



CLC members urged the country to vote Yes at the October council meeting in Yulara Pulka.

VOICE TO PARLIAMENT CAMPAIGN

The CLC's voice campaign team organised more than 70 information sessions about the voice to parliament across the southern half of the Northern Territory since early May. Around 1,900 people took part in the meetings.

The team presented information and answered questions, working with local language speakers, and audio and video in our languages.

It visited a few remote communities for a second time, so residents who missed out earlier

could learn about the referendum. The team could not keep up with the demand for information sessions.

Members approved a media statement urging the country to vote Yes and posed for a group shot in front of Uluru that was widely shared around Australia and the world.

Members who had not yet voted in their communities voted at nearby Yulara, and many recorded video messages for social media afterwards.



Lillian Inkamala, Desmarie Dobbs, Sabrina Kelly and Janine Clyne on their way to the voting centre.



Pat Turner talked about how a Yes vote could help to close the gap.



Martin Jugadai was elected to join the board of the NT Aboriginal Investment Corporation.

POWERFUL SPEECH BY PAT TURNER

Pat Turner from the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Peak Organisations gave a speech about how a Yes vote can help to close the gap between Aboriginal and other Australians.

Much of the discussion was about problems with the NT's remote education system and school

attendance, as well as young people in prison.

Ms Turner said the National School Reform Agreement needs to reflect the voices of Aboriginal people and help them to hold governments to account for education outcomes and funding decisions.

CALL FOR ACTION ON REMOTE EDUCATION CRISIS

Members discussed declining school attendance rates and test results, and the lack of secondary education in remote NT communities. Josie Douglas explained how the system is failing the most vulnerable children and young people out bush.

Members resolved to call for emergency funding to make sure every NT student is fully funded by the start of the new school year,

and for an immediate end of the damaging policy of funding schools based on attendance.

They also demanded strong, transparent and accountable governance and reporting arrangements that include Aboriginal representative organisations and want remote school councils to have a say in the hiring of staff.

NEW MEMBER OF NT ABORIGINAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION APPOINTED

The meeting chose CLC executive member Martin Jugadai to join the board of the body that now manages Aboriginals Benefit Account grants, the NT Aboriginal Investment Corporation.

Mr Jugadai replaces Derek Walker, who has been one of the CLC's two board members since April 2022.

The NT Electoral Commission carried out the election.

COUNCIL MEETINGS 2024

30 April–2 May, Tennant Creek
16–18 July, Alpururulam (Lake Nash)
15–17 October, location TBC



WATER RIGHTS: LARAMBA COURT VICTORY

Laramba residents had a win in their battle for safe drinking water.

In November 2019 the residents sued the NT Department of Housing, their landlord, over high levels of uranium in the water. They lost the case, but their lawyers appealed the decision and the NT Supreme Court found in early October that the department is responsible for providing safe water.

Council delegate Ron Hagan said he was grateful for the work that went into his community's court victory.

The NT government may fight the decision in the NT Court of Appeal, and a victory in that court may also help other remote communities secure safe drinking water.



Ron Hagan commented about Laramba's Supreme Court victory.

MORE UPDATES ON WATER RIGHTS

The CLC made progress on the Western Davenport water allocation plan, the Singleton Station groundwater license and the NT government's drinking water programs.

It consulted with the traditional owners of the Western Davenport region and put their concerns and recommendations to the government. If the government ignores the submission the CLC will take it to court.

The CLC told the NT Environment Protection Agency that the agency had failed to ask Fortune Agribusiness for important information about the Singleton Station water license application.

Members also heard about a

new water treatment plant for Yuendumu and other government plans for making drinking water in remote communities safer.

Members said water management committees need to better understand how much groundwater is pumped up, raised concerns about climate change and talked about protecting water and solar pumps from bush fires.

They criticised the lack of transparent information from the government about groundwater license applications, complained about water quality and availability in their communities and asked for agreements with pastoralists about water.



Joyce Jones talked up at the council meeting in Yulara Pulka.



Sammy Wilson explained how buffel grass threatens his country.

BUSHFIRES AND BUFFEL MAKE FOR A DANGEROUS SUMMER

CLC and Bushfires NT staff explained how they are working together to manage bush fires during a season that is expected to be the worst in more than a decade.

CLC rangers are already helping to reduce the fire risk and protect outstation residents, for example during the current fires in the Barkly.

Members heard it is important to clean up around homelands because once an outstation burns down it is difficult to find money to rebuild.

Bushfires NT only have 20 fire fighters across the region. They want to work with the CLC and

local residents on more mosaic pattern burning during the cool time because that prevents large fires during the hot season.

Members looked at maps that show a big difference between areas where there has been this kind of fire management and areas that have not been burned.

Sammy Wilson explained how the highly flammable buffel grass spreads across country easily, makes fires worse and kills native plants and animals.

Governments are starting to listen to these worries, with a working group made up of the CLC, Parks Australia and the Cattleman's

Association now advising the NT government about buffel grass.

Members decided to ask the NT government to declare buffel grass a weed. This is an important first step that will trigger more action, for example release money for weed management.

They passed a resolution about how they want the government to do this. They would like to follow in the steps of South Australia, where buffel grass is already being managed as a weed.

Council makes decisions in the best interests of Aboriginal people in our region and to keep the CLC strong. Its meeting rules support strong governance.

HOUSING AND HOMELANDS

Members heard how the Australian government is distributing \$100 million for homelands housing and infrastructure across the CLC region.

They discussed how hard it is to live at outstations and how long it takes for money for houses and repairs to arrive once it has been allocated.

NT land councils and Aboriginal Housing NT are negotiating a new, 10-year national partnership agreement on remote housing with the NT and Australian governments.

The council wants the agreement to be in line with the national closing the gap agreement and protect the interests of remote communities,

homelands and town camps in Central Australia. Its resolution covers housing quality and funding, and decision making processes designed to keep the agreement on track.

ALCOHOL-RELATED HEALTH PROBLEMS

Dr John Boffa, from the Australian Aboriginal Congress, talked about how alcohol is hurting people.

He said two of the biggest grog-related health problems are Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and domestic and family violence.

Members heard how alcohol damages the brains of unborn children and can cause FASD, a serious life-long neurological condition.

They learned how different laws have affected rates of assault and domestic and family violence in the town over the years.

The delegates discussed personal experiences and the harm to families.

They asked for better support programs in prison, education resources in local languages and more interpreting of health information.

To read these rules and the council minutes at our Alice Springs office please contact our strategy and performance manager on 8951 6211 .