



'Vincent Lingiari and Gough Whitlam' by Vincent Namatjira

our land, our sea, our life, our future
KALKARINGI MEETING



Celebrating 40 Years of Land Rights

2016 marks the 40th anniversary of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976, and the 50th anniversary of the Wave Hill Walk Off. The Territory's largest land councils celebrated these significant milestones with a historic joint meeting near Kalkaringi on 17 and 18 August. The meeting of the Central Land Council and the Northern Land Council honoured Vincent Lingiari and the families who walked off Wave Hill Station and kicked off the national campaign for Aboriginal land rights in 1966. The land councils meeting set the scene for the Freedom Day celebrations of 19 August at Daguragu and Kalkaringi. Council members considered issues of importance to Aboriginal people across the NT, developed shared positions and questioned Federal and Territory politicians ahead of the Country Liberal Party's landslide election loss on 27 August. They also held discussions with the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT.



Keeping Land Rights Strong

The delegates' highest priority in relation to land rights was to achieve greater Aboriginal control of the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) by improving the operations, transparency and outcomes of the fund.

ABA funds are generated by mining activity on Aboriginal owned land and decisions about the management and allocation of funds from the ABA must be made by Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory with no role in decision making by the Minister.

The combined meeting of the Northern and Central Land Councils

1

Instructs staff to urgently undertake work on a detailed model to achieve our vision and how exactly to do that

2

The Land Councils will work together to build that model to achieve control of the ABA

3

Rejects the changes proposed by the Minister

4

Calls for the allocation of resources to be made available to Aboriginal people out bush to assist with preparing applications for ABA funds



Galarrwuy Yunupingu and Wenten Rubuntja present the Barunga Statement to Prime Minister Bob Hawke., 1988.

RANGER PROGRAMS



CLC ranger Mary Gibson leads ground burning in the cross border region near Kaltukatjara community.

The joint council meeting expressed strong support for an expansion of Aboriginal ranger programs.

It passed the following resolution:

The combined meeting of the Northern and Central Land Councils strongly supports all ranger programs in looking after country and providing opportunities for young and old people to share cultural knowledge. Ranger jobs are real jobs and are just as important as teachers, nurses and parks and wildlife rangers.

We call on both the NT and Federal Ministers

1

To recognise the success of the program and respect the role of the land councils in managing the program

2

To immediately commit to substantially increase funding for the ranger program to secure positions beyond 2018 and allow for the expansion into new areas

3

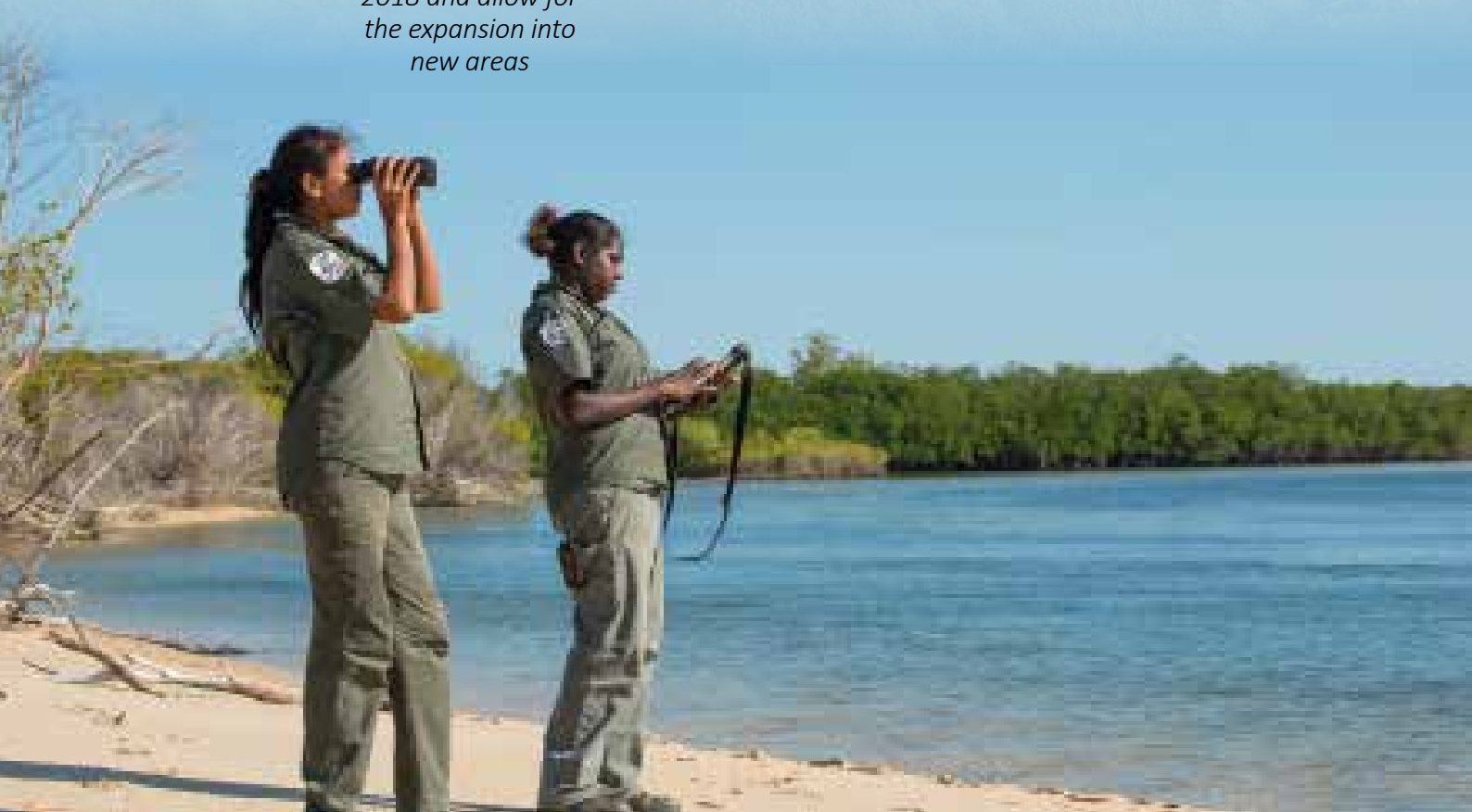
To recognise and establish monitoring, compliance and enforcement powers for rangers

4

To explore options for providing resources to allow greater linkages with youth diversion programs

5

Further, we call on the NT Government to contribute funds to the program



FRACKING

The meeting passed the following resolution:

The joint meeting of NLC and CLC supports the rights of traditional Aboriginal owners to make their own decisions about the use of their land and waters free from outside influence. It is important to ensure that traditional owners have all the relevant information. The land councils will continue to make sure this happens.

We recognise that some Aboriginal people have concerns about hydraulic fracturing and do not want it to occur on their lands and waters. But our job is to support and respect the decisions of traditional Aboriginal owners for the area in question.



Jimmy Wave Hill, John Christophersen and Barbara Shaw raised their voices against fracking.

SACRED SITE PROTECTION

Members raised concerns about the former NT Government's review of the Sacred Sites Act (NT), and called on all political parties to commit to strengthening the legislation and protecting the independence of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA). The Sacred Sites Act must not be amended without consent of the four NT land councils and the AAPA board.

INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENT

The Land Councils resolved:

We express our disappointment in the White Paper on developing Northern Australia and its lack of support for the planning and implementation of Indigenous led developments. We call on the States, Territory and Commonwealth Governments to work with Indigenous peak organisations to establish a comprehensive planning and implementation strategy focused on delivering economic, ecological and social/cultural benefits to Indigenous people in Northern Australia.

CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION AND TREATY

The joint meeting passed the following resolution:

- 1 The Central and Northern Land Councils reaffirm their commitment to the principles set out in the Barunga and Kalkaringi statements.*
- 2 Constitutional reform must deliver meaningful and enduring benefit for our people.*
- 3 We are prepared to examine models for constitutional recognition that deliver such benefits.*
- 4 Indigenous constitutional forums must be held in the Northern Territory, involving people from the bush.*
- 5 Progress towards constitutional recognition must not put in danger our rights to negotiate treaties to finally achieve self-determination.*



NT YOUTH JUSTICE AND THE ROYAL COMMISSION

Many delegates expressed their anger about the *Four Corners* program revealing the shocking treatment of Aboriginal detainees at the Don Dale Detention Centre.

The two Commissioners heading up the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT attended the joint council meeting to hear directly from members and to explain the Commission's process.

Council members raised personal experiences, provided examples of diversion activities that work and discussed issues related to youth detention, such as family violence.

They passed the following resolution:

The combined meeting of the Northern and Central Land Councils respect the role that women and men play in raising children and creating strong families and support successful community driven programs such as the 'No More' family violence campaign and Tangentyere Family Safety Program.



CLC delegate Valerie Martin and Royal Commissioner Mick Gooda discussed community based alternatives to jail.



The NLC's Sammy Bush-Blanas and the CLC's Francis Kelly chaired the meeting together.



HOUSING CRISIS, OUTSTATIONS AND HOMELANDS

Members reiterated their strong concerns about the crisis in the NT housing system. They called for immediate reforms, such as greater local control over housing arrangements, more local employment, and increased funding to address overcrowding.

Members also called for continued investment in homelands and outstations, including new houses and better services.

A STRONG VOICE

The joint council meeting spent the last afternoon discussing these issues with the following politicians:

- Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion
- The Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, the Hon Adam Giles
- The Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Michael Gunner
- Senators Malandirri McCarthy (NT) and Patrick Dodson (WA)



NLC delegate Grace Daniels from Ngukurr.



17-19 AUGUST 2016



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