

# OUTPUT GROUP 4

## ADVOCACY SERVICES

OUTPUT	4.1	PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION
	4.2	ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION
	4.3	CULTURAL & HERITAGE SUPPORT
	4.4	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT



OUTCOMES	<p>Enhanced social, political and economic participation and equity for Aboriginal people in the Central Land Council’s area as a result of the promotion, protection and advancement of their land rights, other rights and interests.</p>
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# OUTPUT 4.1

## PUBLIC AWARENESS & EDUCATION

The CLC plays an important role in informing its constituents and the wider public about issues of relevance to Central Australian Aboriginal people and to reflect their achievements. Every year the CLC produces a wide range of information and educational materials and presentations. It is also often the first point of contact for journalists and the general public wishing to know more about Aboriginal culture and contemporary life.

### PERFORMANCE

The CLC's communications unit provides timely responses and advice on, and increases the awareness of the Council of, issues in the media and maximises media coverage. It prioritises communications with Aboriginal people in remote communities in order to increase their knowledge of the issues affecting them. It does this by organising events, managing issues, public relations and producing web, print, radio and TV content.

Many other sections also produce educational materials, highly visual booklets, community newsletters and posters to inform constituents, collaborators and the wider community about consultation outcomes and to keep them up to date about program activities.

Item	2013–14	2012–13
Press releases	20	17
CLC website visits	92,440	70,202
CLC newsletters	9	4
<i>Land Rights News Central Australia</i>	2	3
Special purpose videos	14	3
Information booklets	37	–
Posters	13	–

### ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Website

The CLC web site continues to grow in popularity. It experienced over 22,000 more visits than in the previous year; 66% of hits were from new visitors.

#### Land Rights News Central Australia

The record 9,000 circulation of *Land Rights News Central Australia* (LRNCA) reflects increased requests and feedback from communities and organisations.

Launched in October 2011, and succeeding the Territory-wide *Land Rights News*, LRNCA appears three times per year. It covers issues of relevance to the CLC's constituents and informs them about the political, economic and cultural life of Central Australia. One of few sources of relevant and accessible information for Aboriginal people in the CLC region, it is distributed free of charge to communities and newspapers.

#### CLC digital archive

The digital archive now contains more than 12,000 records and continues to enjoy a great response. It can be accessed via the web, as well as at CLC offices. The CLC helped to develop software for tablet computers to help manage the steady stream of image requests from families throughout the region.

#### Oral history project

A manuscript based on over 200 interviews in 12 languages with notable Aboriginal men and women from 45 communities is on track for completion. The book will be published by SBS Books in 2015 and promoted through both through SBS and NITV. The communications unit was able to progress this book and audio project thanks to an ABA grant.

#### Challenges

Media and communications play an increasingly important role in the lives of Aboriginal people. This places escalating demands on the CLC's communications staff. Despite the untimely death of the CLC's long-term media manager, the communications output of the CLC increased overall.



Loss of a strong voice: CLC's media manager of 19 years, Kumanjaye Hodson (1957–2014).

# OUTPUT 4.2

## ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION

### Provide advocacy and representation as appropriate to the traditional owners and other clients of the land councils.

The CLC has a statutory responsibility to ascertain, express and represent the wishes and the opinion of Aboriginal people living in the CLC area, and to protect the interests of Aboriginal residents. To fulfil this responsibility the CLC identifies significant legislative and policy matters and consults with traditional owners and Aboriginal people to ascertain their views, then establishes positions on significant policy issues through the Council and Executive.

The CLC also works on a number of research projects to assist the CLC to formulate policy positions and responses. From this basis the CLC is able to represent with a high degree of authority Aboriginal people's views and aspirations on issues and engage with all levels of government and other stakeholders to ensure that Aboriginal interests are taken into account.

### PERFORMANCE

The CLC made numerous submissions to the Australian or Northern Territory governments on policy matters. This includes submissions and responses to the:

- Australian Government National Indigenous Employment and Training Review
- Australian Government draft regulations pursuant to s.28A of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976*
- Australian Government Community Living Areas Reform Outcomes Paper and Draft Regulations
- House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs Inquiry into the harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities
- NT Indigenous Education Review
- Australian Government review into the Indigenous Land Corporation and Indigenous Business Australia
- Department of the Environment on the draft bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory, relating to assessment under Part 8 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
- review of the *NT Bushfire Act 2009*
- Joint Select Committee Inquiry into the Development of Northern Australia
- Department of the Environment's Emissions Reduction Fund Green Paper.

### COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE

Council and Executive meetings were held in various locations across the CLC region. In addition to the usual schedule of Executive meetings, the Executive held two joint meetings with the NLC Executive. The first took place in Alice Springs in December 2013, while the second was in Canberra in February 2014.

This Canberra meeting coincided with a joint lobbying effort. Meetings were held with Minister Scullion; Indigenous Affairs spokespeople for the Australian Greens, Senator Siewert; Shayne Neumann as well as other members of the ALP; Liza Carroll, Associate Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; and Warren Mundine, chair of the Indigenous Advisory Council. Issues discussed included delegation of functions under the Land Right Act, alcohol issues, outstation funding support, management of the ABA, and the NT Government's Indigenous education review

### COUNCIL GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

The CLC is serious about ensuring that Council members understand their roles and responsibilities. In addition to an induction session at the first Council meeting of a new term, all members receive governance training at a regional workshop. During this reporting period seven regional governance training workshops were held using the new CLC governance manual.

Despite the governance training there have been some internal governance challenges in the CLC during this reporting period. This highlights the continued importance of training and support in good governance.

### PERFORMANCE

#### Australian government liaison

Following the election of the Abbott government in September 2013 the CLC put substantial effort into briefing incoming ministers on key issues and in establishing relationships with a new cohort of departmental officials. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs attended the CLC Council meeting at Lajamanu

in April 2014, and also addressed the Council, along with other candidates at the Council meeting held at Atitjere in August 2013, prior to the federal election. The CLC also met twice with Mr Mundine.

## Delegation of functions

In 2006 the Howard government amended the Land Rights Act. Among other things, it inserted a power for land council functions to be delegated to an Aboriginal corporation on application. Such an application can be made by an Aboriginal corporation whose members are either the traditional owners or residents of part of an area for which a delegation is sought. Where a land council refuses, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs can approve the delegation.

In the form the amendment passed, it is a mechanism that allows the Minister to reallocate core land council functions under the Act outside of the formal process that enables the establishment of new land councils. The specific functions that may be 'delegated' under s.28A are the power to grant leases (including township leases), consent to exploration and mining tenements, and agreements and interests concerning land under claim.

Once a delegation has been made, the future of that delegation is controlled by the Minister. The amendments were passed in a context where the Coalition controlled both the Senate and the House of Representatives, with a Senate Committee having been allocated a mere day to consider the many complex amendments. Proposed reforms were characterised by the Minister responsible as bringing an end to a 'failed collective' and encouraging 'normalisation'. The CLC has serious concerns with the provisions relating to delegation because they:

- are contrary to common law and legislative principles of delegation – the 'delegator' being stripped of the powers with no ability to review or amend decisions
- do not guarantee the informed consent of traditional owners to the performance of land council functions by an Aboriginal corporation
- deliver disproportionate power to the Minister over the exercise of land council functions on Aboriginal land by enabling the reallocation of powers to corporations whose members need not include traditional owners
- expose land councils to liability for the conduct of an Aboriginal corporation without the accompanying power to address that conduct
- are likely to contribute to confusion, inefficiency and a lack of certainty, including for third parties seeking to access or use Aboriginal land.

Since the passage of this amendment in 2006, no applications for delegation have been received by the CLC.

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, expressed a desire to encourage delegation under these provisions. To that end, Minister Scullion tabled required regulations in December 2013. Prior to tabling, departmental officials provided draft regulations to the land councils for comment. The CLC provided comment in November 2013. The regulations require a land council to respond to an application for delegation of functions within three months, failing which the land council is deemed to have refused such that the Minister may force a delegation.

The CLC had a number of serious concerns regarding the regulations. The three-month timeframe is considered inadequate as the land council would need to investigate many complex issues once an application is received. Further, the final response to the application would then need to proceed to the Council at one of its three yearly meetings. In addition, the regulations fail to adequately prescribe how the proposed area in which the Aboriginal corporation proposes to exercise land council functions is to be described in the application.

Precision is needed in this regard to provide the land council with an accurate basis for determining whether the corporation membership complies with eligibility requirements, and to look at whether the area provides logical administrative boundaries for the delegated functions. Precision is also needed because the land council will need to be certain about which body, it or the delegate, may exercise functions over a given area, and third parties need certainty about who they should be dealing with.

Clearly this is a very serious issue for both the CLC and the NLC. These strong concerns were communicated to senators from all political parties, and discussed directly with the Minister and departmental officials. Ultimately, the Senate disallowed the regulation in March 2014.

## Tenure and leasing

The CLC produced a detailed policy paper, *Land Reform in the Northern Territory: evidence not Ideology*, in October 2013 for public distribution. This paper sets out the CLCs perspective on the Australian Government's 'secure tenure' policy, and progress towards s.19 voluntary leasing, and future challenges.

A detailed report on the CLCs work in relation to leasing can be found on pages 41–43.

## Community Living Areas (CLAs)

The CLC's *Annual Report 2012–13* provides a detailed report on the processes leading to the reform of CLA legislation. Late in the previous financial year the Australian Government released a discussion paper on reforms to CLA legislation. The CLC assisted with CLA consultations regarding these proposed reforms. An outcomes paper from these consultations, with accompanying draft regulations, was released on 21 June 2013 and the CLC provided a submission in July 2013. The Australian Government made the regulation providing for a greater range of leases to be issued on community living areas. The CLC supported this regulation but always advocated the need for more comprehensive reform. The CLC has subsequently written to both the Australian and NT governments seeking confirmation that a more comprehensive reform package will still proceed following discussions with the land councils. There has been no further progress on more comprehensive reforms.

## Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the Northern Territory (APONT)

The APONT was formed in October 2010, and comprises the Central Land Council, the Northern Land Council, the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the Northern Territory, the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service, and the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency. APONT has gone from strength to strength, and the CLC continues to play a key role in its work.

Work during this financial year includes the Central Australian Grog Summit, ongoing work regarding the development of principles for NGOs working in remote areas, commencement of the Aboriginal governance and management program, and numerous submissions on critical issues.

## Mutitjulu Taskforce

The CLC continued to participate in the Mutitjulu Taskforce, comprising all levels of government, Parks Australia and the Mutitjulu community members. It also participates in the Taskforce tenure subcommittee. The tenure subcommittee met in October 2013 and March 2014 and the whole Taskforce met in August 2013 and again in May 2014. The CLC continued to be an active participant in a process designed to build consensus on a tenure solution for Mutitjulu.

## Aboriginals Benefit Account

The CLC supported the work of the ABA Advisory Committee through the work of the committee's elected members. Unfortunately, senior staff were



CLC Director David Ross with Central Australian Aboriginal Congress CEO Donna Ah Chee and Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory CEO John Paterson, at the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT Alcohol Summit, Alice Springs, July 2013. (Photo: Kumanjaye Hodson)

denied permission to attend and provide support at meetings.

## Small communities and homelands

The CLC continues to lobby hard on the need to secure a sustainable future for small communities, outstations and homelands. The new NT Government policy and funding guidelines have been in place during this financial year, and new data is now publicly available about funding levels and service providers. The data was used to develop regional maps to allow staff and constituents to understand funding allocated and the level of servicing they can expect. NT Government officials attended the November 2013 Council meeting to explain the new arrangements.

## Aboriginal community governance

The CLC has continued to work closely on a community governance project with Lajamanu community, and particularly the Kurdiji group, to strengthen community governance. The project supported actions helping residents to gain a sense of control over areas they prioritise; for instance, in playing an active role in the review of the Top Springs roadhouse takeaway liquor licence.

Community members proposed, and successfully applied for, Warlpiri royalty funding for an office space and meeting area, which has enabled them to prioritise issues of concern to the community. With support from the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) the CLC was able to secure funds to conduct an independent evaluation of the Lajamanu Governance Project and the CLC's other community development work. The evaluation

was conducted by a team from La Trobe University (see pages 75–76 for details of the evaluation and its findings).

The mentors group played a significant and proactive role, providing essential expert outside advice to the project approach. Its work has been supported by funding from FaHCSIA, now PM&C. The group met fortnightly, visited Lajamanu in March 2014, followed by a meeting in Alice Springs in May 2014 to consider the implications of the independent evaluation of this project.

Community members strongly support continuation of the project and the CLC has responded by developing a 10-year timeframe to continue the project, and applying for a further three years' funding.

During the year the Kurdiji group grew from strength to strength and:

- focused on its internal governance
- administered the establishment and maintenance grants to Kurdiji to manage their office
- worked on policing and night patrol issues.

The community governance project developed a practice paper documenting the lessons of the Kurdiji project and delivered workshops on western legal structures and the relationship between the constitution, Parliament, courts, the Commonwealth and states and the process for creating and altering law.

## Alcohol issues

The CLC participated in meetings of the Peoples Alcohol Action Coalition (PAAC) and worked towards the adoption of greater harm minimisation strategies in relation to alcohol. Much of this work is carried out through its work with APONT.

The federal government announced a parliamentary inquiry into the harmful use of alcohol. The CLC provided a submission to this inquiry in collaboration with APONT and the PAAC.

Following a successful summit in Darwin in 2012, APONT held an alcohol summit in Alice Springs in July 2013 to gather Aboriginal people's perspectives on alcohol issues and issued a report from the summit.

In late 2012 the Licensing Commission decided to review the Top Springs takeaway alcohol licence following many years of complaints from various organisations and individuals about the harm caused by alcohol sold at Top Springs. In June 2013, the Licensing Commission handed down its review of the Top Springs licence and sought to place restrictions on takeaway sales, meant to come into effect on

31 July 2013. The Top Spring owners appealed the decision in the Supreme Court but withdrew the appeal on the condition that the original decision be reviewed by the commission. The CLC director met with the chair of the Licensing Commission to seek clarification about the review process and to confirm that any further hearings would be held in Lajamanu and Kalkaringi. Hearings took place in April and May 2014 in both communities. The CLC assisted community members at the Lajamanu hearing, and was represented at the directions hearing in Darwin.

## Radioactive waste facility

The CLC has been involved in matters pertaining to the proposed national radioactive waste facility since 2005 when the Australian Government advised that three sites in the NT would be considered for a radioactive waste repository. Two of the proposed sites, Mt Everard and Alcoota, were in the CLC region. Traditional owners of both these sites opposed the siting of such a facility on their land.

In 2008 the CLC received strong representations from a group of traditional owners in the Tennant Creek region who opposed the nomination of the third site – Muckaty – by the NLC. The CLC resolved to support this group. The Alcoota and Mt Everard sites were subsequently disposed of on commencement of the *National Radioactive Waste Management Act 2012*.

Hearings commenced for a federal court case brought by traditional owners opposed to the nomination of Muckaty. In June 2014 the Australian Government and the NLC announced that they would not proceed with the Muckaty nomination and the Minister for Industry advised both land councils that they had until end September 2014 to volunteer a site for a waste facility on Aboriginal land or a national selection process would be commenced. The letter, scheduled for tabling at the July 2014 CLC Council, requested that the nomination be based on traditional owner consent and evidence that the site is not disputed.

## Telecommunications

The CLC continues to undertake strategic advocacy work on priority telecommunications matters, and is a member of the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN). It attended an ACCAN forum on telecommunication affordability. The CLC is also a member of the Broadband for the Bush Alliance. The alliance seeks to get a united front from the bush across a range of communications issues, but particularly with respect to the National Broadband Network and increasing mobile network coverage. The CLC attended the Indigenous focus group day of the Broadband for the Bush Forum III: Building a Better



Daguragu women dance to welcome CLC Rangers to the Ranger Camp at Daguragu, June 2014.  
(Photo: Graham Prichard)

Digital Future that was held in Alice Springs in April and May 2014.

## EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ISSUES

The CLC attended an Alice Springs forum in November 2013 and represented constituent interests in a written submission to the Australian Government's National Indigenous Employment and Training Review. The submission emphasised the success factors of the CLC's ranger program and the employment unit's training and mentoring, as well as the continued investment in Indigenous ranger programs, the federal Workplace English Literacy and Learning (WELL) training and prevocational training tied to jobs.

The CLC employment unit and ranger program met with successful Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP) contractors to build a strong working relationship and to source future employees for ranger groups and other CLC employment and training opportunities.

Its advocacy work also saw it represent constituent interests, aspirations and perspectives in meetings with numerous groups, including:

- the NT Bushfires Council to discuss possible CLC representation on the Council
- the NT Weeds Advisory Committee
- the Alice Springs Regional Weeds Reference Group
- the Parks and Wildlife Service and the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority to discuss responsibilities for the protection and management of sacred sites

in NT national parks and reserves

- natural resource management agencies, Indigenous organisations and other non government groups facilitated by Greening Australia NT to identify opportunities for closer collaboration and interest in exploring landscape connectivity initiatives within arid Australia
- the Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee at a tri-state Simpson Desert workshop
- the IPP Steering Committee in a multi-stakeholder partnership with the ILC, the NLC, Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the NT Department of Education
- the Australian Feral Camel Management Project stakeholders event at Parliament House, Canberra, to mark the end of the project
- a ministerial delegation from Sarawak, Malaysia, to present the land management section's successful work with the CLC ranger program
- the Witjira National Park Board of Management (SA) regarding land management activities and issues for traditional owners in the Simpson Desert.

## OUTPUT 4.3

# CULTURAL & HERITAGE SUPPORT

**Provide cultural and heritage support as appropriate to the traditional owners and other clients of the land councils**

### CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AND CUSTOMARY PRACTICES

Many CLC activities create opportunities for traditional owners and community members to fulfil cultural obligations, visit sacred sites and pass on cultural knowledge. Much of the CLC's land management fieldwork program also provides the context for traditional owners to rejuvenate or maintain customary land management practices, in some cases across remote and rarely visited areas. Broadscale fire management and IPA management activities in particular provide such opportunities. The CLC ranger groups increasingly directly support traditional owners in meeting their cultural and land management aspirations.

Numerous country visits featured activities such as cleaning of culturally significant waterholes and rock holes, maintenance of significant sites through actions against fire, weeds, stock and feral animal impacts; ceremonies and other cultural obligations; burning of country; intergenerational transfer of traditional ecological knowledge (see overleaf); and hunting and collecting bush foods, medicinal plants and artefact materials. These visits strengthen the bonds between people and country.

The CLC also responded to a number of traditional owner requests for access to country outside other fieldwork agendas. A total of 150 constituents participated in trips to the following areas:



Anmatyerr senior ranger, Nathaniel Dixon, under direction from senior traditional owners planning their work to manage the Honey Ant storyline.

- Alitra Tableland (Pmere Nyente ALT)
- Wayililynpa/Yaripilangu (Yunkanjini ALT)
- Pawu/Ngarnka (Pawu ALT)
- Pirliwarnawarna and Jiparanpa (Central Desert ALT)
- Mina Mina and Yalalya (Lake Mackay ALT)
- Nyukulkku (Central Desert ALT)
- Mirririnyungu (Duckponds) (Central Desert ALT)

## Cultural heritage protection

The CLC continued to protect and manage culturally and historically significant places that are deteriorating or environmentally threatened. In addition to supporting traditional owners to site restoration and maintenance themselves, the CLC implemented or initiated numerous actions including:

- Completion of the Indigenous Heritage Program (IHP)-funded project 'Supporting traditional owners from Central Australia to manage Indigenous cultural heritage'. The project continued cultural site and rock art surveys at the four project sites, prepared and reviewed cultural heritage interpretive signs at each site, finalised and commenced implementation of the Nganju Cultural Heritage Management Plan, including a stock-exclusion fence built by the Anmatyerr Rangers.
- Completion of all requirements for construction of a Men's Keeping Place facility within Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park, including a maintenance plan with IHP funding.
- With funding from the NT Government's heritage branch, completion the first stage of restorative conservation works on the old Tempe Downs homestead buildings on Urrampinyi Iljtjiltjarri ALT.
- Consultation with traditional owners of the Aletherre ALT regarding the nomination of Arltunga Historical Reserve, the Little Flower Mission site and Atnarpa homestead to the NT Heritage Register (oral histories were also recorded to inform the public on the Mission's significance).
- Consultation with traditional owners of the Mpweringe-Anarpipe ALT on the proposed heritage listing of Harry Well on the former North–South Stock Route and safety works required.
- Consultation with the traditional owners of the Iwupataka ALT about the nomination of the 'Twin Gums' to the register following the destruction of the site by fire in early 2013.
- Erection of stock-exclusion fencing around two sacred sites near the Aputula community (Finke).
- Development of the Yerrampe (Honey Ant) Storyline Project, which aims to embed cultural knowledge and site maintenance in land management work (a collaboration of traditional owners of the Anmatyerr region and the Anmatyerr ranger group).

Activities incorporated cultural mapping, knowledge documentation and transfer, as well as site visits.

The ABA-funded women's land management facilitator (WLMF) supported the implementation of a Tennant Creek-based and IHP-funded cultural heritage project 'Revitalising Warumungu and Warlmanpa women's cultural heritage'. As part of the project, 30 Aboriginal women compiled film and site assessment information about two significant songlines of the Tennant Creek region. Approximately 40 (mostly younger) women visited 24 sacred or historically significant sites to record cultural, practice-related and historical information told by senior women. Cultural heritage site assessments were completed at each site and management plans progressed through the collaboration of female traditional owners and Tennant Creek rangers.

Fifteen women helped to repatriate related cultural information, and a large ceremony with Warumungu and Warlmanpa traditional owners was planned with the broader community and local service providers.

## Indigenous ecological knowledge (IEK)

The CLC continued to build on the momentum established by its earlier three-year Intergenerational Transfer of IEK project (2008–10) by integrating IEK into much of its land management activity. Fire management, invasive species control, IPA management, joint management, biodiversity projects and community ranger programs all provide opportunities to achieve multiple outcomes from applying senior traditional owners' knowledge to cultural and natural resource management.

The WLMF also significantly supported outcomes arising from the award winning Medicinal Plant Species Use and Management in Eastern Central Australia workshop, funded by Territory NRM. She produced and distributed maps and bush medicine reports to communities in each of the four project subregions established at the workshop. The project won the award in the Best Use of IEK award at the Territory NRM Forum. The project supported traditional owners to maintain the cultural values of bush medicine species through regional bush medicine harvesting protocols for communities.

Rangers and traditional owners from Santa Teresa and the Sandover region undertook trips aimed at maintaining their knowledge and practice related to bush medicines. A presentation was also made at the Southern NT NRM forum about sustainable bush medicine harvesting.

## Sacred site protection and work area clearances

Sacred sites are places of deep spiritual significance and are an integral part of Aboriginal culture. Their protection is vital for the continuation of religious and cultural traditions and as a source of identity for Aboriginal people. The CLC assists Aboriginal people to protect their sacred sites by ensuring that every development proposal (including exploration and mining activity and road works) goes through a site clearance (work area clearance process).

Each year the CLC receives numerous requests from government agencies, public sector corporations and mining and other commercial interests who are seeking permission from Aboriginal landowners to undertake a diverse range of activities on their lands.

The CLC issued 137 sacred site clearance certificates in relation to Aboriginal culture and heritage maintenance. It also conducted anthropological research or gave anthropological advice about Aboriginal culture and heritage for a wide range of purposes:

Type of anthropological advice	2013–14
Exploration and mining on Aboriginal land	17
Exploration and mining on native title land	21
Telecommunications infrastructure	31
Community infrastructure	48
Road works	8
Land management activities	4
Site damage investigation	4
Infrastructure	11
Repatriation and miscellaneous	5
Genealogical information requests	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>

The CLC also took action to maintain and improve the genealogical and other anthropological information it holds, including its sacred sites database. It progressed the repatriation of sacred objects from its own collection, museums around the country and significant collections in overseas museums.

The CLC contributed to an Australian Research Council-funded project about Carl Strehlow’s linguistic recordings and participated in an ARC grant application for the repatriation of cultural information throughout its region.

Female CLC staff supported the Women’s Law and Culture meeting in a variety of roles.



# OUTPUT 4.4

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

**Facilitate targeted Aboriginal community development initiatives as appropriate with the traditional owners and other clients of the land councils.**

Aboriginal people in Central Australia are using their own assets to drive social, cultural and economic development. With strong leadership from the organisation's Council, they are planning, implementing and evaluating projects that benefit people at a regional, community and outstation level. Aboriginal groups are doing this through carefully facilitated community development processes, which have been shown to be an effective engagement strategy in Aboriginal development. With meaningful local participation at its core, these processes are achieving tangible outcomes, as well as building individual and collective capacity, self-reliance, good governance and stronger communities.

CLC staff from the community development (CD) program work with Aboriginal people who direct their resources to projects that both maintain their Aboriginal identity, language, culture and connection to country *and* strengthen their capacity to participate in mainstream Australia by improving health, education and employment outcomes.

The four objectives of the CD program are to:

1. maximise opportunities for Aboriginal engagement, ownership and control, particularly in relation to the management of resources that belong to them
2. generate outcomes which benefit Aboriginal people and are valued by them, including social, cultural and economic outcomes
3. build an evidence base for the CLC's community development approach and the value it has for contributing to Aboriginal capabilities
4. share lessons learned with other government and non-government agencies.

Now in its tenth year, the CD program is active in all communities in the CLC region, as well as in numerous outstations – plus some communities in South Australia and Western Australia. It has grown from two to six major regional projects, plus several smaller projects.

Project	Activity
Uluru Rent Money (URM) Project	Put rent paid to relevant traditional owners towards a range of sustainable initiatives
Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) Project	Use mining royalties for sustainable education, training and health benefits
The Tanami Dialysis Support Service Project	Support dialysis facilities in remote communities
Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) Project	Support nine communities to apply 'affected area' monies from mining towards broad community benefit
NT Parks Rent Money Project	Put rent paid to relevant traditional owners towards a range of sustainable initiatives
Community Lease Money Project	Use rent paid for community leases for a diverse range of development activities

Two additional projects were progressed. The Nolan's Bore Mine Project and the Rover Mine Project both involve traditional owners directing mining exploration compensation to community benefit rather than individual distribution. Two new projects were also initiated. Aboriginal landowners who will receive royalties from the Twin Bonanza gold mine in the Tanami resolved to direct a quarter of future royalties to community benefit through the CLC's CD program. For the first time a group of traditional owners whose corporation is winding up following mine closure are applying investment income to community benefit. Until now such investments were usually distributed to individuals.

### PERFORMANCE

La Trobe University and the People and Planet Group completed a comprehensive independent evaluation



Acting chair Francis Kelly with the Kurdiji group in Lajamanu.

of the CLC's CD program. Building on four years of independent monitoring by Praxis Consultants, the CLC-commissioned evaluation explored how the CD program could improve its development practice in order to maximise the benefits for Aboriginal people.

The government-funded evaluation found that the CD program has largely delivered on its goal, in a cost effective manner, thereby making a tangible difference to Aboriginal people's lives. For the period 2005–13, \$25.2 million of Aboriginal funds were used for community benefit. Funds invested in CD projects grew from about \$0.5 million per year in 2005–06 to around \$5 million per year in the last four years. This shows an important and growing commitment from Aboriginal people to spending their money for collective benefit.

The evaluation report highlights the effectiveness of the CLC's CD framework and the processes employed by staff, which are based on Aboriginal control, ownership and self-determined priorities. This approach supports communities to determine and prioritise their development objectives. It results in Aboriginal empowerment and capacity development and achieves a broad range of outcomes. These include employment, education and training; childcare and youth engagement; cultural strengthening and maintenance; and health and wellbeing. The report also highlights the high proportion of funds directly

impacting 'on the ground' services and outcomes, and the small proportion devoted to operational and administrative support.

The independent evaluation demonstrates progress on building an evidence base for the CLC's CD work. It notes that the 'CLC has amassed an impressive range of data, reports and interviews' on the CD program and has also made 'strong efforts to share its lessons with others'.

The La Trobe evaluation noted:

- a growing commitment from CLC constituents to spend their money in a collective manner, with \$25.2 million spent in 2005-13
- that CLC's CD processes – based on Aboriginal control, ownership, empowerment and self-identified priorities – are effectively empowering traditional owners and community residents
- that the CD program is delivering longer term collective benefits than individual royalty payments, and that some less powerful people are benefitting who would otherwise have missed out
- the CD Program is delivering on its goal of making a tangible difference to Aboriginal people's lives in a cost effective manner.

In relation to the Lajamanu community governance project (described on pages 68–69) the evaluation found that:



- project support of the Kurdiji group in Lajamanu was slowly addressing some of the ‘governance vacuum’ in Lajamanu
- Kurdiji was widely known within the community, respected by both community members and service providers, and is possibly contributing to reduced crime rates in Lajamanu
- governance development work is slow and context specific and more support is needed if the group is to become self-sustaining.

## PROCESS

The CLC staff help Aboriginal groups to prioritise and develop projects and identify partner organisations that are able to do the projects. Once endorsed by the group, the CLC Executive signs off on completed project plans. The CLC negotiates comprehensive funding agreements before partner organisations deliver projects.

## ULURU RENT MONEY PROJECT (URM)

Every year, traditional owners of Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park allocate funding from their national park rent income to community development projects in their communities in the NT and SA. Considerable

project effort is devoted to Mutitjulu community, which receives its own portion of rent because many traditional owners live there.

Since the CLC began working with them in 2007, traditional owners for Mutitjulu have focused their rent money on a major upgrade to their recreation precinct. A contribution of over \$2 million of traditional owner money, combined with a substantial grant from the ABA and support from the Mutitjulu Foundation, allowed the community to renovate the recreation hall and build a community swimming pool, the Mutitjulu Tjurpinytjaku Centre. One of this year’s URM project highlights was the pool opening celebration in September 2013. This followed seven years of hard work by the Mutitjulu Working Group and the CLC. Pool operators CASA Leisure ran a very successful first swimming season with a total of 6,500 visits during the seven-month season.

The broader URM traditional owner group met twice and, after comprehensive planning, allocated a total of \$471,105 to nine projects. Four of these projects are now complete. The majority were improvements to outstation infrastructure allowing traditional owners to spend more time on their country and, in two cases, engage in tourism operations. Traditional owners also funded the Purple Bus dialysis project operated by Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku

(WDNWPT), an Aboriginal organisation supporting dialysis patients, for 12 months. This important project enables patients undertaking dialysis treatment in Alice Springs to visit their home communities and families. They supported the Ara Irititja Project, a culture and history database giving Aboriginal people access to information, stories and reflections. In this period a third allocation of rent money was made to Pitjantjatjara Council to continue training for community members and help them to use the database in eight communities for another 12 months.

## WARLPURI EDUCATION AND TRAINING TRUST (WETT)

WETT uses royalties from the Kurra Aboriginal Corporation to improve education and training outcomes of Warlpiri people. Newmont Asia Pacific pays mining royalties for its operations in the Tanami region to Kurra. Kurra is the WETT Trustee and the CLC is Kurra's agent, with responsibility for administering the Trust. CD staff consult Warlpiri people to identify their education and training priorities and then facilitate the development of projects with input from relevant project partners. These projects are further developed by the WETT advisory committee, which now includes 12 representatives from the Warlpiri-patu-kurlangu-Jaru Association (the peak Warlpiri education body), one representative each from the CLC and Newmont Asia Pacific, and three independent

members with expertise in education and Indigenous governance. Projects are then recommended for funding to the Kurra WETT committee and, if approved, the project partners implement them.

The CLC (partly through two WETT-funded CD positions but also with extensive support from other CLC staff) continued to support the WETT governance groups, Warlpiri communities and partner organisations to successfully implement and further develop WETT's four regional programs.

### Key outcomes

Consultations and planning in Yuendumu resulted in Kurra WETT directors' approval of \$220,000 for two years of operational funding of a new learning centre in Yuendumu. The centre promotes whole of community education, training and employment. WETT has led the development and funding of this innovative program, which has also successfully established learning centres in Lajamanu, Nyirripi and Willowra.

Warlpiri WETT advisory committee members, CLC staff and implementing partner Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE), together with researchers from the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, advocated for the WETT Learning Centre Program at a public seminar at the Australian National University and a high level meeting with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.



Kids enjoying themselves at the Mutitjulu Tjurrpinytjaku Centre opening at Uluru, September 2013. (Photo: Steve Strike)



Hamilton Morris, Nancy Dixon, Renee Cohen, Fiona Gibson (FM) prepare for a WETT Advisory Committee meeting.

## WETT Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) program

The WETT ECCD program, managed by World Vision Australia (WVA) with support from BIITE, now in its sixth year, continued to provide a range of benefits. These include early childhood activities in each of the four WETT communities, as well as training for residents.

Monitoring, evaluation and research continued, with the second annual external evaluation report completed by the Australian Council for Education Research, which also provides a review of the ECCD Program over its five-year implementation period. WETT and WVA also commissioned a research report through BIITE and Menzies School of Health Research, exploring a range of Indigenous early childhood programs operating in similar contexts. WVA and WETT Advisory Committee agreed to draw on the evaluation and research findings to redesign program aspects in 2014–15 in order to increase local engagement.

### Key outcomes

- WVA continued to support local playgroups in Willowra and Yuendumu, and worked closely with families in Lajamanu and Nyirrpi to encourage engagement in local playgroups and crèche. Participation in Willowra continued to grow strongly in the new early childhood centre, which is managed by BIITE with WETT funding.
- WVA coordinated a range of parenting support workshops on topics such as nutrition and child protection.
- Early childhood training was delivered in Lajamanu, with 15 students enrolled in two or more competencies and seven of those working towards a Certificate 3 in Children's Services. Six community members were employed in the Willowra playgroup, five of whom had started Certificate 1 in Children's Services. Since the start of the program 17 students

have completed Certificates in Early Childhood Services.

- Ten local Aboriginal playgroup workers employed across the four WETT communities.
- Warlpiri early childhood workers and reference group members from Yuendumu and Nyirrpi participated in governance training.

## WETT Country Visit program

Warlpiri people consider it critical to successful educational outcomes that senior people in remote communities participate in the education system. With the support of the Tanami IPA Program, Nyirrpi and Lajamanu schools between them conducted four country visits involving more than 40 children and 27 elders.

## WETT School Support program

The WETT School Support program provided funds for 36 students from Willowra, Lajamanu and Nyirrpi to go on interstate school excursions and experience life outside Central Australia. The program also funded six local Aboriginal teachers and elders to accompany them. The trips provide significant learning opportunities and are a great incentive to attend school regularly. While WETT funding was also available to Yuendumu, the school was unable to conduct an excursion due to its own resource constraints.

Ten students received support from WETT to attend boarding schools in the NT and Victoria. The program funded family visits, equipment, school uniforms and extra tuition.

## WETT Youth and Media program

The WETT Youth and Media Program, a partnership with the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC) and PAW Media, continued to consolidate its focus on training and employment pathways. WETT formed a new partnership with WYDAC and BIITE to support a youth-focused adult learning centre in Yuendumu.

Youth subcommittees from each of the four WETT communities met twice during the year to discuss youth programs in each community.

## WETT Learning Community Centre program

WETT, in partnership with BIITE, continues to fund the Learning Community Centre Program in Lajamanu, Nyirrpi and Willowra. From 1 July 2014, the program will also be operational in Yuendumu. The La Trobe evaluation highlighted the importance and local ownership of the centres. One community member

told the review team, 'The learning centre is here for people to learn. It is a *yapa* place ... They're the ones been helping build the centre here for *yapa*.'

### **Willowra Learning Community Centre**

Despite the ongoing impact of community conflict on all services in Willowra, the residents continue to see the centre as a valuable and neutral learning place. Enrolments were taken in Certificate I Educational Skills Development; Certificate I Visual Arts; Certificate I in Business; and Certificate II in Business.

A unique WETT-funded mapping project started at the centre in June 2014. Senior traditional owners received support from the CLC to develop a map that identifies their country along the Lander River between the Mt Denison and Coniston pastoral leases in the south and Lake Surprise in the north. The completed map will be displayed in the cultural storage area of the centre to teach others, including children.

### **Nyirripi Learning Community Centre**

The Nyirripi centre has become a pillar of the community. It is well used for both formal training and personal business with educational elements, such as internet banking and downloading content. Formal training was offered in Certificate II in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts; Waltja Money management training; Certificate II in Business studies; Learner Driver Training; and Conservation and Land Management tutoring.

One of the highlights was a student's graduation from the Certificate II in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts at a ceremony in Alice Springs. Informal training opportunities included arts training through the Warlukulangu Art Centre, and other art and craft activities offered by visiting service providers WVA and the Willowtree Foundation.

### **Lajamanu Learning Community Centre**

The Lajamanu centre continued to develop as a cherished community space. The graduation of two students from the Certificate I in Business was a key achievement. The centre has also helped place local Aboriginal people in paid employment as coordinators, project officers, cleaners and grounds and maintenance staff. It also provided formal training in Certificate I in Education Skills Development; Certificate I and Certificate III Children's Services; Certificate II in Language, Literacy and Numeracy; Certificate I in Business; Certificate II in Conservation & Land Management; Certificate I in Visual Arts; Interpreter training; and Learner Driver training.

Locals also use the centre for banking, emailing, tax, internet, ochre cards, 'young mums' sessions, animation and media, culture and language learning, developing resumes and filling out forms.

### **Yuendumu Learning Community Centre**

WYDAC, BIITE and the CLC (on behalf of WETT) planned to combine the Yuendumu Big Store College and WYDAC's new purpose-built learning centre facility under the umbrella of a new Yuendumu Learning Centre. Kurra's WETT directors approved the plans, as well as two years of funding for the centre. The three-way partnership arrangement starts in July 2014.

## **TANAMI DIALYSIS SUPPORT PROJECT**

The CLC continues to oversee the implementation of the Tanami Dialysis Support Service Project on behalf of the Kurra Aboriginal Corporation. It monitors funding agreements and reports regularly to Kurra. Managed by the WDNWPT Aboriginal corporation, the project provides much needed health services to kidney patients in Yuendumu, Lajamanu and surrounding communities and outstations. It also supports Warlpiri patients in Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin. During this year 43 of them returned home for dialysis and received critical social support services while in Darwin and Alice Springs.

## **THE GRANITES MINE AFFECTED AREA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (GMAAAC) PROJECT**

GMAAAC continues to apply all 'affected area' monies from The Granites gold mine to community benefit, in accordance with the corporation's rules. The CLC implements comprehensive community development processes to facilitate this. At the same time it builds strong Aboriginal governance. Staff worked closely with the nine GMAAAC communities to develop subprojects and support committees with the difficult task of deciding how to allocate available funds. GMAAAC initiatives improve housing, health, education, essential services, employment and training, as well as promote Aboriginal self-management.

A wide variety of projects were delivered across communities, such as school holiday activities in Willowra that incorporated computer literacy and healthy food preparation. Willowra's GMAAAC committee also funded an after-school project that successfully increased school attendance. The Lajamanu GMAAAC committee finalised a

Tanami roadhouse business feasibility study and the Yuendumu committee funded PAW Media to produce Warlpiri documentaries on culture, history, and health while also training Aboriginal staff.

Following completion of cemetery fencing, the Yuendumu GMAAAC committee funded a local contractor who employed Aboriginal residents to build a shelter and install water tanks at the cemetery. Project participants are increasingly looking for employment outcomes and GMAAAC-funded initiatives often include local Aboriginal employment.

All nine affected communities chose and planned projects with their GMAAAC income. With total funds decreasing significantly from the previous year's \$2,410,369 to \$1,081,283, each committee worked hard to prioritise community initiatives. Between them, the nine committees funded 66 community benefit sub projects.

The CLC also continued to support the implementation of the 74 projects funded in 2012 that are still in progress. This entailed the authorisation of payments and working with recipients to ensure submission of reports and financial acquittals.

## NT PARKS RENT MONEY PROJECT

The NT Parks Rent Money project is now in its fourth year and involves 16 Aboriginal groups across the CLC region. In 2010, the Council passed a resolution that all rent and income for the 16 national parks handed back by the NT Government be used for community benefit projects.

The CLC held 29 planning and decision-making meetings with the traditional owners and their governance groups for the NT Parks Project. This resulted in \$339,480 being approved for eight subprojects.

While most aim to upgrade outstation infrastructure to enable traditional owners to access their homelands, some have also created employment opportunities. For example, the owners of the Ilytwelepentye (Davenport Range) National Park plan to turn Hatches Creek outstation into a regional base for land management work for their young people.

One group of the East MacDonnell Ranges National Parks worked with the CLC to improve Uluperte outstation. It funded a 7.5 kilowatt solar power system and street lights to ensure a sustainable power supply and plans further improvements at Uluperte.

## COMMUNITY LEASE MONEY PROJECT

The CLC's largest community development project, the Community Lease Money project, invests rent and compensation payments for the compulsory five-year leases taken out during the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) and income from other leases for community benefit in 31 locations across the CLC region. Projects planned and prioritised by Aboriginal people are now being implemented in many communities as a result of the decisions made by traditional owners and the Council in 2012 and 2013.

The second year of this major regional project saw CLC staff supporting community and working groups with project planning and effective governance. Consultations were conducted at 113 community and working group meetings. As a result, a further 10 communities formed governance groups and agreed on decision making processes.

Funding decisions were made for 97 projects totalling \$5,614,519 across 24 communities. Implementation of projects started in 20 communities, and the CLC entered into a further 41 funding agreements. Four projects were completed, including a church renovation in Epenarra and an interstate school excursion in Haasts Bluff.

Communities developed and funded projects with a broad range of cultural, economic and social outcomes. Local Aboriginal employment in areas like construction, media production and childcare was a feature of many project plans. The Ntaria emergency UHF beacon will connect emergency service providers for the first time and will improve safety for residents and tourists. Health benefits will also ensue from Yuendumu's decision to fund an extension of their renal unit, and Alpururulam's contribution to a PowerWater Corporation project to soften the existing water in the short term and provide an alternative water supply down the track.

Many communities have invested their lease money in initiatives such as music studios, media projects and sports facility upgrades. Aboriginal people are looking to support education and school attendance through initiatives such as school excursions, childcare and school transport. Papunya community, for example, funded a minibus to take students from three outstations to and from school, while Ali Curung is implementing a wi-fi access subproject that encourages school attendance.

## NEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The traditional owners for the new Twin Bonanza mine near the West Australian border have allocated a quarter of their future royalties to the Twin Bonanza CD project. Their decision followed numerous consultations with the group about investing some of their future income in community benefit. As most members of this group live in the far northwest Tanami Desert of WA, the design and roll out of this project is challenging. Relocating a CD officer to Lajamanu in the course of the CD program restructure to regional teams aims to assist with the future delivery of this project.

The CLC initiated a second new project after members of the Wanggarri-Kari Aboriginal Corporation, a corporation that has received mining royalties from the currently non-operational Chariot and Malbec mines, allocated \$393,700 for community benefit. The group has used some of the funds invested over the life of the mine to fund three funeral projects to assist with the cost of burials for traditional owners. It also made significant progress in planning several outstation infrastructure upgrades, as well as projects that support education and the maintenance of culture.

The CD program continued to work with two groups who are using relatively modest exploration compensation income for community benefit. Although setting up governance arrangements and planning processes is resource intensive, the CLC anticipates that achieving tangible community benefit outcomes with this income will increase the likelihood of both groups directing more significant future royalties to community benefit as well.

The Nolan's Bore Mine CD project commenced following a decision by the traditional owners to allocate \$360,000 of mining exploration compensation to community benefit. They agreed on governance arrangements and elected a working group to plan how to best use this income.

Further progress was also made on the Rover Mine CD project with plans completed and contracts in place for the upgrade of three outstations using \$150,000 of exploration compensation.

Consultations with affected communities and traditional owners over the stalled Railway Community Development Fund Program also resumed. The compensation fund was established under the Alice Springs to Darwin Railway corridor agreement to address the infrastructure needs of affected communities. The CLC resolved all issues with the NT Department of Justice, negotiated the

release of remaining funds to enable completion of all projects over the next 12 months, and consulted with 16 communities to identify eligible infrastructure projects.

Twelve outstations and land trusts also received support with infrastructure, essential services and equipment outside the CD program, and the CLC prepared five traditional owner identifications for community development and infrastructure support activities.

In the continuing absence of appropriate levels of resource support for the community development aspirations of traditional owners in remote areas, the CLC's land management section and regional office staff provided advocacy and other assistance on a range of matters relevant to the infrastructure, essential service and equipment needs of outstations on Aboriginal land and CLAs to the following areas:

- Akanta ALT (Henbury locality): assisted the Akanta Aboriginal Corporation to address the conditions of a successful ABA application for the purchase of a community truck
- Angas Downs PL: prepared an ABA application for installation of a solar bore pump at the Angas Downs ranger station
- Athenge Lhere ALT: represented traditional owners in discussions with Ingkerreke Outstation Resource Centre and the neighbouring Bond Springs pastoralist in resolving the issue of access to a reliable water supply for 16 Mile outstation
- Karlantijpa South ALT: identified infrastructure needs and actions required to support the reoccupation of Jarra Jarra outstation by traditional owners resident in Ali Curung, and advocated with the Barkly Shire regarding grading of the Jarra Jarra road, community infrastructure maintenance and the long-standing Yapa track proposal
- Mpwelarre ALT (Mt Peachy): assisted community residents with an ABA funding application for community fencing work at Walkabout Bore outstation
- Mpweringe-Anarpipe ALT (Yambah locality): traditional owner consultations took place about the proposed demolition and salvage of infrastructure at the former Harry Creek East outstation, abandoned due to placement of the Alice Springs to Darwin railway
- Mungkarta ALT: assisted residents of the Ngayarrmini community to progress replacement of the community water tank
- Partta Lands (Tennant Creek locality): liaised with Julalikari Council regarding repairs to the community bore at Wiitin outstation

- Pmere Nyente ALT: coordinated asset protection activity at Uluperte outstation with traditional owners and the Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) Rangers
- Ulpanyali CLA (Watarrka National Park): assisted residents to plan the construction of internal and external fencing requirements at the Ulpanyali outstation and identify potential funding sources
- Uruna ALT: assisted in the preparation of an ABA application for the connection of mains power to West Waterhouse outstation
- Wetengerr CLA (Epenarra): gave technical advice and logistical support for dust suppression and landscape enhancement works to the surrounds of the new community church at Epenarra.

Traditional owner and affected community consultations were also undertaken on the use of negotiated income payments derived from a range of lease and other agreements over Aboriginal-owned land for community development purposes. These included:

- park rent money consultations with traditional owners of Watarrka National Park, Judburra National

Park, Yeperenye/Emily-Jessie Gap Nature Park and Heavitree Gap extension and Dulcie Ranges National Park

- resumption of consultations with affected communities and traditional owners in the Tennant Creek, Central and Alice Springs regions over use of funds from the stalled Railway Community Development Fund Program, a compensation fund established under the Alice Springs to Darwin Railway corridor agreement to address identified infrastructure needs of affected Aboriginal communities. In this period the CLC:
  - resolved all issues with the NT Department of Justice to reactivate the program, including reporting again on project outcomes and expenditure to date
  - negotiated the release of remaining funds to the CLC to enable completion of all projects over the next 6 to 12 months
  - conducted consultations to identify eligible infrastructure projects at 16 affected communities.



Pouring the slab for the Epenarra church extension – one of the community lease money projects completed in 2013.