



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL



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16 September 2022

Minister for Indigenous Australians
Hon Linda Burney, 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 2021–22 Annual Report of 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 *Public Governance and Accountability Act 2013* for the preparation and content of the report in accordance with the Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Hoosan".

Robert Hoosan
CHAIR

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CHAIR'S REPORT

I was very proud to be elected as chair of the Central Land Council (CLC) alongside deputy chair Warren Williams.

We were elected at a meeting of CLC delegates in Tennant Creek in April 2022. Our election was supervised by the NT Electoral Commission in a formal process much like the federal election that happened across Australia a month later. That election saw new leaders chosen too, but Land Council is very different to federal politics.

Australian politics has been full of argument and bitterness for many years and that has often stopped our politicians from leading the nation in the right direction and keeping people together. That's been very bad for Aboriginal people across Australia and especially in Central Australia.

Politicians have used Aboriginal issues as a political football to argue and score political points against each other. They haven't listened closely to what Aboriginal people are saying, and haven't worked with us to solve the problems we face.

People are saying this year's election is a wake-up call for politicians. A lot of new faces in parliament and people promising to make politics work better, promising to listen to us and implement policies with us – policies that work.

We all hope that's true.

One of the first things Prime Minister Albanese talked about on election night was the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. He has promised to take the Voice to a referendum of the Australian people in this term of government.

The Central Land Council was closely involved in the process of national consultations leading to the Uluru Statement from the Heart and endorsed the statement's call for Voice, Treaty and Truth from the start.

Here in the Northern Territory, the NT Treaty Commission delivered its final report in June, setting out the road towards Treaty and making it clear that Treaty is needed in the NT to address the history of dispossession, racism and violence.

Treaty and the Voice to Parliament will both change the way that governments deal with Aboriginal people in a permanent way – a way that can't be overturned by a change of government or a change of prime minister.

These are important developments that have the full support of the Central Land Council. They are steps towards changing the way governments make the decisions that affect our lives.

We know that when we are not heard, bad policy is the result. We saw this in June 2007 when the Howard government



Robert Hoosan

launched the NT Intervention – a policy built on racial discrimination. The policy was supposed to fix the many social problems that exist in Aboriginal communities, but it didn't.

Instead of working with Aboriginal people and communities to find long-term solutions, the government sent in the army and took control out of Aboriginal hands. Fifteen years later the problems remain, but the solutions are even harder, because many people have been hurt by the shame the Intervention brought.

Even as the policy was about to wind up, the government consultation and information for our communities was not good enough. The Intervention ended as it started – without listening to us. We hope that Voice, Treaty and Truth will ensure that governments listen more closely in the future.

While we wait, governments continue to make decisions without us – decisions that will affect us for decades.

Like the Northern Territory Government decision to grant a licence for 40,000 megalitres of water a year to Fortune Agribusiness for a horticulture project on Singleton Station. The underground water is given to Fortune for free, but it's being taken from reservoirs under Aboriginal land, and Traditional Owners are concerned about the impact on their environment, their sacred sites and their own plans for development.

Traditional Owners brought their concerns to the CLC, which commissioned independent analysis of the project, raised concerns about sacred sites and cultural values, and challenged the licence in court.

Will the NT Government listen to the Traditional Owners? We still don't know.

Remote housing is another area where governments need to listen more. Even when the current \$1.1 billion partnership agreement finishes we will still face severe overcrowding. We need a much larger commitment to Closing the Gap.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made more Australians aware of the problems of overcrowded housing, but the health impact in remote communities is much more serious than one disease. Overcrowding is a major cause of the health problems that lead

to chronic illnesses like kidney disease – a deadly epidemic in our region.

The CLC is proposing a gradual return of housing to Aboriginal community control. We are calling for remote community housing trials, to start giving Aboriginal communities a greater role in designing and maintaining our homes. That would mean better homes, more control over our lives, and jobs for our communities.

Employment is another area where things have gone backwards. The introduction of CDP without consultation has created many new problems. There were things wrong with the old CDEP scheme, but ending compulsory activities without planning has left many people from remote communities in limbo.

The CLC, as part of the Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT, contributed to the Fair Work and Strong Communities report. It proposes job creation and waged jobs out bush, opportunities for young people and long-term economic, social and cultural development.

The CLC welcomes the new federal government's promise to replace the CDP with a "new program, with real jobs, proper wages and decent conditions – developed in partnership with First Nations people".

It's that last part that really matters.

Policies will never succeed unless they are developed and implemented in partnership with Aboriginal people. Partnership is a priority for Closing the Gap.

In two years the Central Land Council will celebrate its 50th anniversary. When Mr Perkins and Mr Rubuntja were elected as the first chairman and deputy chairman in 1974 there wasn't even a land rights act.

So much has been achieved by the CLC since then. Many Traditional Owners have been able to reclaim their country and take the first steps towards controlling and developing their land and resources to benefit our communities. I want to especially thank the many CLC staff who have worked so hard to support the CLC executive, delegates and Traditional Owners.

Since 1974 CLC has been a strong representative voice for Aboriginal people and our leaders have taken our message to Canberra and Darwin. I want to pay tribute to all those strong leaders who came before us, and to thank Sammy Wilson and Barbara Shaw who led the CLC as chair and deputy chair from 2019 to 2022.

Voice, Treaty and Truth will offer a new opportunity for us to strengthen our role in shaping our own lives and protecting our country and culture.

Everyone here at the Central Land Council looks forward to being part of that better future.

Robert Hoosan

Chair



Chair Robert Hoosan and Deputy Chair Warren Williams

CEO'S REPORT

This has been a good year for the Central Land Council. In 2021–2022 we welcomed the return to some normality after the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, following good uptake of vaccinations and other preventative measures in Central Australia. As CEO I commend the work of the CLC administration and the Council itself for their efforts during a difficult time for all of the country.

This year saw the election of a new Council, including a new Chair, Mr Robert Hoosan from Finke community, and Deputy Chair, Mr Warren Williams from Yuendumu community. There has been an almost 50 per cent change in Council and Executive membership. It is pleasing that a number of younger delegates have been elected, which augers well for the future of our organisation. However, we need to do more work on achieving better gender balance and outcomes for women in communities.

This year has also seen significant changes in the political environment at both the Territory and federal level. In the Northern Territory a new Chief Minister, Natasha Fyles, and Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Selena Uibo, were appointed. Chansey Paech is now the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and we hope this leads to law and justice reforms for Aboriginal people.

The 2022 federal election saw a new Labor government elected. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has made the Uluru Statement from the Heart a priority for his first term in government. Linda



Les Turner

Burney is Minister for Indigenous Australians and we look forward to working with her.

Both governments have made a number of positive commitments in the areas of homelands, housing, youth, health and Closing the Gap. The CLC has been engaged in preliminary discussions on various initiatives.

It is notable that the ministers responsible for Aboriginal affairs at both the NT and federal level are Aboriginal women, as is the new Member for Lingiari, Marion Scrymgour, and NT Senators Mandalirri McCarthy and Jacinta Nampijinpa Price. We are encouraged by this and look forward to building strong working relations to improve the lives of Aboriginal people in Central Australia. It is an opportunity to refocus and reset priorities in our region that in my view have gone backwards since the Northern Territory National Emergency Response, which we know as the Intervention.



CEO Les Turner at the Yeperenye Walking Trail launch.

The CLC has a long-established history, and is amongst the oldest of the Aboriginal land councils in Australia. In 2021–2022 we continued working with other Northern Territory land councils and the National Indigenous Australians Agency on the Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC), a new body that should change the dynamics of economic development in the Northern Territory. NTAIC is an Aboriginal-controlled body with responsibility for managing a beneficial payments program (grants) and a strategic investment program designed to grow financial investments and to finance larger commercial investments that will generate economic and social returns for Aboriginal people, and a financial return for the body. CLC elected Ms Barbara Shaw and Mr Derek Walker to sit on the Interim Board of the NTIAC.

In 2021–22, the Australian National Audit Office commenced a performance audit of the effectiveness of governance of all of the four Northern Territory land councils. The CLC welcomes the opportunity to demonstrate our strong governance and performance culture. The review is expected to conclude by March 2023.

The CLC continues to assess and approve projects funded by the economic stimulus funds provided during the pandemic.

Water policy continues to be an area of major concern. The CLC is seeking substantive reform to the NT water regulation and management regime. Water management in the NT is inadequate and unfair. Our current arrangements lag behind other jurisdictions, with the NT government still not meeting a number of key commitments it signed up to in 2004, including fair pricing, transparent water planning, and separation of planning from allocation to commercial concerns.

There are no legally binding minimum standards for drinking water in our communities, nor laws to ensure equal access to safe and palatable drinking water across the NT. Our water is being sold from underneath us – before many Aboriginal people have basic water infrastructure and at the expense of our land and sacred sites. Many of our communities are under water stress and this requires urgent rectification. In addition, Aboriginal people are being left out of any economic benefits deriving from holding rights to water on their land.

The social determinants of health – including lack of housing, inadequate planning for changing demographics, access to basic services, access to employment, education and ongoing disempowerment – continue to impact on communities in Central Australia. The CLC is often the organisation called on to represent or take action on behalf of our people. We are proud of our reputation as a voice and an organisation that takes action – but it is resource intensive. We will continue to work with Traditional Owners and communities in advocating for our rights and involving other agencies taking responsibility for providing services.

The Ranger Program, which provides good work on Country, is a transformative initiative and I commend both governments for their continuing support. It is a good model for the future health of our people and Country.

At the very end of this financial year the Northern Territory Treaty Commission released its final report.

The report was initiated after many years of lobbying by the CLC, culminating in the Barunga Agreement between the four statutory Land Councils and the NT Government in June 2018. It's been a long road since 1988 when the Barunga Statement was presented to then Prime Minister Bob Hawke by the Central and Northern land councils.

We enter this next year with a new government in Canberra committed to the Uluru Statement and a Treaty Commission report which provides a practical road map to a treaty for the Northern Territory.

In the words of the NT Treaty Commission Final Report: "The time for action has arrived."

Les Turner

Chief Executive Officer



Delegates looking at entries for the Vincent Lingiari Art Award, Kalkaringi Council Meeting, August 2021.

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 performs those statutory functions with outstanding success, and is first and foremost a representative organisation rooted in the struggle for Aboriginal land rights.

Under the Land Rights Act, over 417,000 square kilometres of land has been returned to Traditional Owners under Aboriginal freehold title in the CLC region.

As Traditional Owners have regained title to land, the CLC has invested in land management to assist 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 such 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. The 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.

The CLC is one of the largest employers of Aboriginal people in the NT. It employs 266 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff, of whom approximately 45 per cent are Aboriginal.

In 2021–22 Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) funding comprised \$34.3 million of the total revenue of \$71.8 million. Total operating expenses were \$52.5 million and capital expenditure was \$6.2 million.

HISTORY

The CLC's roots reach deep into the Aboriginal struggle for justice and land rights in Central Australia. The most prominent example is the famous 1966 Gurindji strike at Wave Hill pastoral station, where more than 200 Aboriginal people made history when they walked off the station in protest against low wages and the very poor working and living conditions, starting the land rights movement.

In response to the demands of the striking families, the Whitlam Labor government set up a royal commission into land rights in the NT in 1973. One of the commission's 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 of the CLC. The Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service assigned a lawyer to work with them.



People at Land Claim Hearing. McLaren Creek, 1988.

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 Country Liberal 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 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 Kartangaruru-Gurindji land claim was won against the bitter opposition of the Northern Territory's Country Liberal Party government.

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

In 1983, in line with the recommendations of HC Coombs, members elected a new, regionally based executive. The CLC hired 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 a 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, although it was not completed until 2003. Attempts over two years 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 under a joint management agreement. 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 June 1997 deadline, or 'sunset clause', into the Land Rights Act, preventing lodgement of any new land claims after that date.

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, and at the Barunga Festival that year, 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 wishes 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.

Following the passage of the Native Title Act in 1993, the CLC became a Native Title Representative Body in January 1994. It lodged its first, and ultimately successful, native title claim over the town of Alice Springs. It also won a settlement of the long-running Lake Amadeus land claim.



Handback for 16 Mile Stock Reserve, Jinka Stock Reserve, North/south stock route (Stirling), McGrath Dam, Burt Creek and Gillen Bore Reserve, 1992.

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, funded in part 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 Land Rights Act was again amended in 2006, by the federal Howard government, to allow the Aboriginal Affairs Minister to delegate core land council functions to Aboriginal corporations that were not required to be made up of Traditional Owners and/or which could 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 and accompanying legislation – also called the Northern Territory Intervention.

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

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

In 2010, 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 imposed during the NT emergency response on community benefit projects, supported by the CLC's community development program.

Following the Strong Aboriginal Governance Summit in Tennant Creek, organised by the Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT (APO 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 in 2015 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.

In May 2017 the First Nations Constitutional Convention was held near Uluru. The CLC helped organise the Convention at the request of the Referendum Council, as well as the earlier First Nations Regional Dialogue at Ross River, which sent Central Australian delegates to the Convention to join with delegates from similar dialogues across Australia. The statement issued by the Convention has become widely known as the Uluru Statement from the Heart and its call for Voice, Treaty and Truth was endorsed by the CLC at its meeting in August 2017.



CLC executive member Geoffrey Matthews signed the Tanami Joint Venture exploration agreement, 1989.

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 Northern 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, and in June 2022 the Northern Territory Treaty Commission delivered its final report.

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 and took part in policy and strategy decisions about remote housing spending.

In October 2019, Anangu celebrated the closure of the climbing path on Uluru, 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 this disrespectful practice.

In January 2020, former CLC director David Ross was awarded membership of the general division of the Order of Australia,

honouring the more than 40 years of his life he devoted to the CLC and the people of Central Australia.

Over the past two years the CLC has faced the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, diverting its staff and resources to help to control the spread of the virus, while continuing its work to represent the Traditional Landowners of Central Australia to strengthen land management and economic participation, improve living conditions and opportunities, and protect the land and water and sacred sites vital to our future.

In December 2021, an important change to the Land Rights Act occurred with the passage of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment (Economic Empowerment) Bill 2021. This amendment enabled Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory to have a substantial role in decision making over ABA funds and established a new Commonwealth entity – the NT Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC). The four Northern Territory land councils have advocated for this change for decades and worked on a co-design process to establish the new corporation since 2018. Aboriginal people have majority control on the NTAIC Board through elected representatives from the four land councils. The NTAIC will be responsible for a strategic investment program and making decisions on grant applications previously approved by the Minister for Indigenous Australians. The inaugural meeting of the interim board took place in April 2022 and the NTAIC will become fully operational by December 2022.



Aboriginal protest in Alice Springs against the introduction of amendments to the NT Sacred Sites Act by Chief Minister Paul Everingham, 1984.

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, Robert Hoosan and Chief Executive Officer, Les Turner comprised the accountable authority at the end of the reporting period.

Mr Hoosan, from Aputula (Finke), is a former police officer, health worker and chair of the Northern Regional Council of Congress (NRCC) of the Northern Territory Uniting Church in Australia. Mr Turner is a former senior federal public servant who previously led both the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council and the New South Wales Aboriginal Legal Service.

Mr Hoosan was elected to the role of CLC chair in April 2022. Prior to his election, the then CLC Chair, Sammy Wilson and Chief Executive Officer, Les Turner comprised the accountable authority. Mr Wilson is a tourism operator and chairs the Board of Joint Management of the Uluru-Kata Tjuṯa National Park. Mr Wilson was a member of the CLC executive committee from 2015 to 2022.

The accountable authority met seven times during the reporting period.



Les Turner, Sammy Wilson and Barb Shaw attended the council meeting in Tennant Creek, November 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	ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

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 and other rights and interests.

CLC'S PURPOSE

VISION

To represent Central Australian Aboriginal people, and to promote and support their society, country, secured rights, culture and economy to deliver a promising future.

STATUTORY PURPOSE

The CLC's purpose is defined by the powers and functions legislated in the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and its responsibilities as a native title representative body under the Native Title Act. These powers and functions are embodied in the seven strategic goals listed below and are addressed in this report by reference to the output groups shown in parentheses below:

1. Rights and interests (output group 4)
2. Land ownership and interests (output groups 2 and 5)
3. Culture (output group 4.3)
4. Looking after country (output group 1)
5. Economic (jobs, training and business) (output group 3)
6. Communities and outstations (output group 4)
7. 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. The CLC's corporate plan, which guides future activities and priorities for the four-year period from 2021 to 2025, was published on the CLC website this financial year and was 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 2021 corporate plan, the CLC committed to utilising case studies in addition to performance measurement. As much of the organisation's performance cannot be assessed by metrics alone, these case studies enhance performance information and qualitative assessment. One such study is the longitudinal study of the CLC's 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. This was completed in 2019.

This project will help the 105 prioritised outstations to access up to \$150,000 each of ABA funding for much needed infrastructure improvements. The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) is responsible for facilitating the works described in the applications, while the CLC will continue to monitor progress. The project provides an example of good project governance and well-informed and harmonious decision making to determine which outstations will most benefit from the opportunity to make 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. The framework incorporates metric dashboards, each including measures categorised by the seven 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 2021–22 annual performance statement in compliance with subsections 39(1a) and 39(2) of the PGPA Act. The statement comprises:

1. metric performance measures – cross-referenced to the corporate plan activities
2. non-metric performance measures – targeting completion of key initiatives
3. qualitative case studies which are published on the CLC website – a community development project, an outstation project, and a s 64(4) ABA grant application support project. These are located at <https://www.clc.org.au/monitoring-evaluation/>.

Table 1. Annual performance statement: actual v target

Strategic goal	Performance criteria	Key performance indicators – description	Strategy reference ²	2020–21	2021–22		
				Actual	Actual	Target	Variance
1. Aboriginal peoples' rights and interests are protected and represented	Successful communication of CLC's 'Rights and Interests' advocacy activities to Aboriginal constituents and key stakeholders	External publications produced for key stakeholders regarding Aboriginal rights and interests and the CLC's work	1	146	146	120	26
2. Aboriginal land ownership and interests are protected and enhanced	ALRA land claims & native title claims – recognition of Aboriginal constituents' interests in land through successfully negotiating and obtaining land rights and native title determinations in compliance with ALRA and Native Title Act	Traditional Owner 'ownership' (km ²) administered with rights and interests protected and represented under ALRA ¹	2	418,548	418,548	423,386	(4,838)
		Native Title claim for which consent determination has been handed down	2.4	35	35	37	(2)
	Determine Traditional Owners for all claims and interests (e.g. land claims, land use and development, land management, caring for country, land use income)	Anthropological advice issued to determine relevant Traditional Owners (claims and interests) – excludes certificate work at KPI #9	2.2	307	332	300	32
	Post land & native title claim administration: ALRA access permits; negotiate, consult and manage land use and access outcomes (leasing, exploration and mining, grazing, other applications and future acts)	Current leases and licences entered into and managed	2.7-2.11	2,540	2,965	2,570	395
		Native Title non-mining Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) entered and managed	2.5-2.6	70	63	72	(9)
		Exploration agreements (ELs & EPs) entered into, and managed on, land subject to ALRA or Native Title	2.7-2.11	78	68	81	(13)
		Minerals and energy production agreements entered into and managed on land subject to ALRA or Native Title	2.7-2.11	20	19	21	(2)
3. Aboriginal people protect and maintain their sacred sites, land, cultures, languages and cultural heritage	Activities to protect sacred sites, plan and manage cultural heritage, maintain culture and languages by transferring knowledge on country and supporting traditional Aboriginal ceremony and funeral customs	Sacred Site Clearance Certificates (SSCC) / Work Area Clearances issued	3.1	193	176	169	7
		Cultural heritage management and Intergenerational IEK transfer projects supported	3.5	36	75	22	53
4. Aboriginal people are looking after their country	Traditional Owners are leading or influencing land management across the region, their voice respected and deploying their traditional and ecological knowledge	Land management committee meetings and consultative forums with effective Traditional Owners representation	4.1, 4.2	85	99	60	39
	Effective Aboriginal employment and training in land management through the Traditional Owner-directed Ranger program	Rangers employed in the ranger program – full-time equivalent	4.2	54	55	86	(31)
5. Generations of Aboriginal people are successful in training, jobs and businesses	Support Aboriginal people in the effective management of income derived from the use of their land	Distribution committee meetings held regarding land use income	5.1	105	100	80	20
	Effective and compliant administration of Aboriginal Corporations in accordance with the CATSI Act (CLC engaged under ALRA and through service agreements)	AGMs and SGMs facilitated by AAMC & PBC teams for Aboriginal Corporations that have land holding or land use income under service agreements	5.2	48	43	51	(8)
	Supporting Aboriginal people to connect with employment opportunities	Employment placements: connecting people with opportunities in the region (mining, exploration, construction, remote employment, pastoral)	5.5	37	9	50	(41)

Strategic goal	Performance criteria	Key performance indicators – description	Strategy reference ²	2020–21	2021–22		
				Actual	Actual	Target	Variance
6. Aboriginal people control their communities and outstations	Actions to support Aboriginal people in their development of strong communities and outstations	Community-funded community benefit initiatives	6	177	217	180	37
		Community development project expenditure across CLC region (\$000)	6.2	10,176	11,236	15,500	(4,264)
7. Governance and management meet constituent and legal requirements	Governance meetings held to administer ALRA & Native Title Act requirements, and to provide council members with regular cultural engagement opportunities	Council meetings held (90 elected delegates from across the CLC region convene for several days)	7.1	3	3	3	0
		Executive Committee meetings held	7.1	8	7	8	0
	Human resources planning and capability	Aboriginal staff as a percentage of workforce (FTE)	7.3	46.5%		48.5%	

¹ No new ALRA land claims permitted under the legislation – only two claims remain in the CLC region.

² Strategy reference refers to the primary activity for this measure in the strategic goals and activities section of the Corporate Plan 2022–2026.

Table 2. Annual performance statement non-metric performance: actual v target

GOAL/ACTIVITY	NON-METRIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE	2020–21	2021–22		
		Actual	Actual	Target	Variance
1. Aboriginal peoples' rights and interests are protected and represented					
1.2	Annual policy priority review	✓		New council	Negative
	Develop a research and evidence database and sources				
1.4, 7.1	Council members survey	✓		✓	Negative
2. Aboriginal land ownership and interests are protected and enhanced					
2.3	Review procedures for management and monitoring of disputes under ALRA and NTA functions		✓	✓	
2.3	Dispute management and facilitation training		✓	✓	
	Apply for NTRB recognition				
3. Aboriginal people protect and maintain their sacred sites, land, cultures, languages and cultural heritage					
3.1	Sacred site clearance certificate update of procedures		✓		Positive
3.2	Review CLC policy and procedure for repatriation of objects			✓	Negative
3.4	Update CLC policy and procedure for cultural information management		✓	✓	
	Establish and engage with an Aboriginal sub-committee on cultural guidance regarding 3.2 and 3.4		✓	✓	
	Language interpreter policy review		✓	✓	
5. Generations of Aboriginal people are successful in training, jobs and businesses					
5.3	Develop a monitoring framework for Economic Participation activities			Establish	Negative
5.7	Annual monitoring and review of the ABA Economic Stimulus Package			✓	Negative
6. Aboriginal people control their communities and outstations					
	Annual external monitoring of Community Development outcomes	✓	✓	✓	
7. Governance and management meet constituent and legal requirements					
7.1	Council elections held every 3 years (due 2025)		✓	✓	
	Performance reporting to Minister – annual and half-yearly	✓	✓	✓	
	Legislative compliance framework – non-compliance reporting if applicable (Audit committee oversights)	✓	✓	✓	
	Ongoing unmodified CLC annual audited financial statements	✓	✓	✓	
	Medium-term financial framework / annual budget update	✓	✓	✓	
	Organisation structure review and implementation			✓	Negative
	Gender report		✓		Positive
7.3	Aboriginal staff development strategy implementation	✓	✓	Review	
	Enterprise Agreement (EA) / Salary determination		✓	✓	
	Professional development 'curriculum' established and implemented		✓		Positive
	Staff satisfaction survey / index	✓	✓	✓	
	Facilities development plan and periodic review	✓	✓	✓	
7.4	Cloud-based solutions and data strategy			✓	Negative
7.2, 7.6	Climate change operating strategy			✓	Negative

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 3).

Table 3. Performance against Commonwealth-recommended environmental measures

Theme	Indicator(s)	Measure	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
ENERGY EFFICIENCY	Electricity purchased	\$	242,179	233,616	194,023	142,803	153,295
	Electricity consumed	kWh	780,799	748,901	708,348	537,987	616,510
	Gas purchased	\$	25,531	23,523	19,837	18,430	14,628
	Other fuels purchased/consumed	L	556,604	558,145	398,970	568,896	451,187
	Fuels purchased	\$	1,034,513	1,038,150	754,053	910,234	947,493
	Air travel distances	km	887,952	1,066,075	967,434	484,809	530,424
	Air travel CO ²	tonnes	108	132	75	56	54
	Electricity CO ²	tonnes	953	671	864	660	752
	Gas CO ²	tonnes	17.8	15.8	19.2	17	18
	Other fuels CO ²	tonnes	1,599	1,507	1,077	1,536	1,190
	Electricity used	kWh p/e	3,295	3,482	2,719	2,881	2,634
	Gas used	Gj p/e	63.2	59	46.2	40.9	49
	Other fuels	L p/e	2,701	2,052	1,535	2,188	1,928
RENEWABLE ENERGY	Electricity produced	kWh	42,500	46,831	97,146	210,740	213,392
	Savings	\$	9,775	10,770	22,341	48,470	49,080
	CO ² savings	tonnes	29	32	67	145	147
	Renewable electricity	% kWh	5.7	6.3	13.7	39	26
WASTE	Amount going to landfills	cubic metres	435	468	460	420	217
	Amount going to recycling facilities	cubic metres	260	260	240	78	129
	Amount of waste per employee	cubic metres	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.6	0.8
WATER	Water consumption	kL	8,280	8,855	7,870	7,683	10,726
	Relative water consumption – water use	kL p/e	34.9	33	30	30	45
CO ² OFFSETS	Camels removed by muster	number	406	2,271	1,264	1,491	-
	Camels removed by muster – CO ² emission savings	tonnes	-	-	-	62,554	-
	Horses removed by joint management	tonnes	-	3,022	1,728	352	-
	Horses removed by joint management – CO ² emission savings	tonnes	-	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.

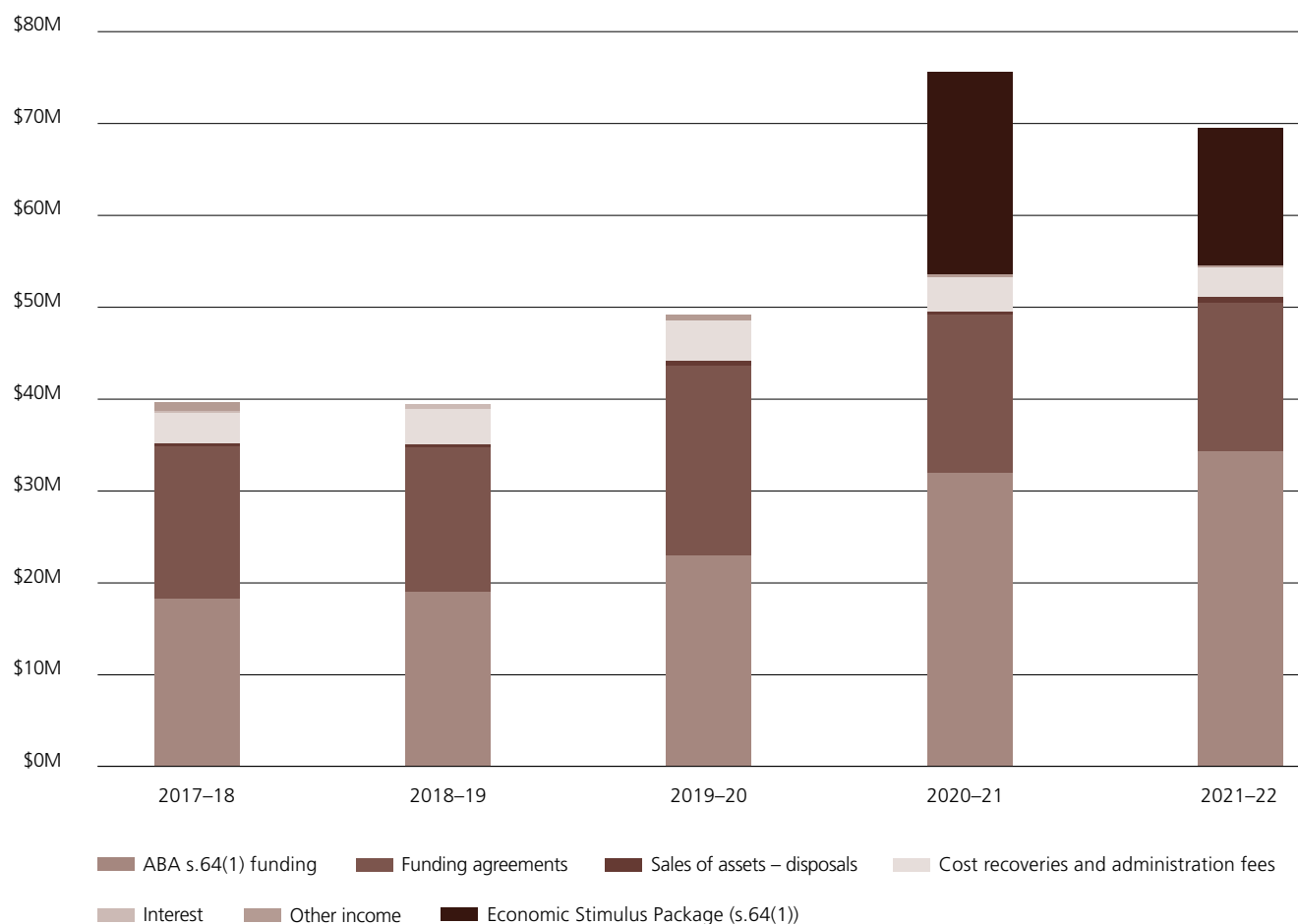
Aboriginal constituent services demand: Aboriginal groups receive royalties, rent and compensation related to mining and other land use activities. Groups are assigned increased amounts from these proceeds to community development activities that are supported and administered by the CLC's community 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 2021–22 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
- native title leases and licences have increased after a reduction brought about by expiry of numerous leases by the Australian Government
- cultural heritage and IEK projects and land management meetings and forums – lifting of COVID-19 restrictions allowed completion of a large number of activities and meetings that had been stalled
- distribution committee meetings – increased exploration activity resulted in a larger than expected number of meetings
- community benefit initiatives – larger number of smaller projects funded resulting in diverse projects benefitting
- update of sacred site clearance procedures associated with increased office time during COVID-19 lockdowns
- gender report and professional development curriculum to be completed annually.

Figure 1. Sources of revenue, 2017–22



Targets not achieved

- traditional ownership land claims and Indigenous Land Use Agreements – negotiations are sitting with NT Government for finalisation
- exploration agreements – affected by COVID-19 biosecurity zones and companies electing to look elsewhere
- rangers employed – COVID-19 vaccination mandates impacted recruitment and turnover
- AGMs and SGMs – several PBC AGMs postponed due to sorry business and COVID-19 travel restrictions
- employment placements – staff vacancies and COVID-19 vaccination mandates resulted in substantially lower number of placements
- community development project expenditure – COVID-19 associated project implementation delays and an increase in smaller projects with minimal initial spending but larger long-term spending forecasts
- annual policy review to occur at August Council meeting, Council members survey occurred in 2020–21 and not forecast until 2024–25
- policy and procedure for repatriation of objects scheduled for 2022–23
- monitoring framework for economic participation activities – staff vacancies and turnover caused delays in development of the business plan
- review of the ABA Economic Stimulus Package – intentionally delayed and scheduled for 2022–23 to allow more time to collect relevant data
- organisational structure review
- cloud-based solutions and data strategy were initiated but will not be finalised until 2023
- climate change operating strategy

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The surplus for 2021–22 was \$18.7 million compared to a surplus of \$30.4 million in the previous year. The substantial reduction relates to receiving ABA allocations in advance. In 2020–21 CLC received \$22.0 million of ABA Economic Stimulus Funding, in 2021–22 it received a further \$14.7 million. Figure 1 lists operational sources of revenue for 2017–22. Although as at the

end of the 2021–22 year the overwhelming majority of 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, in part due to COVID-19 restrictions preventing work in remote communities and the obtaining of building approvals. Building and construction contracts are further delayed by the shortage of trade services in remote areas and the delays in the supply of building materials. Unfinished building projects will proceed in 2022–23. The procurement of motor vehicles is a significant issue with delays of up to 12 months for the supply of 4WD vehicles. These delays are expected to continue through the next 12 months.

The **land and natural resource management** output group expenditure was \$12.0 million, or 22 per cent of total expenditure.

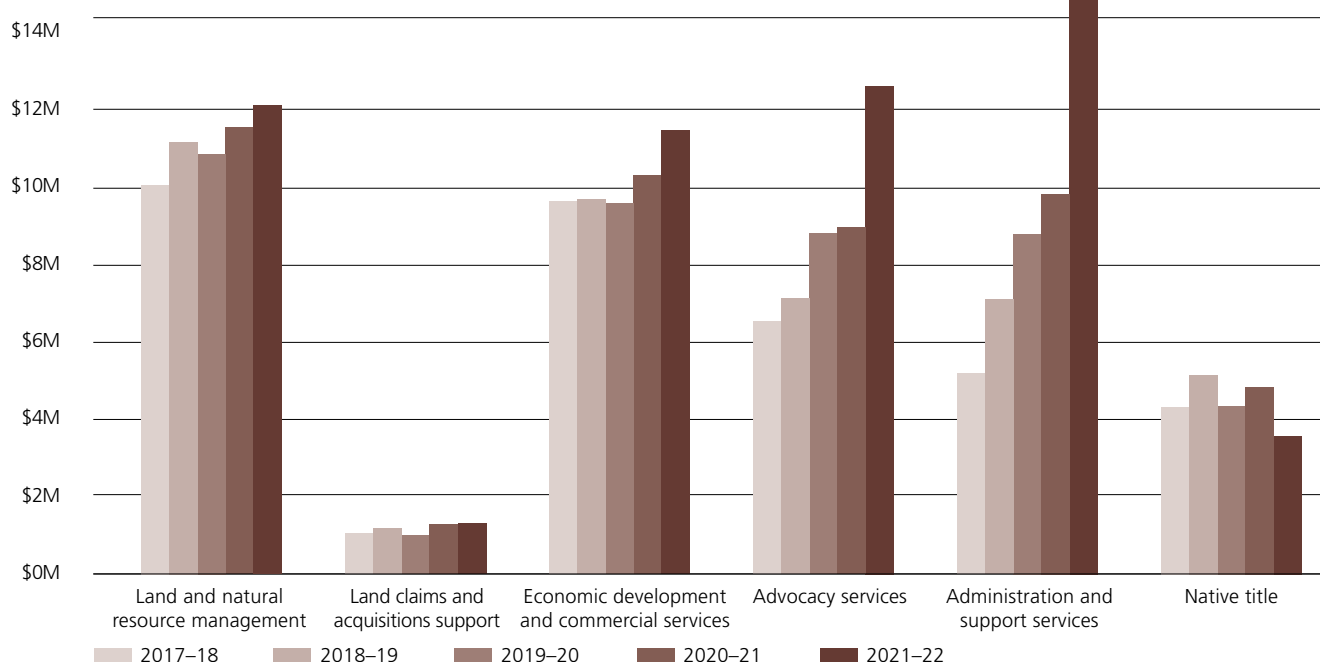
The **economic development and commercial services** output group was \$11.4 million, or 20 per cent of total expenditure. This output group comprises expenditure related to land use agreements, employment, education and training, mining and commercial assistance. It includes statutory mining and land 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 \$12.6 million, or 22 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 are provided later in this report.

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, 2017–22



CLC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

The CLC has 90 elected members who represent 75 communities across nine regions. The chair is Robert Hoosan and the deputy chair is Warren Williams.

CLC CHAIR



ROBERT HOOSAN

CLC DEPUTY CHAIR



WARREN WILLIAMS

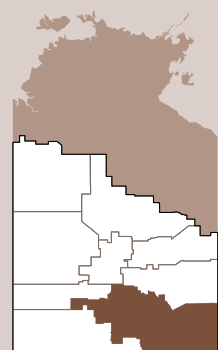
CLC EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND DELEGATES AT 30 JUNE 2022

REGION 1 • ALICE SPRINGS



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Barbara Shaw**
(alternate: Roseanne Ellis)

Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa): **Raymond Palmer**; Titjikala: **Rodney Katatuna**; Wallace Rockhole: **Gordon Abbott**; Amoonguna: **Roseanne Ellis**; Uruua: **David Silverton**; Yatemans Bore outstations: **Patrick Oliver**; Alice Springs town camps: **Barbara Shaw**; Alice Springs native title holders: **Darryl Stevens, Kristy Bloomfield**; Alice Springs outstations: **Matthew Palmer**; Iwupataka: **Glen Sharpe**; Ntaria (Hermannsburg): **Conrad Ratara**; Ntaria outstations: **Byron (Troy) Ratara, Christian Malbunka, Mildred Inkamala**.

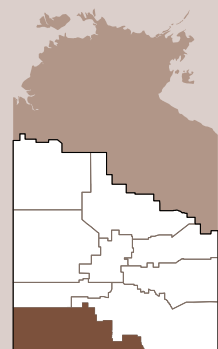


REGION 2 • SOUTHWEST



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Charles Gibson**
(alternate: Sammy Wilson)

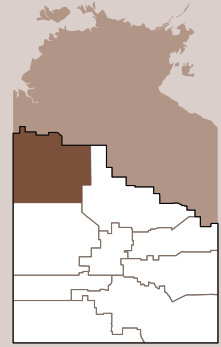
Imanpa (Mount Ebenezer): **Charles Gibson, Lillian Inkamala**; Utju (Areyonga): **Jacob Carrol**; Aputula (Finke): **Robert Hoosan**; Kaltukatjara (Dockert River): **vacant**; Kaltukatjara outstations: **vacant**; Mutitjulu: **Sammy Wilson, Rene Kulitja**; Watarrka (Kings Canyon) outstations: **Janine Clyne**; Ukaka (Tempe Downs): **vacant**.



REGION 3 • NORTHWEST

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

Bamboo Springs: **Juanita Rogers**; Mistake Creek: **vacant**; Daguragu: **Dianne King**; Daguragu outstations: **Philadia Jimmy, Daniel Algy**; Lajamanu: **Sharon Anderson, Braydon Payton**; Lajamanu outstations: **Peter Patterson**.

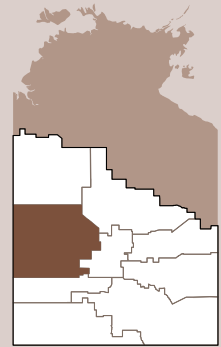


REGION 4 • TANAMI



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Valerie Martin**
(alternate: Simon Fisher Jnr)

Nyirripi: **Ricardo Gallagher**; Yuendumu: **Valerie Martin, Ned (Vaughan) Hargraves**; Yuendumu outstations: **Simon Fisher Jnr, Warren Williams**; Tanami Downs: **vacant**; Willowra: **Teddy Long, Terence Payton**; Mount Barkly: **Newton Long**; Mount Denison: **Gibson Long**.

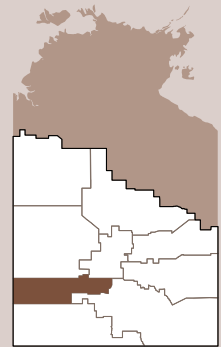


REGION 5 • WESTERN



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Martin Jugadai**
(alternate: Joseph Zimran)

Papunya: **Dalton McDonald**; Papunya outstations: **Terrence Abbott**; Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff): **Martin Jugadai**; Ikuntji outstations: **Arnold Butler**; Amundurrngu (Mount Liebig): **Neil Peterson**; Amundurrngu outstations: **Roderick Kantamara**; Walungurru (Kintore): **Monica Robinson**; Walungurru outstations: **Joseph Zimran**; Mbunghara: **Terry Morris**.

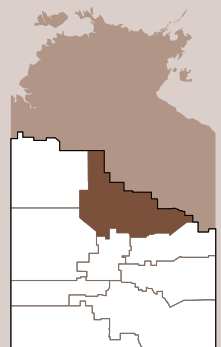


REGION 6 • TENNANT CREEK



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Sandra Jones Morrison**
(alternate: Dianne Stokes)

Mangalawarra: **Dianne Stokes**; Ngurratiji (Nguyarrminy): **Greg Murphy**; Kunayungku: **Ronald Brown**; Karlanjarriyi: **Sandra Jones Morrison**; Wutunurrurga (Epenarra): **Jeremiah Corbett**; Tennant Creek native title holders: **Anthony Crafter** (temporary); Tennant Creek: **Michael Jones, Annie Morrison**; Owairtilla (Canteen Creek): **Basil Mick**; Purrukuwurr: **vacant**; Alekarenge: **Graham Beasley, Derek Walker**; Imangara (Murray Downs): **Elizabeth Dobbs**.

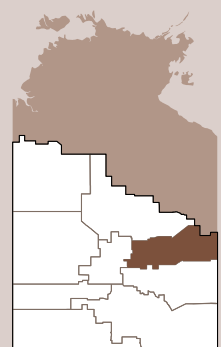


REGION 7 • EASTERN SANDOVER



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Jackie Mahoney**
(alternate: vacant)

Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash): **Pamela (Pam) Corbett, John (Jackie) Mahoney**; Ampilatwatja: **Roger Morton**; Utopia homelands: **Graham Long** (temporary), **Joyce Jones** (temporary); Alparra: **Esau Nelson** (temporary), **Malcolm Club** (temporary); Irrultja: **Eldon Ross**; Atnwengerpe: **John Lewis**.

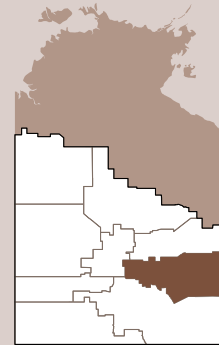


REGION 8 • EASTERN PLENTY



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Neville Petrick**
(alternate: Peppi Drover)

Bonya: **David Blue Jnr**; Urlampe outstations: **Joshua Rankine**; Alcoota: **Kevin Bloomfield**; Irrerlirre (McDonald Downs): **Neville Petrick**; Mount Eaglebeak: **Herbie Bloomfield**; Akarnenhe Well: **Andrew Alice**; Atitjere (Harts Range): **Peppi Drover**.

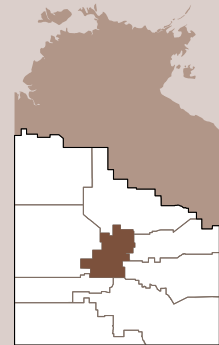


REGION 9 • CENTRAL



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Kim Brown**
(alternate: Ron Hagan)

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



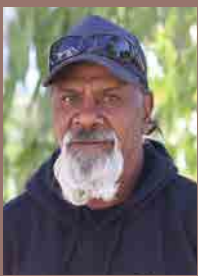
CLC EXTERNAL COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEMBERS

The CLC is represented on three external committees and boards: the Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee (ABAAC) (five members); the Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC) Interim Board (two members); and the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) (four members).

ABORIGINALS BENEFIT ACCOUNT (ABA) COMMITTEE MEMBERS



BARBARA SHAW



ROBERT HOOSAN



WARREN WILLIAMS



VACANT



VACANT

NORTHERN TERRITORY ABORIGINAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION (NTAIC) INTERIM BOARD



BARBARA SHAW



DEREK WALKER

ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY (AAPA) ADVISORY COMMITTEE



VALERIE MARTIN



BARBARA SHAW



NEVILLE PETRICK



ROBERT HOOSAN



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 2021–2025, p.98).

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 the Hon Linda Burney, MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians. Minister Burney is the minister responsible for the 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 Minister Burney on whole-of-government priorities for First Nations peoples. Hon Ken Wyatt was Minister for Indigenous Australians until the federal election on 21 May 2022.

MINISTERIAL DIRECTIONS

The responsible minister did not issue directions, general policies or general policy orders during the reporting period.

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

The CLC advised the Minister for Indigenous Australians that Mr Robert Hoosan, was elected chair on 6 April 2022, replacing Mr Sammy Wilson, who retired. In December 2021, the General Manager/Chief Financial Officer Dr Nigel Graves resigned and was replaced by Mr Andrew Knight.

STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

The statutory functions are described in section 23(1) of the Land Rights Act and are detailed above in the section headed 'Statutory functions'.

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. Executive members are appointed by members in their region. Elections for the chair and deputy chair are held at meetings of the council. The Northern Territory Electoral Commission was engaged to conduct the election for the chair and deputy chair on 6 April 2022.

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

The executive committee held seven meetings in Alice Springs in 2021–22. All meetings were held in person or via videoconference due to biosecurity restrictions affecting some of the executive members.

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 4. Council meetings, 2021–22

Meeting dates	Location	Resolutions passed
24 – 26 August 2021	Kalkaringi	7
2 – 4 November 2021	Tennant Creek	2
5 – 7 April 2022	Tennant Creek	4

Table 5. Executive committee meetings, 2021–22

Meeting dates	Resolutions passed
9 – 10 August 2021	55
4 – 5 October 2021	33
8 – 9 December 2021	56
12 January 2022 (special meeting)	1
22 – 23 February 2022	18
29 – 30 March 2022	22
17 – 18 May 2022	31

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 6 April 2022, the council elected Mr Robert Hoosan as chair and Mr Warren Williams as deputy chair at its meeting at Tennant Creek. Their terms conclude in April 2025.

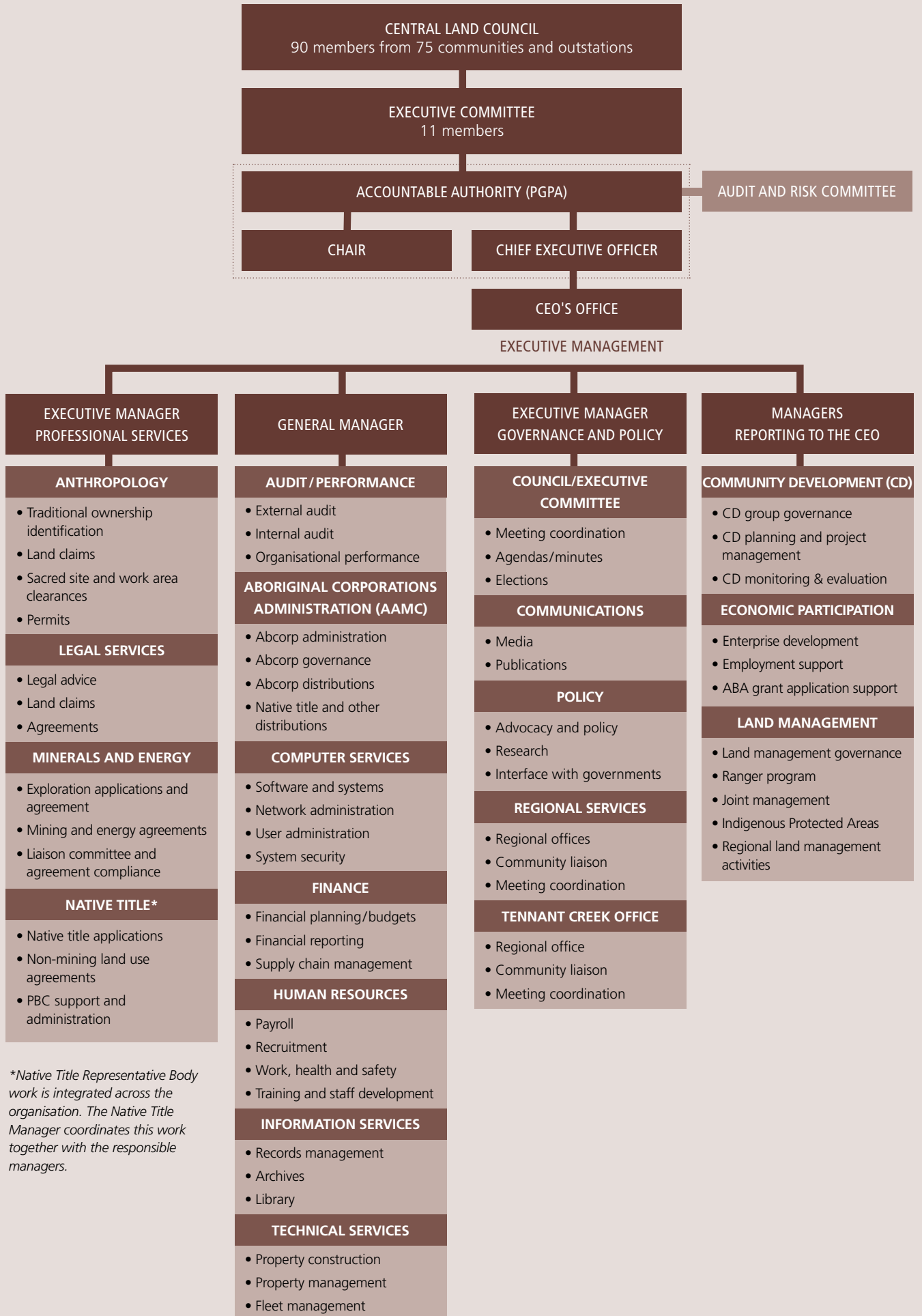
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Aboriginal land councils and land trusts are not subject to freedom of information requests (see section 7 and part 1 of schedule 2 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth)).



Graham Long, Esau Nelson and Joyce Jones attended governance training at the Council meeting in Tennant Creek, April 2022.

CLC ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



*Native Title Representative Body work is integrated across the organisation. The Native Title Manager coordinates this work together with the responsible managers.

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, 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. The COVID-19 pandemic related biosecurity declarations made in 2020 and again in 2022 prevented travel outside of biosecurity zones except for approved essential workers. These declarations have made the general public and contractors aware of the permit system.

In 2021–22 the CLC processed and issued 2,628 permit applications covering 6,940 individuals. The Simpson Desert tracks on Atnetye ALT (Madigan Line and Hay River Track) continue to increase in popularity and require an entry permit and so the number of permits issued for them are included in these figures. The numbers are monitored to assist Traditional Owners of Atnetye ALT make informed decisions about the management of these tracks. For the Madigan Line, 542 permits were issued for 983 vehicles and 1,326 people in 2021–22, an increase from 384 permits and 1,155 people the previous year. For the Hay River Track, 352 permits were issued for 1061 people and 584 vehicles in 2021–22, again a significant increase from the number of travellers the previous year.

Border restrictions due to COVID-19 caused unpredictable and sudden increases and decreases in permit application numbers as well as numerous requests to amend already issued permits. From December 2021, applicants for entry, mining and special purpose permits were required by CLC to provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19. The many designations of hotspots and lockdowns required constant monitoring and updating of the CLC website. Compared with three years ago, pre-pandemic, there has been a significant increase in telephone and email communications with the general public (tourists and workers) seeking information about which areas require permits and under what conditions permits will be issued.

In response to the increase in work-related permit applications and the increased workload for the permit officer, the CLC introduced organisation-wide permits for staff employed in providing essential services where the employer required all staff be double vaccinated. As well as ensuring the workload of the permits officer was somewhat more manageable, the aim was also to prevent delays of new staff in these essential services from being deployed quickly. There were nine organisation-wide entry permits issued in 2021–22; these have been included in the total for entry permits issued although the number of people each organisation-wide permit covered (between 31 and 223 people) has not been included in the overall people number.

Anthropology staff consulted Traditional Owners regarding nine Special Purpose Permits, which normally relate to the conduct of research or are of an unusual nature.

Table 6. Number of different types of permits, July 2021 – June 2022

Permit type	Number of permits	Number of people
Entry	2628	6940
Special purpose (research and media)	9	17
Mining	171	1671
Transit	2587	Number unavailable
Total	5395	8628

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 land under this form of title, 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 the 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 2021–22 for more details).

CLC anthropologists prepared 28 Traditional Owner identifications for land management activities. They assisted with land management activities with Traditional Owners, such as: trips along the increasingly popular Simpson Desert tracks on Atnetye Aboriginal Land Trust (ALT) (Madigan Line and Hay River track) and to Indigenous Protected areas (IPAs) on Haasts Bluff ALT and Petermann ALT; cleaning out waterholes on Lake Mackay ALT; ground-based burning on Wirliyajarrayi ALT, Atnetye ALT and Karlantitjpa South ALT; and surveys of wallabies and rock rats on Yunkanjini ALT and Haasts Bluff ALT.

REGIONAL LAND MANAGEMENT

Land resource information and planning

CLC's implementation of the Survey 123 data collection app has helped rangers collect data on weeds, threatened species and sites for future works. The application is also being used to conduct grazing licence inspections, streamlining the process and enabling additional CLC staff to assist with compliance and pastoral lease reporting.

The CLC continued to hold consultation workshops for healthy country plans with rangers in Tennant Creek, Ntaria, Ltyentye Apurte, Harts Range, and Ti Tree. Drafts of the Ti Tree, Arltarpilta Inelye (Harts Range) and Ltyentye Apurte plans are due to be completed in 2022, a draft of the Anmatyerr (Ti Tree) plan will be completed in 2023. The Muru-warinyi Ankkul Rangers' (Tennant Creek) healthy country plan is complete, pending some final translations.

The CLC has also driven efforts to re-establish 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. By the time it ceased in 2012, the project had recorded a wealth of baseline biodiversity data. The CLC progressed the project by participating in regular meetings of the interim steering group and core partner group, partnered with a range of stakeholders to submit an Australian Research Council grant application, and assisted with an on-site scoping project to inform a revised methodology for the survey program. The monitoring program is scheduled to recommence in late 2022.

Fire management

The CLC facilitated the annual *warlu* and *waru* (Warlpiri and Pitjantjatjara words for fire) regional fire committee meetings. At these meetings Traditional Owners and rangers work with Bushfires NT and the Indigenous Desert Alliance to plan fire management on IPAs and ALTs in Central Australia. The CLC also advocated for Aboriginal fire management at the NT Bushfires Council and the Alice Springs regional bushfires committee meetings.

This year the CLC invested in the health and safety of staff working in the fire program by purchasing aviation-grade helmets and safety equipment for aerial incendiary operations. A review of fire equipment transport and storage was also undertaken and as a result CLC has applied to the National Indigenous Australians Agency for funding to purchase a dedicated fire vehicle to ensure CLC compliance with civil aviation and hazardous goods transport standards.

Two fixed-wing aerial burning operations were held in the Tanami, in the North and South Tanami IPAs, and on Karantitjpa North ALT. Operations were conducted in collaboration with Indigenous Desert Alliance, North Tanami, Warlpiri, and Muru-warinyi Ankkul ranger groups, burning a total of 1123 square kilometres.

CLC rangers also participated in numerous prescribed burns throughout the CLC region. For example, CLC facilitated a ground-based patch burning trip along the Madigan and Hay River tracks in the Simpson Desert (Atnetye ALT) with 11 Traditional Owners assisted by five rangers.

The Katiti-Petermann IPA, CLC rangers and Parks Australia have been working closely with senior Pitjantjatjara knowledge holders to teach young people how to implement ground-based burning. The cold winter has enabled senior people to teach small patch burn techniques in 11 key locations with the assistance of the Tjakura, Kalukutjara and Anangu ranger groups

The CLC continued to support the Karantitjpa North savannah burning project by assisting with fire planning, ground operations and governance. Three fire management operations in collaboration with Traditional Owners and the Tennant Creek and Daguragu ranger groups, between March and May 2022, resulted in controlled burning of 1,309 square kilometres. Fire management on this previously unmanaged land trust has become more financially sustainable because of income generated from the sale of carbon credits, and this has enabled Traditional Owners to lead cultural and land management activities.

A permit was extended to allow Charles Darwin University to research how to extend the savannah burning methodology below the 600 mm rainfall isohyet (a line on a map or chart connecting areas of equal rainfall), which marks the extent of the current approved methodology. This work included mapping vegetation and a field trip with the North Tanami Rangers to collect data to inform the carbon calculations required for development of a carbon abatement methodology.

Water resource management

The CLC supported Traditional Owners, native title holders and affected residents of the Western Davenport water control district by representing their views to the Western Davenport Water Advisory Committee to inform its review of the Western Davenport Water Allocation plan. It also engaged two consultants to consult Traditional Owners at Tennant Creek, Alekerenge and Ampilatwatja in the Western Davenport Water Control District about their preferred governance arrangements for the ongoing review of the water allocation plan and other groundwater-related matters. Consultations were attended by over 100 Traditional Owners, highlighting the importance of water and water rights to Aboriginal people.

A consultant hydrogeologist was engaged to review groundwater modelling for the Singleton water licence application and the Western Davenport Water Allocation Plan.



CLC delegate Peppi Drover during a burning trip in the Simpson Desert.



Darren Doolan (Aputula Ranger) checked animal traps in the Simpson Desert.

This information was critical in assisting CLC to provide free, prior and informed consent and has been tabled at the Western Davenport Water Advisory Committee.

The CLC participated in several meetings, a community information workshop and a consultation workshop with 15 Traditional Owners to provide feedback to the community submission *Talking Water – Kwatye Angkerne* in partnership with the NT Government, Desert Knowledge Research Institute and various stakeholders in Alice Springs. The project increased community awareness about water availability, limitations and use and collected community views and opinions to inform the Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan Directions Paper.

Invasive species management

FERAL ANIMALS

The CLC helps Traditional Owners to manage feral animals through planning, consultation and partnerships. Less management was required following two wet summers 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. Negotiations regarding the muster and sale of feral horses are underway for the Ntaria and Ltyentye Apurte areas and it is hoped this will reduce the impact of drought on water sources and animals in the region.

The CLC supports Traditional Owners in their efforts to limit the impact of feral animals on sacred and significant sites and in threatened species management. The Tjuwanpa Rangers built a mesh fence around a Slater's skink burrow complex to protect it from feral cats, and the Northern Tanami IPA worked with PAW Media to revise a feral animal educational video and added it to the digital storybook version of the Northern Tanami IPA plan of management.

CLC also negotiated with Northern Territory Parks staff and Traditional Owners for realignments and upgrades to fence lines at Wanmarra to prevent feral horses accessing the area and further damaging Bagot Springs and community water pipes. CLC continued working with Traditional Owners across the region to record and protect sacred sites from feral animal damage, such as at Ngalurrjtju ALT, where CLC worked with Traditional Owners to create management plans for three sites damaged by feral animals and cleaned camel carcasses out of a spring.

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 7 highlights the weed species and areas where rangers conducted weed control activities.

Table 7. Weed species and areas of control work

Name	Status	Work areas
Rubber bush (<i>Calotropis procera</i>)	B	Warumungu Aboriginal Land Trust Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust Yuendumu Aboriginal Land Trust The Garden pastoral station
Athel pine (<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>)	WONS A/B	Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust Rodna Aboriginal Land Trust Ntaria Aboriginal Land Trust Uruna Aboriginal Land Trust
Mimosa (<i>Vachellia farnesiana</i>)	Not declared	Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust
Buffel grass (<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>)	Not declared	Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust Katiti Aboriginal Land Trust Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust
Thornapple (<i>Datura ferox</i>)	A	Mt Riddock Station Atitjere
Ruby dock (<i>Rumex vesicarius</i>)	Not declared	Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust
Parkinsonia	WONS B	Santa Teresa Aboriginal Land Trust
Mexican poppy	B	Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust
Kapok bush (<i>Aerva javanica</i>)	Not declared	Atitjere
Neem tree	B	Daguragu 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. An ongoing partnership with Territory Natural Resource Management continues in the Tanami region, with rangers utilising their knowledge of country to assist researchers to find the greater bilby. The Lajamanu rangers and Traditional Owners are also in talks with a PhD student from

Charles Darwin University regarding further research on the bilby in the Tanami region.

The Muṯitjulu Tjakura rangers have engaged with the Indigenous Desert Alliance to create an Indigenous-led threatened species recovery plan for the great desert skink (*Liopholis kintorei*). Theirs and other desert peoples' deep knowledge of the animal and their ability to track them through spinifex sand plains demonstrates the importance of working with Aboriginal people to properly understand the ecology of rare species.

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 ALT 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.



A dunnart found in a trap in the Simpson Desert.

Table 8. Significant and threatened species surveys, 2021–22

Survey species	Location	Ranger group
Great desert skink (<i>Egernia kintorei</i>)	Kaṯiṯi Aboriginal Land Trust	Tjakuṛa Rangers
Ninu (Greater bilby – <i>Macrotis lagotis</i>)	Central Desert Aboriginal Land Trust	Warlpiri Rangers and Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area Maru-wariny Ankkul
	Alyawarr Aboriginal Land Trust	North Tanami Rangers and North Tanami Indigenous Protected Area
	Karlintjpa North Aboriginal Land Trust	Muru-warinyi Ankkul 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
Marsupial mole (<i>Notoryctes typhlops</i>)	Ntaria Aboriginal Land Trust	Kaltukatjara Rangers
Spectacled hare wallaby (<i>Lagorchestes conspicillatus</i>)	Ahakeye Aboriginal Land Trust	Anmatyerr Rangers
Slater's skink (<i>Egernia slateri</i>)	Rodna Aboriginal Land Trust	Tjuwanpa Rangers
	Ntaria Aboriginal Land Trust	Tjuwanpa Rangers
	Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust	Aṅangu Luritjiku Rangers

STRUCTURED COMMUNITY-BASED LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation’s ‘real jobs’ programs, a decade of funding from the Australian Government’s Indigenous advancement strategy, together with start-up funding from the 10 Deserts Project and the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) stimulus program have allowed the CLC’s 15 ranger groups to manage cultural and natural resources on Aboriginal land and Indigenous protected areas and to contribute more than 195,000 square kilometres to the national reserve system (see the ranger program annual report annexure 2021–22 for details).

The then Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt, agreed to fund the NIAA funded ranger teams until 2028. Funding was matched to the previous allocation with a CPI increase of 1.2%, and an additional \$2 million was allocated to infrastructure, which will help the ranger teams replace an aging fleet of vehicles and perform minor improvement works at remote operational bases. The Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation has indicated it will continue to fund the CLC ranger groups and has allocated an increase in wage budgets to align with NIAA funding, although a formal agreement has not yet been provided. Additional funding from the NT Government’s Aboriginal Ranger Grants program and the 10 Deserts Project supported important projects. These included developing healthy country plans for groups without strategic management plans, continuing the ‘Reading the Country’ tracking project, and buying ranger vehicles for Aṅangu-Luritjiku and Ltyentye Apurte for the use of women rangers. These are yet to be delivered due to international vehicle shortages.

Community demand for ranger employment and for additional ranger groups remains high and the CLC continues to advocate for the expansion of the program. The CLC has progressed the development of the emerging Walungurru (Kintore), Utopia and

Aputula (Finke) ranger groups with support from the agency, the 10 Deserts Project and the ABA. While the latter two funded the establishment of these three emerging CLC ranger groups, the CLC is seeking long-term funding to ensure sustainability. Prospective rangers from both groups have completed certificate I courses in conservation and ecosystem management, and will begin their certificate II in late 2023.

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 ranger program employed 117 individuals at 30 June 2022. This included 97 rangers, 14 Ranger Group Coordinators, 3 Regional Workplace Mentors and 3 Ranger Support Officers to support 15 Ranger groups. Of the 97 rangers employed at 30 June 2022, 8 were in full time positions, 48 worked part time and 41 were casuals. The three newest groups, Walungurru, Aputula and Alyawarr, employ casual staff only until facilities are built in each community to house a coordinator.

Figure 3. Ranger group areas

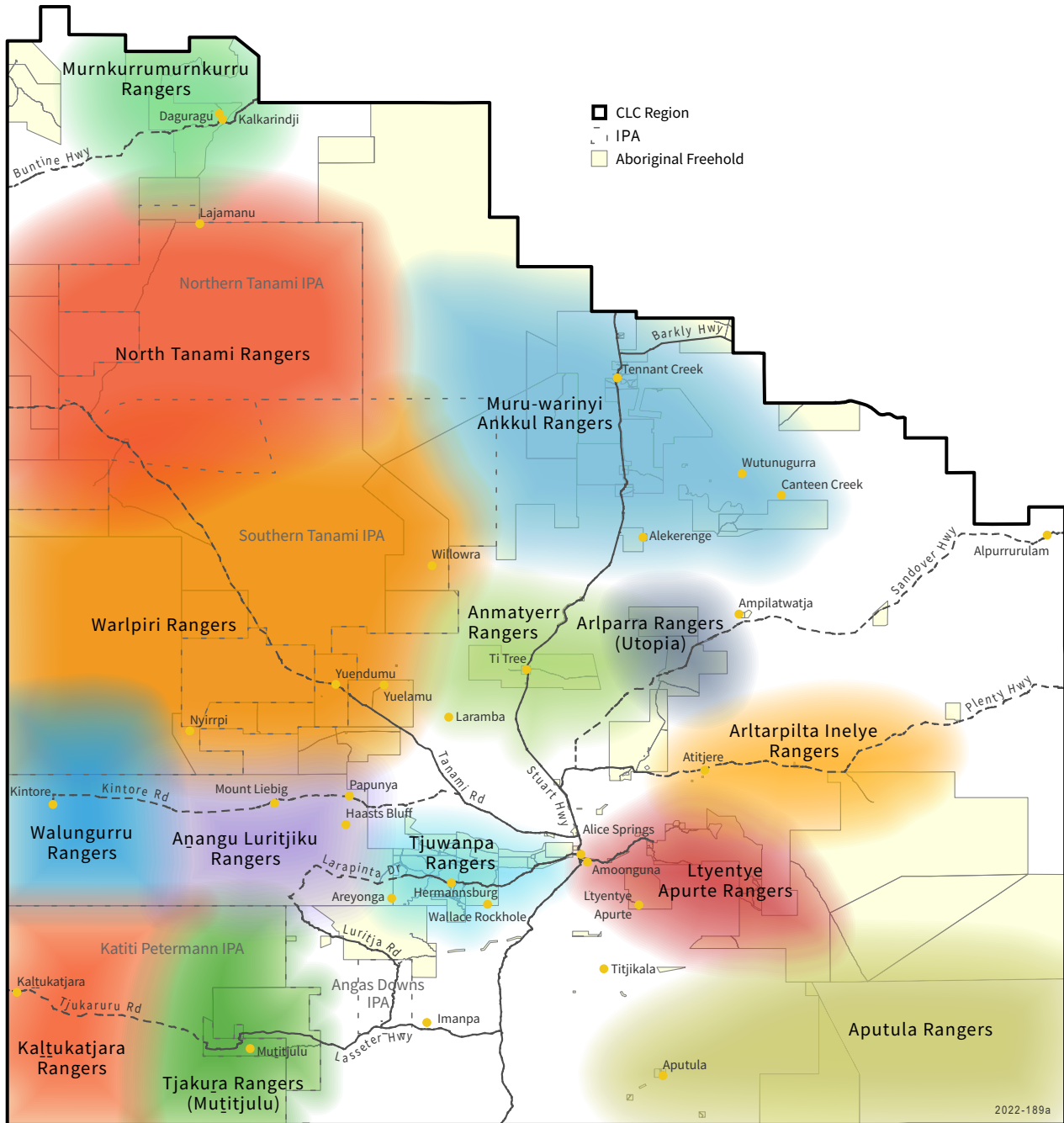


Figure 4. Ranger program funding, 2021–22



Table 9. Ranger groups and areas of operation

Ranger group	Areas of operation
North Tanami	Lajamanu and Northern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area
Warlpiri	Yuendumu, Nyirrpi, Willowra and Southern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area
Muru-wariny Ankkul	Tennant Creek region
Tjuwanpa	Aboriginal land trusts around Ntaria and adjoining national parks
Kal̩tukatjara	Kal̩tukatjara and western half of Kaṯiṯi-Petermann Indigenous Protected Area
Ltyentye Apurte	Santa Teresa Aboriginal Land Trust and surrounds
Anmatyerr	Ahakeye Aboriginal Land Trust, Ti-tree and wider Anmatyerr region
Aṅangu 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 Kaṯiṯi-Petermann Indigenous Protected Area
Aṅangu	Angas Downs Indigenous Protected Area
Walungurru	Kintore and western half of Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust
Aputula	Finke and the Eastern portion of the Simpson Desert
Utopia	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 with 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 either Aboriginal freehold or NT parks freehold title to 16 of these parks and have leased them back to the NT Government. These parks are jointly managed with the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT (NT Parks). The other four parks are jointly managed under Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs) registered with the National Native Title Tribunal.

The CLC has facilitated Traditional Owner participation in joint management since 2004. Parks and Wildlife (NT) funds the equivalent of one position at the CLC to support joint management. The CLC supports joint management through five 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

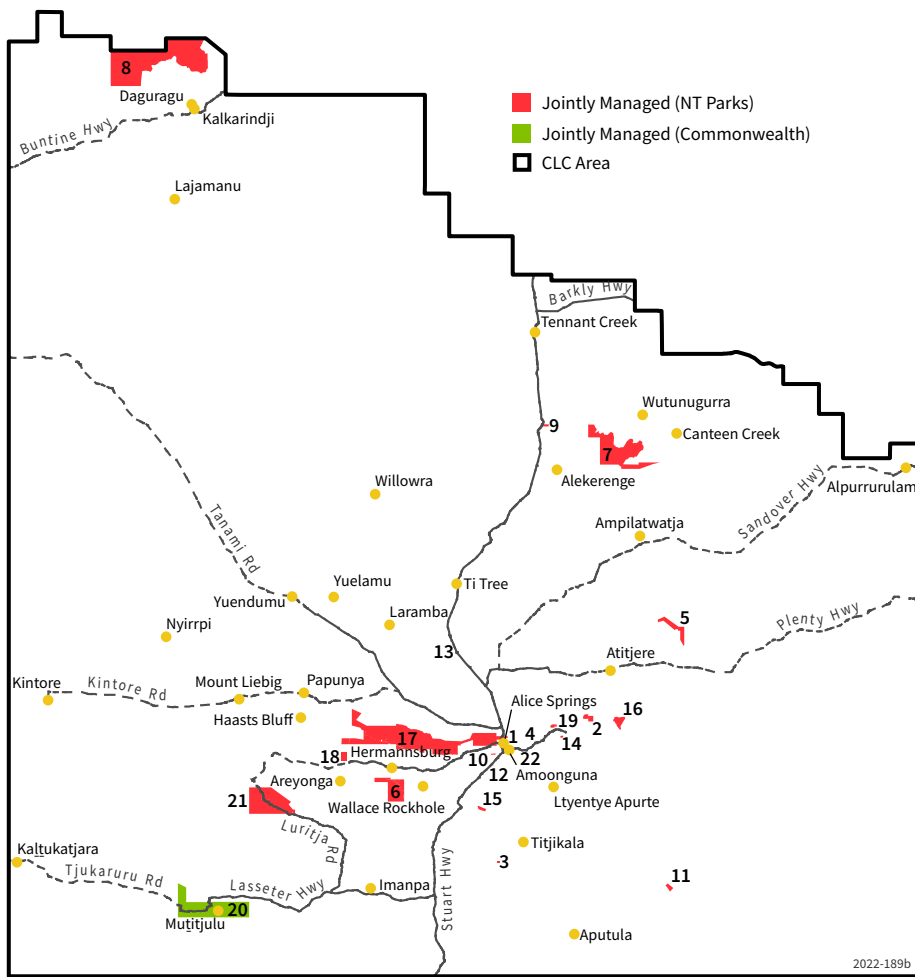
In November 2021, CLC held a three day Joint Management Forum at Ross River, with 45 Traditional Owners representing 18 jointly managed parks in the CLC region. The forum reviewed benefits and issues related to the joint management of Northern

Territory Parks across the CLC region. A follow-up meeting with 51 traditional owners and 14 NT Parks staff reviewed key messages from the forum which had identified the need to develop relationships between Traditional Owners and NT Parks senior staff, and a number of actions that can be put in place, such as developing a Traditional Owner 'voice' to the Minister. The findings of the forum will inform CLC's submission to the NT Parks Masterplan 2022–2052 and future joint management-focused meetings with NT Parks and Wildlife senior management.

In preparation for the development of joint management plans for the Kuyunba Conservation Reserve, Dulcie Range and Mac Clark (Acacia Peuce) Conservation Reserve, CLC held planning meetings with Traditional Owners and NT Parks. The CLC also facilitated 13 joint management committee and working group meetings. These provide an opportunity for Traditional Owners to visit the park and to review and plan joint management activities with the CLC and NT Parks.

As part of the NT Government's Turbocharging Tourism initiative, two meetings to consider expressions of interest were held with the Watarrka walking trails sub-committee comprising eight traditional owners and CLC and NT Parks representatives. Traditional owners selected the Australian Walking Company as the preferred operator for the region. CLC will facilitate the walking trail development process and assist traditional owners to identify economic opportunities associated with the walk in 2022.

Figure 5. Jointly managed national parks and reserves in the CLC region



1	Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve
2	Arltunga Historical Reserve
3	Chamber's Pillar Historical Reserve
4	Corroboree Rock Conservation Reserve
5	Dulcie Range National Park
6	Finke Gorge National Park
7	Iytwelepent / Davenport Ranges National Park
8	Judbarra / Gregory National Park
9	Karlu Karlu / Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve
10	Kuyunba Conservation Reserve
11	Mac Clark (Acacia peuce) Conservation Reserve
12	Napwerte / Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve
13	Native Gap Conservation Reserve
14	N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park
15	Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve
16	Ruby Gap Nature Park
17	Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park
18	Tnorala (Gosse Bluff) Conservation Reserve
19	Trephina Gorge Nature Park
20	Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park
21	Watarrka National Park
22	Yeperenye / Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park

Park management

The CLC and Traditional Owners assist Parks and Wildlife (NT) with operational tasks such as fire management. The agency agreed to meet with Traditional Owners at parks prioritised for burning in the 2022 season to plan the prescribed burns. Meetings were held at Finke Gorge, Tjoritja and Trephina Gorge, but other meetings were cancelled due to limited resources. Tjoritja and Trephina Gorge Traditional Owners completed some burning in the park with the agency.

Park permits and concessions

Most jointly managed parks and reserves have guidelines and standard terms and conditions to enable efficient processing of permit applications. Applications that fell outside these conditions and required consultation and review by the CLC are listed in Table 10.

Table 10. Park permit applications, 2021–22

Park/reserve	Number	Type
Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park	1	Development, tourism



Aputula Rangers installing an Aboriginal Land Trust sign along the Finke Desert Race Track



Josh Vartto and Tom Leather (Parks and Wildlife) work with Darren Doolan, Noah Ferguson, Gary Hayes and Barney Jack (Aputula Rangers) to remediate erosion on Mac Clark (*Acacia peuce*) Conservation Reserve.

ULURU-KATA TJUṬA NATIONAL PARK (UKTNP)

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 (Cth). A CLC joint management officer has consulted with Anangu 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 processes in 2021–22. It supported Traditional Owners to participate in multi-day workshops relating to the Board of Management review of the rules and terms of reference for the four park working groups (formerly known as committees). It helped Anangu board members prepare for four board meetings, represented and supported Anangu at seven working groups and consulted with Traditional Owners about park management programs, permit applications and commercial tourism proposals.

In collaboration with female staff at UKTNP, the NPY Women's Council, Maruku Arts, Walkatjara Arts and Muṭitjulu Aged Care, CLC supported a women's camp on the Kaṭiṭi-Petermann IPA where elders passed on cultural knowledge and songs to the younger generation. The camp was attended by approximately 50 women from Muṭitjulu, Kaṭukatjara and Imanpa.

In 2021 Hon Sussan Ley instigated a review of joint management of Commonwealth National Parks, including UKTNP, through the establishment of a Senior Advisory Group (SAG). The CLC

met with the SAG, and worked closely with Parks Australia and the SAG secretariat. The CLC helped Anangu members of the Uluru-Kata Tjuṭa National Park Board of Management to prepare for their meeting with the SAG so they could present their views on joint management arrangements at the Park. The SAG was due to report its findings to the Minister by December 2021 but did not meet this target. SAG reported its findings in March 2022 and made a number of recommendations aimed at greater recognition of Indigenous ownership and cultural authority, moving decision-making authority to the parks and improving on country employment and training opportunities for traditional landowners of the three parks concerned.

INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS (IPAs)

The CLC has participated in the IPA program since 2007. The program is an Australian Government initiative which supports Traditional Owners to protect the natural and cultural values of their country. The CLC administers the Kaṭiṭi-Petermann, Angas Downs and Southern and Northern Tanami IPAs, which together encompass almost 20 million hectares of Aboriginal freehold land. CLC 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 completed a review of the Angas Downs IPA management plan and the Kaṭiṭi-Petermann IPA MERI plan. Consultations are underway for the proposed Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust as the CLC's fifth IPA and a draft plan

of management is due for completion in September 2022. Community participation in the project has been strong and builds on two decades of land management projects across the area and the work of the Papunya-based Anangu Luritjiku ranger group and the Walungurru ranger group. The Traditional Owners are expected to decide whether to proceed with an IPA declaration and to complete a plan of management for the area in early 2023.

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 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

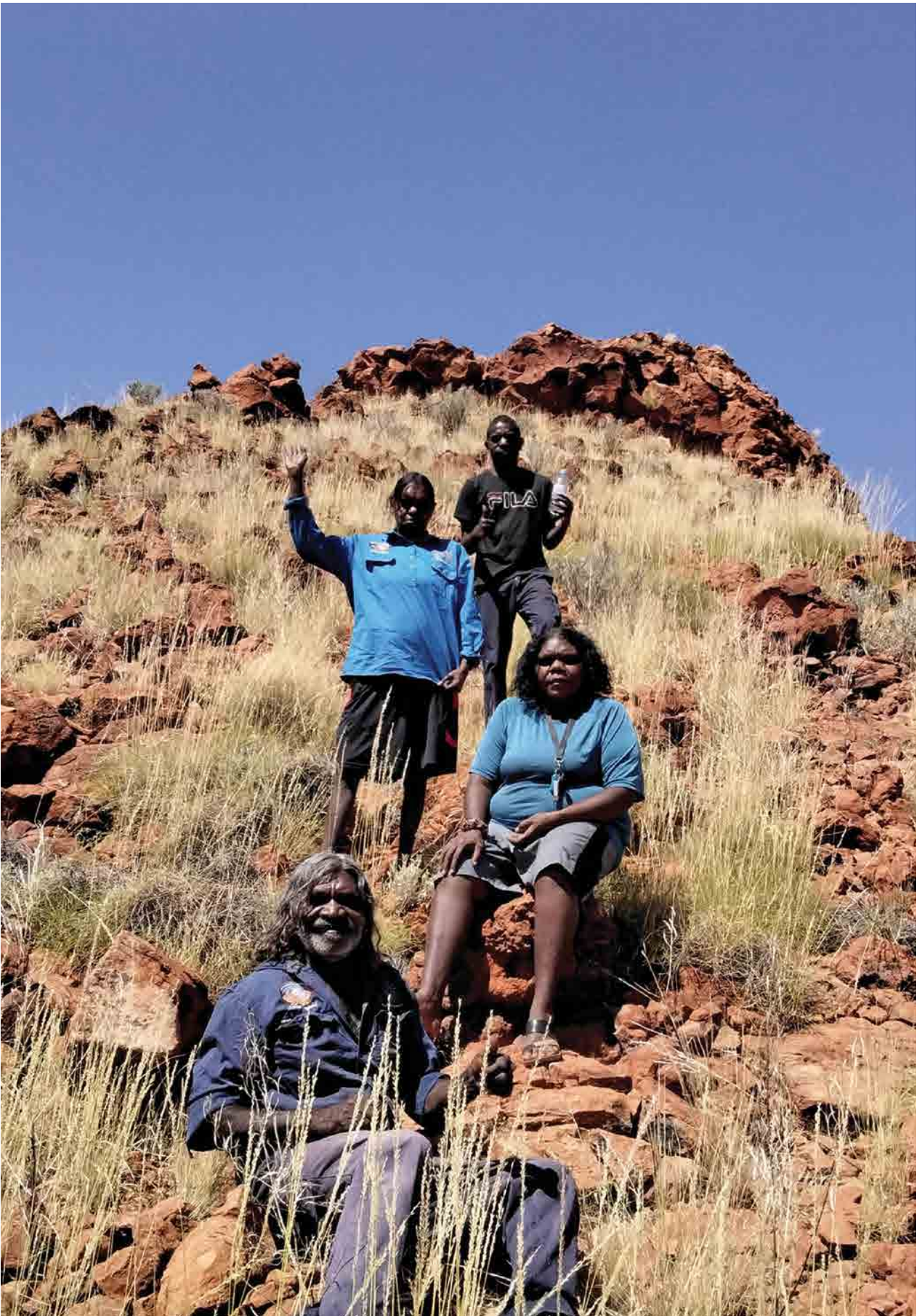
Charitable Trusts. The CLC plays an active role on the project steering committee.

The project funded the development of ranger groups at Walungurru (Kintore), Utopia and Aputula (Finke) until December 2021, at which point stimulus funding from the Aboriginals Benefit Account was used to maintain continuity for the groups. More than 30 casual rangers work for the three groups and momentum is building in each community.

The project also funded intergenerational knowledge transfer, especially about the tracking of animals. CLC convened an intensive tracking workshop at Tanami Downs attended by 15 master trackers and 20 rangers. Training activities were developed and trialled at the workshop and the feedback provided will inform the training activities and framework currently under development. The CLC also trialled tracking activities on five country trips to assess learning environments for intensive learning and finalised the Yitakimani jaku mind map into a facilitation tool to help senior knowledge holders explain the holistic nature of animal tracking. This has been trialled with high school students and the Haasts Bluff IPA development committee with great success.



Mark Alice inspected the new viewing platform at Napwerte / Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve, April 2022.



Michael Wheeler, Rowena Gibson, Camilla Young, Sacariha Michaels at Mantardi outstation.

CASE STUDY: ABORIGINAL KNOWLEDGE AT HEART OF NEW PARTNERSHIP TO LOOK AFTER COUNTRY

For Traditional Owner Nigel Andy the signing of an agreement with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) to protect the plants, animals and sacred sites on more than 300,000 hectares of land near Karrinyarra (Central Mount Wedge) marked a new beginning.

Mr Andy, from Papunya, was one of a dozen Traditional Owners of the Ngalurrjtju Aboriginal Land Trust who attended a signing ceremony in May at a stunning site overlooking Karrinyarra, 300 km northwest of Alice Springs.

"This is beautiful country and we look forward to working with the CLC and AWC to make Karrinyarra an even better place," he said.

"I'm excited and really happy for my families and this country. I'd like to bring kids out here and work among them. There are lots of jobs to be done – clean the waterholes, the springs, the roads and look after the sacred sites."

The land trust features many sites of cultural and spiritual importance, including a major ngapa (water) songline, which travels right through the middle.

"This songline is very important for us, especially the cultural side," Mr Andy said.

The partners want to look after the unique cultural and ecological values of the land trust by sharing Aboriginal cultural and ecological knowledge, conservation land management practices and scientific research methods.

The agreement will not only create opportunities for mutual learning, it also comes with a substantial employment and training package for Traditional Owner families.

CLC delegate and former Anangu Luritjiku Ranger of 10 years, Terrence Abbott, is a kurdungurlu (manager) for the land.

"I grew up around here. I used to visit my grandfather on this country in the '80s," he said.

"My role is to help my family get back here instead of being in Alice Springs. It's more better out here, looking after country. I'll be managing the country, looking after the animals and plants and working closely with AWC to share it with the rest of the world."

The 323,000 hectare land trust in the Great Sandy Desert and the AWC's adjoining 262,000 hectare Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary shelter many rare and endangered native plants and animals.

The AWC plans to manage threats such as feral cats, foxes, cattle, camels, horses and weeds with the Traditional Owners and the CLC.

"Together we will be establishing a template for collaborative conservation in Central Australia," AWC chief executive Tim Allard promised.

CLC chair Robert Hoosan told the Traditional Owners at the signing ceremony the partnership had to be built on respect for their rights.



Ngalurrjtju Aboriginal Land Trust Traditional Owners Terrence Abbott, Nigel Andy, Peter Andy and Johnny Jack.



AWC chief executive Tim Allard and CLC delegate, Terrence Abbott at the signing ceremony at Karrinyarra.

"It's good to work with the AWC, but at the end of the day it's your call as Traditional Owners to protect the animals, plants and sacred sites," he said. "The best people to protect those sacred sites are ngurraritja (countrymen and women) and I'm here as chair to support you."

CLC Executive Manager, Policy and Governance Francine McCarthy reminded everyone that the area underwent much change since the late 1940s, "when white people first got grazing licences for what was always very poor cattle country".

The Central Mount Wedge Station land was rundown and largely destocked when the Ngarlatji Aboriginal Corporation bought it in 1995.

Four years later the land was handed back to the Ngalurrjtju Aboriginal Land Trust which holds the title on behalf of the Traditional Owners.

"That didn't stop a neighbouring pastoralist from grazing his cattle on the land without an agreement with Traditional Owners. Traditional Owners went to court, and were awarded compensation for the illegal use of Aboriginal land," Ms McCarthy said.

"A couple of years ago, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy put in an application to lease the Ngalurrjtju Aboriginal Land Trust, and Traditional Owners agreed because they wanted to protect the country."

The AWC had a positive 20-year track record of managing the adjoining Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary with the help of the CLC's Warlpiri Rangers and offered to work with the CLC's Anangu Luritjiku Rangers to protect the land trust.

"The agreement with the AWC provides strong protection for the area," Ms McCarthy said.

"But there are other benefits, including the establishment of a management committee."

The partnership will be overseen by a steering committee that includes representatives from the four estate groups, Watlurpunyu, Karrinyarra, Yantjur and Yarrinki.

"This will go a long way towards ensuring that the area is managed in line with your cultural obligations and knowledge," she said.

In five years time the Traditional Owners will review the agreement and decide whether they would like to extend it for another five years.

"I would like the partnership to grow stronger," Mr Hoosan said.

"I want the Newhaven mob to be in the same role as the Ngalurrjtju Traditional Owners. The next step should be like on the land trust. The Traditional Owners there can tell Australian Wildlife Conservancy what to do and work with them, but the [Newhaven] native title holders, I hope they get the same agreement in the future," he said.

"It's called native title, but at the end of the day that land belongs to them. It's all Aboriginal land, but it's been taken away. In the future everybody has got to look at that."

He would like the AWC to reach a land use agreement with the Newhaven native title holders.



OUTPUT GROUP 2

OUTPUT 2.1 LAND CLAIMS

WAKAYA ALYAWARRA

The CLC provided site clearance advice to the Commonwealth contracted surveyor to enable an accurate plan and description of the claim area and is awaiting details of the completed survey. This will enable the land description to be included within a schedule of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory) 1976* and the title to be handed to Traditional Owners in the next year.

FRANCES WELL

An ILUA is being settled at the request of the Northern Territory Government to enable the surrender of part of the claim area for promulgation of the existing public road that services the school and adjacent staff houses at Tijikala. Completion of the agreement should then allow for the grant of NTP 1299 to finalise this claim.

OUTPUT 2.2 LAND ACQUISITIONS

There were no land acquisitions during the reporting period.





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. CLC anthropologists prepared 19 Traditional Owner identification advices and provided other assistance related to:

- Consultations for grazing licences on the Mount Barkly, Mungkarta and Angarapa Aboriginal land trusts
- mining compensation on the Mangkurrrpa Aboriginal Land Trust
- various agreements on the Aputula 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
- access to the Tyurretye Aboriginal Land Trust via the Iwupataka and Roulpmaulpma Aboriginal land trusts
- lease consultation meetings on the Yalpirakinu, Warrabri and Angarapa Aboriginal land trusts.

The CLC community development program works with Traditional Owners who decide to use leasing income to plan and implement community-driven projects. 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 2021–22 the CLC provided planning and legal assistance to ensure that funds are used for the benefit of the communities, according to the Aboriginal corporations' rules. When instructed to distribute money to Traditional Owners, the CLC's Aboriginal Associations Management Centre manages the distribution.

Australian Government leases

The Australian Government holds leases over 921 lots on Aboriginal land and 338 lots on community living areas in the CLC region. It obtained consents for leases over 13 lots.

The CLC continues to participate in the Mutitjulu Consultative Forum for the Mutitjulu sublease. The CLC is also 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 leases

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

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 still 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 in the CLC region.

They collectively hold land use agreements, including leases and licences, over 253 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 land use applications and variations of existing agreements 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 269 lots on Aboriginal land and 21 lots on community living areas. The CLC continues to receive lease and licence applications and applications to vary leases from

Table 11. Applications received, 2021–22

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas	Communities on Aboriginal land
Australian Government	1 (3 lots)	7 (11 lots)
Local Government	1 (1 lot)	0
NT Government	0	5 (9 lots)
Others	10 (10 lots)	28 (34 lots)

Table 12. Consents obtained, 2021–22

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas	Communities on Aboriginal land
Australian Government	1 (4 lots)	5 (9 lots)
Local Government	2 (2 lots)	1 (7 lots)
NT Government	10 (11 lots)	4 (4 lots)
Others	12 (11 lots)	31 (32 lots)

Table 13. Consultations conducted, 2021–22

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas	Communities on Aboriginal land
Australian Government	2 (7 lots)	8 (12 lots)
Local Government	3 (3 lots)	1 (7 lots)
NT Government	10 (11 lots)	4 (4 lots)
Others	12 (11 lots)	31 (35 lots)

Table 14. Leases and licences at 30 June 2022

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas	Communities on Aboriginal land
Australian Government	21 (368 lots)	63 (1,205 lots)
Local Government	39 (100 lots)	72 (272 lots)
NT Government	39 (130 lots)	96 (566 lots)
Others	17 (21 lots)	209 (303 lots)

organisations operating on Aboriginal land and community living areas. Many leases in Aboriginal communities will expire in 2024 and will require review and renegotiation, as well as consultation with Traditional Owners.

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.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

The CLC supports Traditional Owners in negotiations regarding grazing licences on Aboriginal land and monitors licence conditions. This support 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 these were existing cattle activities operating illegally without a licence or related to encroachment of cattle onto Aboriginal land by neighbouring pastoralists. 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 Atnetye (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 reporting period.

Traditional Owners rejected two grazing licence proposals, one for the Roulpmaulpma Aboriginal Land Trust and the other for the Ngalurrjtju 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 with Aboriginal rangers. The CLC inspected grazing licences on licence areas such as the Atnetye, Malngin 1 and 2, Alkwert, Anatye, Arletherre, Dagaragu, Karlantjipa, Mangkururpa, 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, the CLC works with the proponents of development proposals to explore opportunities for Aboriginal employment and training and business contracting. This makes Traditional Owners and remote community residents aware of opportunities, maps their aspirations against project proposals and plans capability-building activities. This support also facilitates prior and informed consent given 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 and Uluru. The CLC has been working closely with Parks Australia, the company and the landowners since the board called for expressions of interest in the proposal in 2016.

The Australian Walking Company's proposal for a 45-year licence and sublease received approval from the representatives of the land trust in October 2020. It 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 assisted committee members to develop greater understanding of the tourism industry, for example by facilitating the attendance of committee members at a tourism conference in Alice Springs in February 2022. It also helped them to design strategies to maximise 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 MacDonnell 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 of 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 to which they have given in-principle approval. 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 will 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 to government and industry, direct job placement and workplace support aimed at employee retention. Employment opportunities arising from land use agreements and community development projects create jobs for Aboriginal people and the CLC has built a reputation for placing people from disadvantaged communities into work. It also offers land management and enterprise development partnerships, strong community networks, and familiarity with constituent aspirations and circumstances.

The CLC's Economic Participation Unit assisted 37 people with resumes, applications and referrals to employers, and of these, nine found work. The CLC also succeeded in securing apprenticeships with Newmont at their Tanami Operations for two constituents, and continued to work with mining companies, Community Development Program (CDP) providers and training providers to improve access to and suitability of training and employment opportunities for constituents.

NATIONAL PARKS

The CLC staff and Traditional Owners assisted in the recruitment of four positions for jointly managed parks. Six Traditional Owners completed NT Government training to participate on recruitment panels. Seventeen rangers and 11 Traditional Owners from the Ltyentye Apurte, Tjuwanpa and Arltarpitla Inelye ranger teams completed combined Basic Wildfire Awareness and Fire Fighter 1 training so that they can assist with fire management on jointly managed parks. The CLC assisted 10 Traditional Owners to complete casual work application packs for work on eight jointly managed parks in the East MacDonnell Ranges.

CLC RANGER PROGRAM

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

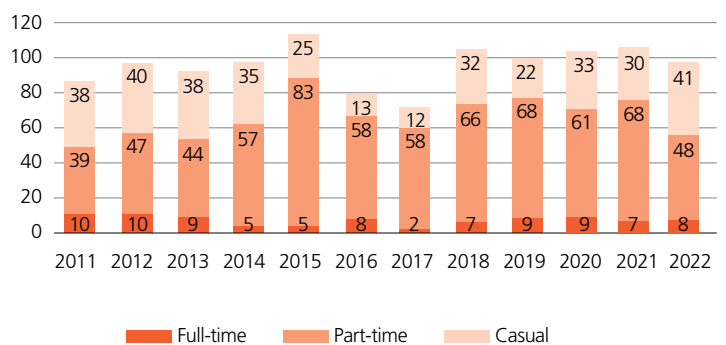
Funding for the CLC's 98 rangers across 14 established ranger groups was provided by the Commonwealth's Indigenous Advancement Strategy, the Real Jobs (Ranger) program of the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, the 10 Deserts Project, and the Aboriginals Benefit Account stimulus fund.

Three emerging groups have now become functioning ranger groups, each with a full-time Ranger Group coordinator and a team of casual staff. These groups are the Walungurru Rangers based at Kintore, the Aputula Rangers based at Finke, and the Alyawarr Rangers based at Utopia. These teams will transition to a mix of permanent part-time and casual once facilities are constructed in each community.

Employment outcomes and ranger retention

The CLC offers a variety of employment options to accommodate the responsibilities and demands upon remote community residents. At 30 June 2022, 8 rangers were in full time positions, 48 worked part time and 41 were casuals. Many casual rangers work with new ranger groups which are not yet able to offer permanent positions.

Figure 6. Ranger employment type, 2011–22



Over the past decade almost 1000 CLC rangers have been employed in the program. Their ages have ranged between 16 and 67 and they have held a diverse range of knowledge and skills. During the reporting period, seven CLC rangers took long service leave.

Figure 7 shows that the percentage of female rangers dropped below 20% in 2021–22. The CLC's Women's Land Management Facilitator is exploring options for improving the engagement

Figure 7. Percentage of women rangers, 2021–22

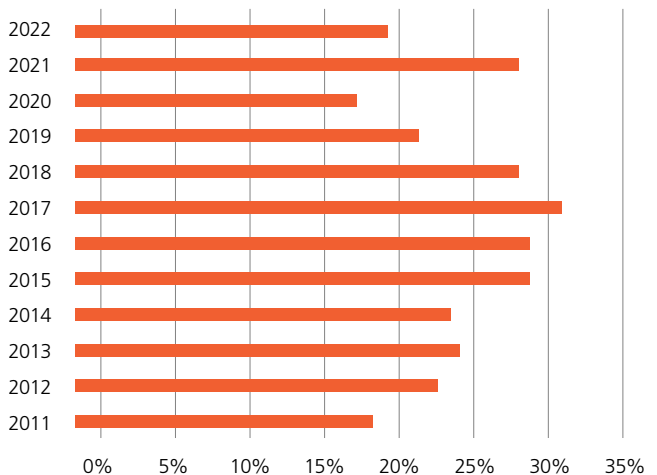
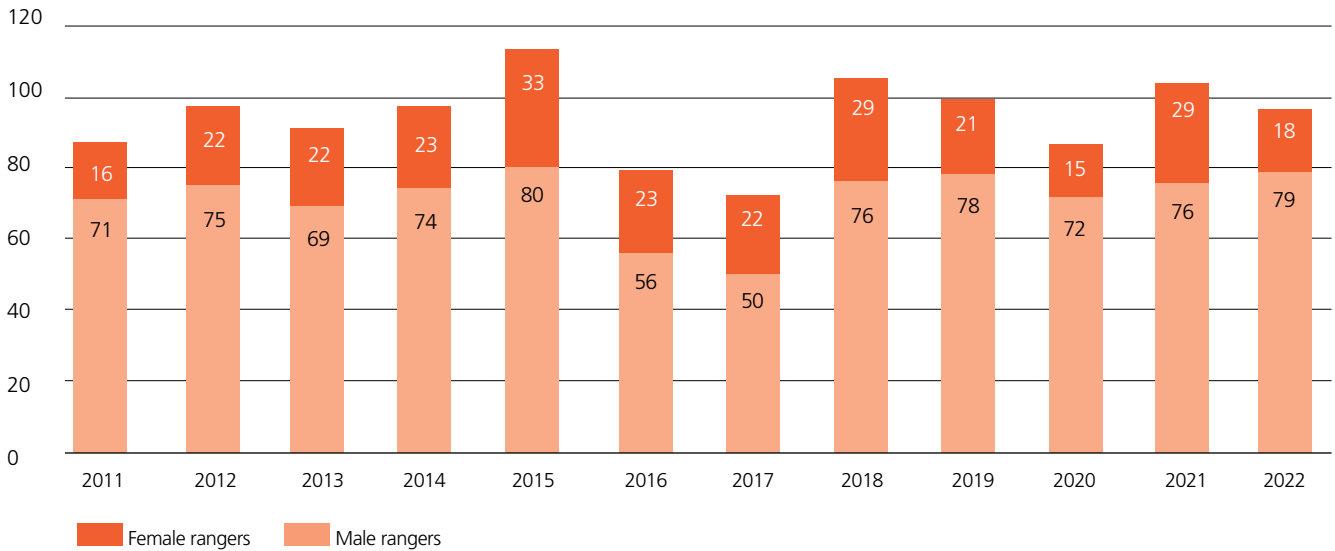


Figure 8. Male and female rangers, 2011–22



of women in the ranger program and supporting women to move into more senior roles. These include seeking funding for extra vehicles to facilitate specific women’s natural and cultural resource management projects and holding female engagement activities with ranger groups and IPA programs, such as a trip by 23 women to Putta Putta on the Kaṭiṭi-Petermann IPA to transfer knowledge of an important songline.

Targeted training and professional development

COVID-19 continued to have a substantial impact on training and professional development across the ranger program in 2021–22. Lockdowns, border closures, and the implementation of biosecurity zones prevented local and interstate registered training organisations from delivering training in remote communities. As restrictions were lifted, some service providers experienced backlogs resulting in limited training places and extended delays.

Recommencement of training blocks at the Batchelor Institute occurred in the last half of 2021, Rangers completed training in Certificate II, III and IV in Conservation and Ecosystem Management (CEM). Delivery was again postponed in 2022 and

training blocks did not begin until May. Figure 10 shows that a total of 47 rangers were enrolled in Certificate II, III and IV in CEM courses. The CLC continued to liaise with Batchelor to align learning material and content with specific organisational resources, systems, processes, policies and procedures. Workplace-specific ranger projects have been incorporated into the Certificate IV CEM course training and CLC staff assisted the delivery of training workshops. Despite the challenges associated with training delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic, rangers were still able to access a number of work health and safety (WHS) workshops related to their roles, including firearm training, working with chemicals and medium-rigid licensing (see Figure 10).

CLC has a clear objective to ensure rangers perform their roles effectively and safely and a variety of training workshops were offered to staff. Limited training opportunities during the pandemic resulted in a number of rangers holding First Aid certificates that had expired and priority was placed on delivering first aid training to remote ranger offices to ensure rangers were meeting workplace health and safety requirements. Forty-six rangers in eight communities participated in the training and attained their First Aid certificate.

Figure 9. Number of rangers enrolled in each certificate level, 2021–22

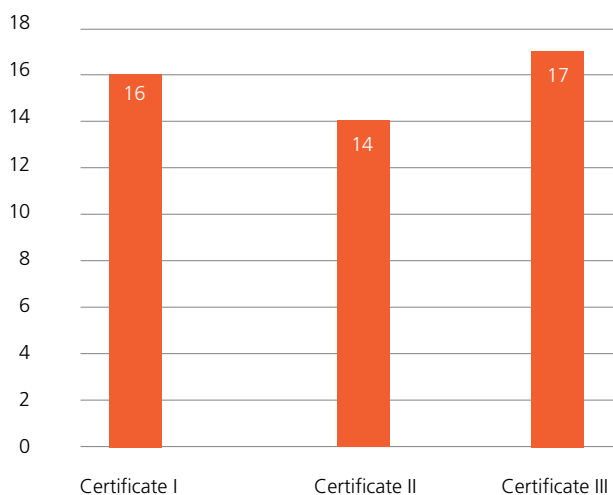
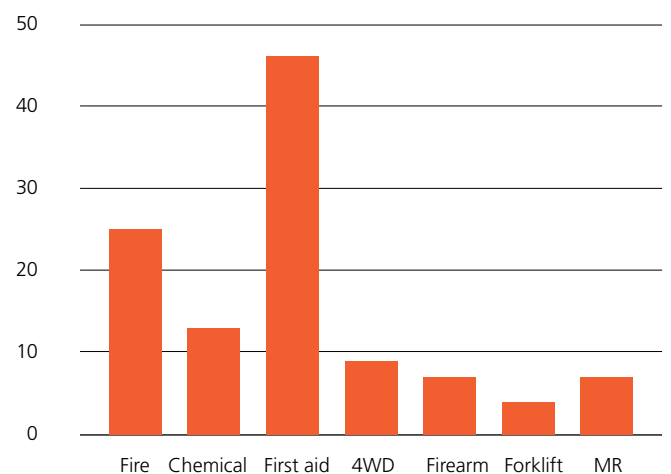


Figure 10. Rangers Work Health and Safety training, 2021–22



CLC co-designed a Remote Area Firefighter and Bushfire Awareness training package with Bushfires NT, specifically for rangers. This arose from the need for ranger teams and Traditional Owners to be able to work with NT Parks to assist with fire management on jointly managed parks. Seventeen rangers and 11 Traditional Owners completed this training and a number of joint burns with Traditional Owner and ranger participation took place.

Computer literacy levels are generally low across the ranger program, which makes it difficult for rangers to fulfil certain aspects of their role. Rangers currently need support with administrative systems, including timesheets, work tracker and vehicle bookings, and access to organisational policies. In 2021, CLC co-designed a literacy, numeracy and digital skills accredited training package with an external training provider and training was delivered to 23 rangers from four groups (Tjuwanpa, Papunya, Kintore and Tennant Creek) with a further five groups scheduled to receive training until March 2023.

The CLC's ranger training and development strategy was finalised and submitted to NIAA in March 2022 and will inform priorities for the next three to five years. An action plan and monitoring and evaluation framework with 25 major outputs was also finalised and is currently being implemented with thirteen major outputs in progress.

Due to a significant COVID-19 outbreak in Central Australia in early 2022, the annual ranger camp was cancelled. Individual training workshops that were to be delivered at the camp have been rescheduled for later in the year.

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 Lajamanu Rangers, for example, taught students about safety around snakes. The Murnkurrumurnkurru Rangers undertook an overnight field trip and held three classroom days 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.

Mentoring support

The CLC ranger mentoring program offers confidential workplace support to rangers. It aims to develop their personal and professional goals and to resolve issues that may affect work readiness, attendance or on-the-job performance. Mentoring support may include coaching, advocacy and referrals to personal and professional development services.

A Ranger Mentoring Program Framework was developed and finalised in June 2022 to provide a strategic foundation for CLC Rangers' mentoring support and to link the mentors' role into the CLC Land Management section and CLC's objectives. The framework will lead to a review of mentor job descriptions and the addition of an additional mentor position.

The rangers, their families and their work were disrupted by the COVID-19 outbreak which is likely to have amplified existing social and emotional challenges. The flow-on effects of the pandemic have made mentoring services more critical than ever for the wellbeing and resilience of individual rangers and the ranger program.



Northern Tanami Rangers Indigenous Protected Area coordinator Jonny Gnanapragasam (right) helped young people from Lajamanu develop land management skills through a project to capture invasive cane toads.



Traditional Owners Donovan and Shorty Mulladad met with Nicole Joy (NT Parks) during a healthy culture planning at Ruby Gap.

Mentors report that workplace administrative barriers are the most frequently raised issue, closely followed by concerns about work readiness and financial stress. Although there are many challenges, mentors were able to assist rangers by facilitating administrative tasks (such as obtaining Ochre cards [working with children clearance] and Unique Student Identifier numbers), explaining organisational obligations and policies, and supporting team development, work readiness and career pathway planning.

Issues relating to domestic and family violence were not as commonly reported by rangers in this reporting period, but themes associated with family wellbeing and community safety were frequently raised. Individual and family wellbeing continues to be an ongoing mentoring challenge. Mentors complied with mandatory reporting requirements, applied trauma-informed practices and assisted rangers to make referrals to appropriate services.

As well as active case management and individual support, mentors also contributed to ranger recruitment, induction and supporting new ranger staff into the workplace. They also facilitated Traditional Owner Ranger Advisory Committee (TORAC) meetings, worked with the women's engagement officer and supported training events and other work plan activities. Mentors supported IPA development meetings and the CLC Tracking project, participated in recruitment panels, facilitated coordination of the Strong Women's Healthy Country forum, and participated as representatives on the CLC Cultural Awareness working group. Mentors' professional development activities included participation in domestic and family violence workshops and Certificate IV Training and Assessment units.

Ranger Works

Ranger employment develops not only individual rangers but also the capacity of Traditional Owners to oversee ranger work plans. Commercial ranger contracts build on this capacity by generating income for the program.

Ranger Works became fully functional with the recruitment of a coordinator in January 2022. It comprises a project coordinator and a skilled, experienced workforce of CLC Rangers to undertake fee-for-service natural resource management contracts across remote Central Australia. The workforce is drawn from 14 established ranger groups, with a work area footprint of over half a million square kilometres. Six projects were completed as at 30 June. The clients included NT Parks and Wildlife, Geoscience Australia, Territory Natural Resource Management and APA Group. These combined projects generated an income of over \$95,000 for the CLC ranger program.

CASE STUDY: EXPERT TRACKERS EXPLORE NEW WAYS TO PASS ON ANCIENT KNOWLEDGE

A group of expert trackers from across the Warlpiri region has been learning new ways to teach their ancient knowledge to rangers and other younger yapa (Warlpiri for Aboriginal people).

Senior knowledge holders, rangers and educators met at Lajamanu in June for a train-the-trainer workshop about animal tracking.

The workshop, part of the Central Land Council's Reading the Country project, explored contemporary methods for the teaching of tracking and how to fast-track that process.

The project is in a race against time because the knowledge holders are not getting any younger.

One of the few surviving elders who grew up living off the land is Jerry Jangala Patrick.

He was born in the Tanami Desert more than 80 years ago.

"My mother and even my dad learn me everything, how to follow, whether it was goanna or lizard. My mother would find a track and follow it right way," he said.

Mr Patrick led a couple of day trips to sites around Lajamanu to find animal tracks and discuss how to teach the rangers how to identify them and hunt down the creatures that made them.

He said it was important to ask questions that encouraged learners to "push deeper", to maya wangkaya (talk more), but nati yirdi-manta (not give away the answer) too soon.

"We talk about asking questions [so learners] give the right answer [to] get the right words into their hearts and minds.

"[Firstly they] learn the knowledge and [then] put it in their mind to remember it."

Placing a picture of an animal next to a picture of its track help North Tanami ranger Dione Kelly to memorise what he needs to know.

Mr Kelly learned to track lizards, pythons, eagles, kangaroos, emus, bush turkeys, bilbies and hopping mice with his grandmother and his father.

"Big goanna is my favourite," he said.

For all his experience, Mr Kelly is still developing his tracking skills.

He said trackers may face lots of challenges, such as the "tricky tracks" made by a blue tongue lizard, which seem to go in two directions.

Another is soil firmness, with sand being easier to read than hard ground.

"On the laterite you can barely see anything ... you can only see the stones missing from a specific spot."

A seventy centimetre 'scratch mark' found in the soil on the second day of the workshop had the participants guessing.

Mr Patrick said a bird of prey left the mark as it swept down to catch its meal.

The project he instigated back in 2018 responds to another challenge – that of contemporary community life which offers



Lorraine Granites



Dion Kelly



Jerry Jangala Patrick

learners many distractions and fewer chances to observe and practice tracking.

Expert trackers Alice Henwood, Myra Herbert, Nelson Tex and Lorraine Granites, who joined Mr Patrick for the workshop, know only too well that these days more meals come from the community store than from the bush.

That doesn't mean tracking no longer matters to yapa.

"It's very important, you know," Mr Kelly said. "If I get stuck out [bush] with my family, I need to know what to look for. We become the next teachers to keep passing [the knowledge] down."

For his ranger colleague Helen Wilson, being able to track is a matter of pride and identity.

"It makes us feel proud, happy and confident to be able to read the country. It is interesting and exciting to be a part of developing this [project]."

Over the next 12 months Ms Wilson will help to develop a holistic teaching and learning plan with supporting materials that works for today's learners.

Meanwhile the expert trackers will continue to practice the methods they learned at the workshop with the CLC's rangers.

The project team hopes the plan will be ready to be adapted by other Aboriginal groups across Australia's deserts by the end of 2023.

OUTPUT 3.3 MINING

Mining on Aboriginal land continues to contribute significantly to the NT economy. The Land Rights Act requires that the Commonwealth pays to the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) amounts equivalent to the royalties received by the NT from mining on Aboriginal land. The ABA funds the land councils and supports Aboriginal Territorians through affected areas payments and grants.

One of the most productive gold mines in Australia is in the Tanami Desert, some 500 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs. Gold exploration continues in the Tanami and Barkly regions and exploration for other critical minerals has increased rapidly since 2020. The other main areas being investigated for their potential are the central Tanami, Arunta and Lake Mackay areas, where copper, lithium, cobalt and rare earths have been targeted. Oil and gas production occurs at Mereenie and Palm Valley, both west of Alice Springs, and the Dingo gas field south of Alice Springs which supplies gas to the town generators.

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 with respect to impacts and benefits, and facilitate Traditional Owner consent processes that provide certainty to the proponent. The Act also assigns land councils a statutory function to protect sacred sites.

Accordingly, 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. The CLC only enters into agreements with mining companies on behalf of Traditional Owners where there is informed group consent. 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 administers it and ensures that contractual obligations are fulfilled diligently and effectively. Agreement 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 87 deeds, agreements and ILUAs for exploration, production or ancillary activities related to minerals and energy exploration and production.

In 2021–22 the CLC Anthropology Section prepared 13 Traditional Owner identification advices for exploration licence applications over Aboriginal land. In addition, where exploration licence application meetings were convened with Traditional Owners, often on country, the Anthropology Section provided significant logistical advice and support. Subsequent to the meetings, anthropologists prepared reports on the validity of

Traditional Owner instructions at those meetings. These activities covered the following Aboriginal Land Trusts: Lake Mackay ALT, Arletherre ALT, Iwupataka ALT, Central Desert ALT, Haasts Bluff ALT, Petermann ALT, Yalpirakinu ALT, Atnetye ALT, Alkwert ALT, Wirlilyajarrayi ALT, Yuendumu ALT, Central Desert ALT, Warumungu ALT, Mungkarta and Karlantjipa South ALTs.

MINING AND ENERGY IN THE CLC REGION

There are significant mineral resources in the CLC region. Mining and energy sectors together contribute 27.5 per cent of gross product to the Northern Territory economy. 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 both significantly impact and to benefit Aboriginal people. 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.

The NT Government continues to maintain its commitment to support exploration and mining in the Territory, and has implemented initiatives to reflect this. The NT Government has an ambitious aspiration to grow the NT to a \$40 billion economy by 2030. In December 2020, the Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission (TERC) report identified 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. To meet the Territory's vision, the government announced increased and ongoing funding for the Resourcing the Territory initiative, from \$6.5 million to \$9.5 million per year from 2022. As part of this initiative, the NT Government is currently offering up to \$3 million in co-funding grants to aid exploration and the Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) will increase geoscience programs across the Territory.

The NTGS has continued pre-competitive research of underexplored areas in the CLC region, most recently focusing its research on potential for hosted mineral resources in the Aileron and Irindina provinces. A new stratigraphic framework of the Irindina province demonstrates a favourable geological setting and the potential for hosting a range of mineral systems. The release of this information is likely to encourage more exploration in the undercover extent of the Irindina Province, and lead to increased interest from explorers.

In March 2022, The Australian Government updated its Critical Minerals Strategy. The strategy articulates a plan to de-risk critical mineral projects, create an enabling environment and strengthen international partnerships to secure offtake agreements that support the Australian economy. In 2021, the Australian government established the \$2 billion Critical Minerals Facility to close the gap in private financing for projects, and issued its first two loans in 2022.

At present gold exploration and production predominate, but new applications demonstrate a growing interest in other in-demand commodities. Among them are copper, lithium, cobalt, rare earths, other base metals, uranium, tungsten, phosphate and potash. The global demand for critical minerals is increasing, specifically because of the increased focus on clean energy technologies. In 2021–22, decarbonisation commitments by the world's largest economies and corporations, ongoing post-COVID disruption to supply chains and war in Ukraine have increased interest in projects that can supply these critical minerals. The potential occurrence of these critical minerals within the CLC region has resulted in increased interest in exploration.

Gold

The Newmont Corporation's Tanami Operations is the Territory's largest gold producer. Production is focused on the Callie underground deposit while the gold is processed at the nearby Granites mine, with approximately 500,000 ounces produced per annum. Construction on Newmont's Tanami Expansion 2 is expected to be complete in 2024, and will increase production by between 150 000 and 200 000 ounces per annum and extend the mine life beyond 2040.

Exploration continues at the Oberon prospect, 70 kilometres north of Newmont's Tanami Operations. In 2021–22, Newmont commenced an in-depth Environmental Profile of the project area before commencement of a planned intensive exploration and sterilisation drilling program. An initial on-ground study was conducted in December 2021, and an extensive late wet season survey was conducted in March 2022. CLC Rangers and Warlpiri Master Trackers participated in the March survey. A late dry season survey is scheduled for October 2022 to complete the study.

In 2021, Northern Star increased their stake in the Central Tanami Joint Venture and now holds a fifty per cent interest with Tanami Gold in the Tanami Mine, which includes the Groundrush deposit. The operation has been in care and maintenance since 2005. The joint venture is investigating potential for recommencement of gold production.

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 exploration permit applications. The applications cover several Aboriginal land trusts, and include areas where landowners have not previously dealt with oil and gas exploration processes. This requires the CLC to invest significant effort to facilitate informed decision making.

The 330,000 square kilometre Georgina Basin, north-east of Alice Springs and extending into Queensland, initially had blanket coverage of applications and granted titles. However, following the unsuccessful exploration of deep shales in the southern parts of the basin, three exploration permits that covered nearly 35,000 square kilometres were surrendered. This area was the first in the CLC region to be subject to a petroleum acreage release by the NT government after a moratorium on onshore petroleum was lifted. The acreage release process was a recommendation of the Pepper Inquiry, and requires public consultation before new exploration permit applications are accepted.

As at 30 June 2022, 30 exploration permit applications remain under negotiation in the CLC region. The CLC continued its policy to pause consideration of 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. In 2022, the NT government outsourced responsibility to the CSIRO for completion of recommendation 11.6, which relates to an Aboriginal Information Program about oil and gas exploration.

During this reporting period, the CLC became aware of a proposal by a company with exploration permits to use hydraulic fracturing in an upcoming work program. This would be the first time since a moratorium on the practice that fracking has been proposed in the CLC region. Significant consultation with the Traditional Owners will need to be conducted by the CLC to ensure people are properly informed.

Uranium

Traditional owners have mixed views on exploration, mining and use of uranium. This is evidenced by widely reported opposition to uranium and proposed nuclear waste repositories on Muckatya Station, in the Tanami region and on private land near Alice Springs. Central Australia remains highly prospective for uranium; however, only one application that identified uranium as a target commodity was received within this reporting period and interest was also low during previous periods despite the jump in uranium price from US\$30 per pound last year to around US\$60 per pound in March 2022. The price dropped to below US\$40 per pound by the end of the reporting period. In comparison, the CLC received 45 applications in 2012 when the price was above US\$50 per pound. The present low interest may indicate a lack of appetite for uranium, hesitancy due to unstable prices, or a lag in the translation of market price to exploration targeting. CLC will continue to monitor and support communities and tradition owners if they are affected by future uranium exploration.

APPLICATIONS FOR EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION TITLES

An exploration licence in the NT allows the holder or operator to explore for minerals over the licence area, while an exploration permit must be obtained for oil and gas exploration. 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 logistical effort to arrange consultation with 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 enter an agreement and consent to the grant of an exploration tenement. The CLC is obliged to listen to the Traditional Owners and act on their instructions to either refuse consent or to negotiate 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. During the reporting

period, one meeting was held to consider new applications for the first time. In total, twenty 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.

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, but a subsequent mining or production agreement must be in place before a mineral lease or production licence for petroleum is granted.

The CLC had 206 title applications under negotiation at the end of the reporting period. This is a slight increase from the previous period and reflects the increase in new applications received in the past three years. A time lag in progressing applications occurred as the CLC managed interruptions to remote travel while the COVID-19 biosecurity zones were in place. Some companies have

continued to decline to attend meetings, often after significant CLC resources have been committed. This impacted the CLC's ability to arrange alternative meetings, and overall reduced the number of titles that could be processed during the period. 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.

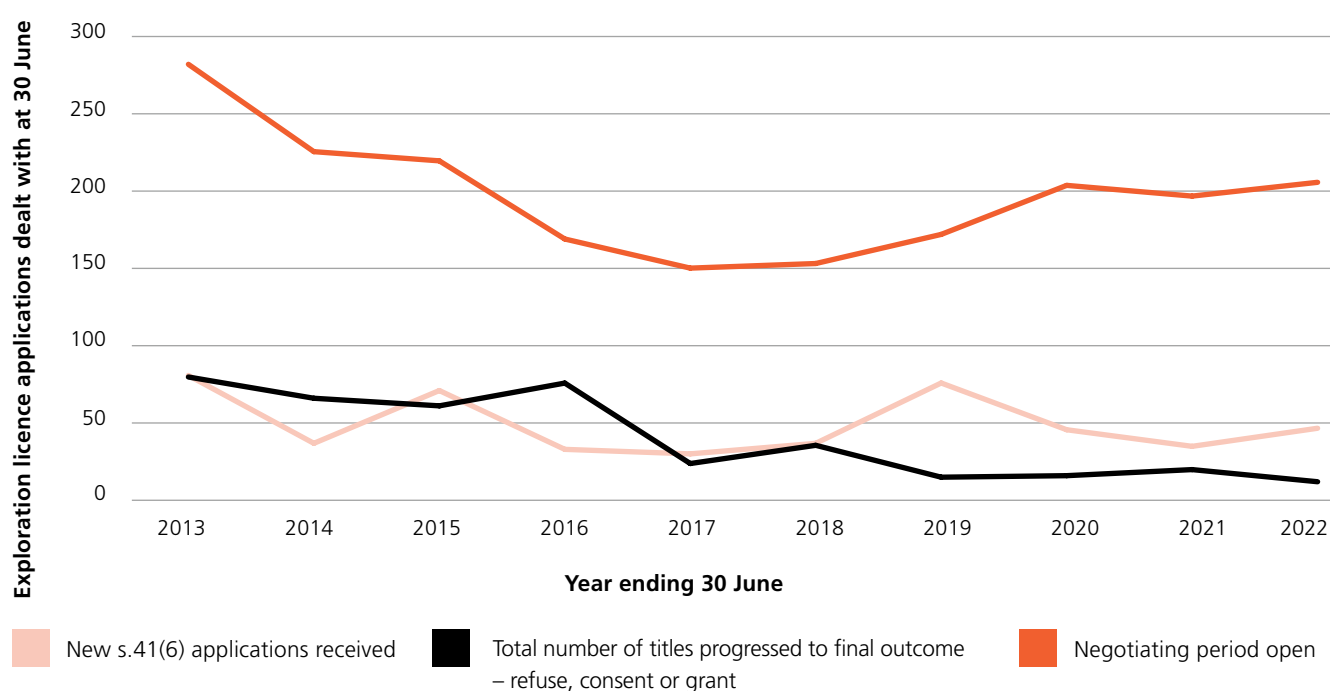
Mining activities can have social and environmental impacts on neighbouring communities. Although Traditional Owners make the consent decision, the CLC must also consult these communities. The CLC conducts exploration and mining consultation meetings to ensure that landowners exercise their rights under the Land Rights

Table 15. 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	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of exploration titles (mainly ELAs and EPAs) effectively progressed to an initial Traditional Owner meeting	18	33	0	7	6
Total number of exploration titles considered at Traditional Owner meetings (includes first and further meetings)	25	37	3	9	20
Number of exploration titles completed in total (includes those withdrawn during negotiating period but does not include partial refusals)	36	15	16	20	12
Average time taken (in years) from date of application is received to either CLC consent or refusal	3.0	1.3	0.0	3.5	5.4*

* the average for 2021-22 is heavily skewed by the refusal of ELs 25562, 25564, 31924, 31925, which relate to one project. The average reflects a single, particularly drawn out negotiation, rather than a true indication of the usual time taken to process a title to completion.

Figure 11. Cumulative trend of exploration title applications in negotiating period on Aboriginal Land



Act. Table 16 records the numbers and status of exploration titles on Aboriginal land in the CLC region.

The NT Government issued 68 exploration titles on Aboriginal land with consent to negotiate and the CLC received 59 applications from proponents. Twenty-one titles were withdrawn during the negotiation period. Traditional Owners instructed the CLC to refuse consent to the grant of five mineral exploration licences and one petroleum exploration permit, which will go into moratorium for five years. Four other titles were partially refused.

The refused areas are assigned new tenement numbers and placed in moratorium for five years.

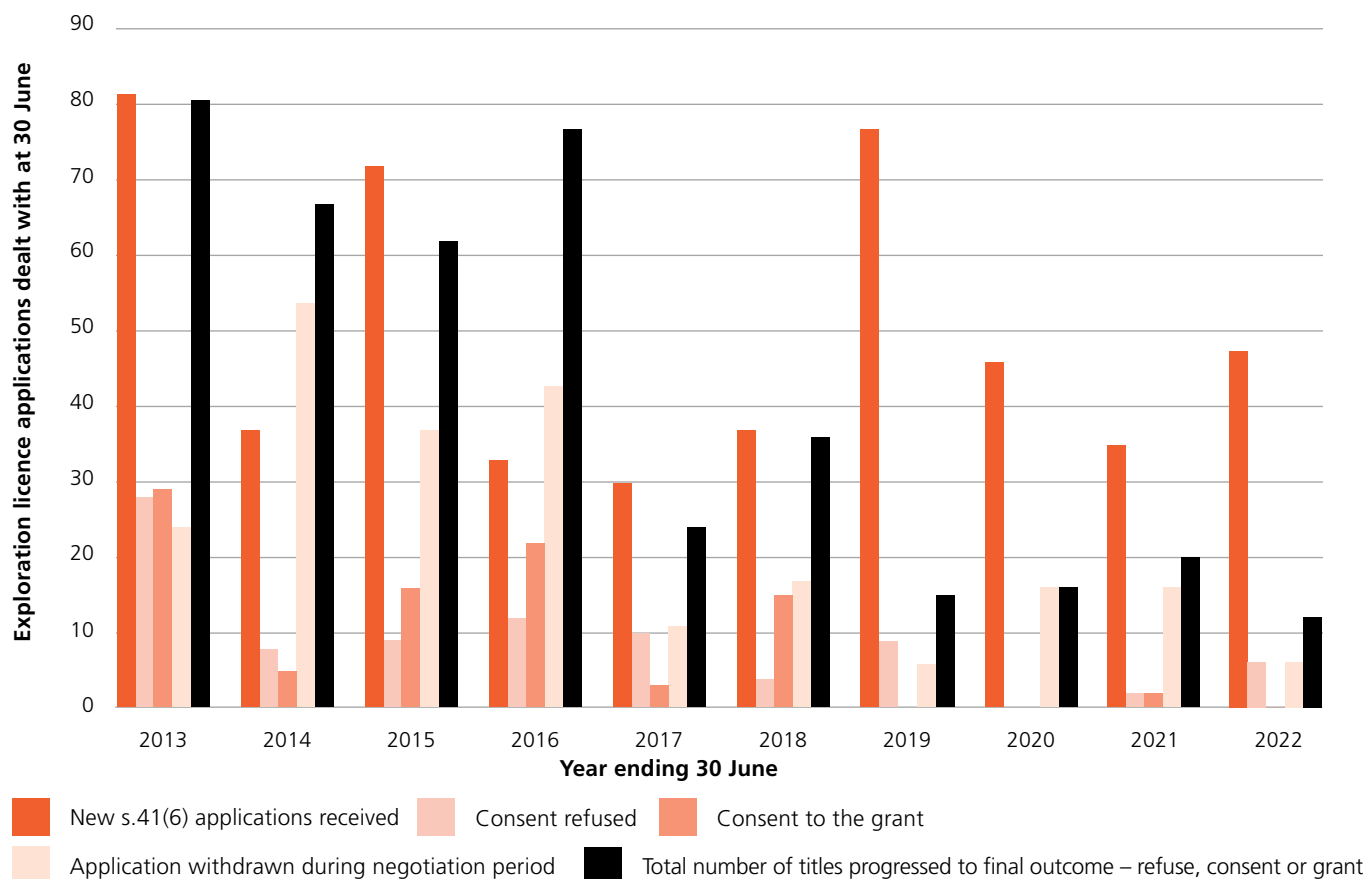
Figure 11 compares the annual numbers of exploration licence applications and exploration permit applications on Aboriginal land processed during the past 10 years.

Table 16. Exploration titles (exploration licence applications and exploration permit applications) on Aboriginal land

Action or step under Part IV ALRA process	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Consent to negotiate from NT Government	67	25	74	25	18	33	77	34	47	68
Application for consent to the grant*	82	37	72	33	29	37	77	46	35	59
Withdrawn during negotiating period	24	54	37	43	11	17	6	16	16	21
Refused	28	8	9	12	10	4	9	0	2	10
Consent to the grant	29	5	16	22	3	15	0	0	2	0
Granted by NT Government	40	20	6	8	30	22	0	0	2	0
Under negotiation as at 30 June	283	226	220	169	149	153	172	204	197	206

*includes applications following expiry of moratorium period.

Figure 12. Number of exploration titles applied for and processed to final outcome on Aboriginal land





Work area clearance near Warren Creek, west of Mount Liebig.

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 opportunities; and liaison, reporting and inspection.

At 30 June 2022 the CLC managed 87 agreements for minerals and energy exploration or production. On Aboriginal land, there are 46 current exploration agreements with respect to 151 exploration titles and 11 production agreements relating to 16 titles covering 47,357 square kilometres. Table 17 summarises exploration and mining agreements on Aboriginal land that are managed by the CLC. On land subject to the Native Title Act there are 22 exploration agreements and eight mining agreements. Mineral leases or production licences exist across the CLC region but operating mines are in the Tanami region, near Utju (Areyonga) and around Tennant Creek, while oil and gas production occurs at Mereenie and Palm Valley near Ntaria (Hermannsburg), and the Dingo gas field near Mparntwe (Alice Springs).

Despite COVID-19 disruptions in early 2022, the CLC worked closely with explorers to ensure access to Aboriginal land for exploration where it was possible to do so 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 and then provide instructions to the CLC on protection of sacred sites. The CLC then issues 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 of the certificate, sacred sites will be protected. During the reporting period the CLC conducted 13 on-ground work area clearances for mineral and energy work programs, and issued 14 sacred site clearance certificates to companies under agreements.

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 to build relationships with companies. The CLC facilitated five liaison committee meetings for various projects. The CLC also organised a community information session in Ntaria where nearby exploration at the Palm Valley gas field was discussed. The schedule of meetings was interrupted by COVID-19 due to travel restrictions and management plans that prevented visitors to some mine sites. Other meetings were held on country, in conjunction with work area clearances.

The CLC continued to monitor areas where mineral lease applications are held to ensure that these areas, after being

Table 17. New and current exploration and mining agreements

Type of agreement	New in 2021-22	Total current at 30 June 2022	
		Total agreements	Number of licences, permits and leases associated with agreements
Exploration	2	46	151
Mining	0	11	16
Total area of Aboriginal Land under ELAs and EPAs			47,357 km²

explored, are made safe for the Traditional Owners. Within the reporting period, CLC staff responded to a report from Traditional Owners that a small-scale miner had excavated a shaft near Titjikala community and left it open, creating a danger to people and animals. At the instruction of native title holders, the CLC wrote to the NT government about the matter, and the miner was then required to remediate the works.

Tanami Desert Ten Year Plan

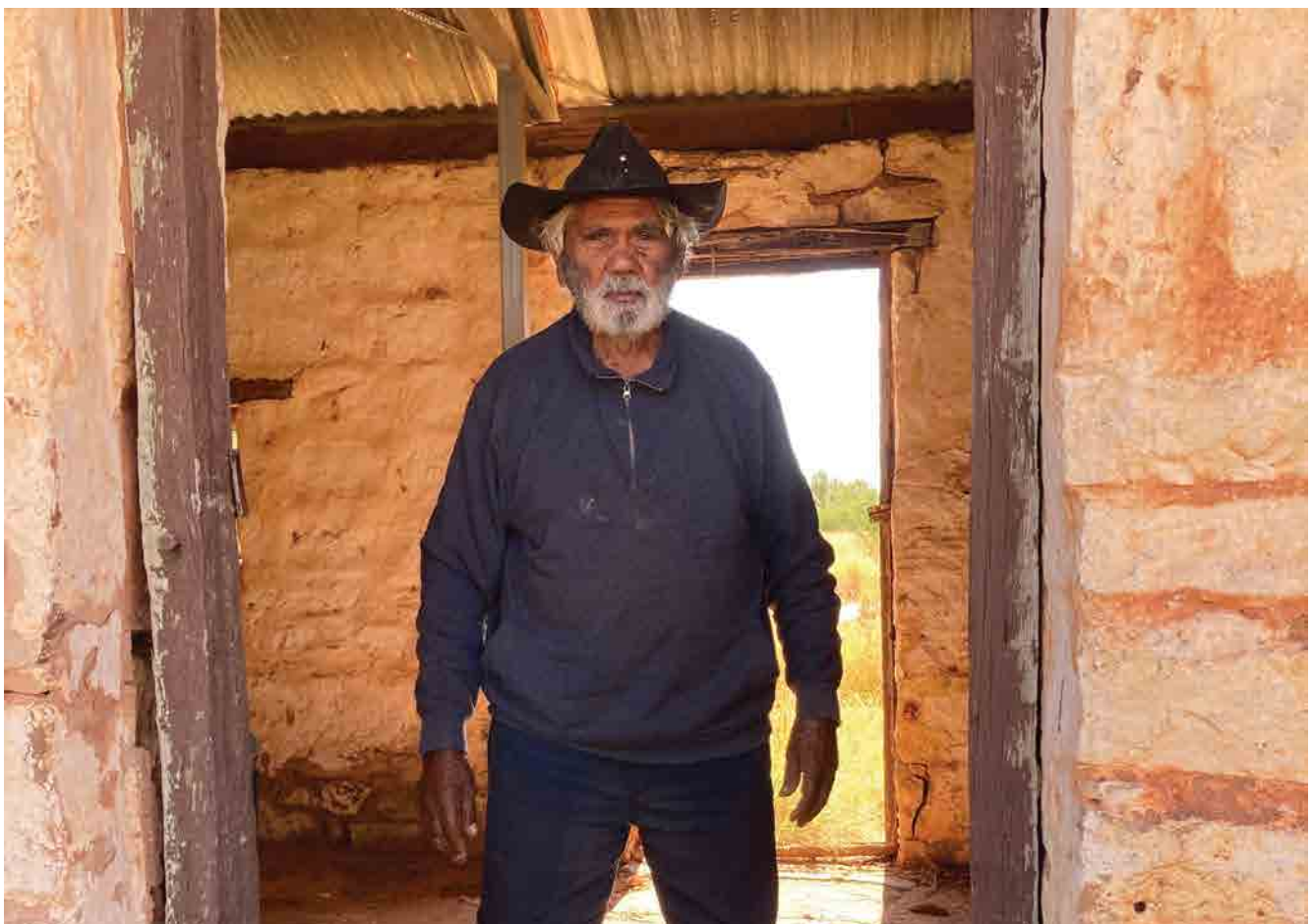
Traditional Owners, the CLC and the Newmont Corporation developed the Tanami Desert Ten Year Plan (Ten Year Plan) in 2017 to improve governance and employment and education outcomes in remote communities in the Tanami region. The plan also aims to strengthen yapa (local Aboriginal) people's voices through better collaboration on agreed focus areas. In 2022, the CLC established a new Social Performance Coordinator role to push for stronger social performance outcomes from mining agreements in the CLC region. This role coordinated the CLC's efforts to implement commitments under the Ten Year Plan.

In November 2021, Traditional Owner representatives from the Granites-Kurra Liaison Committee, CLC Council delegates from the Tanami region, the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust, CLC staff and Newmont took part in an annual planning workshop facilitated by the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining (CSRSM) from the University of Queensland. Participants at the workshop discussed the progress made under the Ten Year Plan in 2021 and worked together to identify barriers and next steps on projects to be undertaken in 2022.

The Ten Year Plan provided a platform for yapa to voice their concerns about safety when travelling on the Tanami Highway due to the poor condition of the road and the lack of mobile reception, shade and places to get water in emergencies. In 2022, the CLC commenced implementation of the short-term recommendations of a report commissioned into safety and service options on the Tanami Highway. It identified potential locations where emergency water hand pumps and mobile phone reception boosters can be installed and began speaking with potential contractors. The CLC also advocated to the NT Government Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics about the need for new rest stops and upgrade of existing rest stops.

Another project progressed under the Ten Year Plan in the reporting period included scoping for the development of a work readiness program for yapa seeking to obtain employment. The CLC and Newmont also discussed ways to improve the processes for referring Aboriginal people to Newmont for employment, explored options for Newmont to engage the services of CLC Rangers, and looked for ways to enable young yapa to spend more time learning on country.

The Ten Year Plan steering committee, consisting of senior staff of CLC and Newmont, met in person and via videoconference throughout 2021 and 2022 to oversee implementation of these projects.



Bruce Breadon, Tempe Downs Homestead, during a work area clearance at Urrampinyi Iljtjjarri ALT for oil exploration.

GOVERNMENT LIAISON AND ADVOCACY

The CLC engaged regularly with representatives of the NT Department of Industry Tourism and Trade (DITT) to discuss improvements to government processes to benefit Traditional Owners.

Guide to Mineral Exploration in the Northern Territory

In March 2022, the CLC reviewed a second draft of a Guide to Mineral Exploration in the Northern Territory prepared by the DITT. The CLC submitted that the draft guide did not adequately address site protection and the rights of native title holders. This guide was released at the DITT workshop held during the Annual Geoscience Exploration Seminar (AGES) in April 2022.

Re-issue of consent to negotiate

Under the Land Rights Act, there is a fixed period of time in which a decision must be reached on the grant or refusal to grant of an exploration application. The land council can extend this period by agreement with the company. In cases where a company is not displaying a serious intent to progress a title, the land council may choose not to extend the negotiation period. Companies can request that the NT Mining minister re-issue consent. The DITT has undertaken to consider the reasons that land councils have given for not extending the negotiating period before re-issuing consent to negotiate on exploration applications.

Native Title Act expedited procedures

All future act applications for exploration licences in the NT include a statement from the NT 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 NT Government. If native title holders instruct the CLC to object to a licence application, the CLC has only 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 limited native title funding make it impossible for the CLC to consult on all applications within the brief objection time frame. CLC 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' (RTN) process should be applied to protect native title holder interests. In these cases, native title holders can inform proponents early in the process about risks to sites, to allow

certainty and the best use of land council, government and company resources.

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. In October 2021, the Tribunal ruled against the objections lodged by CLC on the Karinga Lakes expedited procedure. In May 2022, the CLC met with the native title claim group to convey the verdict and seek further instructions on Karinga Lakes.

Groundwater extraction licence applications

The CLC made submissions to the NT government in response to Notices of Intent to grant water extraction licences for the Enigma Mining Mount Peake Project near Barrow Creek, the Arafura Resources Nolans Project near Aileron and the KGL Jervois Project on Jervois Station near Bonya community.

Onshore Petroleum

As at June 2022, the NT Government had completed implementation of 65 of the 138 recommendations of the Pepper Inquiry into hydraulic fracturing and commenced implementation of the remaining 73 recommendations. The CLC continued to monitor the government's response to the recommendations.

In 2022, the NT Government outsourced responsibility to the CSIRO for completion of recommendation 11.6, which relates to an Aboriginal Information Program about oil and gas exploration. Processing of applications will commence when a satisfactory information package or education campaign is completed by the CSIRO and released by the NT Government.

In July 2021, the NT Government proposed an acreage release for petroleum exploration of areas in the Southern Georgina Basin north-east of Alice Springs. The CLC consulted Traditional Owners of these areas, and advised the NT Government in a submission in November 2021 that some areas of the proposed acreage release were unsuitable for petroleum exploration due to the existence of sacred sites or use of the areas by Aboriginal people for other activities. The CLC insisted that the principles of free, prior, informed consent should be applied, and that native title holders must be properly consulted and sacred sites protected before any petroleum exploration permits are granted. As at 30 June 2022, no new exploration permit applications had been advertised in the proposed areas.

In February 2022, the CLC responded to the NT Department of Treasury and Finance consultation process on a cost recovery framework for the onshore petroleum industry regarding options for recovering costs of regulation and road maintenance in relation to recommendations 14.1 and 12.9 of the inquiry final report. In its submission the CLC supported a user pays system, which would require the companies wishing to explore for and produce onshore petroleum and gas to contribute to the regulation of the industry. The CLC cautioned against a dependence relationship of the regulator on the industry it is supposed to control, and recommended that the department responsible for regulation of onshore petroleum

be appropriately resourced, act independently, and have the experience needed to do an effective job.

National Hydrogen Strategy

In May 2022, the CLC met with the Hydrogen Initiatives section of the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER) as part of Australia's National Hydrogen Strategy (the Strategy) communications and engagement drive. Action items 5.1 and 5.2 of the Strategy relate to the government's intentions to build community knowledge and engagement on hydrogen. It is anticipated that with the global drive towards clean energy, there may be increased interest in building hydrogen infrastructure in the Northern Territory.

OTHER PROJECTS

The CLC strives to use its resources as effectively as possible. During this reporting period, the CLC engaged the Aboriginal Resource and Development Services (ARDS) Aboriginal Corporation to commence an innovative program to develop improved plain English consultation materials. This involved a two-day workshop, bringing together different sections of the CLC. Following this engagement in February 2022, the CLC conducted a peer-to-peer capacity building workshop for staff to develop facilitation skills.

As noted above, a new Social Performance Coordinator position was established in the CLC Minerals and Energy Section. Commencing in February 2022, this role commits a dedicated resource to build the capacity of the CLC to advocate for stronger social performance outcomes from mining agreements in the CLC's region.

The CLC also engaged an expert to review the employment clauses within agreements to ensure that Traditional Owners gain greater benefits from the use of their land.

Subject to resourcing, CLC 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.

In addition, the CLC conducted training for staff on native title future acts and mining to provide guidance on all interventions on native title land. Following this training, the Mineral and Energy section updated its procedure for responding to exploration licence applications on native title land. The CLC also continued working on redesign of the CLCs agreements and tenements management system, EMPAA. An initial needs assessment was completed and the next steps will follow completion of a broader information technology systems review, which is currently underway.



A mining meeting held at Pirrulpakalarintja outstation near Kintore.

OUTPUT 3.4 ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

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

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”.

In 2020, the CLC established a dedicated Economic Participation Unit (EPU) to improve outcomes in this area for CLC constituents and support CLC constituents to access training, employment and enterprise opportunities. In the past year, CLC’s primary focus has been on allocating \$36.7 million from the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) Economic Stimulus funding program that was provided to CLC by former Indigenous Affairs Minister Ken Wyatt to stimulate the Aboriginal economy in the CLC region. Alongside this work, the CLC has:

- supported constituents to access funding through its ABA Application Support project;
- identified constituents’ economic priorities and started mapping services in the region;
- supported tourism activities in protected areas that deliver outcomes for constituents;
- supported pastoral development by supporting Aboriginal-owned pastoral station Huckitta Enterprises Pty Ltd; and
- advocated for constituent-led economic development activities at meetings and forums.

ABA ECONOMIC STIMULUS FUNDING

The CLC’s Economic Stimulus funding program was established in 2021 following the allocation to the CLC of \$36.7 million from the Aboriginals Benefit Account by the Commonwealth Government. This funding was provided to stimulate the Aboriginal business sector and employment in the CLC region in response to impacts of COVID-19. The funds can be spent on:

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

Over the reporting period, the CLC approved \$16.7 million of funding to 28 Aboriginal businesses and organisations operating in diverse sectors including construction, housing, civil works, land management, horticulture, pastoral industry, human services, hospitality, art and media (see Figure 13). There were approved projects across the whole CLC region, but these were largely concentrated in the economic centres of Alice Springs (region 1) and Tennant Creek (region 6) (see Figure 14).

Figure 13. Approved economic stimulus funding by sector, 2021–22

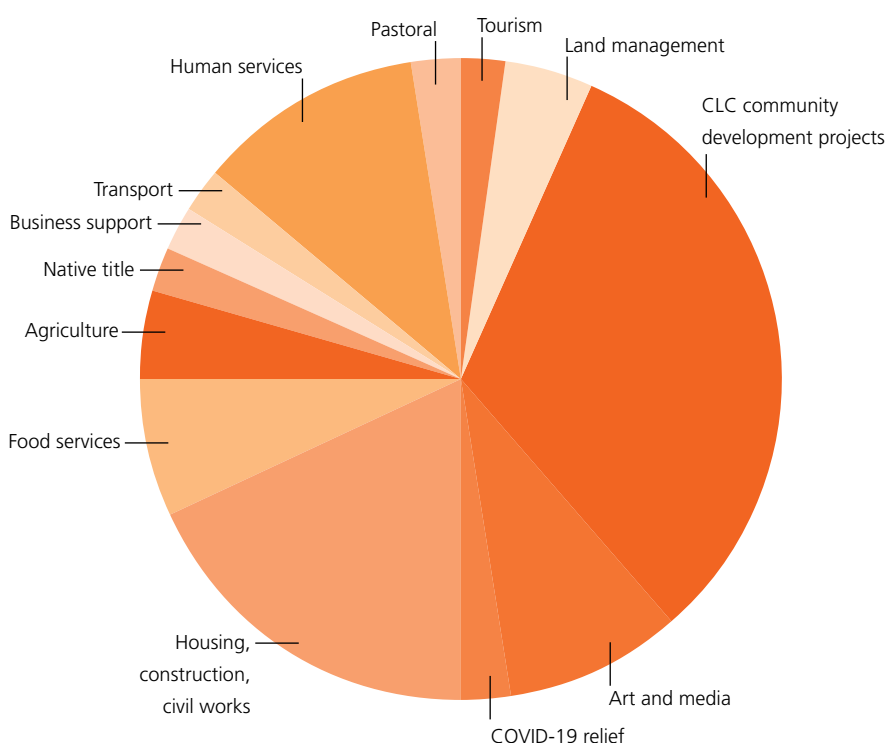
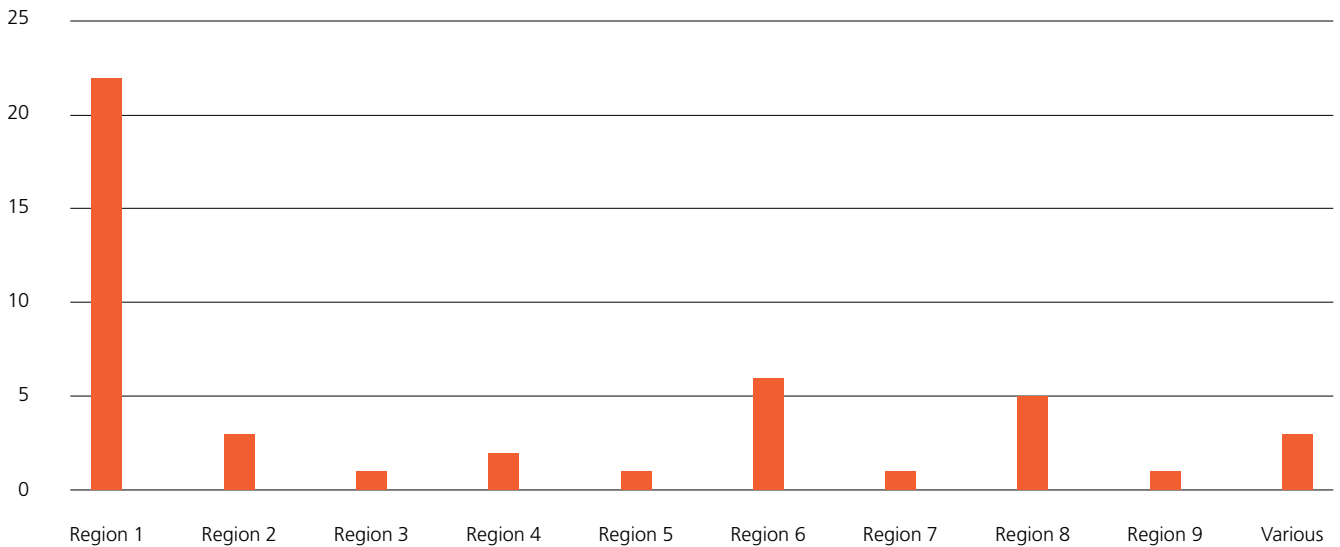


Figure 14. ABA economic stimulus proposals by CLC sub-regions



These funds will lead to significant outcomes for the CLC region and constituents through the growth of the Aboriginal business sector and Aboriginal business leadership, investment in Aboriginal owned infrastructure and creation of Aboriginal employment and training opportunities. It is expected that these projects will create 43.8 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs over the life of the projects, and of these 37.8 FTE positions are Aboriginal identified roles.

Examples of projects that were approved include:

- Funds for an Aboriginal corporation to **purchase a food truck and entertainment equipment** to create employment opportunities for local community members and boost the corporation's revenue;
- Funds for an **Aboriginal-owned funeral service** to commence operations in Alice Springs for purchase of equipment and vehicles to enable provision of culturally appropriate and cheaper services to CLC constituents;
- Funds to enable an **Aboriginal-owned and governed tourism enterprise** west of Alice Springs to upgrade their infrastructure and provide a broader range of services to the growing tourism market;
- Funds for **Aboriginal construction and civil works businesses** to purchase plant and equipment and cover operating expenses to expand their services and create training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people;
- Funds to establish and grow **Aboriginal art organisations** to create training and employment opportunities for local community members and boost the organisations' revenue;
- Funds to upgrade infrastructure on an **Aboriginal-governed pastoral station** to enable it to increase its grazing capacity and longevity;
- Funds to support an **Aboriginal-owned bus service** to create training and employment opportunities and deliver reliable and cheaper transport to communities north-east of Alice Springs; and
- Funds to **upgrade outstations** to provide CLC constituents with reliable power and water and enable them to spend more time living on country.

The CLC will continue to work with applicants to process and consider proposals to maximise benefits through co-investment and in-kind support with other stakeholders, including government, the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation and Indigenous Business Australia. The CLC has received a large number of enquiries for funding which will not be able to be met with the allocated funds, indicating both a strong capacity and high level of need in the Aboriginal business sector in the CLC region.

It is expected that ABA Economic Stimulus funding will be fully allocated by the end of 2022. The CLC will undertake monitoring and evaluation of the approved projects to measure the effectiveness of the program. Further information is available on the CLC website at <https://www.clc.org.au/aba-economic-stimulus-package/>.

ABA APPLICATION SUPPORT

ABA funding can support 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. Funding is approved by the federal Minister for Indigenous Australians upon recommendation by the NT land council representatives of the ABA Advisory Committee.

The ABA Applications Support Project started in mid-2020 in response to an observed trend of grant applications that were weak, incomplete and/or deemed not to meet ministerial approval requirements. As Aboriginal community initiatives were not being funded and the ABA was not benefiting as many Aboriginal people as it should, the project aims to rectify this through practical assistance to applicants. The process starts with a long workshop with the applicants and builds the applicants' capacity on the way towards funding. Since it began, the project has received 75 requests for support. It assisted 23 requests, with three combined to make a total of 21 applications. Eleven of these were submitted for review and five have been approved. The team also referred requests for CLC ABA Economic Stimulus funding, with one of these being approved.

In the majority of cases, the project provides comprehensive and ongoing support to a level of approximately 70 per cent of the work required for an effective application. Applicant surveys show strong positive feedback for the assistance provided. Unfortunately, with only one full-time project officer and a part-time consultant project manager, there are insufficient resources to support all applicants and the project has had to reject most requests for support. It is estimated that at least three times the current resources would be needed to meet ABA applicant demand. Nevertheless, indications of the success of the project are positive. Of the 11 applications submitted, only two (which had received limited support) were unsuccessful. The five approved applications demonstrate that the combined efforts of applicants and the project team are likely to be successful in receiving ABA funding, with an average grant to date of \$437,573 per application.

An important project learning is that applicant capacity, especially in governance and management capacity, is often too weak or 'stretched' to seize this opportunity for funding. Submission of only 11 of 21 ABA applications that received substantial assistance indicates a widespread incapacity of even large applicant organisations to realise their aspirations, even with the support of this project. Critically, while it is tempting to complete applications on behalf of the applicants, this would limit the learning benefits of the full process and would not assist applicants to develop the skills needed to manage the funding and implement their initiatives if the application were successful.

Finally, this project has learnt that the ABA application guidelines, revised in 2021 to a 39-page document, remain a poor guide to applicants even with the assistance of the project. The guidelines and application requirements remain daunting for many applicants and inhibit completion, submission and success of applications. CLC is hopeful that the processes established by the new NT Aboriginal Investment Commission (NTAIC) will be much more accessible.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC PRIORITIES AND SERVICE MAPPING

In 2021–22, CLC held workshops with delegates of six CLC governance regions to discuss economic opportunities and aspirations in their regions. The delegates' views varied across these regions, reflecting the diversity of language, geography and economic activity, but some common themes emerged, including the need for support in the following areas:

- better training and employment opportunities within communities, particularly for young people;
- development support for people to participate in existing and emerging sectors through employment and enterprise, including tourism, housing, civil works (e.g. roads), agriculture, bush foods, pastoral activity and art;
- support for new and existing Aboriginal enterprises to enable communities to be financially independent;
- support for Aboriginal corporations to enable communities to have control and be financially independent; and
- support for development of and employment on outstations.

To complement this work, the CLC commenced a mapping exercise of business support, employment and training services available to our constituents. This map will draw on data from government, not-for-profit and private providers, and Aboriginal businesses. This

service map and data from consultation with our constituents will inform the development of the EPU's business plan and framework.

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 management of protected areas. The CLC works with Aboriginal businesses operating in national parks and protected areas and supports Traditional Owners to maximise development proposals such as building walks in Watarrka National Park and Uluru-Kata Tjuṯu National Park and the bike trail on the Tjoritja/ West MacDonnell National Park.

The CLC has continued to work with the NT Government and commercial operators to make sure that these projects deliver outcomes for Traditional Owners and community members, including through convening Traditional Owner planning committees, developing expressions of interest templates, and reviewing proposals from prospective investors and commercial operators.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

The CLC continued to support Huckitta Enterprises Pty Ltd (HEP), 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 Arnernte Traditional Owners in 2010 and has been 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 two general meetings of the Huckitta Enterprises directors and the annual general meeting of the Huckitta Aboriginal Corporation.

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:

- a year-to-date presentation of the financial performance of the company for 2021;
- preparation and approval of the 2021–22 annual operational budget, including a capital expenditure program for plant and equipment replacement, and restoration of waters and yards;
- continued representation of HEP in settling the terms and conditions of its proposed grazing licence over the former Atula portion of the Atnetye ALT. The execution of the licence agreement in late November realised an original objective of the Huckitta purchase for pastoral development collaboration between closely affiliated Traditional Owners of Huckitta and Atula;
- preparation and submission of the 'Growing the Huckitta Business' application in October 2021 for reconsideration under the ABA-funded NT Indigenous Economic Stimulus Package administered by the CLC. Its approval in mid-December secured funds to implement the infrastructure development conditions of the Atula grazing licence and recommendations of the three-year Huckitta Business Plan 2020;
- execution of the grazing licence renewal agreement with Huckitta Aboriginal Corporation (HAC) allowing HEP to

continue the cattle business for another 10 years (with an option for a further 10 years), on terms and conditions settled by the CLC, which includes an annual profit-based licence fee for community benefit use; and

- 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.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SUPPORT

Job readiness and referrals

During this reporting period, the CLC Economic Participation Unit (EPU) has assisted 37 constituents who were seeking work to prepare documents such as resumes, obtain clearances and required cards, prepare for interviews, and obtain referrals. Of the 37 constituents who were referred by the CLC, 9 obtained employment. The CLC is currently working with 15 constituents to be job ready and will then support them to find and apply for work.

Mining and exploration agreements

The CLC continued to work with mining companies to support the implementation of Aboriginal employment and local procurement commitments under mining agreements. CLC's EPU worked with Newmont Corporation (Tanami Operations), KGL (Jervois Project) and Tennant Mining (Nobles Nob Project) to:

- identify employment opportunities and pathways;
- establish job referral processes and support referrals (developed and updated resumes, supported inductions and interviews, provided transport and administration support where required);
- identify appropriate job readiness training;
- collaborate on career expos to promote employment opportunities;
- connect companies with CDP Providers to work on job readiness and job requirements (e.g. Identification documents, training, and police clearances); and
- advocate for opportunities for local Aboriginal enterprises through tenders and direct contracting.

CLC's EPU worked closely with Newmont Corporation to achieve employment and training outcomes in their Tanami Operations, participating in the Tanami Desert (TYP) Annual Planning workshop and related meetings and making job and apprenticeship referrals. Two successful referrals were achieved in this reporting period.

Community development projects

CLC's EPU and Community Development Unit work closely to support employment in projects funded by constituents and managed by the Community Development Unit. During this reporting period, EPU focused on supporting employment on development of the Lajamanu water park project, resulting in three community members being employed on a casual basis. EPU aims to provide more support for community development projects in the future.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

CLC attended forums to advocate for investment in economic activities that align with our constituents' needs and aspirations, including the ability to live and work on country and in their communities, to do work that enables people to practise and maintain culture, to be financially independent, and to be able to manage their own futures.

Meetings and forums attended included the Aboriginal Economic Development Forum, Developing Northern Australia conference, Aboriginal Economic Leadership Group, Barkly Deal Economic Growth Strategy Working Group and Aboriginal Tourism business development Central Australia.

A highlight this year was the 10th Aboriginal Economic Development Forum, which was convened for the first time by an Aboriginal organisation instead of government. It was a great chance to hear about support for Aboriginal businesses, inspiring stories from Aboriginal business owners in the NT, and from Native American business owners in the United States. The CLC's CEO, Les Turner, the then Chair, Sammy Wilson, then Deputy Chair, Barb Shaw, and other Executive members attended.

This year the CLC also focused on working with CDP providers and training and job readiness providers to ensure that their services are targeted to existing and future employment opportunities in order to give our constituents the best chance to obtain meaningful employment in the region. Highlights included:

- attending information sessions led by Arafura Resources in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Ti Tree to connect Arafura with local stakeholders (CDP providers, training organisations, and Aboriginal businesses);
- attending an information session with Tennant Mining in Tennant Creek to identify employment opportunities for local communities;
- hosting a workplace tour at the CLC Main Office for 15 students aged 16 to 18 to promote employment opportunities within the CLC; and
- participation in community career expos to promote employment pathways, including NAIDOC Community Day (Alice Springs) and the Central Desert Regional Council Career Expo at Yuendumu and Nyirripi.



Sammy Wilson, Barb Shaw and Robert Hoosan participated at the Aboriginal Economic Development Forum, October 2021.



OUTPUT GROUP 4

OUTPUT 4.1 PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

MEDIA

The views and achievements of Central Land Council members and constituents are front and centre of the CLC's public awareness and education activities. The CLC is one of the first organisations the media call when issues affecting Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory are in the news, whether or not these issues relate to the role and functions of the organisation.

During the pandemic a large number of media representatives wanted to visit, or report stories from, Central Australia, but the pandemic travel restrictions prevented them. CLC spokespeople responded to media inquiries on topics ranging from the impact of these restrictions on remote communities, remote jobs and housing, water rights, a constitutionally enshrined Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament, the Zachary Rolfe trial, and the federal election and voter suppression in the bush.

As foreshadowed in last year's annual report, the CLC's communications and policy teams successfully escalated an advocacy campaign regarding the Singleton Station water licence on behalf of native title holders and residents of the region affected by the grant of the licence. The controversial decision to award a private company 40,000 megalitres of free groundwater per year for 30 years became the subject of a ministerial review and faces legal challenges in the NT Supreme Court (see further below). These efforts by the CLC and others aim to protect water-dependent sacred sites and ecosystems, safeguard remote community drinking water and seek reforms of NT water laws and regulations. This significant case has given rise to eight CLC media releases addressing water-related issues and has attracted local and global media interest.

Water was also the theme of the third Vincent Lingiari Art Award. The winning painting, by Grace Kemarre Robinya, *Raining at Laramba*, depicts the country where the artist worked and raised her family. Laramba's drinking water contains three times the level of uranium considered safe. Commenting on the record number of entries in the award, CLC chief executive Les Turner told the media "the scandalous situation in Ms Robinya's home community of Laramba illustrates perfectly why we have seen such a strong response to this year's theme". Mr Turner and Ron Hagan, a CLC delegate and Laramba resident, gave several media interviews about the NT Government's lack of response to a request from the community in October 2021 for the supply of free, uncontaminated drinking water pending the installation of a water treatment plant. After an extended campaign of joint advocacy by the community and the CLC, the Laramba office of

the Central Desert Regional Council took delivery of boxed water for distribution to households in June 2022.

During the initial spread of the Omicron virus variant in the NT between November 2021 and February 2022, the CLC and other Aboriginal peak organisations publicised concerns of constituents to pressure the NT Government to respond to a range of issues caused by its haste to reopen the NT borders. The major concerns were the very low vaccination rates in many remote communities, the underreporting of vaccination statistics, the need for more commonwealth support in the face of the NT's faltering COVID-19 response and calls for 'circuit breaker' lockdowns of remote communities. The lockdowns were considered necessary in order to allow health services to vaccinate more residents. Intense media interest in this collective advocacy contributed to a declaration of biosecurity areas in February 2022. This declaration triggered rapid production of fact sheets, scripts and other information materials for affected community residents and visitors.

The communications team also raised awareness of the passing of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment (Economic Empowerment) Bill in December 2021. The legislation provides for an Aboriginal-controlled commonwealth corporate entity, the NT Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC), which will commence operations in December 2022. NTAIC will have responsibility for managing a beneficial payments program (grants) and a strategic investment program designed to grow financial investments and finance larger commercial investments that will generate economic and social returns for Aboriginal people, and a financial return for the body. The legislation was a result of a decades-long campaign by the NT land councils to regain control over the Aboriginals Benefit Account from the Australian Government. It is an important milestone on the road that will bring the ABA "home to the NT", as the CLC's media release put it.

Media interest in other CLC success stories included the launch of the Traditional Owner-funded Yeperenye walking and cycling trail in the East MacDonnell Ranges near Alice Springs in July 2021, Grace Kemarre Robinya's win of the third Vincent Lingiari Art Award in September 2021, and the signing of an agreement between the CLC, on behalf of Traditional Owners, and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy in May 2022 to lease the Ngalurrju Aboriginal Land Trust adjacent to the AWC's Newhaven Wildlife Sanctuary. The agreement obliges the conservation organisation to jointly manage and protect the outstanding natural and cultural values of the area with the Traditional Owners of the land trust and to create employment



Desart CEO, Philip Watkins, Tangentyere Artist, Grace Robinya and CLC's Executive Manager Policy and Governance, Josie Douglas in front of Grace Robinya's Vincent Lingiari Art Award winning artwork *Raining at Laramba*.

and training opportunities for their families and communities. At the media launch of the Yeperenye trail, CLC chief executive Les Turner personally acknowledged each of the more than 30 Aboriginal workers who helped to construct the trail following years of planning with the CLC's community development team and project partner Tricky Tracks.

VINCENT LINGIARI ART AWARD

In September 2021, Grace Kemarre Robinya won the \$10,000 Vincent Lingiari Art Award for her painting *Raining at Laramba*. Her painting was one of 26 finalists responding to the award's theme 'Ngawa, Ngapa, Kapi, Kwatja, Water'. Award judge Hetti

Perkins said the work, which the CLC acquired for its collection, "stood out as an unequivocal, elegant and profound statement about kwatye. It captures the dramatic vistas of rain in desert country and conveys the transformative and life-giving power of water".

Born in Ntaria in 1942, Ms Robinya is an accomplished figurative painter whose work has been included in 55 exhibitions. She has also been a finalist in the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award. The launch of the exhibition at the Tangentyere Artists Gallery in Alice Springs marked the third collaboration between Desart, the CLC and the gallery since the inaugural Vincent Lingiari Art Award in 2016. In 2021 the theme asked artists from across Central Australia to reflect on the

significance of water for their collective survival on their country. Desert chief executive Philip Watkins reminded the packed opening night crowd that “safe, clean water is a fundamental right, yet many communities continue to struggle for this. All the artists’ works in this exhibition respond to the emergency and fight for water rights”.

Ms Perkins, curator, writer and daughter of the CLC’s first director Charlie Perkins, shortlisted 26 of a record number of 47 entries. She said some of the artists’ responses to the theme were overtly political, with their calls to stop fracking, and memories of now destroyed landscapes and sites that sent an urgent message: “The water underground and overhead, in soaks, rockholes and creeks is our lifeblood, an essential part of the ancient ecology that we are part of. This delicate balance cannot be tampered with and the NT and Australian governments need to sit up and take notice of the truth our people are telling them, and nowhere more clearly than in our art.”

In August CLC members chose the winner of the CLC Delegates’ Choice Award. During their August council meeting near Vincent Lingiari’s home community of Daguragu they voted for Leah Leaman’s painting *Following the Waterways*. The work tells the story of a couple, “the last of their kind”, who “followed the waterways by foot all the way from here to the coast ... with their beloved dogs, billycan, hook spear and rolled-up little calico swag, never getting lost.”

Desert member art centres and artists with strong links to the CLC region were eligible to enter in the award which is made possible by the generous support from the Peter Kittle Motor Company and Newmont Australia.

CLC ELECTIONS

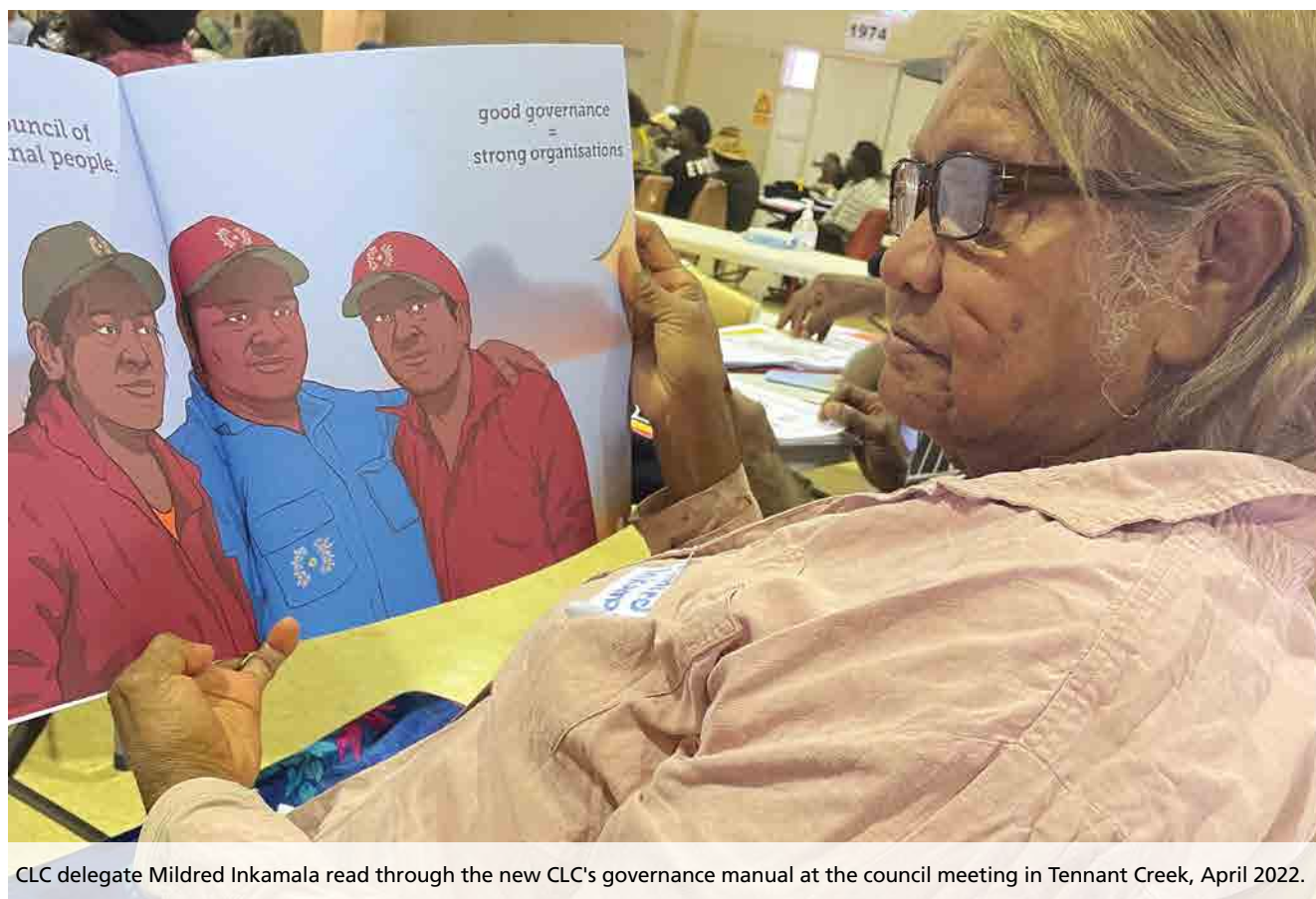
The communications team supported the CLC elections in March and April 2022 with a multi-lingual broadcast, social media and poster campaign. Aboriginal media organisations Pintupi Anmatyerr, Warlpiri Media, the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association, Indigenous Community Television and the Top End Aboriginal Broadcasting Association ran community service announcements in many local languages while the CLC Facebook page kept residents informed of the dates, locations and outcomes of election meetings in their communities.

As in 2019, the election campaign messaging focused again on the importance of a gender-balanced council that reflects all age groups. The community of Nyirrpi responded by electing the CLC’s youngest delegate ever, 20-year-old Ricardo Gallagher.

PUBLICATIONS

In preparation for the elections the CLC reviewed and redesigned its governance manual for delegates and executive members. CLC delegates were closely consulted during the drafting stage to ensure that the illustrations and plain English writing style met their needs. The new edition was first used during the induction of the new CLC delegates and council governance workshop at Tennant Creek in April 2022.

A number of publications were produced for the CLC’s land management section, including an annual ranger report, a business plan, healthy country plans for Aboriginal land trusts and a series of pictograms for community consultations about the proposed Haasts Bluff Indigenous Protected Area. Other publications, such as a booklet about a framework to evaluate





Nyirrpi residents enjoyed reading *Land Rights News* at their CLC community election, March 2022.

the COVID-19 response of Central Australian Aboriginal organisations, a report about the 2021 Prescribed Bodies Corporate Camp and the catalogue of the Vincent Lingiari Art Award were developed with external partners. Highly visual posters explaining complex information for council, executive and constituent meetings were again produced, covering subjects such as the governance of the new NTAIC and the evolution of remote employment schemes over recent decades.

The CLC masthead, *Land Rights News*, is now Central Australia's only printed newspaper and is the only printed publication that reliably reaches remote communities across the region. The July 2021 special COVID-19 vaccination 'myth buster' issue was followed by a water-themed issue in October. The paper's first issue in 2022 focused on the CLC and the federal government elections, featuring policy and enrolment stories. The July 2022 issue will feature stories about the CLC election outcome and the implications of Labor's federal election win for Aboriginal people in Central Australia.

The CLC also produces and distributes two regular publications, *Community Development News* and *Council News*. Two issues of *Community Development News* were produced, showcasing the activities and achievements of the CLC community development team's working to support constituents in the development of their communities. Three editions of *Council News* were produced. This newsletter informs constituents of the issues debated at Council meetings and the outcomes of the meetings. All three publications are available online and are promoted through the CLC Facebook page.

CLC ONLINE

Since going live with the mobile-friendly redesign of the CLC website in May 2021, five interactive maps have been added to the home page. The maps complete stage two of the website redesign project and help visitors to locate the CLC's regional offices, ranger groups, protected areas and community and economic development projects. The page also features a map that shows the communities represented by the CLC's 90 elected delegates, and images and short profiles of the members.

The website links to the CLC's digital archive, a de facto photo album for many Aboriginal families in the southern region of the NT. The digital archive officer, working increased hours while completing a Certificate IV in records management, has continued to grow the archive with a focus on researching, selecting, digitising and uploading images to the archive that have languished in cardboard storage boxes for far too long.

The CLC Facebook page continued to share information and media coverage of interest to constituents. It spread the word about the achievements of the CLC's members and staff and promoted COVID-19 vaccinations and electoral education and enrolment ahead of the federal election.

Table 18. Communications activities, 2018–22

Activity	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
Media releases	16	22	20	30
Website visits	156,932	109,009	135,960	223,205
Newsletters	30	16	21	21
<i>Land Rights News</i>	3	3	3	3
Other publications (annual reports, information booklets, posters, videos etc.)	140	113	146	146

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 a wide range of 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 18 submissions to the Australian and NT governments on policy matters.

ABORIGINAL PEAK ORGANISATIONS OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY (APO NT)

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 2022, 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 (AMSANT), the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) 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.

In October 2021, APO NT was successful in attracting Commonwealth funding for the APO NT secretariat in addition to the annual Northern Territory Government commitment of \$300,000. The Commonwealth's additional contribution of \$1.2 million (\$400,000 per year for four years) has enabled APO NT to boost secretariat staffing and support to participate equally in Closing the Gap processes.

In February 2022, Minister for Indigenous Australians Hon Ken Wyatt announced a two-year extension to mid-2024 of programs funded under Stronger Futures through the NT Remote Aboriginal Investment Fund, with an additional contribution of \$173 million to funded programs. At the same time Minister Wyatt announced a \$3 million allocation of funds across two years to build APO NT capacity to consult and engage in the re-design of future Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment (NTRAI) funding commitments. This funding will be used to employ up to eight new APO NT staff.

In June 2021, a decision was made to transition APO NT from AMSANT to NAAJA as the new auspicing body. This transition was finalised by agreement in December 2021. APO NT is now housed in new premises in Casuarina.

During 2021–22 the CLC contributed to the work of APO NT through strategic planning, submission writing and advocacy, and participation in the Partnership Working Group and Executive Council for Closing the Gap in the NT.

Key submissions, reviews and inquiries that the CLC contributed to include:

- NT Education Engagement Strategy (Discussion Paper);
- NT Closing the Gap Implementation Plan;
- Federal Inquiry into Social Security Legislation;
- Voter identification laws; and
- the NT Remote Engagement Program.

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 APO NT, CLC participated in three meetings of the Children and Families Tripartite Forum, which was established in 2018 to progress the reform program recommended by 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 (NTCOSS) and NAAJA. The APO NT has urged the government to implement the royal commission reforms. In particular, APO NT 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.

CLOSING THE GAP

The 2020 National Agreement on Closing the Gap formed the basis for a new National Closing the Gap Implementation Plan, announced on 5 August 2021 by then Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Hon Ken Wyatt. At the time the CLC issued a statement welcoming the plan and the accompanying \$1 billion of Australian Government investment. During the reporting period the CLC engaged in National Closing the Gap Working Group meetings.

At the Northern Territory level, CLC policy officers participated in the finalisation of the first NT Closing the Gap Implementation Plan and welcomed its formal release in August 2021. As a member of APO NT, CLC also participated in two Sector Strengthening forums for Land and Water and Housing. CLC CEO, Les Turner, attended the first meeting of the Closing the Gap Executive Council on the 22 November 2021. CLC has also engaged in meetings with the Northern Territory Government around input to the first NT annual progress report and the timing of the second NT Implementation Plan.

Table 19. CLC submissions, 2021–2022

Jurisdiction	Issue	Date
Australian Government	Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act (CATSI) Amendment Bill Review Exposure Draft	August 2021
	Inquiry into Regional Telecommunications Review – Issues Paper	September 2021
	Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act (CATSI) Amendment Bill Review Exposure Draft – additional recommendations	November 2021
	Inquiry into Indigenous Digital Inclusion – Discussion Paper	November 2021
	Inquiry into the application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in Australia	June 2022
NT Government	Review of the draft Environment Management Plan (EMP) Content Guideline: Onshore Petroleum Regulated Activities	June 2021
	Review of the Pastoral Land Board Compliance and Enforcement Framework – Pastoral Land Act	September 2021
	Inquiry into NT Treaty – NT Treaty Commission Discussion Paper	October 2021
	Review of the Western Davenport Water Allocation Plan	October 2021
	Inquiry into Onshore petroleum acreage release under section 16(2)(db) of the Petroleum Act 1984 – Southern Georgina Basin	November 2021
	Notice of Intention to Make a Water Extraction Licence Decision – Neutral Junction Station (NT Portion 3375)	December 2021
	Notice of Intention to Make a Water Extraction Licence Decision – Aileron Station (NT Portion 703) and Napperby Station (NT Portions 747 & 748)	December 2021
	NT Strategic Water Plan – Directions Paper	February 2022
	Review into the Northern Territory Burial and Cremation Bill 2022	February 2022
	Inquiry into Consultation process on Cost Recovery Framework for the Onshore Petroleum Industry – Consultation Paper	February 2022
	Review of Section 27 of the Livestock Act 2008 and related legislation	May 2022
	Review of Museum of Central Australia – Strehlow Research Centre	May 2022
	Review of Draft Environmental Factor Guidance: Culture and Heritage – Environmental Protection Authority	June 2022

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. In 2021–22, the Central Land Council participated in five Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meetings and a Joint Steering Committee Risk Workshop.

The role of the land councils in these meetings is 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. The CLC also participated in five meetings of a JSC subcommittee set up to develop a new Remote Community Housing Model. The CLC made a major contribution to the work

of the subcommittee through the creation of a housing model discussion paper, a detailed paper setting out a model for a return to Aboriginal community control of remote housing and a proposal for community housing trials.

CLC Housing Project

During the reporting period the CLC met with four Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) in its region about their interest and capacity to host a remote community housing trial. A potential site has been identified with talks scheduled with the ACCOs and the NTG to progress that trial. The CLC was also successful in gaining ABA funding to recruit a full-time housing policy officer to progress the housing trial project.

Small communities and homelands

In early 2021, the Central Land Council was invited by the then Minister for Remote Housing and Homelands, the Hon Chansey Paech, to join a new Ministerial Advisory Committee on Homelands. The new group, which includes departmental staff, Aboriginal Housing NT and the three other NT land councils, met for the first time at a Homelands Workshop in July 2021. Since that time the CLC has participated in three meetings of the advisory committee and engaged in the procurement assessment panel for an audit of homelands, housing and infrastructure. CLC

also participated in the development of terms of reference for the group. The purpose of the group is to “co-design a long-term vision for homelands, including a holistic Homelands Policy framework”. The committee’s primary focus will be housing and infrastructure on homelands.

ABA Homelands Project

In 2021–22, the CLC continued to monitor reporting from the National Indigenous Affairs Agency (NIAA) on the ABA NT Homelands project. In 2018–19, CLC delegates selected 105 homelands to share a \$15.75 million ABA grant for upgrading homelands infrastructure. The CLC’s role in the project included consultations with outstation residents and the development of detailed infrastructure project plans. These plans were handed over to NIAA in 2019 to undertake procurement and engage contractors to undertake the work. At the CLC Executive meeting in April 2022, NIAA provided a project update: 54 project funding agreements had been executed; one project application was not approved; 14 applications were assessed or under assessment and the remaining 35 projects were with homelands providers for pricing, scoping of works or negotiation of funding agreements.

ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

Aboriginal people from Central Australia want a real say in the laws and policies made about and for them. The Uluru Statement from the Heart seeks constitutional enshrinement of a First Nations Voice to Parliament to enable that to happen. Importantly, that Voice should be direct to Parliament, not just to the Government of the day, which the CLC believes will enable the structural changes needed to make this possible. This desire for change is also reflected in the reforms to Closing the Gap championed by the council. The establishment of a Makarrata Commission for

agreement making and truth telling will also be critical to the full implementation of the Statement’s recommendations.

In the lead-up to the 2022 federal election, the CLC published its pre-election priorities and commitments in the March issue of *Land Rights News*, including specific questions for all party and independent candidates on their commitment to delivering all aspects of the Uluru Statement. These priorities and questions were also sent to NT federal senate candidates and lower house candidates for the seat of Lingiari, who were then invited to the CLC’s April Council meeting in Tennant Creek and asked to put forward their positions on the Uluru Statement to all of our 90 delegates to inform their decisions at the ballot box.

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. Professor Mick Dodson and Ms Ursula Raymond were appointed as NT Treaty Commissioner and Deputy Treaty Commissioner, respectively, in 2019. A discussion paper was released for comment in March 2020, and CLC delegates were formally consulted at the October 2020 Council meeting at Kintore Community. In October 2021, CLC made a submission to the 2020 discussion paper, including 14 specific recommendations relating to the legal status and a framework for a treaty. In February 2022, soon after his appointment as the new NT Treaty Commissioner, Mr Tony McAvoy SC met with the CLC Executive to report on the NT Treaty Commission, the benefits, and the treaty timeline to date, and notified the Executive of the release of a second treaty progress report in March 2022. The NT Treaty Commission Final Report was submitted to the NT Government on 29 June 2022. The NT Government is due to respond to the report by November 2022.



CEO Les Turner, interviewed by the ABC about CLC’s support for the Mpowerempwer Aboriginal Corporation legal action to overturn the grant of a 30-year water licence on Singleton Station.

ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS ACT AND THE ABORIGINALS BENEFIT ACCOUNT (ABA)

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.

NORTHERN TERRITORY ABORIGINAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION (NTAIC)

On 1 December 2021, the Australian Parliament passed the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment (Economic Empowerment) Bill 2021. This created the NT Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC), a new Aboriginal-controlled body that will draw funds from the \$1.3 billion ABA to empower Aboriginal people in the NT to invest in projects that will support Aboriginal economies and communities for generations to come.

The legislation follows many years of advocacy by the four NT land councils to bring control of ABA funds to the NT, rather than only having an advisory role on the ABA with decision-making power in the hands of the federal minister. Since 2018, representatives of the four land councils, the Government and the ABA Advisory Committee met more than eight times in a co-design process to develop the new corporation, based on ABA reform principles developed by the NT Land Councils.

The CLC CEO, Les Turner, welcomed the reform, stating “The ABA funds were always intended to benefit our people and it’s high time that they get to decide how they want to drive their own development with this income.”

The 12-member board of the NTAIC will include two elected representatives of each of the four NT land councils, two independent members appointed by the board, and two independent members appointed by the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Indigenous Australians. The Minister for Indigenous Australians will no longer have power to make decisions about ABA funds. The new corporation will work within the rules set out in the PGPA Act.

The NTAIC will receive funding from the ABA, with an initial allocation of \$60 million per year, for the first three years, to provide grants for the benefit of Aboriginal people in the NT. The entity will then receive yearly funding to support its grants program. Over the next two years, the entity is to develop a strategic investment plan, to be approved by the Minister for Indigenous Australians and parliament, before it receives \$500 million to invest in an Endowment Fund managed in perpetuity.

An interim board was established in 2021–22 and met for the first time in Darwin on 27–28 April 2022. The CLC elected Ms Barbara Shaw and Mr Derek Walker to represent CLC for the next three years. At the April meeting, the Board elected co-chairs, NLC chair Mr Samuel Bush-Blanas and CLC delegate Ms Barbara Shaw.

COMMONWEALTH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CDP)

The 2021–22 federal budget included the announcement that the government’s controversial remote Community Development Program (CDP) – often referred to as ‘work for the dole’ – would



CLC delegate, Barb Shaw was elected as co-chair to the NTAIC interim board.

be abolished in 2023 and replaced with a new jobs program, the Remote Engagement Program, to be co-designed with Aboriginal people in 2021. In October 2021, it was announced that the new program would be trialled in five regions in Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland and the NT, including a site within the Barkly Region. Key features, such as suspension of 'mutual obligation' requirements would make working for the dole voluntary but obligations to attend appointments remained compulsory.

The APO NT and its individual member organisations, such as the CLC, have long campaigned for the CDP to be abolished due to its punitive measures and racially discriminatory nature. In 2017, APO NT released an alternative employment model, Fair Work and Strong Communities, which aims to create real jobs in communities.

APO NT presented the model to Minister Wyatt as a replacement for the abolished employment program. It also called for reforms such as a new national remote jobs program framework and for 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 included a sunset provision and ceased 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. In October 2021 the combined land councils wrote to senior government officials seeking meetings, information sharing and greater transparency about the outcomes of Stronger Futures and the potential impact of its cessation.

The CLC sought urgent action to ensure that important policies and measures, including alcohol restrictions in remote communities and town camps, store licensing and land reform (including leasing on Community Living Areas), did not end abruptly, without a strategy in place. In February 2022, former Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Hon Ken Wyatt, announced a two-year extension to Stronger Futures funding (NT Remote Aboriginal Investment funds [NTRAI]) and an additional allocation of \$173.2 million to enable continuity of programs and jobs, while a new investment package, designed and guided by APO NT, is developed and implemented by mid-2024.

As a member of APO NT, CLC engaged in a number of meetings with NIAA and the NTG, from November 2021, to discuss changes to the Stronger Futures legislation, and plans to extend and redesign NTRAI-funded programs through APO NT.

In 2022, the Northern Territory Government agreed to transition two key measures of Stronger Futures under its own legislation, land reform and stores licensing; however, the cessation of the alcohol restrictions under the legislation would continue as planned on 16 July 2022. Communities previously identified as affected communities, town camps and communities located on community living areas (CLAs) could formally 'opt in' to continue the alcohol restrictions for a two-year period. In May and June 2022, the CLC distributed letters from the NT Government to

relevant CLAs and communities, informing them of options to 'opt in' before 16 July 2022, and that they could continue to 'opt in' until 31 January 2023.

CLC met with Chief Minister Natasha Fyles on 30 June 2022 and requested a written update on measures to report on and mitigate alcohol-related harm triggered by the end to Stronger Futures alcohol restrictions.

During the reporting period, CLC delegates were consulted on Stronger Futures matters at three Executive meetings and two full Council meetings.

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 August 2021, the CLC's full Council passed a resolution outlining eight key principles guiding CLC input to the Northern Territory Government's strategic water reform process. CLC applied those principles to its submission to the Water Reform Directions paper and general advocacy on water. Since the submission was made CLC has met with senior staff from the Department of Water Resources, usually on a fortnightly basis, to discuss reform priorities.

In September 2021 the NT Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security released a Northern Territory Strategic Water Plan Directions Paper. CLC made a major submission to the paper in February 2022.

Singleton Station water licence

In April 2021, the NT Water Controller granted a 30-year water licence to Fortune Agribusiness for an allocation of up to 40,000 megalitres of water per year from the Singleton Station Central Plains Management Zone. It is the biggest licence ever granted in the NT for the purpose of establishing a significant horticulture project. The CLC had previously conducted consultations with native title holders in response to the licence application and was directed to seek a review of the licence if granted and to take the matter to court if native title holders' concerns were not adequately considered.

In May 2021, native title holders of the licence area instructed the CLC to identify the cultural values associated with the Singleton Water Licence (SWL) area and to consider how these values might be impacted by the granting of the water licence. The CLC Anthropology section provided significant assistance to consultant anthropologist Susan Dale Donaldson who was engaged by the CLC to undertake a cultural values assessment.

The CLC was successful in seeking a review under the *Water Act 1992* (NT), and in September 2021, addressed the review's panel of experts appointed by then Minister for Water Resources Eva Lawler. The review resulted in some minor changes to the licence conditions but these were insufficient. The CLC made an application to the NT Supreme Court on behalf of Mpwerempwe Aboriginal Corporation, challenging the Northern Territory Government's grant of the licence on 28 January 2022.

In November 2021, CLC had commissioned the University of South Australia to conduct an economic analysis of the Fortune

Agribusiness business plan for Singleton, to interrogate its forecast investment and employment outcomes for the region and for local Aboriginal people, based on comparisons with similar northern Australia horticulture projects, including the Ord River area. The findings of the report indicated that the company's forecasts were likely to be exaggerated given the trends in similar projects and settings. Consultations with native title holders on the findings of the expert report took place on 22–23 June 2022 in Alekareng and Tennant Creek in anticipation of a public release of the findings in July 2022.

Indigenous Heritage Protection remains an all too complex interaction of state, territory and commonwealth law and it needs to be addressed through a national conversation. This partnership is about engaging in law reform that encourages full protection as a national standard, and aligns with international cultural heritage standards.

The CLC joined Aboriginal representative organisations in forming an alliance to deliver and maintain new laws and policies, and ensure First Nations' cultural heritage is protected, recognised and celebrated.

FIRST NATIONS HERITAGE PROTECTION ALLIANCE (FNHPA)

In November 2021, following the desecration and subsequent enquiry into the Juukan Gorge in Western Australia, the federal Government and the First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance forged a partnership led by the Minister for Indigenous Australians, Hon Ken Wyatt and Environment Minister Hon Sussan Ley.



Native Title holders of Singleton Station Donald Thompson, Cedric Tennyson, George Anderson and Roger Tommy meeting on country.

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.

The Reading the Country Project aims to help rangers to advance their knowledge and skills in the art of tracking. Warlpiri trackers and teachers are developing teaching and learning aids, and a shared database of photos to help read the signs of desert mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds in desert country. The database will include photos of animal tracks and other signs of animals in the landscape such as burrows, nests, diggings, pellets and poo.

CULTURAL SUPPORT AND SACRED SITES

Sacred sites are places of deep spiritual significance and are integral to Aboriginal culture. Sacred site protection is vital for the continuation of religious and cultural traditions and as a source of identity for Aboriginal people. Adequate site protection measures provide Traditional Owners with the knowledge that they can safely permit development of their lands and ensure the protection of their culture and sacred sites. This is done through the Sacred Site Clearance Certificate process.

Development proposals undergo a work area approval process that ensures Traditional Owners are consulted and sacred sites

are protected by clearance procedures. The CLC issued 176 sacred site clearance certificates for projects ranging from small shade shelters around community football ovals to new houses in communities, road upgrades on Aboriginal land, installation of telecommunications infrastructure, fence and water infrastructure on cattle stations, and in advance of mineral exploration and ranger activities on Aboriginal land trusts.

The Willowra mapping project is 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. It is funded by Traditional Owners through the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust. The project facilitates inter-generational transfer of knowledge of the location and names of sites, dreamings and songs for sites, and olden time and other stories about the sites and related countries. 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 and other communities in the region have expressed an interest in establishing similar projects. The CLC continued to record sites and songlines in 2021–22. The elders worked with consultant anthropologists on a paper about the project that will appear in a book on Warlpiri song to be produced at Yuendumu and will also provide material for a Willowra book pending future funding for further translation work and interpretation.

The CLC has been in discussions with the South Australian Museum about the repatriation of skeletal remains taken from Uluru in the 1930s. A large Traditional Owner consultation meeting was held



Native Title holders of Singleton Station consulted near a sacred site during a cultural heritage research trip and CLC staff.

during 2021–22, and further smaller meetings have been held to plan the return and reburial of the remains later in 2022.

The CLC is assisting Traditional Owners in a project to record stories and map Coniston massacre sites, with a view to the sites being added to the Northern Territory Heritage Register. Consultant anthropologists have been commissioned to assist with the research. Traditional Owners plan to seek provisional protection of the Yurrkuru (Brooks Soak) site while the consultation process continues.

CLC sent out extracts of 62 genealogies in response to requests from Central Land Council constituents. Nine historical land claim genealogies were digitised.

The redevelopment of the CLC anthropology section’s sacred sites database has been significantly progressed. Phase one of this long and detailed project involving data hygiene on 17 different types of data and weekly bug fixes is almost complete. Anthropologists will begin to use the new database in the next reporting period.

ABORIGINAL CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES AND FUNERALS

The CLC receives ABA funding 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 CLC.

The CLC allocates the ABA funds according to strict guidelines and processed 229 applications for funeral expenses in 2021–22. Table 22 shows the communities that received resources for ceremonies during the summer.



Table 20. Cultural and heritage support, 2020–21

Advice and support – land, sea and natural resource management	42
Advice and support – land claims and acquisitions	2
Advice and support – economic development and commercial services	34
Advice and support – advocacy	156
Administration and support services	28
Advice and support – native title activities	39

Table 21. Sacred site clearance certificates, 2020–21

Exploration and mining (Aboriginal land)	24
Exploration and mining (native title land)	7
Research for telecommunications infrastructure	12
Community and other infrastructure	88
Housing and leases	47
Road works	20
Land management activities	18
Other	18

Table 22. Communities supported to conduct ceremonies

Region 1	Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Wallace Rockhole, Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa), Titjikala, Alice Springs
Region 2	Utju (Areyonga), Kalitukatjara (Dockers River), Mutitjulu, Imanpa, Finke (Aputula)
Region 3	Daguragu, Lajamanu
Region 4	Yuendumu, Willowra, Nyirrpi
Region 5	Kintore, Papunya, Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff), Mount 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 (Mount 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 their 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 20 staff. It is active in 38 communities and supports 51 Traditional Owner groups from 14 national parks and 27 other Traditional Owner groups. Of these communities, 35 are in the CLC region and three are the Western Australian communities of Balgo, Billiluna and Ringers Soak which receive compensation income from the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation. The program also works with communities in South Australia where Traditional Owners of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park live.

The program works with seven major regional income streams and a growing number of smaller, increasingly diverse sources of land use income such as grazing licences, carbon credits and infrastructure developments.

PERFORMANCE

Since 2005 these Traditional Owner groups have committed \$190.5 million to more than 2,300 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 during 2020–21 by La Trobe University's Institute for Human Security and Social Change confirmed the high value that Aboriginal participants place on the outcomes these projects have achieved. One respondent spoke of the control participants have: "Community Development is a good way of helping our community to thrive and to try and look at ways to actually develop our community by having a say in what goes where." The report also informed much of the development of the latest iteration of the Community Development Framework, a guiding document for the program's operation.

In 2021–22, Aboriginal groups committed more than \$21.6 million to 217 new projects following 592 consultations with community. These numbers of projects and consultations are significantly higher than any previous year, in part due to the lifting of bio-security restrictions.

Community development projects delivered 24,962 hours of employment for 499 Aboriginal people and 1582 hours of accredited training. They provided wrap-around support to 41 boarding school students to help them manage the challenges of studying far from home.

This period also saw an increasing amount of advocacy and seeking of funds to support constituents with important community projects that are beyond their financial resources. Successful ABA applications for solar-powered softball lights in Kaltukatjara (Dockers River) and new water infrastructure at Alpururulam (Lake Nash) occurred in this period.

More and more constituents want to tell their stories to a broader audience. The CLC published two issues of *Community Development News* and showcased projects in other media to spread ideas for projects, celebrate successes and inspire pride. A number of participants in the community development program presented at the following conferences and forums:

- 2022 Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Summit, Kabi Kabi country;
- Utyerre Apanpe First Nations Educators Forum, Ross River;
- Desert Knowledge Symposium 'Doing innovation and communicating knowledge in Central Australia';
- 2021 Australian Indigenous Governance Institute online conference;
- Centre for Native Title Anthropology workshop on effective Aboriginal trust structures; and,
- Tourism, Recreation and Conservation Sustainable Trails Conference.

The Traditional Owners of the Yeperenye nature park won the 2021 Indigenous Land Management Award at the Natural Resource Management Awards for the Yeperenye Trail project.

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 (UKTNP) 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 2022 the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Traditional Owners invested \$19.2 million in regional projects. The two groups collectively allocated \$2.7 million to fund 18 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.

Project highlights

In 2021–22 the ongoing priorities were cultural and educational support projects, including continuation of funding for the boarding school project with NPY Women's Council for a further 18 months, totalling \$397,320. The project supports boarding school students from the Amata, Pukatja, Kaltukatjara, Imanpa and Mutitjulu communities with their enrolment and travel, emotional needs and advocacy.

The group also allocated the NPY Women's Council \$48,400 for the Education Support brokerage project for all boarding school students of UKTNP 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 \$191,888 to continue the cultural activities and bilingual resources project with Tangentyere Land and Learning as the project partner.

This funding included the addition of local, casual employees. The Codes for Life men's program was also funded \$51,010 to support men from Watarrka and Utju.

The UKTNP Traditional Owners funded \$132,000 for music equipment in the eight URM supported communities to support young people and local church groups. Six coffin-lowering devices were also funded for a cost of \$60,901, to ensure that funerals have the equipment needed for safe and dignified burials. Community benefit projects funded by this income created more than 747 hours of employment for 58 Aboriginal people.

The project's Mutitjulu working group manages initiatives prioritised by the community. The group continued to fund the operation of the Mutitjulu Tjurpinytjaku Centre (swimming pool) and allocated \$1.4 million to Casa Leisure to operate the pool for a further three years. Construction of the pool manager's house in Mutitjulu has been completed.

The group also finalised their masterplan for public spaces in Mutitjulu. The masterplan aims to build community cohesion through shared public spaces for relaxation; \$449,121, including \$80,533 of matched funds income, was allocated for the construction of a shaded walkway. The shaded walkway will link the school, pool, health centre, store, cultural centre and ceremony ground with a footpath, and provide seating, shade and native plants to help reduce dust.



Katie Kitson and Sarah Palmer taught kids in Imanpa to make bush medicine as part of a Uluru rent money project.

WARLPURI EDUCATION AND TRAINING TRUST (WETT)

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, Nyirрпи, Willowra and Yuendumu.

The Kurra Aboriginal Corporation, whose members are Traditional Owners of the site, is the WETT trustee. Kurra Directors continued to take part in the Good Governance Program (GGP) to support strong governance and investment decisions. Further information about the GGP is provided in section 5.1 Distributions of this report. A subcommittee of Kurra directors (Kurra WETT Directors) meets three times 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. The meetings design, plan and monitor WETT-funded programs and recommend 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 \$7.3 million across WETT's children and families, language and culture in schools, secondary school support, youth development and community learning centre programs.

The four WETT-funded learning centres continued to operate with Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education as the program partner in Willowra, Nyirрпи and Lajamanu, and the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC) as the partner in Yuendumu. Highlights included a digital literacy program in three learning centres, a music workshop co-delivered by the Willowra Learning Centre and WYDAC, and upgrades to existing infrastructure.

The secondary school support program funded the education expenses of 19 yapa boarding school students in 2021, while students in the Tanami communities took part in excursions to Alice Springs and Darwin in keeping with the Department of Education's policy for intrastate travel. WETT funded the delivery of three Jinta Jarrimi and one Warlpiri Triangle educator workshops for all four Warlpiri schools in the Tanami. The country visit and elder payment program supported learning on country activities and engagement of elders in all four Warlpiri schools.

A partnership between WETT and World Vision Australia (WVA) was finalised at the WETT Advisory Committee meeting in March 2022. World Vision delivers a playgroup program in Willowra using the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) and 3a (Abecedarian) to 92 per cent of all children aged six months to five years in the community. The playgroup employed and trained seven local educators and a playgroup reference group met regularly. The playgroup used bilingual reading materials, undertook bush trips, conducted school transition activities and smoking ceremonies. WETT also contributed funds towards WVA's Unlock Literacy Program which in partnership with WYDAC, seeks to promote core reading skills in out-of-school contexts.

WETT continued to strengthen its partnership with WYDAC to deliver the WETT Youth Development Program in four communities. WETT also continued to fund yapa staff and reference group training and development at Yuendumu's Yurrampi Child and Family centre. WETT commenced a partnership with PAW media to develop a new season of the popular *Manyu Wana* series (also known as 'Warlpiri Sesame Street').

WETT, the CLC and La Trobe University began their first year of the WETT Tracking and Learning project, Yitaki-maninjaku manu pina-maninjaku, a new approach to monitoring and evaluation of WETT programs. The team drew on the work of a trial undertaken in Nyirрпи and Yuendumu in 2021 and the development of a WETT map reflecting the committee's priorities. Four yapa from Willowra received training in community research methods and developed a peer research approach. The community researchers gathered feedback from more than 20 community members which will be taken to the WETT advisory committee to inform their decisions about the Learning Centre Program at their August 2022 meeting.

WETT and the CLC engaged in strategic planning with the NT Department of Education (NT DoE), meeting with the Minister for Education, Hon Lauren Moss, regarding funding and delivery of their Remote Area Teacher Education program. WETT members also advised on the NT DoE's Effective Enrolment policy. The CLC and WETT continued to work with the NT DoE to support implementation of recommendations from Batchelor Institute for a local decision-making strategy for schools in four yapa communities. One of these was to plan a Regional Forum on Local Decision Making to be held in the second half of 2022.

In September 2021, the Kurra WETT Directors were re-elected. CLC WETT CD officers presented WETT's sustainability strategy to Kurra directors at their Good Governance Program (GGP) training in June 2022.

In 2022, the WETT advisory committee also held elections in Nyirрпи. Seventeen community members voted for two positions from among six nominees in Nyirрпи. All four members on the committee in Yuendumu and Willowra elected to remain for another three years.

The WETT advisory committee members and CLC staff presented at the AIATSIS Summit on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, about their governance model and succession planning. They also participated in the Utyerre Apanpe First Nations Educators' Network, working alongside First Nations educators from across the country to develop a national strategy to improve education outcomes of First Nations children.

TANAMI DIALYSIS SUPPORT PROJECT

In 2022 the Kurra Aboriginal Corporation directors allocated \$100,000 for a dialysis clinic in Balgo. 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.



Ross Rockman and CLC staff members Rebecca Humphries and Julian Redmond at a Tanami Downs GMAAAC committee meeting, August 2021.

GRANITES MINE AFFECTED AREA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (GMAAAC)

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 will 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 provides the largest income stream of the CLC community development program. In the 2021–22 financial year, GMAAAC income decreased slightly from just over \$20 million to just over \$17 million, but income is forecast to increase due to the expansion of Newmont's mining operations until 2040. During this reporting period GMAAAC committees approved 86 new projects and executed 56 project agreements after 18 committee and 15 community meetings.

GMAAAC directors continued to take part in the Good Governance Program (GGP) to support strong governance and investment decisions. For more information on the GGP, see Section 5.1 Distributions of this report.

GMAAAC projects again prioritised local enterprise and employment, with 110 yapa working a total of 14,000 hours on projects ranging from arts and culture (museums, music programs and cultural festivals), to education language support and school pastoral care projects, and infrastructure development (building upgrades and outstation infrastructure).

The CLC managed 206 GMAAAC projects with a total value of almost \$31 million and processed 138 payments worth more

than \$7.2 million. It helped partner organisations to submit reports and financial acquittals, and supported GMAAAC committees to review compliance with project agreements.

Project highlights

This period has been characterised by significant investment in much needed improvements to community infrastructure. GMAAAC committees have been undertaking comprehensive design works for large-scale infrastructure projects and community masterplan projects. These processes included regular collaborations with the Northern Territory Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, the Power and Water Corporation, and Indigenous Essential Services. The following are examples of these types of projects:

- Billiluna GMAAAC committee allocated \$30,000 to conduct an oval lights feasibility study;
- Yuendumu GMAAAC committee allocated \$47,300 to conduct a feasibility study for a new music studio for PAW Media;
- Lajamanu GMAAAC committee invested \$146,175 in scoping projects to upgrade community infrastructure, including a greening options study for the oval, a sports oval master plan, and design and scoping for upgrades to the Sorry Ground and the Church;
- Nyirripi GMAAAC committee allocated \$35,000 to the design and scoping for the refurbishment of the recreation hall and the learning centre; and,
- Tanami Downs GMAAAC committee allocated almost \$24,000 to a landscape consultation and design project.

These consultation, design and scoping projects are not only necessary but also provide the foundation from which committees can advocate for co-investment from government for the construction works.

After years of detailed planning Lajamanu community saw their \$3.8 million dollar investment in building a community waterpark come to fruition, with completion of the project due early in 2022–23. The water park will offer training and employment for three full-time equivalent positions, spread amongst a number of local Aboriginal casual pool attendants and cultural advisers.

In addition to funding a large number of infrastructure planning projects, GMAAAC committees have also continued to prioritise projects that support the establishment of new enterprises, cultural maintenance and supporting young people. Some examples include:

- Yuendumu GMAAAC committee allocated \$97,000 to the second year of operations for the yapa controlled transport service Xtra Mile;
- Yuelamu GMAAAC allocated just under \$210,000 to the establishment of satellite ranger program in Yuelamu; and
- Lajamanu GMAAAC committee allocated \$17,600 to create a video documentary about the history of the Lajamanu recreation hall.

Production of the new GMAAAC film has continued, with filming taking place in all nine GMAAAC communities. The rough cut of the film was presented to GMAAAC Directors at their meeting in March 2022, with the final cut expected to be completed in July. The videos will show Warlpiri and English speaking audiences how the project works and share lessons learnt.

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 \$14.6 million to 314 projects since 2010.

The CLC facilitated 25 meetings with 16 groups during the reporting period. The groups approved more than \$1.4 million for 28 new projects. The projects employed 30 people who worked a total of more than 514 hours. The CLC managed 85 NT Parks rent projects worth a total of \$4.2 million, 31 of them new project agreements for a total value of \$1.5 million.

Project highlights

CULTURAL SUPPORT

The Yeperenye/Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park Traditional Owners celebrated the launch of the Yeperenye Walking Trail in July 2021. The Walking Trail won the Indigenous Land Management award at the 2021 NT Landcare awards in November 2021 and is now in the running to win the national award in Sydney in August 2022. Traditional Owners have continued to work with the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory on the interpretive signage for the trail, scheduled to be completed and installed by the end of 2022.

The Arltunga Historical Reserve Traditional Owner group invested \$20,000 on an intergenerational knowledge exchange Country camp.

Finke Gorge National Park Traditional Owners allocated \$52,800 to two men's ceremony support projects and Tjoritja National Park Traditional Owners allocated \$86,900 to three men's ceremony support projects to support young males undergoing ceremonial obligations for the first time.

The Tjoritja National Park Traditional Owners allocated \$22,000 to the Kwarrtinama Women's Circle Project to support women and their cultural activities through trips on country.

Table 23. Community development income streams, 2021–22

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	2,676,960
Warlpiri Education and Training Trust	Using mining royalties of The Granites gold mine in the Southern Tanami for sustainable education, training and employment benefits	7,383,841
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	100,000
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	7,753,398
NT Parks rent money project	Use rent paid to Traditional Owners of national parks, conservation and nature reserves for a range of sustainable initiatives.	1,523,087
Community lease money project	Use rent paid for community leases to members of 31 communities for a diverse range of community benefit projects	145,372
Other income streams	Use mainly new and smaller payments linked to mining and exploration for a variety of community benefit projects	337,899
Matched funds trial	Provides complementary funding for groups that have new income from land use agreements that is allocated to community benefit projects	1,752,233
Total		21,672,790



Celebration at the launch of the Yeperenye Walking Trail, July 2021.

OUTSTATION SUPPORT

The Ryder family of the East MacDonnell Ranges Traditional Owner group invested \$110,000 to install a hybrid solar array at their homeland, Alyarpere. Ingkerreke Outstation Resource Services provided a co-contribution to this project.

The Williams family of the East MacDonnell Ranges allocated \$255,000 to construct a house at their homeland Uluperte.

Traditional Owners of the Dulcie Ranges National Park allocated \$30,000 to bore drilling and water testing projects, based on their long-held vision to support outstations and spend more time on country. This allocation brings their long-held aspiration to establish an outstation on their traditional country a step closer.

Traditional Owners from the Napwerte/Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve invested up to \$450,000 to a solar supply project for their homeland Urremerne, which will see seven dwellings connected to solar power supply.

Karlu Karlu Traditional Owners invested \$260,000 to repair and upgrade facilities at Wakurlpu, Greenwood and Kalinjarri outstations.

After years of planning, a new homeland, Pmere Mpwepe, will be jointly funded by the Finke Gorge Inarlanga Latna group, the Watarrka Lilla group and ABA Economic Stimulus funding, totalling \$273,657.

The Watarrka Lilla group allocated \$99,000 to construct a communal shelter at Red Sandhill outstation.

EDUCATION SUPPORT

Traditional Owners from Watarrka National Park and Finke Gorge National Park allocated \$110,000, \$22,000 and \$46,200 to education support projects to help young people to stay engaged with education opportunities.

Table 24. Income streams and projects, 2005–22

Income Stream	Cumulative 2005–21		2021–22		Total under management at 30 June 2022	
	Allocated \$	Projects	Allocated \$	Projects	Allocated \$	Projects
Uluru rent money project	16,564,835	123	2,676,960	18	5,894,188	38
Warlpiri Education and Training Trust	47,550,566	227	7,383,841	14	17,762,944	41
Tanami dialysis support project (Kurra Aboriginal Corporation)	4,198,286	26	100,000	1	760,000	2
Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC)	64,002,551	1052	7,753,398	86	30,668,606	206
NT Parks rent money project	13,080,895	283	1,523,087	31	4,179,082	85
Community lease money project	19,523,937	383	145,372	3	5,502,214	84
Matched funds trial	172,373	8	1,752,233	55	1,477,301	47
Other income streams	3,809,195	42	337,899	9	1,064,813	23
Totals	168,902,638	2,144	21,672,790	217	67,309,148	526

Figure 15. Community development projects, 2016–22

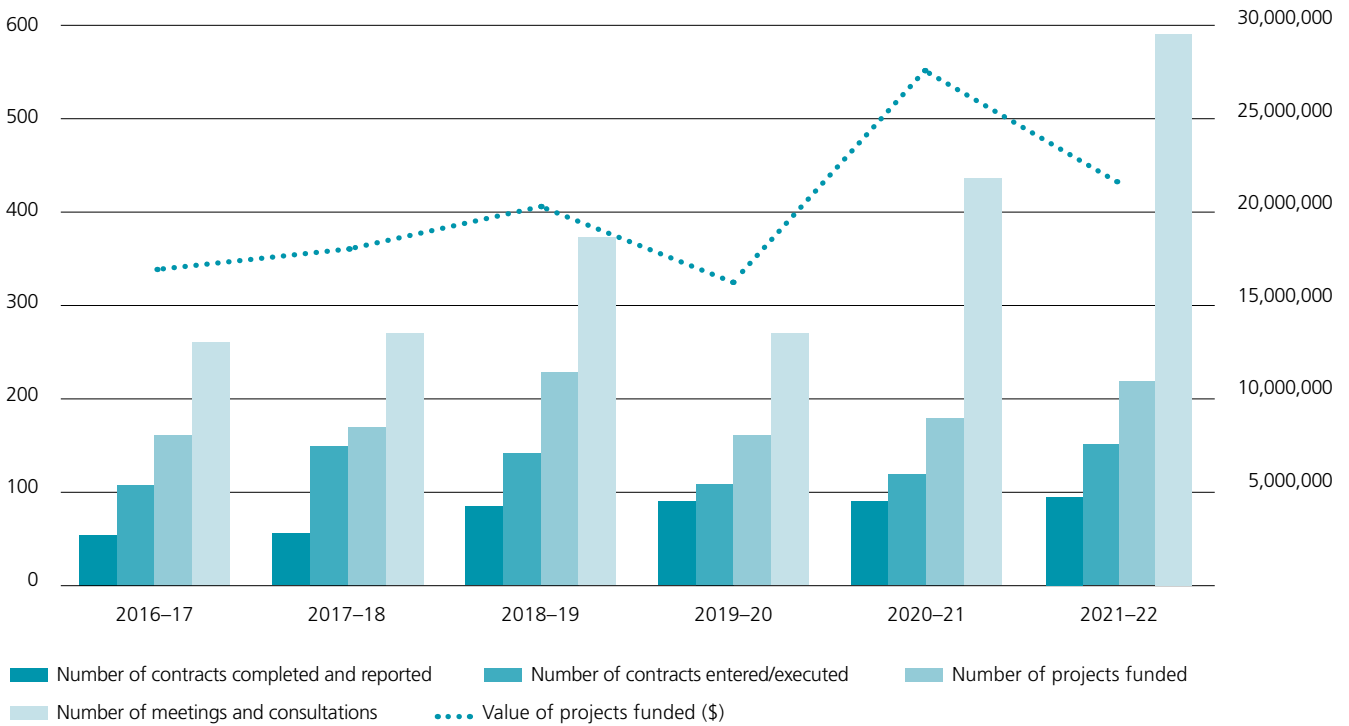
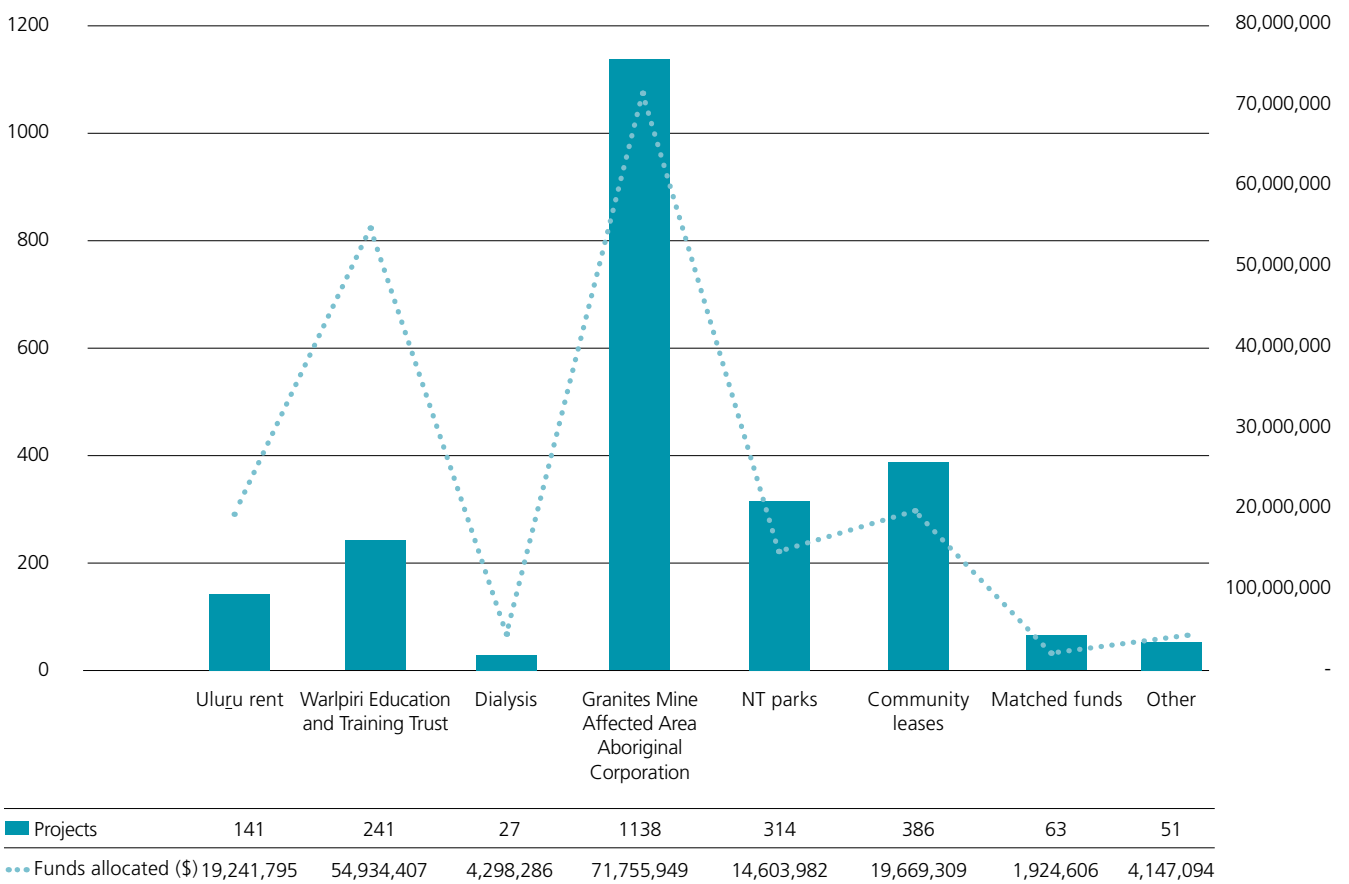


Figure 16. Total funds committed to community development projects, 2005–22



COMMUNITY LEASE MONEY PROJECT

Lease income from government and non-government organisations for community facilities provides most of the ongoing income of this project, which began in 2012. Since then 31 communities have 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 386 community benefit projects.

The Matched Funds trial has seen increased investment of community lease money (see further below). Twenty-seven communities continue to allocate income and plan projects with their lease money. There was also additional funding for some infrastructure projects through the CLC's Economic Participation Unit.

In 2021–22 the project facilitated 15 community and working group meetings, and 16 stakeholder meetings, and funded three projects costing a total of more than \$145,372.

Project highlights

A successful ABA application for \$4.4 million was made for a pipeline for pumping better quality water to the Alpururulam community. Alpururulam residents contributed \$110,000 to the project.

The Lukura Women's Gym at Ntaria, costing \$133,000, was completed in early 2022 and provides a functional gym for the women of Ntaria to support health, well-being and fitness, as well as a comfortable gathering space for women to meet.

Engawala community invested \$107,000 and employed two local people to improve their church and construct shade shelters around their football oval.

Santa Teresa invested \$25,000 for LED recreational grade lighting in the community basketball court.

Alekarenge community invested \$106,863 for completion of a new fence around their football oval and a shade structure at their church.

OTHER INCOME STREAMS

The CLC held 38 meetings and consultations with seven Traditional Owner groups with other land use agreements to plan and implement community benefit projects. Three of these groups allocated more than \$337,000 to new projects.

The Tanami Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (TMAAAC) is included in this category. The Tanami Mine has not been operational for some years. In 2020 the directors of the corporation resolved to wind up the corporation and distribute the affected area income to the affected communities for community benefit projects. Each of the TMAAAC communities have different governance arrangements. To gain

some efficiencies, four of the six TMAAAC communities chose to utilise existing community development working groups to plan and fund projects using the TMAAAC income.

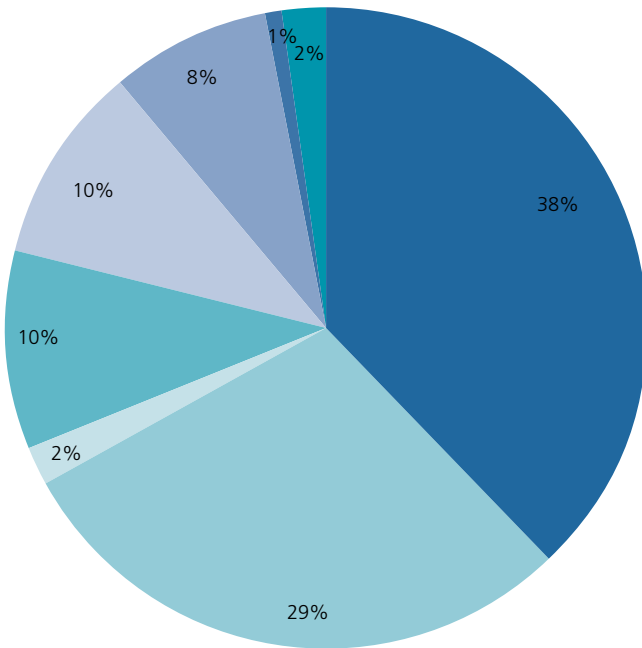
TMAAAC project highlights include:

- Ringer Soak community allocated \$25,680 of TMAAAC income to a cemetery research, mapping and planning project, and \$49,500 to research and development of an information bay sharing the history of Ringer Soak at the entrance of the community.
- Balgo community allocated \$85,855 for a series of culture camps, partnering with the Balgo Art Centre.
- Another income stream that falls in the 'other' category is Twin Bonanza affected area income. This is used by residents at Balgo for outstation upgrades. In this reporting period the Twin Bonanza working group allocated \$23,100 to the Ngulupi road grading project and the purchase and installation of a rainwater tank.



Eris Ryder worked on a shade structure project funded by Engawala community lease money working group.

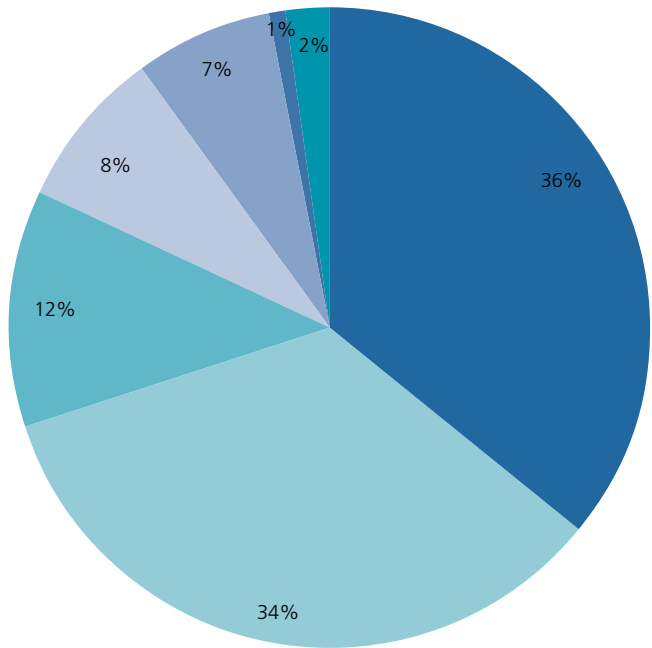
Figure 17. Income and projects, 2005–22



Total funds committed: \$190.5 million



Figure 18. Income and projects, 2021–22



Total funds committed: \$21.7 million

MATCHED FUNDS TRIAL

A three-year matched funds trial started in 2020. The trial 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. 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 15 shows, in the east of the CLC region relatively few groups receive income from land use agreements and incomes are smaller than in, 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, enabling 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.

Twenty Traditional Owner groups and 25 communities agreed to participate. Most communities and groups have established governance arrangements, project planning is underway and more than \$1.75 million has been allocated to 55 projects ranging from school excursions and art centre accommodation to youth support. A total of 82 meetings and 163 consultation meetings with Traditional Owners and residents have been conducted.

Project highlights

Wilora community funded and completed a much needed bus shelter next to the Stuart Highway that benefits all residents and visitors using public transport, as well as families that wait to be picked up next to the highway. The shelter provides shade, solar lights and water from a rainwater tank.

Aputula community allocated \$44,100 to three projects: community trailers, sports and cooking equipment for their recreational hall, and a block of community training. The matched funds income has enabled Aputula residents to tackle community development projects for the first time.

Traditional Owners and residents at Engawala allocated their first year of matched funds income to renovations to the community's old store building as part of establishing an arts centre at the old store. Alpururulam residents allocated \$209,000 of Matched Funds income to extending the kitchen and providing visitor accommodation at their community church.

The trial presents a new opportunity for Aboriginal groups in the CLC region, however their decision to allocate funds and have them matched only applies for the duration of the trial. 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 objective of increasing funds for community development projects. Most of the funds are being invested in areas that don't receive much income from land use agreements, such as the Sandover region, the Plenty and southwest sub-regions. Monitoring and evaluation is showing higher value projects with greater expected impact are being planned and implemented.

Figure 19. Meetings and consultations per income stream, 2021–22

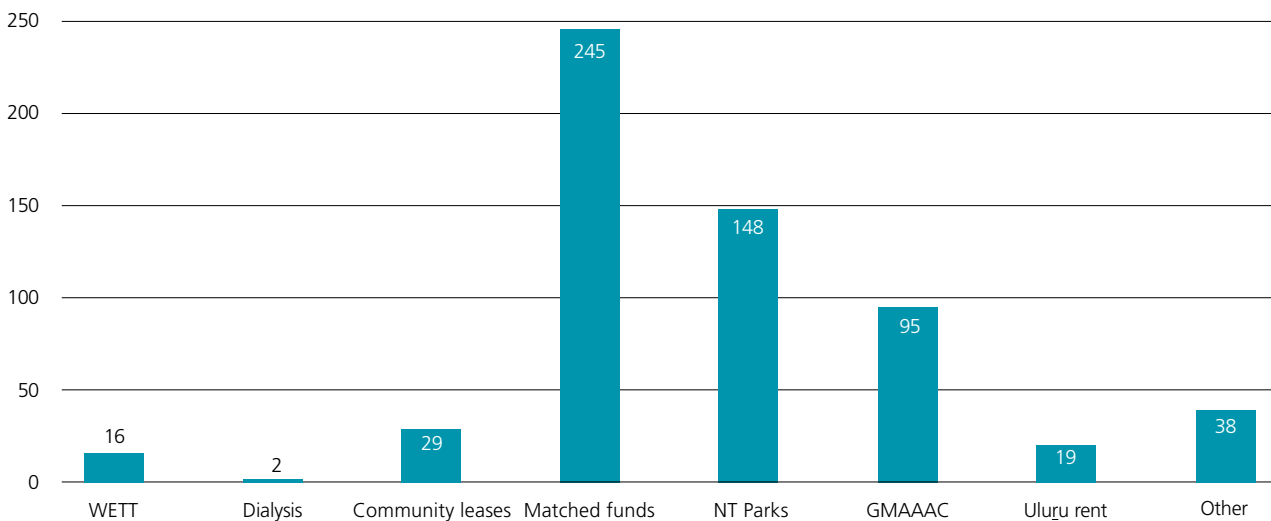
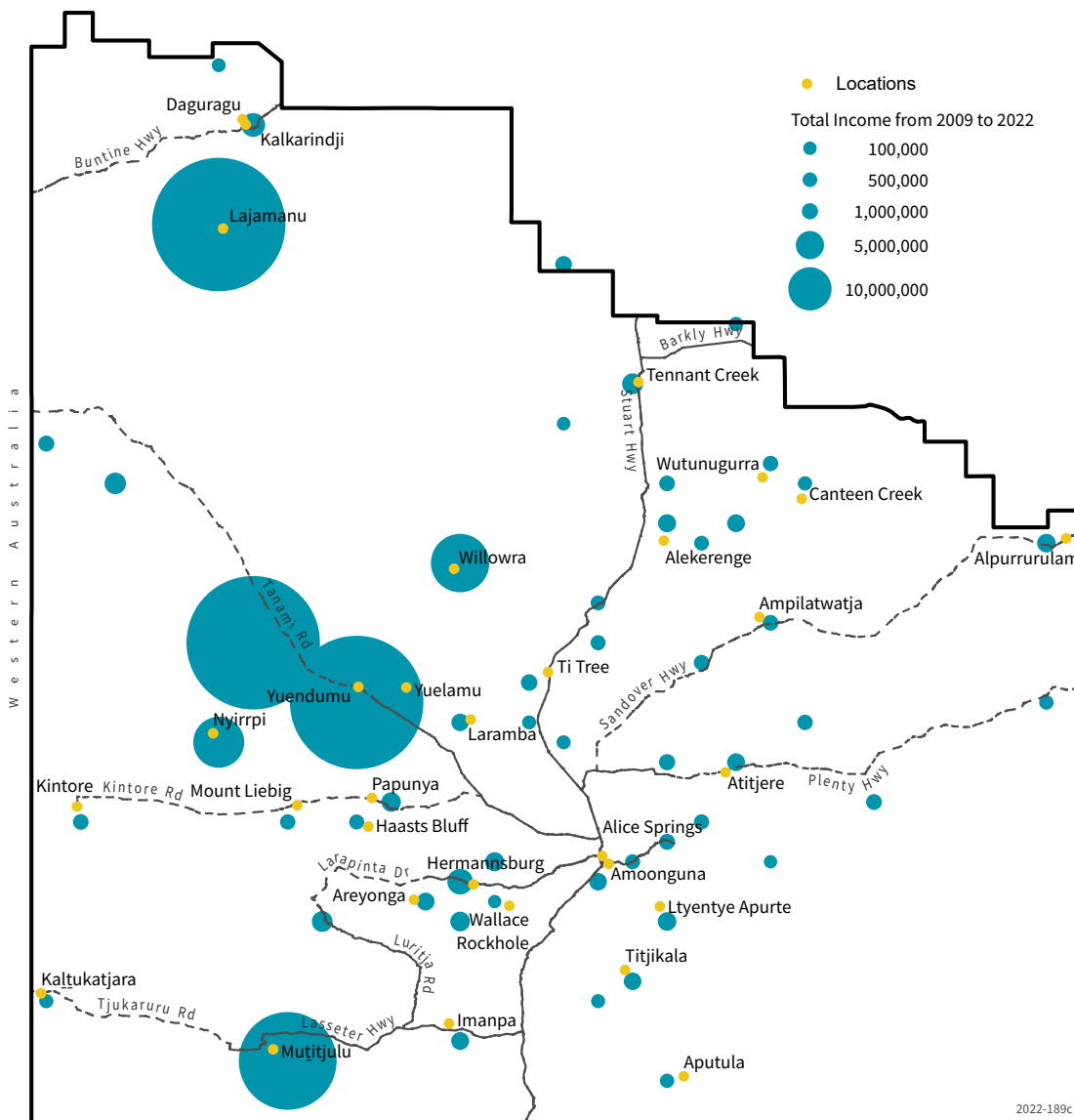


Figure 20. Community development income since 2009



CASE STUDY: GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION MAKES COMMUNITY DOLLARS GO FURTHER

Government contributions for community-driven development initiatives are changing how Aboriginal groups are using their income from land use agreements. In 2021 the National Indigenous Australians Agency gave the Central Land Council \$9 million for a three-year trial designed to encourage Aboriginal people to invest their income in projects that help their whole community rather than distribute it among individuals. The trial contributes a dollar for every dollar that eligible communities decide to spend on projects worth between \$50,000 and \$150,000. It doubles the funds available for groups and communities that receive only a small collective income, but still want to invest in Aboriginal-led projects.

One of these groups is the Atitjere Land Aboriginal Corporation in a community about two hours northeast of Alice Springs that's also known as Harts Range. Atitjere's land owning body supplemented its community leasing income with matched funds and used \$28,000 for a project that pays senior women to share their knowledge of bush medicine and the Akarre-Akityarre language with girls and young women. In October 2021, elders Maria Ross, Jacinta Bush and Andrina Williams took seven young women, aged 12 to 23, from the Atitjere and nearby Mount Eaglebeak communities on the project's first bush medicine trip. The group collected arrethe (*Eremophila Freelingii*) and irlpangka (*Eremophila Alternifolia*) from Sandover. Back home, the women and girls prepared, crushed and boiled the leaves to produce an ointment for treating muscle aches and colds. Then they documented and illustrated the recipe using paints, pens and iPads.

The project combines digital literacy with ancient traditions and languages. "These days all our kids know is Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok," corporation director Maria Ross said. "We want to teach them about bush medicine and being on country. Kids are going to jail and getting in trouble. We want them coming home and learning culture."

The literacy training that went with the excursions did not stop there. Senior language teacher Carol Turner also led an Akarre-Akityarre class and children's books workshop. "It is important that writing in language is taught as well," Ms Ross explained. "When us old people are gone we need the young generation to keep the culture strong and pass it on to the next generation." Thanks to the matched funds trial, the group was able to plan a series of bush trips and associated literacy activities with project partner Children's Ground, rather than having to settle for a one-off experience.

Near the Queensland border, the community of Alpururulam (Lake Nash) allocated \$190,000 of its community leasing income supplemented by matched funds to renovate and expand the kitchen of its church and to build accommodation for church visitors. As with previous community-driven building projects there, the residents expect the project to employ local Aboriginal workers.

At the Urremerne outstation, 40 kilometres southeast of Alice Springs, the matched funds trial has helped to plant the seed of a landscaping plan. The extended Alice family is developing

a landscape design with Arid Edge Environmental Services that aims to prevent erosion and repair existing damage from heavy rains. Urremerne working group member Marina Alice is looking forward to replacing weeds with native plants. "I always wanted gardening. I love to see something around my homeland. It keeps me busy too," she said. "We want families to come and enjoy the shade and our garden. They can bring their grandchildren too." The Traditional Owners allocated almost \$6,000 to the project, a combination of income from a 2020 land use agreement and matched funds. It is part of a bigger plan to make the outstation fit for future generations. The plan includes an off-grid solar system for the houses. "I want my children to grow up in proper houses on their homeland," Ms Alice said. "I want to protect our sacred sites and live closely to our sacred sites."

Further south, Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) had used \$270,000 of its community leasing income in 2020 to rebuild its basketball court and erect a roof to shade the playing area. The investment allowed people to play during the heat of the day without tripping over the cracked, hot concrete or getting blisters on their feet. They then used matched funds to also install lights for night games. Now keen players can shoot hoops at all hours.

Traditional Owner Veronica Dobson said that she had advocated that funds be channeled to projects that broadly benefitted the community.

"It is better if the money is for a skateboard park that gives children somewhere to go to exercise, or a cultural centre to show the history of where our people have come from."

Community members value the opportunity to have the extra matched funds income and the process of discussing and deciding on how to allocate the available money.

"We sit down and talk about all the buckets of money," says Santa Teresa working group member and CLC delegate Raymond Palmer. "Which buckets we got. Get ideas, talk about them, which way to go."

The trial has been particularly beneficial for groups with limited incomes.

"Until the trial, Aboriginal people east of the Stuart Highway, in Tennant Creek and the Western Desert often lacked the collective income for even modest projects," said CLC chief executive Lesley Turner. "Since the start of the trial communities in our region between them allocated a total of more than \$1.75 million in 55 community-driven projects.

Their decisions are a vote of confidence in our community development program and a clear sign the trial is on track to achieve what it intended."

The trial has also changed minds about the best use of income in communities like Mount Liebig (Watiyawanu).

From 2016 to 2020 Mount Liebig Traditional Owners had distributed all their \$19 leasing income to individuals, leaving no funds available for community benefit projects, but in



Mount Liebig community development working group project planning meeting, March 2022.

September 2021 the community met to reconsider. At the 2021 meeting the CLC community development staff presented easy to understand information on the Matched Funds initiative.

Local community members and community development working group member Roderick Kantamarra recalls the presentation. "Yes I was there, you guys [CLC] told us oh if you leave \$96,000 you will get another \$96,000. We split the money in projects, what's important for the community, that's [including] the money that's come from government."

Other Traditional Owners also found the presentation convincing and the meeting decided to allocate all of the Mount Liebig lease income to community development for the duration of the Matched Funds initiative.

The Matched Funds initiative presents a clear incentive and in many communities, such as Mount Liebig, supporters from the community have advocated for the community development process as they know it provides broad benefit to all families living in the area, particularly younger people.

Community member Jerry Bennett is one of those advocates: "I been working with community development for a long time, on the working group. The group is doing the best thing for the community and they do good plans to work it out together. I was there in the meeting ... We're the ones that are making the decisions, the choice to make the plan for our community."

Mr Bennett also made it clear that community development projects were important for the whole community and he talked particularly about supporting young adults that need opportunities and support so they can stay in Mount Liebig to raise their families instead of leaving and going to bigger regional towns. "We are talking about [learning centre] make

the studio, put the computer, for learning, get good work, and help young people. We want that studio to do some recording, that's what people want to learn, how to use the computer and do recording, the young ones," he said. In March 2022 the Mount Liebig Community Development Working Group identified key project priority areas, and CLC staff will now take this information and work on developing costed project plans for consideration at their next working group meeting.

Mr Turner said the trial was a big reason why so many communities prefer community-driven projects to distributing their land use income among individuals. "More and more groups are opting into the trial because they can see it double their income, allowing them to tackle larger, more sustainable and impactful projects." These outcomes could have been achieved many years ago. When the CLC's community development program was in its infancy, staff and Traditional Owners alike hoped that once governments saw communities invest their own money in beneficial projects they would surely come on board and "chuck in", whether in cash or in kind. They figured that making community dollars go further would incentivise more Traditional Owners to invest in the development of their communities. However, apart from a few big one-off projects such as the swimming pool in Mutitjulu, the store in Imanpa and the learning centre in Willowra, these contributions did not eventuate. The matched funds trial is the ultimate result of more than a decade of patient, persistent advocacy. "It may have taken a very long time, but we are pleased to be finally delivering on these early expectations," Mr Turner said.

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, or in other cases may be paid to, or for the benefit of, the Traditional Aboriginal Owners of the relevant land, for example lease payments.

The CLC Anthropology Section prepared a total of 23 Traditional Owner Identifications (TOIDs) or other advice related to sub-output 5.1. These TOIDs were issued for a variety of distributions, including exploration and mining related compensation on Aboriginal Land Trusts throughout the CLC region (including Karlantjipa North ALT, Haasts Bluff ALT, Lake Mackay ALT, Central Desert ALT, Yalpirakinu ALT, Ntaria ALT, Ltalaltuma ALT, Roulpmaulpma ALT, Uruna ALT, Lhere Pirnte ALT and Petermann ALT), as well as gravel extraction access 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 2021–22 were \$13,173,353.

PERFORMANCE

Table 25. Compliance with the CATSI Act and services provided to corporations

Annual general meetings and directors meetings/ income distribution instructions taken	31
Directors meetings	33
Income distribution instruction meetings	100
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 Good Governance Program (GGP), commenced in 2016–17. In 2021, both Corporations approved a further three years funding for the GGP, including a jointly funded dedicated GGP Coordinator position at the CLC. The program is designed to strengthen the boards of directors' capacity in, and understanding of, corporate, financial and investment governance. In 2021–22 Mark Lewis Consulting Services delivered two multi-day applied learning workshops for GMAAAC and three for Kurra Aboriginal Corporation. These workshops were tailored to each board and aimed to build culturally appropriate and legitimate governance capacity. Both corporations had newly elected directors joining the training for the first time. To support the new directors' learning, both corporations held joint trainings with exiting, returning and new directors in attendance. This approach was highly valued by directors and allowed the more experienced directors to conduct the handover using the co-designed bilingual resources. The CLC is monitoring and evaluating the program to assess progress and to suggest improvements as the learning progresses.

INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE – GMAAAC AND KURRA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

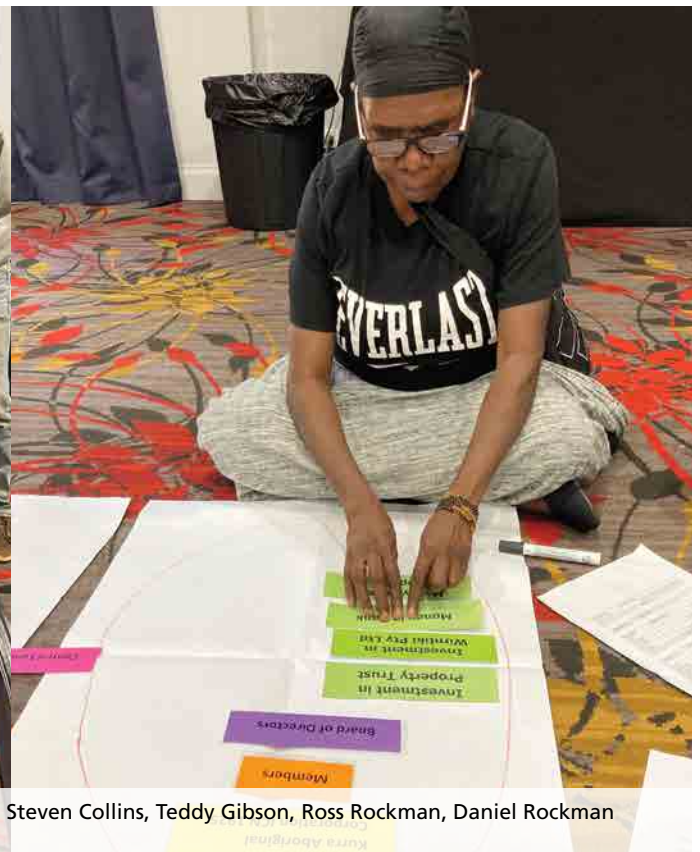
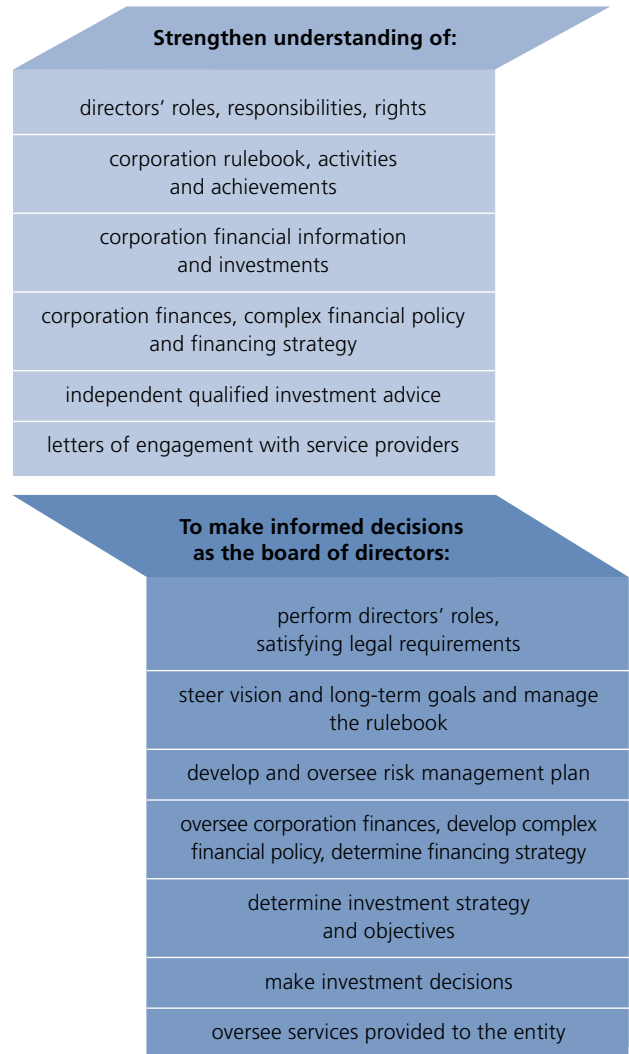
In addition to strengthening directors’ governance capacity with the Good Governance Program, Price Waterhouse Cooper Indigenous Consulting was engaged to assist directors of both GMAAAC and Kurra Aboriginal Corporation to appoint investment advisors. In 2022, both Corporations engaged two investment advisors enabling the directors to realise their long-held vision of ensuring their significant funds are secure and growing for the benefit of future generations.

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. Five Traditional Owner identifications were prepared to ensure that 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 21. Good governance program aims



Kurra - GGP parent and subsidiary activity with Peter Marin MLCS, Steven Collins, Teddy Gibson, Ross Rockman, Daniel Rockman and Nancy Collins on the right, March 2022.

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.

CLC Anthropology was involved in consultations for the Aboriginal Land Trust Membership renewal of four ALTs. CLC also identified Traditional Owners and worked towards a meeting regarding a proposed CLC boundary change relating to Bilinarra-Judburra ALT and part of Victoria River Downs Station.

Overall, 39 ALT memberships were renewed in 2021–22.

Figure 22. Land tenure in the CLC region, 2021–22

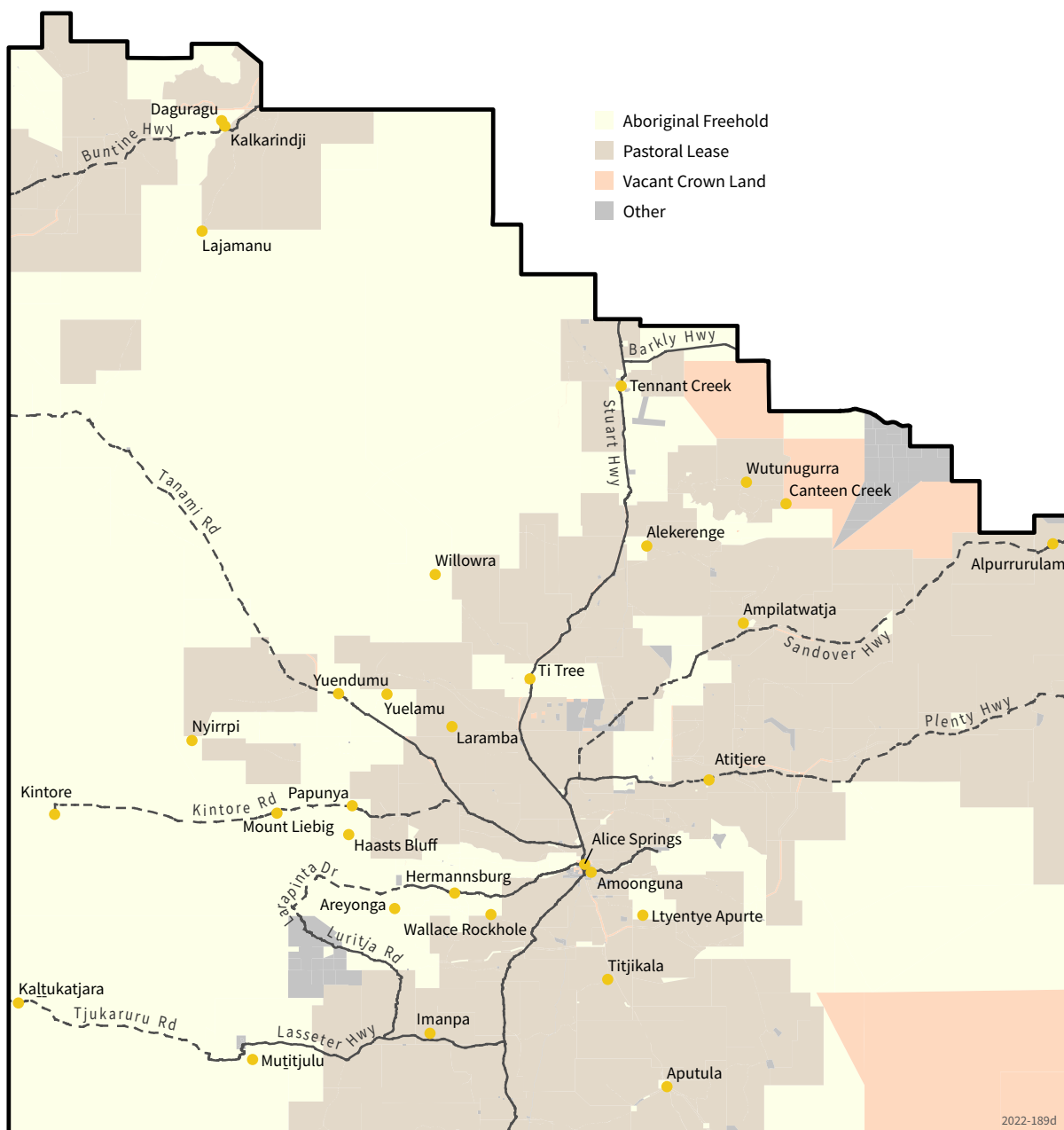


Table 26. Aboriginal land trusts in the CLC region, 2021–22

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
Katiti 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
Mangkurrpa 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
Mpweringe-Arnapipe (2) Aboriginal Land Trust
Mungkarta Aboriginal Land Trust
Ngalurrjtju 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
Rurutenge Aboriginal Land Trust
Santa Teresa Aboriginal Land Trust
Thakeperte Aboriginal Land Trust
Thangkenharengge Aboriginal Land Trust
Twertentye Aboriginal Land Trust (Rainbow Valley excision swap – dissolved)
Tyurretye Aboriginal Land Trust (West MacDonnell National Park including 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 Itjtjarri 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 27. 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 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 2021–22 anthropologists contributed advice in relation to one dispute, researched connections of a family to an area within the CLC region and prepared a report for the directors of a prescribed body corporate (PBC) to assist with assessing membership applications; this work for the PBC remains on going. The CLC's anthropology section provided assistance to a consultant anthropologist contracted to Lhere Artepe PBC to work with the native title holding groups and the corporation members.





OUTPUT GROUP 6

NATIVE TITLE

The Central Land Council provides 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

The Australian High Court's decision in the Mabo case in 1992 recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have rights and interests in land and waters according to their traditional law and customs. This historic decision ruled that Australia was not *terra nullius* – a land belonging to no-one – at the time of European colonisation, and that these traditional rights and interests continued to exist. The High Court used the legal term "native title" to describe these Indigenous property rights.

In 1993, the Australian Government passed the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) (the Native Title Act, the Act), which established the National Native Title Tribunal and processes to enable native title holders to assert and protect their native title rights. The Native Title Act came into operation on 1 January 1994, and the CLC was recognised as the native title representative body for Central Australia under section 203 of the Act from the same date.

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 NATIVE TITLE PROGRAM

The CLC established its first Native Title Unit in 1994; in 2018, the CLC was granted re-recognition as a native title representative body for six years until June 2024. The Native Title program enables the CLC to fulfil its statutory functions to:

- research, facilitate and assist native title holders to make native title applications,
- respond to proposed future acts and negotiate land use agreements,
- resolve native title disputes, and
- following successful claims, establish native title holder corporations (Prescribed Bodies Corporate [PBCs]) and assist them to manage and protect native title rights and interests.

The CLC has a multidisciplinary team of 25 native title-funded positions, with its native title operations integrated across the organisation. CLC also engaged 10 consultants during the reporting period – eight anthropologists and one specialist illustrator and one specialist animation consultant to work on native title matters. Anthropologists completed 12 native title holder identifications in preparation for meetings, where the native title holders considered exploration licence applications and other activities. They also completed 13 research activities for and assisted with six native title claims. The CLC continued to certify native title applications for determination, and applications for registration for Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs). Native title determinations and ILUA applications continue to be presented to and certified by Council, before being submitted to the National Native Title Tribunal for registration. The CLC continues to provide services and support to 33 Prescribed Bodies Corporate in its region.

NATIVE TITLE OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITIES 2021–2022

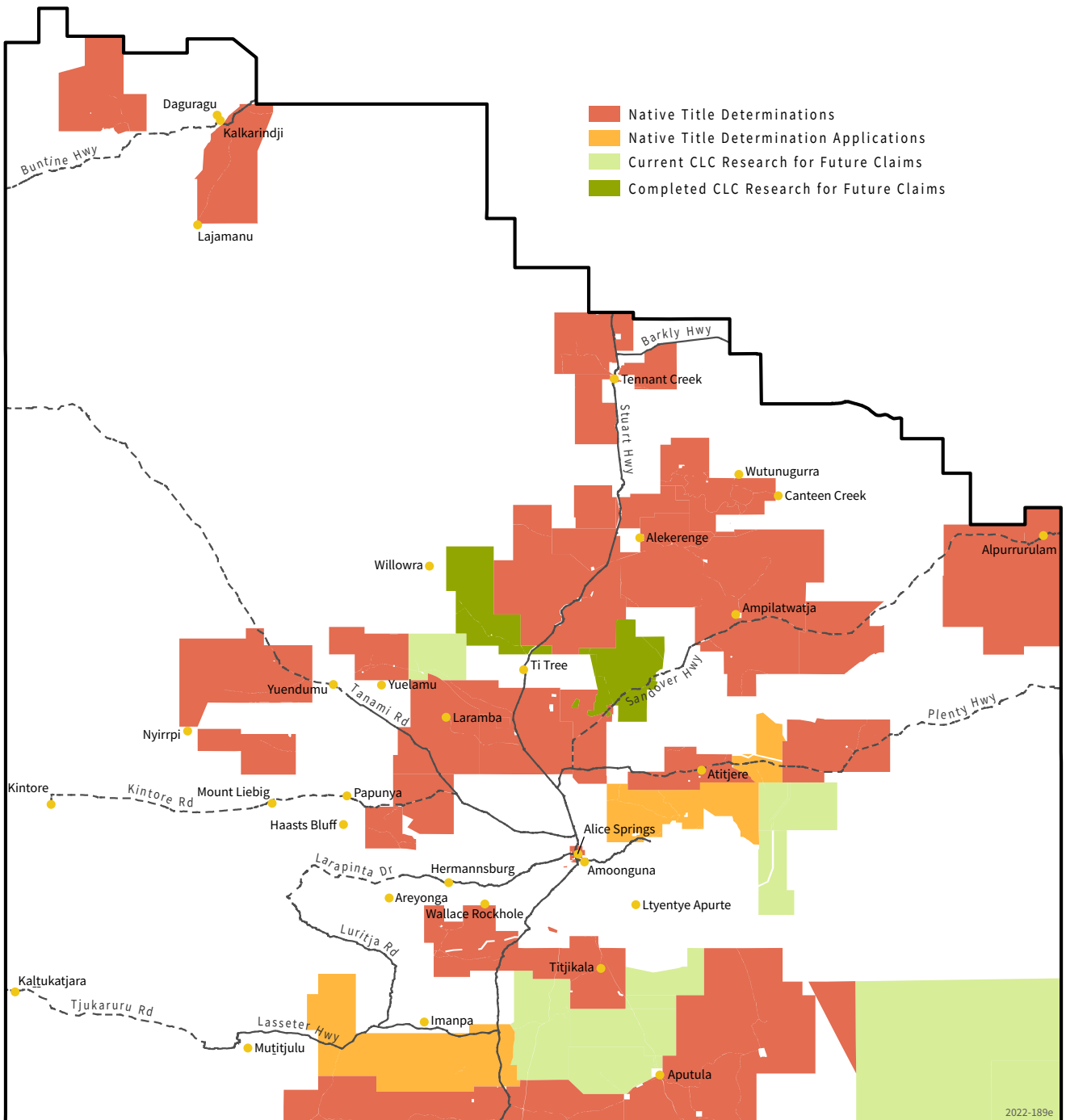
Native title determinations

No native title determinations were handed down during the reporting period.

Table 28. Native title applications and claims under research at 30 June 2022

Native title claim applications lodged with Federal Court	4
Native title claims currently under research	8

Figure 23. Native title determinations, applications and research in the CLC region, 2021–22



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.

As at 30 June 2022 the CLC had four active native title claimant applications registered with the tribunal, and 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.

HUCKITTA (NTD18/2020)

An application was filed on 23 December 2020, and registered with the NNTT on 10 October 2021. A summary anthropology report, an additional anthropology report (relating to research into claimants' rights to take and use resources on the land for any purpose) and a supplementary anthropology report, have been served on the Territory. The applicant proposes a different formulation of the native title rights and interests in this claim, a matter that is still being negotiated with the Territory. A consent determination is likely to take place in 2023.

KARINGA LAKES (NTD3/2020)

The CLC filed an application over the Curtin Springs, Lyndavale and Eriunda stations on 13 February 2020 to protect an extensive and significant sacred site and secure native title holders' interests over the pastoral leases. A determination is scheduled to take place in April 2023.

AMBALINDUM / THE GARDEN (NTD5/2021) AND UNEMARRE ARLATYEYE POLYGON CLAIM (NTD10/2020)

The Unemarre Arlatyeye Polygon Claim was filed on 28 April 2020 in order to secure the right to negotiate for a mineral lease application on The Garden Station. The Ambalindum/The Garden claim (NTD5/2021) was filed on 4 June 2021. Leave to consolidate the two claims was granted in August 2021 and an amended native title determination application was filed on 13 October 2021. The Ambalindum/The Garden claim (NTD5/2021) will

continue as the lead proceeding. The amended application was registered by the NNTT on 26 November 2021. The claim is now being conducted through the Federal Court and the applicant's connection material has been served on the Territory. A consent determination is likely to take place in 2023.

Claims under research

The anthropology reports and material regarding Ambalindum/The Gardens claim was finalised in the reporting period, enabling the completion and lodgement of the claim.

Anthropological research commenced, continued and progressed in the Simpson Desert, on the Anningie, Mount Skinner and Woodgreen, Horseshoe Bend, Lilla Creek and Idracowra, Indiana and Numery and Coniston stations, and on NT Portion 2138.

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 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

Table 29. Applications lodged 2021–22 and current at 30 June 2022

2021–22 Applications lodged with the National Native Title Tribunal	Applications current at 30 June 2022
Amended applications	
Ambalindum/The Garden stations (NTD5/2021) Date filed: 13/4/2021 Date registered: 26/11/2021 Notification period: 9/3/2022 to 8/6/2022)	Ambalindum/The Garden stations (NTD5/2021) (pre-combination)
	Huckitta Station (NTD18/2020)
	Unemarre Arlatyeye Polygon claim (NTD10/2020) (pre-combination)
	Karinga Lakes (NTD3/2020)

Tribunal. On instructions from native title claimants, the CLC has continued to negotiate the terms of a consent determination with respondents, which is close to finalisation.

SINGLETON WATER LICENCE REVIEW APPLICATION

The CLC engaged senior counsel to prepare an application to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory for judicial review in relation to the decision to grant a large water allocation to the lessee of the Singleton pastoral lease. The application has been filed on behalf of the Mpwerempwer AC RNTBC, the PBC for the Singleton pastoral lease, and is listed for hearing in September 2022.

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, and it continues to notify native title holders and claimants about future acts and maintains a register of applications. CLC informs all applicants about the native title process and its preference for negotiated agreements. Its anthropologists provided advice and support in seven instances in relation to mining future acts, and in five instances related to non-mining future acts.

MINING AND EXPLORATION FUTURE ACTS

All applications for exploration licences in the Northern Territory include a statement from the Northern Territory 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 167 notifications under section 29, which included two mineral lease applications to undertake mining activities on land with native title interests. It assessed each notification for its potential impact on native title rights and interests and undertook 38 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.

MINING AND EXPLORATION AGREEMENTS

Table 30 shows native title exploration and mining agreements and other mining matters and decisions for 2021–22.

Table 30. Exploration and mining agreements, distribution of compensation 2021–22

Exploration agreements	22
Mining agreements	8
Distribution of compensation monies	4



Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs)

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 three and is negotiating an additional seven.

Post determination assistance

PBCs are required under the Native Title Act to consult with and obtain consent from Traditional Owners in regard to any decisions that affect native title rights and interests. The *Native Title (Prescribed Bodies Corporate) Regulations 1999* (Cth) (PBC Regulations) require that a PBC can produce evidence that native title holders were consulted and provided consent in regard to native title decisions.

The Native Title Act also states that once PBCs are established, they must register under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act) 2006* (CATSI Act). The CATSI Act guides how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations are run. The CLC provides post native title determination assistance to PBCs to meet these responsibilities through service agreements between the CLC and respective PBCs.

The CLC entered into one PBC service agreement, making a total number of 26 service agreements.

Prescribed bodies corporate reporting obligations

Under the CATSI Act, PBCs are required to lodge reports with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations. All PBCs supported by the CLC have met their reporting obligations for the 2021–22 financial year.

Annual general meetings held	13
Directors meetings held	10

As a result of the *Native Title Legislation Amendment Act 2021* (Cth) and the *Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate Legislation Amendment Regulations 2021* (Cth), all PBCs are required to change their rule books.

The PBC Support Unit staff attended a training day with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) after which ORIC provided an updated Model Rule Book in May 2022. Rule book changes can only happen when a special resolution is passed at a general meeting. The PBC Support Unit will continue to assist PBCs revise their rule books accordingly.

Table 31. Indigenous Land Use Agreements, 2021–22

Registered	
	Nil
Registration Pending	
	Extension of waste management facility – Tennant Creek Juvenile Detention Facility – Tennant Creek Weather Station – Tennant Creek
In Negotiation	
	Kalkaringi – land release and swap, construction of public housing
	Suplejack Station – exploration agreements (renegotiation)
	Tennant Creek – 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)

Table 32. Additional assistance delivered to prescribed bodies corporate, 2021–22

Aboriginal corporation	Area	Type of assistance
Eynewantheyne AC RNTBC	Stirling and Neutral Junction stations	Dispute management assistance provided to the RNTBC in regards to ineligibility of members and applicant members. Support ongoing.
Irretyepwenty Ywentent Pwert AC RNTBC	Aileron Station	Dispute management assistance provided to mediate between the pastoralist and native title holders to discuss access issues on the station. An understanding was reached between the parties.
Yankanjini AC RNTBC	Newhaven Station	Consultations held with native title holders in regards to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy reintroducing endangered species to the land in the region.
Ooratippra AC RNTBC	Ooratippra Station	Assisting the RNTBC in pursuing compensation for environmental degradation and violation of native title holders' right. Conducted fieldwork preparation and land surveying activities as part of pastoral assessments.
Kaytetye Alyawarr Awenyerraperte Ingkerr-wenh AC RNTBC	Ammaroo, Derry Downs, Murray Downs and Elkedra stations (Sandover)	Consultations held with RNTBC directors and Ampilatwatja Traditional Owners to discuss community projects and the role of the RNTBC using lease funds allocated to the RNTBC in 2020.

Information booklets

At the Prescribed Bodies Corporate Regional Forum Central Australia, or PBC Camp, in May 2021, native title holders requested more information materials to better understand native title, corporate governance and good business practices and for these resources to be available in local Aboriginal languages. The Native Title Program secured funding through the CLC Economic Stimulus funding program to develop an app and content for this mobile platform.

The PBC Support Unit worked with a literacy specialist and designer to produce two information booklets. The popular CLC's *Native Title Story* booklet produced in 2018 was given a makeover to incorporate feedback provided by constituents over the years, and includes the changes to the Native Title Act made in 2021. CLC also created the *Native Title on Cattle Country* booklet which explains the rights of native title holders on land that has a pastoral lease.

The PBC Support Unit is also producing a guide called *Good Record Keeping for Prescribed Bodies Corporate* to help PBCs understand their reporting obligations and is preparing Native Title Determination handbooks for each determination in the CLC region. These booklets explain the native title determination handed down by the judge in plain English.

Dispute resolution

There were no major disputes relating to native title claims during the reporting period.

In order to prevent and deal with future disputes, the CLC and Northern Land Council held an anthropology workshop on 15–16 February 2022 in Darwin. It was attended by 16 staff members, partly via Zoom.

Alternative procedure agreements

The CLC did not enter into alternative procedure agreements in 2021–22.

Native Title Story

Learning about native title and prescribed bodies corporate



MAY 2022



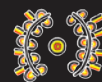
CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

The *Native Title Story* booklet has been revised to include the changes made to the Native Title Act in 2021.

Native Title on Cattle Country



MAY 2022



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

The *Native Title on Cattle Country* booklet explains the rights and responsibilities of people with native title on land with a pastoral lease.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The National Indigenous Australians Agency engaged Nous Group to conduct a series of reviews to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of 14 native title representative bodies and service providers from May 2017 to March 2021. The CLC welcomed the review, considering such analysis good practice and an opportunity for identifying potential improvements, and was reviewed from January to October 2020 in relation to a three-year period from July 2016 to June 2019.

The review methodology enabled a comparative and transparent assessment of each of the organisations. The mixed method approach included collection of quantitative data on the progress of claims, future acts and Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs), performance against milestones, budgetary performance, staffing, and broader social and geographical factors that impact performance. This information was complemented by interviews with selected available constituents, native title holders, CLC staff and council members, and representatives of the Federal Court, the National Native Title Tribunal and the Northern Territory Government.

The *Review of Performance as a Native Title Representative Body: Central Land Council Summary Report* is publicly available on niaa.gov.au.

The CLC was given an opportunity to review the report concerning its performance and provide responses to the six recommendations made by the review. In its responses, CLC committed to implement the recommendations, including:

- more regular monitoring of client satisfaction to inform delivery of native title functions;
- ensuring the CLC's internal review processes are available on the CLC website;
- clear communication of its prioritisation process and key decision-making factors to ensure stakeholders understand how claims are assessed and prioritised;
- improving the existing feedback and complaints process through the CLC website and responses to informal feedback or complaints;
- continuing development of the CLC PBC Support Unit to ensure its services are appropriate, accountable and transparent, and support capacity building of PBCs in our region; and
- further development of CLC forward planning in relation to its future role and activities in the post-determination native title environment.

Overall, the Review reported that the CLC had performed well in achieving native title outcomes for clients since it was recognised under the Native Title Act.

The final de-identified comparative report, *Performance review of native title representative bodies and service providers*, was published in February 2022. It considers the performance of all the organisations and discusses systemic issues that arose in all or most of the organisations reviewed and are relevant to the broader native title system.

NATIVE TITLE ADVOCACY

National Native Title Council

The National Native Title Council (NNTC) is the peak body for the native title sector. It is a membership-based non-profit organisation made up of native title representative bodies, native title service providers, prescribed bodies corporate and Traditional Owner corporations. As a member, the CLC contributed to the National Native Title Council's Indigenous Cultural Heritage Stage 1 Consultations submission to improve cultural heritage protections.

The CLC's Executive Manager, Policy and Governance was appointed Deputy Chair of the NNTC in 2021–22.

The PBC Futures Committee, a committee of selected NNTC members, provides advice to the council on the future of the PBC sector, including capacity development, leveraging native title rights and interests, structural, resource and funding reform and other related matters that arise.

The CLC's Native Title Manager was appointed as a member of the PBC Futures Committee.

Native Title Conferences

"Protecting and Managing the Indigenous Estate" was the theme of the Centre for Native Title Anthropology Annual Conference, held 9–11 February 2022. It was the first virtual annual conference. Fifteen staff members attended, of whom five moderated sessions and one presented.

The 2022 AIATSIS Summit, previously known as the National Native Title Conference, was convened in partnership with Queensland South Native Title Services and was hosted by the Kabi Kabi peoples on their traditional Country on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland from 30 May to 3 June. The theme was "Navigating the Spaces in Between" and focused on the value of Indigenous ways of knowing and seeing the world. Eleven staff attended, two of whom made presentations on CLC's community development projects.

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 \$30.2 million funding from the ABA for the 2021–22 financial year, and subsequently approved variations totalling \$4.1 million, primarily for a property acquisition in Alice Springs that occurred in May 2022.

Reporting

A half-yearly performance and operations report was submitted to the minister in February 2022 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 risk management and fraud control 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 expenditure 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 and Risk Committee has four independent members: Bruce Walker (chair/director), Beverley Russ (accounting manager), Danny Masters (lawyer), and Neil McLeod (chartered accountant).

The committee met five times during the 2021–22 financial year. 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 and Risk Committee members are independent. Members are entitled to a fee of \$1,250 per meeting, with the chair entitled to a fee of \$1,500 per meeting (all fees became effective June 2022; previously all members were paid \$1000 per meeting). Members are also entitled to a fee for travelling, dependent on travel distance.

The charter of the CLC Audit and Risk Committee is located at <https://www.clc.org.au/?s=audit+committee+charter>

Table 33. Audit and risk committee, 2021–22

Member	Bruce Walker	Danny Masters	Neil McLeod	Beverly Russ
Fees	\$6,700	\$6,450	\$6,050	\$6,050
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 34. Full-time and part-time staff expressed as full-time equivalent, 2021–22

Over the 2021–22 period (paid FTE)	FTE	Aboriginal	%	Non-Aboriginal	%2	Female	%3	Male	%4
CL 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CL 2	39.4	39.4	16.0	-	-	8.1	3.3	27.9	12.7
CL 3	15.7	13.7	5.6	2.0	0.8	7.0	2.8	7.0	3.5
CL 4	23.4	14.8	6.0	8.6	3.5	11.4	4.6	12.6	4.9
CL 5	28.5	13.7	5.5	14.8	6.0	16.5	6.7	12.1	4.9
CL 6	83.9	18.0	7.3	65.9	26.7	42.3	17.2	41.8	16.9
SO C	32.8	5.0	2.0	27.8	11.3	22.8	9.3	7.9	4.1
SO B	7.0	-	-	11.8	4.8	5.0	2.0	3.4	0.8
SO A	11.8	1.0	0.4	6.0	2.4	4.2	1.7	6.2	3.1
EM	1.0	1.0	0.4	-	-	1.0	0.4	-	-
SES1	2.0	-	-	2.0	0.8	-	-	2.0	0.8
SES2	1.0	1.0	0.4	-	-	-	-	1.0	0.4
Total	246.5	107.6	43.6	138.9	56.4	118.3	48.0	122.0	52.0

Table 35. Full-time and part-time staff (head count) at 30 June 2022

30 June 2021 Headcount	F/T and P/T	Aboriginal	%	Non-Aboriginal	%2	Female	%3	Male	%4
CL 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CL 2	50.0	50.0	18.8	-	-	10.0	3.8	40.0	15.0
CL 3	16.0	14.0	5.3	2.0	0.8	7.0	2.6	9.0	3.4
CL 4	25.0	16.0	6.0	9.0	3.4	13.0	4.9	12.0	4.5
CL 5	29.0	14.0	5.3	15.0	5.6	17.0	6.4	12.0	4.5
CL 6	87.0	18.0	6.8	69.0	25.9	44.0	16.5	43.0	16.2
SO C	32.0	5.0	1.9	27.0	10.2	23.0	8.6	9.0	3.4
SO B	9.0	2.0	0.8	7.0	2.6	5.0	1.9	4.0	1.5
SO A	13.0	-	-	13.0	4.9	5.0	1.9	8.0	3.0
EM	2.0	2.0	0.8	-	-	2.0	0.8	-	-
SES1	2.0	-	-	2.0	0.8	-	-	2.0	0.8
SES2	1.0	1.0	0.4	-	-	-	-	1.0	0.4
Total	266.0	122.0	45.9	144.0	54.1	126.0	47.4	140.0	52.6

Table 36. Ongoing and non-ongoing staff (excluding casuals) 2020–21 and 2021–22*

		Male			Female			Total
		Full-time	Part-time	Total Male	Full-time	Part-time	Total Female	
2020–21	Ongoing	39	0	39	52	3	55	94
	Non-ongoing	64	40	104	55	24	79	183
	Total	103	40	143	107	27	134	277
2021–22	Ongoing	38	2	40	51	5	56	96
	Non-ongoing	60	40	100	56	14	70	170
	Total	98	42	140	107	19	126	266

*All ongoing and non-ongoing staff were employed in the Northern Territory.

Table 37. Casual staff paid FTE, 2021–22

Classification	Total	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Female	Male
CL 1	-	-	-	-	-
CL 2	11.4	11.4	-	1.7	9.7
CL 3	0.1	0.1	-	-	0.1
CL 4	1.6	1.6	-	-	1.6
CL 5	-	-	-	-	-
CL 6	0.8	-	0.8	0.8	-
SO C	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	-
SO B	-	-	-	-	-
SO A	-	-	-	-	-
Total	14.4	13.1	1.3	3.0	11.4

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 2021–22 financial year.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The CLC employs a diverse workforce across Central Australia. Human Resources (HR) staff supported CLC staff during one of the most challenging periods in Australia's recent history, with an unprecedented number of events impacting employment. First, there were changes to public sector workplace relations policies that froze wage increases and aligned future remuneration adjustments with the private sector. There were continuing impacts of COVID-19 on the workforce and productivity presented significant challenges, including labour shortages and impacts on workforce dynamics due to worker mobility. A further challenge arose due to floods in South Australia, Northern Territory, New South Wales and Queensland, which cut off the Central Australia region for long periods and impeded operations across the region.

During this time the HR section played a key role in responding to these challenges, particularly in achieving agreement between staff and management over important aspects such as remuneration, policy and compliance.

Remuneration

The Enterprise Agreement 2017 to 2020 was up for renewal in March 2021. Staff were given an option to replace bargaining with a determination that would align annual increases to the private sector Wage Price Index (WPI). After much discussion the options were put to the vote. The result indicated widespread support for the determination option and so in December 2021 a determination was signed by the CEO and staff received their first annual increase aligned to the June quarter WPI of 1.9%. The determination will remain in place for the next two years or until staff enter bargaining.

Policy

The HR section has led changes in employment policies in response to changing events. Examples of these include the creation of vaccination policy to align CLC with the requirements of the vaccination mandate. Policies were implemented or updated in response to Fair Work Commission decisions in relation to casual work, anti-discrimination, bullying, domestic violence and working from home (flexible working conditions). The process of updating and amending CLC HR policies is ongoing.

Compliance

A number of changes have been made to staff induction processes and how we ensure compliance with requirements for first aid training, four-wheel driving qualification and fraud awareness certification. New requirements for staff compliance such as anti-discrimination and domestic violence training have also necessitated the development of courses and workshops to accommodate these needs. Platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams were successfully used to facilitate remote learning and to ensure that all staff have access to the training.

The impact of COVID-19

CLC was one of the few organisations to identify the need to fully vaccinate the workforce at an early stage of the pandemic. This early start meant that when mandatory vaccinations came into effect, CLC was in a good position to meet the deadlines imposed and staff were already incentivised to participate in the program. As a result CLC had a highly successful vaccination program and achieved a 99% success rate from the very first deadline. The program ran for a period of six months and HR and WHS staff managed the communications and reward aspects. The section also managed staff questions, particularly in relation to travel restrictions and COVID-19 testing. Over 1000 RAT tests were purchased, along with a large stockpile of face masks, gloves and sanitisers to support services in the field and encourage safe practices. Posters and signage were also generated across the organisation to promote safe practice and provide information on restrictions imposed on gatherings.

In general, CLC's response to the COVID-19 pandemic was highly successful and CLC continues to respond to the changing situation by providing up-to-date information and advice to staff on a daily and weekly basis.

Employee Relations

Under the *Fair Work Act 2009*, the CLC's enterprise agreement 2017–20 establishes employment terms and conditions and entitlements, and continues to be our key industrial instrument. As the agreement ended in March 2021, HR negotiated with stakeholders to balance the limitations placed on non-APS entities by the Australian Government with the desires of staff for remuneration increases.

HR successfully led negotiations to gain staff support for a determination to allow for a continuation of the existing enterprise agreement until 2024. The agreement has linked ongoing annual wage increases for all non-SES staff to the wage price index (WPI). The first staff salary increase was 1.9%, which took effect from 14 December 2021. Staff salary progression is subject to meeting required performance standards; performance bonuses are not paid.

Workplace health and safety (WHS)

Obligations under the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011* (WHS Act) were met. The WHS committee met two times in the reporting period. The focus is on ensuring compliance with the mandatory trainings and CLC Policies.

Reporting requirements under the WHS Act

No notifiable incidents were reported to Comcare under s.38 of the WHS Act. No notices were issued under s.90 (provisional improvement notices), s.191 (improvement notices), s.195 (prohibition notices), or s.198 (non-disturbance notices).

Workplace health and safety commitment

The Central Land Council is committed to providing a safe workplace. The CLC understands and recognises its primary duty of care to all employees, Traditional Landowners and other persons in relation to the work that the CLC undertakes.

The CLC provides a safe environment for all employees, constituents, contractors and visitors at all locations in which it works. Our commitment and engagement in safety ensures the CLC is a safe workplace and successful organisation.

The CLC demonstrates this commitment by:

- implementing safe work systems that meet legislative requirements. Our responsibilities and system framework are outlined in the WHS Management Arrangements, located on the CLC intranet;
- consulting with and educating our employees in safe work practices and their responsibility to work safely;
- constantly improving by measuring our performance against safety objectives and targets. This is done by conducting internal and external audits regularly within the workplace;
- identifying risks and implementing controls to reduce the risk as far as practicable; and
- encouraging safety leadership throughout the organisation and celebrating our safety achievements within the workplace.

Workforce development

Recruitment and retention of staff are a focus for the HR team. In June 2021 it was decided to trial a new approach to recruitment based on the desire for more Aboriginal participation within CLC. Unfortunately, the program commenced at a time of low unemployment and widespread competition for qualified and professional Aboriginal staff. As a result, the approach was modified to allow non-Indigenous candidates to compete for vacancies in the initial recruitment campaign. Since the modification, CLC recruitment has steadily addressed vacancies and continues to grow the workforce as required.

Organisational Development

HR has still not been able to staff the Training Development area and a new campaign is underway to recruit three staff for key roles in organisation development and the Aboriginal development group.

HR has continued to run all compliance training as well as specialist courses ranging from anti-discrimination to conflict management and leadership/management courses.

The CLC formalised 13 study contracts supporting tertiary studies; six are Aboriginal staff, with five Aboriginal cadets undergoing tertiary education. The cadets come to CLC for specific work experience in the media, land management, anthropology, computer services, policy and legal work areas. Based on our recent success, a further recruitment campaign was initiated during the fourth quarter of 2021.

The new position of Executive Manager, Policy and Governance was filled internally by a female Aboriginal employee and reports to the CEO.

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 full-time position and part of the Accountable Authority. The chair is a member of key management personnel and receives the allowance determined by the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal.

Table 38. Key management personnel

Name	Position	Term
Sammy Wilson	Chair (retired April 2022)	3 years
Robert Hoosan	Chair (elected)	3 months
Les Turner	Chief Executive Officer	1 year
Nigel Graves	General Manager (resigned 4/12/2021)	10 years, 5 months
Andrew Knight	General Manager	7 months

Table 39. 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	141,782	-	-	19,781	-6,329	-	-	155,234
Mr Robert Hoosan	Chair	46,921	-	-	4,927	-	-	-	51,848
Mr Lesley Turner	Chief Executive Officer	313,101	-	8,777	38,732	7,784	-	-	368,393
Mr Andrew Knight	General Manager / Chief Financial Officer	154,165	-	2,479	17,875	3,685	-	-	178,205
Dr Nigel Graves	General Manager / Chief Financial Officer	85,381	-	12,542	9,891	4,243	-	-	112,057
		741,351	-	23,798	91,205	9,383	-	-	865,737

Base salary comprises 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 40. 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	4	107,062	-	3,755	13,118	400	-	-	124,336
\$220,001 - \$245,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$245,001 - \$270,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$270,001 - \$295,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$295,001 - \$320,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$320,001 - \$345,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$345,001 - \$370,000	1	313,101	-	8,777	38,732	7,784	-	-	368,393
\$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 41. 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 computer services team develops, supports and maintains modern computing infrastructure and provides a high level of service to regional offices through the best available communication systems and remote support services. A fully networked, standardised environment provides computer access for all employees.

The team ensures the integrity and security of electronic data with backup systems, secure network access and virus protection. It also contributes to increased efficiency through developing and implementing new systems for improved access to information and communications. Three specialist geospatial services staff also maintain an extensive geographical information system and manipulate data sets to produce customised maps and web-based mapping services.

The year 2021–22 has been a particularly challenging year due to staff vacancies and the need to provide services and support for the increasing number of staff working remotely from home. Computer services responded to more than 1800 support requests, while the geospatial services team fulfilled over 900 map requests. Some major projects this year included the set-up of a major new Alice Springs office, expansion of our wireless network and mobile device fleet, upgrading the anthropology database and permit application systems, and transfer of systems backups to a hosted off-site storage platform. CLC is currently reviewing cyber security and implementing an organisation-wide security awareness training platform.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The CLC maintains and provides access to the records it created since its establishment. CLC archives hold collections of cultural and heritage significance in paper, digital, photographic and audio-visual formats. While paper and analogue originals are preserved and can be accessed, digitisation of the collections is a key component of the preservation work. In 2021–22, 3,268 items were digitised; 7,611 access copies of digitised items were uploaded to eDIS, the CLC's electronic records and document management system, and digital masters were transferred to secure offline storage offsite.

CLC has now largely completed migration of significant collections of 'at risk' analogue audio-visual recordings to digital preservation formats, although small collections continue to be deposited by CLC staff and are assessed for digitisation.

Other service activities in 2021–22 included continuous customisation of eDIS, a trial of Informit databases to improve CLC staff access to a broader range of resources and a staff survey of library resources held in May–June 2022 will assist ongoing collection development. Ongoing staff education and training are provided to CLC staff to assist the organisation to improve information management capability.

Record retention and disposal activities in compliance with authorisations issued by the National Archives of Australia also continued during 2021–22.



Darryl Griffin (left) and Jason Renahan enjoying the garden works completed at Stuart Highway office.

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 safe remote travel.

Staff are required to complete pre- and post-trip checklists, and a booking system tracks driver use and vehicle service requirements to prompt timely attention. Replacing most of the fleet every three years is economical; however, in the past year, the delivery timeline for new vehicles has significantly blown out, with waiting times of at least nine months. To mitigate these delays on vehicle changeover, early ordering has been actioned along with monitoring of vehicle service dates and proactive maintenance. Delays in receiving replacement parts has in some cases impacted service and repair timelines, taking vehicles out of the fleet pool for longer periods. During this year we have seen a significant increase in re-sale value of vehicles that were disposed of. Twenty-one new vehicles were delivered during the year, with 34 remaining on the waiting list for changeover.

One electric vehicle has been introduced to the town car pool at the CLC's Stuart Highway office. It has been well received by staff who receive a training session before making a trip booking. The electric vehicle is charged during the day using excess solar power from the roof photovoltaic system.

Land and buildings management

The Willowra ranger shed and accommodation unit for visiting staff have been completed. Willowra, along with the Nyirripi facility completed last year, enables greater participation and provides a remote base for rangers connected through the Yuendumu ranger group.

Muñitjulu staff accommodation received a major boost in the past year. Three new houses have been completed, and we are working to construct a new office and ranger station. The three new houses were completed for the ranger group coordinator, Regional support officer (RSO) and the Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) coordinator. Previously two staff members were renting Parks Australia housing at Rangerville. The third house has replaced an aged 'donga' with a new three-bedroom house. The new houses feature enhanced sustainability measures, including high quality insulation, large verandas for shade, rainwater tanks, and solar panels and solar hot water. The RSO house also features a battery for onsite storage of power generated by the solar panels. On-site construction waste is minimised as the building frames are fabricated off site and assembled with services connected on site.

A significant rain event in Alice Springs during November 2021 led to isolated water ingress into parts of the office building at Stuart Highway. The areas affected included the fleet office, fleet store room, front reception and north wing areas. Although the damage and inconvenience was relatively minor, this led the team to identify drainage works that required rectification. The two internal courtyard tiled areas required waterproofing. Externally, the surface water coming from the



New solar panels on CLC ranger office in Docker River.

hill at the rear of the block was re-directed to a closer storm water drainage collection point at the front of the lot.

Presenting our offices professionally is a high priority for the team. Utilising local plants, significant landscaping works have been completed at Stuart Highway and Tennant Creek offices, and at the Chewings Street staff accommodation.

The artwork on the Tennant Creek office was replaced to renew the aged and faded sign and mural. The 15-metre tableau was first painted in 1989 and is an iconic piece of art on the main street of town. The artwork depicts the two main dreaming places of Tennant Creek, Kunjarra (The Pebbles) and Jurnkurakurr, and Tennant Creek's history.

Unfortunately in June 2022, the Stuart Highway office was vandalised. On one occasion, the keys to two vehicles were stolen. Both vehicles were tracked and recovered the following day, in relatively good condition. The second office break-in resulted in damage to the office doors. The works to replace the glass were completed within a day, however the clean-up resulted in the office being closed for four days due to the two separate incidents of night-time break-ins.

The project to install remote solar panels on offices and staff accommodation commenced, with Santa Teresa, Tennant Creek and Docker river offices completed. The project will see solar installed on sites where NT PowerWater have deemed there is capacity for solar in the community networks, including Harts Range, Lajamanu, Kalkaringi and Papunya.

Planned upgrades to the working environment at the Stuart Highway office continued, with a focus on the resource area. The old fixed-height desks were replaced with ergonomic height-adjustable desks. The project continues the work commenced in the south wing to upgrade the work spaces to better cater for staff and to make the work environment comfortable and safe.

The Stuart Highway office is at capacity and unable to accommodate any more staff, with some teams located at a leased office at Parsons Street in the Alice Springs CBD. The lot neighbouring the main office, 26 Stuart Highway, was purchased to enable plans to progress the proposed extension of the 27 Stuart Highway building. Due diligence was completed, including soil and asbestos testing on site. Document development has commenced to seek project management services to assist in the development of documentation for Northern Territory Government Planning approval through an Exceptional Development Permit process.



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 2022:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures 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 2022 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 2022 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 – Simplified Disclosures 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

30 August 2022

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL
For the period ended 30 June 2022

STATEMENT BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER


In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022 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:

Signed 

Mr. Robert Hoosan
Chair
Accountable Authority
Date:

Signed 

Mr. Robert Cairney OAM FCPA
Chief Financial Officer
Date:



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employees and council members benefits	3(a)	28,203	27,323
Suppliers	3(b)	20,979	18,785
Finance costs	3(c)	7	13
Depreciation and amortisation	7(a)	3,212	3,033
Impairment of assets/receivables	3(d)	109	6
Total expenses		52,510	49,160
Own-source income			
Own-source revenue			
Revenue from contracts with customers	4(a)	3,357	3,261
Interest	4(b)	300	174
Rental income	4(c)	59	113
Other revenue	4(d)	2,472	4,426
Total own-source revenue		6,188	7,974
Gains			
Gains from sale of assets	4(e)	645	249
Increase in fair value of investment property	4 (f)	45	–
Total gains		690	249
Total own-source income		6,878	8,223
Net Cost of Services		45,632	40,937
Revenue from government	4(g)	64,912	71,370
Surplus on Continuing Operations		19,280	30,433
Other Comprehensive Income			
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services			
Change in asset revaluation reserve	7(a)	(532)	–
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		18,748	30,433

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

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6(a)	69,936	52,238
Trade and other receivables	6(b)	932	1,249
Total financial assets		70,868	53,487
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	7(a)	30,015	27,473
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	7(a)	6,712	6,604
Investment property	7(b)	550	505
Inventories	7(c)	13	9
Other non-financial assets	7(d)	209	144
Total non-financial assets		37,499	34,735
TOTAL ASSETS		108,367	88,222
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	8(a)	7,814	7,178
Other payables	8(b)	160	292
Total payables		7,974	7,470
Interest bearing liabilities			
Leases	9	2,209	1,929
Total interest bearing liabilities		2,209	1,929
Provisions			
Employee provisions	10(a)	4,912	4,299
Total provisions		4,912	4,299
TOTAL LIABILITIES		15,095	13,698
NET ASSETS		93,272	74,524
EQUITY			
Asset revaluation reserve		7,480	8,012
Retained surplus		85,792	66,512
TOTAL EQUITY		93,272	74,524

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

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	Retained surplus		Asset revaluation reserve		Total Equity	
	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Opening balance	66,512	36,079	8,012	8,012	74,524	44,091
Comprehensive income						
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	19,280	30,433	(532)	–	18,748	30,433
Total Comprehensive income	19,280	30,433	(532)	–	18,748	30,433
of which:						
Attributable to the Australian Government	19,280	30,433	(532)	–	18,748	30,433
Closing balance as at 30 June 2022	85,792	66,512	7,480	8,012	93,272	74,524

*Accounting Policy**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 2021–22 the Central Land Council (CLC) did not make any contributions to owners (2020–21 \$0).

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

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	NOTES	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Operating activities			
Cash received			
Sales of goods and rendering of services		6,124	8,257
Receipts from Government		66,805	73,710
Rental income		25	75
Net GST received from ATO		(214)	329
Interest		315	201
Total cash received		73,055	82,572
Cash used			
Employees		27,589	27,584
Suppliers		22,324	24,014
Interest payments on lease liabilities		7	13
Total cash used		49,920	51,611
Net cash from operating activities		23,135	30,961
Investing activities			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		1,146	506
Rental income on investment property		34	38
Total cash received		1,180	544
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	7(a)	6,165	2,489
Total cash used		6,165	2,489
Net cash (used by) investing activities		(4,985)	(1,945)
Financing activities			
Cash used			
Principal payment of lease liabilities		452	158
Net cash (used by) financing activities		(452)	(158)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		17,698	28,857
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		52,238	23,380
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	6(a)	69,936	52,238

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 2022

OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVES OF THE CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

The Central Land Council (the 'CLC' or the 'Council') is an Australian government controlled corporate not-for-profit entity. The CLC's registered address and principal place of business is 27 Stuart Highway, Alice Springs, NT 0870.

The objectives of CLC are to:

- protect and represent the rights and interests of Aboriginal peoples
- pursue and protect Aboriginal land ownership and interest
- protect land and culturally significant sites, and maintain cultural heritage & 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 & 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 legislative requirements.

NOTE 1: 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 - including simplified disclosure for tier 2 Entities under AASB 1060 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.

Certain amounts from the prior year have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation - refer to Notes 4(g), 8(a), 8(b) and 15(a).

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 2: NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

None of the new, revised, amending standards, and/or interpretations issued prior to the sign-off date applicable to the current reporting period had a material impact on CLC's financial statements, unless otherwise stated. No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the applicable dates as stated in standard.

Standard/ Interpretation	Nature of change in accounting policy, transitional provisions, and adjustment to financial statements
AASB 1060 <i>General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities</i>	AASB 1060 applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2021 and replaces the reduced disclosure requirements (RDR) framework. The application of AASB 1060 involves some reduction in disclosure compared to the RDR framework with no impact on the reported financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the entity.

Taxation

The CLC is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

The main impact of the pandemic during the financial year continued to be reduced travel by CLC staff to remote communities and supply-chain delays particularly in relation to purchases of motor vehicles and IT equipment. Supply-chain delays also affected the disbursement of ABA Economic Stimulus funds to approved recipients, as outlined in Note 4(g). Otherwise, the pandemic did not significantly affect the CLC's operations or financial results.

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

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Employee and council member benefits		
Wages and salaries	23,691	23,740
Superannuation (accumulated contribution plans)	2,913	2,820
Leave and other entitlements	865	8
Other employee benefits	734	755
Total employee benefits	28,203	27,323

All payments and benefits are within the terms of the 2020-2023 CLC Enterprise Agreement (EA). The CLC makes an additional superannuation contributions of 3% over and above the Superannuation Guarantee Levy (10.5% effective 1 July 2022).

The CLC pays compulsory Professional Indemnity Insurance to Law Society NT for all its practicing Lawyers and pays Comcover a premium for Accountable Authority and Officers insurance.

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 2022

NOTE 3(B) – SUPPLIERS

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Goods and services supplied or rendered		
Accounting and Audit	219	231
Consultants	1,623	1,378
Contractors	384	855
Travel, motor vehicle and meeting expenses	3,539	3,185
Accommodation and utilities	2,487	2,048
Other operating expenses	9,921	6,018
Community project expenses	2,224	4,556
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	20,397	18,271
Other supplier expenses		
Low value and short term leases ¹	145	118
Workers Compensation and Professional Indemnity Insurance premium	437	396
Total other supplier expenses	582	514
Total supplier expenses	20,979	18,785

¹ The CLC had short term and low value lease commitments of \$95k as at 30 June 2022 (\$65k 30 June 2021).

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with accompanying notes 3(c), 7(a) and 9.

Accounting Policy

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

In accordance with AASB16, CLC does not recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for leases of low-value assets (value of less than \$10,000). CLC recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

NOTE 3(C) – FINANCE COSTS

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Interest on lease liabilities	7	13
Total finance costs	7	13

The above lease disclosure should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 3(b), 7(a) and 9.

NOTE 3(D) – IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Impairment of trade and other receivables	109	6
Total Impairment of assets	109	6

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 4: INCOME OWN SOURCE REVENUE

NOTE 4(A) – REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Rendering of services	3,357	3,261
Total Revenue from contracts with customers	3,357	3,261
Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers		
Type of customer:		
Australian Government entities (related parties)	141	102
State and Territory Governments	32	5
Non-government entities	3,184	3,154
	3,357	3,261

Revenue from contracts with customers consists of fees for service and fees for administrative support. Revenue is recognised as the services are delivered/performed, in accordance with AASB 15. CLC applies the practical expedient provided in AASB15.121 by not disclosing information for a performance obligation if the duration is less than 1 year.

The transaction price is the total amount of consideration which CLC expects to receive in exchange for providing services to a customer. Consideration may include fixed and/or variable amounts.

Receivables for goods and rendering of services, which have 30 days credit terms, 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.

Refer to Note 6(b) for details of the Impairment on trade and other receivables.

NOTE 4(B) – INTEREST

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Interest from cash and short-term deposits	300	174
Total interest	300	174

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method.

NOTE 4(C) – RENTAL INCOME

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Investment property lease	59	113
Total rental income	59	113

The CLC leases a property at Kennett Court in Alice Springs to a company providing domestic and commercial maintenance of gardens and pools. The leased assets comprise a commercial office building, shed and associated land. CLC receives regular site reports from its property manager and CLC staff conduct ad hoc site inspections of the property. CLC considers the inspections by its agent and CLC's ad hoc inspections provide adequate management of any risk associated with the leased property. This lease arrangement expires September 2022.

Refer to Note 7(b) for details of the investment property.

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Maturity analysis of operating lease income receivables:		
Within one year	9	35
One to two years	–	9
Two to three years	–	–
Three to four years	–	–
Four to five years	–	–
More than five years	–	–
Total undiscounted lease payment receivable	9	44

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

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Community Project income	2,472	4,426
Total other gains	2,472	4,426

Accounting Policy

CLC facilitates community projects on behalf of various indigenous organisations and communities in Central Australia. These services are provided on a cost basis, therefore total expenditure (refer Note 3(b)) equates to total income over time.

NOTE 4(E) – GAINS FROM SALE OF ASSETS

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Motor vehicles, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale	1,146	506
Carrying value of assets sold	(501)	(257)
Net gain from sale of assets	645	249

Sale of assets

Gains from disposal of assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

NOTE 4(F) – OTHER GAINS

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Change in fair value of investment properties (refer Note 7(b))	45	–
Total other gains	45	–

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 4(G) – REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
From Government – ABA s.64(1)	34,338	31,679
From Government – ABA s.64(1) Economic Stimulus Funding	14,700	22,000
From Government – Special Purpose Contracts	15,874	17,691
Total revenue from Government	64,912	71,370

CLC receives the majority of its operational funding as a departmental appropriation from the Commonwealth government, funded from the Aboriginal Benefits Account in accordance with s.64(1) of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) 1976. Departmental appropriations received during the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as revenue in accordance with AASB 1058 when CLC gains control of the appropriation. ABA departmental funding was \$34.3 million for the year ended 30 June 2022, refer to Note 5 for further detail.

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) as a special appropriation under s.64.1 from the ABA to support Indigenous businesses, jobs and economic development in the NT.

CLC received \$22 million in February 2021, and a further \$14.7m in July 2021 as shown above. Both tranches were recorded as revenue on receipt in accordance with AASB 1058. As at 30 June 2022, approximately \$20.5 million of the total \$36.7m had been contractually committed to specific Indigenous businesses and projects, with approximately \$4 million disbursed at that date. Disbursements of committed funding has been affected by industry supply constraints which have delayed Property, Plant and Equipment acquisitions by recipients. All funds are expected to be distributed or approved for distribution in the 2023 financial year.

Funding received or receivable from non-corporate Commonwealth entities is recognised as Revenue from Government unless they are in the nature of an equity injection or a loan.

Government (both federal and state) funding in the form of special purpose grants with specific performance obligations are recognised as revenue in accordance with AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. Where specific performance obligations have not yet been met, revenue is deferred and recorded as a Contract Liability (refer Note 8(a)). Where the grant is not provided under an enforceable contract, or where performance obligations are not sufficiently specific to determine whether they have been satisfied, funding received is recognised as revenue immediately in accordance with AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*.

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 1 year.

In the year ended 30 June 2022, the majority of grant funding received under special purposes contracts related to the federally funded Rangers program (\$6.4m), Native Title Unit (\$4.1m), Real Jobs for Rangers (\$2.2m), and Indigenous Protection Areas (\$1m). The majority of federal funding comes from the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

As indicated in Note 1, certain amounts from the prior year were reclassified (with effect from 1 July 2020) to conform with the current year's presentation. In particular, ABA Economic Stimulus funding of \$22m received in 2021 was included in the prior year's total of \$23.093 million as 'Special Purpose Contracts (revenue received in advanced but not yet spent)'. The remaining \$1.093 million has been reclassified to 'From Government - Special Purpose Contracts' in the current year's presentation.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 5: STATEMENT OF BUDGET vs ACTUAL ABORIGINALS BENEFIT ACCOUNT APPROPRIATIONS

	ABA approved estimates 2021-22 \$'000	ABA actual 2021-22 \$'000	Variance 2021-22 \$'000
Expenditure			
Salaries and related expenses	18,591	18,288	303
Operational expenses	13,225	10,485	2,740
Total recurrent expenditure	31,816	28,773	3,043
Capital	6,582	3,540	3,042
Total expenditure	38,398	32,312	6,086
Income			
ABA s.64(1)	34,338	34,338	-
Administration fees	2,110	1,980	(130)
Interest	180	285	105
Sale of assets	850	521	(329)
Recoveries	820	509	(311)
Other	100	(776)	(876)
Total income	38,398	36,856	(1,542)
ABA surplus at 30 June 2020	-	4,543	4,543

The net surplus of \$4,543k is accounted for as follows:

	2021-22 \$'000
ABA surplus at 30 June 2022:	4,543
Less:	
(i) Committed Community Development matched expenditure	(3,000)
(ii) Unspent Funeral and Ceremony funding	(83)
(iii) Unspent Capital Expenditure	(2,120)
ABA surplus after commitments as at 30 June 2022	(660)

Notes:

(i) Committed Community Development matched expenditure has been delayed due to contract preparation time and restrictions on travel resulting from the pandemic. Projects that have commenced have utilised funding received in the prior year in the first instance. Expected to be spent in 2022-23.

(ii) Funeral and Ceremony underspend has been carried forward to 2022-23.

(iii) Capital expenditure on motor vehicles and information technology equipment have been delayed due to supply shortages.

In addition, current year funding for building works has not yet been spent as unspent funds from prior years (caused by travel restrictions from the Covid pandemic) are being utilised first. Expected to be spent in 2022-23.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 6: FINANCIAL ASSETS

NOTE 6(A) – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Cash on hand or on deposit	69,936	52,238
Total cash and cash equivalents	69,936	52,238

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

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Goods and services receivables		
Goods and services	1,045	1,242
Total receivables for goods and services	1,045	1,242
Other receivables		
Other receivables	–	15
Total other receivables	–	15
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	1,045	1,257
Less: impairment allowance account		
Goods and services	(113)	(8)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	932	1,249

All receivables are current assets. Debtors are recognised at their nominal amounts due less provision for impairment, if any, refer Note 3(d). CLC uses the simplified approach from AASB 9 in calculating the loss allowance for trade and other receivables. This approach 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 (2021: 30 days).

Financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period.

Trade 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 2022

NOTE 7(A) – ANALYSIS OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Table (A): Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment 2021–22	Land and buildings \$'000	Motor vehicles[^] \$'000	Plant and equipment[^] \$'000	Library[^] \$'000	Computer equipment and software[^] \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2021						
Gross book value	29,464	9,411	3,601	469	2,730	45,675
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(1,991)	(5,056)	(2,197)	–	(2,354)	(11,598)
Net book value 1 July 2021	27,473	4,355	1,404	469	376	34,077
Additions						
By purchase	3,901	1,678	530	6	50	6,165
Right of Use assets	732	–	–	–	–	732
Opening balance adjustment		(2)				(2)
Depreciation and amortisation	(965)	(1,344)	(258)	–	(196)	(2,763)
Depreciation on right of use assets	(449)	–	–	–	–	(449)
Revaluation - Land and Buildings						
Cost Reduction - transfer Acc Depr to Cost	(2,538)					(2,538)
Acc Depr Reduction - transfer Acc Depr to Cost	2,538					2,538
Revaluation Decrement	(532)					(532)
Disposals - Gross value	(347)	(1,623)	(3)	–	–	(1,973)
Disposals - Accumulated depreciation	202	1,257	13	–	–	1,472
Change in Net book value 30 June 2022	2,542	(34)	282	6	(146)	2,650
Net book value as of 30 June 2022 represented by						
Gross book value*	35,756	9,464	4,128	475	2,780	52,603
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(5,741)	(5,143)	(2,442)	–	(2,550)	(15,876)
Net book value 30 June 2022	30,015	4,321	1,686	475	230	36,727
Carrying amount of right-of-use assets	2,197	–	–	–	–	2,197

+ Land and Buildings includes Right of Use assets (leased premises) with a cost of \$2,861k and carrying value of \$2,197k as shown above.

* Gross book value as at 30 June 2022 includes works in progress for buildings \$404k (2021: \$883k), plant & equipment \$327k (2021:nil) and \$100k for intangibles (2021: \$50k).

[^] These asset classes are presented collectively as Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment in the Statement of Financial Position.

Revaluation – 30 June 2022

All land and buildings, with the exception of Right of Use Assets, were independently valued at 30 June 2022 by Jones Lang LaSalle ('JLL') of Adelaide, a certified practicing valuer. Refer to Note 17 for detail on the methods and assumptions applied in estimating the fair values of land and buildings. Overall a decrease in value of \$532k was recognised, and debited to the Asset Revaluation Reserve in equity.

The decrease in the fair value of land and buildings was due primarily to a \$1.444 million drop in the assessed fair value of the property at 26 Stuart Highway that was acquired in May 2022 for \$2.6 million. Notwithstanding the purchase price represented an arms-length

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

transaction, JLL assessed the value of the property (land and on site premises) under a market-based approach to be only \$1.2 million at 30 June 2022. Otherwise, the independent valuation resulted in an increase in Land and Buildings of \$912k, reflecting the current general strength of the property market.

Motor vehicles are recognised at cost and the majority are depreciated to expected residual value over a period of 4 years or 100,000kms if later. This method is considered to reflect the expected decline in fair value over the useful life of motor vehicles. An independent valuation of motor vehicles was not conducted at 30 June 2022. CLC replaces the majority of its motor vehicles after the later of three years or approximately 100,000 kilometres driven.

Library assets are not depreciated on the basis of their indefinite useful life, and are instead carried at fair value and assessed for impairment at each reporting period. An independent valuation of CLC's collection of rare books, which comprise a significant portion of the overall library asset fair value, was conducted as at 30 June 2022 by Matthew Fishburn, a rare book dealer. The fair value of rare books was based on a combination of Mr Fishburn's experience as a rare book dealer, comparative values from copies currently being offered by reputable dealers and consideration of historical sales. The valuation of \$146k was comparable to previous valuations. On that basis, the Library assets overall are considered to appropriately reflect their fair value.

Accounting policy

Initial Recognition

Property, plant and equipment are recorded at cost on acquisition, measured as the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and/or liabilities assumed.

The initial cost of an asset, where relevant, 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.

Property, plant and equipment are capitalised as assets, except for purchases costing less than \$2,000 (excluding GST), which are expensed in the year of acquisition.

Subsequent to Initial Recognition

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment that are material are carried at fair value less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Asset classes carried at fair value by the CLC are land and buildings (excluding Right of Use assets), and Library assets.

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. It is CLC policy to obtain an independent valuation of freehold land and buildings a minimum of every three years. Between formal valuations, assets are assessed annually for movements in fair value.

Revaluation Adjustments

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of Asset Revaluation Reserve except to the extent that it reverses a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in 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.

All other items of property, plant and equipment are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation.

No property, plant or equipment is currently held for sale or expected to be sold or disposed in the next 12 months.

Right of Use (ROU) assets

ROU assets under lease arrangements 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 CLC as a separate asset class but are included in Land and Buildings (where the corresponding underlying assets would be presented if they were owned) in the Financial Statements.

On initial adoption of AASB 16 Leases, CLC adjusted 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 CLC financial statements.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment (except as stated below) are depreciated to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives under the straight-line method of depreciation.

Capital work-in-progress is not depreciated until the asset is ready for use.

Library assets are not depreciated due to their indefinite useful lives and instead are assessed annually for impairment, and subject to an external independent valuation every three years.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and any necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

	2022	2021
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 property, plant and equipment that are carried at fair value are depreciated over 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.

Impairment

All assets are assessed for impairment at each reporting date. 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.

At 30 June 2022, the Accountable Authority believes that all material non-financial assets as reported are carried at an amount that does not differ materially from fair value and there are no indicators of impairment for non-financial assets.

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 included in computer equipment and software and are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life as shown in the depreciation rate table above.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 7(B) – INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
As at 1 July 2021	505	505
Net gain from fair value adjustments	45	–
Total as at 30 June 2022	550	505

CLC leases out an office building at 6 Kennett Court Alice Springs; the lease will expire September 2022. The property was revalued by independent valuer JLL at 30 June 2022 to \$550k, with the \$45k increase recorded in profit and loss (Note 4(f)). Refer to Note 17 for details on the methods and assumptions applied in estimating the fair value of the investment property.

Accounting Policy

Investment properties are measured initially at cost, including transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, investment properties are carried at fair value. Independent valuations are carried out every 3 years and management reviews the fair value of the investment property for material changes in value in the years between independent valuations.

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

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Inventories held for internal distribution (cost):		
Tyres	13	9
Total inventories	13	9

During 2022 \$98k (2021: \$115k) 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

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Prepaid supplies and services	209	144
Total Other Non-financial services	209	144

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 8: PAYABLES

NOTE 8(A) – SUPPLIERS

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Trade payables	818	584
Sundry payables and accruals	113	502
Contract liabilities from contracts with customers	6,883	5,878
GST payable to Australian Taxation Office	–	214
Total supplier payables	7,814	7,178

Contract liabilities represents the portion of revenue received received under federal or state grants where specific performance obligations have not yet been met. Refer to Note 4(g) for further detail. The majority of contract liabilities are expected to be expended within 12 months.

\$68k of salary and wage accruals included in the prior year in 'Sundry payables and accruals' have been reclassified to Note 8(b) to reflect that this accrual is not supplier-related. The reclassification was effective as at the beginning of the preceding period (1 July 2020).

NOTE 8(B) – OTHER PAYABLES

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Salaries and Wages - year end accrual	66	68
Accrued superannuation	94	224
Total other payables	160	292

Accrued salary and wages are earned but not yet paid as at 30 June 2022 (inclusive of superannuation). Refer to disclosures above in Note 8(a) regarding the reclassification of \$68k from the prior year from 'Sundry payables and accruals' to 'Other Payables - Salaries'.

Accrued superannuation is due to former employees for which the CLC does not have current superannuation fund or contact details. CLC is continuing its efforts to locate this information and settle the amounts owing.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 9: INTEREST BEARING LIABILITIES

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Leases	2,209	1,929
Total interest bearing liabilities	2,209	1,929

Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2022 was \$479k (2021 \$167k).

Maturity analysis – contractual undiscounted cash flows:

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Within one year	581	129
Between one to five years	1,585	952
More than five years	43	848
Total leases	2,209	1,929

Lease liabilities relate to Land and Buildings leased by the CLC which are recognised as Right of Use assets (refer Note 7(a)). The increase in lease liabilities during the year relates primarily to additional office space leased on Level 4, 14 Parsons St, Alice Springs. Some leases are Indigenous land in remote locations of the Northern Territory where office buildings or staff accommodation buildings, owned by CLC, are located. These leases are on long term lease arrangements and are renewed as and when the existing term expires.

CLC does not lease vehicles or office equipment.

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with accompanying notes 3(b), 3(c) and 7(a).

Accounting Policy

For all new contracts entered into, 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 is readily determinable, or the Commonwealth Government's published zero coupon bond rates applicable for the lease term.

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability is 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.

Refer to Note 3(b) for CLC's accounting policy for short-term and low value leases.

NOTE 10: PROVISIONS

NOTE 10(A) – EMPLOYEE PROVISIONS

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Leave	4,912	4,299
Total employee provisions	4,912	4,299

Long Service Leave liabilities were calculated using the shorthand method as at 30 June 2022 as detailed in the FRR.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Employee benefits

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits expected to be settled within twelve months of the end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

Other long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of expected future payments as 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.

Leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employee remuneration rates expected to apply at the time the leave is taken, including 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.

In accordance with the shorthand method, the estimate of the present value of the long service leave liability takes into account attrition rates, pay increases and inflation and is discounted to present value using government bond rates.

Superannuation

The majority of employees of CLC are members of REST and Acumen Superannuation Funds. The CLC made employer contributions to the REST, Acumen and other superannuation funds at the rate of 13% (12.5% year ended 30 June 2021) paid on a fortnightly basis. CLC complies with the requirements of the superannuation choice legislation. All superannuation contributions are to accumulated contribution plans.

NOTE 11: RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE

The Central Land Council is a corporate Commonwealth entity. Related parties of the CLC are Key Management Personnel ('KMP') and other Australian Government entities. Key Management Personnel are defined in Note 12.

There were no loans or grants made to KMP or other related parties during the period. Any transactions with KMP and other related parties are made on normal terms and conditions.

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 CLC as a shareholder to benefit from the trusts and precludes the Deeds from being amended to ever allow such a benefit. No member of CLC's key management personnel are on the Board of Centrecorp. As a result the CLC does not control or have influence over these entities. The fair value of the three shares is \$nil.

CLC holds one fully paid share valued at \$1.00 Imparja Television Pty Ltd. CLC does not control or have influence over the entity. The constitution of Imparja Television Pty Ltd (paragraph 48(a)) states "surplus shall not be distributed to the members." The fair value of the share is \$nil.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

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 also the General Manager. A new Chair was elected by the Council in April 2022, and a new General Manager was employed in December 2021.

Key Management Personnel remuneration is reported in the table below.

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits	765	792
Post-employment benefits	91	87
Other long-term benefits	9	(10)
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses	865	869

The total number of key management personnel that are included in the table is five. (2021: four).

One member of key management personnel, the Chair (until April 2022), had a close family member engaged by 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:

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) - for statutory audit	52	52
Crowe Australasia - acquittal of grants	30	34
PriceWaterhouseCoopers for auditing the accounts of Aboriginal Corporations to whom CLC provides administrative services	127	125
	209	211

The CLC incurs the cost of an audit of each of the Aboriginal Corporations, trusts and companies for which the CLC (via its Aboriginal Associations Management Centre, AAMC) assists. Subsequently these costs are recovered by charging the relevant entities. PriceWaterhouseCoopers performs the audits and provides 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 2022

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, but are reported here under section 37(5) of the ALRA.

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Opening balance	35,050	36,276
Add receipts		
Subsection 64(3) statutory royalty equivalents	38,179	44,195
Section 42,43,44,46,48a and 48d negotiated monies	33,156	34,064
Section 15,16,19 and 20 rental and lease monies	9,395	12,515
Other monies	2,026	3,103
Total receipts	82,756	93,877
Deduct payments		
Section 35(2) statutory royalty equivalents	38,520	45,220
Section 35(3) negotiated payments	32,398	34,118
Section 35(4) rental and lease monies	7,686	12,750
Northern Territory – National Emergency Response Act 2007	–	200
Other payments	1,624	2,815
Total Payments	80,228	95,103
Closing Balance	37,578	35,050
Cash at bank and term deposits	37,578	35,050

NOTE 14(A) – DETAILS OF AMOUNTS PAID – S35(2)

Details of amounts paid as required by Section 37(4) ALRA:

Ngurrajuta Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation	1,740	1,448
Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation	36,439	42,747
	38,179	44,195

Determinations under s. 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. An updated resolution from the Tennant Creek Council is expected to be passed by end of September 2022.

(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.

(vi) That all money paid into it under section 42 in respect of the Exploration Agreement for EL 30256, 32015 shall be paid, within 6 months of its receipt by the Land Council, to the Warlpiri Aboriginal Corporation (ICN - 863) - made on 25 August 2021 for 5 years.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 14(B) – DETAILS OF AMOUNTS PAID AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 35(4A) 'ACCOUNTABLE AMOUNTS' ALRA. Rent paid by the Director of National Parks under the lease of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

Amounts paid	2022 \$'000
Yangkuntjatjara Kutu Aboriginal Co	922
Alice Mobile Blinds	10
Anangu Pitjanjatjara Yankunytjatjara	79
Casa Leisure	357
Centre Funerals	5
ClarityNT	15
Colliers International	3
Desert Knowledge Australia	23
Ernabella Arts Inc	15
Hickey & Co Pty Ltd	24
Ingkerreke Aboriginal Corp - Commercial	171
Ingkerreke Aboriginal Corp - Outstations	14
Jen Clarsen	3
Maruku Arts	65
NPY Womens Council Aboriginal Corporation	224
Rise - Ngurratjuta Pty Ltd	14
Tangentyere Council Inc	210
	2,154

NOTE 15: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

NOTE 15(A) – CATEGORIES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Financial assets at amortised cost:		
Cash on hand or on deposit	69,936	52,238
Trade and other receivables – net of impairment losses	932	1,249
Total financial assets at amortised cost	70,868	53,487
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:		
Trade Creditors	818	584
Contract liabilities	6,883	5,878
Other Payables	160	292
Sundry creditors and accruals	113	502
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	7,974	7,256

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Accounting Policy

Financial assets

In accordance with AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*, the CLC classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- financial assets at fair value through profit or loss; and
- financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income; and
- financial assets measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets measured at amortised cost need to meet two criteria:

- the financial asset is held in order to collect the contractual cash flow; and
- the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal outstanding amount.

CLC classifies and measures its financial assets at amortised cost, which reflects both CLC's business model for managing financial assets and contractual cash flow characteristics at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised when 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.

Amortised cost is determined using effective interest method. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts future cashflows to the carrying amount recognised. 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 other 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 lease liabilities, 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 (irrespective of having been invoiced).

As noted in Notes 8(a) and 8(b), \$68k of salary and wage accruals in the prior year have been reclassified in the current year from Sundry creditors and accruals to Other Payables.

NOTE 15(B) – NET GAINS OR LOSSES ON FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Interest revenue (see note 4(b))	300	174
Net gain/(loss) on financial assets at amortised cost	300	174
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Interest expense (refer note 3(c))	(7)	(13)
Net gain/(loss) on financial liabilities at amortised cost	(7)	(13)

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 16: CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

At 30 June 2022, the CLC had no significant contingent assets and liabilities (2021: \$0). In particular, there are no significant legal claims or matters in progress involving CLC.

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.

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 2022 and the valuation techniques used to derived its fair value:

	Fair value measurement – Valuation technique			
	Category	Valuation technique	2022 Fair value \$'000	2021 Fair value \$'000
Non-financial assets – Recurring fair value measurement				
Land and buildings				
Freehold land	Level 2	Market based valuation of direct comparatives	5,523	4,556
Building on freehold land	Level 2	Market based valuation of direct comparatives	10,998	11,058
Building on leasehold land	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost	10,893	9,062
Investment property				
Land and buildings	Level 2	Market based valuation of direct comparatives	550	505
Other PP&E				
Library	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost	475	469
Total non-financial assets			28,439	25,649

The fair value of CLC's freehold land and buildings has been determined based on a valuation carried out by Jones Lang LaSalle, Adelaide, as at 30 June 2022. JLL 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 freehold land and buildings has been categorised as Level 2 (land, all but \$117k which was Level 3) and Levels 2 and 3 (buildings) based on the valuation technique noted above. Key inputs used for Level 2 valuations were selling prices per square metre for comparable market transactions. For those assets valued using Level 3 inputs, key sources of information included various construction costing publications relevant to the Northern Territory as well as the age, physical condition and any indications of obsolescence relevant to the particular asset.

Refer to Note 7(a) for the detail of the 30 June 2022 revaluations.

A valuation of valuable books (part of Library assets) as at 30 June 2022 was performed by an independent expert (Matthew Fishburn, a rare book dealer). Key assumptions underlying Mr Fishburn's valuation are contained in Note 7(a).

For infrastructure, plant and equipment carried at cost, depreciated cost approximates fair market value, determined on a highest and best use basis.

There were no changes in valuation techniques used by CLC during the year.

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

NOTE 18: CURRENT/NON-CURRENT DISTINCTION FOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months		
Cash and cash equivalents	69,936	52,238
Trade and other receivables	932	1,249
Inventory	13	9
Other non-financial assets	209	144
Total no more than 12 months	71,090	53,640
More than 12 months		
Land and buildings	30,392	27,473
Investment property	550	505
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	6,335	6,604
Total more than 12 months	37,277	34,582
Total assets	108,367	88,222
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months		
Suppliers	7,880	7,246
Other payables	94	224
Leases	581	365
Employee Provisions	2,495	2,405
Total no more than 12 months	11,050	10,240
More than 12 months		
Leases	1,628	1,563
Employee provisions	2,417	1,895
Total more than 12 months	4,045	3,458
Total liabilities	15,095	13,698

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

NOTE 19: AMOUNTS PAID TO CONSULTANTS

	2022 \$'000
Anthropology	179
AKA Consulting	20
Anthropos Consulting Serv P/L	36
Empius Pty Ltd	13
Geoffrey Bagshaw	36
Michael Cawthorn	4
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel	6
Susan Donaldson	64
Community Development	151
Anthropos Consulting Serv P/L	3
Batchelor Institute	108
La Trobe University	28
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel	12
Corporate Services	604
Alice Kemble	18
BDO	52
Carrot Solutions Pty Ltd	5
Cross Country Native Title Services	10
Deloitte	8
Dr Michael Davis	48
Hal Bisset	31
Harry Orr Hobbs	6
KPMG	8
Lisa Fowkes	5
Maggie Kavanagh	8
MLCS Corporate Pty Ltd	124
Pricewaterhouse Coopers	107
Siller Systems Administration	50
S2 Consulting Samantha Togni	45
University of South Australia	5
Votar Partners Pty Ltd	66
Whitdenn Data Solutions	8

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	2022 \$'000
Economic Participation Unit	135
David Jagger	62
Jodie Hummerston Literacy Solutions	29
Michael Roberston Consulting	14
Pricewaterhouse Coopers	11
Sonja Dare (Barilarra Aboriginal Art)	19
Land Management and Ranger Program	371
AMSANT	10
Andrew Schubert	9
Australian Ag Advisory & Management	21
Beth Sometimes	15
Bianca Rayner	7
Conservation Management	34
David Jagger	32
Dr Fiona Walsh	25
HGH Contracting	7
Hydro Geo Enviro Pty Ltd	40
Matrix On Board Training	33
Matthew Salmon	22
McBryde Consulting	16
Michael Cawthorn	18
Susan Donaldson	16
Terry Mahney	66
Native Title	268
AKA Consulting	48
Celina Gaweda	11
Craig Elliott	64
Cross Country Native Title Services	31
Geoffrey Bagshaw	56
Michael Cawthorn	8
Natalie Kwok	7
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel	42
Sally Hodson	1
Grand Total	1,708

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 20: NATIVE TITLE

NOTE 20 (A) – NATIONAL INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS AGENCY: NATIVE TITLE - OPERATIONAL

	Approved budget 2021–22 \$'000	Actual 2021–22 \$'000
INCOME		
Other project income		
Bank interest	4	3
Vehicle trade-in	155	117
Activity generated income - cost recovery	85	85
2020-21 funds c/fwd	780	780
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet funding		
Capital	156	156
Operational	3,623	3,623
Variations	300	300
	5,102	5,064
EXPENDITURE		
Capital		
Vehicles	336	159
IT equipment	–	–
	336	159
OPERATIONAL		
Salaries		
Chief Executive Officer/General Manager or equivalents	140	140
Corporate staff	332	221
Project staff	2,512	1,920
Services		
Accommodation	140	150
Motor Vehicles - Corporate	28	28
Motor Vehicles - Attributable	50	44
Repair and Maintenance - Equipment	12	3
Repair and Maintenance - Buildings	22	22
Bank Charges	–	–
Audit Fees	6	12
Consultants - Corporate	–	–
Consultants - Attributable	747	291
Communications, Telephones, Fax and IT	70	74
Insurance - Workers compensation	14	20
Insurance - Assets	17	16
Insurance - Professional Indemnity	15	20
Corporate HR / Finance / Property Serv / Library	140	103
Training and development		
Governing Committee	2	1
Staff	20	19

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

	Approved budget 2021–22 \$'000	Actual 2021–22 \$'000
Meetings		
Governing Committee	12	11
Attributable Other meetings expenses	103	39
Regional PBC Meetings	98	–
Interpreting	80	6
Travel and allowances		
Chairperson	2	1
Other Governing Committee members	2	1
Members (Travel)	–	–
Claimants (Travel)	92	55
PBC Director (Travel) - Training	5	–
Staff (Travel) Corporate	17	13
Staff (Travel) Attributable	65	32
Supplies and Consumables		
Corporate Office Sup / office misc.	15	13
IT Equipment	10	–
	4,766	3,255
TOTAL	–	1,651

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.

NOTE 20 (B) – NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS - NATIVE TITLE
Analysis of Property, Plant and Equipment

	Motor vehicles \$'000	Total \$'000
Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances		
As at 1 July 2021		
Gross book value	1,232	1,232
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(643)	(643)
Net book value as at 1 July 2021	589	589
Additions		
By purchase	159	159
Adjustment Opening Gross Value	(555)	(555)
Adjustment Opening Accum Depreciation	374	374
Depreciation and amortisation	(45)	(45)
Disposals - Gross Value	(132)	(132)
Disposals - Accumulated Depreciation	90	90
Total	479	479
Net book value as at 30 June 2022 represented by		
Gross book value	703	703
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(224)	(224)
Closing net book value 30 June 2022	479	479

GLOSSARY

AAMC	Aboriginal Associations Management Centre
AAPA	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
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)
ALT	Aboriginal land trust
AMSANT	Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT
Anangu	Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people
APO NT	Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory
CATSI Act	<i>Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006</i>
CDP	The federal government's remote community development 'work for the dole' program.
CDEP	The Community Development Employment Projects program, established in 1977, enabled Indigenous communities or organisations to pool unemployment entitlements and pay direct wages to individuals as an alternative to income support payments. It was progressively dismantled from 2004.
CEM training	Conservation and Ecosystem Management training
CLC	Central Land Council
Closing the Gap	Closing the Gap is a framework first established by Australian federal, state and territory governments in 2007 to reduce inequality between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians across a range of key target areas. In 2019 a formal partnership agreement was established between the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations and the Australian Local Government Association.
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
ELA	Exploration licence application
EPA	Exploration permit application
EPU	Economic Participation Unit
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.
Foi	Freedom of information
FTE	Full-time equivalent
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.
Makarrata	Treaty or agreement-making
Mining royalties	Royalties payable to the Australian Government or the NT Government in respect of the mining of minerals.
NAAJA	North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency
Native Title Act	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth)
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Agency
NLC	Northern Land Council
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
NNTC	National Native Title Council
NT	Northern Territory
NT Parks	Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory
NTA	Native title application
NTAIC	Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation
Ochre card	Northern Territory working with children police check
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)
ROU	Right of use (assets recognised by accounting standard which brings lease assets and liabilities onto the statement of financial position)
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.
SGM	Special General Meeting
Traditional Owners	In relation to land, a local descent group of Aboriginal people who have common spiritual affiliations to a site on the land, being affiliations that place the group under a primary spiritual responsibility for that site and for the land; they are entitled by Aboriginal tradition to forage as of right over that land.
UKTNP	Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park
WETT	Warlpiri Education and Training Trust
WHS	workplace health and safety
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.	14, 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.	13–19
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.	12, 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, 107–109
Information in relation to the main corporate governance practices used by the entity during the period.	23–24
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.	103

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).	103
Executive remuneration, under subsections 17CA, CB and CC.	105–106

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 \$640,852 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	135
Amounts held in trust	Section 37(5)	135
Delegations	Section 28 and section 28A	nil
Committees	Section 29A	24
Consultants	Section 37(8)	140
OTHER		
Environmental matters	Section 516A EPBC Act	17
Work, Health and Safety Act	Item 4, Schedule 2	104
FOI Act	Reporting requirements	24



Pauline Allen during a burning trip along the Madigan Line.



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Front cover: Alice Henwood and Enid Gallagher at a train-the-trainer workshop about animal tracking.

Back cover: Ngalarrrtju Aboriginal Land Trust Traditional Owners Nigel Andy and Terrence Abbott.

