



Council NEWS



July 2014

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CLC held its Council meeting in Tennant Creek from 22-24 July. The chairman changed the meeting from Karlanjarriyi at short notice. Most of the Council meeting was again taken up with discussion of leadership issues. On day three, Council approved the following media release:

COUNCIL MOVES TO END DESTABILISATION

The Central Land Council has resolved to end months of destabilising and distracting leadership tensions.

At their meeting in Tennant Creek from 22 to 24 July 2014 the delegates approved one month's leave for the CLC chairman, Mr Maurie Ryan, and agreed on a range of measures to strengthen the land council's governance.

Council directed the chairman to stop improper attempts to remove the director, Mr David Ross, and that any further comment on the leadership of the organisation must be authorised by the Council.

"The Council is keen to get on with the important job of fighting for the interests of Aboriginal people", said the acting chairman, Mr Francis Kelly. "For example the tough grog restrictions at the Top Springs roadhouse they have just achieved."

He congratulated the Kurdiji Law and Justice Committee, a group of respected Warlpiri leaders in Lajamanu, on its win in the struggle for alcohol restrictions at the roadhouse near Kalkarindji.

The CLC has strongly supported the group to apply to the Northern Territory Licensing Commission for restrictions that minimise the considerable harm from takeaway alcohol sales by the roadhouse.

"The CLC convinced the commission to hold hearings in Lajamanu and Kalkarindji in April and May so it could hear first hand about the devastating impacts of takeaway grog on the ground", he said.

On Monday the commission imposed the toughest restrictions yet on the licensee of the roadhouse.



Council appointed Francis Kelly (left) as Acting Chair for one month after the Chair, Maurie Ryan, asked for leave.

BUSINESS DONE

On day three Council dealt with a few business items:

Ceremony & Funeral Support

Indigenous Affairs Minister Scullion has indicated that there will be no future support from the ABA for funeral and ceremony activities. In the meantime he has given the CLC \$175,000 for 6 months. He wrote that he plans to develop consistent rules for funerals and ceremony support.

The Council decided to maintain funds for ceremony and to increase ABA funeral support payments from \$1200 to \$1500 per funeral. Council asked the CLC to write to the Minister seeking continued ABA support for funerals and ceremony.

CLC Ceremony application forms will be reviewed.

Muckaty

The federal government dropped its plan for a radioactive waste dump at Muckaty Station, north of Tennant Creek. This follows the surprise decision by the NLC to withdraw support for the project. Council applauded traditional owners on their win.

A letter from the Minister for Industry Ian McFarlane outlining the process for nominating an alternative site was tabled.

Community Development

Council approved resolutions for two community development projects:

- A Hatches Creek Fire Trailer from Davenport Range National Park rent money.
- Uluperte outstation maintenance and a funeral fund from Trephina/N'Dala and Corroboree Rock National Park rent money.



Heather Rosas speaks at the Tennant Creek meeting

Michael Jones speaks at the Tennant Creek meeting



BUSINESS NOT DEALT WITH

Many agenda items could not be discussed because the leadership issue took up most of the time, for example:

Indigenous Education Review

In May the NT Government commissioned review of Indigenous education made 51 recommendations. One of them is to phase out secondary schooling in remote communities. The CLC submission to the review supports bilingual education, keeping secondary schools in communities and better community engagement. The NT government is yet to respond to the report.

Parks Joint Management

- The NT Government cut funding for joint management, leaving CLC with only one joint management officer for 20 NT parks.
- 30 traditional owners attended a joint management forum at the end of June. A delegation will meet with NT Parks Minister Bess Price.
- A new Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park board was elected in November. It is still waiting for the Prime Minister to appoint the members.

New Region 1 Executive Member

Philip Wilyuka was elected as the new Region 1 Executive member. Mr Wilyuka is from Titjikala and was CLC Chair in 2012/13.



NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

**Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash)
4-6 November 2014**

**The next Executive meeting:
12 August 2014**