groups' first overnight trip was a visit to Mac Clark (Acacia peuce) Conservation Reserve on the edge of the

Simpson Desert to discuss management of the reserve with PWD NT. A total of 34 rangers and traditional owners from the three groups enrolled in a certificate I course in conservation and ecosystem management and 25 successfully completed it.

The project also funded intergenerational knowledge transfer, especially about the tracking of animals. The CLC held two reading-the-country workshops, mostly with senior Yapa knowledge holders. Dozens of traditional owners attended the workshops and identified a group of eight Yapa with an education background to help develop learning resources. The one-week workshops explored training content, teaching styles and learning resources and were followed by field-testing of teaching approaches.



Farren Major, Michael Wheeler, Gerrard Giles and Tanita Gallagher completed training in aerial burning at Watarrka.



Gladys Brown, Jeffrey Foster and Jeffrey Curtis look forward to the new Tennant Creek ranger hub.





Ranger Farren Major checked the aerial incendiary device before conducting a helicopter burn.



## *CASE STUDY: Rangers restore Utyetye's rock art to its former glory*

The Ltyentye Apurte Rangers removed swallow nests from the paintings of their most significant rock art site – with a little help from their friends from Kaltukatjara (Docker River).

Traditional owner Damien Ryder led the convoy of cars carrying the two ranger teams on a trip to Utyetye, a large open cave at the bottom of a cliff on the Santa Teresa Aboriginal Land Trust, to watch them restore the paintings covering the cave roof to their former glory.

Mr Ryder stood at the edge of a cliff that turns into a waterfall after heavy rains and creates a curtain across the cave opening while topping up the bright green water below.

'The old people used to camp here,' he said, gesturing down into the narrow valley beyond the cave that the rangers recently cleared of reeds.

Bernard Bell, from Kaltukatjara, clambered down the steep rock face with a cardboard box under his arm, ready to show his colleagues what he learnt at Walka, a cave full of rock art his group is protecting back home.

'I'm teaching them how to look after these paintings and clean off the mud nests,' said Mr Bell as he inspected the mesmerising design of concentric circles in yellow and orange ochre that covers almost the entire roof of the cave.

Then he pulled a wooden stick and a small hammer out of the box and started to carefully chip away at one of the dozens of mud nests stuck to the ochre.

When only a narrow rim of mud was left he pulled out a spray bottle filled with a clear fluid.



Rangers cleaned swallow nests off rock art at Utyetye.



'We spray it with methylated spirits to make the mud soft,' he explained.

The moisture revealed even more paintings underneath the wet mud as he gently swept away the last of it with a soft paint brush.

'We use the brush to clean off the rest of the mud, spray it again, brush again, until it looks nice and clean. It works well. It never takes off the rock painting.'

'It's been here for a long time and that's why we need to look after it.'

Farron Gorey, from Ltyentye Apurte, got the hang of it right away.

'It's a bit different from other ranger work,' he said.

His colleague Anton McMillan already had some practice, having learned the technique during a visit with the Kal<sub>u</sub>katjara group.

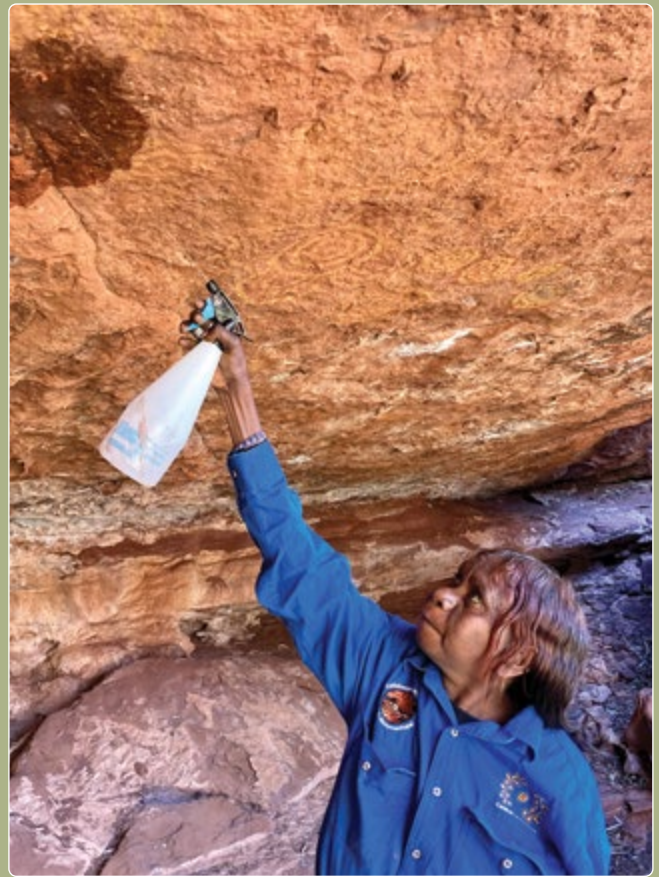
'My first time was at Docker, where I was doing some training for this kind of work,' said Mr McMillan.

'Nobody has come out here before to clean out the swallow nests to look after all the paintings. It's part of the history for this country, that's why it's important. I reckon the traditional owners will be happy with it.'

Mr Gorey agreed.

'I feel good that we can continue to do this, so the old people can see it,' he said.

'I want to bring them here to show them what we have learned. When they see this they are going to feel happy.'



Enid Long softened the mud with methylated spirits.



Bernard Bell (right) showed Farron Gorey how it's done.



Anton McMillan put his training into practice at Utyetye.





## OUTPUT GROUP 2

### OUTPUT 2.1. LAND CLAIMS

#### WAKAYA ALYAWARRA

The Commonwealth is surveying the claim area before it includes it within a schedule to the act and hands the title back.

#### FRANCES WELL

The finalisation of the claim continues to be stymied by issues related to purported public roads. No resolution has yet been reached with the NT regarding the public roads it claims exist on NTP 1299.

### OUTPUT 2.2. LAND ACQUISITION

There have been no land acquisitions during the reporting period.



Frank Dixon with *Mingkulpa* (bush tobacco) at Arnkinti rockhole.



## OUTPUT GROUP 3

### 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.

#### LAND USE AGREEMENTS

The CLC dedicates significant effort to the processing of lease applications on Aboriginal land. It consults on and responds to requests for variations, assignments, subleases and surrenders in connection with leased premises. Its anthropologists prepared 18 traditional owner identification advices and provided other assistance towards consultations for grazing licences on the Mount Barkly, Mungkarta and Angarapa Aboriginal land trusts, mining compensation on the Mangkururra Aboriginal Land Trust, various agreements on the Apatula Aboriginal Land Trust, horticultural leases on Ahakeye Aboriginal Land Trust, leasing at the Alekarengge, Lajamanu, Yuendumu, Kalkaringi and Haasts Bluff communities, various leases on the Karlantijpa North, Mungkarta and Warumungu Aboriginal land trusts, for access to the Tyurretye Aboriginal Land Trust via the Iwupataka and Roulpmaulpma Aboriginal land trusts and lease consultation meetings on the Yalpirakinu, Warrabri and Angarapa Aboriginal land trusts.

The CLC's community development program works with traditional owners who decide to use leasing income to plan and implement community-driven projects. When instructed to distribute money to traditional owners, the CLC's Aboriginal Associations Management Centre manages the distribution.

The CLC's land use trust account receives money from rental payments to 10 Aboriginal corporations and associations that hold community living area titles. In 2020–21 it provided them with planning and legal assistance to ensure that funds are used for the benefit of the communities, according to the Aboriginal corporations' rules.

#### *Australian Government*

The Australian Government holds leases over 922 lots on Aboriginal land and 338 lots on community living areas in the CLC region. It obtained consents for leases over 32 lots.

The CLC is participating in reviews conducted by the Australian Government into township leasing and leasing on Aboriginal land generally.

Some leases held by the Australian and other levels of government and non-government organisations during the previous period expired and were not renewed.

#### *NT Government*

The NT Government holds leases over 509 lots on Aboriginal land and 128 lots on community living areas. Applications were received and progressed relating to variations to the NT Government subleases over community housing in three communities.

The CLC continued to negotiate with the NT Government to finalise the leasing of reticulated services in communities and use of gravel pits on Aboriginal land, and to ensure the ongoing management and compliance with existing leases.

One community in the CLC region still does not have a community housing lease. The residents are waiting for information from the NT Government about how it will charge rent before they decide whether they will agree to a lease.

#### *Local government*

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

They collectively hold land use agreements, including leases and licences, over 255 lots in communities on Aboriginal land in the CLC region and 100 lots on community living areas. The CLC continues to consult traditional owners, communities and residents of community living areas about new and outstanding land use applications and negotiates with the councils about the ongoing management of land use agreements. The CLC has negotiated with regional councils about paying rent for leases.

#### *Non-government organisations*

Non-government organisations operating in communities – mostly Aboriginal organisations, such as art centres and stores – currently hold leases over 267 lots on Aboriginal land and 21 lots on community living areas. The CLC continues to receive lease and licence applications from organisations operating on Aboriginal land and community living areas. Tables 11 to 14 summarise the number of lease and licence applications; the number of consultations regarding these applications, and the management of lease and licence agreements; the number of leases and licences issued; and the number of all leases and licences currently issued.



Table 10. Applications received, 2020–21

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas	Communities on Aboriginal land
Australian Government	0	0
Local Government	0	1
NT Government	32	2
Others	2	22

Table 11. Consents obtained, 2020–21

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas	Communities on Aboriginal land
Australian Government	0	32
Local Government	0	0
NT Government	0	12
Others	2	30

Table 12. Consultations conducted, 2020–21

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas	Communities on Aboriginal land
Australian Government	0	18
Local Government	0	2
NT Government	0	26
Others	0	16

Table 13. Leases and licences at 30 June 2021

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas	Communities on Aboriginal land
Australian Government	17	47
Local Government	39	68
NT Government	38	87
Others	17	194

## PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

The CLC supports traditional owners in negotiations with proponents seeking grazing licences over Aboriginal land and monitors 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 values, and develop pastoral infrastructure that continues to benefit traditional owners.

Grazing licences are typically issued for five years, with the option of a further five years or longer. The CLC also issues grazing licences or subleases to Aboriginal pastoral companies to enable them to operate commercially on Aboriginal land.

The CLC continued to monitor 17 grazing licences and subleases, with nine more under negotiation. Some of them were existing cattle activities operating illegally without a licence or related to encroachment of cattle by neighbouring pastoralists onto Aboriginal land. One of the 17 licences was issued for a new small scale traditional owner-led operation on the Ntaria Aboriginal Land Trust. Traditional owners of the Atneyte (Atula) Aboriginal Land Trust agreed to issue a licence to an Aboriginal-owned cattle business, with the licence expected to be executed in the next period.



Overgrazing on Aboriginal land under grazing licence.

Traditional owners rejected two grazing licence proposals—one for the Roulpmaulpma Aboriginal Land Trust and the other for the Ngalurrju Aboriginal Land Trust, where traditional owners chose to pursue a licence with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy to manage the land for its natural and cultural values through Aboriginal rangers. The CLC inspected grazing licences on licence areas such as the Atneyte, Malngin 1 and 2, Alkwert, Anatye, Arletherre, Dagaragu, Karlantijpa, Mangkurrrpa, Mungkarta East and West Aboriginal land trusts, Ooratippra Station, and the Pmere Nyente and Roulpmaulpma Aboriginal land trusts.



## ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

To obtain the best possible outcomes for traditional owners and remote community residents from land use agreements, the CLC works with the proponents of development proposals to explore opportunities for Aboriginal employment and training and business contracting. It makes traditional owners and remote community residents aware of opportunities, maps their aspirations against project proposals and plans capability-building activities. This support facilitates prior and informed consent by traditional owners and can improve the prospects of proposals during consultations and negotiations of land use agreements.

### *Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park*

The Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park's board of management gave in-principle support to the Australian Walking Company for an exclusive-use multi-day walk on a trail to be built between Kata Tjuta to Uluru. The CLC has been working closely with Parks Australia, the company and the landowners since the board called for expression of interest in the proposal in 2016.

The company's proposal for a 45 year licence and sub-lease received approval from the representatives of the land trust in October 2020. The proposal offers community benefits such as an Anangu community fund to build Anangu capacity and capability, and an Anangu steering committee to inform the development and operation of the tourism business, and to decide what activities to fund. As the walking trail project enters the final stages of the approvals process, the CLC has increased committee members' understanding of the tourism industry, for example by facilitating the attendance of committee members at a tourism conference in Alice Springs in February. It also helped them to design strategies to maximise the employment and business creation outcomes from the project.

### *Red Centre Adventure Ride*

In 2018, the NT Government proposed the development of a multi-day bicycle trail for the Tjoritja/West MacDonnells National Park. The CLC has helped the park's traditional owners to understand the project and the opportunities it offers. The government proposes to invest an initial \$12 million for the construction and has proposed an expression of interest process to attract the investment required to complete the proposed development, such as camping and accommodation sites. The CLC is negotiating the terms and conditions for the trail agreements with the government, informed by its earlier consultations and the efforts of a traditional owner working group. The landowners are seeking outcomes across project governance, contracting and employment, and strategies that support participation by landowners and neighbouring communities.

### *Watarrka National Park*

The CLC continued to assist the traditional owners of the Watarrka National Park to further their involvement in the ongoing planning and development of a proposed multi-day walking trail they approved in principle. As this NT Government-led proposal requires commercial investment the CLC is working with the government's Investment Territory team and a traditional owner planning committee on an expression-of-interest process. If that process is successful, the next stages of development will involve considerable traditional owner participation, for example in identifying the trail route and designing the tourism experience. The CLC continues to explore with the planning committee commercial arrangements that maximise Aboriginal employment, capacity development and business ownership. This includes assessing existing community resources and capacity and organisations capable of joining negotiations.



# OUTPUT 3.2. EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Assist 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 aimed at employee retention. It converts employment opportunities arising from land use agreements into jobs for Aboriginal people and has built a reputation for placing people from disadvantaged communities in resource industry employment. It also offers land management and enterprise development partnerships, strong community networks, and familiarity with constituent aspirations and circumstances.

Its employment team assisted 76 people with resumes, applications and referrals to employers, and 37 of them found work. Of the 16 applicants referred to Newmont four gained employment. The CLC continues to work with the gold miner on Aboriginal employment opportunities as part of Newmont's Tanami expansion project.

## NATIONAL PARKS

The CLC assisted in the recruitment of nine positions for jointly managed parks. Five staff and one traditional owner completed the NT Government's training to participate on recruitment panels. The CLC is pursuing further training for traditional owners and rangers so that they can assist with fire management on jointly managed parks.

The CLC and senior traditional owners recommended potential Aboriginal employees to the Parks and Wildlife Division NT. Thirteen applicants submitted expressions of interest, with work likely to start in the next period. PWD NT contracted a walking track company that employed two traditional owners on the realignment of the Kalarranga lookout in the Finke Gorge National Park.

Traditional owners used their park rent income to build a walking track between Emily Gap and Jesse Gap that traverses the Yeperenye/Emily and Jessie Gap Nature Parks. More than 30 traditional owners built the trail and worked as cultural supervisors (see also Output 4.4).

## CLC RANGER PROGRAM

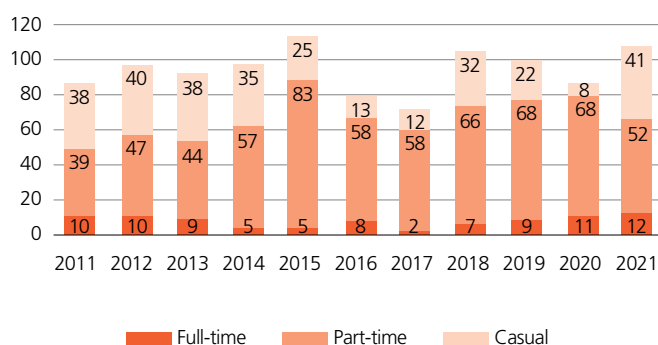
The CLC ranger program's entry-level positions build capacity and interest among young Aboriginal people with little or no work experience. The program also employs casuals on larger surveys, fire management, weed control and fencing projects. This often results in permanent jobs.

The Commonwealth's indigenous advancement strategy and the Real Jobs (Ranger) program of the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation funded 105 CLC rangers (the equivalent of 71.2 fulltime positions) across 12 established and two emerging ranger groups. The corporation funded a quarter of the positions.

## Employment outcomes and ranger retention

The CLC offers a variety of employment options to accommodate the responsibilities of, and demands on, remote community residents. Twelve rangers and ranger support officers were in full-time positions on 30 June 2021, 52 were part-time and 41 were casuals. Many casual rangers work for emerging ranger groups such as the Walungurru and Utopia groups which are not yet able to offer permanent positions.

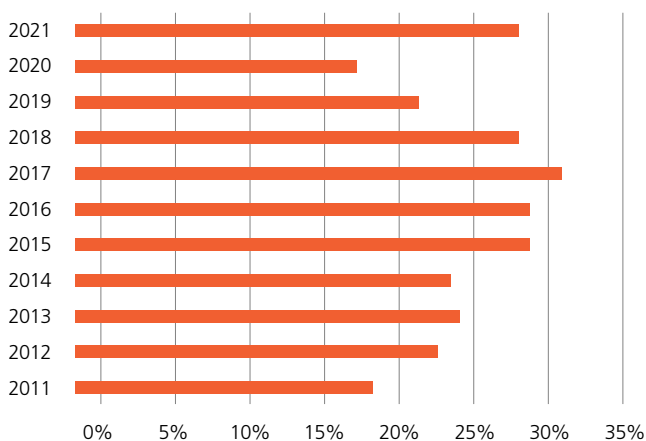
Figure 7. Ranger employment type, 2011–21



Over the past decade there have been 976 CLC rangers, aged between 16 and 67, possessing a wide range of knowledge and skills. The reporting period saw the CLC's first ranger on long service leave.

Figure 8 shows that 29 per cent female rangers is far below the CLC target of 50 per cent female employment in the ranger program. The reasons for this decline and strategies to address it are still under investigation.

Figure 8. Percentage of women rangers, 2011–21

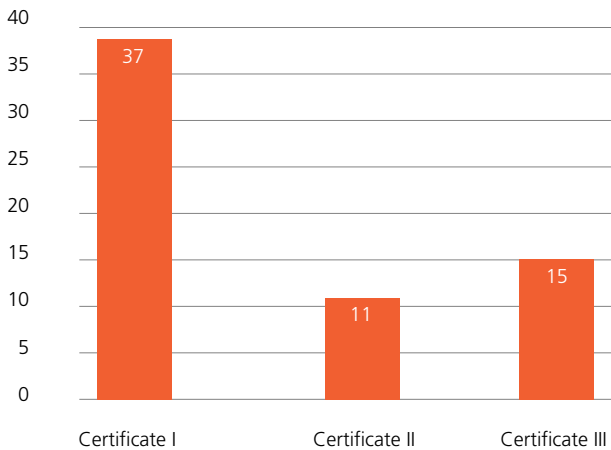




### Quality targeted training and professional development

COVID-19 substantially impacted training and professional development across the ranger program in 2020. Local and interstate registered training organisations were unable to deliver training in remote communities during lockdowns, border closures, and the implementation of biosecurity zones. As restrictions were lifted some service providers experienced backlogs, resulting in limited places and extended delays.

Figure 9. Number of rangers enrolled in each certificate level, 2020–21



The Batchelor Institute recommenced the delivery of training blocks to rangers in Alice Springs in 2021. Figure 10 shows the number of rangers enrolled in certificate II, III and IV studies in conservation and ecosystem management. The CLC also liaised with the provider about aligning the certificate IV with the work plans of the rangers.

Thirty-four rangers and aspiring rangers from the Utopia region, Aputula (Finke) and Walungurru (Kintore) and two regional workplace mentors undertook a customised introduction to ranger skills, with 25 rangers graduating from a certificate I in conservation and ecosystem management. The intensive three-week course aimed to provide the participants with timely and standardised on-boarding and work health and safety training. As work plans for new ranger groups focus strongly on on-the-job training, work readiness mentoring and practical experience, time for accredited training is limited. The certificate I, with which the course was aligned, was therefore determined to be the preferred baseline qualification. Contracting an interstate training provider, due to limited local capacity, resulted in significant efforts to comply with organisational and NT COVID-19 risk management protocols.

The CLC's ranger training and development strategy sets actions for the 2020–23 period. Although implementation stalled during the pandemic, it was finalised in March 2021 and will inform the priorities for the next three years.

After the cancellation of the 2020 CLC ranger camp, additional COVID-19 risk management measures enabled the 2021 camp to go ahead in March at Hamilton Downs near Alice Springs. Participants rated the event as highly successful and the following outcomes were achieved:



Mutitjulu primary students harvesting urtjanpa with Tjakura Ranger Ashley Paddy.



- 95 Aboriginal rangers from 17 groups attended, including 21 from five groups based outside the CLC region
- staff and service providers delivered a mix of 15 accredited and non- accredited training workshops, facilitated by 19 trainers
- ranger groups presented in English and eight Aboriginal languages about their highlights of the previous two years of work, achievements, challenges and ideas
- three local Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing professionals delivered team building, leadership and wellbeing activities
- an optometrist checked the eyes of 60 rangers, and more than 50 rangers had hearing tests.

### *School-based capacity building*

The rangers demonstrate the value of ranger employment to students in remote community classrooms and on country, and in their interactions with junior rangers, traditional owners and parents. They contribute to learning outcomes and motivate students to continue their schooling.

The Tjuwanpa Rangers, for example, taught Ntaria students about bush tucker and medicine plants, digging for water and identifying soakages and using the data collection app and helped them with presentations about the work they had done with rangers. The Murnkurrumurnkurru Rangers undertook two field trips with the junior Kunpulu Rangers from Kalkaringi. The rangers taught the students about cultural sites and the management of waterways, fire management and wildlife survey techniques.

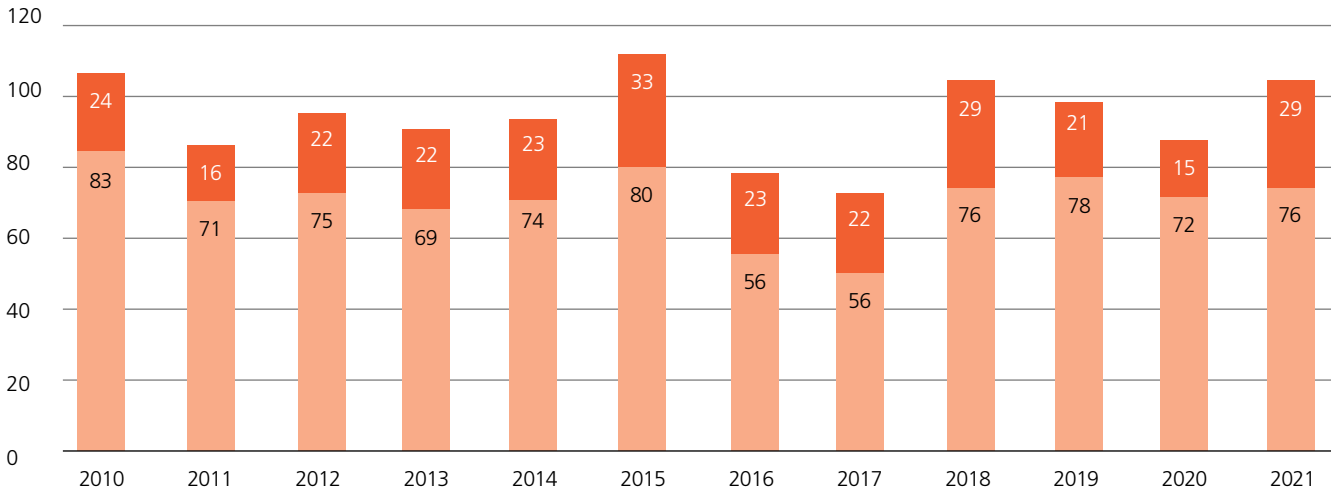


Ranger Angela Purvis signed up for a video workshop at the ranger camp.



Jeffrey Foster and Helen Wilson took part in all-terrain vehicle training at Hamilton Downs.

Figure 10. Male and female rangers, 2010–21



### Ranger mentoring support

Even though they live in remote locations, rangers and their families were disrupted by the pandemic. Returning to work after a stand-down period proved to be very challenging for many rangers. Existing social and emotional challenges appeared to be amplified by the stress and uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

Family wellbeing was the most frequently reported issue dealt with by the workplace mentors. Community safety and disputes and domestic and family violence were raised by many rangers. In providing confidential support and referrals to the rangers the mentors had to comply with mandatory reporting requirements and protect themselves from the impacts of supporting traumatised rangers, which remains an ongoing and complex mentoring challenge.

Health is the second-biggest issue requiring mentoring support. The most significant health issues relate to alcohol and other drugs, closely followed by physical and mental health issues.

Overcrowding and substandard and unstable living conditions can impede rangers’ ability to attend and perform at work and impact the whole ranger program. More than 50 mentoring sessions related to housing issues, financial stress and income support issues. Housing was a consistent issue across much of the region, particularly for the Tjuwanpa, Ltyentye Apurte and Arltarpiita Ineleye ranger groups. Mentors assisted and advocated on behalf of rangers impacted by housing issues on a case-by-case basis.

Despite the challenging circumstances mentors have been able to achieve proactive mentoring services in workplace team development, work readiness and career pathway planning and development across all groups.

The flow-on-effects of the pandemic have made mentoring services more critical than ever for the resilience of the program overall and the wellbeing of the rangers.



Rangers Danisha Gallagher, Tanisha Foster and Tamika Newcastle participated in a first aid course at the ranger camp.



## 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. The Newmont Corporation's Tanami Operations, the Granites, has yielded millions of ounces of gold over the past 20 years. Gold exploration continues in the Tanami and Barkly regions. Oil and gas production occurs at Mereenie, west of Alice Springs, Palm Valley, and the new Dingo gas field south of Alice Springs.

The CLC has responsibilities under the Land Rights Act and the Native Title Act to ensure the rights and interests of Aboriginal people in the CLC region are protected through the efficient processing of applications for mineral and petroleum exploration and production. In the NT, the Land Rights Act has proved an effective mechanism to achieve land use agreements that protect cultural values, reach mutually beneficial terms and conditions on impacts and benefits, and facilitate traditional owner consent processes that provide certainty to the proponent. In addition, it assigns land councils a statutory function to protect sacred sites.

The Senate inquiry into the events at Juukan Gorge, where Rio Tinto destroyed ancient rock shelters of great cultural significance, has focussed attention on heritage protection laws, practices and agreement-making with Aboriginal peoples and industry commitments to improve practice. It highlights that exploration and production on land subject to native title should also require consultation and agreement-making, so as to ensure exploration and production avoid harm to sacred sites, and are based on respectful relationships with traditional owners.

The CLC undertakes effective and appropriate consultation with traditional owners and native title holders in relation to exploration and mining proposals on their land. When negotiating with proponents about access to Aboriginal land, the CLC must ensure

that traditional owners are fully informed before they make decisions. Only where there is informed group consent can the CLC enter into agreements with mining companies on behalf of traditional owners. The CLC negotiates exploration and production related agreements to achieve the best possible outcomes in accordance with traditional owners' instructions and views.

Where an agreement is reached, the CLC monitors it and ensures that contractual obligations are fulfilled diligently and effectively. Agreements terms and conditions relate to impacts and benefits across cultural, social, training, employment and environmental aspects. The CLC assesses work programs received in relation to agreements and conducts work area clearances to ensure that sacred sites are protected. It currently manages 97 deeds, agreements and ILUAs for exploration, production or ancillary activities related to minerals and energy exploration and production.

In 2020–21 the CLC anthropologists prepared 18 traditional owner identifications and assisted with meetings about applications to explore and mine on the Central Desert, Urrampini Iltjiltjarri, Warumungu, Mungkarta, Mungkarta 2, Karlantijpa North, Lhere Pirnte, Ltalaltuma, Ntaria, Roulpmaulpma, Uruna, Atnetye and Mangkurrurupa Aboriginal land trusts.



Traditional owner and CLC delegate Ned Kelly discussed sacred site protection at Watijarra with CLC anthropologist Brian Connelly.



## MINING AND ENERGY IN THE CLC REGION

Mining and energy together contribute 27.5 per cent of gross state product. Approximately 48 per cent of the NT is Aboriginal land, and 30 per cent of its population is Aboriginal. This means that mining has the potential to significantly impact and benefit Aboriginal people.

The NT Government wants to grow to a \$40 billion economy by 2030. The Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission 2020 report identifies that mining has a significant role to play, and that reaching this goal will require five new mines in the next five years, and 10 in the next 10 years. The government has announced ongoing funds for the Resourcing the Territory initiative. In early 2021 the NT Geological Survey released a territory-wide, depth-to-basement structural model and collaborated with Geoscience Australia through the Exploring for the Future program to collect and publish basic geoscientific data for the Barkly. This information was released in 2021 and is likely to lead to increased interest from explorers.

The Australian Government aims to ensure the continued contribution of mining and energy to the Australian economy, and this includes a need to continue to develop new areas, such as the NT. Large areas of the NT remain under-explored, due to remoteness and lack of infrastructure. Several areas are seen as potentially prospective, but also pose feasibility challenges. There are significant mineral resources in the CLC region. At present gold exploration and production predominate, but new applications demonstrate a growing interest in other in-demand commodities. Among them are copper, rare earths, base metals, uranium, tungsten, coal, salt, phosphate and potash. The occurrence of battery metals, rare earths, copper and other materials such as battery metals, rare earths, copper and others identified in the Australian Government's national minerals strategy may also see increased demand for exploration licences.

## Gold

Interest in gold in the CLC region has been focussed on the world-class Callie deposit in the Tanami, as well as areas around the proven Tennant Creek region. One of the most remote areas, the Tanami, has proven successful for gold exploration and production. The Newmont Corporation's Tanami Operations is the Territory's largest gold producer. In 2020, despite the pandemic, it produced 500,000 ounces of gold from the Callie Deposit at Dead Bullock Soak. The gold is processed at the nearby Granites mine. Intensive exploration continues in the region, with Prodigy Gold NL, Northern Star and Newmont all investigating the potential for more gold discoveries near existing sites, as well as in areas not yet explored. The Oberon prospect, 70 kilometres north of Newmont's Tanami Operations, is at the feasibility stage, and in the coming 12 months will be subject to intensive resource drilling.

## Oil and gas

The 160,000 square kilometre Wiso Basin, between Tennant Creek and Barrow Creek, and the 170,000 square kilometre Amadeus Basin, southwest of Alice Springs, are subject to numerous applications. The applications cover several Aboriginal land trusts, and include some areas where landowners have not previously dealt with oil and gas exploration processes. This means the CLC must invest significant efforts in order to facilitate informed decision making.

The 330,000 square-kilometre Georgina Basin, northeast of Alice Springs and extending into Queensland, initially had blanket coverage of applications and granted titles. However, three exploration permits that covered nearly 35,000 square kilometres were surrendered following the unsuccessful exploration of deep shales in the southern parts of the basin. In June 2021 the NT Government announced a petroleum acreage release in this region. In line with recommendations of the scientific inquiry into hydraulic fracturing in the NT (the Pepper Inquiry) landowners may comment on the suitability of the area for oil and gas exploration.



Tarkyn Tasman checked out the Newmont Windy Hill pit during a work area clearance.

The government advised it will assess applications from companies to explore these areas, consider comments received from landowners, and make a decision in November 2021. The 150,000 square-kilometre Pedirka Basin, southeast of Alice Springs, straddles the border with South Australia and consists of a significant deep coal resource which has been previously targeted for underground coal gasification and thermal coal projects. More recently, companies have shown an interest in the development of coal to hydrogen projects in the basin.

The CLC did not consider exploration permit applications for oil and gas due to uncertainty about onshore gas application processing, and regulation associated with the government's ongoing implementation of recommendations of the Pepper Inquiry. As at 31 April 2021, the government had implemented 64 of the 135 recommendations of the inquiry. The CLC continued to monitor the government's response to the recommendations. It advocated for Aboriginal people's rights and interests to be properly considered in the design of onshore gas policy via the Onshore Shale Gas Community and Business Reference Group, the Geological and Bioregional Assessments – Beetaloo Region User Panel, and the Aboriginal Information Program Advisory Group. As at 30 June 2021, 32 exploration permit applications remain under negotiation in the CLC region. Processing of applications will commence when an information package on onshore gas exploration for Aboriginal people is completed by the CSIRO and released by the NT Government.

## Uranium

Central Australia remains highly prospective for uranium; however, only two applications that identified uranium as a target commodity were received. Interest in the commodity has also been low during previous periods. The recent applications may reflect the jump in uranium price from below US\$25 per pound over the last few years to around US\$30 per pound in early 2020, where it remains. The price is still low compared to 2012 when it was above US\$50 per pound and the CLC received 45 applications. Traditional owners have mixed views on the exploration, mining and use of uranium. This is evidenced by widely reported opposition to uranium and proposed nuclear waste repositories at Muckaty Station, the Tanami region, and on private land near Alice Springs.

Applications to explore for uranium come with unique transport, use, regulation, radiation protection and waste storage issues. The CLC has supported communities and traditional owners affected by applications to explore for uranium to broaden their knowledge of uranium exploration, mining and processing techniques, uses of uranium and radiation monitoring. The CLC's uranium information strategy explains this in plain English, using print and video, and has made traditional owners aware of the contested nature of the nuclear industry.

## APPLICATIONS FOR EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION TITLES

In the NT an exploration licence allows the holder or operator to explore for minerals over the licence area. For oil and gas exploration, an exploration permit must be obtained. Exploration permits generally cover very large areas. In response to an application for exploration on Aboriginal land, the CLC must consult the relevant traditional owners and ascertain their views. This can involve significant logistics, associated with talking to multiple traditional owner groups across a large area.

The CLC has statutory obligations to ensure that traditional owners understand the nature and purpose of exploration and agree to it before the CLC can consent to an agreement. The CLC is obligated to listen to the traditional owners and act on their instructions. Depending on their instructions, it refuses consent or negotiates an agreement about the terms and conditions of the grant. The NT may grant an exploration, mining or production licence over Aboriginal land under the Land Rights Act with the consent of the CLC.

Section 42 of the Land Rights Act sets out the process for the consideration of exploration applications. Three meetings were held to consider new applications for the first time and one further meeting was held to discuss the terms of an exploration agreement. In total, nine exploration title applications on Aboriginal land were discussed at meetings. Table 15 relates to the processing of applications on Aboriginal land at traditional owner meetings.

Table 14. Processing of applications for consent to the grant of exploration titles (exploration licence applications and exploration permit applications) under mining provisions of the Land Rights Act.

Performance measures	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
Number of exploration titles (mainly ELAs and EPAs) effectively progressed to an initial traditional owner meeting	18	18	33	0	7
Total number of exploration titles considered at traditional owner meetings (includes first and further meetings)	35	25	37	3	9
Number of exploration titles completed in total (includes those withdrawn during negotiating period)	24	36	15	16	20
Average time taken (in years) from date of application is received to either CLC Consent or Refusal	3.0	3.0	1.3	0.0	3.5*

\*The average for 2020–21 includes an unusually lengthy period before a result could be achieved for exploration licence 23094. This was a complicated process, influenced by traditional owner experience of nearby site damage and associated cultural concerns in the tenement. With this outlier excluded, the average when calculated for the three other titles finalised in 2020–21 was 1.3 years.



Traditional owners discuss exploration licence applications at Batton Hill on the Atnetye Aboriginal Land Trust with CLC staff.

This process protects the rights and interests of the traditional owners and, once a decision is made, the applicants have the certainty required to invest in exploration. Where landowners consent to exploration, they also consent to mining or production. They are not allowed to say no to a mine later on, but a subsequent mining or production agreement must be in place before a mineral lease or production licence for petroleum is granted.

Mining activities can have social and environmental impacts on neighbouring communities. The CLC must also consult them, even though traditional owners make the consent decision. The CLC conducts exploration and mining consultation meetings to ensure that landowners exercise their rights under the Land Rights Act. Table 15 records the numbers and status of titles on Aboriginal land in the CLC region.

Table 15. Exploration titles (exploration licence applications and exploration permit applications) on Aboriginal land

Action or step under Part IV ALRA process	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Consent to negotiate from NT Government	98	103	67	25	74	25	18	33	77	34	47
Application for consent to the grant*	121	85	82	37	72	33	29	37	77	46	35
Withdrawn during negotiating period	23	21	24	54	37	43	11	17	6	16	16
Refused	31	19	28	8	9	12	10	4	9	0	2
Consent to the grant	38	48	29	5	16	22	3	15	0	0	2
Granted by NT Government	8	65	40	20	6	8	30	22	0	0	2
Under negotiation as at 30 June	299	311	283	226	220	169	149	153	172	204	197

\*includes applications following expiry of moratorium period.



For exploration titles on Aboriginal land the NT Government issued 47 titles with consent to negotiate and the CLC accepted 35 applications from proponents. Sixteen titles were withdrawn during the negotiation period. Traditional owners instructed the CLC to consent to the grant of two exploration titles, and refused two other exploration titles, which will go into moratorium for five years. Two native title holder meetings were held to consider exploration agreements on pastoral land, where the Native Title Act applies.

Figure 11 compares the annual numbers of exploration licence applications and exploration permit applications on Aboriginal land processed during the past 10 years.

The CLC had 197 title applications under negotiation at the end of the financial year. This is a slight reduction on the previous period and reflects the efforts of the CLC to progress titles to meetings despite interruptions to remote travel while the COVID-19 biosecurity zones were in place. Figure 12 shows the trend in the processing of exploration titles on Aboriginal land for the past 10 years.

The TERC report noted that ensuring proponents have the capacity to effectively use exploration leases is vital to delivering the benefit of active exploration to the NT. Titles that are not used are an asset to the company, but do not deliver value to the NT or traditional owners. Where active use of titles is not incentivised it encourages warehousing, which blocks bona fide explorers.

## AGREEMENTS FINALISED

The CLC finalised two new exploration agreements on Aboriginal land and supported one prescribed body corporate to enter into a native title agreement for exploration.

### *Ferdies Find Pty Ltd (exploration licence 32015)*

Traditional owners instructed the CLC to enter into an exploration agreement for exploration licence 32015 on the Yiningarra Aboriginal Land Trust. After the CLC's executive committee approved the exploration agreement, the NT Government granted the licence in March 2021.

Figure 11. Number of exploration titles applied for and processed to final outcome on Aboriginal land

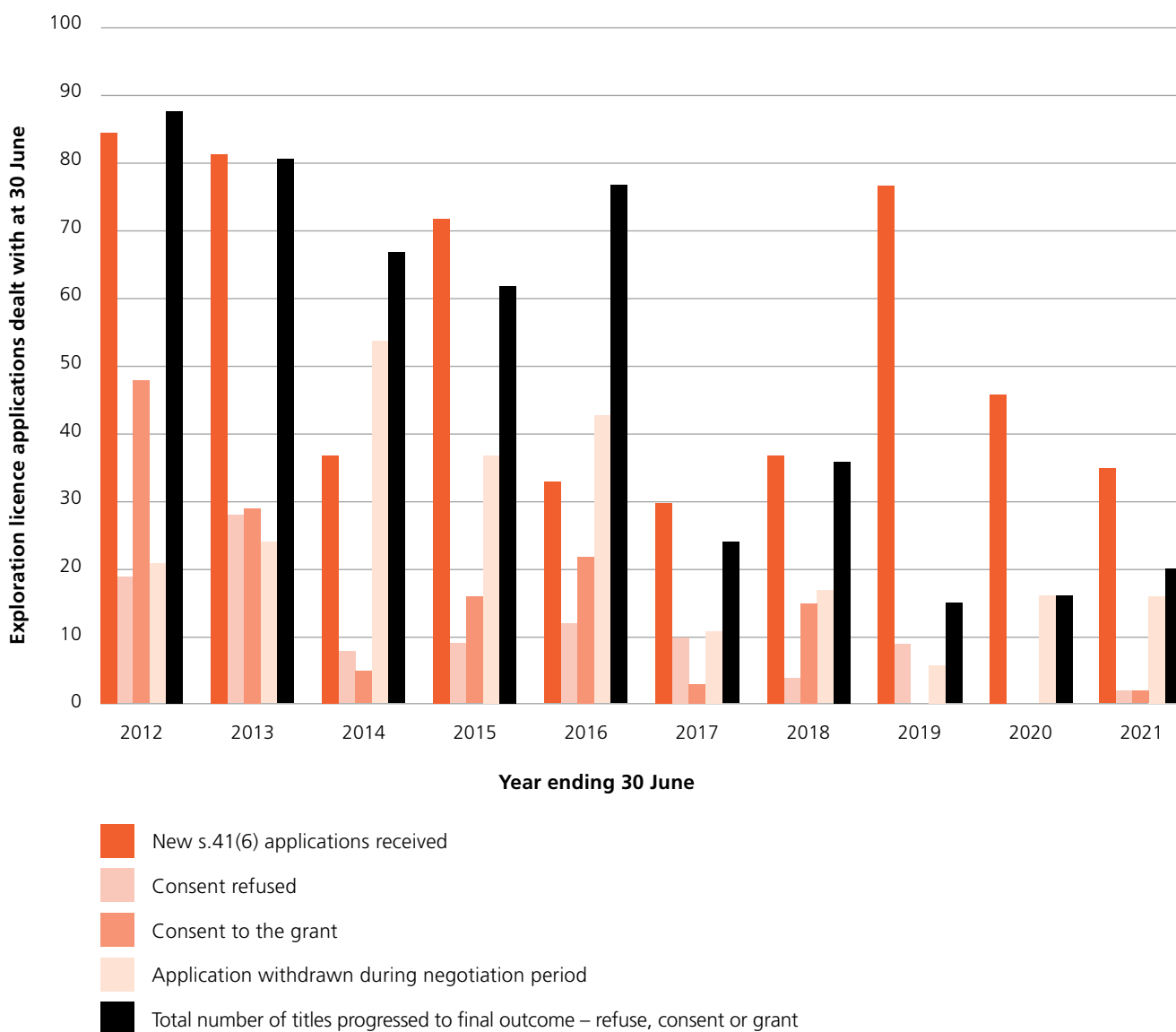
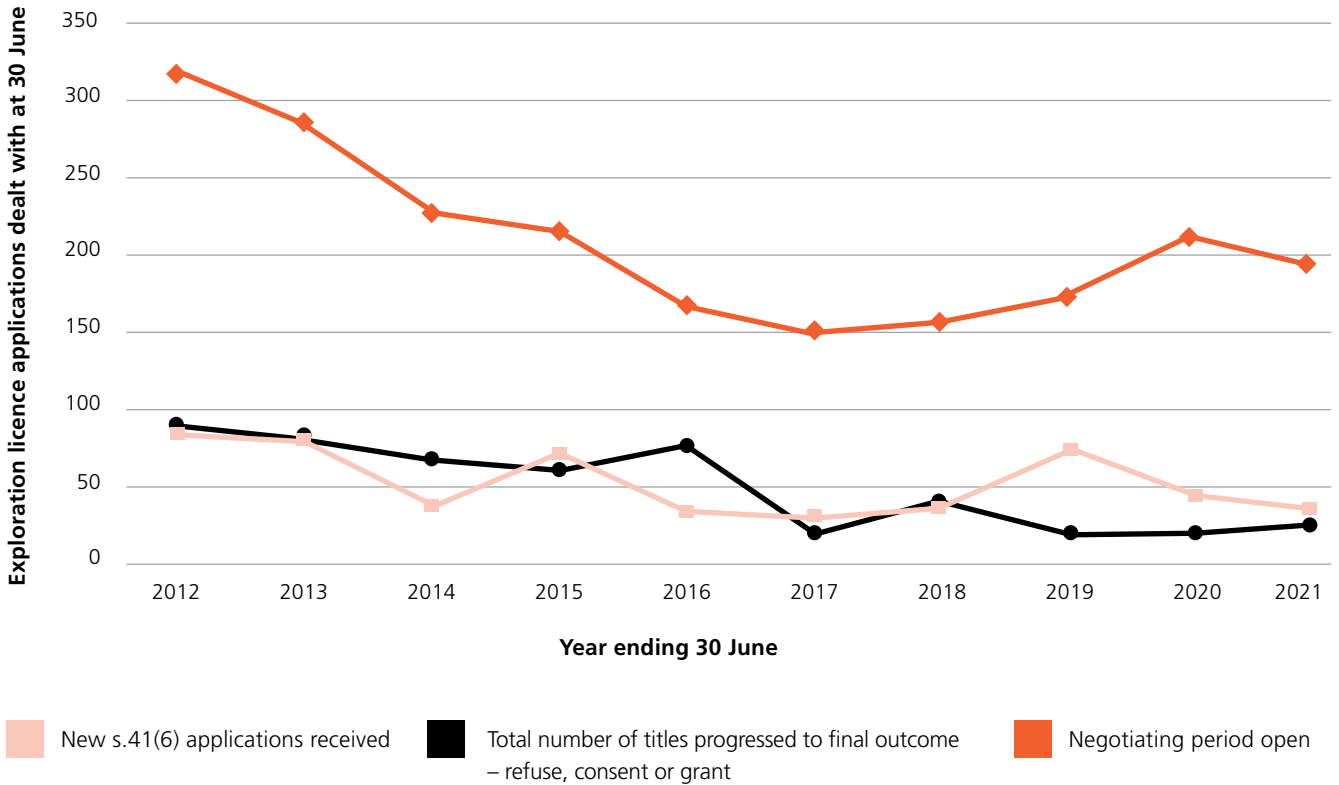


Figure 12. Cumulative trend of exploration title applications in negotiating period on Aboriginal land



**Scriven Exploration Pty Ltd (exploration licence 23094)**

Traditional owners instructed the CLC to enter into an exploration agreement for exploration licence 23094 on the Karlantijpa North Aboriginal Land Trust. After the CLC’s executive committee approved the exploration agreement, the NT Government granted the licence in April 2021.

**Kimberly and Scott Smith (exploration licence 32336)**

An application for the grant of exploration licence 32336 on the Ammaroo and Derry Downs stations was advertised in November 2020, under the *Native Title Act* expedited procedure.

The native title holders instructed the CLC to lodge an objection with the National Native Title Tribunal and negotiate with the company about an exploration agreement. The prescribed body corporate, the Kaytetye Alyawarr Awenyerraperte Ingkerr-wenh Aboriginal Corporation, and the CLC reached an agreement in June 2021.

**AGREEMENT MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

When the CLC enters into agreements with mining or energy companies, it assumes a range of obligations and responsibilities. The agreements generally provide for fiscal benefits 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.

At 30 June 2021 the CLC managed 78 exploration agreements, and 19 production agreements. On Aboriginal land there are 49 current exploration agreements with respect to 173 exploration titles, and 11 production agreements relating to 13 titles covering 53,110 square kilometres. Table 17 summarises the exploration and mining agreements on Aboriginal land managed by the CLC. There are a further 37 exploration and mining agreements on land subject to the Native Title Act. Of these, eight include production activities across 10 tenements.

Mineral leases or production licences exist across the CLC region but operating mines are in the Tanami, Utju (Areyonga) and Tennant Creek.

Oil and gas production occurs at Mereenie and Palm Valley near Ntaria (Hermannsburg), and the Dingo gas field near Mparntwe (Alice Springs). Major mining agreements negotiated under the Native Title Act are the Arafura Resources Limited Nolans project near Aileron, which will target rare earths and the TNG Mount Peake vanadium project near Wilora. The Nolans project has mining approvals, and Mount Peake is in the approval phase. Both projects must raise capital before commencing operations.

After the COVID-19 biosecurity zones were lifted, in June 2020, the CLC worked closely with explorers to ensure access to Aboriginal land for exploration where it was possible without compromising the safety of vulnerable people during the pandemic. Work area clearances are a critical component of agreements, as they allow traditional owners to visit country, to review a proposed work program, then provide the CLC instructions on the protection of sacred sites. The CLC can then issue the company with a sacred site clearance certificate, which provides certainty that they will be acting with the consent of traditional owners and that, if they comply with the conditions

Table 16. New and current exploration and mining agreements

Type of agreement	New in 2020-21	Total current at 30 June 2021	
		Total agreements	Number of licences, permits and leases associated with agreements
Exploration	2	49	173
Mining	0	11	13
<b>Total area of Aboriginal land under exploration licence and exploration permit applications</b>			<b>53,110 km<sup>2</sup></b>

of the certificate, sacred sites will be protected. With fieldwork impossible in the first half of 2020 due to COVID-19 bio-security zones, the CLC worked diligently with stakeholder companies to complete delayed work area clearances. It conducted 18 on-ground work area clearances for mineral and energy work programs, and issued 26 sacred site clearance certificates to companies under agreements.

Many companies implemented effective COVID management plans while still undertaking exploration activities and several were able to conduct significant mineral exploration programs in the second half of 2020.

Liaison committees are an important aspect of agreement governance. Along with work area clearances, they provide an opportunity for traditional owners to visit country affected by exploration or mining, be informed about project developments, impacts and opportunities, and build relationships with companies. The CLC facilitated eight liaison committee meetings for various projects. The schedule of meetings was interrupted by COVID-19, through both travel restrictions and management plans that prevented visitors to some mine sites. Innovation ensured the continued implementation of agreements. For example, for Newmont Tanami Operations and Central Petroleum's Mereenie and Dingo Fields, where COVID-19 management plans prevented access of visitors to the site, meetings took place elsewhere or through videoconferencing. Other meetings were held on country, as part of work area clearances.

### Tanami Desert Ten Year Plan

Traditional owners, the CLC and the Newmont Corporation developed the Tanami Desert Ten Year Plan in 2017 to improve governance, employment and education outcomes in remote communities and to strengthen Yapa (local Aboriginal) peoples' voices through better collaboration and agreed focus areas.

The Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining at the University of Queensland continued to provide support, technical advice and monitoring services for the plan's steering committee which continued via video conferencing. In November 2020 the CLC convened a workshop of Tanami staff to monitor progress and seek input to improve the process and outcomes. Participants agreed that with appropriate resourcing, monitoring and increased Yapa engagement the plan could achieve better outcomes for Yapa. The CLC will direct attention to these factors in the next financial year.



Elijah Kelly, Kealyn Kelly, Beatrice Stevenson and Tarkyn Tasman inspected a drill core at the Newmont Oberon project work program meeting.

Traditional owner representatives from the Granites-Kurra Liaison Committee, the CLC, Newmont, the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, and the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust took part in an annual planning workshop in December 2020. At the workshop the Centre for Remote Health presented on how it delivers cultural awareness training with Yapa presenters at the mine.

### GOVERNMENT LIAISON AND ADVOCACY

In November 2020 the NT Government transferred responsibility for mining and energy to the Department of Industry Tourism and Trade. The CLC met with NT Mining Minister Nicole Manison and department representatives to pursue quality outcomes for traditional owners.



## ***Native Title Act expedited procedures***

All future act applications for exploration licences in the NT include a statement from the government which requires that the grant attracts the expedited procedure as defined under section 32 of the Native Title Act.

This means that native title holders do not get the right to negotiate an agreement with an applicant before the exploration title is granted by the government. If the native title holders instruct the CLC to object to the licence application, the CLC has just four months in which to file the objection. A company may still negotiate an agreement with native title holders after the licence is granted, but is not required to do so.

The large volume of applications on remote land and the limited native title funding make it impossible for the CLC to consult on all applications within the brief objection timeframe. It prioritises consultations based on known Aboriginal values of an area, informal contacts with native title holders, and consideration of relevant Native Title Tribunal jurisprudence. Regrettably, the combined effect of the NT Government's blanket expedited procedure policy and the provisions of the Native Title Act is that the government grants most exploration licences without any engagement with native title holders (or claimants).

Where significant sites are identified, the right-to-negotiate process should be applied to protect native title holder interests. In these cases, traditional owners can inform proponents early in the process about the sites, to allow certainty, and the best use of land council, government and company resources. For example, an exploration licence application in 2021 was advertised with the expedited procedure applied. The target area was a sacred site complex. The CLC, on behalf of traditional owners, submitted that the grant should not go ahead under section 71(3) (e) of the *Minerals Title Act 2010*, and the company withdrew the application. The anguish caused to traditional owners and the time and effort the company and the CLC invested could have been avoided if there had been a right to negotiate. In another, long-running situation, the CLC lodged an objection in the National Native Title Tribunal over the expedited procedure applied to exploration licence applications over the Karinga Lakes. These lakes are sacred sites, and are clearly the target of the applications. The unresolved matter has distressed traditional owners and has consumed CLC resources and time.

## ***Land reserved from exploration and mining***

Traditional owners have instructed the CLC consistently since 1992 to refuse applications to explore an area of the Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust near Kaltukatjara (Docker River) to protect a highly significant sacred site. In September 2019 the CLC executive committee approved traditional owner instructions to again refuse an exploration licence in the area after it had come out of moratorium for a second time. The executive requested that the NT Government reserve the area from petroleum and mineral exploration and production. The then Minister for

Primary Industry and Resources agreed to reserve the area from petroleum exploration under section 9 (1) of the *Petroleum Act 1984*. This aligned with the NT Government policy since the Pepper Inquiry to make certain areas, including areas of cultural significance, no-go zones for petroleum exploration. However, the minister declined to protect the area from mineral exploration. In May 2020 another exploration licence application in the area came out of moratorium, and the CLC received a new exploration licence application. Upon request of the traditional owners and the executive, the CLC again advocated with the government, and was advised that the area in question would finally be reserved from mineral exploration under section 113 of the *Minerals Title Act*. The reservation was gazetted in April 2021, meaning that no more applications for mineral or petroleum exploration or production can be made. This outcome honours the traditional owners' responsibility to protect their sacred sites.

## ***Code of conduct for mineral explorers***

In February 2021 the NT Government released a code of conduct for mineral explorers on pastoral leases. It developed the document with the NT Minerals Council and the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies and did not consult the land councils. The document failed to acknowledge the property rights of native title holders as landowners and contains misleading site protection information that, if followed, could expose explorers to prosecution. The CLC has outlined its concerns to Mining Minister Nicole Manison, including about the uncertainty and risks to explorers. It continues to work with the Department of Industry Tourism and Trade on the matter and hopes that broadening the scope of the code could make it more effective.

## **OTHER PROJECTS**

The CLC strives to use its resources as effectively as possible. It is reviewing its titles management system to inform the development of a new database; it conducted an agreement benchmarking exercise; and it began to develop materials and engaged an expert to develop cross-cultural facilitation training for exploration and mining consultations. Subject to resourcing, it will pilot more environmental monitoring with traditional owners, with a view to increase Aboriginal engagement and maximise environmental, social and governance outcomes from exploration and production agreements.

## 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 empowers the Northern Territory land councils 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”.

To improve outcomes in this area, the CLC set up a dedicated unit in 2020 to implement an economic participation strategy. Such a strategy aims to combine existing functions and staff supporting enterprise development and employment with the development of regional economic development plans with constituents and activities aimed at improving access to investment and funding for Aboriginal people and organisations. The funding for the unit was originally approved in January 2020, but its establishment was delayed until the 2020–21 financial year due to COVID-19. The CLC engaged an acting manager and a business planner to consult with stakeholders and develop a business plan for the unit. In addition to funding the unit, the Indigenous Affairs Minister Ken Wyatt also approved \$36.7 million in Aboriginals Benefit Account economic stimulus funding to assist the Aboriginal economy in the CLC region.

Targeted support for Aboriginal-led commercial activities continued through advocacy, networking, capability building and brokering of resources and services, in response to the diverse needs and aspirations of Aboriginal people in the region and the market dynamics of remote economies. The CLC worked with industries ranging from tourism and mining to food services and remote contracting and deepened relationships with other intermediaries working in economic development, such as governments, the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, Indigenous Business Australia, Many Rivers, the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations and Jawun.

It represented and advocated for constituents at interagency meetings, economic development events and policy forums, such as the Developing Northern Australia conference in Rockhampton and the Barkly Futures Forum in Tennant Creek. It responded to legislative and development proposals of the NT Government and participated in meetings of the Central Australian Economic Recovery Committee.

### *Aboriginals Benefit Account Economic Stimulus*

The CLC established processes to prioritise ABA economic stimulus funds after the Australian Government directed that the funds be spent on:

- existing Aboriginal businesses
- Aboriginal-owned infrastructure to connect Aboriginal people to economic opportunities
- building skills of Aboriginal men and women on country
- small-scale infrastructure projects to create jobs and improve the potential of Aboriginal land
- maximising ABA investment through co-investment and coordination.

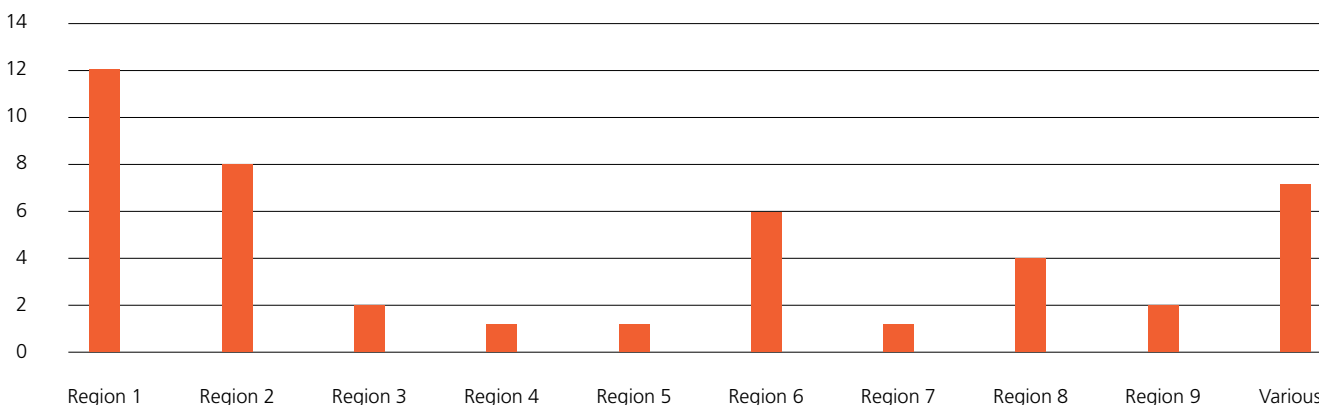
Between March and June 2021 the CLC:

- developed strong processes with the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation for assessing funding proposals
- worked with Aboriginal businesses and sole traders requesting the funds
- held workshops with CLC delegates to identify feasible and eligible projects
- identified co-investment opportunities with the NT Government and the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation.

The CLC worked with 28 proponents on 42 proposals and enquiries from across the CLC region. Most came from the Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and southwest regions, which have more Aboriginal businesses and tourism opportunities than others.

Proposed projects cover tourism, land management, small infrastructure, agriculture, civil works, solar energy and carbon farming. This is consistent with the government directive to ensure the funds are spent on a range of activities. The CLC approved \$10.7 million for six projects and distributed \$8.4 million to proponents. It will continue to work with constituents to identify projects and maximise the benefits from the stimulus funding through co-investment from, and coordination with, other interested parties and will implement monitoring and evaluation strategies to measure effectiveness of the funded activities.

Figure 13. ABA economic stimulus proposals by CLC sub-regions



## TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Working with other agencies, the CLC helped Aboriginal tourism operators to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions. This has included planning for re-opened borders and forecast increases in domestic tourism, especially the self-drive and four-wheel-drive markets.

Operating with a vacant Aboriginal tourism development officer position for most of the period, the CLC assisted two outstation-based tourism ventures to secure NT Government grants for infrastructure improvements – \$20,000 each for JL Outback Experiences to upgrade its energy systems and the Batton Hill Bush Camp to upgrade its plumbing. It supported the family running the bush camp to take greater control and responsibility for managing the significant increase in four wheel drive travellers traversing the Simpson Desert. The family received additional assistance with permit requests. The CLC continued to work with traditional owners from the Simpson Desert to progress strategic tourism planning for the region.

It represented and advocated for constituents at interagency meetings and tourism fora, including the Developing Northern Australia conference, Tourism NT-led regional action group meetings and the tourism consultative committee of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park's board of management. It also reviewed and provided feedback on a draft drive-tourism strategy of Tourism NT.

## PROTECTED AREAS

There is increasing interest in economic development in jointly managed national parks and IPAs. Tourism, land management and pastoralism form an important part of integrated planning with traditional managing protected areas. The CLC works with Aboriginal businesses operating in national parks and protected areas and supports traditional owners to maximise outcomes from three trail development proposals for the Uluru – Kata Tjuta, Watarrka and Tjoritja/West MacDonnell national parks. The pandemic has slowed the pace of negotiations and development.

The proposal for an exclusive-use multi-day walk in the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park has received consent from traditional owners after five years of negotiation and development. Final environmental and board approvals are nearing completion. During the final consultation with traditional owners, the CLC facilitated the election of a traditional owner steering committee to work with the proponent towards a range of agreed economic outcomes and to maximise Aboriginal participation in the development and operation of the walk. Traditional owners aim to create a community fund governed by the committee to invest in local Aboriginal enterprise development, procurement and employment targets, and tailored tour guide training and traineeships. The committee held its first meeting in Alice Springs, coinciding with an NT Government tourism conference in the town and its members networked with Aboriginal businesses and tourism bodies at the conference. The CLC advised traditional owners on trail realignment, camp planning and the development of cultural tourism in the park and the adjacent IPA. It also continued to negotiate on behalf of traditional owners about the Red Centre Adventure Ride, an NT Government-led proposal for a 200-kilometre cycle track through the Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park.

The NT Government called for expressions of interest for the development of its Watarrka walking trail proposal in early 2021. The CLC supported a traditional owner planning committee to work with the NT Government to develop the expressions of interest and related marketing strategies, and to review and assess proposals from prospective investors and commercial operators, and collaborate on product development (see also output 3.1).

## PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

The CLC continued to support Huckitta Enterprises Pty Ltd, an Aboriginal company operating a commercial pastoral enterprise on Huckitta Station in the Plenty River region. Huckitta was purchased with ABA funding on behalf of its Eastern Arrernte traditional owners in 2010 and was managed by the company since 2011. It has successfully run cattle under a grazing licence from the land-holding body, the Huckitta Aboriginal Corporation. The CLC facilitated five general meetings of the Huckitta Enterprises directors, the annual general meeting of the Huckitta Aboriginal Corporation and a special meeting in May 2021 to resolve the terms and conditions of a new grazing licence.

The CLC provided the following services to directors and station managers under the terms of a management support agreement between the CLC and Huckitta Enterprises:

- review and present the financial performance of the company since 2011
- prepare and facilitate approval of the 2020–21 annual operational budget
- provide governance training for company directors
- improve communication between directors and managers about board decision making
- prepare and lodge an ABA application for funds to help implement infrastructure development recommendations of the five-year Huckitta business plan
- facilitate major expenditure authorisations for essential operational costs, vehicle and equipment purchases, and Huckitta store development to diversify station income.

The CLC finalised a 10-year performance review report on the Huckitta purchase outcomes against the original purchase objectives based on consultations with directors of the company and the land holding body and other traditional owners, and reviewed financial and employment data.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The demand for environmental services delivered by Aboriginal people grew across the region despite COVID-19 restrictions. The CLC rangers are already involved in this emerging industry through prescribed burns on Aboriginal land and the CLC helped Aboriginal organisations to also get involved. It continued to develop its capacity for coordinating fee-for-service contracting in environmental services and associated activities through its Ranger Works initiative. The business model of Ranger Works leverages the broad operating footprint and resources of the ranger program and its ability to mobilise rangers and casual employees from remote communities, including traditional owners.



Although limited by the pandemic, Ranger Works scarified a mining exploration road back to ground level to reduce erosion and encourage vegetation growth, assessed a 2,410 kilometre pipeline easement for vegetation and erosion and installed new fences around a cemetery and a church in two remote communities.

The CLC continued to support the Karlantijpa North Kurrawarra Nyura Mala Aboriginal Corporation's carbon sequestration business under a management agreement. It helps the corporation's directors to coordinate meetings and compliance reporting, organise burning trips and country visits, raise funds and develop infrastructure on a portion of the Karlantijpa North Aboriginal Land Trust. The corporation registered a new business name, Jinkaji, and won an ABA grant for firebreak work. It also negotiated its first voluntary carbon market sales agreement for a multi-year contract with the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation, an Aboriginal business involved in brokering carbon credits that have associated social, cultural and environmental impacts.

A planned burn in 2020 was cancelled due to an increased fire risk and was replaced with a cultural trip supporting intergenerational knowledge transfer and environment management activities, such as surveying bilbies and eradicating weeds.



Directors of the Jinkaji Corporation sold more than 250,000 carbon credits to the Aboriginal Carbon Foundation.



CLC chair Sammy Wilson at the Alekareng watermelon farm.



Jinkaji director Belinda Manfong displays the new logo of the corporation.



# OUTPUT GROUP 4

## OUTPUT 4.1. PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

### MEDIA

The CLC continued to raise public awareness of the views and achievements of its members and constituents. Despite ongoing travel restrictions during the pandemic, its communications team received a high volume of inquiries from media representatives wishing to visit or report on Aboriginal issues in Central Australia. CLC spokespeople responded to media inquiries on topics ranging from Aboriginal water rights, remote housing and youth justice to the impact of climate change and water scarcity on remote communities.

The native title determinations on the Wave Hill, Limbunya and Jinka/Jervois stations attracted media interest in the NT and around the nation. The Wave Hill determination was the focus of national attention in September 2020, when the Federal Court finally recognised the native title rights of the striking station worker families led by Vincent Lingiari more than a century earlier, and their descendants.

Professional development and networking events that were cancelled in 2019–20 due to COVID-19 – such as the CLC’s annual ranger camp and its biennial gathering of native title holders and directors of prescribed bodies corporate, the PBC Camp – were covered by local and regional media outlets. The loss of outstanding NT Aboriginal leaders, the CLC’s Jakamarra Nelson and the NLC’s John Christopherson, made the news around the nation.

The CLC’s communications and policy teams continued to collaborate on media-based advocacy for a range of reforms, such as an overhaul of the NT’s failed outstation policy and remote housing system and a referendum for a constitutionally

enshrined Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice to parliament. The collaboration bore some fruit in the areas of housing and employment, with Indigenous Australians Minister Ken Wyatt agreeing to negotiate about the NT land councils’ community-driven remote housing model. When the minister announced the most welcome demise of the racially discriminatory and punitive work-for-the dole scheme, and his intention to co-design and trial a replacement with Aboriginal people, the CLC urged him publicly to adopt the remote employment and training proposal of the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT.

It also welcomed the minister’s announcement of a new Aboriginal-controlled body managing the Aboriginals Benefit Account. The announcement, during the 2021 Barunga Festival, marks a milestone in the long ABA reform campaign by the NT land councils. ‘It is long overdue that decisions about ABA grants and investments are made by Aboriginal people whose land generates the fund’s income,’ CLC chief executive Lesley Turner commented.

The CLC’s highest profile issue in the media spotlight was the water insecurity of its constituents. Numerous reports highlighted the lack of both safe drinking water and effective regulation of water supply and quality in remote communities, as well as the NT land councils’ call for a Safe Drinking Water Act. National and international media alike covered the NT Government’s decision to award a private company a licence to extract an unprecedented 40,000 megalitres of finite water reserves per year on Singleton Station, south of Tennant Creek, for three decades. A ministerial review of the controversial decision under the NT’s Water Act, instigated by the CLC and other stakeholders, will ensure the issues raised remain on the public radar.



The ABC interviewed native title holders and senior custodians of country affected by the Singleton Station: George Anderson, Cedric Tennyson, Donald Thompson and Roger Tommy.





The art award taps into a long tradition of Aboriginal artworks about water, such as this painting by Singleton Station native title holders Lindy Brodie and Heather Anderson.

## VINCENT LINGIARI ART AWARD

In late 2020 the CLC executive agreed to collaborate with Desert and the Tangentyere Artists Gallery to stage the Vincent Lingiari Art Award for the third time. The award celebrated the 55th anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk Off in August 2021.

The executive decided to award the \$10,000 art prize to a work responding to the theme *Ngawa, Ngapa, Kapi, Kwatja, Water*, which resonates strongly with the CLC's advocacy for the water rights of its constituents.

'We have chosen this year's theme to spread the word that water rights are land rights,' CLC chair Sammy Wilson said.

'Government should not be giving away water for free. We need drinking water and water for country and culture. Government give us our land back, but water rights – wiya. We need water rights.'

The award has been 'unashamedly political' since its inception in 2016, Desert chief executive Philip Watkins said. 'This year's Vincent Lingiari Art Award highlights the campaign for Aboriginal water rights the NT land councils kicked off last year with their call for a Safe Drinking Water Act. It will raise awareness of our struggle against massive water theft that threatens the survival of desert plants, animals and people and for safe drinking water for our remote communities.'



# JANGALA\* HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

## WHAT NOW?



THE CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CONGRESS HAS A PLAN CALLED "CONTAIN AND TEST." IT HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY THE NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT AND HAS THE BACKING OF THE LAND COUNCILS.



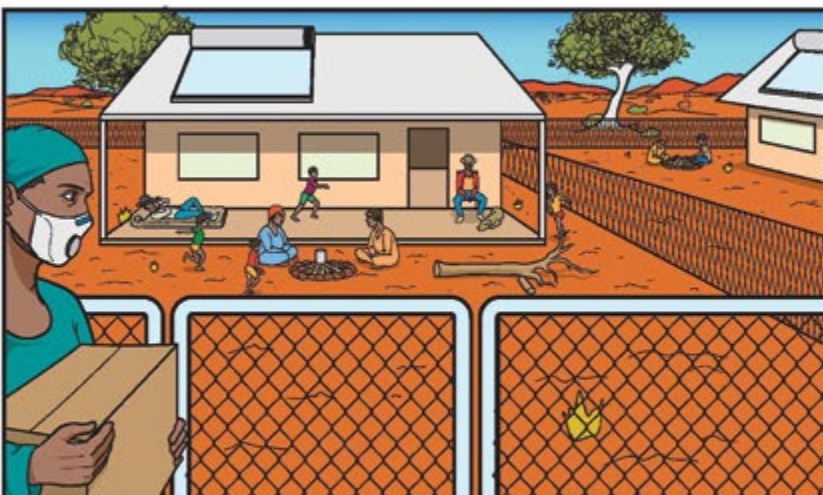
JANGALA HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR THE CORONA VIRUS. HEALTH WORKERS ARE TESTING HIS FAMILY AND ALL CLOSE CONTACTS STRAIGHT AWAY.



JANGALA AND ANYONE WITH A POSITIVE TEST WILL TRAVEL TO HOSPITAL. HIS CLOSE CONTACTS WILL GO TO QUARANTINE IN ALICE SPRINGS OR HOWARD SPRINGS WHERE THEY WILL BE CARED FOR.



THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY GO INTO THEIR YARDS AND HOUSES AND STAY THERE. NO VISITING OTHER YARDS AND NO ENTERING OR LEAVING THE COMMUNITY!



WORKERS WILL DELIVER FOOD, FIREWOOD, MEDICINES AND OTHER ESSENTIALS TO FAMILIES WHILE THEY STAY IN THEIR YARDS FOR 14 DAYS.



THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WILL BE TESTED AT THE BEGINNING AND AT THE END OF THE 14 DAYS.

ANYONE TESTING POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 IS TAKEN TO HOSPITAL. THEIR CLOSE CONTACTS WILL GO TO QUARANTINE IN ALICE SPRINGS OR HOWARD SPRINGS.



*"JANGALA IS NOT A REAL PERSON - BUT HE COULD BE! THIS VIRUS DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE."*

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When announcing the award, CLC chief executive Lesley Turner said water is critical to the social, cultural, economic and political identity of Aboriginal people in the CLC region. ‘Over almost half a century the CLC has won back significant areas of land on behalf of traditional Aboriginal land owners, but without safe, secure and adequate sources of water their very survival on this land is under threat,’ he said. ‘Poor water quality, water shortages, water use in fracking and agribusiness have a detrimental impact on the health and well-being of our people, their country and cultures.’

The theme of the award clearly resonated with Aboriginal artists from across the CLC region, inspiring 47 paintings and sculptures. From these entries CLC members will select the winner of the \$2,000 Delegates’ Choice Award when the council meets at Kalkaringi, just ahead of the community’s annual celebration of the Wave Hill Walk Off in August 2021. Curator and writer Hetti Perkins, who judged the inaugural Vincent Lingiari Art Award, agreed to choose the overall winner in September. Both winners will be announced at the media launch of the award exhibition in September 2021 at the Tangentyere Artists Gallery. The launch will send an urgent message not to take water for granted in a world where water rights are shaping up as a new frontier.

The award is made possible through the generous support from the Peter Kittle Motor Company and Newmont Australia.

## CLC ONLINE

Remote community residents on the other side of the digital divide are struggling with poor internet and phone connections. The mobile-friendly redesign of the new CLC website has made the task of finding out about CLC services and activities a little easier. The new site went live in May 2021 with interactive features that help remote community residents to access support and learn about land rights history.

Some of the new features are timelines about the land and native title claims the CLC has won over the past four decades. Another is an animated Toyota icon on the home page that takes visitors to a ‘community business’ page. The page serves as a one-stop-shop for constituents wanting help with applying for ABA grants, finding employment with the support of the CLC’s employment unit, or help with meeting the cost of funerals and ceremonies. The page also links visitors to the CLC’s digital archive, lets them check the dates of council and executive meetings and to post feedback and complaints. The illustrations on the page were designed by young Alice Springs talent Charlee-Anne Ah Chee, who also had a hand in the overall look and feel of the site.

Stage two of the website redesign will begin in the next reporting period. It will see an interactive map on the home page that can be used to find the locations of the CLC’s regional offices, ranger groups, protected areas and community and economic development projects.

The CLC’s digital archive, the de facto photo album for many Aboriginal families in the southern half of the NT, continued to grow as they shared new images and information about existing images with the digital archive officer. Still working reduced hours, he fielded requests for images, added more than 300 new images and identified as many new features of existing and new items. More than 1000 historical photos that had been kept in cardboard storage boxes have been selected and scanned for uploading to the archive while image research is ongoing.

The CLC continued to share information and media coverage of interest to constituents via its Facebook presence. During 2021 the page has been a useful platform for raising awareness of the need to protect remote communities through high levels of COVID-19 vaccinations.



Chief executive Lesley Turner invited community feedback on the organisation’s new, mobile-friendly website.

## PUBLICATIONS

After the COVID-19 lockdown of remote communities in 2020 the CLC’s efforts turned to educating constituents about the benefits of mask wearing, vaccinations and public health plans for the event of remote community transmission of the virus.

Working in partnership with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, the CLC ramped up the publication of posters, print and social media content. In June 2021 it laid out a special vaccination mythbuster edition of Australia’s longest running Aboriginal newspaper and Central Australia’s only printed newspaper, *Land Rights News*. In the absence of a federal government awareness campaign targeting Aboriginal people, the issue aimed to counter widespread vaccine hesitancy and misinformation in town camps and remote communities which contributed to a slow and patchy vaccine rollout among Australia’s most vulnerable people.

Two earlier issues of the paper, as well as two editions of *Community Development News*, about the achievements of the CLC’s community development program, were also published and distributed. The CLC published three editions of Council News, a newsletter informing constituents of the outcomes of CLC meetings.

Other publications ranged from reports such as the ranger program supplement to the annual report and prescribed bodies corporate camp reports to logo designs, infographics, presentations and posters for council, executive and constituent meetings. Work has also started on the redesign of the CLC’s governance manual.

Table 17. Communications activities, 2017–21

Activity	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
Media releases	22	16	22	20
Website visits	124,895	156,932	109,009	135,960
Newsletters	27	30	16	21
<i>Land Rights News</i>	3	3	3	3
Special purpose videos	5	38	19	46
Booklets and brochures	8	23	12	13
Posters	25	44	79	39
Other	–	38	3	–



# WE'RE READY FOR COVID-19 ARE YOU?



DIONE KELLY AND SHERLYNE NGALMI-DANIELS



REGGIE ULURU



NYANU WATSON



CHANSEY PAECH

"Getting vaccinated is important to protect myself, my family and the elders - especially in remote communities."

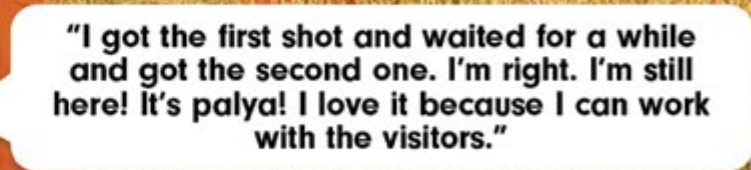


"We must get vaccinated because it is the greatest protection we can give to our elders and loved ones. COVID is a killer, the vaccine is a lifesaver."

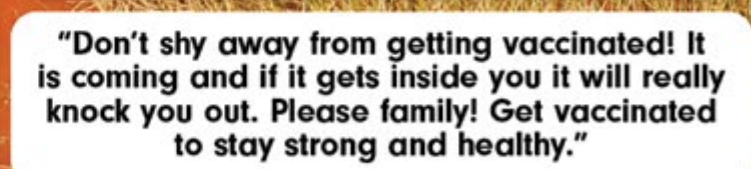
THOMAS MAYOR



SAMMY WILSON



"I got the first shot and waited for a while and got the second one. I'm right. I'm still here! It's palya! I love it because I can work with the visitors."



"Don't shy away from getting vaccinated! It is coming and if it gets inside you it will really knock you out. Please family! Get vaccinated to stay strong and healthy."



DEBORAH WALKABOUT





MICHAEL LIDDLE

**"We need to keep the virus from infecting people, and getting vaccinated is how we do this. We wanna go in a good direction and listen to the rules about how to keep us safe."**



CASSIDY ULURU

**"I want to keep my family and community safe."**



CRAIG WOODS



KUNMANARA



UKA (JUDY) TRIGGER

**"I've seen traditional owners in Tennant Creek get the jab, and the news of the positive COVID-19 cases in the NT helped me make up my mind to also get vaccinated."**

**"I want to be safe because of my age and health, I wanted to get it and will see how I go. I feel fine now."**



ROBERT HOOSAN



GLADYS BROWN



SABELLA TURNER AND DONNA AH CHEE

**"COVID-19 is a very scary and dangerous virus, and although we have been lucky so far, it is only a matter of time before it spreads to Central Australia."**

**"If you don't have the vaccine then when that virus comes here, what I've seen on TV about what's happening in India, Brazil and England - all those hospitals overwhelmed, people dying in the streets, people lying on the floors of hospitals, dying from COVID. That's what this vaccine can stop. This is now up to you. It's your decision."**



## OUTPUT 4.2. ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION

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

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

It also carries out research to support policy development and engages with all stakeholders to ensure that Aboriginal interests are taken into account. It therefore represents Aboriginal views and aspirations with a high degree of authority.

### PERFORMANCE

The CLC made 20 submissions to the Australian and NT governments on policy matters.

### ABORIGINAL PEAK ORGANISATIONS OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

The CLC is a founding member of the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the Northern Territory (APO NT), an alliance that has represented the Aboriginal people, communities and organisations of the NT since 2010. The alliance was formed to improve collaboration among organisations advocating on remote community issues. As at June 2021, membership of APO NT comprised of the CLC, the Northern Land Council, Tiwi Land Council and Anindilyakwa Land Council, Aboriginal Housing NT, the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT, the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency and the NT Indigenous Business Network. The alliance works with government and non-government organisations to promote a better understanding of, and improve policy and program outcomes affecting, its constituents. It delivers policy advice, advocacy, community engagement and sector development activities. It promotes programs and initiatives that support strategic and collaborative approaches to services and social and economic policy development.

The NT Government funds the APO NT secretariat: a coordinator, a network coordinator and an administrative officer. The CLC and other APO NT members advocated for additional funding from the Australian Government to increase the peak organisation's staffing and capacity. The request was made to ensure the APO NT can engage effectively and equally with the NT and Australian governments in the NT Closing the Gap executive council and working group to oversee the roll-out of the NT Closing the Gap implementation plan.

An early APO NT initiative, the Aboriginal Governance and Management Program, continues to be funded by the Australian Government. The program supports governance training for Aboriginal community controlled organisations across the NT. It has secured additional funding from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) to investigate establishing a fee-for-service model for providing Aboriginal-led governance support to organisations currently ineligible for their services, such as

national park joint management committees. In March 2021 the CLC engaged the program to provide capacity building support around the planning and delivery of council elections in early 2022. This project aims to improve community awareness of and participation in the forthcoming elections. The CLC has provided significant in-kind contributions and support to the APO NT secretariat and contributed to six submissions to the following reviews and inquiries:

- Homelessness in Australia
- Indigenous Evaluation Strategy (draft) – Productivity Commission
- Social Security (administration) Amendment (continuation of cashless welfare) Bill 2020
- Pathways and Participations Opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Employment and Business
- Strengthening income support
- Mandatory sentencing – NT Law Reform Committee.

### *Child protection and detention*

The CLC is committed to ensuring that the recommendations of the 2016 Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT are fully implemented. As a member of the APO NT, it participated in three meetings of the Children and Families Tripartite Forum, which was established in 2018 to progress the reform program from the royal commission and to advise the NT and Australian governments. The forum's members are the NT and Commonwealth governments, the APO NT, the NT Council of Social Services and the North Australia Aboriginal Justice Agency. The APO NT has urged the government to implement the royal commission reforms. It particularly wants the age of criminal responsibility to be raised from 10 years to 14 years and the incarceration rates of children and young people to be significantly reduced.

The CLC participated in three meetings of the tripartite forum as an APO NT representative, in October 2020 and in March and May 2021. At the May meeting the forum agreed to develop and implement a 10-year generational strategy for children and families in the NT to enact the recommendations of a Productivity Commission study into expenditure on children in the NT. Work on the strategy included the establishment of an Aboriginal expert advisory group and the start of community consultations. The Commonwealth funded a policy position each at the APO NT, NT Council of Social Services and North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency to conduct extensive consultations and develop the draft generational strategy. The three positions were filled and the draft report will be made available for public comment in October 2021.

### *Closing the Gap*

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap was signed on 30 July 2020. This was the first such agreement that was developed and negotiated between governments and Aboriginal



Table 18. CLC policy submissions

Jurisdiction	Issue	Date
Australian Government	Inquiry into Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Ensuring Fair Representation of the NT) Bill 2020	July 2020
	Inquiry into the destruction of 46,000-year-old caves at the Juukan Gorge in the Pilbara region of Western Australia	August 2020
	Inquiry into Resources Sector Regulation (draft) – Productivity Commission	August 2020
	Inquiry into National Water Reform – Productivity Commission issues paper	August 2020
	Inquiry into the Aboriginal Flag	September 2020
	CATSI ACT review	October 2020
	State of the Environment report	October 2020
	Climate Change Bills 2020	December 2020
	Inquiry into Adult Literacy and its Importance	March 2021
	National Water Reform (Productivity Commission draft report)	March 2021
	Indigenous Voice – stage two interim report	April 2021
NT Government	Arltunga Historical Reserve	August 2020
	Singleton Station water licence	October 2020
	Homelands policy review	December 2020
	KGL Resources water licence – Lucy Creek and Jervois pastoral leases	February 2021
	Consultation Paper: Regulation of Mining Activities in the NT – Environmental Regulatory Reform	March 2021
	Ministerial review of Singleton Station water licence	May 2021
	NT Community Housing Growth Strategy	May 2021
	Environment Management Plan guidelines for onshore petroleum	June 2021
	Murray Downs Station water licence application response	June 2021

and Torres Strait Islander representatives. It was the culmination of extensive community consultations across the nation.

The CLC was responsible for the consultations in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. The agreement has 17 targets across areas such as education, employment, languages, health and wellbeing, justice, land and waters, safety and housing. It also has four priority reforms that aim to change the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by:

- strengthening and establishing formal partnerships and shared decision making
- building the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector
- transforming government organisations so they work better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- improving, and sharing access to, data and information to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make informed decisions.

Each state and territory will develop its own implementation plan, and report annually on its actions to achieve the outcomes of the agreement. The APO NT and the NT Government have worked on the implementation plan for the NT. A steering committee comprised of representatives from the APO NT and the NT Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet have reworked the draft plan at committee meetings throughout 2021. The plan will be presented to cabinet in mid-2021.

## HOUSING

### *National Partnership Agreement for Remote Housing*

The National Partnership Agreement for Remote Housing NT was signed in March 2019 and ends in June 2023. The agreement between the Australian and NT governments aims to improve the standard and supply of housing for Aboriginal people in 73 remote communities and 17 Alice Springs town camps, and to reduce overcrowding by an average of 22 per cent. In August 2019 the CLC joined the three other NT land councils and the governments at the first meeting of the joint steering committee for the agreement. The land councils oversee the agreement and provide strategic advice about its implementation. They attend committee meetings to ensure transparent reporting by the NT Government of expenditure and program delivery, including capital works, property and tenancy management, new serviced lots, the achievement of Aboriginal employment targets and targets for the engagement of Aboriginal businesses. By June 2021 the committee had met seven times, with the CLC participating in all meetings.

The CLC also took part in two meetings of the committee's subcommittee on leasing and housing models, the fifth and final subcommittee meeting for the reporting framework.

## CLC Housing Project

An ABA grant allowed the CLC to engage suitably qualified consultants to develop a community housing model for Central Australia. The project focusses on remote communities on Aboriginal land, community living areas excised from pastoral leases, smaller homelands and town camps. It finalised a comprehensive background paper on the history of remote housing in the NT and a detailed community housing model report. Both documents will be submitted to the housing model review commissioned as part of the joint steering committee on the current five-year national partnership for remote housing in the NT, which was scheduled to commence during the period but was delayed. The executives of the NT's four land councils endorsed the housing model proposal at a joint executives meeting in Darwin in July 2020.

The CLC also developed a pilot project proposal to trial the implementation of the proposed community housing model in one or two remote locations and made a submission to the NT Government's community housing strategy reflecting the principles of the proposed model.

## Housing on Homelands

The existing NT public housing model and the National Partnership Agreement for Remote Housing NT do not include funding for new houses on homelands and outstations. This is a significant issue for the CLC because its members want homelands housing to be among their housing options, as it was before the imposition of leasing and the NT public housing model. The CLC contributed feedback to the NT Government's homelands review and agreed in principle to take part in a yet-to-be determined homelands policy co-design process with the government, land councils and other interested parties.

## CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Aboriginal people from Central Australia want a real say in the laws and policies made about and for them. Giving advice directly to the parliament, rather than the government of the day, is critical to achieving the structural changes the council wants to see. This desire for change is also reflected in the reforms of Closing the Gap championed by the council. It wants to develop and strengthen structures to ensure the full involvement of Aboriginal people in decision making with governments on policy. A voice to government lacks the capacity for structural reform that the Uluru Statement from the Heart seeks to achieve.

At the April 2021 Council meeting, delegates reiterated their support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Council passed a resolution calling for the adoption of the statement in its entirety and called for a voice to Parliament enshrined in Australia's constitution, dismissing the voice to parliament as a betrayal of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

## Indigenous Voice

In January 2021 Minister Ken Wyatt released the Interim Report of the Indigenous Voice Co-Design Process. The report was developed by three co-design groups comprising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians, led by Professor Dr Marcia Langton AO and Professor Tom Calma AO. The NIAA undertook a period of public consultation following the release of the report.

The CLC made a submission and attended a consultation session in Alice Springs in May 2021. The submission raised a number of concerns with the proposal outlined in the interim report. Of primary concern was that the terms of reference for the report excluded the consideration of constitutional enshrinement of



Minister Chansey Paech, minister for six portfolios in the NT, answered members' questions on the remote housing crisis.



a voice to parliament. The CLC supports the full adoption of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and a referendum on the enshrinement of the voice in the constitution. It also wants the membership of the voice to be fully decided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in accordance with the principle of Aboriginal self-determination.

The co-design groups will consider feedback from submissions and consultations, and are expected to provide their final report to the Australian Government in the second half of 2021.

In May 2021 the Uluru Statement from the Heart was awarded the 2021 Sydney Peace Prize. CLC chair Sammy Wilson, CLC member Craig Woods and the CLC's executive manager of policy and governance, Dr Josie Douglas, attended the award ceremony in Sydney.

## NT TREATY

The historic Barunga Agreement between the four NT land councils and the NT Government in 2018 provided a framework for negotiating a treaty, or treaties, in the NT. The NT government established an independent treaty commission headed by Treaty Commissioner Professor Mick Dodson and his deputy, Ursula Raymond. Both attended the CLC's October 2020 council meeting at Kintore to explain their roles and key deliverables and inform the delegates about a possible treaty or treaties. A discussion paper released in March 2020 forms the template for NT-wide treaty consultations between August 2020 and December 2021. The CLC assisted the treaty commission with consultations in Central Australia during the 2020–2021 reporting period. In September 2020, the commission met with the CLC executive. Between October and November 2020 the CLC facilitated visits to Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa), Ntaria (Hermannsburg),

Pmara Jutunta (Six Mile), Willowra, Atitjere (Harts Range) and Amoonguna. Between April and May 2021, the commission visited Alekarenge, Canteen Creek and Epenarra (Wutungurru) and Arlpara, Ampilatwatja, the Utopia region, Engwala, Mutitjulu, Kaltukatjara (Dockers River) and Papunya.

## ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS ACT AND THE ABORIGINALS BENEFIT ACCOUNT

The ABA administers 'royalty equivalent' funds paid to the Commonwealth for mining on Aboriginal land in the NT. Since its inception, the CLC has advocated for the devolution of the ABA to Aboriginal control. The CLC and the other three NT land councils agreed to 12 principles that must underpin comprehensive and strategic reform of the ABA and its grant-making functions. Key reform areas include Aboriginal control of grants administration, funding for strategic projects, ABA investment and spending, and reform of grant guidelines. In late 2019 an ABA working group was formed to progress co-design of the ABA reform as part of the NT biannual strategic forum. In November 2020 the four NT land councils met with the NIAA to discuss a proposed ABA entity and its governance arrangements.

In June 2021 Minister Ken Wyatt committed to a number of amendments to the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, including the establishment of an ABA-funded and Aboriginal-controlled corporate Commonwealth entity that will decide on and administer ABA grants and investments in the NT.

The land councils subsequently reached agreement with the NIAA on reforms of the Land Rights Act. They include agreed administration, exploration and mining amendments and provision for enabling legislation for the ABA entity to be put before the current parliament.



The CLC's chair, Sammy Wilson, member Craig Woods and executive manager policy and governance, Josie Douglas, attended the Sydney Peace Prize award ceremony for the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

## Small communities and homelands

Secure funding and services for homelands remain key policy and advocacy priorities for the CLC. In 2018–19, its 90 delegates chose 105 homelands to share a \$15.75 million ABA grant for upgrading homelands infrastructure. They decided that each of the chosen outstations will receive infrastructure works worth up to \$150,000. By April 2021 the Minister for Indigenous Australians had approved proposals for 90 homelands, 14 proposals were pending his consideration. Providers had submitted 75 applications to the NIAA, with 18 yet to be reviewed, 19 under assessment, 32 with contract negotiations underway and six with works underway.

The CLC consulted with the residents of the outstations and submitted ABA grant applications for their priority projects on their behalf. The submissions were all progressively handed over to the NIAA in 2019 and concluded the CLC's involvement in the project.

The next stages of the project are being implemented by the NIAA. In June 2021 the agency told the CLC executive that only six contracts were in place with providers and only three projects had commenced. The CLC asked the NIAA to communicate more frequently with homelands residents about the progress of projects and the agency agreed to report back monthly to CLC executive meetings.

## COMMONWEALTH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The 2021–22 federal budget included the announcement that the government's controversial community development program will be abolished in 2023, and that it will be replaced with a new remote jobs program that will be co-designed with Aboriginal people in 2021 and trialled in four sites. The suspension of 'mutual obligation' requirements made working for the dole voluntary. However, obligations to attend appointments remain compulsory.

The APO NT and its individual member organisations, such as the CLC, have long campaigned for the community development program to be scrapped because it is punitive and racially discriminatory.

In 2017 the alliance released *Fair Work and Strong Communities*, a brochure about an alternative model that aims to create real jobs in communities. It commended the model to Minister Wyatt as a replacement of the scrapped program. It also called for reforms such as a new national remote jobs program

framework and the details of the trial sites to be negotiated and co-designed with the Aboriginal community-controlled sector as part of the Australian Government's commitments to priority reforms under the national Closing the Gap agreement.

## STRONGER FUTURES

The Stronger Futures legislation includes a sunset provision and will cease on 29 June 2022, 10 years after it came into effect. The three main measures under the legislation were tackling alcohol abuse, land reform and community store licensing. Other legislative changes, such as changes to income management, were made at the same time but these involved different laws and are unaffected by the sunset clause. The CLC is developing a policy position on which Stronger Futures measures to retain, amend or abolish.

## WATER

Water security is a major concern for remote NT communities and improving the availability and quality of water is among the CLC's top policy priorities. In July 2020 the executives of the four NT land councils supported a CLC resolution seeking a commitment from all parties contesting that year's NT election to a range of water reforms. The resolution called for a safe drinking water act and the development of a comprehensive water security strategy.

### *Singleton Station water licence*

In September 2020 the NT water controller published a notice of intention to make a water extraction licence decision in response to an application by Fortune Agribusiness for an allocation up to 40,000 megalitres of water per year for 30 years. It was the biggest water licence application ever made in the NT for the purposes of establishing the largest horticulture project yet in the NT. The application area is in the central plains management zone of the Western Davenport water control district on Singleton Station, over which there is a native title determination. After consulting with the native title holders and traditional owners the CLC made a submission that raised concerns about the scale of the project, the potential impact on the rights and interests of native title holders and traditional owners, and the adequacy of the estimates of water stored in the area. Further consultations followed and the CLC engaged an independent hydrogeologist to interrogate the scientific basis of the water allocation plan's assumptions about water storage.



The CLC resolved at its Tennant Creek council meeting to apply for a review of the Singleton Station water licence decision.



Despite strong media interest in the matter and vigorous advocacy by the CLC and others, the water controller approved the licence in April 2021. One month later, the CLC lodged a formal request to review the licence on behalf of affected native title holders, traditional owners and remote community residents.

### Water security and reform

The Singleton Station water licence decision and the release of the Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission's final report in November 2020 prompted the CLC to broaden its advocacy for water reform. The report's recommendations triggered a suite of proposed legislative and policy amendments that have the potential to impact on the lives and livelihoods of the CLC's constituents for generations.

People in remote Aboriginal communities in the CLC region are very concerned about the lack of safe drinking water. Many communities are at an extreme or a very high or high risk of running out of water. Health impacts aside, lack of water and poor quality water also block the construction of more houses or other essential infrastructure in water-stressed communities.

The CLC learned from the NT's Power and Water Corporation in June 2021 that the number of extremely water-stressed communities in the region had dropped from five to two. It was informed that infrastructure development in the three communities that now fall into the very highly stressed category will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The corporation failed to provide the CLC with its annual 'traffic light' report that outlines the water security classification of all communities in its region.



Senior Alywarre man Donald Thompson told the ABC the Singleton licence is too risky.



Pam Corbett and Jackie Mahoney told the CLC delegates about Alpurrurulam's water quality woes.

## OUTPUT 4.3. CULTURAL AND 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

Many traditional owners consider being on country essential to keeping their land and themselves healthy. Most CLC field trips, whatever their main purpose, provide opportunities for traditional owners to visit cultural sites. The CLC continues to facilitate country visits by traditional owners so they can discharge their cultural responsibilities.

In 2020–21 it completed the Kungka Kutjara project. The project involved site visits and meetings over four years and culminated in a two-week workshop attended by 40 Anangu and Arrernte women and a night of ceremonies that attracted 150 women. It aimed to improve intergenerational knowledge and understanding of an important story for Aboriginal women of Central Australia and resulted in the production of 45 short educational videos.

It also progressed an initiative to develop a structured indigenous ecological knowledge training for its rangers. Now known as reading the country, the project aims to help rangers to advance their knowledge and skills (see output 1.2).

The First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance was formed in the wake of Rio Tinto's Juukan Gorge atrocity. The CLC, a member of the alliance, attended its policy working group meetings throughout 2020–21 and helped to progress an agreement with the Australian Government about modernising cultural heritage protection. It hopes to sign off on the agreement during the next period.

### CULTURAL SUPPORT AND SACRED SITES

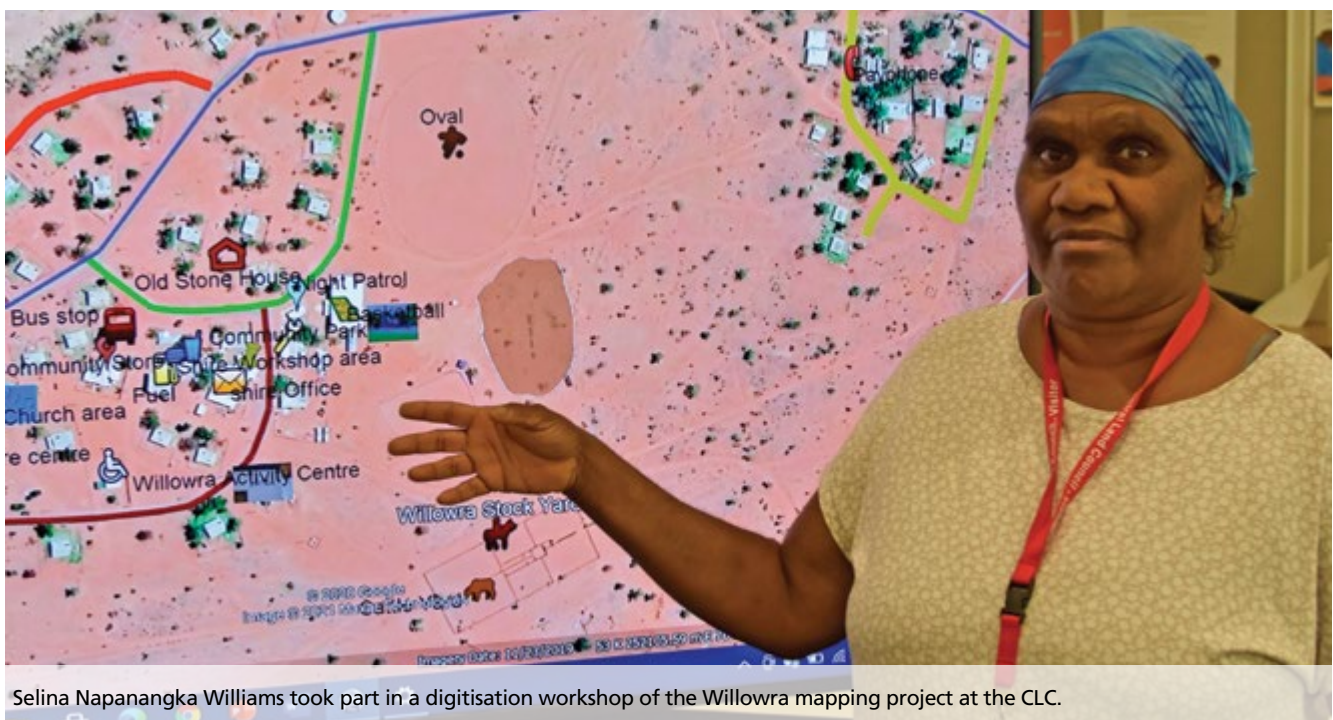
Sacred sites are places of deep spiritual significance and are integral to Aboriginal culture. Their identification and protection ensure the continuity of religious and cultural practices, and sustain identity. Confidence in the protection of sacred sites also allows traditional owners to make informed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

The CLC receives many development proposals for Aboriginal land. Proposals undergo a work area approval process that ensures traditional owners are consulted, and sacred sites are protected by clearance procedures. It issued 186 sacred site clearance certificates and varied seven existing certificates for projects ranging from road signs in communities to road upgrades on Aboriginal land, fence and water infrastructure on cattle stations to mineral exploration.

CLC anthropologists conducted research, issued advice, assisted in consultations, undertook work clearances and issued sacred site clearance certificates in 364 instances related to cultural and heritage support.

The CLC responded to 56 requests for genealogical information and worked to maintain and improve genealogical and other anthropological information by completing 46 research projects. They included consultations with constituents to update genealogies, and the digitisation of land claim and other historical materials.

It has progressed the redevelopment of its sacred sites database and completed nine sites database administration and research projects, for example audits of historical materials, scoping studies, and project design documentation.



Selina Napanangka Williams took part in a digitisation workshop of the Willowra mapping project at the CLC.



The Willowra mapping project, a community-led initiative to record and paint sacred sites along the Lander River on a large canvas map to be housed in the community's learning centre, is funded by traditional owners via the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust. It aims to assist the intergenerational transfer of cultural knowledge. The project continued to collect information from senior traditional owners, some of whom are the last generation to have lived much of their lives off the land. Documenting this information as it is being relayed to the next generations forms an important legacy for senior people participating in the project. Other communities in the region have expressed an interest in establishing similar projects. The CLC continued to record sites and songlines in 2020–21.

It continued consultations about the repatriation of objects held by 10 German museums, however the COVID-19 pandemic continues to stymie plans to visit the museums to pursue negotiations. One of the museums has funded a position to research and progress the repatriation of objects and one of its employees met with the CLC in April. The CLC undertook additional work to more clearly identify categories of sacred objects stored at the Strehlow Research Centre in Alice Springs that could be easily repatriated to remote communities.

The CLC developed an agreement with the Melbourne Museum about access to their information and repatriation from their collections. It also worked with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) on the return of cultural heritage objects from overseas museums. While the institute has not yet taken up the CLC's offer to consult on its behalf with traditional owners, the CLC facilitated the return of men's restricted films and songs from the institute to Anangu and Yarnangu men. At the request of traditional owners, it also corresponded with the South Australian Museum about the repatriation of skeletal remains taken from Uluru in the 1930s and is pursuing their return.

## ABORIGINAL CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES AND FUNERALS

The ABA funds the CLC to help Aboriginal families meet some of the high costs of funerals and ceremonies. Traditional owner groups and communities also use leasing and compensation income streams to set up funeral funds administered by the organisation.

The CLC allocated the ABA funds according to strict guidelines. It processed 200 applications for funeral expenses. Table 21 shows the communities that received resources for ceremonies during the summer.

Table 19. Cultural and heritage support, 2020–21

Advice and support – land, sea and natural resource management	39
Advice and support – land claims and acquisitions	2
Advice and support – economic development and commercial services	35
Advice and support – advocacy	372
Administration and support services	19
Advice and support – native title activities	32

Table 20. Sacred site clearance certificates, 2020–21

Exploration and mining (Aboriginal land)	11
Exploration and mining (native title land)	4
Research for telecommunications infrastructure	26
Community and other infrastructure	74
Housing and leases	38
Road works	9
Land management activities	15
Other	6

Table 21. Communities supported to conduct ceremonies

Region 1	Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Wallace Rockhole, Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa), Titjikala, Alice Springs
Region 2	Utju (Areyonga), Kaltukatjara (Dockers River), Muṯiṯjulu, Imanpa, Finke (Aputula)
Region 3	Daguragu, Lajamanu
Region 4	Yuendumu, Willowra, Nyirripi
Region 5	Kintore, Papunya, Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff), Mt Liebig
Region 6	Tennant Creek
Region 7	Arlparra, Irrultja, Ampilatwatja, Soapy Bore
Region 8	Mount Eaglebeak/Irrelirre (Number 5), Mulga Bore, Alcoota, Ambalindum
Region 9	Tara (Neutral Junction), Ti Tree, Pmara Jutunta (6 Mile), Yuelamu (Mt Allen), Laramba, Wilora (Stirling)

# OUTPUT 4.4. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Facilitate targeted Aboriginal community development initiatives with the traditional owners and other clients of the CLC.

The CLC helps Aboriginal groups to invest income from land use agreements, such as rent, royalty, leasing and compensation payments, in the development of their communities. It works with the groups to plan and implement community-driven projects that maintain identities, languages, cultures and connections to country, strengthen governance and improve health, education and employment outcomes.

Its effective and flexible community development approach employs processes that ensure residents and traditional owners control assets, projects and programs. It aims to build individual and collective capacity and self-reliance, as outlined in the CLC's community development framework.

The community development program started in 2005 and employs 19 staff. It is active in all 31 communities in the CLC region, and works with six major regional income streams and a growing number of smaller sources of mostly mining-related income. It supports 27 traditional owner groups from 14 national parks and 16 other groups that allocate income to community benefit projects. It also works with communities in South Australia where traditional owners of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park live, and with the Western Australian communities of Balgo, Billiluna and Ringers Soak which receive compensation income from the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation.

## PERFORMANCE

Since 2005 these groups committed almost \$170 million to more than 2,000 projects ranging from multi-million-dollar, multi-year initiatives to small infrastructure projects. These investments have attracted millions of dollars in co-contributions from government, and hundreds of thousands of dollars from the Newmont Corporation, one of the world's largest gold miners.

Independent monitoring of the program by La Trobe University's Institute for Human Security and Social Change, during 2019–20, confirmed the high-value that Aboriginal participants place on the outcomes these projects have achieved. The report also considered the program's future directions. Constituents who participated in the monitoring asked the CLC to do more to demonstrate to governments how they would like them to work with Aboriginal people. As one put it: 'The government could learn from the way we work. We are living here; we know the life, day and night. The government shouldn't tell us to do this and that. They should come and listen and sit down with us; come with blank paper and write it down what we want.'

They also raised succession planning for the Aboriginal groups that make decisions about their collective income. 'It would be good to have a workshop with leaders and working group members and bring in young ones. Those leaders can use their experiences, talking about how they got to where they are now, how they faced the challenges,' a participant told the researchers.

In 2020–21, Aboriginal groups committed more than \$27 million to 177 new projects following 550 consultations. These numbers

of projects and consultations are significantly higher than any previous year, and the amount allocated to projects is 70 per cent higher than the previous period.

Community development projects delivered more than 27,000 hours of employment for almost 670 Aboriginal people and almost 1,600 hours of accredited training. They provided wrap-around support to 38 boarding school students to help them manage the challenges studying far from home.

More and more constituents want to tell their stories to a broader audience. The CLC published two editions of *Community Development News* and showcased projects in other media to spread ideas and inspire pride.

## PROCESS

The CLC works with Aboriginal groups to prioritise, plan and develop community benefit projects and to identify partner organisations that can implement the projects. Once a group decides on a project, the CLC's chief executive officer reviews the consultation process and signs off on the project proposal and funding. The CLC then negotiates funding agreements with partner organisations and manages them. It also monitors and evaluates the project by measuring its outcomes against each group's project plans, agreements and expectations.

## ULURU RENT MONEY PROJECT

The traditional owner group of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park was among the first to work with the community development unit, in 2006. The group invests the rent from park leases and gate fees in community benefit projects in the Mutitjulu community inside the park, as well as in projects across the region. From 2005 to 2021 the Uluru – Kata Tjuta traditional owners invested \$16.5 million in 123 regional projects. Two groups collectively allocated more than one million dollars to fund eight community benefit projects during the period.

The project's regional traditional owner group met twice, despite months of closed borders and COVID-19 restrictions. A working group met once to prioritise and plan the projects, followed by a meeting of the traditional owners that allocated funds to them.

Projects align with the priority themes the regional traditional owner group chose in 2014. The group also monitors projects funded in previous years and decides whether to keep funding them.

Continuing priorities for 2021 were cultural, and education support projects, for example more than \$337,000 worth of projects assisting boarding school students from the Amata, Pukatja, Kaltukatjara, Imanpa and Mutitjulu communities with enrolment, travel, emotional support and advocacy.

The group also allocated an additional \$44,000 to the education support brokerage for all boarding school students of Uluru – Kata Tjuta traditional owner families. The brokerage is used for



extras such as laptops, excursions and flights for the families to attend graduations. The focus on cultural and bilingual learning continued, with the traditional owners investing almost \$270,000 in a cultural activities and bilingual resources project for the Watarrka, Utju, Imanpa and Muṯitjulu communities.

Upgrades of almost \$45,000 to the Muṯitjulu cemetery were completed, including a large shade shelter for church services, a picnic table and benches and a lockable shed with garden tools.

Five of these community benefit projects created more than 700 hours of employment for 28 Aboriginal people.

The project's Muṯitjulu working group manages initiatives the community has prioritised. The group continued to fund the operation of the Muṯitjulu Tjurrpinytjaku Centre (swimming pool) and construction of the pool manager's house in Muṯitjulu has started.

It allocated more than \$140,000 to local business Maruku Arts to pay senior artists to produce large artworks recording important stories and cultural information. The project aims to transfer knowledge to younger family members, who will be able to view the artworks at Maruku Arts.

The group also paid Clarsen and Clarsen Landscape Architecture almost \$14,000 to develop a masterplan for the public spaces in Muṯitjulu with the residents. The plan aims to build community cohesion through shared public spaces for relaxation. It features a shaded walkway linking the school, pool, health centre, store, cultural centre and ceremony ground, with seating and dust suppression.

## WARLPIRI EDUCATION AND TRAINING TRUST

Warlpiri teachers and traditional owners of the site of Newmont's gold mine in the Tanami set up the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) in 2005 to invest mining royalties in education and training for the residents of Lajamanu, Nyirrpi, Willowra and Yuendumu.

The Kurra Aboriginal Corporation, whose members are traditional owners of the site, is the WETT trustee. Kurra directors meet twice a year to consider the recommendations of a WETT advisory committee and make funding decisions about WETT programs. The committee consists of four representatives from each of the four communities, a representative from Newmont and a representative from the CLC. It meets three times a year to design, plan and monitor WETT-funded programs and recommends funding priorities to the corporation. The CLC administers the trust and contracts project partners to implement approved projects.

### Project highlights

The Kurra directors allocated more than \$7.6 million across the WETT's children and families, language and culture in schools, secondary school support, youth development and the community learning centre programs.

Twenty-five children, 95 per cent of the community's under-5-year-olds, attended the WETT playgroup program in Willora. The program is delivered by World Vision Australia and employed and trained six local women. A playgroup reference group met regularly, and the centre used bilingual reading materials, and undertook bush trips and smoking ceremonies.



WETT advisory committee members Loretta Johnson, Fiona Gibson, Cynthia Wheeler and Sharon Anderson took part in a cultural exchange with Malak Malak traditional owners at Daly River.

The four WETT learning centres continued to operate with the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education of Indigenous Tertiary Education as the program partner in Willowra and Nyirripi and the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC) as the partner in Yuendumu and Lajamanu. Highlights include a youth literacy program in Nyirripi, a Yapa staff training program in Nyirripi and Willowra, and Yapa staff in Lajamanu operating their learning centre for extended periods without a coordinator.

The WYDAC continued to deliver the WETT youth development program in four communities. While country visits could not go ahead in 2020 due to COVID-19, the Yuendumu and Nyirripi schools conducted a week-long bush trip in May 2021, with students and families camping at Nyinyirripalangu, Newhaven and Jila Well. The Warlpiri theme cycle project also continued to align the Warlpiri curriculum with the NT's indigenous language and culture curriculum.

The WETT also continued to fund Yapa staff training and development at Yuendumu's children and families centre. The centre held three trauma awareness workshops and supported bush trips and visits by elders to the centre.

The secondary school support program funded education expenses of 18 Yapa boarding school students, while students in the Tanami communities took part in excursions to Alice Springs and Darwin while interstate borders were closed.

The WETT, the CLC and La Trobe University undertook a trial of the WETT tracking and learning project in Nyirripi and Yuendumu. The trial aimed to test a new approach to monitoring and evaluation of WETT programs. Eight Yapa from two communities received training in community research methods and developed a peer research approach. The community researchers then gathered Yapa feedback for the WETT advisory committee which informed the committee's decisions about the WETT language and culture program.

The WETT and the CLC interacted more with the NT Department of Education, for example by advising on the department's remote area teacher education program and its local decision making policy and engagement strategy. The department contracted the



Evelyn Marshall and Nadia Lewis graduated from the Djarragun College. The students received support through the Uluru rent money project.

CLC to oversee consultations by the Batchelor Institute for a local decision-making strategy for schools in four Yapa communities.

WETT advisory committee members and CLC staff presented at an Australian Indigenous Governance Institute online conference on succession planning and at a Centre for Native Title Anthropology workshop on effective Aboriginal trust structures.

## TANAMI DIALYSIS SUPPORT PROJECT

In 2021 the Kurra Aboriginal Corporation directors allocated \$660,000 for a dialysis clinic in Nyirripi. They chose the Western Desert Nganampa Waltja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (Purple House) to deliver the project with co-funding from the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) and Purple House.

## GRANITES MINE AFFECTED AREA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

The GMAAAC allocates half of its compensation income to community benefit projects in the nine affected Tanami communities every year. The corporation invests the other half to ensure the communities continue to benefit after the mine closes. The communities elect GMAAAC committees and directors every three years. The committees work with the CLC to develop and invest in projects that improve housing, health, education, essential services, employment and training, and Aboriginal self-management. GMAAAC directors are responsible for the corporation's governance and investments.

The corporation is the largest income stream of the community development program and during this period it increased to just under \$21 million. It is forecast to increase further due to the expansion of Newmont's mining operations until 2040. GMAAAC committees approved 67 new projects and executed 46 project agreements during 16 committee and eight community meetings. The CLC facilitated seven GMAAAC elections.

GMAAAC directors continued to take part in governance training to support investment decisions. Some directors elected in 2020 participated in the training for the first time, and the mix of newly elected and established directors allowed the more experienced to support the newcomers.

GMAAAC projects again prioritised local enterprise and employment, with 494 Yapa working a total of 16,115 hours on projects ranging from arts and culture (museums, ceremony grounds, cultural mapping, music programs and cultural festivals), to education (school nutrition, language support and school pastoral care projects) and infrastructure (building upgrades, outstation and access road maintenance).

The CLC managed 191 GMAAAC projects with a total value of almost \$33 million and processed 149 payments worth more than \$3.7 million. It helped partner organisations to submit reports and financial acquittals, and supported GMAAAC committees to review compliance with project agreements.

The communities of Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Yuelamu, Tanami Downs, Balgo, Billiluna and Ringers Soak elected new GMAAAC committees. The directors they appointed were inducted into GMAAAC governance.





Muṯitjulu students learned from Elsie Taylor and Wanatjura Patterson (right) how to make wanas (digging sticks).

### Project highlights

GMAAAC directors agreed to fund three videos about the project for different audiences. The videos will show Warlpiri- and English-speaking audiences how the project works and share lessons learnt. Production has started in Lajamanu, Yuendumu, Nyirripi and Tanami Downs and will take place in all GMAAAC communities.

Lajamanu's GMAAAC committee allocated an additional \$1.4 million to the construction of a water park at Lajamanu. This investment comes on top of the \$2.4 million allocated for the park prior a revision of the project scope. The committee has also committed \$1.2 million for the three years of operational funding. The water park will offer training and employment for three fulltime-equivalent positions, spread amongst a number of casual pool attendants and cultural advisers. The water park will be built in 2022.

The Tanami Downs GMAAAC committee allocated almost \$380,000 to repair outstation houses. The repairs will complete a five-year infrastructure project.

Nyirripi's GMAAAC committee allocated more than \$78,000 for a public address system at the community oval. The project entails using a crane to install eight poles with concrete footings for the speakers, 16 protective cages, a sound mixer and an amplifier in a secure casing.

The Yuendumu GMAAAC committee supported the start-up of a Yapa-controlled transport service based in the community. The Xtra Mile Transport and Recovery Service will employ four Yapa to operate a regular bus service between Yuendumu and Alice Springs drawing on a pool of casual Yapa drivers. Residents will also be able to charter buses for excursions. Xtra Mile will receive more than \$164,000 to fund the service's first year of operation.

## NT PARKS RENT MONEY PROJECT

Traditional owner groups working with the CLC's NT parks rent money project invest all the rent and income they receive for 14 jointly-managed national parks in long-term community benefit projects. The groups want to maintain, visit and live at their outstations and most of the projects provide employment and training to residents for infrastructure upgrades. Some projects support people to access education, maintain their culture and meet the high cost of funerals. The groups have allocated more than \$13 million to 283 projects since 2010.

The CLC facilitated 160 meetings with 22 groups during the reporting period. The groups approved more than \$2.2 million for 41 new projects. The projects employed 38 people who worked a total of more than 2300 hours. The CLC managed 92 NT parks rent projects worth a total of \$4.2 million, 21 of them new project agreements for a total value of almost \$1.9 million.

### Project highlights

Traditional owners from the Yeperenye/Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park in 2016 prioritised the idea of a walking and cycling trail between the two gorges. In 2020 they allocated more than \$360,000 for trail design and construction and in 2021 a local company, Tricky Tracks, trained and employed more than 30 traditional owners to build the 7.2-kilometre trail. The sustainable design respects and protects cultural sites, features rest stops and wheelchair access and meets government standards. It will be launched in July 2021.

Traditional owners from the Napwerte/Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve invested almost \$240,000 to supply bore water to six dwellings of the Urremerne outstation. Prior to the project, most residents relied on water deliveries or collected water from a centralised tap.

One family invested more than \$200,000 of their East MacDonnell Ranges National Park rent money in bathroom and kitchen upgrades for three houses of their outstation.

Watarrka traditional owners allocated almost \$79,000 for bush camp infrastructure at the Alpintharra homeland. They also invested \$87,000 to fence the Luntharra and Katjutari outstations and \$124,000 to upgrade the church at Utju (Areyonga).

Two fencing projects funded by the Inarlanga Latna group, which receives income from the Finke Gorge National Park, were completed in 2020. The Old Station and Akanta outstations received fences worth a total of more than \$28,000 and a boundary stock fence at Red Sandhill cost almost \$9,000. All three projects aim to protect yards and houses from feral horses, donkeys, cows and camels. The Palm Paddock group invested its income from the park in accommodation at the Kaporilya outstation. Two homeland upgrade projects were completed in 2021 at a total cost of more than \$100,000. An old house was made safe and an old shed was converted to a bedroom.

Traditional owners from the Iytwelepenty/Davenport Ranges National Park allocated more than \$140,000 to repair nine houses and four street lights at the Antarrengeny outstation, remove car wrecks, extend the cemetery and undertake earthworks to mitigate flooding. They invested more than \$74,000 to connect power to a house at Nguyarramini and to the outstation's laundry and ablution block, upgrade the block and fence it along with a nearby meeting shelter. The improvements will make the outstation more comfortable for CLC rangers and other visitors and allow residents to install a washing machine. An additional \$64,000 was allocated for a holding paddock fence at the outstation to further develop the traditional owners' cattle enterprise.

## COMMUNITY LEASE MONEY PROJECT

Lease income from government and non-government organisations for community facilities makes up the bulk of the ongoing income of this project which began in 2012. Since then 31 communities spent more than \$14 million of their one-off compensation payments for the compulsory leases taken out during the NT emergency response on community-driven projects. Since 2010 communities allocated more than \$5 million of their ongoing lease income to 383 community benefit projects.

In 2020–21 the project facilitated 22 traditional owner-group and 39 community meetings and funded 21 projects costing a total of more than \$860,000. Six of the projects contributed more than 1,600 hours of employment for 19 Aboriginal people.

### Project highlights

The Minister for Indigenous Australians approved the CLC's \$4.4 million ABA application for a pipeline for pumping better quality water to the Alpururulam community. Residents contributed \$110,000 to the project.

Kaltukatjara allocated \$22,000 to install 12 large solar lights at their softball oval. The CLC sourced co-funding through an ABA grant of more than \$127,000.

The Kalkaringi community allocated \$45,000 to support an ABA application by the Gurindji Aboriginal Corporation for a new basketball court with two grandstands, a stage, a BBQ, shade structure, seats, tables and solar lights.

Tangentyere Constructions completed the Bethlehem Church toilet block at Ntaria. The community funded the project to replace broken toilets and invested almost \$78,000 to build the block and connected it to power.

The Titjikala community working group allocated more than \$27,000 for a men's shed. Catholic Care and the MacDonnell

Table 22. Community development income streams, 2020–21

Income Stream	Purpose	\$ Value
Uluru rent money project	Use rent paid to traditional owners of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park for a range of sustainable regional initiatives	<b>1,020,510</b>
Warlpiri Education and Training Trust	Using mining royalties of The Granites gold mine in the Southern Tanami for sustainable education, training and employment benefits	<b>9,049,062</b>
Tanami dialysis support project (Kurra Aboriginal Corporation)	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 (GMAAAC)	Use affected area monies from The Granites mine to support nine communities in the southern Tanami to apply those monies toward broad community benefit activities	<b>13,040,044</b>
NT parks rent money project	Use rent paid to traditional owners of national parks, conservation and nature reserves for a range of sustainable initiatives.	<b>2,242,405</b>
Community lease money project	Use rent paid for community leases to members of 31 communities for a diverse range of community benefit projects	<b>864,564</b>
Other income streams	Use mainly new and smaller payments linked to mining and exploration for a variety of community benefit projects	<b>1,207,163</b>
Matched funds trial	Provides complimentary funding for groups that have new income from land use agreements that is allocated to community benefit projects	<b>172,373</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>27,596,121</b>





Wilora workers Gerry Price and Seamus Price at the new church fence they built with the CLC rangers.

Regional Council employed two work-for-the-dole participants and a builder, and provided in-kind support to turn an old shed into a comfortable meeting place.

The Atitjere community allocated more than \$82,000 for CLC rangers to fence the Atitjere cemetery and protect graves from feral cows and horses.

### OTHER INCOME STREAMS

The CLC held 57 meetings and consultations to promote its community development program to Aboriginal people negotiating exploration, mining and other land use agreements and made plans with 13 groups interested in investing income from such agreements in community-driven projects.

It continued to meet with the native title holders affected by the proposed Nolans Bore mine. Two of the five traditional owner groups decided to allocate funds to community development.

The native title holders are part of a total of 16 groups using small amounts of investment or exploration compensation income for community benefit projects. Four new contracts with a total value of more than \$770,000 were executed. In total, six groups allocated more than \$1.2 million to new projects.



Christopher Dixon proud to keep kids at the Mutijulu pool safe.

Table 23. Income streams and projects, 2005–2021

Income Stream	Cumulative 2005-2020		2020–2021		Total under management at 30 June 2021	
	Allocated \$	Projects	Allocated \$	Projects	Allocated \$	Projects
Uluru rent money project	15,544,325	115	1,020,510	8	6,578,164	32
Warlpiri Education and Training Trust	38,501,504	204	9,049,062	23	13,923,332	47
Tanami dialysis support project (Kurra Aboriginal Corporation)	4,198,286	26	-	-	660,000	1
Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC)	50,962,507	985	13,040,044	67	32,656,879	191
NT parks rent money project	10,838,490	242	2,242,405	41	4,196,483	92
Community lease money project	18,706,836	352	864,564	21	7,180,285	120
Matched funds trial	-	-	172,373	8	172,373	8
Other income streams	2,602,032	33	1,207,163	9	1,590,689	22
<b>Totals</b>	<b>141,353,980</b>	<b>1957</b>	<b>27,596,124</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>66,958,205</b>	<b>513</b>



## *CASE STUDY: Yeperenye traditional owners build a walking and cycling trail*

The traditional owners of the Yeperenye Nature Park near Alice Springs have financed, designed and built a public walking and cycling trail between Anthwerke (Emily Gap) and Atherreke (Jessie Gap) near Alice Springs and are getting ready to gift it to the locals and visitors alike.

After six years of planning with the CLC's community development team and more than six months of construction, they are preparing to officially open the trail in July 2021.

The traditional owners used \$365,000 of the rent income they receive for the jointly managed national park to fund the trail – the largest sum any Central Australian Aboriginal group has ever invested in public infrastructure.

'It makes me really proud that we did that – putting our money from the government back to the trail here,' traditional owner Lynette Ellis said.

'We did this trail for all of us here, for our young kids now and for our future generations.'

At a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has brought the local tourism industry to its knees, the trail will open up another section of the East MacDonalld ranges to visitors and create local employment.

"Not many tourists come to Jessie Gap. They are always going to the West Macs, so we thought it would be something good to do, to attract them out this way," Ms Ellis said.

"There might be some sort of tour around here with tour guides. We will be doing more projects."

More than 30 local Aboriginal workers built the 7.2-kilometre trail by hand, trained and employed by local company Tricky Tracks.



Casimir Mineri, Andrew Alice and William Quall used crowbars to move rocks from the path.



Derek Davis and Gerrard Davis were two of more than 30 local Aboriginal people who were trained and employed to construct the trail.





Grant Wallace constructed a bridge out of natural stone on the trail near Anthwerke (Emily Gap).

Among the traditional owners who worked on the project were cultural supervisors who ensured important sites were respected and protected. Grant Wallace was one of the workers.

"It has been good learning new skills and being able to work hard and share this sacred place with everyone," Mr Wallace said.

"I'm looking forward to using these skills for future trail work around here."

'This on-the-job, one-on-one training will allow these workers to build and maintain trails across the region,' CLC chief executive Lesley Turner said.

The Yeperenye trail follows the contours of the East MacDonnell Ranges and will feature interpretive signage at the trail heads, paid for by the NT Government which will also fund the trail maintenance.

There are rest stops and two wheelchair-accessible sections to ensure visitors of all abilities can enjoy the trail.

The project shows what can be achieved when traditional owners work with local companies and government agencies to realise their ambitions for the benefit of all.

Mr Turner said the traditional owners demonstrated 'generosity, inclusivity and forward-thinking'.

'You have left a legacy that's making us all very proud. Of course you were not only thinking of us visitors. You had your families and young people foremost in your minds and you spread the work around,' he said.



William Quall and Andrew Alice from the nearby Amoonguna community worked on the trail.

Figure 14. Community development projects, 2016–21

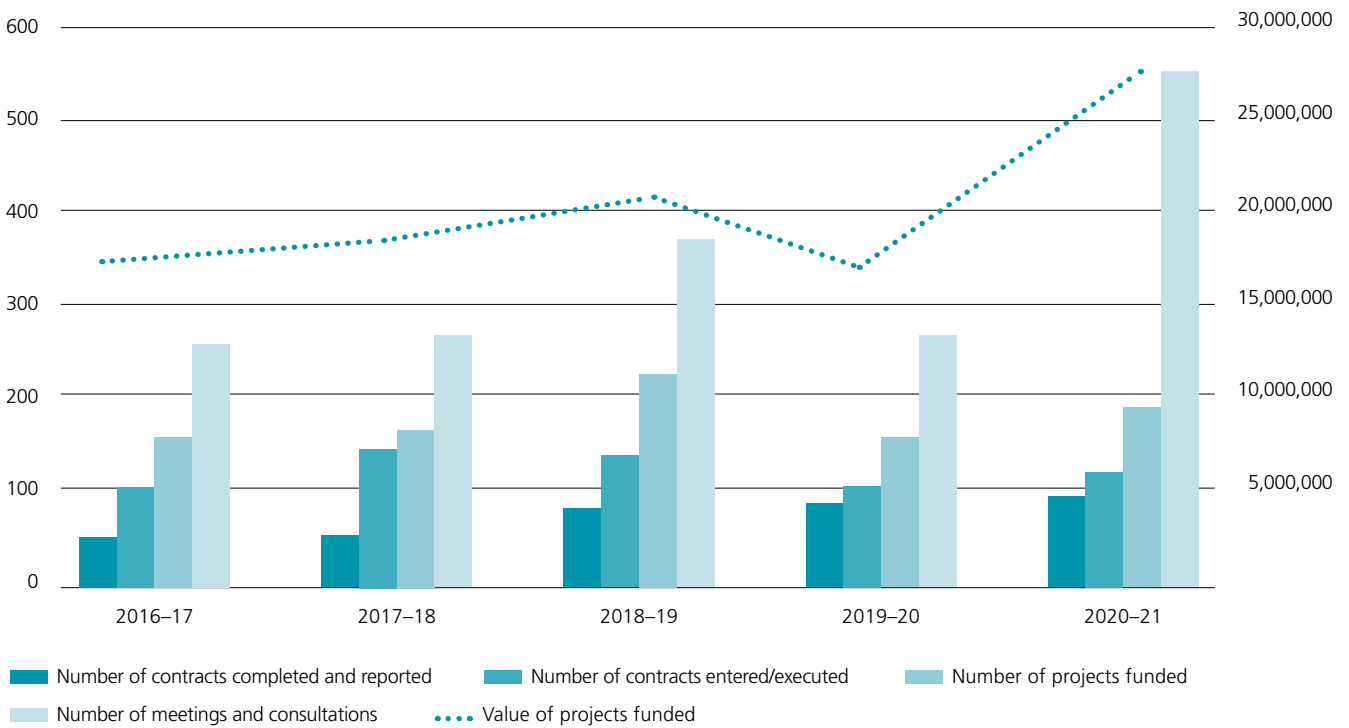
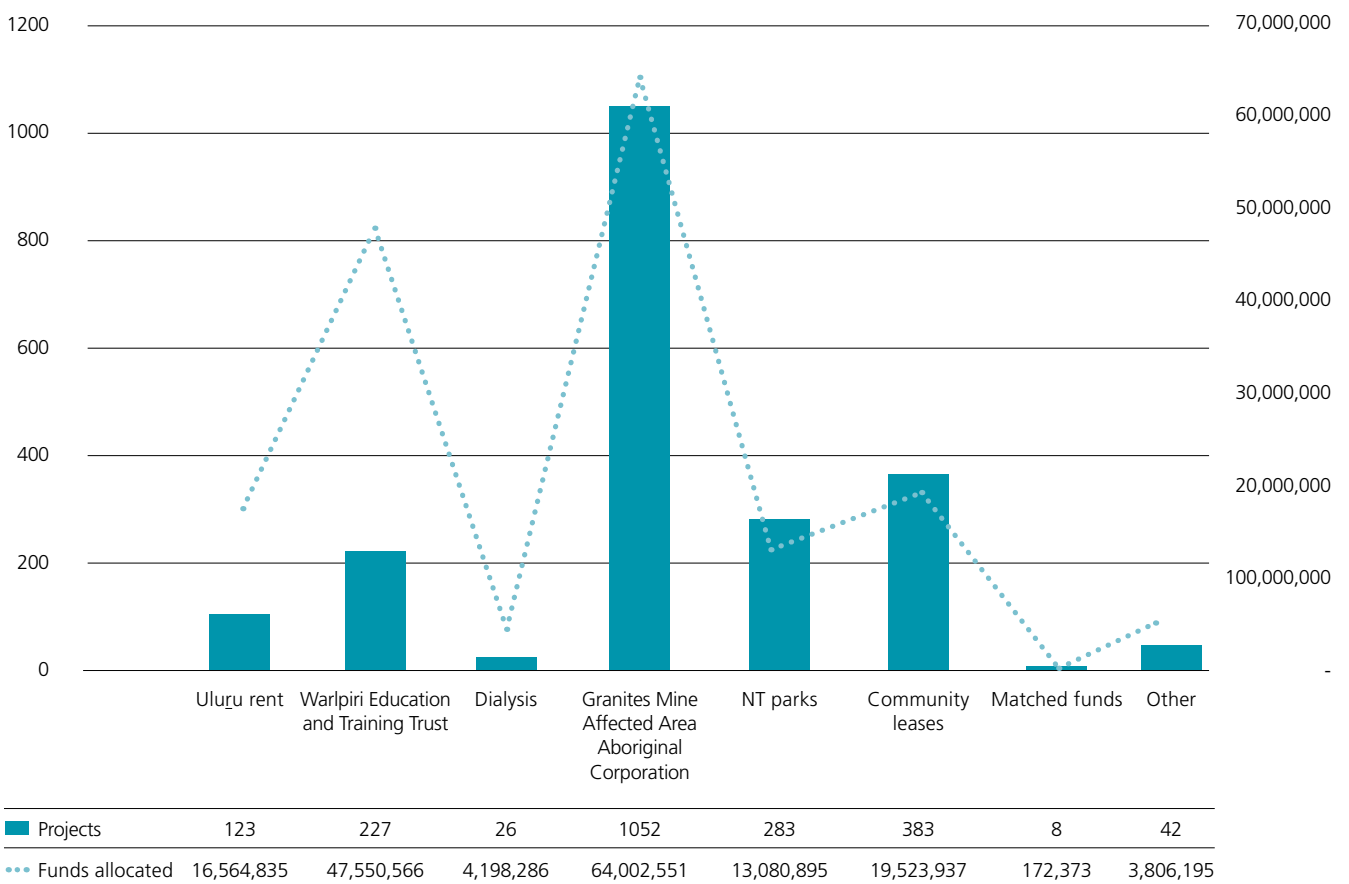


Figure 15. Total funds committed to community development projects, 2005–21





Robert Robertson with the Xtra Mile bus in Yuendumu.



## MATCHED FUNDS TRIAL

A three-year matched funds trial that provides additional funds from the National Indigenous Australians Agency for groups that want to use new income from land use agreements for community benefit projects in the CLC region started in 2020. The initiative is the result of more than a decade of CLC advocacy and is designed to incentivise more groups to allocate their income to projects they drive and to tackle the disparity between the amounts of income from land use agreements available for community development projects across the region. As figure 9 shows, in the east of the CLC region relatively few groups receive income from land use agreements and incomes are smaller than, for example, in the Tanami region. The trial aims to increase the amount of money available for community development projects for groups with a small income, allowing them to tackle bigger projects.

The CLC executive endorsed a program design that will see a significant amount of the matched funds go to areas that receive less income from land use agreements than others.

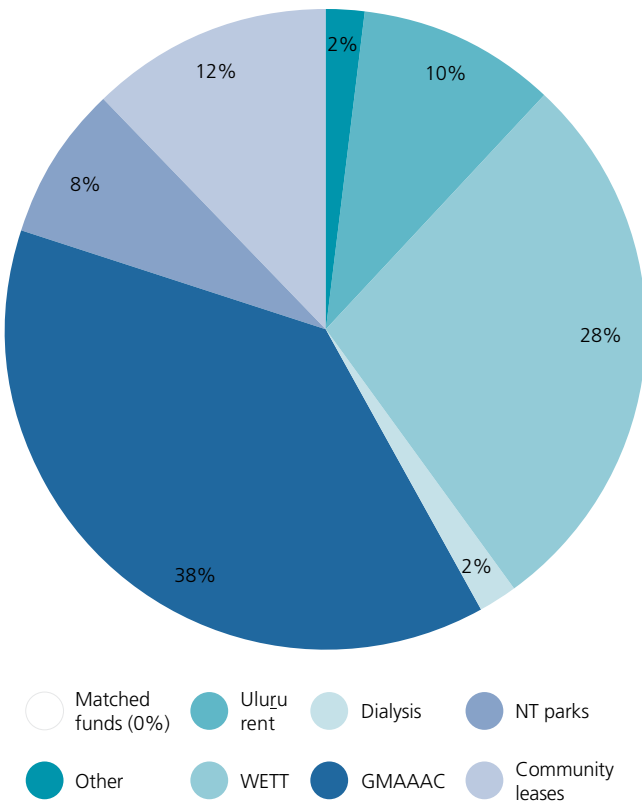
It decided that all communities with new community lease income and traditional owner groups with new income from land use agreements between \$50,000 and 150,000 are eligible to have their investments in community-driven projects matched dollar for dollar. The executive resolved that Aputula (Finke) and Canteen Creek, communities that receive no community lease income because they are not on Aboriginal land, and Utju and Lajamanu, where no traditional owners reside, will also be eligible.

Six traditional owner groups and 24 communities agreed to participate and the \$2 million available during this first trial year was fully subscribed. Most communities and groups have begun to set up governance arrangements, project planning has started and more than \$170,000 has been allocated to eight projects ranging from school excursions and art centre accommodation to youth support.

The number of meetings and consultations associated with these outcomes has been captured under the community lease money and other income streams headings above.

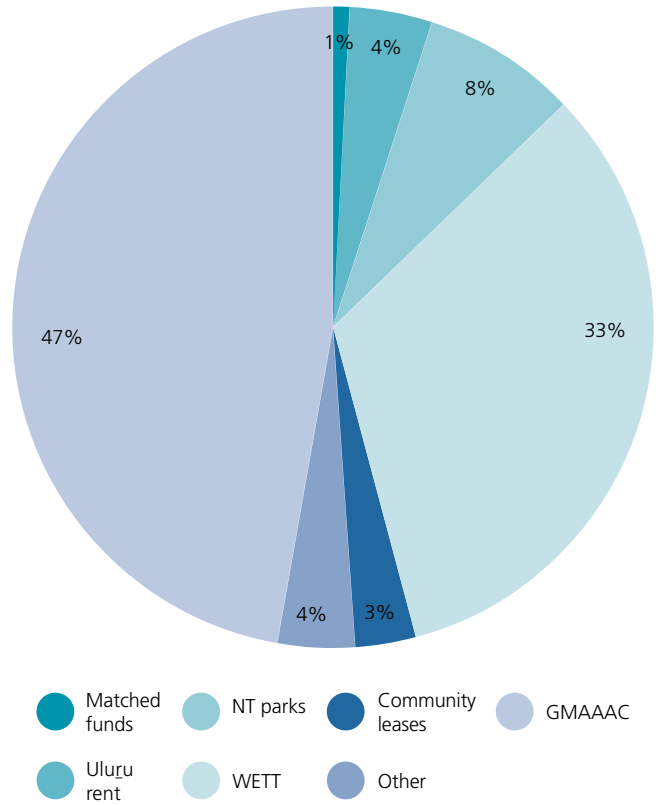
Communities and traditional owner groups have embraced the initiative. The Papunya community, for example, has worked with the CLC's community development team since 2012. The CLC supported the community to develop governance arrangements and determine community benefit project priorities, and continued to work with the community's working group. Initially, it was difficult to launch more significant community benefit projects. The matched funds trial, however, has seen traditional owners allocate 80 per cent (more than \$80,000) of Papunya's community lease income to plan and implement community benefit projects for the next three years. The trial presents a new opportunity for Papunya. They decided to distribute the remainder to individuals. Previously the community allocated only 20 per cent of its income to community development.

Figure 16. Income and projects, 2005–21



**Total funds committed: \$168.9 million**

Figure 17. Income and projects, 2020–21



**Total funds committed: \$27.6 million**

While the trial presents a new opportunity for Papunya, the community's decision only applies for the duration of the trial, as is the case for a number of other communities. The communities are reserving future decisions about their income until they find out whether the trial will continue beyond 2022–23. A longitudinal case study about community driven-development projects in Papunya using matched funds will be periodically updated at <https://www.clc.org.au/monitoring-evaluation/>.

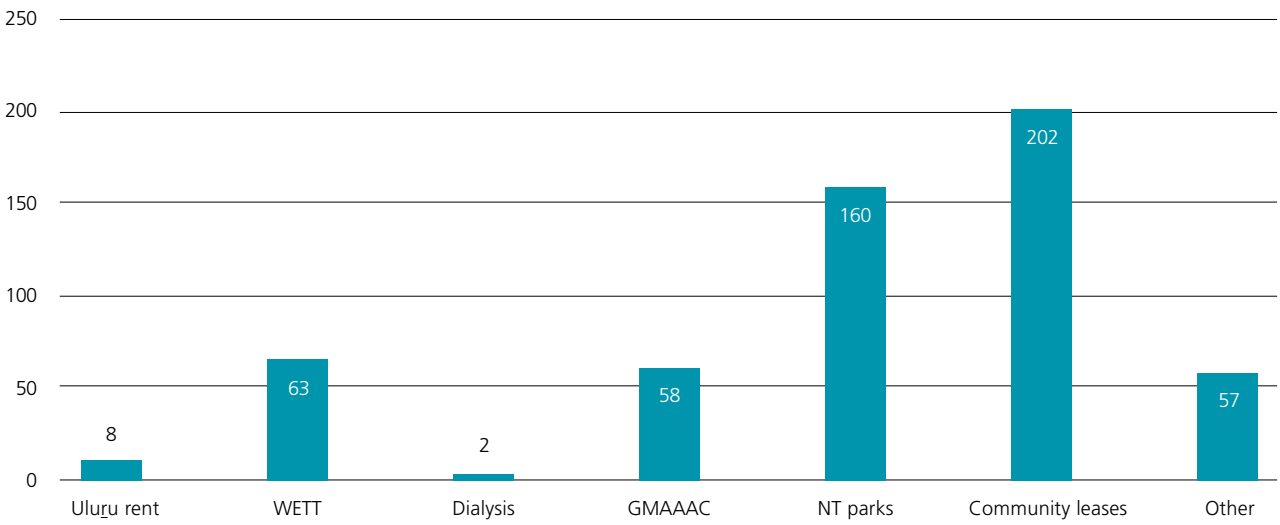
The matched funds trial has met its objectives of increasing funds for community development projects. Most of the funds will be invested in areas that don't receive much income from land use agreements, such as the Sandover, the Plenty and southwest sub-regions. Monitoring and evaluation will show if, as expected, bigger projects will result in greater impacts.



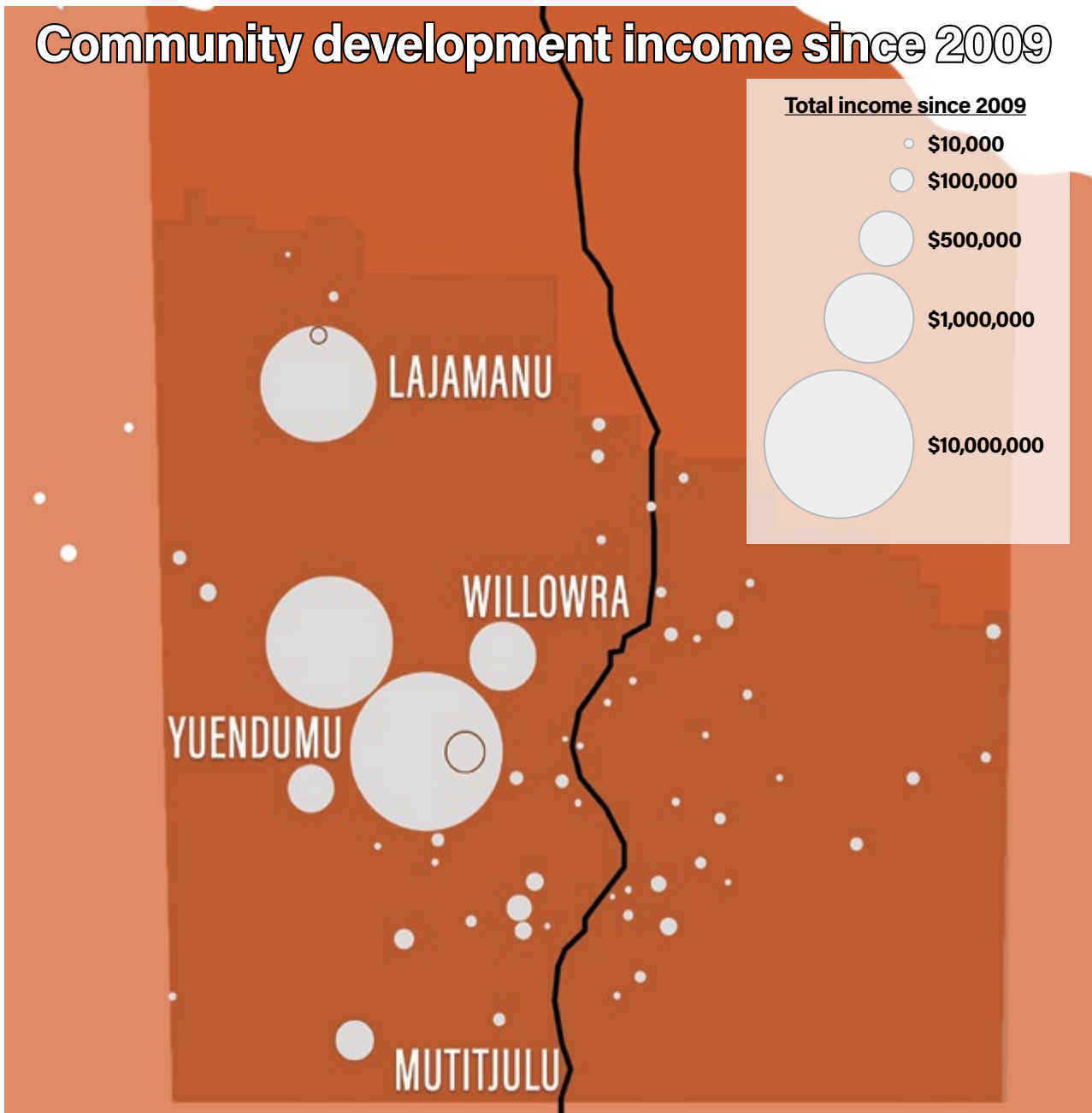
inDigiMOB digital mentors Karim Timms and Jacob Presley produce resources in PAW Media's new language and culture room.



Figure 18. Meetings and consultations per income stream, 2020–21



## Community development income since 2009



# OUTPUT GROUP 5

## OUTPUT 5.1. DISTRIBUTIONS

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

The CLC is responsible for distributing income from the use of Aboriginal land. It deposits this income in the land use trust account and distributes based upon council decisions and in accordance with the instructions of traditional Aboriginal owners and the relevant legislation. Funds are generally paid to Aboriginal corporations incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act), as may be required by agreements under the provisions of ALRA Part IV Mining, but in other cases may be paid to or for the benefit of the traditional Aboriginal owners of the relevant land, for example lease payments.

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

The CLC's Aboriginal Associations Management Centre not only distributes funds to Aboriginal corporations, it also helps them to administer their obligations under the CATSI Act to distribute funds to, or for the benefit of, their members. Corporations can choose to engage the centre's services, subject to an agreement about cost recovery. The services are specified in a letter of engagement, confirmed at the corporation's annual general meeting. Total distributions to all corporations in 2020–21 was \$30.3 million, up from \$19.9 million the previous year. The lifting of COVID-19 border restrictions between the NT and Western Australia enabled this increase in distributed funds.

### PERFORMANCE

Table 24. Compliance with the CATSI Act and services provided to corporations

Annual general meetings and directors meetings/ income distribution instructions taken	29
Directors meetings	29
Income distribution instruction meetings	105
Corporations' statutory financial statements to be lodged with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations	31
Trust statements lodged with Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	2

### GOOD GOVERNANCE – ABORIGINAL CORPORATIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE CLC

The CLC is unable to offer financial advice to the Aboriginal corporations it administers. As the investment funds of the corporations grow, their boards are developing the capacity to make investment decisions or to engage appropriate advice.

The Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) and Kurra Aboriginal Corporation continued their largely self-funded governance program, commenced in 2016–17. The program was designed to strengthen the boards of directors' capacity in, and understanding of, corporate, financial and investment governance. In 2020–21 Mark Lewis Consulting Services delivered two multi-day applied learning workshops for each corporation. These workshops were tailored to each board and aimed to build culturally appropriate and legitimate governance capacity. The CLC is monitoring and evaluating the program to assess progress and to suggest improvements as the learning progresses. Recently, both GMAAAC and Kurra directors decided to extend this governance program for a further three years.

### INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE – GMAAAC AND KURRA

In addition to strengthening directors' governance capacity with the Good Governance Program, Price Waterhouse Cooper Indigenous Consulting has been engaged to assist directors of both the GMAAAC and Kurra Aboriginal Corporation to develop and implement a tender process for the selection of investment advisors for those corporations. The engagement of investment advisors will enable the directors to realise their long-held vision of ensuring significant funds are secure and growing for the benefit of future generations. It is anticipated that both corporations will have engaged appropriate financial advisors by the end of 2021.



## LEASING

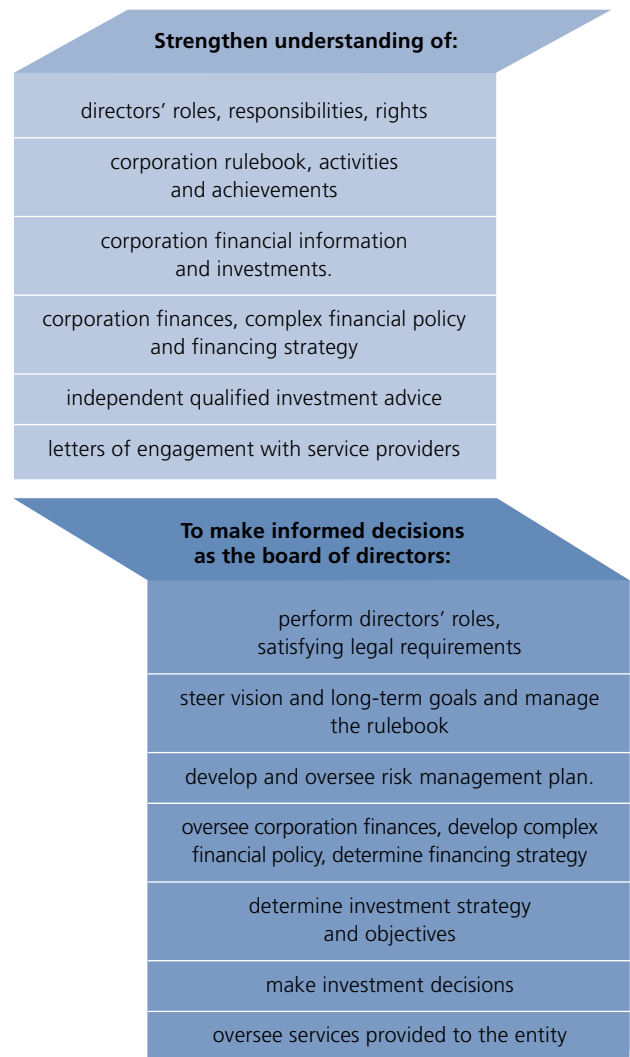
The granting of leases and licences over Aboriginal land generates a significant income for traditional owners. Rental income is applied, in accordance with their instructions, through the CLC’s community development program and the Aboriginal Associations Management Centre.

The centre manages the distribution of leasing income when traditional owners decide to distribute money among themselves.

The CLC conducted five consultations to receive standing instructions from traditional owners about the distribution of rental income and held 18 meetings to distribute income.

It prepared five traditional owner identifications to ensure the right people were consulted about the distribution of income. Most payments were for exploration and mining-related compensation. The CLC also made distributions for gravel extraction access payments and lease payments.

Figure 19. Good governance program aims



Michaeline Wilson, Daniel Gallagher, Zenaida Gallagher, Jacob Spencer, Kieran Michaels and Ben Gallagher participated in GMAAAC governance training and planning at Nyirrpri.



Judith Martin, Marjorie Brown and Jean Brown took part in governance training for Aboriginal corporation directors.

## OUTPUT 5.2 ADMINISTER LAND TRUSTS

Aboriginal land is formally held by land trusts, that is, by 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 are statutory entities and usually consist of a chair and not less than three members who hold office for up to 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 and to exercise powers to acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property for the benefit of the traditional owners. Where land is granted in a deed of grant held in escrow (that is, 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), the function of a land trust is 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. Such directions are provided only after identification of, and consultation with, the traditional owners and on the basis of their informed consent.

Figure 20. Land tenure in the CLC region, 2020–21

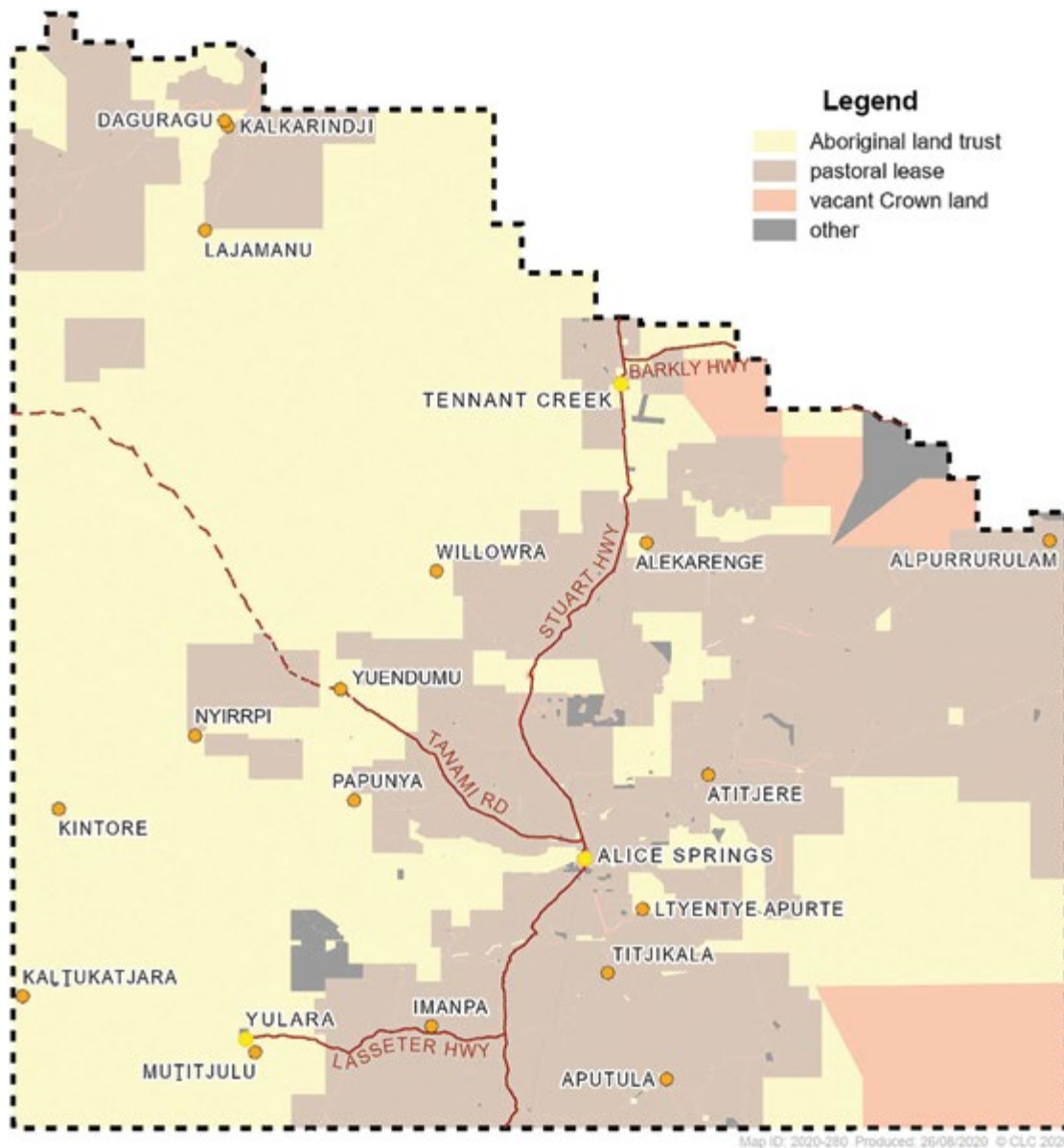




Table 25. Aboriginal land trusts in the CLC region, 2020–21

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
Atnerrperke Aboriginal Land Trust (Trephina Gorge Nature Park)
Atnetye Aboriginal Land Trust
Atwengerrpe Aboriginal Land Trust
Ayleparrantenhe Aboriginal Land Trust (Devils Marbles)
Bilinarra-Jutpurra Aboriginal Land Trust (Gregory National Park)
Central Desert Aboriginal Land Trust
Daguragu Aboriginal Land Trust
Erterlapentye 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
Interkewarre Aboriginal Land Trust (Chambers Pillar)
Iwupataka Aboriginal Land Trust
Kanttaji Aboriginal Land Trust
Karlantijpa North Aboriginal Land Trust
Karlantijpa South Aboriginal Land Trust
Katitji 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
Mangkurrupa Aboriginal Land Trust
Melkngce Aboriginal Land Trust

Mount Frederick Aboriginal Land Trust
Mount Frederick 2 Aboriginal Land Trust
Mpwelarre Aboriginal Land Trust
Mpweringe-Arnapipe Aboriginal Land Trust
Mungkarta Aboriginal Land Trust
Ngalurrju Aboriginal Land Trust
Ntaria Aboriginal Land Trust
Pantyinteme Aboriginal Land Trust
Pawu Aboriginal Land Trust
Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust
Pmere Ulperre Ingwemirne Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust
Pmere Nyente Aboriginal Land Trust
Purta Aboriginal Land Trust
Pwanye Aboriginal Land Trust
Pwanye 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)
Tyurrettye Aboriginal Land Trust (West MacDonnell National Park including Simpsons Gap and Simpsons Gap Extension)
Uluru – Kata Tjuta Aboriginal Land Trust
Uremerne Land Aboriginal Land (Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation)
Uretyingke Aboriginal Land Trust
Urrampinyi Iltjiltjarri 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
Wirliyarrayi 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 26. NT park land trusts

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)

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).



# OUTPUT 5.3 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

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

Various types of disputes in the CLC region have some link with land. Analysis of disputes affecting CLC constituents indicates there are four broad, interrelated 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 section 25 of the Land Rights Act and section 203BF of the Native Title Act to help resolve disputes that relate to land; however, disputes within each of the identified categories affect the CLC’s functions.

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

The CLC developed a traditional owner dispute management framework and an engagement strategy aimed at managing these functions better. The framework and strategy are being implemented within the 2018–22 corporate plan. The framework reflects the following principles:

- the empowerment of Aboriginal groups, families and individuals to identify and manage their own disputes
- a reduced reliance on the CLC or any external parties in relation to mediating disputes
- a policy of ‘wait to be asked’ for assistance but respond in a consistent and timely manner, recognising that a timely response can lessen the likelihood of exacerbation of a dispute

- the recognition that disputes are a part of systems and structures where numerous external parties and factors are likely to be causing or exacerbating disputes
- the recognition that the work of the CLC may unintentionally cause or exacerbate a dispute
- the recognition that getting the decision-making processes of the group right is a major preventative measure
- a 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 executive is briefed about the progress of dispute resolution processes and advised 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 the identification of those involved, disputes are not the subject of individual reports.

Anthropological advice informs the mediation or resolution of minor ongoing issues. During 2020–21 anthropologists contributed advice in relation to three disputes, researched connections to an area and prepared a report for the directors of a prescribed body corporate regarding membership applications.





## 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 sustainably and productively.

#### 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.

#### NATIVE TITLE

Native title is the legal term used by the Australian High Court to describe the rights and interests Aboriginal people have had over their lands for millennia before European settlement. 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 legislated in 1993. The court's subsequent Wik judgment of December 1996 further determined that native title could coexist with other rights held under pastoral leases.

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 them 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 section 203 of the Native Title Act. In this capacity, the CLC has statutory functions to facilitate and assist native title holders to make native title applications, respond to proposed future acts and negotiate agreements, resolve disputes between groups, and assist prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs, native title holder corporations) to manage and protect native title rights and interests. In 2018 the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs granted the CLC re-recognition as a native title representative body for a maximum of six years to June 2024.

The CLC continued to certify native title applications for determination, and applications for registration for indigenous land use agreements in a timely manner. Native title determination and ILUA applications are presented to council meetings for certification, before being dispatched to the National Native Title Tribunal for registration.

The CLC has a multidisciplinary team of 24 native title-funded positions. It also engaged nine consultants on native title matters. Its anthropologists completed 25 native title holder identifications in preparation for meetings where the native title holders considered exploration licence applications and other activities and gave advice at the meetings. The anthropologists also completed 20 research activities and assisted with seven native title claims.

#### *National Native Title Council*

As a member of the National Native Title Council, the CLC contributed to the council's submissions, discussions and representations to government on matters of national importance. It supported the council's submission to the Senate inquiry into Juukan Gorge, participated in a presentation on the co-design of a constitutionally enshrined voice to the Australian Parliament and discussions on amendments to the National Native Title Council's constitution. Council representatives contributed to the development of the program of the CLC's prescribed bodies corporate camp, a regional forum for native title holder corporation directors, and attended the forum. The CLC's native title manager was appointed deputy chair of the council.



## Native title consent determinations

### WAVE HILL

On 8 September 2020 Justice White handed down a non-exclusive native title consent determination over Wave Hill Station, almost 5,500 square kilometres, during a special sitting of the Federal Court at Jinbarak, the location of the historic station homestead. The determination recognised the native title rights and interests of the Jamangku, Japuwuny, Parlakuna-Palkinykarni and Yilyiyimawu landholding groups to access, hunt, gather and fish on the land and waters, to use their resources, and to conduct cultural activities and ceremonies in the area. These rights will coexist with the rights of the leaseholders. They will be held by the Jinparrak Aboriginal Corporation, which was registered as a native title body corporate in October 2020.

The CLC filed the native title application with the Federal Court in November 2016, as a result of interest by mining companies in land on and near the claim area and concerns raised by native title holders about the protection of sites and areas of cultural and historical significance associated with events leading up to the 1966 Wave Hill Walk Off (see CLC history). In 2007 Jinbarak and the approximately 40-kilometre route the strikers walked was listed on Australia’s National Heritage List, as the event and place hold significant heritage values.

### LIMBUNYA

On 10 September 2020 the Federal Court held a special sitting at the Karungkarni arts and culture centre in Kalkaringi, where Justice White handed down a non-exclusive native title consent determination over Limbunya Station, some 5,218 square kilometres. The decision recognised the native title rights and interests of the Nawurlala, Parayi-Kakaru, Tjutamalin and Central Limbunya landholding groups, which will co-exist with the rights of the pastoral leaseholders.



Cedrina Algy and her son Tom at the Wave Hill determination.

The native title application was filed in January 2017, following interest from mining companies and native title holders’ concerns about the protection of sites and areas of cultural and historical significance to native title holders. The station was once part of Lord Vestey’s cattle empire, on which conditions were difficult for Aboriginal workers. They and their families were transferred between stations in the region, and across state and territory borders. They joined the Wave Hill families in their strike for improved wages and living conditions. Limbunya was the childhood home of Vincent Lingiari, one of the leaders of the 1966 walk-off.

The Malapa Aboriginal Corporation was registered as the native title body corporate in October 2020.



Mathew Algy cut the cake at the Wave Hill native title determination. Centre: CLC chair Sammy Wilson.





Limbunya Station native title holder Becky Peters with Justice Richard White.

## JINKA AND JERVOIS

On 5 May 2021 Justice Charlesworth handed down a determination by consent at a special sitting of the Federal Court at the Bonya community, approximately 340 kilometres northeast of Alice Springs, near the Queensland border. The determination area comprised the whole of Jinka and Jervois stations and a disused 60-kilometre stock route and stock reserve, an area of almost 5,000 square kilometres. It recognised the native title rights and interests of nine eastern Arrernte landholding groups.

The CLC filed the native title application in May 2018, in response to renewed mining interest on the stations and the native title holders' concerns about the protection of places of cultural and historical significance. The stock route, which passed through both pastoral leases, crosses sacred hills that are part of a site of immense importance to native title holders – the *Two Eaglehawk Dreaming*. The determination area also held historical significance to native title holders, particularly those families who worked in the copper and silver mines dating back to the 1920.

It was the first claim concerning the grant of a stock route to a pastoralist that the NT Government chose to contest in court. The government argued that only extinguishing or regulating native title should trigger the protections of the Native Title act, therefore was not required to consult with native title holders before allowing pastoralists to include old stock routes in their pastoral leases. The argument was also applied equally to the grant of mineral titles. However, on the eve of the Federal Court hearing, the government withdrew its argument and the court ruled in March 2020 that the pastoral lease over the stock route was invalid. The ruling confirmed the pastoralist could not interfere with any legal activities the native title holders undertake on the stock route.

The Ingkekure Aboriginal Corporation was registered as the native title body corporate in June 2021.

## Revised determination

In *Western Australia v Brown [2014] HCA 8*, the High Court found that the construction of homesteads and bores does not extinguish native title on pastoral leases. Following this judgement and an order made by Justice White in 2018, in a number of Northern Land Council pastoral lease native title applications, the CLC intervened in proceedings before the Federal Court to enable clarification of the legal issues in the Minyerri–Banka Banka matters in the NLC region. Senior counsel for the CLC argued that the terms of the consent determinations would affect claimants in the CLC region. In December 2019 the court accepted the CLC's submissions. It confirmed that improvements on a pastoral lease, such as the homestead, do not extinguish native title and should not be separately referred to in a native title determination.



Keepers of the cake at the Jinka Jervois native title determination.



In 2020–21 the CLC, on behalf of the Ilperrelhelam Aboriginal Corporation, applied to the court to vary schedule C of the approved native title determination in the Lake Nash and Georgina Downs determination by removing references to extinguishment of native title due to pastoral improvements.

During 2020-21 the Federal Court handed down revised determinations over seven existing determined areas which benefited from the above Federal Court ruling.

## COMPENSATION APPLICATIONS

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

## LITIGATION

### *Karinga Lakes expedited procedure objection*

The CLC was instructed by the Karinga Lakes native title claimants to bring an expedited procedure objection in relation to tenements overlapping a series of sacred salt lakes. Concerns about mining activity on those sites was a major motivation for the preparation of the Karinga Lakes native title claim. This is only the second expedited procedure objection brought in the NT in the last 18 years. The CLC instructed counsel to assist its in-house lawyers. During the reporting period, it prepared and submitted a significant body of evidence, including an expert report and gender-restricted evidence from native title claimants. It pursued an unsuccessful jurisdictional challenge relating to the NT’s notification process. The CLC has considered further legal steps in relation to the notification issues. It completed all evidence and submissions in the substantive objection proceeding, and the matter is now awaiting a decision from the president of the National Native Title Tribunal.

### *Karinga Lakes case management*

The CLC engaged counsel to appear at two case management hearings, as an in-house lawyer provided evidence relevant to those hearings. The issue related to provision of connection

materials to pastoralists, and was ultimately resolved by confidential negotiation.

### *Singleton water licence review application*

The CLC engaged senior counsel to prepare for and assist with applications for ministerial review, and possible judicial review, in relation to the decision to grant a large water allocation to the lessee of the Singleton pastoral lease. The ministerial review process is currently underway.

## CLAIMANT APPLICATIONS

The CLC pursues native title determinations to achieve recognition and protection of native title rights and deliver beneficial outcomes for native title holders. It organised 24 meetings and consultations relating to native title applications and significantly progressed anthropological research, preparation and delivery of several consent determination reports.

Anthropologists completed 14 research activities in preparation for meetings for native title claims, including Anningie, Mt Skinner - Woodgreen, Northern Territory Portion 2138, Ambalindum and the Garden and the Lilla Creek native title claims, as well as three consent determinations.

At 30 June 2021 the CLC had five active native title claimant applications registered with the tribunal, expanded its native title investigations to include research into claimants’ rights to take and use resources on the land for any purpose they require. Claimants who have their rights recognised in this manner will be able to more easily use the recognition of native title rights as a basis for economic development. If the anthropological research supports the existence of this right, the CLC will be advising native title claimants to include recognition of their economic entitlements in future determinations.

### KARINGA LAKES (NTD3/2020)

The CLC filed an application over the Curtin Springs, Lyndavale and Erldunda stations on 13 February 2020 to protect an extensive and significant sacred site and secure native title holders’ interests over the pastoral leases.



Jinka Jervois native title holders, Justice Charlesworth and CLC staff in Bonya.

Table 27. Revised Federal Court determinations, 2020–21

Application Name	File number and date filed	Location	Revised Determination	Registered native title body corporate	Initial determination number and date filed
Napperby # 2 Pastoral Lease	NTD26/2018 16/7/2018	Napperby Station	19/8/2020	Alherramp Ilwerr Mamp Arrangkey Tywerl Aboriginal Corporation	NTD4/2011 2/7/2013
Mt Doreen Pastoral Lease	NTD29/2018 17/7/2018	Mt Doreen Station	19/8/2020	Ngalyia Aboriginal Corporation	NTD39/2011 3/7/2013
Kurundi Perpetual Pastoral Lease	NTD36/2018 5/9/2018	Kurundi Station	19/8/2020	Mitata Aboriginal Corporation	NTD6017/2001 14/7/2011
Neutral Junction Pastoral Lease	NTD38/2018 17/9/2018	Neutral Junction (Crawford Range) Station	19/8/2020	Kaytetye Tywerate Arengge Aboriginal Corporation	NTD13/2008 13/7/2011
Singleton Pastoral Lease	NTD42/2018 8/10/2018	Singleton Station	19/8/2020	Mpwerempwer Aboriginal Corporation	NTD6011/2000 7/9/2010
Pmarra Tjurritja Alturla Aboriginal Corporation (registered native title body corporate)	NTD9/2020 16/4/2020	Glen Helen Station	1/4/2021	Pmarra Tjurritja Alturla Aboriginal Corporation	NTD34/2010 25/9/2012
Ilperrelhelam Aboriginal Corporation (registered native title body corporate)	NTD15/2020 9/9/2020	Lake Nash/Georgina Downs stations	16/6/2021	Ilperrelhelam Aboriginal Corporation	NTD6061/2001 15/8/2012

#### UNEMARRE ARLATYEYE POLYGON CLAIM (NTD10/2020)

The CLC filed an application on 28 April 2020, which was very quickly assessed and registered by the NNTT. It was filed to secure the right to negotiate in relation to a mineral lease application on The Garden Station. The right applies to the area of the mineral lease. The CLC is incorporating this claim into a larger claim over the Ambalindum and The Garden stations, once that claim is filed.

#### ILPERRELHELAM ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC (NTD15/2020)

The CLC filed an application on 9 September 2020 to revise the existing determination over the Lake Nash and Georgina Downs stations. The application sought to amend the reference to the pastoral improvements outlined in schedule C. A revised determination was handed down on 16 June 2021.

#### HUCKITTA (NTD18/2020)

An application was filed on 23 December 2020, and registered with the NNTT on 10 October 2021. A summary anthropology report and additional anthropology report, relating to research into claimants' rights to take and use resources on the land for any purpose, was served on the NT Government.

#### AMBALINDUM/THE GARDENS (NTD5/2021)

An application was filed on 4 June 2021, and is in notification period until 10 November 2021.

#### Current applications and claims under research

The anthropology reports and material regarding the Karinga Lakes, the Unemarre Arlatyeye Polygon claim, and Huckitta and Ambalindum/The Gardens claims were finalised in the reporting period enabling the completion and lodging of the claims. A revised application was lodged on behalf of the Ilperrelhelam Aboriginal Corporation. Anthropological research continued and progressed in the Simpson Desert, on the Anningie, Mount Skinner and Woodgreen, Horseshoe Bend, Lilla Creek and Idracowra stations and on NT Portion 2138.

#### FUTURE ACTS

Mining future acts (mining or exploration proposals with the potential to impact on native title rights and interests) are the largest driver of the CLC's native title work program, although the number of exploration tenements notified under section 29 of the Native Title Act has fluctuated considerably year by year.

The ongoing administration of future acts is a high priority for the CLC, which has continued to notify native title holders and claimants about future acts. The CLC maintains a register of applications and informs all applicants about the native title process and its preference for negotiated agreements. Its anthropologists provided advice and support in 17 instances in relation to mining future acts, and in nine instances related to non-mining future acts.



### Mining and exploration future acts

All applications for exploration licences in the NT include a statement from the NT Government that the grant attracts an 'expedited procedure', as outlined in section 237 of the Native Title Act. This sets a strict time limit of four months within which native title holders can lodge an objection.

The CLC responded to 25 notifications under section 29, and six other notifications under the *Northern Territory Mineral Titles Act*. It assessed each notification for its potential impact on native title rights and interests and undertook 37 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.

The CLC assisted a prescribed body corporate to negotiate an agreement for a mining application on Derry Downs Station, and assisted a native title applicant group to challenge the validity of notices issued by the NT Government in order to secure stronger procedural rights for the native title group. The challenge was not successful. In support of an objection to the exploration licences applications over sacred salt lakes in the Karinga Lakes claim area, previously submitted to the National Native Title Tribunal, the CLC provided restricted evidence about the importance of the lakes to Anangu, and presented evidence about environmental concerns about the lakes, including from affected pastoralists. The tribunal's president is considering all information before making a decision. Whatever the result, the CLC will continue to assist the native title claimants to protect their sacred sites.

### Mining and exploration agreements

Table 28 shows native title exploration and mining matters and decisions for 20–21 and the allocation of compensation to native title holders flowing from agreements.

Exploration agreements	1
Mining agreements	0
Distribution of compensation monies	10
Miscellaneous	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>

### Non-mining future acts

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

## INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENTS

The CLC secures beneficial outcomes for native title holders through negotiated indigenous land use and other agreements, including agreements under section 31 of the Native Title Act. It has 91 agreements registered with the tribunal, is awaiting the registration of another one and is negotiating an additional three.



CLC chair Sammy Wilson and Alison Carroll at the prescribed bodies corporate camp at Ross River.

Table 29. Indigenous land use agreements finalised and registered, 2020–21

Registered
Defence Commercial Power Project ILUA – registered on 23/11/2020
Mount Riddock CLA NTP 6326 (A) – registered 17/11/2020
Dingo Gas Pipeline Agreement ILUA – registered 16/7/2020
Dingo Production Agreement ILUA – registered 16/7/2020
Registration Pending
Extension of waste management facility – Tennant Creek
In Negotiation
Kalkaringi – land release and swap, construction of public housing
Suplejack Station – exploration agreements (renegotiation)
Tennant Creek – juvenile detention facility – fossicking area – Barkly work camp (renegotiation)
Newhaven Station – conservation program and feral proof fence
Orange Creek Station and Owen Springs Station – land swap
Neutral Junction Station – irrigated agriculture (non-pastoral use permit application)



Johnny Barber and Roger Tommy took part in the prescribed bodies corporate camp.

## New and revised applications

Table 30. Applications lodged and research progressed, 2020–21

2020–21 Applications lodged with the National Native Title Tribunal	Applications current at 1 July 2021	2020–21 Revised applications prepared	2020–21 Research or other assistance completed	2020–21 Anthropological research progressed
<b>New</b>				
Ambalindum/The Garden stations (NTD5/2021) Date filed: 13/4/2021 Date registered: 4/6/2021 In notification (11/8/2021 to 10/11/2021)	Ambalindum/ The Garden stations (NTD5/2021)	Ilperrelhelam Aboriginal Corporation registered native title body corporate (NTD15/2020)	Mount Skinner/ Woodgreen stations	Simpson Desert
Huckitta Station (NTD18/2020) Date filed: 23/10/2020 Date registered: 4/12/2020 Notification complete	Huckitta Station (NTD18/2020)		NT Portion 2138	Horseshoe Bend Station
<b>Revised</b>				
Ilperrelhelam Aboriginal Corporation registered native title body corporate (NTD15/2020) Date filed: 9/9/2020 No registration decision for this native title claim	Unemarre Arlatyeye Polygon claim (NTD10/2020)		Anningie Station	Lilla Creek Station
	Karinga Lakes (NTD3/2020)			Idracowra Station





## POST DETERMINATION ASSISTANCE

Table 31. Assistance delivered to prescribed bodies corporate, 2020–21

Aboriginal corporation	Area	Type of assistance
Akwerrperl Aboriginal Corporation	Bushy Park	Assisted the corporation to hold an annual general meeting and lodge its general report. Provided a briefing on mining exploration and the Woodgreen Conservation Reserve.
Alherramp Ilewerr Mamp Arrangkey Tywerl Aboriginal Corporation	Napperby Station	Assisted the corporation hold its annual general meeting and lodge its general report. Provided an update and sought instructions on the exploration license application, and undertook anthropological research to support consultations. Additional consultations undertaken to inform native title holders of the withdrawal of Exploration license application.
Eynewantheyne Aboriginal Corporation	Stirling and Neutral Junction stations	Assisted the corporation to hold an information meeting for native title holders and sought instructions about compliance with a future act agreement. Supported directors attended the PBC camp.
Gurindji Aboriginal Corporation	Kalkaringi township	Supported the corporation with negotiations of an indigenous land use agreement about a land release and construction of public housing.
Ilkewartn Ywel Aboriginal Corporation	Pine Hill Station (east)	Assisted directors to hold a meeting to discuss progress of the corporation's water licence application, and sought instructions following a request for further information relating to the application. Supported directors attended the PBC Camp.
Irretyepwenty Ywentent Pwert Aboriginal Corporation	Aileron Station	Supported directors attended the PBC camp.
Kaytetye Alyawarr Awenyerraperte Ingkerr-wenh Aboriginal Corporation	Sandover (Ammaroo, Derry Downs, Murray Downs and Elkedra stations)	Assisted the corporation to hold a native title holder meeting to provide information on native title, the role and function of a prescribed body corporate and its directors, and an update on current and proposed exploration activity. Assisted native title holders negotiate a native title agreement for a mining application on Derry Downs Station. Facilitated a preliminary discussion about directing community lease funds to the prescribed body corporate for community benefit. Supported directors attended the PBC camp.
Kaytetye Tywerate Arengge Aboriginal Corporation	Neutral Junction Station (Crawford Range)	Assisted the corporation to hold a native title holder meeting to provide information on a water licence application. Facilitated a presentation by the NT Government about the Western Davenport water allocation plan, and by a proponent about a horticulture project and proposed water licence.
Kwaty Aboriginal Corporation	Aileron Station	Assisted the corporation to hold a native title holder meeting to provide an update on mining activities and sought instructions to nominate the prescribed body corporate to distribute compensation funds. Assisted the corporation to hold a general meeting to amend its rule book about the distribution of compensation funds. Assisted directors to hold four meetings to review membership applications and engage the Aboriginal Associations Management Centre to distribute compensation, establish a bank account and apply for an Australian business number and a tax file number.



Aboriginal corporation	Area	Type of assistance
Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation	Alice Springs township	Met with the corporation's chief executive officer to receive an update on negotiations about an indigenous land use agreement and other projects.  Distributed income from an NT Parks and Wildlife Division agreement.
Mpwerempwer Aboriginal Corporation	Singleton Station	Assisted native title holders to attend a large meeting to obtain information about a water licence application for a large horticulture project, and sought instructions to undertake research on cultural and environmental impacts of the application.  Assisted directors to hold a meeting to assess a membership application and obtain a briefing on the Western Davenport water allocation plan. Supported directors to attend the PBC camp.
Ngaliya Aboriginal Corporation	Mount Doreen Station	Supported directors to attend the PBC camp.
Ngurramarla Aboriginal Corporation	Tennant Creek Station	Assisted the corporation to undertake consultations and conduct work area clearances within existing exploration licenses.  Supported directors to attend the PBC camp.
Ooratippra Aboriginal Corporation	Ooratippra Station	Assisted the corporation to hold an annual general meeting, discuss sub-lease arrangements and lodge its general report.  Assisted the directors to hold three meetings about the corporation's cattle operations and accept a new membership application.  Supported directors to attend the PBC camp.
Patta Aboriginal Corporation	Tennant Creek township	Assisted the corporation to hold 11 directors meetings, an annual general meeting and lodge its general report.  Assisted the directors to give instructions about proposed indigenous land use agreements for the establishment of a youth justice facility, and the finalisation on an indigenous land use agreement about the extension of the Tennant Creek waste management facility. Assisted the directors to hold a native title holder meeting to authorise that agreement.  Assisted the directors to consider training and funding options to increase the corporations' capacity to participate in working groups implementing and monitoring Barkly Regional Deal projects. Supported directors to attend the PBC camp.
Pine Hill West Aboriginal Corporation	Pine Hill Station (west)	Assisted the corporation to hold an annual general meeting and lodge its general report.  Supported directors to attend the PBC camp.
Rodinga Aboriginal Corporation	Maryvale Station	Assisted the corporation to hold its annual general meeting and lodge its general report.  Assisted the corporation to hold two meetings of native title holders and sought instructions on two mining activities.  Supported directors to attend the PBC camp.
Twenga Aboriginal Corporation	Henbury Station	Supported directors to attend the PBC camp.
Tyatyekwenhe Aboriginal Corporation	Andado and New Crown stations	Supported directors to attend the PBC camp.
Tywele Aboriginal Corporation	Mount Riddock Station	Assisted the corporation to hold its annual general meeting, lodge its general report and to make inquiries of a company's proposed sale of assets under a native title agreement. Commenced negotiations for a native title exploration agreement for a small-scale gem project.

Aboriginal corporation	Area	Type of assistance
Warlmanpa Warumungu Aboriginal Corporation	Phillip Creek Station	Assisted the corporation to consult with native title holders and engage stakeholders on exploration interests. Facilitated discussions about an existing indigenous land use agreement about mining activities.  Supported directors to attend the PBC camp.
Wura Aboriginal Corporation	Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve	Assisted the corporation to hold its annual general meeting and lodge its general report.  Supported directors to attend the PBC camp.
Yankanjini Aboriginal Corporation	Newhaven Station Sanctuary	Assisted the corporation to hold a meeting of native title holders, undertook a country visit and facilitated a meeting with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy about an indigenous land use agreement.  Assisted the directors hold a meeting to provide an update on the agreement and discuss strategies to increase membership.
Yankunytjara Matutjara Aboriginal Corporation	Umbeara, Mount Cavenagh Victory Downs and Mulga Park stations	Supported a male consultant anthropologist to undertake consultations and field research with senior male native title holders to identify the boundary of, and the extent of damage to, a significant site. Sought instructions on protection measures.  Assisted the corporation to hold its annual general meeting and lodge its general report.  Supported directors to attend the PBC camp.

## PRESCRIBED BODY CORPORATE REGIONAL FORUM

The CLC organised Central Australia's second prescribed body corporate regional forum in June 2021, better known as its PBC camp.

The forum provided an opportunity for native title holders and other stakeholders to learn about current native title issues, amendments to legislation, explore opportunities and share experiences and success stories. The National Native Title Council and National Indigenous Australians Agency supported the event.

Approximately 100 representative of 22 prescribed bodies corporate from across the CLC region and the south west region of Western Australia and native title support services, met at the Ross River Resort, east of Alice Springs.

Presenters addressed good governance, relationships with stakeholders in the native title system and economic development opportunities. Participants discussed common challenges and learnt how to access resources and assistance to assess and support projects.

Participants workshopped audio translations by the Aboriginal Interpreter Service of the CLC's booklet *Native Title Story* in six Aboriginal languages, including one recording in English.

## DISPUTE RESOLUTION

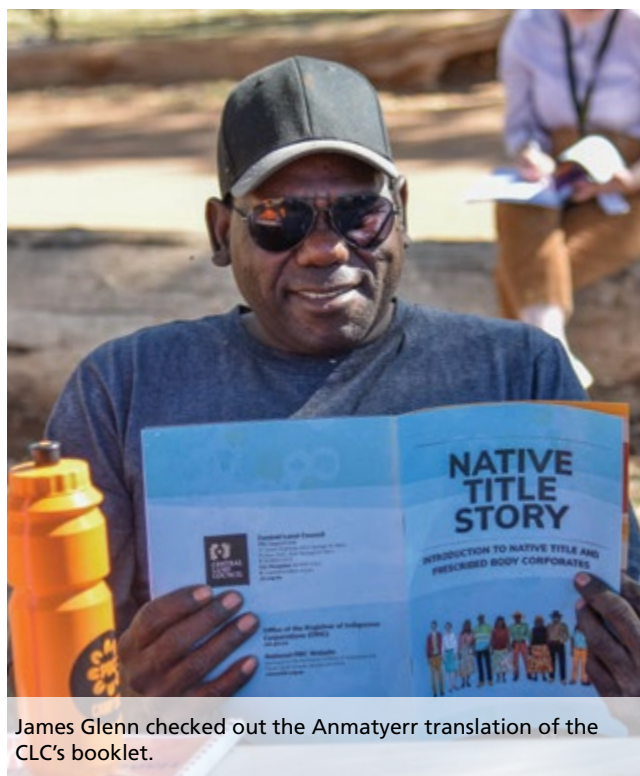
There have been no major disputes relating to native title claims. In order to prevent and deal with future disputes, the CLC helped two staff members to gain mediation skills and become accredited through the Australian National Mediator Accreditation System.

### *Alternative procedure agreements*

The CLC did not enter into alternative procedure agreements.

### *Body corporate agreements*

The CLC did not enter into prescribed body corporate service agreements.



James Glenn checked out the Anmatyerr translation of the CLC's booklet.



# CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

## MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The responsibilities are:

- best practice accounting, financial management, 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's risk appetite
- procurement of funds to sustain and advance corporate and operational plans and performance of statutory functions, promoting indigenous business
- compliance with all statutory regulatory requirements including privacy considerations
- staff recruitment, training and development opportunities for administering Aboriginal corporations.

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### Estimates and review

Estimates of administrative expenditure are submitted annually to the minister. Additional estimates requests for essential additional resources are submitted only as required. Approved estimates fund operational expenses, salaries and wages, and capital expenditure. The minister originally approved \$31.22 million funding from the ABA, and subsequently approved a variation of \$22 million for economic stimulus for 2020–21 and a further \$14.7 million for 2021–22.

### Reporting

A half-yearly performance and operations report was submitted to the minister in February 2021 in accordance with funding agreement and legislative obligations. The Australian National Audit Office performs the annual audit of the financial

statements to determine compliance and that the statements present fairly the financial position, performance and cash flows. Its audit opinion indicates that the statements are free from material misstatement.

## FINANCE SYSTEM

The finance software package used for financial management control is known as Microsoft NAV.

## RISK MANAGEMENT AND FRAUD CONTROL

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 using the fraud incident register, which is continually updated. 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 within the appropriate financial expenditure authorities' framework and are reviewed every July. The review takes into account changes in the value of money and the organisation's structure.

A code of conduct prescribes workplace personal and professional behaviour.

## AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

The audit committee has four independent members: Beverley Russ (accounting manager), Danny Masters (lawyer), Bruce Walker (chair/director) and Adrian Watts (accountant). The committee met five times. It oversees an agreed work plan and audit charter, and reports annually to the Accountable Authority. A review of the PGPA Act recommended that Commonwealth entity audit committee members be independent. All audit committee members are independent.

Table 32. Audit and risk committee, 2020–21

Member	Bruce Walker	Danny Masters	Adrian Watts	Beverly Russ
Fees and reimbursements	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$5,000
Qualifications and experience	Former chief executive officer of the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Central Australian resident for three decades with extensive knowledge of the region.	Lawyer with extensive experience and knowledge of Central Australia.	Chartered accountant with qualifications in accounting and auditing and knowledge of audit committee and commonwealth authority audit requirements.	Chartered certified accountant with qualifications in accounting and auditing.

## Employee profile

Table 33. Fulltime and parttime staff expressed as fulltime equivalent, 2020–21

Over the 20-21 period (Paid FTE)	FTE	Aboriginal	%	Non-Aboriginal	%	Female	%	Male	%
CL 1	1.3	1.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.32	0.1
CL 2	38.1	38.1	15.8	0.0	0.0	7.4	3.1	30.72	12.8
CL 3	11.7	10.6	4.4	1.2	0.5	5.1	2.1	6.65	2.8
CL 4	29.3	21.3	8.9	8.0	3.3	14.5	6.0	14.73	6.1
CL 5	29.5	14.0	5.8	15.5	6.4	16.4	6.8	13.08	5.4
CL 6	81.4	17.1	7.1	64.3	26.8	40.0	16.7	41.40	17.2
SO C	25.8	2.2	0.9	23.6	9.8	17.8	7.4	7.94	3.3
SO B	8.6	1.0	0.4	7.6	3.2	4.2	1.8	4.39	1.8
SO A	10.8	1.0	0.4	9.8	4.1	5.2	2.2	5.60	2.3
EM	1.0	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.4	-	0.0
SES1	2.0	-	0.0	2.0	0.8	-	0.0	2.00	0.8
SES2	1.0	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	1.05	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>240.5</b>	<b>108.6</b>	<b>45.2</b>	<b>132.0</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>112.7</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>127.9</b>	<b>53.2</b>

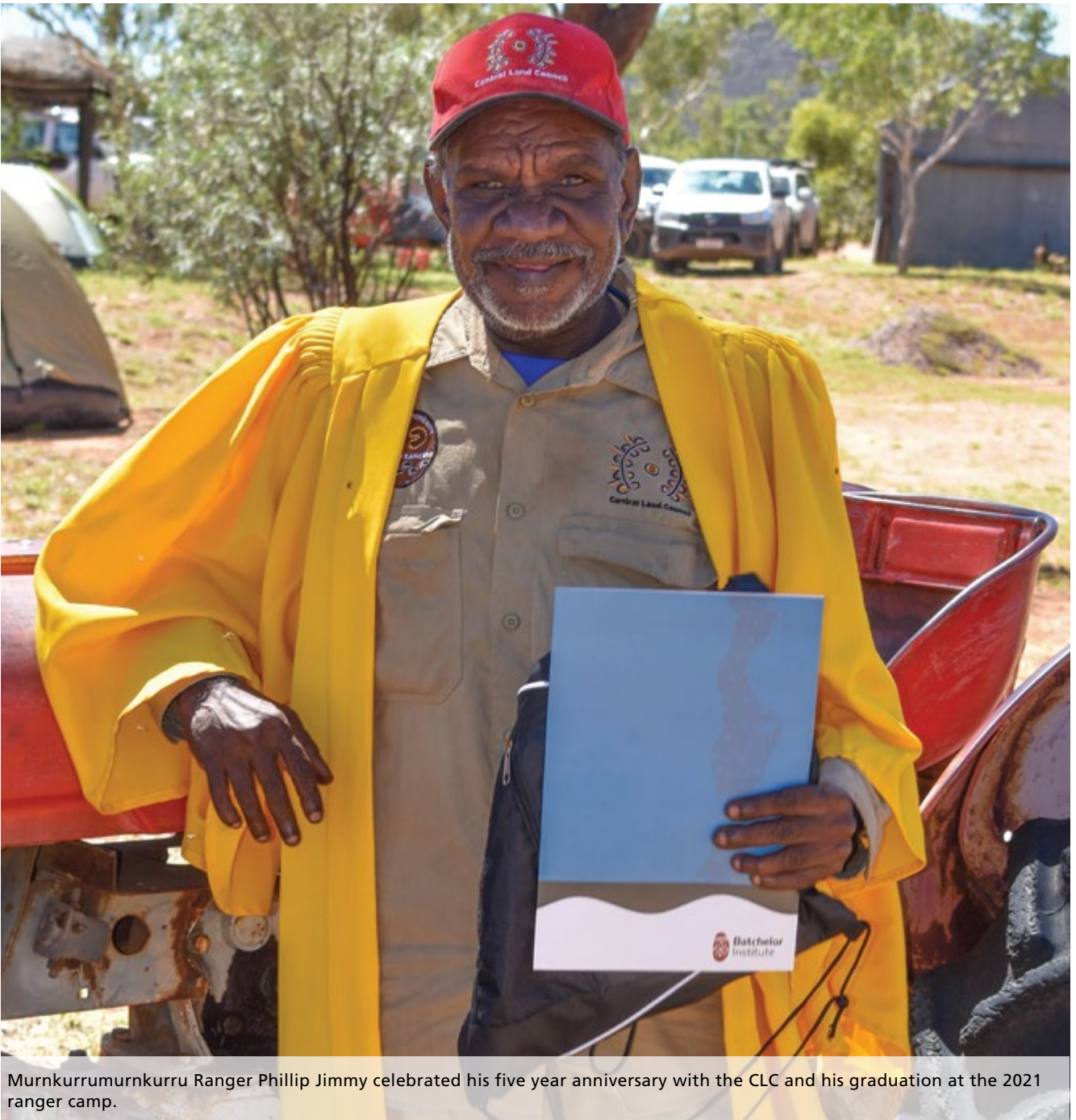
Table 34. Fulltime and parttime staff (head count) at 30 June 2021

30 June 2021 Headcount	F/T and P/T	Aboriginal	%	Non-Aboriginal	%	Female	%	Male	%
CL 1	2	2	0.7	-	-	2	0.7	-	-
CL 2	49	49	18.2	-	-	10	3.7	39	14.5
CL 3	15	13	4.8	2	0.7	8	3.0	7	2.6
CL 4	35	25	9.3	10	3.7	16	5.9	19	7.1
CL 5	28	14	5.2	14	5.2	15	5.6	13	4.8
CL 6	88	17	6.3	71	26.4	47	17.5	41	15.2
SO C	28	3	1.1	25	9.3	20	7.4	8	3.0
SO B	7	1	0.4	6	2.2	3	1.1	4	1.5
SO A	13	1	0.4	12	4.5	7	2.6	6	2.2
EM	1	1	0.4	-	-	1	0.4	-	-
SES1	2	-	-	2	0.7	-	-	2	0.7
SES2	1	1	0.4	-	-	-	-	1	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>52.0</b>

Table 35. Casual staff expressed as fulltime equivalent, 2020–21

Classification	Total	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Female	Male
CL 1	0.1	0.1	-	-	0.1
CL 2	5.4	5.4	-	1.4	4.0
CL 3	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	-
CL 4	1.7	1.7	-	-	1.7
CL 5	0.4	-	0.4	-	0.4
CL 6	0.2	-	0.2	0.2	-
SO C	-	-	0.0	-	0.0
SO B	0.5	-	0.5	-	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>6.7</b>





Murnkurrumurnkurru Ranger Phillip Jimmy celebrated his five year anniversary with the CLC and his graduation at the 2021 ranger camp.

## INDEMNITIES AND INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR OFFICERS

No indemnity against liability has been given by agreement or by other means to a current or former officer. The general liability and professional indemnity insurance with Comcover includes directors' and officers' liability provisions and compulsory professional indemnity insurance required by the Law Society Northern Territory for its member legal practitioners.

## JUDICIAL DECISIONS AND REVIEWS BY OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no judicial decisions or review in the 2020–21 financial year.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

The CLC employs a diverse workforce across Central Australia. Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to challenge and divert the human resources team during the entire reporting year. It nonetheless continued to support employees and employment matters through a human resources information system, payroll, recruitment and safety functions. The CLC introduced an electronic recruitment system designed to reduce the manual processes associated with workflows and improve the user experience.

## Employee relations

The *Fair Work Act 2009* and the CLC's enterprise agreement 2017–20 (which continues to apply until replaced) establish employment terms and conditions and entitlements that continue to be our key industrial instruments. The three-year term of the agreement ends on 29 March 2021. A new agreement for the next three years will offer employees a choice between an annual proposed wage increase and the terms and conditions of the current agreement or a return to bargaining. A vote is planned for the fourth quarter of 2021. Salary progression is subject to meeting the required performance standards. Performance bonuses are not paid.

## Workplace health and safety

Obligations under the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011* were met.

The work health and safety committee met three times. The focus continued to be responses to the pandemic.

The COVID-19 situation caused considerable disruption from closing borders and restrictions placed on staff travel in and out of the Territory. The CLC's cautious approach has contributed to there being no local transmission by staff or constituents in or around the regions.

## Reporting requirements under the Work Health and Safety Act

There were two notifiable incidents reported to Comcare under section 38. No notices were issued under section 90 (provisional improvement notices), section 191 (improvement notices), section 195 (prohibition notices) or section 198 (non-disturbance notices).

## Workplace health and safety commitment

The CLC is committed to providing a safe workplace. It has a primary duty of care to all employees, traditional land owners and other persons in relation to the work it undertakes. It will provide a safe environment for all employees, constituents, contractors and visitors at all locations in which it works. It ensures that the organisation is a safe workplace and successful organisation. It demonstrates its commitment by:

- implementing safe work systems that meet legislative requirements and outlining its responsibilities and system framework in the workplace health and safety management arrangements on the CLC intranet
- consulting with and educating its employees in safe work practices and their responsibility to work safely
- continuously improving by measuring its performance against safety objectives and targets through regular internal and external audits
- identifying risks and implementing controls to reduce the risk as far as practicable
- encouraging safety leadership throughout the organisation and celebrating its safety achievements.

## Workforce development

The CLC provided mandatory first aid, four-wheel drive, cultural awareness and CLC systems training to new staff. Short course training in supervisory skills, conflict resolution, report writing, work health and safety as well as community consultation was also offered. Thirteen tertiary students formalised study contracts, six of them Aboriginal. Five Aboriginal cadets undertaking tertiary studies came to the CLC for work experience in communications, land management, anthropology, computer services, policy and the law. A new cadet recruitment campaign will take place during the fourth quarter of 2021.

The new position of executive manager, policy and governance, reporting to the chief executive officer, was internally filled by a female Aboriginal employee. The CLC provided media training to three Aboriginal employees, two of them managers.

## SENIOR EXECUTIVE REMUNERATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES – KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Senior executives are offered a three-year contract. The chief executive officer is appointed by the council after consultation with the minister. The chief executive officer appoints other key management personnel and consults with the minister when appointing chief financial and principal legal officers. Contracts are renewed subject to satisfactory performance.

Remuneration is determined in accordance with senior executive service salary bands. Senior executives are placed within the band in accordance with the position's responsibilities and accountabilities. The salary bands, unchanged for at least 10 years, are adjusted only in accordance with salary increases as part of the CLC's enterprise bargaining process. Senior executive remuneration is detailed in the annual estimates approved by the minister. Other employment conditions are included in the contract of employment, and standard employment conditions, such as leave entitlements, are referenced to the enterprise agreement.

The elected chair (three-year term) is a fulltime position and part of the Accountable Authority. It is classified as key management personnel and receives the allowance determined by the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal.

Table 39. Key management personnel

Name	Position	Term
Sammy Wilson	Chair (elected)	Two years, three months
Joe Martin-Jard (resigned 23/3/2021)	Chief executive officer	Two years, two months
Lesley Turner (commenced 8/4/2021)	Chief executive officer	Three months
Nigel Graves	General manager and chief financial officer	10 years



Table 36. Information about remuneration for key management personnel

Name	Position title	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
		Base salary	Bonuses	Other benefits and allowances	Superannuation contributions	Long service leave	Other long-term benefits		
Mr Sammy Wilson	Chair	192,231	-	-	23,800	-	-	-	216,031
Mr Lesley Turner	Chief Executive Officer	58,516	-	-	9,591	1,604	-	-	69,711
Mr Joseph Martin-Jard	Chief Executive Officer	250,429	-	2,390	18,395	(11,416)	-	-	259,798
Dr Nigel Graves	General Manager / Chief Financial Officer	272,308	-	15,918	35,480	-	-	-	323,706
		<b>773,484</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,308</b>	<b>87,266</b>	<b>(9,812)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>869,246</b>

Base salary comprise the key management personnel's base salary plus the net movement in annual leave for the period. Other benefits comprise benefits associated with the key management personnel's contract of employment, e.g. a vehicle.

Table 37. Information about remuneration for senior executives

Remuneration bands	Number of senior executives	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
		Average base salary	Average bonuses	Average other benefits and allowances	Average superannuation contributions	Average long service leave	Average other long-term benefits	Average termination benefits	Average total remuneration
\$0- \$220,000	2	125,373	-	-	16,696	802	-	-	142,871
\$220,001 - \$245,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$245,001 - \$270,000	1	250,429	-	2,390	18,395	-11,416	-	-	259,798
\$270,001 - \$295,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$295,001 - \$320,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$320,001 - \$345,000	1	272,308	-	15,918	35,480	-	-	-	323,706
\$345,001 - \$370,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$370,001 - \$395,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$395,001 - \$420,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$420,001 - \$445,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$445,001 - \$470,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$470,001 - \$495,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$495,001 - \$520,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$520,001 - \$545,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The average figures presented in each of the total remuneration bands are based on the total amount for the relevant category divided by the number of senior executives in each band.

Table 38. Information about remuneration for other highly paid staff

Remuneration bands	Number of other highly paid staff	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
		Average base salary	Average bonuses	Average other benefits and allowances	Average superannuation contributions	Average long service leave	Average other long-term benefits	Average termination benefits	Average total remuneration
\$230,000 - \$250,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$250,001 - ....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## COMPUTER SERVICES

The CLC develops, supports and maintains modern computing infrastructure and its computer services team provides a high level of service to regional offices through the best available communication systems and remote support services.

It supports a fully networked, standardised environment that provides computer access for all employees and ensures the integrity and security of electronic data with backup systems, secure network access and virus protection. It also contributes to increased efficiency through the development and implementation of new systems for improved access to information and communications. It includes three specialist geospatial services staff who maintain an extensive geographical information system and manipulate data sets to produce customised maps and web-based mapping services.

Major achievements included the finalisation of Windows 10 migrations, deployment of a secure and robust Amazon Web Services environment, implementation of an on-premises password management system, and ensuring CLC mail services comply with domain-based message authentication, reporting, and conformance. A range of system migrations and maintenance was also performed, including major geographic information system and email system upgrades, and replacement of our mobile device and copier fleets. The computer services team responded to more than 2,000 support requests, and the geospatial services team fielded nearly 1,000 mapping requests.

It is undertaking training in preparation for significant migrations to hosted Microsoft and Amazon cloud services.

## INFORMATION SERVICES

The CLC maintains and provides access to the records it created since its establishment. Its archives hold collections of cultural and heritage significance in paper, digital, photographic and audio visual formats. The digitisation of these collections is a key component of its preservation work. It also preserves paper and analogue originals and makes them easy to access.

The information services team digitised more than 7000 items in 2020–21. Digital preservation masters are stored offsite and digital access copies are available through the CLC's electronic records and document management system, eDIS. Some digital copies can also be accessed through the CLC's digital archive <https://clc.keepingculture.com/>.

Brief eDIS information lunchtime information sessions were introduced to discuss useful, unknown or underutilised features of the system. Weekly emails are aimed at improving information management capabilities. The information services team has received very positive feedback about these initiatives.

Liberty, a new library management system, was launched in December 2020. This was a significant achievement. The system provides improved access to electronic resources and online subscription services and better supports service delivery. In April 2021 the CLC implemented Orbit, a second catalogue especially for its rangers. Requests for, and use of, library resources have increased considerably since the launch of the new systems.

## ASSET MANAGEMENT

### *Fleet management*

The CLC owns and manages a substantial fleet of vehicles, including four wheel drives and all-terrain vehicles, trailers and trucks. Its fleet management strategy ensures vehicles are fitted with standard modifications, communications and recovery equipment suitable for remote staff travel.

Staff are required to complete pre-trip and post trip checklists, and a booking system tracks vehicle service requirements to prompt timely attention. Replacing most of the fleet every three years saves money. By that time, remote operational vehicles reach optimal life when expenditure and downtime escalates and trade value declines.

Small asset trackers have now been fitted to all trailers, all-terrain vehicles and bobcats and small equipment, helping to track and locate assets.

The first electric vehicle has arrived. A study by consulting firm Ekistica found that the solar panels on the roof of the Stuart Highway office in Alice Springs generate enough power to charge the CLC's town cars. It also found that charging them with this off-grid power during daylight hours would provide sufficient range for the town trips for which these cars are mostly used.

### *Land and buildings management*

The Nyirripi ranger shed and visiting staff accommodation unit, previously both delayed by rain and road closures, have been completed and the construction of the Willowra ranger shed has commenced.

Of two projects in Mutitjulu, the proposed redevelopment of the CLC office on a new lot in the community has not progressed due to the delay and deferral of several consultation meetings convened by the Office of Township Leasing. In 2021, the CLC also received funds for a second project, two staff houses in the community that will permit two staff to move out of Parks Australia accommodation.

A major renovation of five self-contained units in Alice Springs is complete. The units provide short-term accommodation for new employees moving to Alice Springs and unable to find temporary commercial accommodation during the tourism season. Renovations included new tiled flooring, roof insulation, full kitchen and bathroom upgrades, painting and replacement of air conditioners.

The Bath Street office in Alice Springs has received additional storage and designated trailer parking to assist the team with its large number of field trips.

The Stuart Highway office is at capacity and unable to accommodate any more staff. The CLC has leased new office space at 14 Parsons Street in the centre of Alice Springs for four years to accommodate approximately 30 staff. The office space has been fitted with furniture and equipment ahead of the staff's relocation. The move will then allow an upgrade of the desks in the south wing of the Stuart Highway office.





Daniel Pratt, Dana Bohning, Jayden Willie, Lance White and Justin Leaney from the property team took delivery of the CLC's first electric vehicle.

## SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ABA APPLICATIONS

The ABA applications support project started in mid-2020 because the ABA was receiving too many weak or incomplete applications that did not meet the minister's approval, as required, and were often returned to the applicants without processing. Potentially good Aboriginal initiatives were not

funded and the ABA has not been able to benefit as many Aboriginal people as it should.

The ABA applications support project seeks to rectify this through careful, comprehensive and practical assistance to applicants. The following case study, available in full at <https://www.clc.org.au/monitoring-evaluation/>, forms part of a longitudinal study of selected CLC projects.

## ***CASE STUDY: where the dreaming meets the cloud***

The Wurrpujunta Anyul Mappu digital archive is literally a case of ancient Aboriginal culture meets state-of-the-art digital technology – the Dreaming meets ‘the cloud’.

The archive is an initiative of the Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation at its impressive Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre in Tennant Creek, 500 kilometres north of Alice Springs. The archive stores cultural and historical material of the many Aboriginal language groups in the Northern Territory’s Barkly region, centred on Tennant Creek.

At peak performance, as a tool of a living, dynamic yet ancient Aboriginal culture at the hands of more local Aboriginal people employed on it, the archive will increase and preserve that material, help transfer the cultural knowledge in it to the groups’ young, and educate the wider public, provided that suitable access protocols are in place.

The archive needs ABA funding to reach that potential, largely to modernise its software to a cloud-based platform, better arrange metadata and the electronic archival material itself on this platform, and strengthen archive security while generating more and varied content and wider use. Julalikari is applying to the ABA for the necessary funding with the help of the CLC’s ABA applications support project.

Enterprise and employment, education and training, sport, health and safety, language and culture, land care and land management, building and other infrastructure, media, leadership and youth initiatives are all eligible for ABA funding.

An initiative planned at Arlparra, 250 kilometres northeast of Alice Springs in the Sandover region, combines health and safety with sporting infrastructure works, for instance. A horse program at Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa), 85 kilometres southeast of Alice offers pathways for school students into land and animal management. And the Aboriginal organisations behind these initiatives too have requested the support project’s help towards the strongest possible ABA applications.

Julalikari director and Nyinkka Nyunyu steering committee member Michael Jones Jampin said that before the digital archive, traditional ceremony recordings and those of more public dances were stacked up there in cupboards and drawers. “It wasn’t good that way,” he said. “The archive is the way of keeping everything safe for our next generations.”

So what did Mr Jones think of the workshop the CLC held with him and others on the steering committee to kick off the project’s help with the archive upgrade application?

“It went good, very well. Helpful,” he said. “A lot of people were saying that was very good.”

The ABA receives from the Australian Government the equivalent amount paid to the government in royalties from mining on Aboriginal land in the NT, for the benefit of NT Aboriginal people. The ABA advisory committee comprised of representatives of the NT’s four land councils makes recommendations to the Minister for Indigenous Australians who ultimately decides on ABA grants.

The CLC’s support project now gets more requests for assistance than it can handle thoroughly, requiring considerable expectation management with potential applicants and CLC staff alike. The project prioritises Aboriginal organisations with sufficient capacity but lacking other forms of support, for activities which benefit a wide group of people and which are likely to last the distance. It tries to support a variety of initiatives across the CLC’s nine sub-regions, by applicants who request help with applications in a timely manner and remain engaged throughout the application process.

Typically the project’s team of two spends hours with the assisted ABA applicants workshopping the application assessment criteria of need, benefit and capacity, measures of the benefits, risk management, the keys to making the initiative sustainable and the documents required to support the application. Then the project team drafts the applications and some supporting documents and stays in touch with the applicants until submission time. Though the team gives its best, it doesn’t do all the work, and provides no guarantee of funding.

Since starting after six months of COVID-19 restrictions, the project has helped 16 applicants with ABA applications, across eight of the nine sub-regions. Some disengage entirely from the help for their own reasons or because, despite the assistance, the ABA application process remains a long and difficult one. That is largely because the application guidelines are in dire need of revision.

As part of this project, CLC has spent considerable time advising the National Indigenous Australians Agency on better guidelines; and in fact has effectively provided two redrafts.

With clearer, more accessible application guidelines reflecting a more user-friendly and transparent ABA application process, the CLC’s application support project may one day no longer be needed. Meanwhile, it is assisting as many applicants as it can towards more sustainable initiatives to benefit Central Australian Aboriginal people – initiatives such as the Wurrpujunta Anyul Mappu digital archive, using modern technology in the service of ageless Aboriginal traditions.



Julalikari Council director and long-term CLC delegate Michael Jones is on the Nyinkka Nyunyu steering committee for the digital archive.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## Central Land Council financial statements

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### To the Minister for Indigenous Australians

#### Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Central Land Council (the Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2021:

- (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 Entity as at 30 June 2021 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Entity, which I have audited, comprise the following as at 30 June 2021 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 Entity 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 (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) to the extent that they are not in conflict with the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. 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 Authority of the Entity, the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer are responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (the Act) for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the rules made under the Act. The Chair and the Chief Executive Officer are also responsible for such internal control as the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer are responsible for assessing the ability of the Entity 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 the Chief Executive Officer are also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

GPO Box 707, Canberra ACT 2601  
38 Sydney Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603  
Phone (02) 6203 7300

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

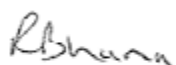
My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that 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 the Accountable Authority 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



Rita Bhana

Audit Principal

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra

24 August 2021

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL  
For the period ended 30 June 2021

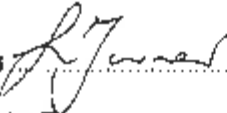
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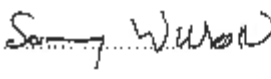
STATEMENT BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER


In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2021 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. Lesley Turner  
Chief Executive Officer  
Accountable Authority  
Date: 24/8/21

Signed   
Mr. Sammy Wilson  
Chair  
Accountable Authority  
Date: 24/8/21

Signed   
Dr. Nigel Graves FCPA  
Chief Financial Officer  
Date: 24/8/21



## CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

	NOTES	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES EXPENSES</b>			
Employees and council members benefits	3(a)	27,323	27,304
Suppliers	3(b)	18,791	16,014
Finance costs	3(c)	13	7
Depreciation and amortisation	7(a)	3,033	2,821
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>49,160</b>	<b>46,146</b>
<b>OWN-SOURCE INCOME</b>			
<b>Own-source revenue</b>			
Revenue from contracts with customers	4(a)	3,261	4,592
Interest	4(b)	174	312
Rental income	4(c)	113	60
Other revenue	4(d)	4,426	3,515
<b>Total own-source revenue</b>		<b>7,974</b>	<b>8,479</b>
<b>Gains</b>			
Gains from sale of assets	4(e)	249	387
<b>Total gains</b>		<b>249</b>	<b>387</b>
<b>Total own-source income</b>		<b>8,223</b>	<b>8,866</b>
<b>Net cost of services</b>		<b>40,937</b>	<b>37,280</b>
Revenue from government	4(f)	71,370	43,563
<b>Surplus on continuing operations</b>		<b>30,433</b>	<b>6,283</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
<b>Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services</b>			
<b>Total other comprehensive income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<b>30,433</b>	<b>6,283</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	NOTES	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6(a)	52,238	23,380
Trade and other receivables	6(b)	1,249	1,725
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>53,487</b>	<b>25,105</b>
<b>Non-financial assets<sup>1</sup></b>			
Land and buildings	7(a)	27,473	26,018
Investment property	7(b)	505	505
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	7(a)	6,604	7,225
Inventories	7(c)	9	5
Other non-financial assets	7(d)	144	-
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>34,735</b>	<b>33,753</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>88,222</b>	<b>58,858</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
Suppliers	8(a)	7,246	8,657
Other payables	8(b)	224	1,098
<b>Total payables</b>		<b>7,470</b>	<b>9,755</b>
<b>Interest bearing liabilities</b>			
Leases	9	1,929	452
<b>Total interest bearing liabilities</b>		<b>1,929</b>	<b>452</b>
<b>Provisions</b>			
Employee provisions	10(a)	4,299	4,560
<b>Total provisions</b>		<b>4,299</b>	<b>4,560</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>13,698</b>	<b>14,767</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>74,524</b>	<b>44,091</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Asset revaluation reserve		8,012	8,012
Retained surplus		66,512	36,079
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>74,524</b>	<b>44,091</b>

<sup>1</sup> Right-of-use assets are included in the Land and Buildings.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Retained surplus		Asset revaluation reserve		Total Equity	
	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
<b>Opening balance</b>						
Balance carried forward from previous period	36,079	34,156	8,012	8,012	44,091	42,168
Adjustment for initial application of AASB 15 /AASB 1058	–	(4,360)	–	–	–	(4,360)
<b>Adjusted opening balance</b>	<b>36,079</b>	<b>29,796</b>	<b>8,012</b>	<b>8,012</b>	<b>44,091</b>	<b>37,808</b>
<b>Comprehensive income</b>						
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	30,433	6,283	–	–	30,433	6,283
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<b>30,433</b>	<b>6,283</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>30,433</b>	<b>6,283</b>
of which:						
Attributable to the Australian Government	30,433	6,283	–	–	30,433	6,283
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>66,512</b>	<b>36,079</b>	<b>8,012</b>	<b>8,012</b>	<b>74,524</b>	<b>44,091</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

### ACCOUNTING POLICY

#### *Equity injections*

Amounts appropriated which are designed as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions).

#### *Other distributions to owners*

The *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015* (FRR) requires that distributions to owners be debited to contributed equity unless it is in the nature of a dividend. In 2020–21 the Central Land Council (CLC) did not make any contributions to owners (2019–20 \$0).



## CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

Operating activities	NOTES	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
<b>Cash received</b>			
Sales of goods and rendering of services		8,257	8,440
Receipts from Government		73,710	47,810
Rental income		75	27
Net GST received from ATO		329	6
Interest		201	313
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>82,572</b>	<b>56,596</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Employees		27,584	26,910
Suppliers		24,014	18,460
Interest payments on lease liabilities		13	7
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>51,611</b>	<b>45,377</b>
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>		<b>30,961</b>	<b>11,219</b>
<b>Investing activities</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		506	817
Rental income on investment property		38	33
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>544</b>	<b>850</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	7(a)	2,489	3,688
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>2,489</b>	<b>3,688</b>
<b>Net cash (used by) investing activities</b>		<b>(1,945)</b>	<b>(2,838)</b>
<b>Financing activities</b>			
<b>Cash used</b>			
Principal payment of lease liabilities		158	105
<b>Net cash (used by) financing activities</b>		<b>(158)</b>	<b>(105)</b>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>28,857</b>	<b>8,276</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		23,380	15,104
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	6(a)	<b>52,238</b>	<b>23,380</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

## OVERVIEW

### OBJECTIVES OF THE CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

The Central Land Council (the 'CLC' or the 'Council') is an Australian government controlled entity. It is a not-for-profit entity. The objectives of CLC are to:

- protect and represent the rights and interests of the Aboriginal people
- pursue and protect Aboriginal land ownership and interest
- protect land and culturally significant sites, and maintain cultural heritage and languages
- support economic development and effective land income management
- support Aboriginal peoples' development of strong communities and outstations
- support strong/sustainable ranger program providing work on country and achieving land management outcomes
- facilitate Aboriginal peoples sustainably using and managing their land
- provide good governance and engagement to ensure best possible decisions made to fulfill constituent and legislation requirements.

### NOTE 1 - THE BASIS OF PREPARATION

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:

- a) *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015 (FRR)*; and
- b) 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.

#### *Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic*

Although the Commonwealth Health Minister removed the biosecurity restrictions on all remote Aboriginal communities in mid July 2020, the health concerns held by both community members and staff did, in the first few months of the financial year following the lifting of restrictions, have an adverse impact as staff undertook fewer trips into the remote communities than they would in previous years. The impact was not as severe as it was in financial year 2019–20 and operational achievements were similar to years prior to the pandemic.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

### NOTE 2 - 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, unless otherwise stated.

All new standards, revised standards, interpretations and/or amending standards issued prior to the sign-off date applicable to the current reporting period did not have a material impact on the CLC's financial statements unless otherwise stated.

Standard/ Interpretation	Nature of change in accounting policy, transitional provisions <sup>1</sup> , and adjustment to financial statements
AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors	<p>AASB 1059 became effective from 1 July 2020.</p> <p>The new standard addresses the accounting for a service concession arrangement by a grantor that is a public sector entity by prescribing the accounting for the arrangement from a grantor's perspective.</p> <p>Prior to the issuance of AASB 1059, there was no definitive accounting guidance in Australia for service concession arrangements, which include a number of public private partnerships (PPP) arrangements. The AASB issued the new standard to address the lack of specific accounting guidance and based the content thereof broadly on its international equivalent: International Public Sector Accounting Standard 32: <i>Service Concession Arrangements: Grantor</i>.</p> <p>The details of the changes in accounting policies, transitional provisions and adjustments are disclosed below and in the relevant notes to the financial statements.</p>

The CLC is not involved in any service concession arrangements as grantor. Based on CLC's assessment, it is expected that the first-time adoption of AASB 1059 will not have a material impact on the transactions and balances recognised in the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2021.

#### *Taxation*

The CLC is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

#### *Events after the reporting period*

The CLC is not aware of any event occurring after balance date that would materially affect the financial statements.

### NOTE 3: EXPENSES

#### NOTE 3(A) - EMPLOYEE AND COUNCIL MEMBER BENEFITS

Employee and Council Member Benefit	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Wages and salaries	23,740	23,043
Superannuation (accumulated contribution plans)	2,820	3,008
Leave and other entitlements	8	671
Other employee benefits	755	582
<b>Total employee benefits</b>	<b>27,323</b>	<b>27,304</b>

All payments are within the terms of the 2017–2020 CLC Enterprise Agreement (EA). As at 30 June 2021 EA negotiations between management and the staff representative committee were continuing. The CLC makes an additional superannuation contribution of 3% over and above the Superannuation Guarantee Levy of 9.5%.

The CLC pays compulsory professional indemnity insurance to the Law Society NT for all its practicing Lawyers and pays Comcover a premium for accountable authority and officers insurance.

Accounting policies for employee related expenses are contained in Note 10.



## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

### NOTE 3(B): SUPPLIERS

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
<b>Goods and services supplied or rendered</b>		
Accounting and Audit	231	204
Consultants	1,378	1,587
Contractors	855	487
Travel, motor vehicle and meeting expenses	3,185	3,061
Accommodation and utilities	2,048	2,369
Other operating expenses	6,024	4,342
Community project expenses	4,556	3,515
<b>Total goods and services supplied or rendered</b>	<b>18,277</b>	<b>15,565</b>
Services rendered	18,277	15,565
<b>Total goods and services supplied or rendered</b>	<b>18,277</b>	<b>15,565</b>
<b>Other supplier expenses</b>		
Low value and short term leases	118	112
Workers Compensation and Professional Indemnity Insurance premium	396	337
<b>Total other supplier expenses</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>449</b>
<b>Total supplier expenses</b>	<b>18,791</b>	<b>16,014</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes **3(c), 7(a) and 9**.

#### *Leasing commitments*

The CLC leases various Indigenous lands in remote locations of Northern Territory where offices or staff accommodation, owned by the CLC, are located. These leases are on long term lease arrangements and renewed as and when the existing term expires. The CLC does not lease vehicles or office equipment.

The CLC had short term and low value lease commitments of \$65k as at 30 June 2021 (\$68k 30 June 2020)

#### *Accounting Policy*

##### *Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets*

The CLC has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for leases of low-value assets (less than \$10,000). The CLC recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 3(c), 7(a) and 9.

### NOTE 3(C) - FINANCE COSTS

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Interest on lease liabilities <sup>1</sup>	13	7
<b>Total finance costs</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>

<sup>1</sup> The above lease disclosure should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 3(b), 7(a) and 9.

### NOTE 4: INCOME OWN SOURCE REVENUE

#### NOTE 4(A) - REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Rendering of services	3,261	4,592
<b>Total Revenue from contracts with customers</b>	<b>3,261</b>	<b>4,592</b>
<b>Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers</b>		
Type of customer:		
Australian Government entities (related parties)	102	89
State and Territory Governments	5	131
Non-government entities	3,154	4,372
	<b>3,261</b>	<b>4,592</b>

The principal activities associated with Revenue from contracts with customers relate to fees for service and fees for administrative support. The associated revenue is recognised over time as the services are delivered/performed.

The transaction price is the total amount of consideration which the CLC expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring promised services to a customer. The consideration promised in a contract with a customer may include fixed amounts, variable amounts or both.

The CLC applies the practical expedient provided in AASB15.121 by not disclosing information for a performance obligation if the duration of the contract is less than one year.

Receivables for goods and rendering of 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 debt is no longer probable.

#### NOTE 4(B) - INTEREST

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Interest from cash and short-term deposits	174	312
<b>Total interest</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>312</b>

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

### NOTE 4(C) - RENTAL INCOME

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Operating lease - other	113	60
<b>Total rental income</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>60</b>

#### *Rental income commitments*

The CLC leases a property at Kennett Court to a company providing domestic and commercial maintenance of gardens and pools. The leased assets comprise a commercial office building, shed and associated land. No other assets are leased. The CLC receives regular site reports from its property manager and the CLC staff conduct ad hoc site inspections of the property. The CLC considers the inspections by its agent and the CLC's ad hoc inspections provide adequate management of any risk associated with the assets. This lease arrangement expires September 2022.

*Commitments for rental income receivables are as follows:*

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
<b>Maturity analysis of operating lease income receivables:</b>		
Within one year	35	31
One to two years	9	37
Two to three years	-	-
Three to four years	-	-
Four to five years	-	-
More than five years	-	-
<b>Total undiscounted lease payment receivable</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>68</b>

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 3(b), 3(c), 7 and 9.

### NOTE 4(D) - OTHER REVENUE/GAINS

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Community Project income	4,426	3,515
<b>Total other gains</b>	<b>4,426</b>	<b>3,515</b>

#### *Accounting policy*

The CLC facilitates community projects on behalf of various indigenous organisations and communities in Central Australia. These are on a cost basis with no intention to earn any profit on these activities. At year end, total expenditure is matched with the income leaving no impact on the year end result.



## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

### NOTE 4(E) - GAINS FROM SALE OF ASSETS

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
<b>Motor vehicles, plant and equipment</b>		
Proceeds from sale	506	817
Carrying value of assets sold	(257)	(430)
<b>Net gain from sale of assets</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>387</b>

#### *Sale of assets*

Gains from disposal of assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

### NOTE 4(F) - REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
From Government – ABA s.64(1)	31,679	23,461
From Government – Special Purpose Contracts	16,599	17,622
From Government – Special Purpose Contracts (revenue received in advance but not yet spent)	23,093	2,480
<b>Total revenue from Government</b>	<b>71,370</b>	<b>43,563</b>

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.

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.

Funding received in accordance with ABA s.64(1) is recognised immediately in accordance with AASB 1058. Special purpose grants with sufficient specific performance obligations are recognised in accordance with AASB 15. Contracts with no specific performance obligations are recognised in accordance with AASB 1058.

In November 2020 the Minister for Indigenous Australians announced the funding of a NT Indigenous Economic Stimulus Package of up to \$100 million (over two tranches) from the ABA to support Indigenous businesses, jobs and economic development in the NT. The CLC received its first tranche of \$22 million in February 2021 and as at 30 June 2021 \$8.656m has been committed to four individual projects. The CLC expects to receive its second tranche of \$14.7 million in the first half of financial year 2021–22.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

### NOTE 5: STATEMENT OF BUDGET vs ACTUAL ABORIGINALS BENEFIT ACCOUNT APPROPRIATIONS

	ABA approved estimates 2020–21 \$'000	ABA actual 2020–21 \$'000	Variance 2020–21 \$'000
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Salaries and related expenses	17,293	14,939	2,354
Operational expenses	11,112	8,981	2,131
<b>Total recurrent expenditure</b>	<b>28,405</b>	<b>23,920</b>	<b>4,485</b>
Capital	7,075	1,447	5,628
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>35,480</b>	<b>25,367</b>	<b>10,113</b>
<b>Income</b>			
ABA s.64(1)	31,220	31,679	459
Administration fees	2,300	2,396	96
Interest	228	163	(65)
Sale of assets	382	504	122
Recoveries	1,100	518	(582)
Other	250	181	(69)
<b>Total income</b>	<b>35,480</b>	<b>35,441</b>	<b>(39)</b>
<b>ABA surplus at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>10,074</b>	<b>10,074</b>

The net surplus of \$10,074K is accounted for as follows:

	2020–21 \$'000	Notes
<b>ABA surplus at 30 June 2021:</b>	<b>10,074</b>	
(Less) Committed Community Development matching	(2,000)	(i)
(Less) Committed operational expenses	(329)	(ii)
(Less) Funeral and Ceremony funding	(173)	(iii)
(Less) Consultant engagements	(182)	(iv)
(Less) Capital Expenditure from 2020-21 funding	(5,999)	(v)
(Less) Motor Vehicle replacement reserve	(1,170)	(vi)
<b>ABA surplus after commitments as at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>221</b>	

#### Notes:

- (i) Committed for Community Development matching delayed due to contractual preparation and restrictions on travel resulting from the pandemic.
- (ii) Information Services digitisation of records, ongoing.
- (iii) Funeral and Ceremony approved in 2020–21 budget, underspend carried forward to 2021–22.
- (iv) Consultant engagement approved in 2020–21 budget, underspend carried forward to 2021–22.
- (v) Capital expenditure on buildings, motor vehicles and information technology equipment underspend due to pandemic. To be spent in 2021–22.  
Building works were delayed due to restrictions on travel resulting from the pandemic, motor vehicles and information technology equipment purchases delayed due to supply shortages.
- (vi) Motor vehicle replacement reserve recognised as at 30 June 2021.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

### NOTE 6: FINANCIAL ASSETS

#### NOTE 6(A) - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Cash on hand or on deposit	52,238	23,380
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>52,238</b>	<b>23,380</b>

#### *Accounting policy*

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents include:

- 1) cash on hand
- 2) petty cash
- 3) demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

#### NOTE 6(B) - TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
<b>Goods and services receivables</b>		
Goods and services	1,242	1,580
<b>Total receivables for goods and services</b>	<b>1,242</b>	<b>1,580</b>
<b>Other receivables</b>		
GST receivable from Australian Taxation Office	–	115
Interest receivable	15	42
<b>Total other receivables</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>Total trade and other receivables (gross)</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,737</b>
<b>Less: impairment allowance account</b>		
Goods and services	(8)	(12)
	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(12)</b>
<b>Total trade and other receivables (net)</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>1,725</b>

All receivables are current assets. Debtors are recognised at their nominal amounts due less provisions for impairment, if any. The CLC uses the simplified approach from AASB 9 in calculating the loss allowance for trade, contract and lease receivables. This approach always measures the loss allowance as the amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses. All debtors are unsecured and, as such, the carrying value of the net receivables represent the amount exposed to credit risk.

Credit terms for services were within 30 days (2020: 30 days).

#### *Financial assets*

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period.

Trade receivables and other receivables that are held for the purpose of collecting the contractual cash flows where the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, that are not provided at below market interest rates, are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method adjusted for any loss allowance



## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

### NOTE 7(A): ANALYSIS OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Table (A): Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment 2020–21	Land and buildings \$'000	Motor vehicles <sup>^</sup> \$'000	Plant and equipment <sup>^</sup> \$'000	Library <sup>^</sup> \$'000	Computer equipment and software <sup>^</sup> \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 1 July 2020</b>						
Gross book value	27,014	9,200	3,360	469	2,687	42,729
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(996)	(4,451)	(2,003)	–	(2,037)	(9,486)
<b>Net book value 1 July 2020</b>	<b>26,018</b>	<b>4,749</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>33,243</b>
Additions						
By purchase	877	1,172	327	–	113	2,489
Right of Use assets	1,635	–	–	–	–	1,635
Depreciation and amortisation	(897)	(1,373)	(236)	–	(366)	(2,872)
Depreciation on right of use assets	(161)	–	–	–	–	(161)
Disposals - Gross value	(63)	(960)	(86)	–	(70)	(1,179)
Disposals - Accumulated depreciation	63	768	41	–	49	922
<b>Net book value 30 June 2021</b>	<b>1,455</b>	<b>(392)</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(275)</b>	<b>834</b>
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2021 represented by</b>						
Gross book value*	29,464	9,412	3,601	469	2,730	45,675
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(1,991)	(5,056)	(2,197)	–	(2,354)	(11,598)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2021</b>	<b>27,473</b>	<b>4,356</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>34,077</b>
<b>Carrying amount of right-of-use assets</b>	<b>1,914</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1,914</b>

\* Gross book value as at 30 June 2021 includes works in progress for buildings \$883k (\$45k 2020) and \$50k for intangibles (\$0k 2020).

<sup>^</sup> These asset classes are presented collectively as Infrastructure, plant and equipment in the Statement of Financial Position.

#### Revaluations of non-financial assets

All land and buildings were subject to revaluation and were independently revalued by James Lang LaSalle, Adelaide at 30 June 2019.

A revaluation increment of \$937k for land and buildings was credited to the asset revaluation reserve and included in the equity section of the Statement of Financial Position in 2019.

At 30 June 2021, the Accountable Authority believes that all land and building assets as reported are carried at the present fair market value and no indicators of impairment were found.

Motor vehicles are recognised at cost and depreciated to expected residual value being the later of 100,000 kms or four years. Plant and equipment, computer equipment and software are recognised at cost and depreciated over their useful lives.

No Land or Buildings are currently held for sale or are expected to be sold or disposed in the next six 6 months.

The CLC's Library has a collection of books considered valuable. This collection was independently revalued as 30 June 2016 by Matthew Fishburn, a rare book dealer. The value of the collection is considered immaterial for ongoing external valuations. The CLC management assessed the valuation of the collection as at 30 June 2021 and deemed it to be fairly valued.

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

No property, plant or equipment is currently held for sale or expected to be sold or disposed in the next 12 months.

***Accounting policy***

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. Non-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.

***Asset recognition threshold***

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the Statement of Financial Position, 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.

***Lease Right of Use (ROU) assets***

Leased ROU assets are capitalised at the commencement date of the lease and comprise the initial lease liability amount, initial indirect costs incurred when entering into the lease less any lease incentive received. These assets are accounted for by the CLC as a separate asset classes to the corresponding assets owned outright but are included in the same column where the corresponding underlying assets would be presented if they were owned.

On initial adoption of AASB 16 Leases the CLC has adjusted the ROU assets at the date of initial application by the amount of any provision for onerous leases recognised immediately before the date of initial application. Following initial application, an impairment review is undertaken for any right of use lease asset that shows indicators of impairment and an impairment loss is recognised against any right of use lease asset that is impaired. Lease ROU assets continue to be measured at cost after initial recognition in the CLC financial statements.

***Revaluation***

Following initial recognition at cost, land, buildings and rare books (excluding ROU assets) 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 reverse 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 and buildings are subject to a formal independent valuation at a minimum of every three years. The CLC 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 CLC using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation.

Capital work-in-progress is not depreciated until the asset is ready for use.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

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:

	2021	2020
Buildings on freehold land	40 years	40 years
Leasehold improvements	40 years	40 years
Motor vehicles	4–10 years	4–10 years
Computer equipment	3–4 years	3–4 years
Plant and equipment	7–10 years	7–10 years
Right of use assets	over the life of the lease	over the life of the lease

The revalued amounts of buildings 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 valued at historic cost and are not subject to periodic revaluations and are not depreciated.

### *Impairment*

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2021. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's 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.

### *Intangibles*

The CLC's intangibles comprises an Electronic Documents and a Records Management System (EDRMS) and Microsoft NAV, a finance system, and installation of the software. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life. The useful lives of the CLC's software is 3–4 years (2020: 3–4 years).

## NOTE 7(B) - INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
As at 1 July 2020	505	505
<b>Total as at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>505</b>

The CLC leased out an office building at 6 Kennett Court Alice Springs in 2017 for three years with the option to renew for another two years. Pursuant to the lease agreement the lessee requested a grant of a further lease in May 2020. Thus the right to renew has been exercised as at 30 June 2020. The lease will expire September 2022.

This property is revalued every three years consistent with other land and buildings. Management reviews the fair value of the investment property in the years where there is no external revaluation. Management considers current carrying amount to be appropriate.



## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

### Accounting Policy

Investment properties are measured initially at cost, including transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, investment properties are stated at fair value. Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair values of investment properties are recognised in profit or loss in the year in which they arise.

Where an investment property is acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, its cost is deemed to be its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Investment properties are derecognised either when they have been disposed of or when the investment property is permanently withdrawn from use and no further economic benefit is expected from its disposal. Any gain or losses on disposals of an investment property are recognised in profit or loss in the year of disposal.

### NOTE 7(C) - INVENTORY

INVENTORIES HELD FOR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION (COST):

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Tyres	9	5
<b>Total inventories</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>

During 2021 \$115k (2020: \$134k) of inventory held for internal distribution was recognised as an expense. All inventories are expected to be utilised within 12 months.

Inventories held for internal distribution are valued at cost, adjusted for any loss of service potential. Costs incurred in bringing each item of inventory to its present location and condition are assigned on purchase cost on a first-in-first-out basis.

Inventories acquired at no cost or nominal consideration, are initially measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.

### NOTE 7(D) - OTHER NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

PREPAID SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Prepaid supplies and services	144	–
<b>Total Other Non-financial services</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>–</b>

### NOTE 8: PAYABLES

NOTE 8(A) - SUPPLIERS

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Trade payables	585	1,490
Sundry payables and accruals	570	1,319
Contract liabilities	5,878	5,848
GST payable to Australian Taxation Office	214	–
<b>Total supplier payables</b>	<b>7,246</b>	<b>8,657</b>

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

The contract liabilities are associated with unearned revenue under AASB 15.

All contract liabilities will be expended within 12 months.

### NOTE 8(B) - OTHER PAYABLES

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Salaries and wages	224	1,098
<b>Total other payables</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>1,098</b>

Salary and wages accrue as a result of services provided up to the reporting date that remain unpaid.

### NOTE 9: INTEREST BEARING LIABILITIES

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Leases	1,929	452
<b>Total interest bearing liabilities</b>	<b>1,929</b>	<b>452</b>

Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2021 \$167k (2019–20 \$105k).

MATURITY ANALYSIS - CONTRACTUAL UNDISCOUNTED CASH FLOWS:

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Within one year	129	117
Between one to five years	952	231
More than five years	848	104
<b>Total leases</b>	<b>1,929</b>	<b>452</b>

During 2020–21 the CLC entered into a five year commercial lease of office accommodation in Alice Springs. The CLC leases various Indigenous lands in remote locations of Northern Territory where office buildings or staff accommodation buildings, owned by the CLC, are located. These leases are on long term lease arrangements and renewed as and when the existing term expires.

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 3(b), 3(c) and 7(a).

Lease liabilities relate to ROU assets included in Land and Buildings. The CLC does not lease vehicles or office equipment.

#### **Accounting Policy**

For all new contracts entered into, the CLC considers whether the contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'.

Once it has been determined that a contract is, or contains a lease, the lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, if that rate implicit in the lease, if that rate is readily determinable, or the CLC's incremental borrowing rate.

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification to the lease. When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset or profit and loss depending on the nature of the reassessment or modification.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

### *Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets*

The CLC has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short term leases of assets that have a lease term of 12 months or lease and leases of low-value assets (less than \$10,000). The CLC recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## NOTE 10: PROVISIONS

### NOTE 10(A) - EMPLOYEE PROVISIONS

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Leave	4,299	4,560
<b>Total employee provisions</b>	<b>4,299</b>	<b>4,560</b>

Long Service Leave liabilities were calculated using the shorthand method as at 30 June 2021 as detailed in FRR.

### *Employee benefits*

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits expected within twelve 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 at the end of the reporting period.

### *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 CLC 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 the CLC are members of REST and Acumen Superannuation Funds. The CLC makes employer contributions to the REST, Acumen and other superannuation funds at the rate of 12.5% paid on a fortnightly basis. The CLC 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.

## NOTE 11: RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE

The Central Land Council is a corporate Commonwealth entity. Related parties to this entity are the Key Management Personnel and other Australian Government entities.

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 \$nil.



## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

The CLC holds one fully paid share valued at \$1.00 Imparja Television Pty. Ltd. The constitution of Imparja Television Pty. Ltd. at 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 \$nil.

### NOTE 12: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL REMUNERATION

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any person (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity. The entity has determined the key management personnel to be the Accountable Authority consisting of the Chair of the CLC and the Chief Executive Officer, and General Manager. Key Management Personnel remuneration is reported in the table below.

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits	792	812
Post-employment benefits	87	99
Other long-term benefits	(10)	21
<b>Total key management personnel remuneration expenses</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>932</b>

The total number of key management personnel that are included in the table is four. (2020: three).

One key management personnel, the Chair, had a close family member engaged by the CLC for the provision of professional services. The close family member was engaged on a commercial basis.

### NOTE 13: REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

Remuneration to auditors for the reporting period are as follows:

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) - for statutory audit	52	66
Crowes Australia - for acquittal of grants	34	-
KPMG - for acquittal of grants	-	30
PriceWaterhouseCoopers for auditing the accounts of Associations assisted by the Land Council	125	101
	<b>211</b>	<b>197</b>

The Audit Fees above report the costs associated with auditing each financial year.

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 Corporations. PriceWaterhouseCoopers continues to perform the audits and some tax agent services for these entities.

No other services were provided by the ANAO during the reporting period.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

### NOTE 14: 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 *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976* (ALRA), 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.

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>36,276</b>	<b>35,093</b>
Add receipts		
Subsection 64(3) statutory royalty equivalents	44,195	25,327
Section 42,43,44,46,48a and 48d negotiated monies	34,064	30,060
Section 15,16,19 and 20 rental and lease monies	12,515	11,045
Other monies	3,103	3,610
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>93,877</b>	<b>70,042</b>
Deduct payments		
Section 35(2) statutory royalty equivalents	45,220	24,162
Section 35(3) negotiated payments	34,118	30,482
Section 35(4) rental and lease monies	12,750	9,500
Northern Territory – National Emergency Response Act 2007	200	1,085
Other payments	2,815	3,630
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>95,103</b>	<b>68,859</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>35,050</b>	<b>36,276</b>
Cash at bank and term deposits	35,050	36,276

### NOTE 14(A) - DETAILS OF AMOUNTS PAID – S.35(2)

Details of amounts paid as required by Section 37(4) ALR (NT) Act:

Ngurrajuta Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation	1,448	1,982
Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation	42,747	22,180
	<b>44,195</b>	<b>24,162</b>

#### *Determinations under section 42*

(i) That all money paid into it under section 42 in respect of the Exploration Agreement for EL's 23780, 23602 and 23603 shall be paid, within 6 months of its receipt by the Land Council to the Tennant Region Aboriginal Corporation (ICN - 4567) - made on 9 May 2017 for 5 years.

(ii) That all money paid into it under section 42 in respect of the Exploration Agreement for EL's 29747, 29748 and 31606 shall be paid, within 6 months of its receipt by the Land Council to the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Corporation (ICN - 4307) - made on 29 August 2017 for 5 years.

(iii) That all money paid into it under section 42 in respect of the Exploration Agreement for EL's 25146, 30729, 30730, 30731, 30732, 30733, 30739, 30740 and 31234 shall be paid, within 6 months of its receipt by the Land Council to the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Corporation (ICN - 4307) - made on 29 August 2017 for 5 years.

(iv) That all money paid into it under section 42 in respect of the Exploration Agreement for EL 26626 shall be paid, within 6 months of its receipt by the Land Council to the Warlpiri Aboriginal Corporation (ICN - 863) - made on 29 August 2017 for 5 years.

(v) That all money paid into it under section 42 in respect of the Exploration Agreement for EL 23523 shall be paid, within 6 months of its receipt by the Land Council to the Warlpiri Aboriginal Corporation (ICN - 863) - made on 5 June 2018 for 5 years.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

### NOTE 14(B) - DETAILS OF AMOUNTS PAID AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 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	2021 \$'000
Yangkuntjatjarra Kutu Aboriginal Corporation	989
Anangu Pitjanjatjara Yankunytjatjara	86
Ara Irititja Aboriginal Corporation	84
Casa Leisure	347
Centre Funerals	23
Colliers International	2
Ingkerreke Aboriginal Corporation	316
Jen Clarsen	11
Muñitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation	90
Maruku Arts	29
NPY Womens Council Aboriginal Corporation	153
Susan Dugdale Associates	15
Sydney Maloney Fencing	8
Tangentyere Council Inc	223
Toco Construction	41
Western Desert Nganampa	234
	<b>2,651</b>

### NOTE 15: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

#### NOTE 15(A) - CATEGORIES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Financial assets at amortised cost:		
Cash on hand or on deposit	52,238	23,380
Trade and other receivables – net of impairment losses	1,249	1,725
<b>Total financial assets at amortised cost</b>	<b>53,487</b>	<b>25,105</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:		
Trade Creditors	585	1,490
Contract liabilities	5,878	5,848
Other Payables	224	1,098
Sundry creditors and accruals	570	1,319
<b>Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost</b>	<b>7,257</b>	<b>9,755</b>



## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

### *Accounting Policy*

#### *Financial assets*

In accordance with AASB 9 Financial Instruments, the CLC classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- a) financial assets at fair value through profit or loss; and
- b) financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income; and
- c) financial assets measured at amortised cost.

The CLC classifies its financial assets at amortised cost. The classification depends on both the CLC's business model for managing financial assets and contractual cash flow characteristics at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised when the CLC becomes a party to the contract and, as a consequence, has a legal right to receive or a legal obligation to pay cash and derecognised when the contractual right to the cash flows from the asset expire or are transferred upon trade date.

#### *Financial assets at Amortised Cost*

Financial assets included in this category need to meet two criteria:

1. the financial asset is held in order to collect the contractual cash flow; and
2. the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI) on the principal outstanding amount.

Amortised cost is determined using effective interest method.

#### *Effective interest method*

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis for financial assets that are recognised at amortised cost.

#### *Impairment of financial assets*

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period based on Expected Credit Losses, using the general approach which measures the loss allowance based on an amount equal to lifetime expected credit losses where risk has significantly increased, or an amount equal to 12 month expected credit losses if risk has not increased.

The simplified approach for trade, contract and lease receivables is used. This approach always measures the loss allowance as the amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses. A write-off constitutes a derecognition event where the write-off directly reduces the carrying amount of the financial asset.

#### *Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost*

Financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective interest basis.

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).

### NOTE 15(B) - NET GAINS OR LOSSES ON FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
<b>Financial assets at amortised cost</b>		
Interest revenue (see note 4(b))	174	312
<b>Net gain/(loss) on financial assets at amortised cost</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>312</b>
<b>Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost</b>		
Interest expense (refer note 3(c))	(13)	(7)
<b>Net gain/(loss) on financial liabilities at amortised cost</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>(7)</b>

The net interest income/expense from financial liabilities not at fair value through profit or loss is \$13k (2020: \$7k).

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

### NOTE 16: CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

At 30 June 2021, the CLC had no significant legal claims in progress. Where quantifiable costs exist, accruals have been raised. At 30 June 2021, the CLC had no significant contingent assets and liabilities. (2020: \$0).

### 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 CLC 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 2021 and the valuation techniques used to derived its fair value:

Fair value measurement – Valuation technique				
	Category	Valuation technique	2021 Fair value \$'000	2020 Fair value \$'000
<b>Non-financial assets – Recurring fair value measurement</b>				
<b>Land and buildings</b>				
Freehold land	Level 2	Market based valuation of direct comparatives	4,556	4,556
Building on freehold land	Level 2	Capitalisation on an assumed income based on comparative properties	11,058	12,126
Work in progress	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost	883	45
Building on leasehold land	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost	9,062	9,291
<b>Investment property</b>				
Land and buildings	Level 2	Market based valuation of direct comparatives	505	505
<b>Plant and equipment</b>				
Motor vehicles	Level 3	Market comparables	4,356	4,749
Plant and equipment	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost	1,404	1,357
Computer equipment	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost	326	650
Work in progress	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost	50	–
Library	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost	469	469
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>			<b>32,668</b>	<b>33,748</b>

The fair value of the CLC's freehold land and building, as at 30 June 2021, has been determined using the basis of the valuation carried out by James Lang LaSalle, Adelaide, as at 30 June 2019, who is a certified practising valuer and with relevant experience in the valuation of property in Northern Territory. 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 CLC's buildings on leasehold land as at 30 June 2021 has also been determined using the basis of the valuation carried out by James Lang LaSalle as at 30 June 2019. The fair value measurement for the buildings on leasehold land has been categorised as Level 3 fair value based on the inputs of the valuation technique (see above).

The revaluation of valuable books as at 30 June 2020 was performed by management using the 2016 valuation and a review of the sale/valuation prices obtained from specialist booksellers' websites.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

For those infrastructure, plant and equipment that are carried at cost, their depreciated 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 the CLC during the year.

### NOTE 18: CURRENT/NON-CURRENT DISTINCTION FOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
<b>Assets expected to be recovered in:</b>		
<b>No more than 12 months</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	52,238	23,380
Trade and other receivables	1,249	1,725
Inventory	9	5
Other non-financial assets	144	–
<b>Total no more than 12 months</b>	<b>53,640</b>	<b>25,110</b>
<b>More than 12 months</b>		
Land and buildings	27,473	26,018
Investment property	505	505
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	6,604	7,225
<b>Total more than 12 months</b>	<b>34,582</b>	<b>33,748</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>88,222</b>	<b>58,858</b>
<b>Liabilities expected to be settled in:</b>		
<b>No more than 12 months</b>		
Suppliers	7,246	8,657
Other payables	224	1,098
Leases	365	106
Employee Provisions	2,405	2,527
<b>Total no more than 12 months</b>	<b>10,240</b>	<b>12,388</b>
<b>More than 12 months</b>		
Leases	1,563	346
Employee provisions	1,895	2,033
<b>Total more than 12 months</b>	<b>3,458</b>	<b>2,379</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>13,698</b>	<b>14,767</b>



**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

**NOTE 19: AMOUNTS PAID TO CONSULTANTS**

	2021 \$'000
<b>Anthropology</b>	<b>81</b>
Anthropos Consulting Serv P/L	42
Beit Holmes And Associates P/L	18
Michael Cawthorn	17
Petronella Vaarzon-More	4
<b>Community Development</b>	<b>227</b>
Anthropos Consulting Serv P/L	6
La Trobe University	114
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel	28
Pricewaterhouse Coopers	13
S2 Consulting Samantha Togni	7
Social Ventures Australia Ltd	59
<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>141</b>
Alyson Wright	6
Dr Michael Davis	15
Gilbert + Tobin	4
Hal Bisset	54
Jayne Weepers	8
Kirsty Howey	11
Laura Hilly	3
Liam Grealy Consulting	12
Mercer Consulting Group	5
Pricewaterhouse Coopers	13
S2 Consulting Samantha Togni	5
Tangentyere Council Inc	4
Whitdenn Data Solutions	1
<b>Economic Participation Unit</b>	<b>190</b>
Sera Bray Consulting	156
SVA Consulting	34

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

	<b>2021 \$'000</b>
<b>Land Management and Ranger Program</b>	<b>338</b>
Alyson Wright	6
Andrew Schubert	9
Beit Holmes And Associates P/L	15
Colin Stanton	4
Conservation Management	10
Daley Driven Enterprises Pty Ltd	42
David Jagger	99
Dr Fiona Walsh	18
Hydro Geo Enviro Pty Ltd	11
Joanna Henryks	2
Maggie Kavanagh	2
Matrix On Board Training	10
Michael Cawthorn	15
SVA Consulting	27
Terry Mahney	55
Theresa Nano	7
Wild1 - Jamie Millier	6
<b>Native Title</b>	<b>396</b>
Aka Consulting	80
Anthropos Consulting Serv P/L	10
Craig Elliott	80
Dr John Morton	13
Geoffrey Bagshaw	103
Golder Associates Pty Ltd	18
Hutch-It Productions - Jeremy Skellern	29
Maggie Kavanagh	7
Michael Cawthorn	19
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel	6
Pietro Guj	8
Sally Hodson	13
Sandra Jarvis	10
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,373</b>

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

**NOTE 20A: NATIONAL INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS AGENCY: NATIVE TITLE – OPERATIONAL**

	Approved budget 2020–21 \$'000	Actual 2020–21 \$'000
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Other project income</b>		
Bank interest	7	3
Vehicle trade-in	85	122
Activity generated income - cost recovery	10	9
Activity generated income - others	–	–
2019-20 funds c/fwd	773	773
<b>Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet funding</b>		
Capital	243	243
Operational	2,961	2,961
Prescribed Body Corporate Basic Support	1,000	1,000
	<b>5,079</b>	<b>5,111</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Capital</b>		
Vehicles	158	87
IT equipment*	–	–
	<b>158</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>OPERATIONAL</b>		
<b>Salaries</b>		
Chief Executive Officer/General Manager or equivalents	140	140
Corporate staff	347	315
Project staff	2,574	2,405
<b>Services</b>		
Accommodation	140	196
Motor Vehicles - Corporate	30	25
Motor Vehicles - Attributable	52	39
Repair and Maintenance - Equipment *	30	8
Repair and Maintenance - Buildings	22	28
Bank Charges	–	–
Audit Fees	8	6
Consultants - Corporate	–	–
Consultants - Attributable	769	487
Communications, Telephones, Fax and IT	75	91
Insurance - Workers compensation	14	14
Insurance - Assets	17	21
Insurance - Professional Indemnity	15	20
Corporate HR / Finance / Property Serv / Library	135	186



**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

	Approved budget 2020-21 \$'000	Actual 2020-21 \$'000
<b>Training and development</b>		
Governing Committee	2	2
Staff	5	3
<b>Meetings</b>		
Governing Committee	10	11
Attributable other meetings expenses	71	84
<b>Travel and allowances</b>		
Chairperson	2	2
Other Governing Committee members	2	1
Members (travel)		
Claimants (travel)	40	75
Staff (travel) Corporate	14	20
Staff (travel) Attributable	40	50
<b>Supplies and Consumables</b>		
Corporate office supplies/office miscellaneous	10	14
IT Equipment*	10	-
	<b>4,574</b>	<b>4,244</b>
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>780</b>

Consistent with Note 1 the Native Title Representative Body 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.

\* Expenditure below capitalisation threshold for IT Equipment.

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

**NOTE 20B: NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS – NATIVE TITLE**

**Analysis of Plant and Equipment**

<b>Table (A): Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of plant and equipment 2020-21</b>	<b>Motor vehicles \$'000</b>	<b>Office equipment \$'000</b>	<b>Total \$'000</b>
<b>As at 1 July 2020</b>			
Gross book value	1,267	316	1,583
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(605)	(295)	(900)
<b>Net book value as at 1 July 2020</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>683</b>
Additions			
By purchase	87	–	87
Depreciation and amortisation	(131)	(21)	(152)
Disposals - Gross Value	(122)	–	(122)
Disposals - Accumulated Depreciation	93	–	93
<b>Net book value as at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>589</b>
<b>Net book value as at 30 June 2021 represented by</b>			
Gross book value	1,232	316	1,548
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(643)	(316)	(959)
<b>Closing net book value 30 June 2021</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>589</b>

# GLOSSARY

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).
ALRA	<i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i> (Cth)
Anangu	Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people
APO NT	Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory
CATSI Act	<i>Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006</i>
CLC	Central Land Council
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
Cth	Commonwealth
eDIS	Electronic document information system
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.
Fol	Freedom of information
GMAAAC	Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation
Grants	Non-reciprocal transfers of economic resources, where the payer agency does not receive approximately equal value in return.
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area
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.
Native Title Act	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth)
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Agency
NLC	Northern Land Council
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
NT	Northern Territory
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
PGPA Act	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> (Cth)
PWD NT	Parks and Wildlife Division of the Northern Territory
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.
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.
WETT	Warlpiri Education and Training Trust
WYDAC	Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation
Yapa	Warlpiri people

# 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;	14
(ii) The purposes of the entity as included in the entity's corporate plan for the period.	18, 23
The names of the persons holding the position of responsible minister or responsible ministers during the period, and the titles of those responsible ministers.	23
Any directions given to the entity by a minister under an Act or instrument during the period.	23
Any government policy orders that applied in relation to the entity during the period under section 22 of the Act.	23
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.	14–16
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.	23
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	12
(ii) the qualifications of the accountable authority or member; and	12
(iii) the experience of the accountable authority or member; and	12
(iv) for a member – the number of meetings of the accountable authority attended by the member during the period; and	12
(v) for a member – whether the member is an executive member or non executive member.	20–22
An outline of the organisational structure of the entity (including any subsidiaries of the entity).	25
An outline of the location (whether or not in Australia) of major activities or facilities of the entity.	8, 108
Information in relation to the main corporate governance practices used by the entity during the period.	23
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.	23
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.	105

Requirement under 17BE of the PGPA Rule	Page(s)
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).	105
Executive remuneration, under subsections 17CA, CB and CC.	106–107

Requirement under the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i>		Page(s)
Fees	PART IV, section 33A and section 33B	The CLC received \$609,484 in deed administration fees relating to Part IV (Mining). No fee types prescribed under section 33A. No fees were requested under section 33B.
Determinations	Section 35	139
Amounts held in trust	Section 37(5)	134
Delegations	Section 28 and section 28A	nil
Committees	Section 29A	24
Consultants	Section 37(8)	139
<b>OTHER</b>		
Environmental matters	Section 516A EPBC Act	17
Work, Health and Safety Act	Item 4, Schedule 2	106
FOI Act	Reporting requirements	24







Muru-Warinyi Ankkul Ranger Gladys Brown at the CLC ranger camp.







# CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

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**Front cover image:** Ltyentye Apurte Ranger Anton McMillan removed swallow nests to protect the rock art at Utyetye.

**Back cover image:** Regina Ebatarinja and her daughter at the Alpintharra bush camp near Ntaria.

