

OUTPUT GROUP 2

LAND CLAIMS & ACQUISITION SUPPORT

The Central Land Council aims to provide Aboriginal landowners with information, advice and support to enable them to manage their land in a sustainable and productive way.

OUTPUT

2.1 LAND CLAIMS

2.2 OTHER LAND ACQUISITION

OUTCOMES

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.

OUTPUT 2.1

LAND CLAIMS

WAKAYA ALYAWARRE

Following the CLC's extensive negotiations with the NT Government and consultations with traditional owners the NT Government made an offer for the final settlement of this longstanding claim. A cadastral survey for the Canteen Creek community was finalised and the settlement documents, including the offer for grant of freehold title under the ALRA and an ILUA in respect of Canteen Creek, have been drafted and are under consideration by the parties. Settlement will provide for the handback of Aboriginal freehold title for the majority of the area claimed and NT freehold title for the community of Canteen Creek. Completion and registration of the ILUA dealing with native title matters within Canteen Creek will take place during 2015, and title handback and final disposition of the claim should occur shortly thereafter.

FRANCES WELL

Issues of traditional ownership are not in dispute; however, the outstanding matter of detriment, largely as between the NT Government and the owners of Maryvale PPL land claim, required a hearing before the Aboriginal Land Commissioner on site in 2013. The parties' final submissions were made in the previous reporting year and a decision by the Land Commissioner remains pending.

WARUMUNGU

The CLC is processing final land exchange for the road realignment at the Three Ways Roadhouse to enable a short section of the current road alignment of the Barkly Highway intersection with the Stuart Highway to be excised from the Land Trust and swapped with the road reserve of similar area where the highways had previously met.

WANGKANGURRU

The CLC received the Land Commissioner's report on the Wangkangurru claim which was unfortunately not successful. Meetings to inform the relevant Aboriginal people will be held in the 2015–16 financial year.

YURRKURU / BROOKS SOAK

In 1992 the Aboriginal Land Commissioner found the claims of traditional owners proven over of this small area of crown land containing the site Yurrkuru and recommended that the land be granted. However,



Traditional owners of Yurrkuru perform the bandicoot *purlapa* (ceremony).

the Commissioner also recommended that careful consideration be given to the detriment issues raised by the leaseholder of the Mount Denison pastoral lease, which surrounds the site.

The soak was also the location of the killing of dingo trapper Fred Brooks in 1928 which triggered reprisal killings of large numbers of innocent Aboriginal people which became known as the Coniston Massacre.

Following the ALC report the claimants continued to press for the return of the area for a further two decades. The Minister for Indigenous Affairs was provided with detailed submissions by the CLC arguing for the return of the land together with submissions on behalf of the pastoral lessee. In 2014 the Minister advised that he was satisfied that the claimed area should be granted and made a recommendation to the Governor General.

The Yurrkuru Aboriginal Land Trust was established to hold the title and the CLC arranged for the formal delivery of the Deed of Grant by the Minister on 8 October 2014 at Yurrkuru. The handback ceremony was supported by the CLC and well attended by traditional owners, the Minister, the federal member for Lingiari and the regional police commissioner.

OUTPUT 2.2 LAND ACQUISITIONS

Pursue all other appropriate avenues to achieve the acquisition of land for the benefit of Aboriginal people.

LAND ACQUISITION: COMMUNITY LIVING AREAS

The CLC represented traditional owners in negotiations with the lessee regarding establishment of a community living area on Manners Creek station.

WARTI-YANGU ABORIGINAL LAND TRUST

As part of the settlement negotiations for the native title claim over Tennant Creek in 2007, resolution was also reached over land issues outside of the township that had been outstanding since the days of the Warumungu Land Rights Claim. In 2013, five parcels of land to the north of Tennant Creek held by traditional owners, including Kunjarra (the Devils Pebbles), were enhanced to Aboriginal freehold under the Land Rights Act, and held by the Warti-Yangu Aboriginal Land Trust. In conjunction with this settlement the CLC concluded negotiations with the pastoral leaseholders of Tennant

Creek Station in 2009 to relinquish rights over an adjacent portion of land to secure tenure for the Wittin outstation in exchange for a right of way for the pastoral lease. On 8 October 2014, Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, delivered a deed of grant for the area excised from Tennant Creek PPL to the Warti-Yangu Aboriginal Land Trust.

SANDOVER/AMMAROO

As part of the Sandover NT Determination an ILUA was entered into providing for approximately 31 square kilometres of land to be excised from Ammaroo PPL and handed back as ALRA freehold title to the traditional owners. This was in exchange for the reincorporation of the former stock routes and stock reserve on Ammaroo PPL into the pastoral lease. This process is underway and should result in a title handback in the forthcoming reporting period.



Twenty-two years of waiting came to an end for the traditional owners of Yurrkuru when Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion handed back the title to their land in October 2014.