

OUTPUT GROUP 3

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

OUTPUT	3.1	LAND USE AGREEMENTS
	3.2	EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & TRAINING
	3.3	MINING
	3.4	COMMERCIAL ASSISTANCE



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 3.1

LAND USE AGREEMENTS

The CLC has statutory functions to help traditional owners manage their land and to negotiate, on their behalf, with people wanting to use Aboriginal land.

Following lodgement of an application (but before consultation on a land use agreement can commence) the traditional owners for the land must be identified. Aboriginal land is owned by the traditional owners, the title for which is held on their behalf by an Aboriginal land trust (ALT). Pursuant to s.19 of the ALRA, the CLC may direct a land trust to enter into an agreement or grant an interest in land to a third party; however, it does not make the decision.

Before giving a direction to a land trust, the CLC must ensure that the traditional owners of the land understand the nature of the proposed transaction and, as a group, consent to it. The CLC must also ensure that any affected Aboriginal people have been consulted and provided with the opportunity to express their views. Finally, the CLC must consider that the terms and conditions, pursuant to which the grant is to be made, are fair and reasonable.

The CLC applies its technical, legal and commercial expertise to maximise the benefits for traditional owners when negotiating an agreement for a lease or licence. Benefits may include employment and training opportunities, financial returns, environmental monitoring strategies, or the protection of sacred sites.

The CLC monitors projects to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the lease or licence and, in accordance with the traditional owners' instructions, distributes any income received on behalf of the traditional owners.

PROPOSAL FOR NUCLEAR WASTE REPOSITORY IN THE TANAMI

The Minister for Industry and Science advised that the nomination process open only to NT land councils under the *National Radioactive Waste Management*



In September, traditional owners and residents of Tanami communities considered a proposal for a nuclear waste dump at a number of meetings. The meetings were supported by CLC directorate, legal, anthropological and land management staff.



Consultations about the proposed nuclear waste dump in the Tanami.

Act 2012 (NRWM Act) would close on 30 September 2014. The CLC received a written request on 8 August, signed by some traditional owners, requesting consultations for a proposed nomination for a site in the Tanami Desert as a nuclear waste repository.

The CLC sought detailed information from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and from the office of the Minister for Industry and Science regarding the construction and operation of the proposed repository together with details of the unspecified offer for a 'comprehensive compensation and benefits package'.

The CLC contracted an anthropological consultant to identify traditional owners and, on 11 September 2014, convened a meeting of traditional landowners at the Tanami mine site. The meeting was supported by CLC directorate, legal, anthropological and land management staff and provided for speakers from the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), the Department of Industry, and technical experts to present information to landowners. The CLC also arranged for similar consultations and information sessions in Lajamanu on 22 September 2014 and Yuendumu on 24 September. Each of these meetings provided information regarding the legal framework and nomination process, nuclear waste and regulatory approvals, potential designs for waste storage, and health and safety issues. A similar meeting organised for Balgo on 23 September was abandoned due to community issues.

Following consultations, the CLC advised the Minister that the Minister's requirement for a proposed nomination to be 'free from dispute' could not currently be met. Traditional owners subsequently advised the CLC that they did not wish to proceed with discussions.

The Minister opened the nationwide selection process for a nuclear waste repository in December 2014.

LEASES

Australian Government

Within the CLC region the Australian Government has now been granted leases over 1,132 lots in 25 communities situated on land held by ALTs under the Land Rights Act and in community living areas (CLAs). This includes lots leased for the purpose of providing community housing and Australian Government infrastructure.

During 2014–15, consent was granted for a total of 29 leases to the Australian Government, with 23 leases relating to community housing in Engawala and six leases concerning infrastructure situated in CLAs. The CLC received two lease applications from the Australian Government between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015.

Traditional landowner and community consent has been obtained over two community housing leases in Santa Teresa and Engawala which await execution by the Australian Government. Once the Commonwealth has executed these remaining leases, it will have been granted 40-year leases over housing in 25 communities throughout the CLC region.

The CLC continues to receive reports about the substandard quality of housing in communities, and advocates for improved standards of housing. Further reports indicate NT Housing regularly fails to attend to repair and maintenance in communities throughout the region despite continuing to collect rent for services that are demonstrably failing.

When negotiating the housing leases, the Australian Government committed to making investments to improve housing under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH). In an effort to hold the Commonwealth accountable for the representations made, the CLC is continuing to interrogate the Australian Government regarding levels of funding committed and acquitted under NPARIH.

NT Government

The NT Government holds 278 leases in ALRA communities and a further seven leases in CLAs in the CLC region. During 2014–15, consent was granted to the NT Government for a further 82 leases. Thirty-nine of these leases are situated in CLAs and require the consent of the NT Minister in accordance with NT legislation.

The NT Government has continued to lodge lease applications and seek secure tenure concerning infrastructure situated on Aboriginal land throughout the CLC region. During the first six months of 2015, as part of the NT Government's Solar Energy

Applications received: 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Lessee	Community Living Areas	ALRA communities
Commonwealth Government	1	1
NT Government	17	29
Local Government	32	147
Non-government	4	25

Consultations conducted – 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Lessee	Community Living Areas	ALRA communities
Commonwealth Government	2	12
NT Government	21	159
Local Government	78	311
Non-government	5	107

Consents obtained – 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Lessee	Community Living Areas	ALRA communities
Commonwealth Government	29	0
NT Government	39	43
Local Government	38	143
Non-government	6	35

Total number of current leases and licences

Lessee	Community Living Areas	ALRA communities
Commonwealth Government	309	823
NT Government	7	278
Local Government	30	114
Non-government	6	166

Transformation Program, the CLC received lease applications from the NT for the construction and operation of solar power stations in 10 communities. Consultations with traditional landowners and communities have been conducted (and scheduled beyond the period) with landowner consent granted for solar power station leases in five communities.

The NT Government advised the CLC that although its Remote Indigenous Communities Cadastre Survey Project has progressed, the revised completion date has been set back until 21 June 2016. The project will formalise the land boundaries in remote Indigenous communities and satisfy the requirements under the *Planning Act* (NT) to enable leases to be readily entered into for a period in excess of 12 years. The lack of community cadastre has been a major impediment in the past to the leasing on Aboriginal land and in CLAs.

The CLC will continue to talk with the NT Government about how outstanding lease applications can be integrated into the CLC consultation meeting program for 2015–16.

Local government

Four regional councils are responsible for providing local government services to communities throughout the CLC region: Central Desert Regional Council; MacDonnell Regional Council; Barkly Regional Council; and Victoria Daly Regional Council.

During 2014–15 the CLC reached agreement with each regional council to finalise template lease and licence agreements. This enabled the CLC to embark on the significant task of consulting with traditional landowners and communities about the regional council land use applications across the region. With a total of 389 consultations completed and consent

obtained for 181 land use agreements, applications lodged by the regional councils for the purpose of obtaining a lease or a licence have constituted a major segment of the CLC's legal and leasing workload.

The four regional councils have now been granted 144 current leases and licences throughout the CLC region. There remain 240 land use applications lodged by the regional councils to be finalised. The CLC will continue with traditional landowner and community consultations for these applications and, subject to traditional landowners' consent, arrange completion of the balance of applications during 2015–16.

Non-government

Currently 172 leases throughout the CLC region have been granted to non-government organisations, consisting largely of Aboriginal organisations operating art centres and stores.

Non-government organisations are often required by funding agencies to obtain secure tenure over assets in communities situated on Aboriginal land, but many now make application to lease of their own volition. The CLC is working to integrate their outstanding applications into the consultation program for next financial year.

During 2014–15 the CLC worked solidly to deal with the large number of outstanding requests. It also embarked on a process of obtaining standing instructions from traditional landowners to apply for up to five years regarding the allocation of rent generated from leases granted pursuant to s.19 of the ALRA. Options have included using the money for the benefit of communities, ceremonial purposes or individual traditional landowners. With the term of many leases being 40 years, the CLC will need to factor in the ongoing requirement of obtaining instructions for the allocation and application of an ongoing income stream to ensure that traditional owner benefits are optimised.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

In the course of processing pastoral land use proposals, the CLC provided support to traditional owners in negotiations with local and other NT pastoral interests seeking grazing licences over Aboriginal-owned land, and in the implementation and ongoing monitoring of licence conditions.

Key areas of negotiation include training and employment opportunities for traditional owners and remote communities, and sustainable grazing levels compatible with cultural and natural resource values. Other important areas are the redevelopment

of pastoral infrastructure for the future benefit of traditional owners and resolving potential conflicts with existing community land access and undeveloped land use aspirations of traditional owners.

Grazing licences occur on land being developed under the collaborative Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP) and other areas of Aboriginal land outside the program. Typically, they are issued for a term of 5+5 years but may be longer. Grazing licences or subleases are also issued to Aboriginal pastoral companies to enable them to operate commercially on Aboriginal land.

The CLC continued to monitor the terms and conditions of 15 existing grazing licences over Aboriginal land. It also helped a number of licence holders to liaise with traditional owners on matters affecting their operations or arising from implementing licence conditions. The CLC liaised with the Haasts Bluff licence holder over the culling of about 400 camels and reinvestment of \$20,000 from the muster and sale of unanticipated cleanskin cattle into further infrastructure development.

Aboriginal companies undertaking commercial pastoral operations in the region hold four grazing licences over Aboriginal land and two subleases over Aboriginal pastoral leases to support their activity. Although no new grazing licences were issued in this period, significant progress was made toward the granting of licences to external pastoral interests on the areas shown opposite.

Preliminary expressions of interest received for the Yuendumu ALT, two additional areas on the Hooker Creek ALT and an additional area of the Daguragu ALT will proceed to consultation once proposals are in hand.

Commercial feral animal harvest

The CLC conducted traditional owner consultations, proponent negotiations and other related actions to facilitate the commercial harvest of feral animals from the Haasts Bluff ALT (277 feral horses and 260 cattle) and Hooker Creek/Central Desert ALTs (323 feral horses). It received expressions of interest and held preliminary discussions for Urrampinyi Itjiltjarri and Yalpirikinu ALTs respectively.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The CLC did not enter into any formal lease agreements for tourism development. However, it concluded negotiations for the issuing of one licence agreement to Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia for the Australian Outback Marathon on the Katiti ALT.

Ahakeye ALT (formerly Ti Tree PL)	Consultations and negotiations completed to issue a grazing licence to G&C Pastoral Company to formalise interim grazing operations originally put in place to address animal welfare and infrastructure maintenance issues.
Arletherre ALT (formerly Loves Creek PL)	Consultations and negotiations completed to issue a grazing licence to G&C Pastoral Company to extend prior sublease arrangements.
Atnetye ALT (former Atula station portion)	Grazing licence proposal from the lessee of neighbouring Jervois station approved by traditional owners late in the period for a term of five years but not yet issued.
Alkwert ALT (former Alcoota station)	Traditional owner consultations continued regarding current management circumstances of the Alcoota Cattle Company and arrangements required to continue its operations under changed tenure conditions of the ALT.
Alkwert ALT (former Waite River station portion)	Negotiations continued with the former sub-lessee in transition to vacating the property in July 2015. Three competing expressions of interest received for this area will be presented to traditional owners in the next period once detailed proposals are received.
Angarapa ALT	Two competing grazing licence proposals over a southern portion of the ALT received from parties with interests also in the adjoining Waite River area will be presented to traditional owners in the next period. A proposal received for another area of the ALT from a local interest is also yet to be put to traditional owners.
Wakaya ALT	Held preliminary traditional owner consultations over an expression of interest from the Epenarra station lessee but no formal proposal received to date.



A CLC ranger removes a carcass from a rock hole.



Commonwealth public servants consult with traditional owners and affected community residents about proposals for a nuclear waste repository in the Tanami.

The CLC continued to promote its statutory responsibilities and processes with interested tour operators and potential partners and facilitated steps for the development of tourism proposals, including traditional owner consultations and negotiations for:

- a lease to develop the proposed Finke Eco-lodge promoted by the PWCNT and Tourism NT
- a special purpose permit for an artist camp with traditional owner involvement on the Mungkarta ALT area adjoining Karlu Karlu/Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve
- a special purpose permit application for two operators seeking to develop tours into Walka and Tjunti on the Petermann ALT
- a special purpose permit for a 4WD tourism company to conduct a promotional reconnaissance trip to Docker River
- four traditional owner and six external tourism proposals on jointly managed parks and reserves including consultations with relevant joint management committees.

OTHER INTERESTS

For Arletherre ALT (former Loves Creek PL), the CLC completed consultations and negotiations with the NT Department of Correctional Services for the establishment of an Early Intervention Youth Camp for young offenders and youth at risk. The program will be operated by Operation Flinders Foundation under a two-year lease to establish a semi-permanent 'base camp' and non-exclusive licence over an 'activity area' with renewal options up to 10 years. The camp, scheduled to open in July 2015, is to employ two young traditional owners to provide mentoring and cultural guidance to camp participants.

OUTPUT 3.2 EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Assist as appropriate in the economic advancement of Aboriginal people through employment, education and training, particularly in relation to land use proposals.

The CLC continued to maximise sustainable Aboriginal employment and training outcomes from the performance of its statutory functions through advocacy with government and industry, direct job placement, and workplace support for employee retention. Inherent advantages brought to the task of addressing employment aspirations across the region include awareness of and capacity to broker employment opportunities arising from mining and other CLC-negotiated land use agreements. The CLC has established relationships and reputation for facilitating placement of Aboriginal people with potential employers in resource-based industries active in the region. Collaborative land management arrangements and enterprise development partnerships can be facilitated by the CLC land management section, and maintains strong community networks and familiarity with constituent aspirations and circumstances.

An Aboriginal-identified position co-ordinating the new Employment and Enterprise Unit was filled in January. The unit aims to improve efficiencies and enhance capacity in both streams of activity, and to integrate

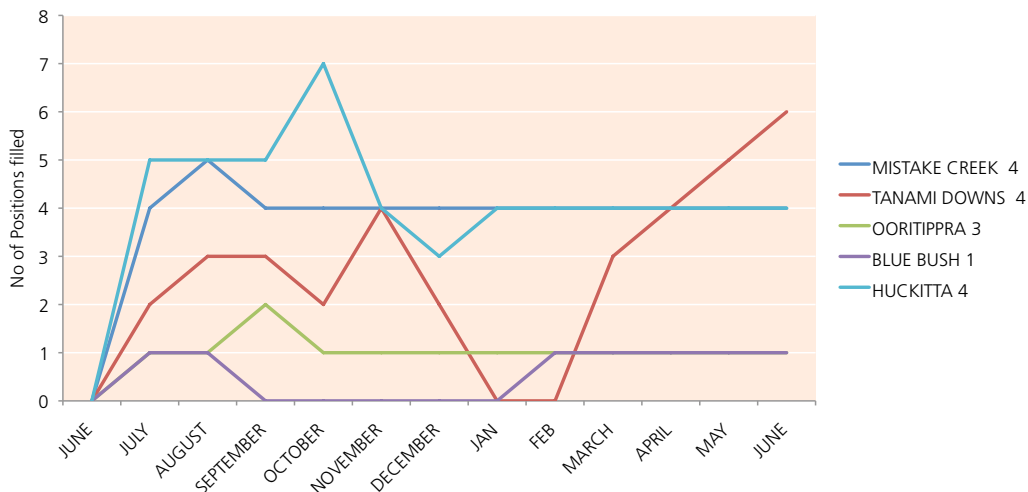
employment opportunities arising from enterprise development and commercial activity on Aboriginal land. In addition to two existing positions supporting the ILC’s Pastoral Real Jobs (Pastoral) program (RJP) and enterprise-based positions in recruitment, the unit will have a complement of 10 staff.

MINING AND EXPLORATION

The CLC facilitated the recruitment and retention of 23 Aboriginal people into full-time employment in mining, exploration and allied industries following pre-employment sessions conducted for Newmont Asia Pacific and Sodexo Australia.

It reviewed employment provisions of the Granites mining agreement with Newmont Tanami Operation and developed the terms of a proposed survey to identify community members’ attitudes and aspirations on employment and small-scale enterprise development. It also met with Newmont about the progress of CLC placements, as well as with six other mining companies about further employment opportunities.

PASTORAL EMPLOYMENT – MONTHLY STAFFING LEVELS 2014–15



The CLC developed RJP training schedules and delivered or facilitated delivery of training to RJP and VETiS participants, including:

- on-the-job training at RJP locations in cattle handling and station infrastructure maintenance skills
- completion of training in Work Safely at Heights by two RJP participants and VETiS students
- accredited training in Prepare and Apply Chemicals; Transport, Handle and Store Chemicals; and Implement Vertebrate Pest Control Program for VETiS participants at Blue Bush
- accredited training in Introduction to Cattle Handling for groups of VETiS students from Yirara College, Centralian Middle School and Centralian Senior College at Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI).

The CLC facilitated a visit by students from the Clontarf Football Academy to the AZRI yards for an introduction to the pastoral industry, and Low Stress Stock Handling and First Aid training for RJP participants and property managers at Mistake Creek. It presented to Tennant Creek High School VETiS students on pastoral employment opportunities, and participated in the Pastoral Futures Program Information Day and a Careers Expo for secondary schools in Alice Springs.

It also submitted an expression of interest to the ILC for the renewal of RJP Program funding to maintain the 15 FTEs up to June 2018.

PASTORAL

Participation in two collaborative interagency initiatives affiliated with the Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP) led to significant pastoral employment and training outcomes for Aboriginal people. They are the Pastoral Futures Program, being implemented through the VET in Schools (VETiS) program, and the Real Jobs Pastoral program, a contract with the ILC to support the placement and retention of 15 FTE trainees into IPP-affiliated Aboriginal-owned pastoral enterprises.

NATIONAL PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT

The CLC continues to perform representative and practical functions to secure employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal people under two joint management regimes (UKTNP and through the PWCNT) for national parks and reserves. However, employment outcomes continued to be limited and well below the expectations of traditional owners.

The CLC helped recruit Aboriginal apprentices by supporting eight people to submit applications. Three candidates were appointed to positions at Watarrka National Park, Simpsons Gap and the Alice Springs Telegraph Station.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: COMMUNITY RANGER PROGRAMS

The CLC ranger program remains one of the most successful and popular models for remote community employment and skills development, providing a highly valued employment framework in cultural and natural resource management on Aboriginal land.

Over the year 182 people were employed across 11 ranger groups within the program in permanent positions or short-term casual contracts underpinned by funding from the Working on Country and ILC Real Jobs (Ranger) programs.

Employment outcomes and ranger retention

At the end of June 2015 the CLC employed 113 Aboriginal rangers on a full-time, part-time or casual



basis under the Working on Country and Real Jobs funding arrangements, an increase on the 97 rangers employed in June 2014.

Over the six years of consolidated funding (2010–15), 464 Aboriginal people have been employed as CLC rangers either in permanent positions (part-time and full-time) or under short-term casual contracts. Rangers are currently aged between 17 and 66 years – from school leavers through to senior rangers providing leadership and cultural direction.

Over the six years of the program permanent ranger employment has grown by 76%, a 52% increase on the previous period.

Over the first five years of the consolidated program the proportion of women rangers remained fairly constant, at 23.7%. This period saw a significant improvement, rising to 29.2%, or 33 women rangers employed at 30 June 2015. This reflects the role of a number of leading women rangers and greater efforts to attract young women.

The CLC continues to promote a career pathway for rangers to progress to more senior positions. Two Aboriginal co-ordinators leading the Hermannsburg-based Tjuwanpa Rangers and the Ltyentye Apurte Rangers at Santa Teresa both progressed from support officer roles. A support officer to the Warlpiri Rangers assisting in the management of the Southern Tanami IPA was promoted to fire management officer.

Ranger recruitment and induction

The CLC recruited permanent part-time positions in 10 ranger groups. It interviewed 91 applicants, and appointed 42 new rangers. Of these, 14 were women. The Papunya and Harts Range groups appointed women for the first time.

Quality targeted training and professional development

In its sixth year with a dedicated ranger trainer, the program continued to achieve significant outcomes in building foundation competencies and career pathway progression through the provision of quality professional development and targeted training. Development of basic work-readiness skills continues to be the focus of training for newer recruits, such as first aid, 4WD, quad-bike operations, workplace policies and procedures. For more established rangers with demonstrated competency in core WHS requirements the CLC provides diverse training to address individual skills gaps, career aspirations and specialist skills needed for safe performance of duties and involving chainsaws, advanced welding, heavy machinery operations and aerial incendiary use.

Ranger WHS compliance

Compliance with WHS requirements continues to be prominent in ranger group and individual training plans. Significant WHS training achievements in this period included the preparation of 16 standard operating procedures; quad bike qualification updates; chemical storage and transport training; fire fighting; and emergency control.

Language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) training

Literacy and numeracy skills are essential for rangers to complete hazardous tasks safely. The CLC LLN training improves rangers' confidence in learning, communicating verbally and in writing and presenting about their work at conferences and workshops.

With Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL) funding exhausted in the previous period, the CLC could not provide LLN training continuously this year, nor did all ranger groups benefit from the training

Qualification / course / occupational licence	Number of rangers undertaking course 2014–15	Number of rangers completed 2014–15
Certificate I in Conservation and Land Management	3	0
Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management	47	21
Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management	22	7
Certificate IV in Conservation and Land Management	5	0
SMARTtrain Chemical Use Accreditation Licence	23	23
Firefighting I NT Accreditation	8	8
Quad Bike Qualification Upgrade	20	20
Aerial Incendiary training (2 courses)	14	14
New Ranger Induction	43	43
Operate & Maintain Chainsaws Qualification Upgrade	7	7

that could be delivered. Remnant ABA funds allowed delivery of LLN training to seven groups; however, four groups were left without formal LLN support.

Contractor trainers delivered 682 hours of training on a rotational basis, well above the target direct hours of 560. It focused on workplace numeracy skills, map reading, measuring distances, working with CyberTracker and fundamental mathematical tasks. The CLC also supports individual rangers in their accredited training at Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) in reading comprehension, spelling and grammar.

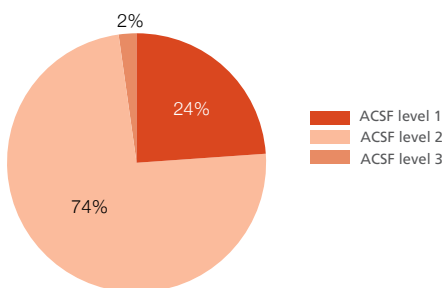
Achievements

- Nine rangers graduated in Certificate II Conservation Land Management (CLM) and one in Certificate III CLM.
- Twelve rangers graduated in Certificate II CLM and six rangers from graduated in Certificate III CLM.
- A female Ltyentye Apurte ranger presented on a local Climate Adaptation Project undertaken with CSIRO to the Looking After Desert Country event held in parallel with the World Parks Congress in Sydney.
- The Ltyentye Apurte ranger group co-ordinator presented at the annual Australian Rangelands Society Conference in Alice Springs.
- The Tjuwanpa ranger co-ordinator was awarded the NT Ranger of the Year Award.
- The Murnkurrumurnkurru ranger group won the NT Natural Resource Management Ranger Team of the Year award.

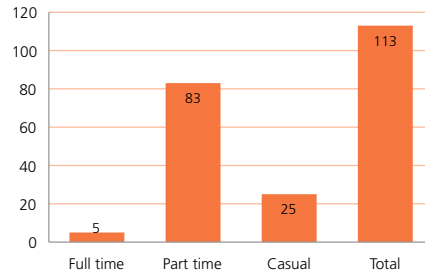
Ninth Central Australian Indigenous Community Ranger Camp

Over 130 Aboriginal rangers attended the 9th annual CLC Ranger Camp at Watarrka (Kings Canyon) National Park over three days in March 2015. Participants included rangers from the 11 CLC ranger groups, the PWCNT and six ranger groups

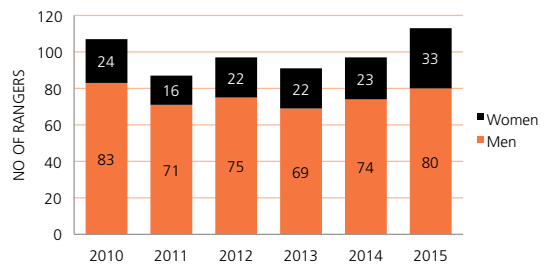
RANGER INDIVIDUAL AUSTRALIAN CORE SKILLS FRAMEWORK LEVEL



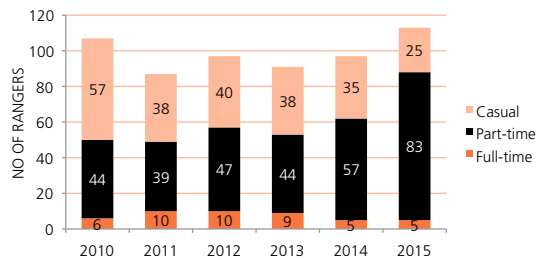
RANGER EMPLOYMENT SNAPSHOTS, AT 30 JUNE 2015



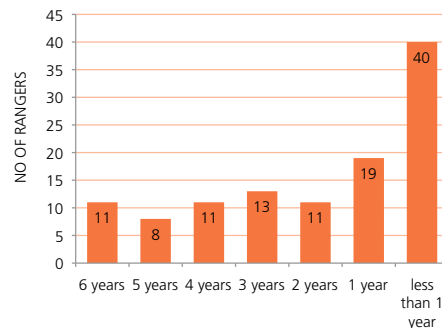
MALE AND FEMALE RANGERS 2010-15



EMPLOYMENT TYPE AT 30 JUNE 2015



RANGER RETENTION IN YEARS, AT 30 JUNE 2015



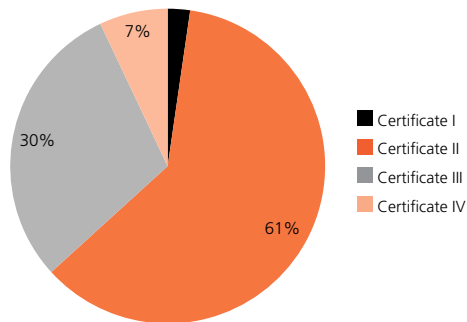
from SA and WA. The annual camp is an opportunity for training, networking, sharing information and building relationships between groups.

Ranger mentoring support

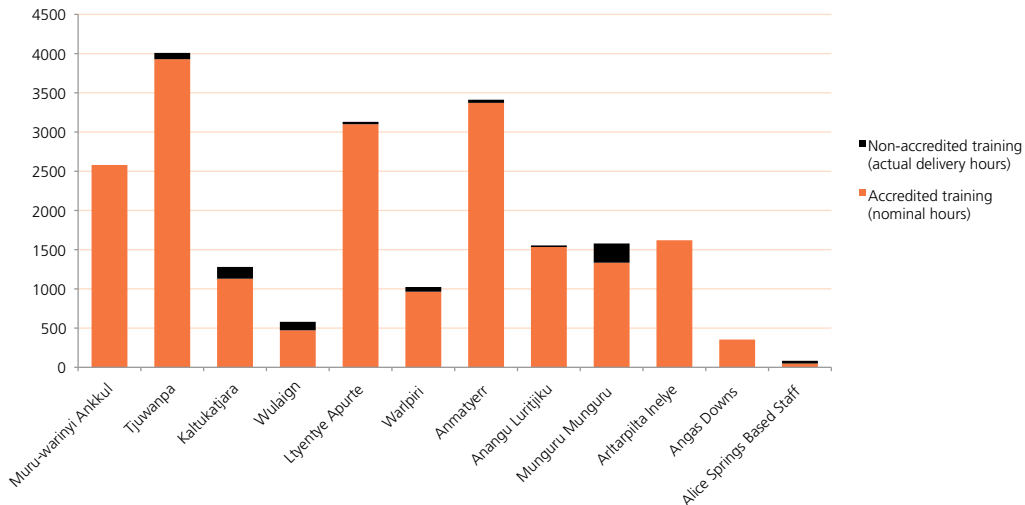
Many rangers have little experience of ongoing employment. Mentoring support is critical to meeting workplace expectations and addressing matters affecting ranger performance and retention. Others enter the program with varying levels of experience, confidence and capability and need other development responses.

A total of 3,300 mentoring engagements were completed over 77 mentoring visits, with an average of seven mentor visits per group. Visits were timed to enable mentors to also help deliver training and recruitment or supervise groups when co-ordinators were absent.

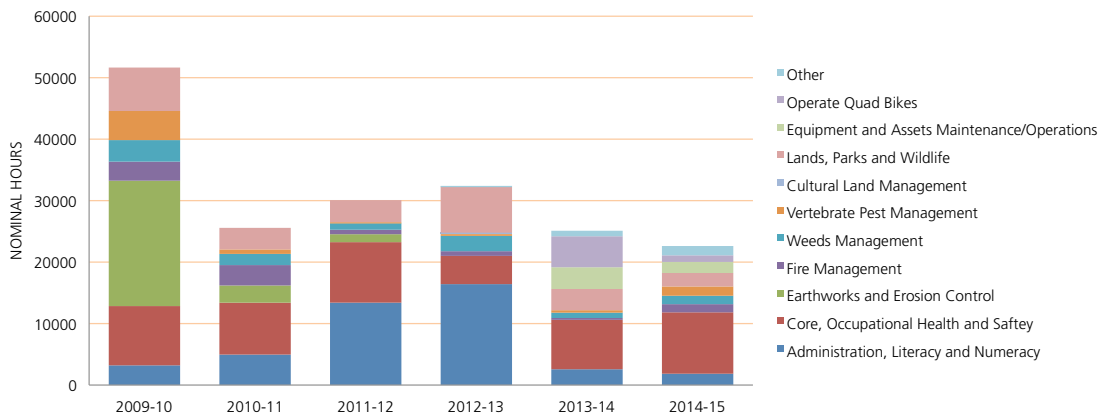
CLC RANGER ACCREDITED TRAINING (BY CERTIFICATE LEVEL) 2014–15



TRAINING HOURS BY CLC RANGER GROUP 2014–15



AREAS OF RANGER TRAINING OVER THE LIFE OF THE PROGRAM



SCHOOL-BASED CAPACITY BUILDING

The ranger program produces positive role models for students in classrooms and on country. Interactions with rangers contribute to learning outcomes while providing visible employment pathways and motivation for students to stay in school for longer.

All ranger groups engaged with schools, junior ranger programs, traditional owners and parents in their communities. Often these occasions facilitated the intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge and work experience.

Murnkurrumurnkurru Rangers helped a linguist to develop a Gurindji bird poster, including class-time interactions to pass on language and knowledge about the birds of the region.

North Tanami Rangers helped a school camp with students and traditional owners to pass on traditional knowledge.

Warlpiri Rangers supported a country camp and held meetings to plan collaborative activities with Yuendumu School.

Anangu Luritjiku Rangers supported a trip to Tjungkupu for students and parents from Ikuntji and Watiyawanu Schools, passing on cultural and ecological knowledge.

Muru-warinyi Ankkul Rangers hosted a workplace visit by Barkly High School students and a work placement for two female students.

Anmatyerr Rangers planned junior ranger activities at the Engawala, Stirling and Laramba schools.

Arltarpilta Inelye Rangers planned junior ranger program country visits with Atitjere School.

Ltyentye Apurte Rangers incorporated school into a climate adaptation project with CSIRO and Tangentyere Land and Learning program.

Tjuwanpa Rangers supported Ntaria School students undertaking Cert I Rural Operations and Junior Ranger activities.

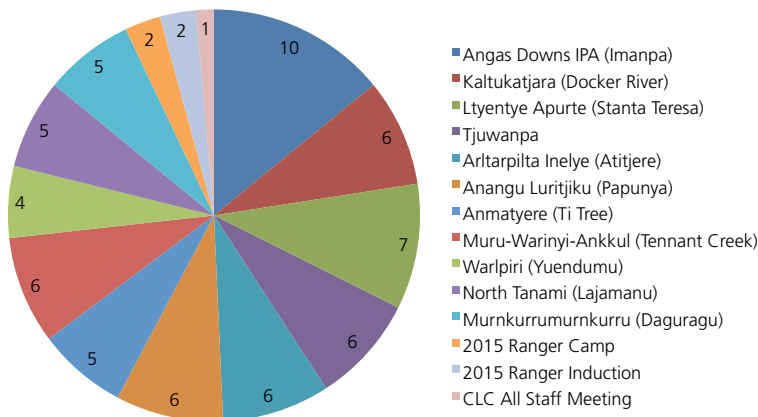
Angas Downs Anangu Rangers supported a school visit and country trip with Nyangatjatjara College students.

Kaltukatjara Rangers assisted Nyangatjatjara College and students from Sydney to make *irmangka* *irmangka* bush medicine.

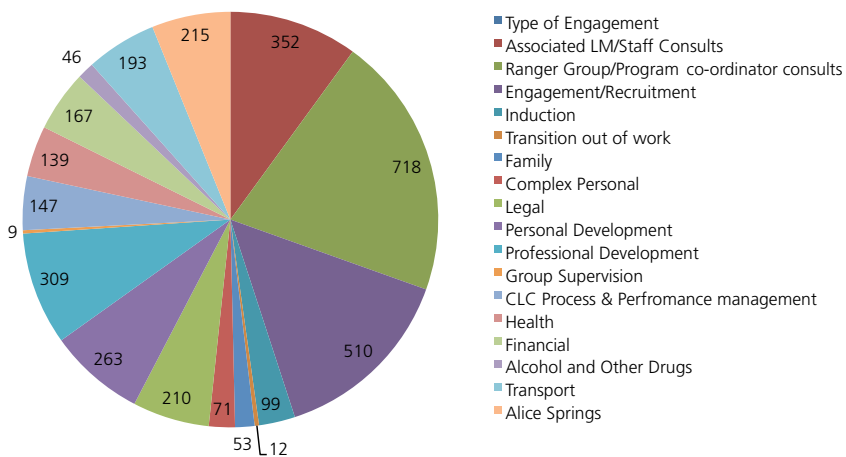


CLC rangers Richard Furber, Gibson John, and Shannon Landers present to students from Ltyentye Apurte (SantaTeresa) about their climate change adaptation project.

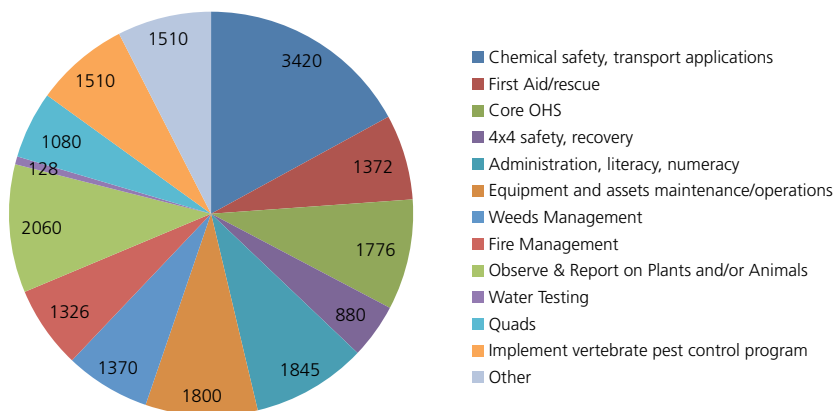
RANGER MENTOR ACTIVITY – NUMBER OF VISITS BY RANGER GROUP 2014–15



RANGER MENTOR ACTIVITY – NUMBER OF ENGAGEMENTS BY TYPE 2014–15



CLC RANGER TRAINING HOURS DELIVERED (BY SKILLS SET) 2014–15



OUTPUT 3.3

MINING

Mining is the largest industry in the Northern Territory. The value of mineral production is worth more than \$5 billion annually, and mining on Aboriginal land accounts for much of this. One of the most productive gold mines in Australia is in the Tanami Desert some 500 kilometres north-west of Alice Springs. Newmont's Granite's mine has yielded millions of ounces of gold over the past 20 years and reports of a further 3 million ounces of gold reserves. Twin Bonanza, the newest gold discovery in the NT, is also in the Tanami and commenced production in June 2015. Onshore oil and gas production occur in the NT at Palm Valley and Mereenie west of Alice Springs, and at the Surprise Field on the Haasts Bluff ALT near Kintore. All these sites operate under agreements made with the CLC on behalf of traditional Aboriginal owners, with the first agreement signed in 1981.

The agreements reached under the ALRA provide benefits to traditional Aboriginal owners, such as community development projects, compensation payments, employment, training, sacred site protection, environmental protection and cultural awareness.

The CLC negotiated with exploration companies requesting access to Aboriginal land. Under the ALRA the CLC must ensure that traditional Aboriginal owners are fully informed when making decisions over exploration and mining. Agreements can be entered into only where there is informed group consent. Adherence to the legislative process provides certainty to both Aboriginal people and proponents.

EXPLORATION LICENCE APPLICATIONS

Exploration for minerals and petroleum is regulated under the Northern Territory's Mineral Titles and Petroleum Acts. Exploration licences allow the holder/operator to explore for minerals over the area of the licence. Exploration permits generally cover much larger areas and are required for oil and gas exploration. A more recent addition to mineral/petroleum tenure is the Geothermal Exploration Permit (GEP) under the new NT *Geothermal Energy Act*. There are currently no GEP applications over Aboriginal land in the CLC region.

On Aboriginal land, exploration licences and permits can only be granted with the consent of the CLC. The mining provisions (Part IV) of the ALRA set out

a clear process for accessing Aboriginal land. The NT Mining Minister initiates the process by consenting to exploration applicants entering into negotiation with the CLC. Applicants then have three months to lodge an application with the CLC.

In response, the CLC organises meetings to consult the relevant traditional Aboriginal owners and ascertain their views. The applicant is entitled to present their exploration proposals to them at the first meeting. A representative of the Minister can also attend this part of the meeting.

Where instructed, the CLC negotiates an agreement about the terms and conditions of the grant. Through this process the rights and interests of traditional Aboriginal owners are protected, and once a decision is made, the applicants have the certainty required to make the substantial investment required for exploration.

Where Aboriginal landowners consent to exploration, they cannot refuse any subsequent mining. A mining agreement must be made to allow mining to proceed. Mining generally involves significant impacts on the environment and can affect neighbouring communities. The decision, therefore, that they are required to make at the exploration application stage is onerous. It occurs at the earliest point in the development process, when the least information about the nature of the possible development is available.

The CLC's statutory obligation is to ensure traditional Aboriginal owners are informed as far as practicable when making such decisions. Where an agreement

is made for exploration, the CLC must be satisfied that landowners understand the nature and purpose of the agreement and, as a group, consent to it. The CLC organises and conducts exploration and mining

consultation meetings to ensure that the relevant owners of land affected by applications are able to exercise their rights under the ALRA. The table below shows recent data for the processing of applications.

Processing of applications for consent to the grant of exploration titles under mining provisions of the Land Rights Act.

Performance measures	2014–15	2013–14	2012–13
Number of exploration titles (exploration licence applications and exploration permit applications) effectively progressed to an initial traditional owner meeting	64	88	43
Total number of exploration titles considered at traditional owner meetings (includes first and further meetings)	115	116	58
Number of exploration titles processed to a final decision	25	13	57
Number of exploration titles completed in total (includes those withdrawn during negotiating period)	62	67	81
Average time taken (in years) from date application is received to either CLC consent or refusal	2.9	4.0	3.0

The CLC directed many resources to exploration consultations in order to maximise the rate of processing of licences and permits. Twenty traditional Aboriginal owner consultation meetings were conducted, with a total of 115 individual exploration titles considered. Compared with previous years (116 titles considered at 17 meetings in 2013–14; 58 titles at 14 meetings in 2012–13). The CLC maintained a high level of processing of titles despite difficult market conditions and low commodity prices impacting the exploration sector. Of the 115 titles for 2014–15, 64 were discussed for the first time. Of the 115 exploration titles consulted over 14 individual exploration titles were oil and gas permit applications covering more than 160,000 square kilometres in area. Many of these titles require multiple meetings as the vast area they cover may be held by several landowner estates and language groups.

The CLC held meetings across all its region, including Papunya, Ti Tree, Kalkaringi, the Granites, Nyirripi,

Docker River, Muñitjulu, Lajamanu, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. Achieving this number of remote area meetings takes careful planning and is resource intensive. Meetings can involve several mining companies, various mineral commodities, numerous landowner groups, and may cover many thousands of square kilometres. The successful packaging of tenements at meetings is a complex and challenging process. It depends on factors such as the number of traditional owner groups, whether it is appropriate to bring groups together, the number of companies, the ability of companies to progress negotiations, and the availability of CLC staff and vehicles to bring the meeting together.

The table below shows the number of exploration titles processed by the CLC during the reporting year, and for the most recent two-year period for comparison, and includes both exploration licences and exploration permits.

Count of exploration titles (exploration licence applications and exploration permit applications) on Aboriginal land.

	2014–15	2013–14	2012–13
Consent to negotiate from NT Government	74	25	67
Application for consent to the grant*	72	37	82
Withdrawn during negotiating period	37	54	24
Refused	9	8	28
Consent to the grant	16	5	29
Granted by NT Government	6	20	40
Under negotiation as at 30 June 2015	220	226	283

Note: *Count of ‘Applications for consent’ includes applications following expiry of moratorium period.

This financial year saw a return to more usual figures compared with last year. The NT Government issued 74 titles with consent to negotiate – a significant recovery from the record low of the last reporting period of 25 titles. Although the difficult investment climate persists, mineral exploration has recovered, particularly gold. Other commodities in the CLC region include copper, rare earths, base metals, uranium, phosphate and potash. Mineral explorers and miners alike continue to struggle to raise capital. Poor oil prices, a lack of new gas markets and investor caution impacted upon oil and gas exploration, including the burgeoning unconventional hydrocarbon industry. Exploration expenditure in the CLC region is lower than previous years. Santos drilled several vertical exploration wells at Mereenie in the first half of 2014 but none since. Further work planned during the reporting period for the Amadeus seismic acquisition program and the Mereenie drilling program was deferred. Progress of exploration permit applications has slowed down markedly as many companies take a measured approach to agreement negotiations both on and off Aboriginal land.

The consistently high number of new exploration applications received by the CLC (72 for the reporting period) demonstrates that Central Australia does continue to be an attractive exploration destination. However, a lack of exploration capital saw many explorers withdraw applications before the processing of the title was complete. Thirty-seven titles were withdrawn during the negotiation period. This is 17 less than last year but higher than in previous years. Mineral exploration expenditure in the NT for the reporting period was down significantly from the record years of 2010–12. According to NT DME it is at around half the levels of those during the exploration peak in 2011.

Oil and gas

The NT has experienced an oil and gas rush, with almost blanket coverage by exploration permit applications and granted titles that reflect the upgraded prospectivity of the region's hydrocarbon basins. Sustained higher oil price and increased global demand for energy, as well as new technologies for exploration and recovery of oil and gas have driven the rush. There is significant interest in unconventional gas exploration in the sedimentary basins in the CLC region, targeting very deep shales. The vast Wiso Basin, in the north-west of the region, is subject to numerous applications covering several Aboriginal land trusts. Some of these areas have never before been considered at meetings with landowners. The huge Amadeus and Georgina Basins also have blanket

coverage of applications and granted titles. Explorers are also interested in the Pedirka Basin, south-east of Alice Springs, which is prospective for underground coal gasification and thermal coal.

Individual application areas for oil and gas may be up to 16,000 square kilometres each, and are generally very remote, often with minimal or no established access. In terms of processing and counting outcomes, one exploration permit application (EPA) is counted as one title even though it may coincide or equate with the total area covered by 20 or more exploration licence applications (EPAs), which, when processed, are counted as 20 titles.

The first new discovery of oil in central Australia in more than 20 years was made near Kintore, with the Surprise lease granted in February 2014.

A significant drop in the oil price, together with fiscal tightening, resulted in slowed down oil and gas exploration in the CLC region.

Uranium

The CLC received four uranium exploration applications. The low price of uranium and the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan continue to have an impact. The views of traditional Aboriginal owners over the exploration, mining and downstream use of uranium are mixed. However, people's opposition to the proposed nuclear waste repository at Muckaty, north of Tennant Creek, as well as in the Tanami, was reported in the media.

Processing applications

Following consultations with landowners and successful negotiations with applicants, the CLC consented to 16 exploration licence applications. This comparatively low number of consents is partly due to the record processing of the 2011–13 period in which many titles were consented to as negotiations reached their conclusion, and partly to the downturn in exploration.

Many applicants are currently unable to progress their titles (both meetings and negotiations) due to lack of investment capital for mineral exploration. This is demonstrated in the high number of titles (37) that were withdrawn during the negotiation period, and the record low number of grants by DME. Despite this the CLC had a significant number of meetings to which it took a significant number of titles.

For the first time in many years there is significant ground available for application by mineral explorers. During the recent exploration boom there was blanket coverage of available ground, not all of it necessarily prospective.

The graph below compares the number of exploration licence applications both consented to and refused during this period with previous periods.

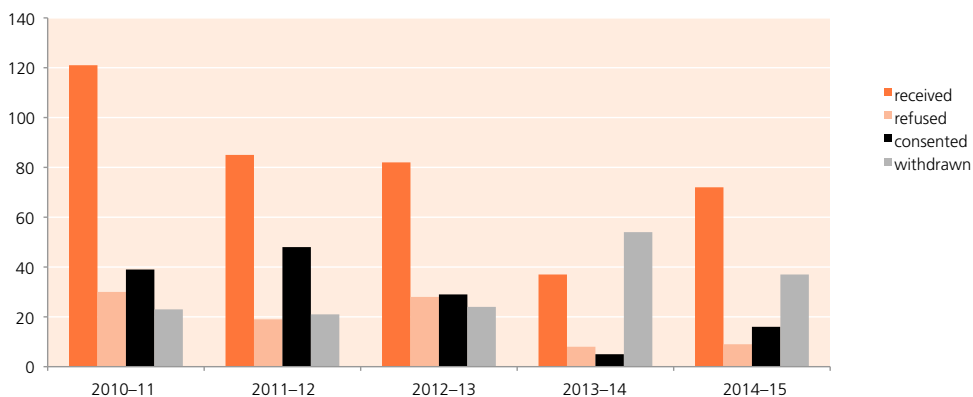
The average time for processing applications that were either consented or refused was 2.9 years. This is significantly below last year's average of 4 years but above the standard negotiating period specified under the Act of two field seasons or 22 months. Seven titles finalised during the reporting period with negotiating periods of more than 5 years each and one over 7 years skew the average. The required time to negotiate an agreement varies considerably and depends on factors such as applicants' familiarity with the process and access to exploration capital. In these circumstances the CLC has to wait until the company is ready to progress negotiations. The alternative is to refuse the titles due to lack of progress and place them in moratorium. In this case the landowners did

not want such action. They finally consented to titles covering some 4,000 square kilometres.

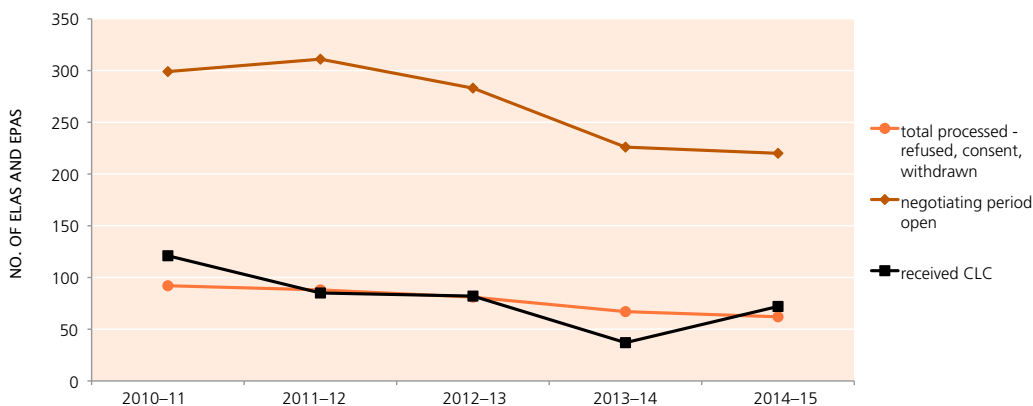
The negotiating period can be extended by agreement between the parties. However, many of the applications, which may take years to conclude, are hampered by applicants seeking joint venture partners – often unsuccessfully – where they are unable to explore in their own right. Funding for exploration programs in Central Australia remains extremely tight, resulting in serious delays in applications, which are a key performance indicator for the CLC.

The number of applications under negotiation at the end of the financial year is only slightly above the CLC's target of less than 200 and many cannot progress due to the depressed financial and commodity markets. On 30 June 2015 the CLC was negotiating 220 exploration licences, compared with 226 the previous year.

NUMBER OF EXPLORATION TITLES APPLIED FOR AND PROCESSED ON ABORIGINAL LAND



TRENDS OF EXPLORATION TITLES PROCESSING ON ABORIGINAL LAND



In order to reduce the number of exploration titles with open negotiating periods, the CLC has to conclude more applications than it receives. The number of applications it receives is outside the CLC's control. This reporting period, applications were back to more usual levels. They were consistently high over the last five years (apart from 2013–14) resulting in a corresponding rise in the number of titles with open negotiating periods. If a title is not progressed in a timely manner (for example, where a company is seeking funds or joint venture partners, which may take several years), the time taken to complete the title affects the overall processing statistics.

The CLC again processed a high number of applications to first meetings. However, some negotiations can take considerable time. Some applications have protracted negotiation periods because applicants spend time finding joint venture partners, or coming to terms with the draft deeds, or changes to their funding or exploration priorities. Factors influencing the completion of negotiations include uncertain economic conditions. The large meetings of recent years can continue to lead to consent decisions in the future, provided the applicants

have the financial capacity to conduct exploration. As funding for mineral exploration is currently difficult to find the CLC anticipates ongoing negotiating delays for many applicants until the commodity and financial markets improve.

The NT Government has used s.41A of the ALRA to withdraw consent where a company is not performing. While this has helped avoid 'warehousing' of titles and has improved the active participation of bona fide applicants in negotiations with the CLC, a number of applicants still find excuses not to attend CLC meetings with traditional owners. This can make for slow and frustrating progress. The global shortage of exploration capital appears to be the major factor limiting these applicants.

The CLC received four EPAs covering nearly 40,000 square kilometres of Aboriginal land. Few prospective areas remain available for application. The size and complexity of consultations required for oil and gas exploration permits will present a challenge in processing titles for the CLC over the next few years. Nevertheless, the CLC aims to achieve fewer than 200 exploration titles with negotiating period open in the medium term.



Traditional owners inspect the site of the Twin Bonanza mine. They have signed a mining agreement that directs significant sums of money towards community development projects.

Uranium and other commodities information meetings

Interest in uranium exploration continued even though the uranium price has dropped to less than \$US30/pound. Less than 6% of the exploration applications aimed at discovering uranium (previously this was as high as 95%). Combined with previous applications for uranium and a suite of other target metals and bulk commodities, these applications nevertheless represent a significant area of Aboriginal land.

Proposals for uranium exploration raise specific issues unique to uranium mining and supply. Traditional owners need to be aware of these in order to make informed decisions. Many have broadened their knowledge of the unique properties of uranium and of radiation monitoring at a mine or exploration site.

Provision of balanced information about uranium exploration and mining, radiation protection, the regulatory regime and the nuclear industry is fundamental to facilitating informed consent of traditional owners. The CLC continues to disseminate information within the framework of its uranium information strategy, which aims to give affected Aboriginal communities and traditional owners facts on uranium mining, radiation, downstream processing and storage. It facilitated discussions about uranium at major traditional owner meetings using written information and DVDs.

The CLC is replicating its uranium information strategy approach for unconventional oil and gas, and regularly delivers education sessions. These sessions were held in communities across the CLC region before titles were discussed, in communities such as Nyirripi, Kintore, Tanami communities, Kalkaringi, Mount Liebig, Tennant Creek and Mutitjulu. Further forums are planned over the coming year. The CLC continues to collaborate with the Australian peak oil and gas body, government, and other parties with land and environmental interests in unconventional oil and gas and provides comprehensive, balanced and appropriate information to traditional owners.

AGREEMENT MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Where the CLC enters into agreements with mining companies it assumes a range of obligations and responsibilities. The agreements generally provide for payments to traditional owners; procedures for the protection of sacred sites; work program approval and access permits; environmental protection and rehabilitation; employment, training and contracting; and liaison, reporting and inspection.

The table below summarises the new and current exploration and mining agreements for the CLC, including the total area of land involved under agreements for exploration. As at 30 June 2015 the CLC has 70 current exploration agreements in respect of 220 exploration titles, including oil and gas permits. The total area of land under agreement has risen again from last reporting period, from some 73,700 square kilometres to nearly 87,000 square kilometres. Exploration permits alone comprise nearly 22,000 square kilometres. The CLC has 11 mining agreements relating to a total of 16 mineral leases or production licences for operations at Tanami, the Granites, Areyonga and Tennant Creek, as well as Mereenie, Palm Valley and Surprise. The number of agreements is less than previously recorded as three mineral leases around Tanami Mine were consolidated into one mining agreement. These totals do not include native title agreements.

A single new exploration agreement was finalised during the year, relating to six individual exploration licences. This is the first agreement over Atnetye Aboriginal Land Trust with Red Metal Limited.

Tanami mining agreements

Newmont Tanami Operations mine gold ore from the Callie deposit, which is hauled to and milled at the Granites, located 45 kilometres to the east adjacent to the Tanami Road. This is one of Australia's most productive and remote gold mines. The mine produced 345,000 ounces of gold in 2014, an increase of 22,000 ounces from 2013. At the end of 2014 the

Summary of exploration and mining agreements

	New in 2014–15	Total current at 30 June 2015
Exploration agreements (number of exploration licences and permits)	1(6)	70 (220)
Area of Aboriginal land under ELAs and EPAs	4,025 sq km	86,841 sq km
Mining agreements (number of mineral and production leases)	0	11 (16)

mine had 1.066 million ounces of proven gold reserves and 2.239 million ounces of probable gold reserves.

Ongoing monitoring of the mining agreements occurred during the year. A meeting of the Granites Liaison Committee was held in early July 2014. Newmont took traditional Aboriginal owners on a tour of the Dead Bullock Soak production site. The Aboriginal employment provisions of the Consolidated Mining Agreement are in the process of being reviewed, in conjunction with consideration of the recommendations from the recently completed social impact assessment. The development of a long-term strategy for Warlpiri employment and economic development is in its early stages.

Tanami Gold acquired Newmont's tenements around the Tanami Mine in 2010. Tanami Gold was unable to return the mine to production. Across the entire Central Tanami Project area there is currently a total resource of 2.6 million ounces of gold, including the Groundrush deposit and other previously mined areas. A meeting of traditional owners was held in October 2014 to discuss the mining agreement and Tanami Gold's future plans. In early 2015 a deal was announced between Tanami Gold and Northern Star with the aim of trying to revive the project.

After acquiring numerous tenements from Tanami Gold and Newmont in 2009, ABM Resources made a significant gold discovery at the Old Pirate deposit and continued to consolidate its resource base in 2014–15. It estimates a resource of 3.4 million gold equivalent ounces across the Old Pirate, Golden Hind, Buccaneer and Hyperion deposits. In 2014, ABM altered its Twin Bonanza mine project plan, opting to truck the ore to the Coyote plant across the border in Western Australia. The mine is being developed in stages, with the first stage open-cut development to operate for one year. A meeting of the Twin Bonanza Liaison Committee was held in September 2014. Traditional owners were taken on a tour of the site and were provided with an update on the altered project plan. ABM continued to drill for additional resources on the mineral lease in the first half of 2015 at the Buccaneer and Bandit South deposits. The company announced its first gold pour at the Coyote plant in mid June 2015.

Traditional owners visited the Malbunka Mine on 9 July 2014 and 17 June 2015, where Dehne McLaughlin and his wife have a small operation mining for azurite 'suns', which are successfully marketed online and at specialist mineral shows to collectors.

Oil and gas production agreements

The Mereenie oil and gas field, operated by Santos, is a mature field. In 2014, Santos commenced a major



appraisal and well development project targeting oil and evaluating natural gas in tight rock formations. Some \$100 million of expenditure was announced. However, the oil price has since halved and project completion delayed. On 7 August 2014 a liaison committee meeting was held at the Mereenie Field at which Santos provided an update on the previous year's activities, including the four new production wells completed and the proposal for a formal display acknowledging traditional owners at the field.

On 10 July 2014, Central Petroleum held its first advisory committee meeting at the Palm Valley gas field since its acquisition from Magellan in February 2014. The company discussed its plans for reinvigoration of the field and its commitment to Aboriginal employment and the local community. A further advisory committee meeting was held on 4 March 2015 to discuss the impact of the fall in oil and gas prices since October 2014 and the importance of the proposed NT gas pipeline to the eastern states for the company's future plans.

Following grant of the production licence for Surprise, oil production began immediately. A liaison visit involving many traditional owners and affected community members took place in March 2014, with the main focus being future drilling and Aboriginal employment. Production in the last quarter of 2014 averaged 157 barrels of oil per day and 137 for the first quarter of 2015. A liaison committee meeting is planned in the coming months.

Exploration agreements: minerals

Exploration under agreements throughout the CLC region slowed this year as some companies found investment money difficult to secure. However, exploration continued in the Tanami and Tennant Creek regions with monitoring carried out as follows.

For the Tanami region, discussion of exploration activities took place at liaison committee meetings, including work undertaken by Newmont in the South

Quorn area to the south of the Granites mine; drilling by Tanami Gold on tenements around Tanami Mine; and by ABM Resources focused on finding more gold resources in the vicinity of its new Twin Bonanza mine. An update by Northern Minerals on its exploration program for rare earth minerals in the northern Tanami was provided to traditional owners at an ALRA consultation meeting held in Kalkaringi in June 2015.

Traditional owners were updated at liaison committee meetings in October 2014 and March 2015 about exploration over the old Tennant Creek Gold Field on titles held by Emmerson Resources in a joint venture with Evolution Mining.

After a break of some 18 months, Metals X has renewed drilling activities around the Rover project area, which was reported to traditional owners at a liaison meeting in October 2014. The company's main project is the copper gold ore body at Rover 1. The ore body at Rover 1 occurs at a depth between 300 and 600 metres and exploration to date cannot provide a resource estimate with sufficient confidence to enable a decision to mine. The economics of the project remain marginal at current gold prices.

Exploration around a large lead and zinc mineral system at Explorer 108 to the west of Rover is continuing.

Red Metal Limited commenced exploration for gold and copper to the south-east of Tennant Creek on three exploration licences following sacred site clearances by the CLC early in 2014. A liaison committee meeting will be arranged in late 2015.

Other monitoring focused on activities associated with Areva Resources Australia commencing exploration for uranium around Jarra Jarra as part of its Wiso Basin Project in May 2015. Inspections of track upgrades and creek crossings followed major helicopter sacred site clearance work. The early part of the work was disrupted by the unexpected and sudden death of a senior traditional owner whilst on the clearance, which was handled in a caring and professional way by staff under difficult circumstances.

A liaison meeting was held with traditional owners on 28 May 2015 at Nyirripi where Independence Group reported on its Lake Mackay exploration licences and extensive soil sampling and drilling program.



Santos representative Che Cockatoo Collins and delegates after the CLC's first fracking forum.

Other meetings were held with traditional owners for companies with agreements over pastoral leases adjoining Aboriginal land, including Australian Abrasive Minerals' garnet project near Atitjere, Tellus' Chandler Salt Mine project near Maryvale, Kentor Gold's Jervois base metal project, Thor's Molyhill molybdenum project, Rum Jungle's Ammaroo phosphate project near Ampilatwatja and Karingka Lakes potash project near Curtin Springs, TNG's Mount Peake vanadium project west of Wilora, Minemakers' Wonarah phosphate project in the Barkly region and Arafura Resources' Nolans Bore rare earth project near Aileron.

Exploration agreements: petroleum

No exploration activity was reported on granted exploration permits in the reporting period. Monitoring activities took place, including community liaison meetings at Imanpa and Titjikala in September 2014. At these meetings Santos discussed the outcomes of the large regional seismic program undertaken the previous year and the drilling at Mount Kitty near those communities for their Southern Amadeus tenements under joint venture with Central Petroleum. Santos also attended a community liaison meeting at Haasts Bluff in November 2014 to report on its seismic work carried out to the north-west of the Mereenie field. Further work has been deferred due to financial constraints and the dramatic drop in the oil price.

Interest in unconventional oil and gas is a global phenomenon and controversial because of the use of hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking'. Unconventional oil and gas exploration targets deep shales and 'tight' rocks where hydrocarbons are trapped in rock; hydraulic fracturing is used to create cracks in the rock providing pathways for flow to the surface. Central Australia is prospective for deep shales, and hydraulic fracturing has been used here in the past to enhance recovery in conventional vertical wells. The first horizontal wells fracked were drilled recently in the Georgina basin. The recent rush in the unconventional oil and gas industry worldwide has resulted in close scrutiny of the industry as hydraulic fracturing has reportedly resulted in, or has been blamed for, significant environmental and health impacts, particularly with respect to groundwater use and pollution.

The heightened attention around hydraulic fracturing in Australia is closely aligned with the sudden expansion of the coal seam gas industry in eastern Australia. The unfolding of the industry has resulted in calls for a more cautious approach nationally and a moratorium on the industry by some.

The CLC made a submission to the NT Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in 2014, followed by a further submission on the NT Government's draft Onshore Oil and Gas Guiding Principles in May 2015. The CLC has held education sessions on hydraulic fracturing for CLC technical staff, using industry and regulatory experts, as well as meeting with representatives from local environmental groups. This process helps CLC staff to develop their knowledge and to be able to present comprehensive and objective information about the industry and the techniques used. The development of an information package for traditional owners is ongoing and information sessions are delivered by mining officers prior to consultation meetings where shale gas is of interest. A fracking forum was held for Council members at its April 2015 meeting. Participants from industry, the environment, health, government and an independent scientist attended to give presentations and answer questions.

GOVERNMENT LIAISON

The CLC continues to hold regular discussion with the Petroleum Division of the Department of Mines and Energy (DME) regarding the rapid growth in the number of exploration permit applications in the CLC region, both on and off Aboriginal land. Both parties acknowledge the size of the applications and the complexity and logistical challenges these titles present for processing. The CLC is working in collaboration with DME and has provided input with respect to a review of the petroleum regulations and a more strategic approach for dealing with the numerous applications in the CLC region. Regular discussions are held regarding the processing of mineral exploration titles and the current impediments to exploration. The NT Mining Minister has been delegated many of the Commonwealth Minister's functions under the Land Rights Act. Officers from the DME regularly attend the first meetings of traditional Aboriginal owners over exploration titles.

OUTPUT 3.4 COMMERCIAL ASSISTANCE

Provide research and assistance and identify infrastructure requirements as appropriate to enable Aboriginal landowners and other Aboriginal people to undertake commercial activities.

Section 23 (1)(ea) of the Land Rights Act assigns a function to the Central Land Council to 'assist Aboriginals in the area of the Land Council to carry out commercial activities (including resource development, the provision of tourist facilities and agricultural activities)'.

The CLC provided development and operational assistance in tourism and pastoral development.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

CLC tourism development resources continued to be inadequate to respond effectively to this growing area of opportunity. Nevertheless, the single ABA-funded Aboriginal Tourism Development Officer, supported by other CLC staff, supported planning and implementation of 16 emerging Aboriginal tourism enterprises and responded to 15 new expressions of interest.

The CLC supported traditional owners and joint management committees to secure concept approvals, prepare feasibility studies, business plans and submissions for tourism enterprise proposals in three jointly managed national parks and reserves.

Support ranging from facilitating consent, approval and licensing to advocacy and business planning progressed developments such as cultural experience events in Watarrka National Park to campground proposals at Kintore, Wanmarra, and Yaringka.

The CLC bought a pool of camping and catering equipment to support new and emerging enterprises. It also progressed a strategic framework for Indigenous tourism enterprise development across the region with a draft CLC tourism development strategy.

The tourism interests and perspectives of the CLC and its constituents were represented at meetings and economic development forums such as the Red Centre



Tourism entrepreneur Peter Abbott (left) takes CLC rangers on his cultural tour near Wanmarra, his family's outstation in Watarrka (Kings Canyon).



Sammy Wilson provides cultural inductions to tourists and trainees at Patji outstation near Mutitjulu.

National Landscape Steering Committee, the Tourism NT Roadshow, and regular collaborative meetings with Department of Business and Tourism NT.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

Representation, support and advice was provided to the pastoral development aspirations of Aboriginal landowners involved in large commercial enterprises and smaller community-based projects.

Regional rural enterprise officers (RREO) of the Employment and Enterprise Unit provided pastoral development planning and implementation assistance, and two support officers assisted with stock handling and other practical on-ground tasks.

The CLC continued its participation in the Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP), a successful multi-agency collaboration sponsored by the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) since 2003. As a key IPP stakeholder, the CLC employed an ILC-funded pastoral development officer (PDO) to service eight participating pastoral enterprises.

The CLC facilitated access to financial resource and management advice for budgeting, grant management, accounting and income reinvestment to meet operational and infrastructure requirements. It also supported the development and implementation of accessible capacity building initiatives appropriate to the needs of Indigenous pastoral enterprises, including governance training and business management advice as requested.

Aboriginal brand holders were assisted with the NT Government Brands Audit to complete and return brand and property name identification code audit forms. The CLC continued to maintain the CLC Pastoral Equipment Pool, previously established with a s.64(4) ABA grant to help with mustering,

transportation of stock and materials, and other purposes.

Capacity was diminished due to protracted recruitment for vacant positions arising from the Employment and Enterprise Unit restructure and the tragic loss of a key long-term staff member. The PDO, RREO and other support staff were still able to achieve significant outcomes in supporting a range of pastoral development aspirations of traditional owners. Among this small team's achievements were:

- compliance assistance to three IPP-affiliated Aboriginal corporations involved in pastoral enterprises in the form of facilitating AGMs, financial reporting, Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) reporting and/or election of directors where required
- preparing IPP property development plans and related budgets for ILC funding
- project managing ILC-funded infrastructure and natural resource management works on seven properties, including liaising with managers and corporations
- supporting a range of aspirations and management needs on Angas Downs, Anurrete ALT (Hatches Creek locality), Atnetye (former Atula Station), Bluebush (Karlantijpa North ALT), Haasts Bluff, Huckitta Station, Mangalawurru (Karlantijpa North ALT), Mangkururra ALT (former Tanami Downs PL), Mungkarta ALT and Warumungu ALTs and Yuendumu ALT.

Four staff providing pastoral development support attended a 10-day residential Grazing for Profit course in Darwin. The CLC's interests were also represented by the PDO at the Beefweek event held in Rockhampton in May 2015.

The CLC prepared two traditional owner identifications and provided assistance to the Ahakeye Farm Aboriginal Corporation and to Atula ALT.



Traditional owners gather for a mining meeting.