



CLC members voted for a new leadership team at their meeting in Tennant Creek on 6 April.

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

Central Land Council delegates elected youth worker Robert Hoosan as their new chair and youth organisation leader Warren Williams as deputy chair.

Mr Hoosan is a former CLC field officer, police officer, health worker and Uniting Church chair from Aputula (Finke). He and other elders take young men out bush for weeks at a time and teach spear and boomerang-making at cultural healing camps “to fix our spirit up”.

He is proud of the many young people communities in the southern half of the NT have chosen to represent them on the land council for the next three years.

“It makes me really proud that the community had the good idea to put young people on,” he said.

“One of them is only 20 years old – our youngest delegate ever. That’s good, but we still need to learn from the old people,” he said.

“We’ve got good delegates and staff, both men and women, and we’ve got to work together. The land council’s future looks bright.”

Mr Hoosan has been a member of the CLC’s 11-member executive committee since 2019 and had been a delegate when he was younger. He is also a board member of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.

“I love to listen to people and try to guide them, and I need them to guide me too. We delegates, the remote communities, are the land council.”

Mr Williams, a former assistant

school principal who is the deputy president of the Central Desert Shire Council and chairs Yuendumu’s Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation, plans to advocate for young people.

“We get them out to Mount Theo, where they learn their culture,” he said.

“We’ve been asking for a school there for a very long time because they also need to learn to read and write.”

Mr Williams also wants to focus on the repatriation of sacred objects and the protection of sites and act as a peace maker.

“I want to help people in our communities live in harmony.”



New CLC chair Robert Hoosan and deputy chair Warren Williams.



Ricardo Gallagher (20) is the youngest CLC member.



Janine Clyne and Sammy Wilson at the ballot box.

NEW CLC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The council also elected a new executive committee.

The new CLC chair and deputy chair will be joined on the executive by Barbara Shaw (Alice Springs region), Charles Gibson (South West region), Valerie Martin (Tanami region), Martin Jugadai (Western region),

Sandra Jones Morrison (Tennant Creek region), Jackie Mahoney (Eastern Sandover region), Neville Petrick (Eastern Plenty region) and Kim Brown (Central region).

The North West region delegates will chose an executive member at a later date.

NT ABORIGINAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION BOARD MEMBERS

Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation is the name of the new body that will bring the Aboriginals Benefit Account under the control of Aboriginal people in the Territory. The name is a mouthful, but it may change.

What won't change is that Aboriginal people will hold the power on the board of the new commonwealth corporate entity.

Eight out of 12 board members are directly elected by the four NT

land councils, and a further two board members will be appointed by these eight land council representatives.

The CLC delegates chose former CLC deputy chair Barbara Shaw and Alekarenge teacher and community development champion Derek Walker to represent them on the board.

The Australian government has appointed two board members.

The board will now oversee the setting up of the new corporate

entity. The first steps are electing an interim chair, hiring an interim chief executive, forming an investment committee and deciding where the offices will be.

The land councils have fought for more than 30 years to bring the ABA under the control of the people whose land earns the ABA's income.

The new corporate entity is an important step in this process.

To begin with, it will get \$60 million for grants per year for

three years. It will get a further \$500 million for investments and a yearly budget to employ staff and run the office.

Over time, the land councils want the corporate entity to control all of the \$1.5 billion currently in the ABA.

Ms Shaw's and Mr Walker's election, like the CLC chair and deputy chair election, was overseen by the NT Electoral Commission.

COUNCIL INDUCTION DAY

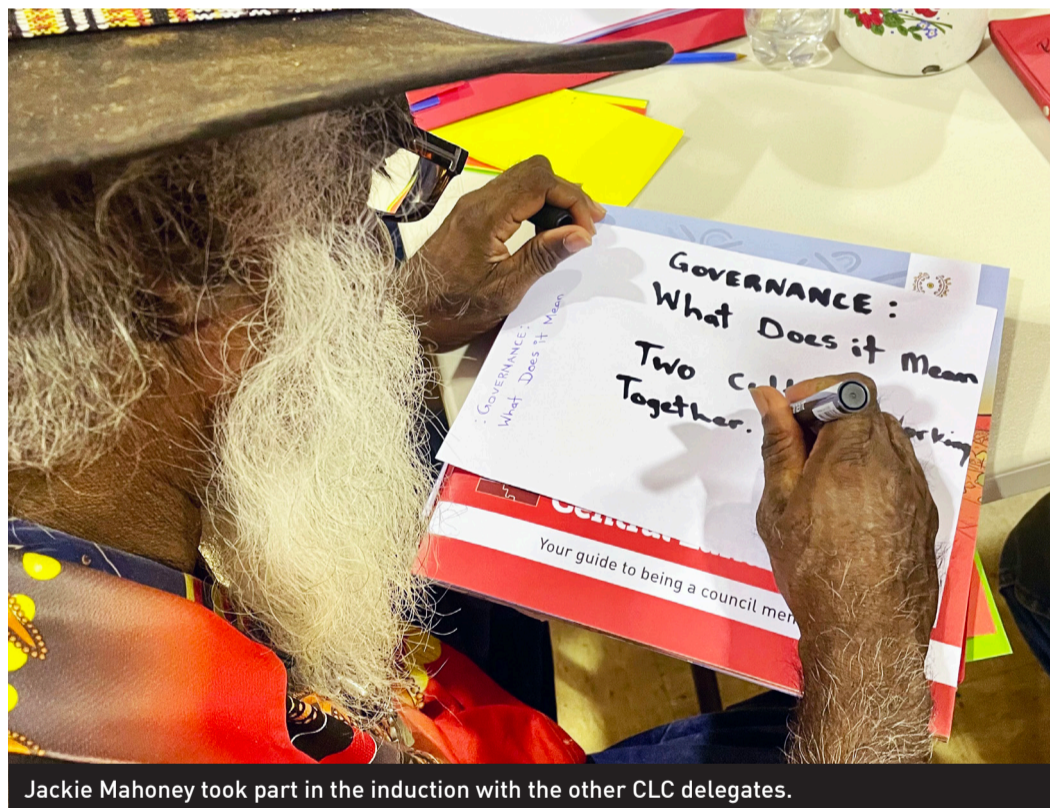
The CLC delegates took part in an induction to the land council on the day before the election of the CLC chair and deputy.

More than 40 of the participants of this workshop were newly elected.

Many of them were younger than average and there were some women representing their communities.

The re-elected delegates kicked off the day by talking about why they joined the land council decades earlier, while new members spoke about their families' CLC histories.

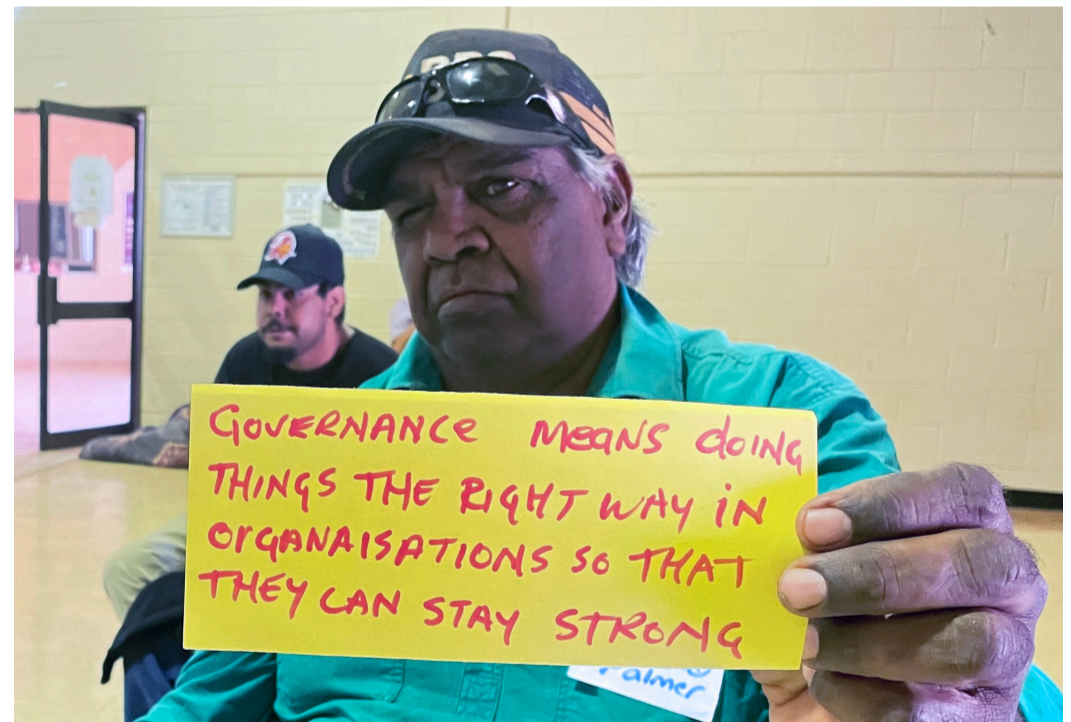
The members also road-tested the CLC's new governance booklet and learned about their responsibilities as delegates.



Jackie Mahoney took part in the induction with the other CLC delegates.



CLC delegates Sandra and Annie Morrison used the new CLC governance booklets and learned about their responsibilities.



Raymond Palmer shared his governance knowledge during the induction workshop.

HOUSING, WATER AND ALCOHOL POLICY DISCUSSION

The council discussed what will happen when the Australian government's 'Stronger Futures' policy from 2012 runs out on 16 July.

Grog restrictions in most community living areas and town camps in the CLC region will automatically finish unless the land holding bodies tell the NT government before 16 July to keep the grog out of their communities for longer.

Keeping the grog restrictions in

place for a further two years would buy time for Aboriginal people to plan with the NT government how to protect old people, women and children when the restrictions end.

They also got an update on the extension of the remote housing agreement between the Australian and Territory governments until 2024 and the Mpwerempwe native title holders' court battle against the Singleton water licence.

FEDERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES

Marion Scrymgour (Labor), Damian Ryan (Country Liberal Party) and Michael Grosvenor (Independent) told the delegates why they deserve their vote in the federal election in May.

All three candidates are running in the seat of Lingiari.

The delegates also saw a prerecorded video by Labor's NT candidate for the Australian Senate, Malarndirri McCarthy.

CLC MEETINGS

Executive: 17-18 May in Alice Springs

Council: 22-26 August in Kalkaringi

