

FREE

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CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

HUCKITTA NATIVE TITLE STRONGEST OF ITS KIND



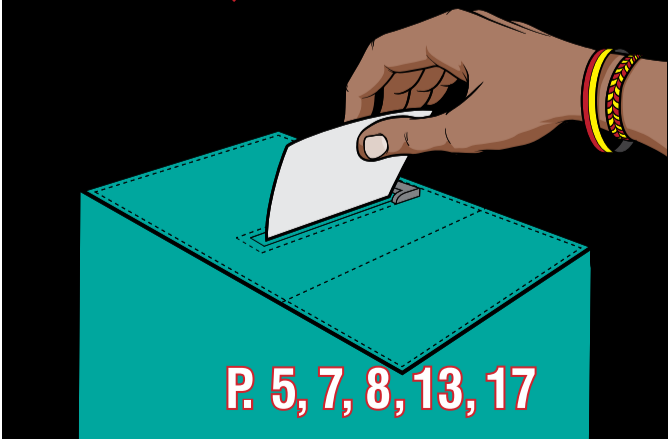
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EDITORIAL

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COVER



Justice John Halley presented a copy of the native title determination to Gordon Cavanagh. Photo Xavier Martin, ABC Alice Springs.

EVENT

5 October
Celebrating
50 years of the CLC
Alice Springs

CLC MEETINGS

16-18 July
Council
Watarrka
7-8 August
Executive
Alice Springs
17-18 September
Executive
Alice Springs

'Exclusive possession' recognised at Huckitta Station



Eric Petrick, Kaylene Webb, and Gordon Cavanagh from the Apwetyerlaneme clan were happy to receive a copy of the determination from Justice John Halley.

IT WAS a historic moment for the traditional owners of Huckitta Station as they celebrated the native title consent determination acknowledging 'exclusive possession' rights over their ancestral land – the strongest form of native title under the Native Title Act.

The families from the four clan groups – Amapete, Apwetyerlaneme, Atnweale, and Warrtharre – gathered in the Plenty River as Justice John Halley of the Federal Court handed down the determination on 22 May.

"From all the countries, all the people from Warrtharre, Atnweale, Apwetyerlaneme and Amapete families gathering together now for this native

title. We are so happy and proud today," traditional owner Maria Ross said.

"From all the countries, all the people from Warrtharre, Atnweale, Apwetyerlaneme and Amapete families gathering together now for this native title. We are so happy and proud today."

The native title claim process began in 2011, and the formal application was filed in the Federal Court in 2020. This makes

it one of the longest-running claims in the CLC region.

The key to progressing the exclusive native title claim was the purchase of the Huckitta pastoral lease by the Huckitta Aboriginal Corporation in 2010.

"The purchase was important to traditional owners as many of you and your families have either worked on the station, were born on the station, or heard your families talk about the station life and the importance of protecting sacred sites and areas of cultural significance," CLC chief executive Mr Turner said.

Continued on p.4

New jobs program for remote Australia

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT has announced a new jobs program for remote Australia to replace the failed Community Development Program. The new Remote Jobs and Economic Development program will start in the second half of 2024 and aims to create up to 3,000 jobs over the next three years in remote communities across the country.

The Central Land Council has long advocated replacing the CDP with a program that prioritises creating real jobs as decided by communities. The new program represents a positive step towards addressing the challenges faced by remote communities, particularly in Central Australia, where employment levels are among the lowest in the nation.

CLC general manager Josie Douglas is co-chair of the First Nations Reference Group, which has been advising the government on the design of the new program.

Dr Douglas is hopeful about the program and said, "The RJED is the first substantial investment in job creation in our communities in almost two decades. This new program is an opportunity to put communities back in control to decide what jobs they need and want in their community and access the funding and resources to make them happen."

The RJED program aims to increase local employment in remote communities, contributing to the closing the gap targets for youth and adult

employment, reducing poverty and strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations. Importantly, the new jobs will offer proper wages and conditions, including superannuation, sick leave, and paid holiday leave.

The program spreads across the country, but the CLC hopes many jobs will come to Central Australia, where they are most needed.

"Remote communities in Central Australia have the lowest employment levels in the country. Closing the gap data shows that the NT is the only state or territory where Indigenous employment is going backwards."

"Remote communities in Central Australia have the lowest employment levels in the country. Closing the gap data shows that the NT is the only state or territory where Indigenous employment is going backwards," CLC chief executive Les Turner said.

The program will give communities a say in the types of jobs created. Organisations seeking funding must be in a CDP region, have the community's support, and fall under the category of a community organisation, local government, or a joint (consortia) application. The CLC strongly encourages Aboriginal community-controlled organisations across Central Australia to apply for the program.

Dr Douglas highlighted the importance of this new initiative, "This is what CLC has been calling for, along with other members of Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT, in our *Fair Work and Strong Communities Proposal*."

"Three thousand jobs across the country is welcome, but it is only a start. We hope to see sustained investment in job creation in our communities to close the employment gap, create opportunities

for our young people and keep our communities strong," Dr Douglas said.

For information about the new program and how to apply, scan the QR code below:

Continued on p.7





Higher cost of living: where do you see a difference?



Elijah Kelly Lajamanu

“Before, we would walk into the shop with \$150 and come out with a box full of shopping. Now we just come out with a paper bag or something.”



Lynda Lechleitner Town Bore Outstation

“I try to shop locally but the prices are high out in the remote areas. With the stuff that we constantly eat the prices are up. When you go into town those prices are half of the prices out bush. The cost of living in town and out remote is similar but it costs more to live out bush. We have to think smarter in how we do our shopping. Most of our shopping we buy in bulk. We are constantly planning on the outstations to survive and thrive out there.”



Walbira Murray Mparntwe

“I’ve been sharing practical tips to help people save on power costs, especially during this cost of living crisis. I’m focusing on using simple, cost-effective ways to stay warm without using too much energy. For example, heating the body, not the room. Using beanies and other warm clothes, and using heated throws instead of putting on the heater. I also suggest making the most of leftover heat, like leaving the oven open after cooking dinner to warm the kitchen. These tips help save money and reduce carbon footprints.”

Irene Reiff Atitjere
“Meat costs something like \$52 for two chops. A bottle of [soft] drink costs \$8. Our power card costs like \$50 and that probably lasts four days.
To do shopping in town, it costs \$150 in fuel to get to town.”



Mike Doolan Lajamanu

“Remote is really expensive for fuel and food. Our fuel is \$3.19. That’s too much, that’s taking advantage. I know that we’re remote, but we’re not remote, remote. If you want to talk about remote let’s go down to Rabbit Flat. That’s remote.”



Geoffrey Barnes Lajamanu
“The biggest impact has come from the power meters. Without consultation the government just came in and put the new meters in, without talking to us. Next minute we are paying double the price. Over one week it used to be \$60 now it’s \$200-\$300 for a week. Come Monday people don’t have any power.”



Jacinta Webb Atitjere

“Harts Range shop is really dear. We can’t save money, we have to buy dear things. Like fridge [food] is dear, all the other vegetables and all that, they’re all dear. We have to go into town to do shopping. I have to wait for the bush bus, costs us \$80 and another \$80 to come back home.”



Kevin Bloomfield listened intently as Justice John Halley delivered the native title determination.



Floyd Bloomfield and Kevin Bird enjoyed celebrating with all the family groups who came together for the day.



Banjo Madrill, Gordon Cavanagh, David Bird and Lawrence Webb sat together in the Plenty riverbed as the determination was handed down.

‘Exclusive possession’ recognised at Huckitta Station

Continued from p.2

The research for the claim included ‘exclusive possession’ native title, as well as the right to take, access, and use resources for any purpose – including commercial rights.

“This means that native title holders can utilise resources from the land for an economic benefit.”

“This is only the second time this right has been recognised in the Central Land Council region, and might set the way for future claims,” Mr Turner said.

Exclusive rights cover almost all of the claim area of nearly 1700 square kilometres. The area features spinifex sandplains and acacia woodlands in the south and hills and the Dulcie Ranges in the northeast.

The area holds great cultural and ecological importance, with significant rivers, springs and rockholes.

“We can bring our young children to visit country, and it’s got a lot of sacred sites. We are teaching our young ones to understand our country,” Ms Ross said.

“What’s special about this determination is that the traditional owners hold the pastoral lease, which allows the native title holders to control access to the station,” Mr Turner said.

“This is only the second time this right has been recognised in the Central Land Council region, and might set the way for future claims.”

“Unlike under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, they have no veto right over mining. Still, this decision does give them a ‘seat at the table’ for negotiations.”

The road ahead: role of the prescribed body corporate

Recognising native title is a big achievement, but now important work begins with the prescribed body corporate for the native title, Huckitta Aboriginal Corporation.

This PBC will manage and protect the native title rights and interests and help native title holders plan for the area’s future.

This includes overseeing land use, negotiating agreements, and making sure sustainable development matches the traditional owners’ values and customs.

What does a PBC do?

- It helps native title holders talk to people who want to do something on their country. People who want to do something new on country need to know who to talk to. They can talk to PBC directors. The directors have to listen to the traditional owners who talk for that country.
- It gives the government the paperwork to show that the PBC is doing its job the proper way. The directors do the paperwork at directors’ meetings and AGMs.
- Native title holders can decide if they want their PBC to do other work for them as well as native title work, including cultural preservation, land management, and economic development initiatives.



Maxwell Blue represented his family as he received a copy of the determination from Justice John Halley.



Irene Reiff, Jacinta Webb, Betty Williams, Maria Ross, and Stella Bismarck listened as fellow native title holders took the microphone to talk about the importance of this determination.



NT Treaty process back on track

THE CENTRAL Land Council is ready to restart the Treaty process in the Northern Territory. Delegates passed a resolution at the recent council meeting in Tennant Creek calling for a second Barunga Agreement between the NT land councils and the Northern Territory Government to be jointly negotiated and signed before the August election. The new agreement will govern the next phase of the treaty process. The CLC wants to see long-term funding commitments to support truth-telling and community education about the impact of the NT's recent colonial history on Aboriginal Territorians.

The council's Treaty resolution followed the NT government's Treaty Symposiums, which were held in

Darwin and Alice Springs in April and convened by Deputy Chief Minister Chansey Paech.

At the Alice Springs forum, Minister Paech confirmed the NT government's commitment to "re-invigorate the Treaty process."

disbandment of the commission office and cessation of the Treaty Commissioner position. In an ABC interview, former NT Treaty deputy commissioner Ursula Raymond expressed disappointment about the "lack of movement" on the Treaty

Voice referendum to proceed without distraction.

CLC chief executive Les Turner said, "It's time to get Treaty back on track. We are pleased to have a commitment from the NT government to reconvene the Treaty Working Group, and we look forward to starting the process of negotiating a new Treaty Memorandum of Understanding between the government and the NT land councils."

With the election scheduled for 24 August, the CLC will work hard to get an agreement finalised and signed before the start of caretaker mode on 1 August.

"We look forward to starting the process of negotiating a new Treaty Memorandum of Understanding between the government and the NT land councils."

This is a positive statement in light of the NT government's lack of action on the recommendations of the *NT Treaty Report* and the 2022

Commission's recommendations. The NT government defended the lag in action, saying it was a deliberate strategy to enable the



CLC delegates came together at the council meeting in Tennant Creek.

Election questions answered

The CLC executive and council approved the questionnaire. It was sent to the ALP, CLP and NT Greens in May. The CLC has not commented on the responses provided.

Readers are encouraged to form their own views and vote on or before 24 August in the 2024 Territory Election.

For more answers, scan the QR code:



CLC's council agrees it's time to re-start the NT Treaty process. What do the parties think?

TREATY	CLP	ALP	NT Greens
Will you set up a Treaty Working Group with the four NT land councils and start planning a second Barunga Treaty agreement that is based on the recommendations of the 2022 NT Treaty Commissioner's report?	The CLP has no plans to establish a new Working Group.	We look forward to renewing the journey towards a Treaty and think a reestablishment of a Treaty Working Group will be a good first step.	The NT Greens are committed to truth-telling and Treaty. The Treaty Commissioner's recommendations to implement a Treaty Making Process are an important first step in realising Treaty.

The NT's track record on closing the gap is one of the worst in the country. What do the parties plan to do about it?

CLOSING THE GAP	CLP	ALP	NT Greens
Will you work with the NT Executive Committee on Aboriginal Affairs to make sure the Productivity Commission's recommendations on closing the gap are delivered?	If elected, the CLP will work closely with Chief Executive Officers to determine the future operation of existing boards and committees. Closing the Gap reporting sits within the Department of the Chief Minister, Office of Aboriginal Affairs.	The Labor Government see both the Productivity Commission Report and the recent Auditor-General's Report as opportunities – we value these insights and will use them to improve the lives of Aboriginal Territorians. We will be meeting with the NT Executive Council in June 2024 to work through the recommendations of the Productivity Commission and the Auditor General's Report.	The Closing the Gap targets are an urgent priority for the NT Greens. We support measures that will see greater accountability, and implementation of funding and programs that support the Closing the Gap targets and priority reforms. Independent monitoring, along with direct reporting by Ministers and heads of Department is critical to improving NTG's progress on Closing the Gap.
Will you create an independent body with strong powers to monitor the NT government's progress on closing the gap, including how the government is improving the way it works way in partnership with Aboriginal people?	No response	We acknowledge the recommendation of the Productivity Commission to create an independent body to monitor progress on Closing the Gap. This is a key priority of the Northern Territory Executive Council for Aboriginal Affairs (NTECAA).	We support measures that will see greater accountability, and implementation of funding and programs that support the Closing the Gap targets and priority reforms. Independent monitoring, along with direct reporting by Ministers and heads of Department is critical to improving NTG's progress on Closing the Gap.



\$4 billion for remote housing in the Northern Territory

Funding Announcement

IN MARCH, the Central Land Council welcomed the announcement from the Northern Territory and Australian governments of \$4 billion for remote housing in the Northern Territory over the next ten years.

This funding is much bigger than the last investment in remote housing, which was \$1.1 billion over five years.

This money will help build up to 270 houses per year, totalling up to 2,700 houses over ten years. At the moment, about half of all remote houses are overcrowded. The aim is to halve this number so that approximately 25 percent are overcrowded. This will still fall short of the closing the gap target of 12 percent by 2031.

Some of this money will also be for repairs and routine maintenance of existing houses, although the details are still being worked out.

The CLC is working with the other land councils, Aboriginal Housing NT and the NT and Australian

governments to write the new agreement explaining how they will work and make decisions together for the next ten years.

Many of the aims in the new agreement are things that the CLC has been asking for.

This agreement will be a proper partnership agreement based on the Strong Partnership principles defined in the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap*.

CLC chief executive Les Turner welcomes the investment towards significantly reducing overcrowding in communities.

“This investment goes beyond building much-needed houses. It has the potential to contribute to closing the gap in health, education, employment and social outcomes as well,” he said.

The new agreement will start on 1 July 2024.

“This investment goes beyond building much-needed houses. It has the potential to contribute towards closing the gap in health, education, employment and social outcomes as well.”

Kalkarindji and Daguragu



CLC delegate Leah Leaman spoke up for Region 3 about the poor state of housing.

Central Land Council delegate Leah Leaman has been advocating to the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities and the Northern Territory Government for years about the poor state of housing in her region.

Ms Leaman lives in a house in Kalkarindji with her six family members, built at the time of the intervention.

Even though the family takes good care of their home, Ms Leaman and her partner, Daniel Palmer, feel like the house has never-ending problems. One thing gets fixed, and another problem starts.

The house’s design is very poor, making it too hot in summer and too cold in winter. During summer, the family sleeps outside to escape the heat.

The house doesn’t have eaves, so water comes in when it rains. They have videos of water flowing down the inside walls of their bedroom, which causes problems with the electrical



Daniel Palmer pointed out one of many problems with their house in Kalkarindji.

wiring. The power often goes out when it rains, and they have to wait for the wiring to dry out before it comes back on. Their daughter got a really bad electric shock and went to the clinic before proper action was taken by the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities.

The house’s foundations are now moving, and Ms Leaman and Mr Palmer have had to plug the holes forming under the house to stop snakes and keep kids safe.

Despite all of these issues, they have been told that a new room will be added to the house through the Room to Breathe program rather than replacing the house.

“What is the point of adding a new room to a house with so many problems? It won’t do anything to fix our current issues and make the rest of our house liveable,” Ms Leaman said.

On the 24 May, Minister Chansey Paech visited Kalkarindji and spoke with Ms Leaman. She said that he agreed the house needed replacing and promised her a new home. Ms Leaman is waiting to see this in writing.

“What is the point of adding a new room to a house with so many problems?”

Close by, Daguragu residents have been comparing the new houses built there to the new builds in Kalkarindji and feel like Daguragu is getting a raw deal.

Unlike Kalkarindji, the new houses in Daguragu do not have air conditioners, and many are missing sealed driveways. This increases the impact of dust, one of the nine healthy living practices that the NT government says guides them. These missing features make it harder for people to stay healthy in their homes.

“The house is so hot that we have to sleep on the kitchen floor. I looked at buying an air conditioner, but it was way too expensive. Why did the other houses get an air conditioner and not mine?” Daguragu resident Hal Bernard said.

The CLC has reported the issues raised to the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to see if they can fix the problems. It is understood that airconditioners will be installed, although no timeframe has been provided.

Strong vision for homelands needed



CLC delegate Ronald Brown sits on the Homelands Reference Group.

In addition to the 10-year housing funding, the Australian government is giving \$120 million over the next three years for essential repairs and maintenance on outstations and homelands in the NT – an extension of the Homelands Housing and Infrastructure Program.

In 2022, the full Council nominated one delegate from each region to form a Homelands Reference Group. The group is guided by principles developed by the CLC executive members. This group will meet again soon to look at the projects submitted by homeland service providers and choose homelands in the Central Land Council region to be upgraded.

Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory hosted the Aboriginal

Housing and Homelands Conference in April this year in Mparntwe (Alice Springs). CLC delegates and Homelands Reference Group members Warren Williams (Region 4) and Ronald Brown (Region 6) gave a presentation about the importance of homelands and the priorities of the reference group. These priorities include building new houses on homelands, enough money for repairs and maintenance, returning to existing homelands and establishing new homelands. There were lots of government staff in the room listening in closely.

The CLC is working with the NT and Australian governments, AHNT, and the other NT land councils to develop a strong vision for homelands. The CLC will advocate for the policy priorities of the reference group.

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Warren Williams and Ronald Brown presented at the Aboriginal Housing and Homelands conference.



Election questions answered

For more answers, scan the QR code:



Returning local government to local control has been talked about in the media. How would each Party make it happen?

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	CLP	ALP	NT Greens
The future of local government in remote regions of the NT is very important to CLC constituents. What are your plans for strengthening Aboriginal engagement and control in local government in remote NT? How will they be implemented and funded?	We will empower Aboriginal Territorians by handing back control to their communities so they can have a direct say on what they need in their communities.	Labor is committed to empowering remote Territorians. We provide funding for Local Authority Project Funding which allows Local Authorities to fund projects that will have a direct benefit for their community. Further to this we are signing Local Decision Making agreements right across the Territory including the recent signings in Katherine and the Ngurratjuta agreement signed in Central Australia. These agreements give us a clear message about how Aboriginal people want their councils to be run and what services they value. In this year's Budget we are investing \$3 million to set up a new council in the Groote Archipelago. This was a clear call out from the Local Decision Making agreement we signed with the local people there back in 2018. This council shows that we stick to our word.	The NT Greens believe First Nations people are the experts in their own lives and know what their communities need to grow stronger. Local governments should listen and hand control of services back to communities, and properly support and resource communities to meet the particular needs of their community. Implementation requires (in some cases) upskilling and training people in remote communities to run and control these services.

CLC delegates want new housing on homelands. What do the parties say?

HOUSING ON HOMELANDS	CLP	ALP	NT Greens
Will you include new housing on homelands in the new Remote Housing Partnership agreement?	If elected, the CLP will receive a full briefing on the Remote Housing Partnership including intergovernmental agreements and funding (NTG and C/W). Once we have received that briefing we will have a full understanding of the Territory's responsibilities under the Partnership.	The new Remote Housing Partnership agreement allows the replacement of existing homes deemed uninhabitable with a new home. We will work with our partners, including the CLC, to tackle the issues around building new homes on Homelands. We are committed to finding a way forward.	The NT Greens want to ensure homelands resource centres are properly funded so that people living on homelands are supported to live on Country.

The NT is the only jurisdiction that has not adopted a seven-star energy rating for new houses. If they win the election, who will support it?

ENERGY RATING REMOTE HOUSES	CLP	ALP	NT Greens
Will you raise the energy star rating for new houses from five to seven, in line with the National Construction Code in the first year of a new government?	No response	If re-elected the Labor Government intends to raise energy star rating for new houses from five to seven, in line with the National Construction code.	The NT Greens believe inadequate housing is a threat to First Nations people's health, wellbeing, and connection to land and culture. We strongly support all measures to improve the quality and quantity of housing in remote communities and homelands

The CLC has a statutory function to protect sacred sites, yet this is not recognised in the NT Sacred Sites Act. What might change after the election?

SACRED SITES PROTECTION	CLP	ALP	NT Greens
Will you amend the Sacred Sites Act to strengthen its operation and recognise CLC sacred site protection processes?	No response	We have paused our sacred sites legislation to ensure that we have completed adequate consultation with CLC. We are committed to ensuring that the Sacred Sites legislation is fit for purpose and protects the cultural rights of Aboriginal Territorians. If Labor is returned to office in August we can pass this much needed legislation.	The NT Greens strongly support strengthening protections of Aboriginal sacred sites and cultural heritage.

Continued from p.2

New jobs program for remote Australia

What's happening with CDP services?

The government said the RJED program is about job creation, not employment services. CDP provider contracts will continue until June 2025. The government has yet to announce their plans for remote employment service reform.

At their meeting in Tennant Creek in May 2024, the council said that the replacement of CDP with high-quality employment support needs to happen as soon as possible and needs to be done in partnership with Aboriginal people.

The council said that a new employment service needs to:

- be delivered by the Aboriginal community-controlled sector as much as possible. There should be investment to build the capacity of local organisations to achieve this
- include high-quality support for individuals, and community approaches that could include community development, training, engagement and career development activities
- give local providers the flexibility to shape the programs and services that will work best for their communities
- include support for people to find a job, and to stay in and progress in their job
- work well with the RJED program

The principles for a new program are reflected in the APO NT *Fair Work and Strong Communities proposal* for a new approach to remote employment and community development.

Scan the QR code below to read this report on the APO NT website:



The council said that the replacement of CDP with consistent and high-quality employment support needs to happen as soon as possible and needs to be done in partnership with Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal communities share clean energy ideas



Carl O'Sullivan and David McCormack at the First Nations Clean Energy Symposium in Adelaide. Photo Rachel Mounsey

IN EARLY MAY, Central Land Council delegate and Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation committee director David McCormack and two CLC staff members travelled to Tarndanya (Adelaide) for the second-ever First Nations Clean Energy Symposium hosted by the First

Nations Clean Energy Network. Over 350 people, including traditional owners, native title holders, Aboriginal businesses involved in clean energy projects, government policymakers, and industry representatives, attended the symposium.

Discussions focused on making sure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people benefit from the transition to clean energy.

In 2022, the Yuelamu GMAAAC committee instructed CLC to support them in exploring opportunities to reduce electricity costs through access

“It was really good. I learnt about other communities like Borroloola and what they are doing to set up their own clean energy projects.”

One of the examples highlighted was the Ngardara ‘Sun’ project in Borroloola, where the community plans to develop its own solar microgrid to deliver cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable power. The symposium also featured lessons from native title holders who have negotiated strong agreements with clean energy companies for large-scale solar and wind projects on their land.

Mr McCormack said he enjoyed “everything about this event”. He said, “it was really good. I learnt about other communities like Borroloola and what they are doing to set up their own clean energy projects. Now I’m looking to the future of our solar project in Yuelamu.”

to more solar power. The community is currently working with Original Power to plan a feasibility study to assess the potential of different clean energy solutions.

The CLC is negotiating with the Northern Territory Government to make sure their planned Remote Power Systems Strategy will directly benefit Aboriginal people in remote communities, including lowering household power costs. The strategy is the NT government’s plan to achieve 70% of energy supply in remote communities from renewable sources by 2030.

Election questions answered

For more answers, scan the QR code:



Rangers are the eyes and ears of the bush. Will a new CLP or ALP government maintain ranger program funding?

NT FUNDED RANGER PROGRAM

Will you maintain or increase the current level of funding for the NT Aboriginal Rangers Grant program?

CLP

The CLP remains committed to the Aboriginal Rangers Grant Program and if elected will receive a detailed briefing on all aspects of the program and consult widely with the community.

ALP

The current NTG funding (which varies annually since it has operational and capital elements working to a different cycle) finishes at end June 2025. The scheme evaluation has been extremely positive.

NT Greens

The NT Greens want Aboriginal ranger programs to be adequately resourced across the NT with secure, long term funding.

MEET OUR RANGERS



Violet Purvis

What made you want to become a ranger?

I’m speaking my grandfather’s language, Alyawarr, and my grandmother’s too. That’s why I chose to look after country. To show young people, tell them stories about what they can do, and learn more about being a ranger.

What do you like best about being a ranger?

As a ranger, I can teach children in language, teach them about bush medicine, and show them waterholes and rockholes. I have been working as a teacher in Utopia and at other communities, too, like Mulga Bore. We would go on trips showing the kids, telling stories about our way, our culture way, so that kids know our culture and language.

What job do you like better? Being a teacher or a ranger?

Ranger is showing the country, and teacher teaches about culture. Telling stories to kids. As a ranger, you’re not just talking to the kids in the classroom. You can take them out bush, showing camping, showing bush tucker, and bush medicine.

What do you like doing when you’re not working as a ranger?

I like to go out on hunting trips. At weekends we go to find honey ants and show the little kids how to find them. We hunt for kangaroo, witchetty grubs, sugar bags.

The Utopia rangers has a women’s ranger group and a separate men’s ranger group. How does the work of the women rangers differ from the male rangers work?

Women can look after women’s sites and tell their stories only for women. They teach about bush medicine. Men have their separate men’s way.



Tracking triumph: Tjakura rangers protect endangered skinks



Ranger group co-ordinator Mal Waters and Tjakura ranger Neil Coulthard added new burrows to the tracking tablets to build on last year's data.



One way to determine who occupies the burrows, young ones or old ones, is by measuring the scat in the nearby communal toilets.

THE MUTITJULU Tjakura rangers, named after the Great Desert Skink, surveyed the tjakura as part of Australia's largest threatened species monitoring program in the desert. This program builds on previous research, adding new tjakura activity.

The rangers used their expert tracking skills to monitor the tjakura population by looking for tracks, burrows, and communal toilets. The method is about finding burrows and using those tracking skills to determine whether they are still active, whether tjakura still inhabit them, and if so, who's in there – adults or young ones. The rangers also record information about the visible threats to the tjakura. The tjakura is under threat due to the combined effects of wildfires and predation by feral cats. However, the species thrives where Aboriginal rangers carry out traditional burning and cat management.

The national monitoring program is a two-way science project that combines traditional tracking skills with strong scientific methods.

Rachel Paltridge, a threatened species ecologist with the Indigenous Desert Alliance, said, "It's putting those traditional tracking skills together with really robust science. We've partnered with the national environmental science program, who have provided the scientific expertise on this method so that we know that the method is scientifically robust

and can collect the right data to be analysed to tell us pretty confidently whether the population is increasing or decreasing."

The program has up to 20 ranger teams across the desert doing these surveys to work out how the Great Desert Skink's population is going across the country. Each ranger team walks the same-sized plots, and all the different ranger teams answer the same questions about each burrow. This allows the program to pull all the information together and create a powerful dataset that shows what's going on with the species across the country.

"It's putting those traditional tracking skills together with really robust science."

Peter Norman, a ranger with nearly eight years of experience, describes the tjakura survival skills.

"We look for the burrows underneath the tjanpi. White mob call spinifex. Sometimes they live [under] small spinifex or big spinifex. If a tjakura sees a bird in the sky, it will go under the spinifex. It will hide in the spinifex.

The spinifex protects them. If they come out, they're finished. They come out at 6 o'clock when the sun goes down and early in the morning before the sun comes up."

The tjakura is a significant animal for the Anangu people. It was once a vital source of meat and is part of their creation story. On the Watarru IPA, there is a tjakura tjukurrpa site called Aralya, where a group of snake-men descended from Uluru and killed the ancestral tjakura – Wati Tjakura – with spears. Despite his attempts to escape, he was killed, and his family came to mourn and bury him.

"My family, my father and mother, they taught me that tjakura story; my father taught me this, and now I work for Tjakura rangers," Mr Norman said.



Peter Norman, Daniel Breadon and Neil Patrick mapped out where they were going to survey with Indigenous Desert Alliance ecologist Rachel Paltridge.

OUR TERRITORY

YOUR VOTE

2024 TERRITORY ELECTION

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Biggest ranger camp showcases new resources and ideas



Anthony Petrick proudly accepted his 10-year long service award from outgoing Land Management manager Nick Ashburner.

OVER 150 rangers from Western Australia, South Australia, and across Central Australia gathered at Tilmouth Well for the annual ranger camp, making it the largest turnout yet.

Despite the flies, the 15 ranger groups mingled, brushed up on existing skills, and learned new ones during the three-day event.

“I can pass on all my knowledge to everyone in the community and CLC on land management, like how to take care of the land and how climate change affects our native plants and animals.”

Twelve training providers offered a variety of workshops over two days, covering practical skills such as mapping, chemical weed spraying, snake handling, and important topics like money management and nutrition.

Terrance Abbott, Central Land Council delegate and Ngalurrju ranger with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, participated in a smartphone video workshop where rangers learned to capture, edit, and share photos and videos directly from their smartphones.

Rangers can use what they create to showcase their work on country and

in the community through CLC’s print publications and social media.

“People back at home and in town, they can’t see the country up there. I have to take the video and the photo back to them and show them,” Mr Abbott said.

“It’s important because all the young kids are not learning properly because

they are watching the TikToks long way to overseas people.”

“They don’t get to see their own people doing their own things. I’m doing all this and I want to show the kids so they can be a ranger in the future.”

During the camp, rangers presented projects they had worked on over the past year to other ranger groups. They shared knowledge and ideas for caring for country, which other rangers can take back to their communities.

This year’s camp also recognised two rangers for their dedication. Akityarre ranger Anthony Petrick and



Lyentye Apurte rangers presented their work at ranger camp.

Murnkurrumurnkurru ranger Helma Bernard received 10-year long-service awards.

Mr Petrick said, “I have enjoyed working as a ranger and doing courses so that I can pass on all my knowledge to everyone in the community and CLC on land management, like how to take care of the land and how climate change affects our native plants and animals.”

Mr Petrick is acting lead ranger for his team at the Atitjere (Harts Range) office. “I’m going to continue with my work and look after our country until I retire from ranger work and try something else like tourism,” he added.

Health and wellbeing in focus

This year’s camp program strongly focused on health and wellbeing, providing rangers with resources often scarce in remote communities. Rangers had access to eye and hearing checks and the opportunity to talk with a social worker.

Thirty-five people had eye checks, 12 received prescription glasses, and two were referred to an ophthalmologist at Alice Springs Hospital. David Dolman, CLC’s regional workplace mentor for Tennant Creek, Ti Tree, and Harts Range rangers, was one of six rangers who discovered his hearing was worse than he thought after receiving a hearing check.

“Just to find that out and then be given the gadget that lets you access that spectrum of hearing. It’s emotional. Especially if you’re not aware of it and not realising that it’s a hearing impairment,” Mr Dolman said.

“I would highly recommend and encourage others to take advantage of this service. To be able to pop into the little room and have your hearing test in half an hour with all the gadgets. That’s deadly, that opportunity. I give them thanks for that, the hearing and the eye tests.”

Rangers could also participate in a managing social trauma workshop conducted by the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the Northern Territory.

This program uses evidence and knowledge from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures to show ways to heal.

Mr Petrick and many other rangers chose this course for their training.

Reflecting on his choice, Mr Petrick stated, “I chose Culturally Responsive Trauma Informed Practice for two days with AMSANT because it affects us every day in life and at work.”

He added, “myself and other rangers liked it so much after our discussions. After attending the training, all rangers suggested to AMSANT that this training be for all CLC staff.”

The National Wellbeing Alliance, an Aboriginal-owned and led business, offered a two-day workshop on Indigenous Mental Health First Aid, which nine rangers took part in.

Tracking resources now available for all

The Central Land Council launched a bilingual animal tracking training package called Yitaki Maninjaku Ngurungka (Reading the Country), a highlight of the camp. The package includes learning and teaching activities supported by resources in Warlpiri and English. It was developed over three years with input from Warlpiri kuyu pungu (experienced trackers), educators, and language experts. The launch included speeches, traditional dance and cake to celebrate.

Nyirripi elder and kuyu-pungu Alice Henwood attended the camp for the launch, saying, “I am happy people are learning how to track. Anyone can now learn how to track with the new package, young people too.”



Bernard Bell of Kaltukatjara rangers discussed how ranger groups worked with traditional owners to protect rock art at Walka.



Enid Gallagher explained the Yitaki Maninjaku (mind map) at ranger camp.

The package includes 16 learning activities that Yapa can use to learn and teach the skills required to track animals expertly, including identifying an animal from its track, interpreting its age or gender, and knowing when the animal made the track.

New trackers can use animal knowledge films, photo cards, and the Yitaki Maninjaku (mind map) poster to learn how to track an animal step-by-step.

Track cards featuring animal information on one side and images of tracks on the other help during tracking.

New ways of using old teaching methods, such as questioning (japirninjaku), recount (pinanyanjaku), and repetition (pinawalaparrinjinjaku), have been used throughout the resource materials, such as recount how-to cards and kuyu-pungu cheat sheets.

An online animal track and sign quiz is available on the Central Land Council and Indigenous Desert Alliance websites.

During the camp, CLC ranger groups explored these resources for the first time and attended a tracking demonstration workshop.

Enid Gallagher, who played a major role in creating the package, was part of the team that demonstrated the tracking techniques.

“For tracking, we show them which animal made the track. We teach them about all the animals and what they are about,” Ms Gallagher said.

“I was translating the [training manuals] into Pitjantjatjara for the Docker River rangers.”

“Talking to them about the animals. They were looking at the books, the tracks on the ground and seeing that they are the same,” she added.

The resources, created in Warlpiri and English, included feedback from rangers from other areas.

Ms Gallagher recalled the first workshop when the pilot program was starting.

“We did some work with Luritja mob. They joined us for our first workshop at Ethel Creek outstation,

northwest of Nyirripi, with the Kintore rangers.”

“We put some pictures up of the animals and asked the elders and rangers, ‘Which group does this belong to?’ in easy to hard questions,” she said.

“Talking to them about the animals. They were looking at the books, the tracks on the ground and seeing that they are the same.”



Peter Norman participated in the tracking demonstration workshop.

“They were very interested after this first workshop, and they even came back for a second workshop at Newhaven. We all did the work together.”

The resources on the IDA website are ready to be adapted for other language groups across Australia’s deserts.

Ms Gallagher hopes the resources will soon be available “in all the language groups so that the different ranger groups can use them in their own language.”

“I hope that everyone likes the resources that they are seeing, and maybe they can develop their own and build on this.”





Elders and rangers unite to protect Bonya's sacred sites

TRADITIONAL owners in Bonya and Atitjere are taking steps to protect their cultural knowledge by safeguarding sacred women's sites. They aim to preserve these special places and ensure their safety for future generations.

Elders, including Georgina Blue, Julie Toby, Barbara Madrill, Rosslyn Campbell, Cecelia Webb, Jacinta Bush, and Maria Ross, joined with women rangers to make plans to protect these sites and share their stories. These elders are committed to keeping their cultural heritage alive.

During their five-day journey, they visited four sacred sites. Working with Central Land Council women rangers, they inspected the conditions of the sacred sites and made plans for their protection. Along the way, they shared cultural knowledge with the younger women.

"Only Georgina and Maisy know where the sacred sites are and what their dreaming stories are," Ms Ross said.

"People don't go to these sites anymore. Nobody never tell us, so we ask the old ladies to go and show us the ladies sacred site place."

Ms Blue believed the trip was a "good experience for the younger ones to learn" about the sacred sites.

"It's important that women rangers learn about the women's side of the law as well, the sacred sites, because only women can go to those places," she said.

The sites at Bonya Soak near Jervois Station, 360 kilometres northeast of Alice Springs, needed protection from roaming cattle and potential mining threats.

Under the supervision of the elders, Ltyentye Apurte rangers Bronwen Cavanagh and Roberta Cavanagh and other CLC land management staff spent two days building a fence at Bonya Waterhole to keep a sacred site safe.

Ms Roberta Cavanagh expressed her appreciation for the experience, saying, "It was good going out with the elders and learning their ways. They showed us where they used to sleep, where we should walk, and where not to walk."

The women rangers installed a one-way spear gate to allow cattle that get into the enclosure a way out. They also repaired the barbed wire fence to prevent cattle from damaging it.

"This was my first time building a fence. It was ok – not too easy but not too hard either," Ms Roberta Cavanagh said.

"I learned how to use the 'strainer', which is a tool that helps make the fence wire tight."

"It was good having the women rangers help us with the fence. [Working as rangers] they can help with their community," Ms Blue said.

While the rangers built the fence, the traditional owners walked to nearby sacred sites needing protection.

Along the way, they collected the local plant *Ilpengke* (*Eremophila dalyana*) for bush medicine.

Later that evening, rangers and traditional owners enjoyed making the medicine, which is used to treat skin conditions and colds.

"We made the bush medicine at night by cooking the *Ilpengke* in oil until the oil turned green. It was set and ready to use the next day," Ms Roberta Cavanagh said.

"Everyone helped make the medicine. It was good to be part of something and work together," Ms Ross said.

Akityarre ranger Andrina Williams joined the group on the two-kilometre walk to Bonya Soak the following day.

There, Cecelia Webb and Georgina Blue made film and voice recordings to preserve the knowledge of the place.

Ms Blue felt "it was good for us all to go out to the soak with Cecilia and the other elders" so that "they can talk about the old days."

Ms Williams did a cultural site survey and looked at fencing options to protect the area in the future. The uneven rockiness and cultural importance of the land make fencing difficult.



Sam Kendal, Amanda Abbott and Bronwen Cavanagh strained the fencing wire.

They talked about using a floating fence as a possible solution.

Where the creek enters the hills leading into Bonya Soak, signs in Arrernte, Akityarre and English are needed to warn people about the dangers of digging in the area.

"It would be good to go out and do it again and protect the other women's sacred sites."

"We don't want anyone digging in the ground there. The women wanted to protect this place because people can get sick [vomit] and die if they go there," Ms Blue explained.

Tyentyene (Bonya Rockhole), a historically significant women's site now accessible to all genders, was next on the list of places to visit.

"Learning about country. It felt good to journey with the old people. They know much. They told us the stories about country. They told me I was a kid when we last went there," Ms Ross said.

"When they pass away, we will keep them [the stories]."

As the sun warmed the cool June afternoon, the women walked to nearby Arramwelke Rockhole, which has a willy wagtail dreaming. In the past, this was an important water source for people travelling through the area.

Once a sacred site clearance certificate is received, the women hope to fence the rockhole. They mapped where they wanted the fence to go, marking out the four corners with small piles of stones.

Meanwhile, the rangers will return to remove the soil build-up from both Tyentyene (Bonya Rockhole) and Arramwelke Rockhole.

For Ms Blue, the trip was a chance to preserve cultural knowledge. "It would be good to go out and do it again and protect the other women's sacred sites."

This knowledge is something that Ms Ross would like to teach future generations. "I think it's a good idea to fix the sites up. Fence it off and teach the young people to know where it is. Take the young ones out there and show them. We can take the young girls and young mothers out," Ms Ross said.





Election questions answered

For more answers, scan the QR code:



Full funding for NT schools is available now. Which of the parties will make sure all schools are fully funded straight away?

REMOTE EDUCATION

The \$1 billion Commonwealth commitment to education in the NT is significant and should guarantee all schools can be fully funded in line with the Gonski Education report.

Will you deliver enrolment-based funding in all NT public schools by the start of 2025?

CLP

The CLP will restore the safety of students and staff by expanding School-Based Policing. A CLP government will prioritise getting kids into classrooms, employing truancy officers to work with families and promote accountability for school attendance. We will hold parents accountable if they break the law and fail to send their kids to school.

ALP

A re-elected Labor Government will ensure that all schools are fully funded by 2029 and we will be funding schools under new enrolment model from the start of 2025. This model will increase the direct funding to our most disadvantaged schools first.

NT Greens

We strongly support implementing the recommendations in the Gonski Education report.

Aboriginal teachers are the key to school engagement. Who is committed to increasing Aboriginal teaching graduates?

ABORIGINAL TEACHER TRAINING

Increase funding and training delivery capacity for the Remote Aboriginal Teacher Education (RATE) program through a minimum 5-year funding commitment?

CLP

No response

ALP

Labor has a strong history supporting increasing Remote Aboriginal Teacher Education. Negotiations are underway to extend the RATE Project for tailored delivery of higher education courses for RATE participants. There are currently 153 Aboriginal educators enrolled in Vocational Education and Training (133) and Higher Education (20) courses, which is a significant growth of 133 participant from the 22 participants in the 2021 Higher Education RATE Pilot.

NT Greens

No response

Set a target of 50 new qualified Aboriginal teachers across NT remote schools by 2028?

If elected we will work with the department to confirm an appropriate target for qualified Aboriginal teachers.

Labor will exceed this expectation. Recognising the national teacher's shortage, Labor prioritises building the capacity of our education leaders – both teachers and non-teaching staff. This includes supporting the recruitment of local educators with deep cultural understanding. Their expertise in local languages and context will prove instrumental in motivating and engaging students, fostering a path to success for all community.

No response

What approach will each party take to keeping kids out of jail and engaged in positive activities?

JUSTICE

Will you fully implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission into the protection and detention of children in the Northern Territory?

CLP

The CLP's youth justice reforms will ensure youth offenders will be directed to compulsory diversion programs. We will also establish two Youth Boot Camps located in Darwin and Alice Springs with Aboriginal mentors. We will make two key changes on youth crime:
1) Ensure there are actual youth diversion programs available for young offenders; and
2) Ensure attendance to these programs for young offenders is compulsory.
If elected we look forward to working with Aboriginal organisations and non-government organisations to implement our justice policies.

ALP

It is the intention of the Labor Government to implement the remaining recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory (RCPDCNT). The Royal Commission final report included 227 recommendations, of which 218 required action by the NT Government. The last report on the implementation of the recommendations was published in October 2023, and had 30 recommendations still 'underway'. There are a number of actions associated with the Office of the Children's Commissioner that are on track to be closed following the passage of the second tranche of proposed reforms to the *Children's Commissioner Act 2013* in late 2024 or 2025.

NT Greens

The NT Greens strongly support implementing all recommendations from the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory. We also want to immediately raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years.

The NT Labor government scrapped our legislative scrutiny committee. Will they set up a new one? What would a CLP government do?

LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY

Will you put in place a new NT Legislative Scrutiny Committee to review new legislation and amendments to make sure they don't impact badly on the rights of Aboriginal people (in line with the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)?

CLP

If elected, we will review the existing arrangements to ensure all impacts are considered as part of the development process for any new legislation.

ALP

In late May 2024, the legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee tabled its report to the Assembly on a process to review Bills for their impact on Aboriginal Territorians. The Labor members of the Committee supported the introduction of a new parliamentary review process and noted that this process could take several forms – including a Legislative Scrutiny Committee, a statutory body, or a parliamentary advisory committee. The Labor members also supported steps to assess if a Bill aligns with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and with the human rights instruments including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

NT Greens

The NT Greens support implementing law and policies which are consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. First Nations peoples' fundamental freedoms and human rights as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples must be recognised and implemented in all aspects of policy and law-making in the NT.



Restored historic building new home for art centre

UTJU (Areyonga) has turned one of its oldest buildings into an art centre.

The historic ration store is now a place for people of all ages to come together and make art.

Young artist Stephanie Donald is excited about the new space.

"Me and my mum normally paint at home. Now that the art centre is finished we can come here and paint. Sell the paintings to visitors," she said.

Before the renovation, the community used different places to make art.

"The first art centre was near the clinic where they used to do batiks. The second one was where the aged care is now. They used to make silk paintings and batiks there," recalled Joy Kunia, who oversaw the renovation of the heritage building.

Trident Plumbing and Projects reinforced it with gutters and built a protective dirt wall.

Inside, workers repaired cracked, uneven concrete floors and covered them with soft vinyl tiles.

The lone leaky toilet is now a thing of the past, replaced with a new toilet, sink, mirror, and handrails for the elderly.

The kitchen now boasts shiny stainless steel benches and hot water taps for the first time in its history.

One of the sinks is mainly for paint clean-up, trapping paint in a box underneath to keep it out of the sewage treatment plant.

Utju's artists had asked for new sturdy table tops with rounded corners and got their wish.

"We feel happy to have this new art centre. Ladies can come and do painting."

Residents originally constructed the building from local rock over 80 years ago.

"The building used to be a ration store. Before me, in the early days of the 1940s, they used to get flour, sugar, and tea with a ticket," Ms Kunia said.

"It's been here since my dad was young," added Lorraine Donald, who has lived in Utju all her life.

The building, with the white-washed walls, later served as a community store before standing empty for many years and falling into disrepair.

The community wanted to upgrade and repair the historic building.

The local community development working group spent \$180,000 of funding from the Aboriginals Benefit Account on the nine-month renovation, which finished last December.

The renovation process faced challenges.

Utju, 220 kilometres west of Alice Springs, lies in a narrow valley, and the building backs onto a steep hill.

Heavy rains and floods have damaged it over the years.

The opening of the art centre was celebrated in February with a community BBQ.

"We feel happy to have this new art centre. Ladies can come and do painting," Ms Kunia said.

"This is good and different. It looks nice with the new floors and bathroom."

"We will ask the young girls to come and paint [with us]. Some of them already know how to do painting. They do painting at home."

A life-size wire donkey sculpture outside the heritage building makes it easily recognisable as an art centre.

Nathan McAuliffe, from Trident Plumbing and Projects, found it dusty and forgotten in the building's back shed during the renovations.

"We brought the donkey out and asked the community if they would like to have him out in the open permanently instead of tucked away in the back," he said.

"They agreed and chose a spot to put him on display."



Local artist Lorraine Donald joined Tjipawa Mener and Ena Tiger for the opening celebration.



Margaret Poulson, Joy Kunia, and Lorraine Donald find inspiration for new art projects in the silk painting book.



Yuendumu comes alive with colourful murals



Mahalia Hargraves adds a sunshine burst of colour to the Women's Safe House in Yuendumu.

YUENDUMU buzzed with excitement as locals and visitors gathered to celebrate the completion of a vibrant public mural project, bringing a burst of colour and connection to the community.

After a year of extensive community consultations, the Ngurrju Mani-njaku Ngurra (Making Yuendumu Beautiful) mural project has brightened the streets of Yuendumu while celebrating Warlpiri history, culture and pride.

Funded by the Yuendumu Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation committee, the project aimed to showcase Yuendumu's rich cultural heritage and resilience.

Yapa aimed to highlight their Warlpiri identity through murals focused on storytelling and cultural expression. The murals celebrate everything from traditional art to local legends like Princess the Cow, who features front and centre in the Community Jam Wall mural.

Alice Springs-based Red Hot Arts produced the project, which involved collaborations between Warlpiri artists and visiting street artists Kaff-eine, Brontë Naylor, and JESWRI.

Warlpiri artists included Jason Woods, Robin Quinsten Brown, Selina Hunter, Mahalia Hargraves, and Cheryln Granites.

The murals reflect a mix of artistic styles, and the painting process was a community effort, with everyone from babies to elders getting involved.

Yuendumu residents celebrated the project's launch at the end of April. The four-hour event featured music from local bands and a skateboarding workshop with Spinifex Skateboards.

CLC delegates and community elders had a strong presence, with Warren Williams giving the opening speech and Ned Hargraves acting as emcee. A sausage sizzle and face-painted kids added to the joyous atmosphere.

GMAAAC committee member and director Jean Brown, spoke at the event.

"This is from a dream to make Yuendumu beautiful. Samantha Watson had a dream to make Yuendumu beautiful because it was a big mess, and she brought that dream to the table," Ms Brown said.

"This project is about making young people proud of their community and inspire them to feel strong."

"We talked about it, us ladies from that meeting, and we took it to GMAAAC so we got Red Hot [Arts] to join in. We invited local artists from Yuendumu to join in from Red Hot Arts."

"This project honours the Warlpiri leaders, past and present, and tells our stories of strength to the world," said Belinda Wayne, a GMAAAC and project steering committee member.

"We want to help people see what's good in our community and help them understand and respect our culture and history."

"We want to help our young people to get involved so they can learn stories and show them this is something they can do. This project is about making young people proud of their community and inspire them to feel strong," added Ms Wayne.

Fellow steering committee member Samantha Watson agrees, "unity is strength. When there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved. This is our future, our Yapa's dream, making it real."

The Central Land Council community development team supported GMAAAC and the project steering committee in guiding the project. When painting the murals, the

artists worked closely with community organisations, local youth, and the project steering committee. The committee consisted of members of the Marlpa Jungu Jintangka – Early Childhood Reference Group at the Yurrampi Child and Family Centre.

These murals now add splashes of colour at the Women's Safe House, Pintubi Anmatyere Warlpiri Media and Communications, the Yuendumu police, and the Yuendumu Big Shop.



Creativity meets community: visiting street artist Kaff-eine and Cheryln Granites paint the Yuendumu police station mural.

From first cadet to general manager

MISCHA CARTWRIGHT joined the Central Land Council in the mid-1990s under the new cadetship program. Fast-forward 28 years, she re-joined the CLC in August 2023, taking on the new role of General Manager for Regional and Development Services.

Born and bred throughout the NT, Ms Cartwright got a taste of city life early, attending boarding school at Wilderness College in Adelaide. After completing year 12, she began her Bachelor of Arts in Communications at the University of South Australia but returned to Alice Springs after her mother passed away. Unsure of what to do next, the new cadetship program came at the perfect time.

“It was quite a traumatic time of my life, and so I deferred university for a year and then didn't know what I wanted to do or whether I'd return to studying,” she said.

“The cadetship opportunity was perfect for me then, as it allowed me to finish my studies and return to Alice Springs to be with my family while working during the semester breaks.”

Her communications studies degree “fit perfectly” with working in the Central Land Council's media unit.

Ms Cartwright found the program “incredibly supportive”, helping her find rentals and providing allowances for resources like textbooks and a computer to help her studies. During semester breaks, while she was back in Alice Springs, the cadetship allowed

her to go on many bush trips. Working on country was a big draw for her.

“I got to video many of the CLC meetings, which was great. As a cadet, I used to film day-long meetings and edit the footage on a dinosaur editing suite. Things were a bit different back then.”

The Land Rights News used to be a joint newspaper with the Northern Land Council, and Ms Cartwright remembers the days when she would travel to Darwin to work on it. “I would fly up to Darwin, and I'd bring my son and young daughter, and we'd have nine days to put together the paper with the NLC's communications team.”

“Central Land Council is in my blood. I wanted to return and give back to the organisation and Aboriginal people in Central Australia.”

Ms Cartwright's experience as a communications cadet and later as a communications officer at the CLC has been instrumental in her career. In her early years at the CLC, she honed her active listening skills and learnt to communicate with people from different backgrounds.



Mischa Cartwright fills the new role of General Manager for Regional and Development Services at the Central Land Council.

“As I moved into more senior roles, I realised that communication skills are essential for building relationships with key stakeholders, including constituents, government, and other organisations,” she said.

“My communications experience taught me how to handle challenging issues and manage positive and negative conflicts. The early exposure to diverse leadership styles within the CLC, from our bush mob to our staff, also helped me build up these skills.”

After ten years at the CLC, Ms Cartwright headed north to Darwin to work for the Northern Territory Government, where she held various positions, including contract management, stakeholder engagement, and policy roles.

Despite her successful career in the Government throughout the NT, Ms Cartwright always felt the pull to return home to Central Australia.

“I'm very passionate about our mob here, and this is where I wanted to come back. I knew I would return to an Aboriginal organisation, and the Central Land Council is in my blood. This organisation is very strong. It's working with Aboriginal people on country to achieve their aspirations,

and that's why I wanted to return and give back to the organisation and Aboriginal people in Central Australia.”

Around 48 per cent of the CLC staff are of Aboriginal descent, and Ms Cartwright is determined to grow this figure.

“While it is crucial to have a diverse mix of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, I am determined to support the creation of pathways for Aboriginal people to enter the organisation and progress to senior management positions through entry-level and traineeship programs, as well as cadetship programs.”

Ms Cartwright also sees the importance of expanding the ranger program to create more employment opportunities in the regions and ensure more opportunities for women working on country. “We need to make sure a balance of males and females hold roles in land management and across the organisation. My primary goal is to help Aboriginal people develop their decision-making capabilities and fulfil their aspirations to work on their country. To do this, we must also strengthen the capacity of prescribed body corporates.”



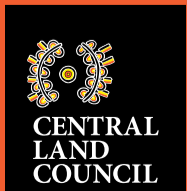
Ms Cartwright, second on left, was a successful applicant for the first CLC cadetship program in 1995.

GET PAID TO STUDY

Did you know you can apply for a paid cadetship with the Central Land Council? Gain experience in your chosen field through a 12-week work placement at the CLC each academic year, and get paid all year round!

Your benefits

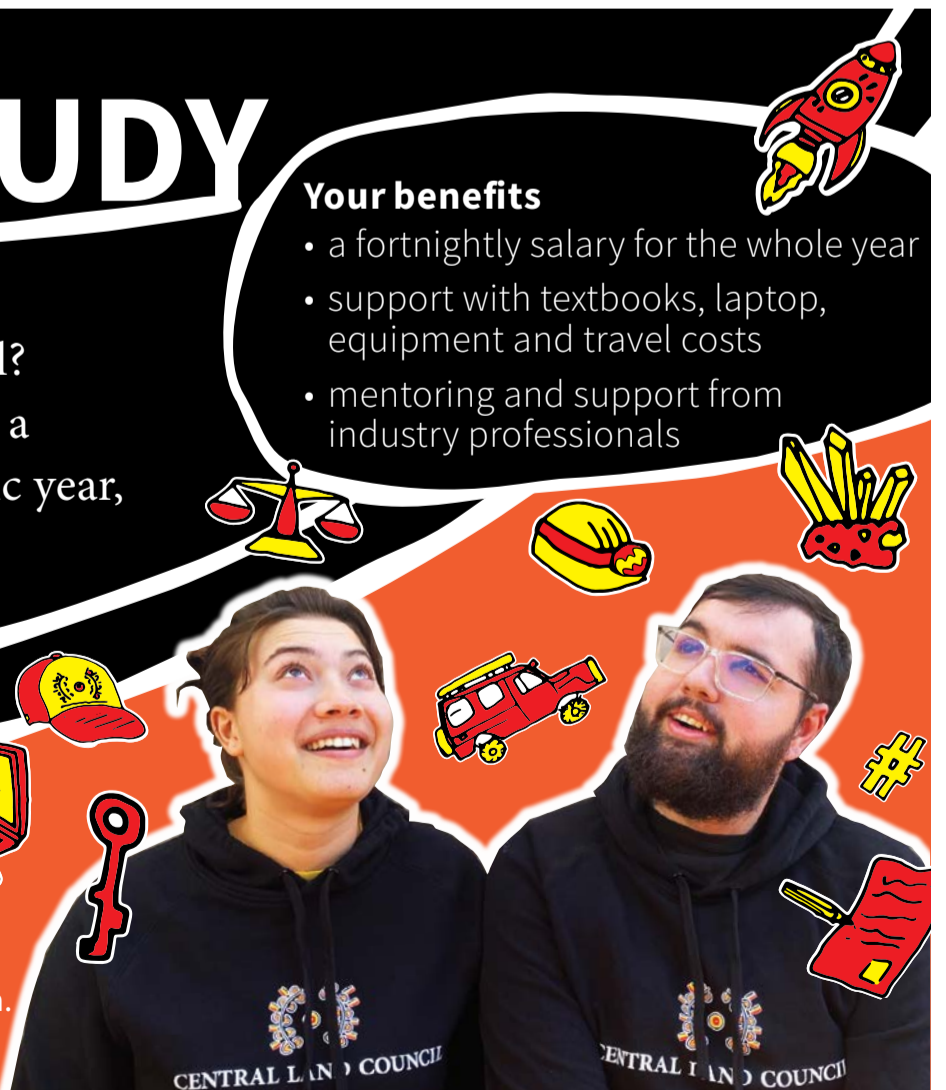
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Election questions answered

For more answers, scan the QR code:



Cultural values can be significantly impacted by water extraction. How will a future ALP or CLP government address this issue?

PROTECTION OF CULTURAL VALUES IN WATER PLANNING

CLP

Will you make sure identification of cultural values is designed and led by traditional owners and facilitated by land councils (as per our statutory functions) in all water allocation plans?

No response

ALP

Understanding the Aboriginal Cultural Values of Water is a critical action under this plan, with the aim that by 2024, the NT Government will partner with Aboriginal organisations to better understand the cultural values of water across the Territory.

NT Greens

No response

CLC delegates are worried that a new royalty scheme will reduce income to the Aboriginals Benefit Account. What do the parties think?

MINING ROYALTIES

CLP

Will you ensure that proposed reforms to the mining royalty system in the NT do not reduce income to the ABA and affected area payments to communities affected by mining?

The CLP took an Ad Valorem mining tax to the last election recognising the need for certainty and greater competitiveness for the mining sector.

The details of our royalties arrangements will be established as part of the development of any new legislation.

ALP

Mines that were operating, and paying royalties in the 2023 calendar year, will be grandfathered under the existing profit-based royalty scheme (*Mineral Royalties Act 1982*). New mines that commence from 1 July 2024 will be administered under the new ad valorem scheme, *Mineral Royalties Act 2024*.

NT Greens

The NT Greens believe that royalties incurred by mining companies must reflect fair compensation to the community for the loss of the NT's non-renewable resources, the environmental degradation incurred and the cultural losses associated with compromised access to Country by Traditional Owners.

Celebrating desert culture with Desert Mob

DESART is proud to present Desert Mob again in 2024 and bring together artists from more than 30 art centres throughout the tri-state region of central Australia to Mparntwe (Alice Springs).

Founded by the Araluen Arts Centre in 1991 as the Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Craft Exhibition, with the hope of becoming a yearly event, Desert Mob is now one of Australia's longest-running Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art events.

The first event included the work of artists from 14 art centres. This year, it showcases 35 art centres.

Many of the art centres that presented artworks in the first exhibition are also part of Desert Mob 2024, including Ernabella Arts, Hermannsburg Potters, Kaltjiti Arts, Keringke Artists, Maruku Arts, Papunya Tula Artists and Warlukurlangu Artists.

It is a highly anticipated event that includes an exhibition, symposium, and marketplace, bringing desert communities and families together in Mparntwe to celebrate their enduring cultural traditions.

For emerging artist Chantelle Mulladad from Keringke Arts, "seeing our work hanging next to all the other beautiful paintings is really nice. It's also a chance to see some of my family that I don't get to see very often, so I like Desert Mob. It's fun."

The Desert Mob exhibition is an annual invitation to view hundreds of works by artists from Aboriginal-governed community art centres across central Australia.

Exhibiting alongside emerging and mid-career artists, many of the senior artists are veterans of the event and have established international profiles over the years.

The appeal of Desert Mob for all the artists lies in the chance to show their work in the company of their desert compatriots, close to home. It is an opportunity for emerging artists and arts workers to gain valuable professional development and a forum for artists to collaborate, innovate and celebrate.

In 2024, the Desert Mob exhibition includes a specially curated selection of works by artists from Maruku Arts, the arts



Imogen Casey, Errol Evans, Tanya Singer at the Maruku Arts Marketplace Stall, 2023. Photo by Rhett Hammerton

collective based at Mutitjulu that is a veteran of the event.

Maruku Arts presented works in the first Desert Mob exhibition in 1991 and has continuously participated in Desert Mob since then.

This year marks their 40th year since incorporation, and we congratulate all the past and present artists and staff of Maruku Arts and acknowledge their decades-long service to Anangu artists across the central and western deserts.

From the first exhibition of works by artists from Amata, shown in a tent at the base of Uluru, punu has been a creative staple of the art centre, and Desert Mob 2024 celebrates this distinctive art form.

The connection to country that is captured in Maruku's trademark tali (sand hill) design is echoed throughout the Desert Mob exhibition, offering an insight into the lives and stories of the artists and the enduring inspiration of country, community and culture.

With hundreds of artists who are the inheritors of the world's oldest continuous culture participating in this annual event, Desert Mob is one of Australia's largest celebrations of Aboriginal art – and one of its oldest.

The name Maruku means *belonging*

to black. So too, Desert Mob is an event by and for Aboriginal artists – desert mob, as eloquently expressed by Desmond Woodforde, of Mimili Maku Arts.

"Our story goes from the Ice Age through millennia to today, seeing climate change and today's day rise. I dedicate my work to the now, the passing of decade to decade, generation to generation to generation, so today I can hold on to the oldest culture in this world, hold on to our stories."

By Hetti Perkins, Curator, Desert Mob

Exhibition Opening
Thursday 5 September, 5pm

Symposium
Friday 6 September, 10am – 2pm

Marketplace
Saturday 7 September, 10am

Araluen Arts Precinct, Mparntwe
www.desertmob.com



Rhonda Sharpe at Yarrenyty Arltene Artists studio in Mparntwe, Alice Springs, 2023. Photo by Rhett Hammerton



Lorraine Granites and Nick Ashburner shared a warm farewell as he finishes his role as CLC land management manager.



Akityarre rangers Andrina Williams and Mekisha Forrester at ranger camp.



CLC delegate Dianne King and partner Martin Palasco, reunited with family members Kyesha and Emeron Jackson at the Tennant Creek council meeting.



CLC delegates Timothy Price, Geoffrey Matthews and Ross Rockman enjoyed a quiet break during the council meeting in Tennant Creek.



Selma Gibson, Gweneth Nelson and Leavanna Watson were "very excited!" about the new murals in Yuendumu.



Bonya community members celebrated the opening of the new art centre.



Utopia rangers came out in force for the annual ranger camp with attendance from both female and male ranger teams.



Boyd Elston is currently acting in Nick Ashburner's role as Ranger and Programs Manager.



Francine McCarthy and Mischa Cartwright at the Huckitta Station Native Title determination.



Jeremy Kenny and Patrick Abbot took part in the Reading the Country tracking demonstration.



Daniel Dickenson proudly displayed the Muru-Warinyi Ankkul rangers flag with Arron Parlow, Michael Nappa and Jeffrey Curtis.



CLC's Roy Tjukintja, Peter Norman, Patrick Hookey, Mal Waters, Neil Coulthard and Daniel Breadon were grateful to have Indigenous Desert Alliance's ecologist, Rachel Paltridge join them in the tjakura survey.

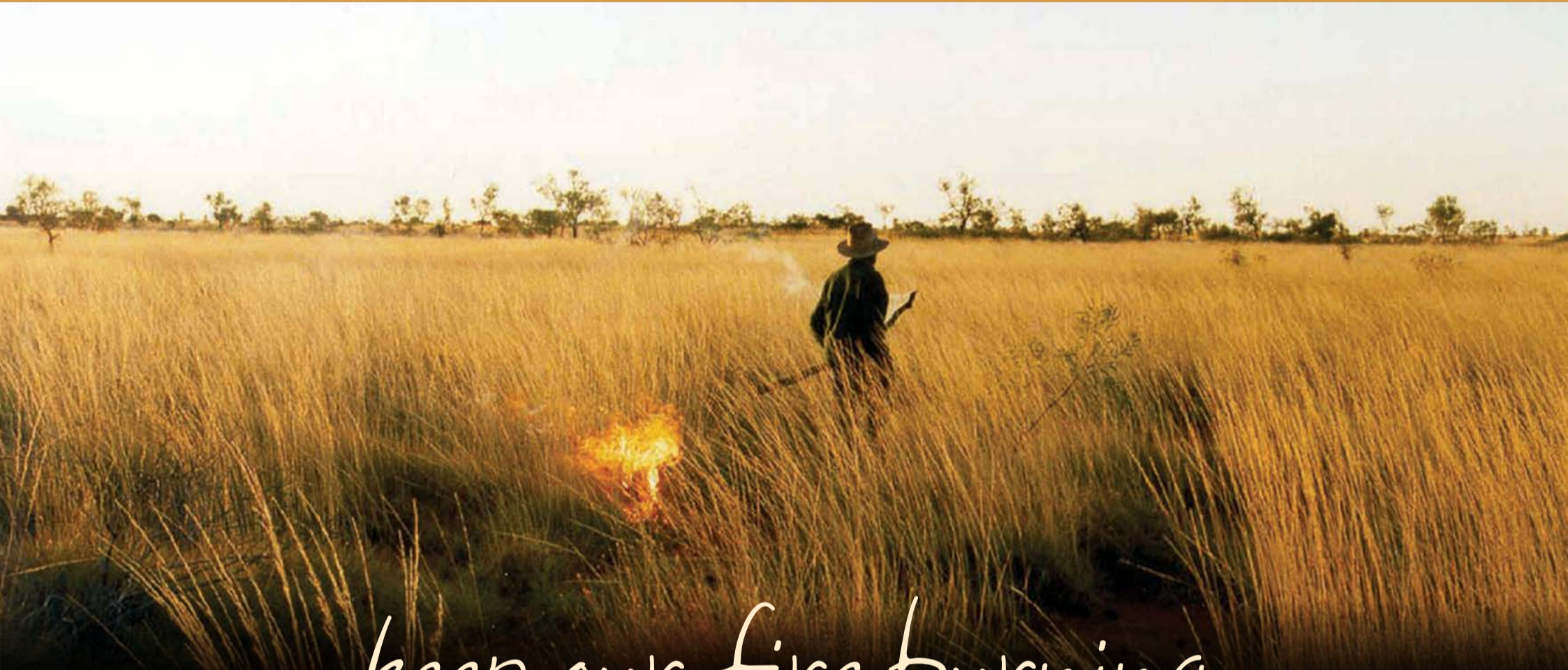


Any questions about CLC business? Call your region's office

	1. ALICE SPRINGS Shawn Foster 8951 6264
	6. TENNANT CREEK Darryl "Tiger" Fitz 8951 0541
	3. NORTH WEST Daniel Palmer 8951 0627
	7. EASTERN SANDOVER Vacant 8951 0606
	2. SOUTH WEST Shane Stirling 8951 0577
	8. EASTERN PLENTY Richard Dodd 8951 0622
	4. TANAMI Vacant 8951 0581
	9. CENTRAL Nathan Pepperill 8951 6339
	5. WEST Amos Egan 8951 0591

50
YEARS

CENTRAL
LAND
COUNCIL



keep our fire burning

“It’s a history that’s not been finalised.”

Mr H Nelson – first council meeting, Amoonguna, 1976

5 October 2024

3–9pm

Mparntwe The Bungalow
Alice Springs Telegraph Station

Come be part of our community celebration
with live music, traditional dances,
guest speakers and more.