



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2019–20



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL



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CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

14 September 2020

Minister for Indigenous Australians
Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, the *Native Title Act 1993* and the *Public Governance and Accountability Act 2013*, I am pleased to approve and submit the 2019-20 Annual Report on the operations of the Central Land Council.

I am authorised by the Central Land Council to state that the Accountable Authority is responsible under section 46 of the PGPA Act for the preparation and content of the report in accordance with the Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011.

Yours sincerely,

Sammy Wilson
CHAIR

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CHAIR'S REPORT

We started 2019–20 with so much hope and promise as we prepared to celebrate the closure of the climb after decades of lobbying. We felt so excited in October about finally getting that recognition and feeling satisfied that the history and cultural significance of this place have been recognised at long last. Since October 2019 Uluru is no longer a playground.

Along with this victory came other successes, and many challenges too. The challenges showed that strong Aboriginal leadership has kept us safe and that we deserve to be listened to when we keep calling for a voice, treaty and truth-telling.

A few months after the Uluru climbing chain was dismantled, leaving just a pale scar on the rock, the COVID-19 crisis brought a closure of the NT borders and the declaration of biosecurity zones. The Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park is very quiet without tourists, but I want to reassure people that as soon as this virus has been defeated we will be waiting to welcome everyone back to our country. They will be able to explore more and more Aboriginal-run tours in the beautiful country around the national park, not just the park itself, and learn about it from us.

We are really concerned about tourists returning before it is safe. We did that because we don't want to risk spreading the virus. Lives are more important than money. People who are more concerned with making a lot of money put all our lives at risk. When things are safe again we will open our businesses again, but not a minute earlier.

We cancelled the Central Land Council's meeting in April 2020 in response to the virus threat and held three executive meetings through videoconferencing. It was really important that we didn't travel to Alice Springs and risk the lives of people in our communities. We appreciate how the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress kept us informed about how to protect ourselves from the virus and consulted with our communities and clinics.

I believe the broadcast and social media messages a lot of us recorded helped to keep us safe until now. Some people didn't have access to TV, computers and mobile phones to see the messages but those who did spread the word among their families.

The Aboriginals Benefit Account grant the CLC used to support people during the biosecurity lockdowns also proved very helpful. It didn't just help people keep warm during the freezing winter nights, it also kept us sane, allowing people to get out bush more often for respite and recharging. Anangu enjoyed settling down in their own country instead of rushing in and out of town and dealing with a stream of outsiders.



Sammy Wilson

It was a chance to slow down in a healthy environment and think more clearly about what really matters in life.

A safe climate, liveable houses and safe drinking water are some of those things. In September 2019 I asked climate strikers around the nation to spare a thought for remote community residents who live at the frontline of global heating. We are already suffering through hotter, drier and longer summers in our overcrowded hotbox houses. Many of our communities are running out of water or have to drink water that contains unacceptable levels of uranium or other pollutants – sometimes both. Water rights are the new land rights and our council is ready to fight for them.

Working on country is another one of those precious things, and our rangers are experts at it. In November 2019 I joined some of them for the 9th World Ranger Congress in Nepal, where we compared experiences with colleagues from all over the globe. We learned about some rangers' battles against poachers and that they have similar problems to us: a lack of funding for local people who want to look after their country, for example. Some reported that people from the cities were telling them how to look after their country, ignoring their traditional ways of managing it. They have to wait for outsiders to arrive before they can go ahead and do the work they want to do.

Here in Central Australia we need more ranger groups, more ranger positions and more Aboriginal rangers in leadership roles, not work-for-the-dole schemes that punish and frustrate our people. The federal government's scheme seems pretty far removed from our reality. I see people in our communities do paperwork, tick boxes and go home and watch TV. I don't see Anangu out working, for example with housing construction crews. I see wages go to outsiders who take the money with them. The resources are not hitting the ground where they are needed. It's time the government started to seriously work with us on our remote jobs proposal which would employ 5,000 people in real jobs and provide work experience for our young.

To our young people I say: step up and continue to get an education so that you are able to make the most of these opportunities, and get involved with the CLC. It's no good just complaining or worrying about things. You need to be able to

get out there and work for your people. Stand up and speak strongly in front of your people, listen to their needs and learn how to represent them well.

The next generation could learn a lot from former CLC director David Ross AM, who was awarded with membership of the general division of the Order of Australia in January. Mr Ross always put forward what land council members wanted and put his own views and interests last. We are really grateful for his contribution to the land council over more than four decades and will never forget it.

I reflected about young white police officers and their training after the shocking tragedy concerning a young man in Yuendumu in November 2019. The intervention [Northern Territory Emergency Response] dehumanised us in their eyes and brought in stricter, more depersonalised policing. I want experienced officers trained to develop relationships with our people and show compassion and empathy so they can defuse difficult situations. No police officers in our communities should carry guns.

What happened in Yuendumu and the Black Lives Matter movement have shown that truth-telling is more urgent than ever. Politicians should drop their resistance against the Uluru Statement and embrace it as a tool for reconciling our differences so we can move forward together in a humane way, without violence. I sincerely hope the coming year will bring some progress towards the aims of the statement, especially towards a constitutionally enshrined voice for our peoples to the parliament.

Anangu traditional owners such as Sammy Wilson welcomed the dismantling of the Uluru climb chain in October 2019.



CEO'S REPORT

JOE MARTIN-JARD

When I joined the Central Land Council (CLC), 18 months ago, I knew I would be in for a learning experience. I never expected a pandemic that would turn our lives upside down. Yet the CLC constituents, members and staff demonstrated leadership under pressure and did themselves proud.

The crisis brought together, through weekly teleconferences, decision makers across the Northern Territory (NT) who would not normally talk with, let alone listen to, each other. I am very indebted to our constituents for the trust they put in their land council and their health services. The vast majority followed our advice, for example about returning to and staying in their communities and outstations where they would be safest from the virus. This advice has kept everyone safe so far, as the dramatic fall in influenza rates among Aboriginal residents demonstrates.

Amid the general anxiety I have also heard of people enjoying quiet family time on country. The exodus to communities and homelands also eased overcrowding in town camps. I am told the children were calmer and less stressed. No doubt alcohol restrictions also contributed to settling things down, and an increase in Centrelink payments helped people in remote communities to offset some of the high cost of living. Now that we have experienced the beneficial results of such measures, we need to build on them and extend adequate social security payments to remote community residents paying some of the highest grocery prices in the nation.

The CLC advocated effectively for remote community food security, which became the subject of two federal parliamentary inquiries. Remote stores seem to be better stocked and prepared and the retailers seem to have lifted their game. By June, we were no longer receiving the high number of reports of shelves being empty that we were getting at the start of the pandemic. I hope the new spirit of cooperation will extend to putting in place lasting reforms that will lead to affordable and healthy food, and other basics, in remote stores post-pandemic.

The Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt, deserves special thanks for fast-tracking a \$4 million Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) grant, which enabled us to deliver emergency support to our constituents during the challenging biosecurity area period and beyond. He understood that the land councils and other Aboriginal-controlled organisations are best placed to respond because they know the needs of their clients intimately. Without his trust, it would have been far more difficult for people across the CLC region to stay safe on country.



Joe Martin-Jard

It was most impressive to see how quickly our staff came together to support the massive relief effort the grant made possible, and to implement other initiatives designed to keep constituents safe during lockdown. They worked long hours, seven days a week, to process thousands of permission letters for residents returning to biosecurity areas and permits for essential workers. They did so under high pressure and without complaint. Our IT team sourced hard-to-come-by equipment to support us all to work from home, whether in our region or interstate. All the while, we got on with our core business and met all our legal responsibilities. The CLC staff and executives remained flexible and adaptable during this ongoing pandemic and they can't be thanked enough.

While the crisis unfolded, the urgent challenges we were responding to prior to COVID-19 continued unabated. There is mounting evidence that Central Australia may be getting too hot for humans and that this may happen during the lifetime of our constituents. Research by the Australia Institute shows that the number of Alice Springs days with temperatures above 40 degrees could increase from 14 to 52 days a year by 2030, if global heating continues at the current rate. Tennant Creek had a taste of this future in December, when the thermometer in the main street soared to 49 degrees. We also know that half the number of patients at the Alice Springs hospital on hot days are there because of the heat. Heat is a big but, so far, silent and unrecorded killer of vulnerable Territorians. Including environmental data on death certificates, as has been suggested by local doctors, may assist in making better policy decisions.

Our constituents want to make their communities more resilient to our increasingly hostile climate. Replacing, retrofitting and shading 'hotbox' houses and ensuring a safe water supply are among the council's top priorities. We need to save existing trees that are at risk as the water table falls and to ensure all communities have access to safe water to drink and for cultural and economic use. A safe water supply, free from excessive levels of uranium and other toxins, is critical for all residents, especially the growing number of dialysis patients in our communities. These are all good reasons for governments to legislate to protect our water and to develop effective policies to arrest climate change.

Traditional owners welcomed the announcement in October of federal government support for the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust to become our latest indigenous protected area (IPA). The land trust is a piece in a jigsaw puzzle of protected areas connecting existing protected areas in the NT, Western Australia and South Australia. The new IPA would offer a great opportunity to increase the number of rangers caring for this unique environment, which is home to rare and threatened bilbies, brush-tailed mulgaras and princess parrots. More ranger groups with secure, long-term funding looking after these precious places would benefit our communities, our nation and humanity. It would also result in better protection for significant sites.

This announcement came during the celebration of the closure of the Uluru climb, a long-awaited and joyous day for Anangu. It was an honour to share the day with them. Hours before the event, I also had the pleasure of joining local leaders in Mutitjulu as they showed the CEO of the National Indigenous Australians Agency some of the projects they had funded with rent received from leasing the national park. Sensing the pride the locals felt about using their own money for the betterment of their community, Ray Griggs simply asked how the agency can better support what people are already doing for themselves. I look forward to continuing our discussion about supporting local project design through our successful community development program.

In a six-month period that was packed with significant events, the handback of a portion of Ammaroo Station stood out. The elders had waited five years for the handback to complete a native title claim settlement from 2014. As Minister Wyatt returned the strip of land next to the community of Ampilatwatja, which is significant to the emu and red kangaroo songlines, it was clear that, for him, the occasion was more than a photo opportunity. His personal engagement with senior traditional owners and residents appears to have shaped his views on further reforms.

Before the pandemic hit, Minister Wyatt was charting a course with the four NT land councils to reform the ABA. He committed to meeting with us three times a year about this and other reforms, a few of them more significant than constitutional reform. He understands that we remain unwavering in our support for a constitutionally enshrined voice to parliament. We trust he will continue to demonstrate faith and understanding, especially about the true meaning of cultural authority. We look forward to resuming our talks.

The pandemic has taught us that science and evidence-based policy serve our country far better than some of the populist and ideological approaches adopted overseas. Indeed, it has saved lives. I hope to see this lesson reflected in the Australian Government's approach to reform in all policy areas. I have yet to see evidence that increasing the amount of cash quarantined by the proposed Cashless Debit Card produces good outcomes. I am not hearing anyone asking for it and believe it is unwise to put its administration in the hands of the private sector where there is little oversight.

There is also no evidence that there are enough jobs in remote communities for the government's community development program to benefit the unemployed or that real jobs await them if only they participate in work-for-the-dole activities. The program may suit regional Australia but is ineffective, punitive and harmful in remote areas with severely challenged employment markets. The remote jobs plan of the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT, in contrast, has been designed with residents to deliver real jobs and traineeships and a lot more control over their lives.

Community control and enterprise have seen Aboriginal art become an undisputed economic success story. It is fitting, therefore, that the Vincent Lingiari Art Award – our ongoing collaboration with Desert and Tangentyere Artists – celebrates how our art and our land rights have evolved together and continue to nurture and inspire each other. It was an honour to meet the winner of the second Vincent Lingiari Art Award, Eunice Napanangka Jack from Ikuntji Arts. I met Ms Jack at the launch of the award exhibition in September 2019 and admired her painting *Kuruyultu* with four of Mr Lingiari's granddaughters. The exhibition entries responded to the theme *Our Country – True Story* in surprising and thoughtful ways and a wide range of media. With the continued support of the Lingiari family and the generous sponsorship of the Peter Kittle Motor Company and Newmont Goldcorp, the award looks set to become a fixture of the Central Australian art scene. My sincere thanks go to all who have believed in this event from the start.



Joe-Martin-Jard, Sammy Wilson and Barbara Shaw attended two council meetings in 2019–20.

COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic separated families across the CLC region, left remote community residents with bare store shelves and high food bills, landed new mums and people with mental health issues in quarantine and revived memories of being locked down in missions and jails. However, the response to what Aboriginal Social Justice Commissioner June Oscar called a “huge peacetime co-ordination effort” also brought to the fore a strong sense of unity and purpose among Aboriginal organisations, which has kept CLC constituents safe so far.

Independent observers have commented that the crisis shone a spotlight on the capacity and leadership of the sector. Flinders University professors, Claire Smith and Amanda Kearney, wrote in *The Conversation*:

“The Northern Land Council and the Central Land Council, in particular, provided outstanding co-ordinated leadership in the fight against COVID-19”.

They also noted that the pandemic response held an important lesson for Australia’s efforts to ‘close the gap’: “Trusted Aboriginal leadership is essential for successful outcomes for Aboriginal communities”.



Jason King, from Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) with the health message he painted on a car bonnet.

The CLC has been on the front foot during the pandemic, both in its operations and its advocacy. At critical moments its strategic collaboration with other Aboriginal organisations set the agenda and achieved greater protection and safety for Aboriginal Territorians.

On 16 March it suspended all non-essential travel to remote communities and cancelled all exploration permits. Two days later the Commonwealth declared that COVID-19 posed a human biosecurity emergency and introduced the *Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) Declaration 2020 pursuant to section 475 of the Biosecurity Act 2015*. The human biosecurity emergency period, initially in force for three months, was subsequently extended until 17 September 2020.

The Combined Aboriginal Organisations of Alice Springs held a joint media conference on 19 March, calling on the Northern Territory Government to declare the entire Northern Territory (NT) a special control area within closed borders. On the following day, as Darwin recorded the NT’s first two imported COVID-19 cases, the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT reiterated the demand in a letter to the NT Chief Minister, who promptly closed the NT borders.

A week later, on 26 March, the federal Minister for Health gave a direction to prevent or control the entry and spread of COVID-19 in designated areas in the NT, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia. The CLC immediately restricted access to its offices. It limited its work to essential operations and directed staff to work from home where possible. The computer services team quickly rose to the challenge of implementing the technology and equipment that allowed their colleagues to do so (see details on p. 112). The human resources team supported staff with access to counselling, information about the virus (including on the intranet), guidelines for remote teams, help with out-of-pocket medical costs, and special leave.

The Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Emergency Requirements for Remote Communities) Determination 2020 effectively restricted access to all Aboriginal land and communities in designated biosecurity areas. The determination was amended three times and allowed access only to persons in defined circumstances, for example those who had undertaken 14 days of self-isolation.

For Aboriginal people living in the biosecurity areas in the CLC region, it meant that if they visited Alice Springs or Tennant Creek to buy affordable food, groceries and other essentials, they would have to self-isolate in those towns for two weeks before they could return home. It effectively shut remote community residents out of the towns, while leaving other bush residents free to move around.

Permission to enter the biosecurity areas from a “relevant decision-maker” was another way of accessing Aboriginal land under the determination. The only direct requirement provided to the CLC’s decision makers – the CEO, the General Manager Legal and the Executive Manager Policy and Governance – was to have “regard to guidance from a human biosecurity officer”. The decision makers sought and received such guidance from senior NT health officers, generally by telephone. Between 26 March and 5 June, they received more than 3,500 enquiries or requests for permission letters from persons wanting access to the designated areas in the CLC region. They provided 1,578 permission letters.

Stay on country care for family



***If you are not sick
the best place to be right now
is in your community.***

**If you get a fever or cough or sore throat,
please ring the COVID-19 Congress hotline 8959 4782
for advice from a health professional and don't go to the clinic.
If you need transport home, call Tangentyere on 8951 4262 or 8951 4291.**



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL



The Combined Aboriginal Organisations of Alice Springs held a media conference on March 19 to call for the immediate closure of the NT borders.

The CLC also helped to process the NT Government's single-point-approved remote essential worker cards to essential workers, and issued 2,231 permits. It set up bespoke procedures for permissions and permits, and staff from all units worked long hours to implement them. A total of 34 staff worked on the permits and a total of 28 (up to 11 per day) volunteered to implement the permissions process.

The majority of permission decisions related to residents of outstations within 50 kilometres of Alice Springs or Tennant Creek. Unlike larger communities, which are serviced by their own stores and medical clinics, those homelands use the towns for all their services. The land councils successfully advocated with governments to exclude them from the biosecurity areas. On 23 April, the designated areas were amended to remove outstations near Alice Springs.

Many residents inside the biosecurity areas, however, longed to escape the empty shelves and high prices in remote community stores. They had been promised they would have everything they needed in their communities to stay safe and well during the lockdown, however the CLC received numerous reports of unavailable and unaffordable essentials. It warned governments that residents would ignore the biosecurity restrictions and come to town in search of affordable food and warm clothes and blankets.

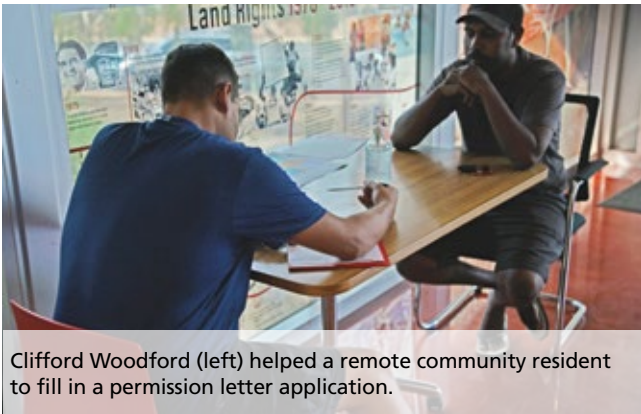
On 12 April the CLC and the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress held a media conference on behalf of 13 NT Aboriginal organisations, calling for affordable food and other essentials to be made available during the lockdown, as well as for lasting

changes to the longstanding food security issues out bush that would strengthen the viability of community stores and the regional economies that depend on them. On 28 May the Parliament's Indigenous Affairs Committee launched an inquiry into food prices and food security in remote communities. The CLC is preparing a submission and has advocated for hearings to be held in its region.

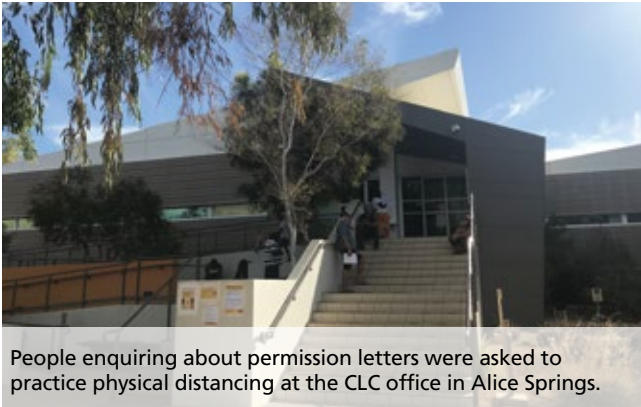
After the designated areas in the NT were excluded from the biosecurity determination the entry restrictions were no longer relevant. From 5 June the CLC stopped issuing permission letters but continued to issue permits at a higher rate than pre-COVID (see table Output 1.1, p. 34). Three fulltime staff dealt with outstanding applications and approximately 20 phone enquiries per day.

Return-to-work planning for CLC staff and a staged return to normal operations had already commenced in May and were based on NT and Australian government guidance. Remote work recommenced in early June. This entailed implementation of safe work practices and risk assessments. Staff continued to be supported in working from home where practicable and effective.

After the lockdown ended, the NT Government's external border and other restrictions continued to apply. When the government announced its plan to reopen the borders on 17 July, the CLC joined Aboriginal medical and other organisations in urging extreme caution. The CLC executive committee and Northern Land Council chair, Samuel Bush-Blanasi, called on the government on 25 June to keep the borders with all other jurisdictions closed until community transmission of COVID-19



Clifford Woodford (left) helped a remote community resident to fill in a permission letter application.



People enquiring about permission letters were asked to practice physical distancing at the CLC office in Alice Springs.

had been stopped outside the Territory. The CLC executive committee also passed a resolution asking the government to reinstate mandatory supervised quarantine for people from COVID-19 hotspots anywhere in Australia and to implement Congress' 'contain and test' strategy in all remote communities to manage expected virus outbreaks.

The CLC's advocacy campaign was backed by practical relief measures aimed at keeping constituents in the biosecurity areas as healthy, warm, safe and informed as possible. Working with local service providers, the CLC used almost a quarter of Minister Ken Wyatt's \$4 million grant from the ABA to distribute winter clothes, bedding, blankets, sleeping bags and mattresses. These items were distributed under agreement with providers directly to outstation and community residents and through their aged care services. CLC staff distributed directly to areas where service providers lacked capacity or did not respond in a timely fashion.

More than 50 outstations received assistance with urgent electrical and bathroom repairs, new generators and water tanks, plumbing and septic systems so they could cope with additional residents sheltering there. Public Wi-Fi hotspots were installed in Engawala, Wunara, Laramba and other communities. The grant enabled the Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation in Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) to deliver second-hand furniture and healthy takeaway food, and Catholic Care to offer tyre changing at local men's sheds to reduce the need for Ltyentye Apurte, Titjikala and Aputula residents to travel to Alice Springs for this service.

The Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council used a share of the funds to pay for weaving workshops to help *tjanpi* artists in Mutitjulu, Imanpa and Kaltukatjara (Docker River) maintain an income and good spirits, and for mental health workshops to help residents cope with the impacts of

the pandemic and build awareness of the virus. The Central Australian Youth Link-up Service and CASSE Australia delivered recreational and cultural programs to 25 remote communities. These workshops kept young people busy during the lockdown. The Waltja Tjutanku Palyapayi, Ampilatwatja Health Centre and Thangkenhareng Aboriginal corporations distributed emergency fuel, power and food vouchers.

The balance of the ABA funds was used for cleaning products that were in short supply in community stores and for COVID-19 messaging in six local languages through Pintupi Anmatyerr Warlpiri Media, Indigenous Community Television and the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association. Short video messages by CLC executive members and staff in local languages and English were among the most effective and widely shared social media posts. The CLC approved 36 funding agreements to manage the ABA grant, with a further 10 under negotiation on 30 June.

It also helped to distribute seven pallets of food donated by Coles. The CLC's Tennant Creek office distributed 66 of these food packs, 48 packs of hygiene items and 128 boxes of water to nine surrounding communities and outstations. The MacDonnell Regional Council youth teams delivered 30 food packs each to households in the Mount Liebig and Utju communities where the immediate need was greatest, while the Central Desert Regional Council distributed food packs in Ti Tree, Atitjere, Engawala, Willowra, Laramba, Yuelamu, Yuendumu and Nyirpi.

The CLC's executive committee received regular updates from Congress and the NT's health department and kept constituents informed through personal video messages delivered via social and Aboriginal media. The CLC posted and shared a steady stream of relevant COVID-19-related information on its Facebook page, much of it produced by Aboriginal people and organisations in the CLC region and beyond.

The discussions at executive committee meetings also informed the production in June of a special COVID-19 issue of *Land Rights News*, as well as a series of posters distributed to remote communities and town camps (see p. 68-69). Some of this material – for example a newspaper story and social media post about the 'contain and test' strategy endorsed by the land councils and the NT Public Health Committee – was produced jointly with Congress.

Dr Oscar has praised the production and distribution of COVID-19-related messages for Aboriginal communities as an achievement of which "we should be rightly proud".

"In years ahead, I am certain that Australia will view these campaigns as the gold star standard for public health messaging," she wrote in *The Conversation*.



Geoffrey Taylor (centre) helped remote community residents to apply for permission letters at the CLC.



Food security concerns: one of the remote stores that ran out of supplies.



Michaela Liddle, Lauren Michener and Sanchia Scott, from the community development team, packed warm clothes for distribution to remote communities.



Alekarenge children with some of the sleeping bags staff delivered across the CLC region.



Kintore's Monica Robinson and grandson Shelton Nolan were happy about donated clothes distributed by the CLC.



Residents of Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) painted health messages on car bonnets.



Shirley Turner and Pat Murphy from the Nguraminyi outstation near Tennant Creek received some of the 2,300 sleeping bags staff distributed across the CLC region.



Yuendumu elder Ruth Stewart received a bag of warm clothes courtesy of the CLC's \$4 million ABA grant.



ABOUT THE CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

The CLC is a Commonwealth entity operating under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) (the Land Rights Act, or the ALRA) and as a Native Title Representative Body under the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) (the Native Title Act).

The CLC has performed its statutory functions with outstanding success, capturing more than 417,000 square kilometres of land as Aboriginal freehold under the Land Rights Act.

From 1983, as land began to be returned to its traditional owners, the CLC invested increasingly in land management to enable traditional owners to benefit from opportunities on their land, and deal with threats to the land's cultural and natural values. The CLC has supported traditional owners' aspirations in the areas of pastoral activity, feral animal control, fire management and biodiversity conservation.

These activities are at the heart of the CLC's community development program – a program that is now the leading example of similar programs in the country.

More and more, constituents use income from land use agreements to build and maintain infrastructure and to fund community-driven education and culture initiatives that benefit constituents.

The CLC is one of four Northern Territory land councils operating under the Land Rights Act. It carries out its statutory functions across the southern half of the NT – some 780,000 square kilometres. Its members belong to more than 15 language groups.

A 90-member council governs the CLC. The council representatives are elected from Aboriginal communities across the CLC's region and meet three times a year in various bush locations. Council delegates many of its functions to a nine-member executive committee elected by council members and headed by the chair and deputy chair.

The CLC consults with Aboriginal landowners on mining, land management, tourism, employment and other development proposals for their land.

It operates under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) (the PGPA Act) and every year is audited by the Australian National Audit Office.

In 2019–20 ABA funding comprised \$23.5 million of the CLC's total revenue of \$52.4 million. Total operating expenses were \$46.2 million, and capital expenditure was \$3.7 million. The CLC is one of the largest employers of Aboriginal people in the NT. It employs 248.3 fulltime-equivalent staff, of whom 49 per cent are Aboriginal.

HISTORY

The CLC's roots reach deep into the Aboriginal struggle for justice in Central Australia. The most prominent example is the famous 1966 Gurindji strike and walk-off at Wave Hill cattle station, whose 50th anniversary the CLC celebrated in August 2016. In response to Aboriginal demands at the walk-off, the Whitlam government set up a royal commission into land rights in the NT in 1973. One of its recommendations was that Central and Northern land councils be established to present the views of Aboriginal people.

A 1975 meeting of representatives of Central Australian Aboriginal communities elected Charlie Perkins and Wenten Rubuntja as chair and vice-chair, respectively, of the CLC. The Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service assigned a lawyer to work with them.

Later that year, the Land Commissioner began hearing claims about the needs of residents in Alice Springs' town camps. The Whitlam government drew up an Aboriginal Land Rights Bill, but the government was dismissed before the bill could be passed.

In June 1976 the new Liberal–Country Party federal government passed the legislation but omitted provisions for land claims based on need and various other features of the original bill. In the same year, the CLC published the first edition of *Land Rights News*, now Australia's oldest Aboriginal-owned newspaper.

The Land Rights Act came into operation in January 1977. It gave Aboriginal people title to most of the Aboriginal reserve lands in the NT and the opportunity to claim other land not already owned, leased or used.

One year later the CLC celebrated its first successful land claim. Like almost all claims that followed, the Warlpiri and Kartangarurru–Gurindji land claim was won against the bitter opposition of the NT's Country–Liberal Party government.

The CLC's constituents began to set up outstations on their country but some were unable to return because their country lacked water and other essential infrastructure.

In 1983, in line with the recommendations of HC Coombs, members elected a new, regionally based executive. The CLC hired Patrick Dodson to manage what would become its directorate and regional services section, while two research officers started the land management section. In the same year,

traditional owners set up a protest camp at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station to stop an NT Government proposal for a recreational lake that would have flooded sacred sites. The Commonwealth followed up on its promise to protect sacred sites with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cth), but left the protection of sites to ministerial discretion.

In 1984 traditional owners gave the Alice to Darwin railway the all-clear, though it was not completed until 2003. Two years of attempts to establish a Central Australian women's council failed.

In 1985 the Governor-General handed back the title for the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park to the traditional owners, who leased it back to the Commonwealth for joint management. In the same year, the CLC hired Patrick Dodson to manage what would become its directorate and regional services section and opened its first regional office, in Tennant Creek, followed by seven more offices in remote communities in subsequent years.

In 1986, in response to a mining industry campaign, the Commonwealth abandoned its commitment to national land rights legislation and tried to weaken the Land Rights Act.

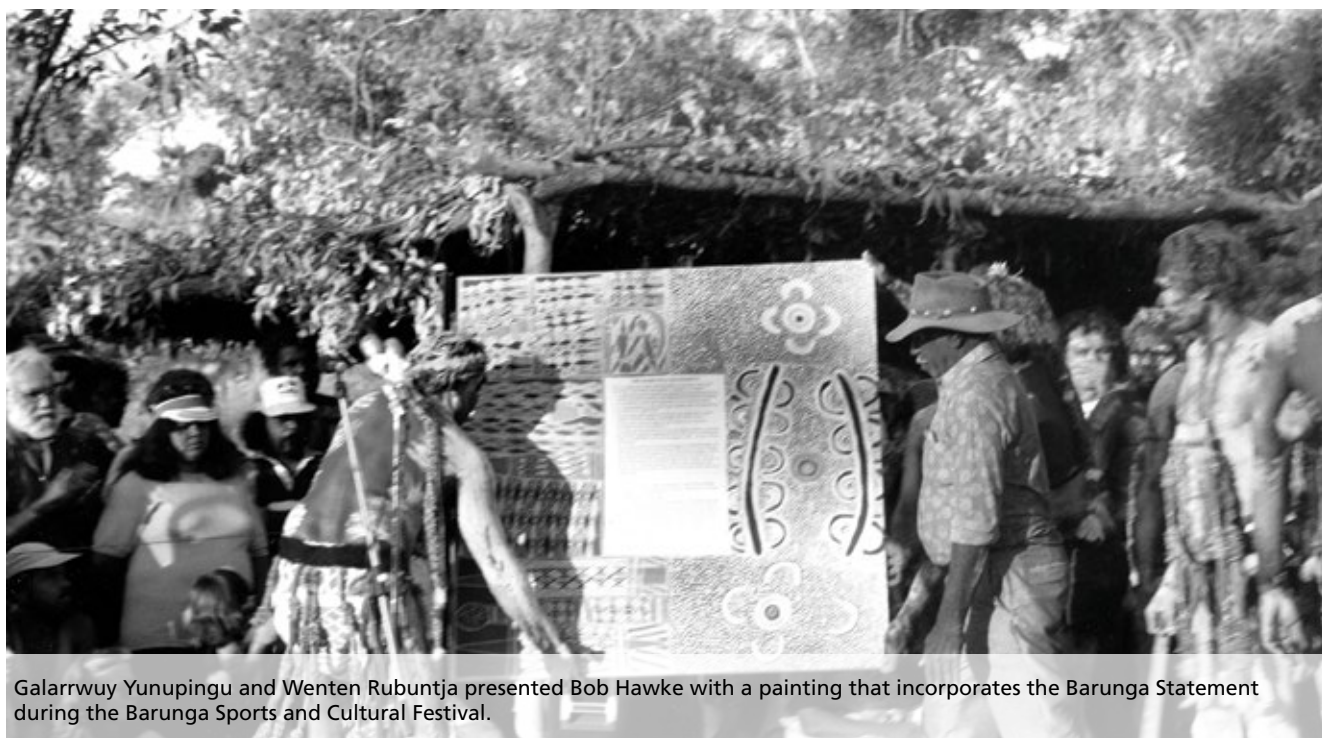
The following year, the CLC helped Ipolera outstation near Hermannsburg to become the first community to open a small tourism business, and the Commonwealth inserted a 1997 deadline on all land claims in the Land Rights Act.

In 1988 the CLC and traditional owners signed an exploration agreement for the area around The Granites in the Tanami desert – the first agreement negotiated from scratch under the Land Rights Act.

Later that year CLC members joined a convoy to the bicentenary protest march on Australia Day in Sydney. CLC chair Wenten Rubuntja and Northern Land Council chair Galarwuy Yunupingu presented Prime Minister Bob Hawke with the Barunga Statement calling for a treaty.



The chair of Telecom hands over a letter of 'permissive occupancy' for parts of the Barrow Creek Telegraph Station to the Kaytetye traditional landowners.



Galarwuy Yunupingu and Wenten Rubuntja presented Bob Hawke with a painting that incorporates the Barunga Statement during the Barunga Sports and Cultural Festival.

In 1990 the NT Government tried again to dam the Todd River, against the will of the traditional owners, and damaged sacred sites near Junction Waterhole. After a long CLC campaign, in 1992 the Commonwealth declared the sites protected for 20 years.

The Barrow Creek Telegraph Station, site of an 1874 massacre of Kaytetye people, was handed back in 1992 to the traditional owners, despite NT Government obstruction.

The CLC became a Native Title Representative Body in 1994, following the passage of the Native Title Act. It lodged its first, and ultimately successful, native title claim over the town of Alice Springs. It also won a settlement of the long-running Lake Amadeus land claim.

Central Australian women formed an independent women's council in 1995. Set up with the support of the CLC, the council had been 15 years in the making.

In 1997 the sunset clause in the Land Rights Act came into effect. The CLC managed to lodge several claims before the deadline, especially over parks and reserves.

Land rights came under siege again in 1998 when the Howard government launched reviews of both the Land Rights Act and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cth), and sought to weaken the Native Title Act following an unprecedented scare campaign.

The mining and employment unit commenced operations in 1999. Five years later, 20 per cent of the mining workforce in the Tanami was Aboriginal. Also in 1999, the NT Government gained control of parts of the Native Title Act and replaced the right of Aboriginal people to negotiate with a limited right to be consulted and to object.

The House of Representatives launched an inquiry into the Reeves Review of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act in 1999. Its recommendations, which included the dismantling of the NT land councils, sparked an outcry.

The first ranger group started in Lajamanu in 2000, in part funded by royalty payments.

In 2004 the CLC and the NT Government negotiated joint management arrangements for 20 national parks and reserves. Sixteen were to be handed back to their traditional owners and leased to the NT Government for 99 years, with four jointly managed under indigenous land use agreements.

Following requests by Aboriginal educators in the Tanami, the CLC established its community development program in 2005. The first program initiatives, the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) and the Uluru rent money project, saw Aboriginal groups plan and implement community benefit projects with their collective income from royalty and rent payments.

The Howard government amended the Land Rights Act again in 2006, allowing the Aboriginal Affairs Minister to delegate core land council functions to Aboriginal corporations that may not be made up of traditional owners and/or may lack the capacity to carry out CLC functions.

The Northern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area, the first IPA in the CLC region, was declared in 2007. That year was also a low point in indigenous affairs in the NT, with the declaration by Prime Minister John Howard of the NT emergency response.

In 2008 the CLC commemorated the 80th anniversary of the 1928 Coniston massacre. In the same year, the community development unit started the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation project, which invests compensation income in community benefit projects throughout the Tanami region.

In 2009 the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, opened the CLC's new building, where all sections could be located together for the first time since 1986. Minister Macklin also handed back seven national parks at this time.

In 2010 the CLC delegates elected Tennant Creek's Gina Smith as the first female deputy chair and decided to use all rent income from jointly managed national parks for community benefit projects through the CLC's new NT Parks rent money project.

In 2012 the CLC delegates voted unanimously to spend the majority of the Commonwealth's compensation for the



Former CLC director David Ross (left) consults with other participants at the Strong Aboriginal Governance Summit in Tennant Creek in 2013.

compulsory community leases it took out during the NT emergency response on community benefit projects with the support of the community development program.

Following the Strong Aboriginal Governance Summit in Tennant Creek, organised by the Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT, the Commonwealth invested in a new Aboriginal Governance and Management Program to assist Aboriginal organisations in 2013.

In 2014 the handback of Yurrkuru (Brooks Soak) concluded a 22-year struggle for justice. The CLC celebrated its 40th birthday with the opening of a new operational and training centre in Alice Springs that supports its 11 ranger groups.

The community development program celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2016. With its support, Aboriginal groups in 31 communities have driven their own development by investing \$58 million of their royalty, rent and compensation income in many hundreds of projects that benefit their communities.

On 8 June 2018, 30 years after the Barunga Statement that led to the broken promise of a national treaty, the chairs of the four Territory land councils and Chief Minister Michael Gunner signed the Barunga Agreement. The memorandum of understanding sets out the process for consultations about a treaty between Aboriginal Territorians and the NT Government. The CLC contributed to the terms of reference of the independent treaty commissioner, Professor Mick Dodson, who was appointed in February 2019.

In March 2019 a coalition of Aboriginal peak organisations, including the CLC and the NLC, entered into an historic partnership agreement with the Council of Australian Governments to reform the failed Closing the Gap policy. It is the first time Aboriginal peak bodies will have a say in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policy. Also in March, the Australian and NT governments signed a partnership agreement for remote housing to address the Territory's housing crisis. For the first time, the NT land councils will be represented on a steering committee created by the governments, where they will lead a review of the existing housing model and associated leasing arrangements, as well as take part in policy and strategy decisions about remote housing spending.

In October 2019 Anangu celebrated the closure of the Uluru climb, righting an historic wrong. After years of climber accidents and deaths and a decline in climber numbers the board of management of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park decided to end the disrespectful practice.

In January 2020 former CLC director David Ross was awarded membership of the general division of the Order of Australia. The honour came almost a year after he handed over the reins of the organisation, to which he devoted more than 40 years of his life.



CLC chair Sammy Wilson and other traditional owners addressed the media during the closure of the Uluru climb.



The Coalition of Peaks updated the CLC's council meeting in Ross River about the historic Closing the Gap partnership agreement. Joe Martin-Jard (CLC), John Patterson (Coalition), Sammy Wilson (CLC), Barbara Shaw (CLC) and Pat Turner (Coalition).

A recent history of Uluru

The history of Uluru goes back to the beginning of time. At least a dozen song lines cross Uluru and Kata-Tjuta in every direction and there are at least 40 named sacred sites in the area.

1950s

Mass tourism to Uluru and Kata-Tjuta starts after a dirt road to Alice Springs is built in 1948.

1973

An Australian parliamentary committee calls for the protection of Anangu rights and for a central role of Anangu in managing the park.

1974

Anangu defy the NT Parks and Wildlife Service by setting up a permanent camp east of Uluru – Mutitjulu.

2005

The Mutitjulu working group (right) plans its first projects using rent income from the park, such as a pool. The project kicks off the CLC's community development program which invests its constituents' collective income from land use agreements in community-driven projects.



1873

Anangu discover surveyor William Gosse, the first whitefella to visit the area.

1930s

Prospectors and pastoralists invade Anangu country. In 1932, Constable McKinnon kills Yukun, causing his brother Imalyangu (Paddy Uluru, below left) to flee the area for 20 years.

1958

Crown land is excised for a national park and the first tourist facilities are built one year later. Native Welfare begins to remove Anangu for assimilation, first to the remote settlements of Pukatja (Ernabella) and Utju (Areyonga) and later to Kaltukatjara (Docker River).

1977

One year after the Australian parliament passed the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, the Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park is declared and the land title transfers to the Director of National Parks.

1979

The CLC lodges the Ayers Rock (Uluru) Land Claim. Justice Toohey rules that the declaration of the park prevents traditional owners from claiming it. The CLC asks Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser to give Anangu inalienable title to the park and the majority of seats on its board of management.

1983

Prime Minister Bob Hawke says his government will transfer the title of the park to its traditional owners who will then lease the area back to the Australian government for 50 years and receive annual rent payments.

1963

Pastoralist Peter Severin from Curtin Springs shares responsibility for drilling a climbing chain into Uluru without consulting Anangu (right).

1982

Anangu reject a plan by NT Chief Minister Paul Everingham and federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ian Wilson to give the NT government a perpetual lease over the park. CLC chair Stan Scrutton, executive member Geoff Shaw and the IAD's Yami Lester campaign in Sydney and Melbourne against it.



2000

The park's new plan of management, for the first time, mentions the "possible future closure of the climb". The 10 year plan includes 11 actions to discourage climbing, such as including the message "nganana tatintja wiya" (we never climb) in interpretive material, and a review of the success of these measures in 2003.



2010

The CLC helps Anangu board members negotiate the 2010-2020 plan of management which commits Parks Australia to work towards closing the climb when three conditions are met. One of them is that fewer than one in five visitors are climbing.



2013

The Mutitjulu working group launches the community's pool. Uluru rent money has paid for the pool's operation ever since.

1985

The Hawke government hands Uluru back to Anangu on 26 October. In return, they had to agree to lease the park back to the Australian government for 99 years. Yami Lester, the first chair of the park's board, said: "The Europeans have already started climbing. It upsets us. We allow that now but we are not really that happy about it". In the meantime, elders educate Parks Australia staff about Anangu culture and land management practices.



2015

Traditional owners (top right) declare the Katiti Petermann Indigenous Protected Area on the five million hectares of Aboriginal land surrounding the park, to be managed by Anangu with the CLC's rangers. During the 30th anniversary of the Uluru handback celebrations Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion promises Mutitjulu a ranger group to manage the IPA.

2017

Uluru Kata-Tjuta National Park chair Sammy Wilson (below) announces the board's unanimous decision to close the climb.

2018

The CLC's Tjakura Rangers (above) start up in Mutitjulu.

2019

The climb closes on 26 October, followed by a celebration on 27 October and the dismantling of the climbing chain.



STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

The statutory functions of the CLC are described in section 23(1) of the Land Rights Act:

- to ascertain and express the wishes and the opinion of Aboriginals living in the area of the land council as to the management of Aboriginal land in that area and as to appropriate legislation concerning that land
- to protect the interests of traditional owners of, and other Aboriginals interested in, Aboriginal land in the area of the land council
- to assist Aboriginals in the taking of measures likely to assist in the protection of sacred sites on land (whether or not Aboriginal land) in the area of the land council
- to consult with traditional owners of, and other Aboriginals interested in, Aboriginal land in the area of the land council with respect to any proposal relating to the use of that land
- where the land council holds in escrow a deed of grant of land made to a land trust under section 12:
 - to negotiate with persons having estates or interests in that land with a view to the acquisition of those estates or interests by the land trust; and
 - until those estates or interests have been so acquired, to negotiate with those persons with a view to the use by Aboriginals of the land in such manner as may be agreed between the land council and those persons
- to negotiate with persons desiring to obtain an estate or interest in land in the area of the land council:
 - where the land is held by a land trust – on behalf of traditional owners (if any) of that land and of any other Aboriginals interested in the land; and
 - where the land is the subject of an application referred to in paragraph 50(1)(a) – on behalf of the traditional owners of that land or on behalf of any other Aboriginals interested in the land
- 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), in any manner that will not cause the land council to incur financial liability or enable it to receive financial benefit
- for land that is a community living area and in the area of the land council – to assist the owner of the land, if requested to do so, in relation to any dealings in the land (including assistance in negotiating leases of, or other grants of interests in, the land)
- to assist Aboriginals claiming to have a traditional land claim to an area of land within the area of the land council in pursuing the claim, in particular, by arranging for legal assistance for them at the expense of the land council
- to negotiate, and enter into agreements, as necessary, for the purposes of subsection 70(4)
- to compile and keep:
 - a register recording the names of the members of the land council, and
 - a register recording the names of the members of the land trusts holding, or established to hold, Aboriginal land in its area and descriptions of each area of such Aboriginal land
 - to supervise, and provide administrative or other assistance for, land trusts holding, or established to hold, Aboriginal land in its area.

ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY

Central Land Council chair Sammy Wilson and chief executive officer Joe Martin-Jard form the Accountable Authority. Mr Wilson is a tourism operator and member of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta Board of Management. Elected chair of the CLC in April 2019, he has been a member of the council's executive committee since 2015. Mr Martin-Jard joined the CLC in February 2019. He is a former senior public servant with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and held leadership positions at the Danila Dilba Health Service, the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, and managed a labour hire company in Darwin.

The Accountable Authority met 11 times during the reporting period.



Sammy Wilson and Joe Martin-Jard at the CLC's council meeting at Ross River in August 2019.

PERFORMANCE REPORT

LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

OUTPUT	1.1	PERMITS
	1.2	LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

LAND CLAIMS AND ACQUISITIONS SUPPORT

OUTPUT	2.1	LAND CLAIMS
	2.2	LAND ACQUISITION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIAL SERVICE

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

ADVOCACY SERVICES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

OUTPUT	5.1	DISTRIBUTIONS
	5.2	ADMINISTER LAND TRUSTS
	5.3	DISPUTE RESOLUTION

NATIVE TITLE

OUTPUT 6	NATIVE TITLE
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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.

ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY DECLARATION

The Accountable Authority hereby presents the 2019–20 annual performance statement. In its opinion, it is based on properly maintained records accurately reflecting the CLC's performance and complies with subsection 39(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth).

CLC PURPOSE

VISION: To promote and support Central Australian Aboriginal people's society, country, secured rights, culture and economy to deliver a promising future.

STATUTORY PURPOSE: The powers, functions and responsibilities were mainly established by the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and the Native Title Act.

As described in the 2019–20 corporate plan, the purposes are the powers and functions legislated in the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and responsibilities as a native title representative body under the Native Title Act. These functions and powers are embodied in the CLC's strategic goals. For the qualitative assessment of the achievement of these goals, refer to the sections of this annual report referenced below:

1. Aboriginal rights and interests protection (refer Output Group 4)
2. land ownership and interests (refer Output groups 2 and 5)
3. culture and heritage protection (refer Output Group 4.3)
4. economic development and effective income management (refer Output Group 3)
5. strong communities, outstations and regions (refer Output Group 4)
6. ranger program development (refer Output groups 1 and 3)
7. sustainable land use and management (refer Output Group 1)
8. governance (refer CLC Governance).

CORPORATE PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FRAMEWORK

Corporate planning integrates longer-term objectives with performance driven by outputs and outcomes, and includes long-term financial planning. A corporate plan that guides future activities and priorities for the four-year period from 2019 to 2023 was published on the CLC website this financial year and presented to the minister in accordance with the PGPA Act. Action planning ensures that the objectives in the plan are achieved within the designated time frame. The PGPA Act requires that the CLC, as a Commonwealth entity, revise its corporate plan annually.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Section 16 of the PGPA Act requires any Accountable Authority of a Commonwealth entity to maintain a system of risk oversight and management. The annual review of the CLC's risk management plan was completed – including a revised risk profile and action plan aligned to the corporate plan – and endorsed by the audit committee. The Comcover annual best-practice benchmarking is used as the basis for ongoing risk management improvement.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The key organisational achievements are described in the respective output chapters. In summary, these include:

- working with traditional owners to manage their land and resources, protect sacred sites and foster economic development (Outputs 1.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 4.3)
- pursuing traditional owners' native title interests (Output 6)
- supporting traditional owners and other constituents to realise their aspirations for community development (Output 4.4)
- negotiating commercial agreements with parties interested in using Aboriginal land and managing income arising from land use agreements (Output 3.4)
- representing the land interests and aspirations of Aboriginal people in Central Australia (Output 3.1)
- managing community-based ranger groups to deliver a range of land management services (Output 3.2).

A performance information framework ensures that properly maintained records are the basis of the reported performance and facilitates the selection of performance information and metrics to measure organisational performance. Performance is monitored by metric 'dashboards', each including measures categorised by all of the eight strategic goals. The dashboards include a six-year history of actual performance, the corporate plan target, and forecasts for the following three financial years.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

The Accountable Authority hereby presents the 2019–20 annual performance statement. In its opinion, it is based on properly maintained records accurately reflecting the CLC's performance and complies with subsections 39(1) and 39(2) of the PGPA Act.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* requires Commonwealth authorities to report on environmental matters. Various operational aspects are specifically concerned with the environment. Refer to other outputs in this report, in particular Output 1.2. Corporate management actions on environmental matters include:

- ongoing development of performance information framework and metrics

- waste reduction
- reporting of the recommended environmental measures for all Commonwealth entities (see table 1).

During 2018–19 the federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs approved a major project for the installation of solar panels at the CLC's main office, 27 Stuart Highway, Alice Springs. The finalisation of the project was delayed due to the Power and Water Corporation's requirements (refer to page 113) in early 2019–20. Lower electricity bills will mean that the cost of the system will be recouped after an estimated three years.

Table 1. CLC's performance against Commonwealth-recommended environmental measures

Theme	Indicator(s)	Measure	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
ENERGY EFFICIENCY	Electricity purchased	\$	200,000	220,415	242,179	233,616	194,023
	Electricity consumed	kWh	700,000	692,957	780,799	748,901	708,348
	Gas purchased	\$	29,000	21,410	25,531	23,523	19,837
	Other fuels purchased / consumed	L	520,000	566,140	556,604	558,145	398,970
	Fuels purchased	\$	859,566	965,203	1,034,513	1,038,150	754,053
	Air travel distances	km	700,000	757,791	887,952	1,066,075	967,434
	Air travel (CO ₂)	tonnes	90	92	108	132	75
	Electricity (CO ₂)	tonnes	850	845	953	671	864
	Gas (CO ₂)	tonnes	30.0	14.9	17.8	15.8	19.2
	Other fuels (CO ₂)	tonnes	1,400	1,415	1,599	1,507	1,077
	Electricity used	kWh p/e	2,900	3,000	3,295	3,482	2,719
	Gas used	Gj p/e	110.0	64.7	63.2	59.0	46.2
	Other fuels	L p/e	2,000	2,451	2,701	2,052	1,535
RENEWABLE ENERGY	Electricity produced	kWh	60,000	51,201	42,500	46,831	97,146
	Savings	\$	13,000	11,776	9,775	10,770	22,341
	CO ₂ savings	tonnes	45	35	29	32	67
	Renewable electricity	% kWh	9.0	6.9	5.7	6.3	13.7
WASTE	Amount going to landfills	cubic metres	400	410	435	468	460
	Amount going to recycling facilities	cubic metres	150	260	260	260	240
	Amount of waste per employee	cubic metres	2.0	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
WATER	Water consumption	kL	9,200	7,522	8,280	8,855	7,870
	Relative water consumption - water use	kL p/e	48.0	35.6	34.9	33	30
CO ₂ OFFSETS	Camels removed by muster	number	200	-	406	2,271	1,264
	Camels removed by muster - CO ₂ emission savings	tonnes	192	-	423	2,366	1,317
	Horses removed by joint management	number	1,000	2,280	-	3,022	1,728
	Horses removed by joint management - Co2 emission savings	tonnes	1,290	2,375	-	2,901	1,659

ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST PURPOSE

The factors that influence achievement of purpose are mainly:

Resource constraints: resources are severely constrained by heavy reliance on estimates (budget) approved annually by the federal Minister for Indigenous Australians for allocations from the ABA and the indigenous advancement strategy for programs such as native title representative body functions and the ranger program. The Australian Government demands a policy of strict expenditure control and productivity improvement from all Commonwealth entities.

External demand: key statutory functions include obtaining traditional owner consent for use of Aboriginal land, mostly related to mining exploration and agreements. The mining industry downturn continues to impact the overall level of 'use' applications, although there are further signs of economic improvement. By contrast, community development, native title and prescribed bodies corporate support activities increased, offsetting the drop in mining section activity.

Aboriginal constituent services demand: Aboriginal groups receive royalties, rent and compensation related to mining and other land use activities. Some groups invested more of this income in community development projects implemented by the CLC's community development program.

Improved productivity: greater productivity enables the organisation to improve services. A key project has been the implementation of a number of (non-cash) productivity improvements that arose from enterprise bargaining under the Australian Government's enterprise agreement policy. These gains exceeded the value of salary increases.

The non-financial results for 2019–20 generally indicate outcomes aligned to expectations, with variations related to economic demand offset by other social demands.

Specific significant variations against the corporate plan target: The declaration of COVID-19 biosecurity zones limited travel in remote areas and, therefore, some organisational targets could not be achieved. The pandemic response required the introduction of new functions that were not envisaged when the corporate plan was published, including managing biosecurity area permissions and the remote community support project.

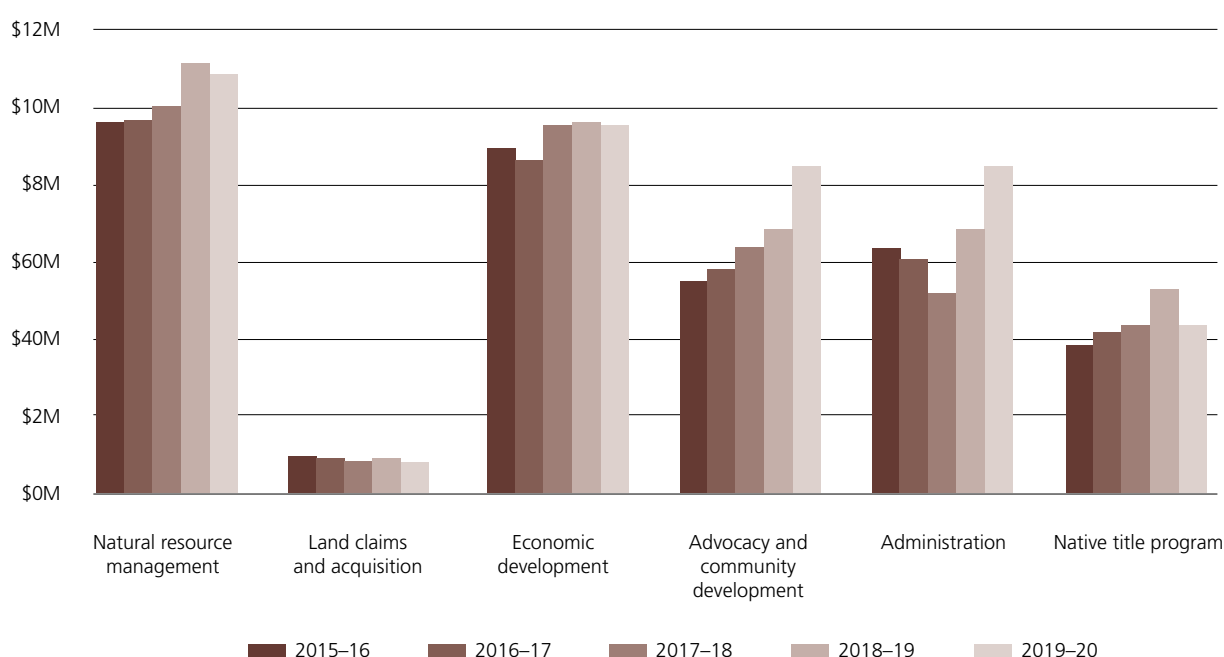
Better than target:

- anthropological advice issued – 37 per cent greater than target
- permits issued – slightly greater than target, despite remote community travel restrictions for approximately three months
- leasing consents – NT Government renewals that were not included in the 2019–20 target
- ceremony and funeral expenditure – minister approved a budget variation that significantly improved benefits
- community development project expenditure – total expenditure of \$16.6 million was 26 per cent greater than budget.

Below target:

- employment placements – COVID-19 restrictions
- community development five-year lease money – delay in finalising program (insignificant in terms of overall expenditure)
- staff working days in the field were below target by 27 per cent due to COVID-19 impact.

Figure 1. Expenditure classified by output groups, 2015–20



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Northern Territory land councils are funded on a cash basis, with annual estimates of revenue less expenditure forecasts approved on a 'break-even' basis. The actual surplus for the financial year ended 30 June 2020 was \$6.283 million, compared to a surplus of \$0.503 million in the previous year. Operational sources of revenue are portrayed in figure 1. The significant improvement was solely attributable to COVID-19, largely as a result of the receipt of an additional \$4 million approved by the minister to support remote communities. As at 30 June, the overwhelming majority of the projects had been committed and in progress. However, by the end of the financial year, most projects were incomplete and payments had not been made. The program will be fully-expended in 2020–21. The other major delay was the implementation of a number of infrastructure projects (staff housing and office accommodation), partly because of COVID-19 restrictions preventing working in remote communities, but also obtaining building approvals. For example, major projects in Mutitjulu were delayed because of utility service approvals. All building projects will proceed in 2020–21.

Expenditure of \$11.0 million, or 25% of total expenditure for 2019–20, classified under **natural resource management** output group, was the largest of the output groups and was less than the expenditure level of the previous year (\$11.2 million, 27%). As well as achieving land management objectives, significant program elements relate to employment, education and training (Output 3.2). Funding for the ranger program is only approved until 2021, but the Minister for Indigenous Australians has approved the funding until 2028 (consultation on the funding agreement occurring in 2020–21).

The next largest output group for expenditure was **economic development and commercial services**, \$9.8 million (22% of total expenditure), incorporating expenditure related to land use agreements; employment, education and training; mining; and commercial assistance. This output group includes statutory mining and land use agreement assistance functions, applications for consent to explore on Aboriginal land, employment unit costs, tourism development, and pastoral development projects.

Advocacy and community development expenditure was \$9.0 million, or 20%. There continues to be an unmet and increasing demand for community development resources. Further details of work performed within the output groups is described in this report (see page 79).

Cost-recovery opportunities are actively identified to lessen the effect of any reduction in the level or quality of service delivery. Productivity improvements, which have been proposed during the enterprise bargaining process, are being progressively implemented and will improve organisational effectiveness.

The financial statements adhere to Australian accounting standards. Annual funding is not provided for non-financial asset depreciation, nor leave liabilities accrued. The commitments detailed in the financial statements are the obligations against recognised revenue, which will be met in future years. Net comprehensive income is attributable to the Australian Government.

Figure 2. Sources of revenue chart, 2015–20

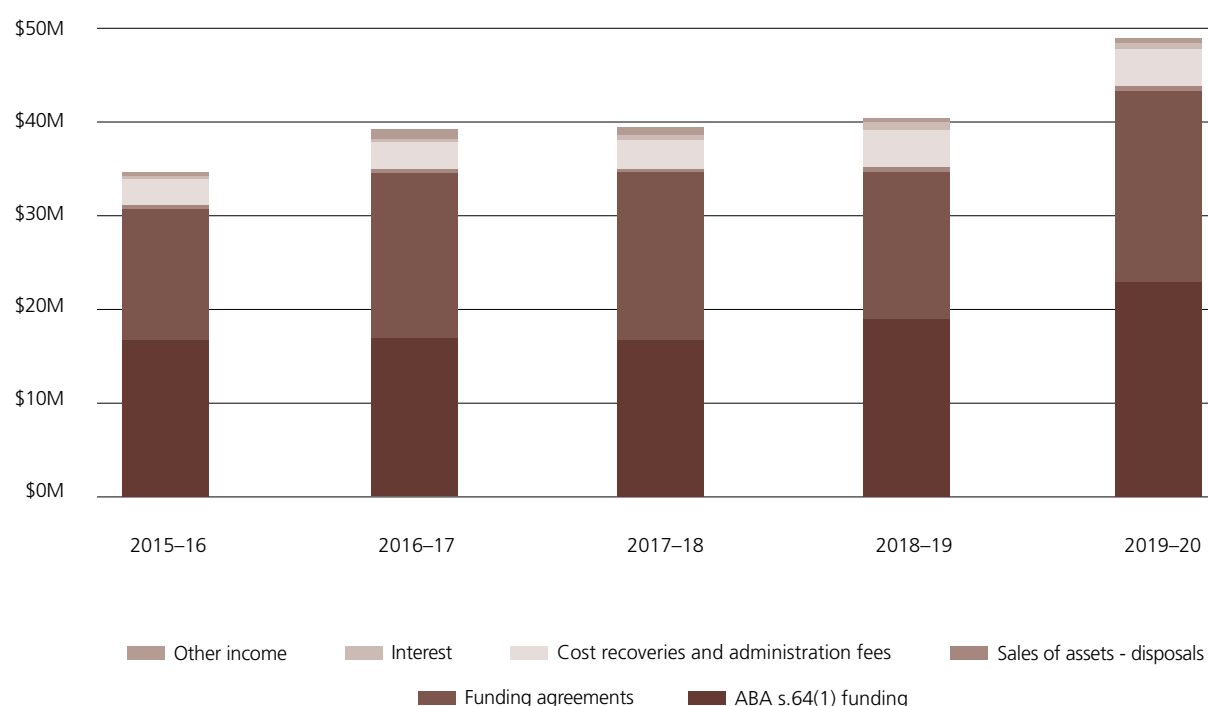


Table 2. Annual performance statement: actual v target

Strategic goal	Performance criteria	Key performance indicators – description	Strategy Ref. (4)	2018–19	2019–20		
					Target	Actual	Variance
RIGHTS	Successful communication of CLC's 'Rights and Interests' advocacy activities to Aboriginal constituents and key stakeholders.	Number of external publications produced	A9	40	40	19	(21)
		CLC web page access rate (visits) – by constituents and stakeholders (000)	A9	120	120	109	(11)
LAND	ALRA land claims & native title claims - recognition of Aboriginal constituents' interests in land by successfully (in compliance with ALRA and Native Title legislation) negotiating & obtaining land rights and native title determinations.	Land claims finalised (ALRA) (Note 1)	B1	-	2	-	(2)
		Ownership (square km) achieved	B1	418,548	423,378	418,548	(4,830)
		CLC – total region size (square km)	B1	776,549	776,549	776,549	-
		Native title meetings and consultations – post determination	B10	50	60	40	(20)
		Anthropological advice issued – determines relevant traditional owners (claims and interests)	B12	455	455	624	169
		Native title claims finalised – consent determination handed down	B2	1	2	1	(1)
	Post land & native title claim negotiation & administration - administering ALRA permit access to Aboriginal land & negotiating post claim 'use-of-land' outcomes (leasing consents, mining consents, other future acts requests).	Total permits Issued – access to Aboriginal land	B11	7,965	8,249	8,305	56
		Leasing – consents obtained – all	B11	37	37	400	363
		Leasing – current leases and licences – all	B11	2,492	2,500	2,844	344
		Native title non-mining ILUA (Note 2) – negotiated and registered	B3	3	6	1	(5)
		Mining/non mining – future act meetings – NT holder identification field trips	B5	10	-	2	2
CULTURE	Activities protecting Aboriginal land & culturally significant sites & to maintain Aboriginal cultural heritage & languages by supporting traditional Aboriginal ceremony & funeral customs & development of heritage management plans.	Sacred site clearance certificates / other advice issued	C1	112	120	172	52
		Cultural heritage management plans / projects completed, progressed, supported	C2	31	31	2	(29)
		Ceremony activity – regional payments – ABA – section 64(4) funded	C2	64,585	90,000	154,365	64,365
		Total funerals assisted – ABA and community funded	C8	340	450	326	(124)
		Funeral payments – ABA section 64(4) funded (\$)	C8	319,385	310,000	329,553	19,553
ECONOMIC	Activities supporting economic development (including mining and agricultural interests) of Aboriginal land and the effective management of income derived from the use of the land.	Exploration (mining) titles applications – completed (includes those withdrawn during the negotiating period)	D1	15	10	16	6
		Exploration agreements (licences and permits)	D1	69	71	51	(20)
		Mining agreements – ALRA	D1	12	10	11	1
		Native title – mining agreements	D1	3	6	2	(4)
	Pursuing & negotiating employment opportunities derived from the use of the land.	Employment placements (mining, exploration, road construction, rail line maintenance, remote employment services, pastoral industry)	D5	48	38	10	(28)
RANGERS	Performance measures related to achieving the requirements of this grant funded program - improving employment & training outcomes, ranger program staff retention.	Ranger program – rangers employed – fulltime equivalent	F1	71	75	76	1
		Ranger program – turnover (annual/trend) %	F1	26%	21%	27%	6%
		Ranger program – training – certificates awarded	F4	17	16	19	3
	Ranger Program land management activities.	Ranger program – fire management burns	F8	15	15	14	(1)

Strategic goal	Performance criteria	Key performance indicators – description	Strategy Ref. (4)	2018–19	2019–20		
					Target	Actual	Variance
COMMUNITIES	Actions to support the development of strong communities & outstations.	Community Development expenditure - 5 year lease money (\$000)	E4	34	253	34	(219)
		Granites Mines Affected Areas compensation community development - annual value committed (\$000)	E4	4,641	8,082	7,710	(372)
		Community development project expenditure - CLC region - Total (\$000)	E4	13,385	13,214	16,610	3,396
		Homelands/outstations (no.) consulted - ABA funding approved by Minister of IA (Note 3)	E1		20	-	(20)
USING LAND	Activities to remove feral animals from Aboriginal land.	Feral animals culled	G	5,293	2,000	2,992	992
GOVERNANCE	Governance meetings held to administer the requirements of the ALRA & Native Title Act, and to provide council members with regular cultural engagement opportunities.	Council meetings held	H	3	3	2	(1)
		Executive Committee meetings held	H	9	8	9	1
	Effective & sustainable management of CLC operational assets.	Vehicles in operation	H	108	110	111	1
		Vehicle resale - proceeds as a % of purchase price	H	45.3%	40.0%	47.4%	7.4%
	Human resources planning, capability & health/safety.	Total staff Working Days in field (remote working measure)	H	7,686	7,898	5,740	(2,158)
		Staff Turnover (Terminations/Average Staff) (%) - Ranger program	H	26	21	21	-
		Staff Turnover (Terminations/Average Staff) (%) - Other	H	28	26	24	(2)
		Leadership program (Aboriginal) participants (from 2016/17)	H	14	14	14	-
		New staff study agreements	H	8	10	8	(2)
		Lost Days - injury	H	221	110	189	79
		Health & safety representatives	H	-	5	-	(5)
	ICT capability	Information systems - user roles supported	H	250	250	260	10
		Maps produced for meetings & logistics	H	749	750	731	(19)
		Records (move to electronic) - new files added (paper)	H	655	-	511	511
	Investments to increase utilisation of renewable energy for operations and reduce carbon emissions.	Renewable energy - solar electricity produced (kWh)	H	46,831	292,000	97,146	(194,854)
		Renewable energy - Co2 savings (tonnes)	H	32	201	67	(134)
	Effective and compliant administration of Aboriginal Corporations (CLC engaged under ALRA) in accordance with CATSI Act.	AAMC meetings held - AGMs	H	27	27	28	1
		Office of Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) - general reports lodged	H	31	31	31	-

NOTES

- 1 No new ALRA land claims permitted under the legislation – only two claims remaining in CLC region.
- 2 Indigenous land use agreement.
- 3 Involvement in ABA Homelands' project finalised in 2018–19.
- 4 Strategy reference - refer to the strategy 'matrix' in the 2019 Corporate plan.

CLC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Central Land Council has 90 elected members who represent 75 communities across nine regions. Its chair is Sammy Wilson and its deputy chair is Barbara Shaw. Elected members of the ABA advisory committee are Barbara Shaw, Leah Leaman, Harry Nelson, Robert Hoosan and Jeffrey Zimran.

CLC CHAIR



SAMMY WILSON

CLC DEPUTY CHAIR



BARBARA SHAW

ABA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS



LEAH LEAMAN



ROBERT HOOSAN



HARRY NELSON



JEFFREY ZIMRAN



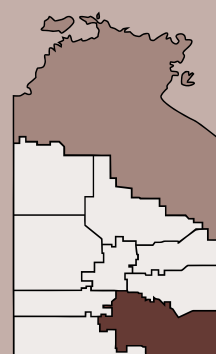
BARBARA SHAW

REGION 1 • ALICE SPRINGS



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Raymond Palmer**
(alternate: Conrad Rataru)

Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa): **Raymond Palmer**; Titjikala: **Rodney Katatuna**; Wallace Rockhole: **James Abbott**; Amoonguna: **Rosanne Ellis**; Uruua: **Raeleen Silverton**; Yatemans Bore outstations: **Patrick Oliver**; Alice Springs town camps: **Barbara Shaw**; Alice Springs native title holders: **Sabella Turner, Graeme Smith**; Alice Springs outstations: **Martin McMillan**; Iwupataka: **Alan Campbell**; Ntaria (Hermannsburg): **Conrad Rataru**; Ntaria outstations: **Mark Inkamala, Roxanne Kenny, Eric Fly**.

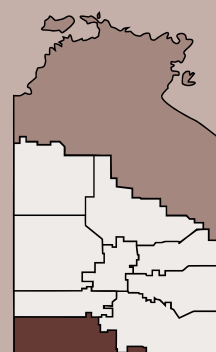


REGION 2 • SOUTHWEST



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Robert Hoosan**
(alternate: Craig Woods)

Imanpa (Mount Ebenezer): **David Wongway, Charles Gibson**; Utju (Areyonga): **Gordon Tiger**; Aputula (Finke): **Robert Hoosan**; Kaltukatjara (Docker River): **Marlene Abbott**; Kaltukatjara outstations: **Brendon Mitchell**; Mutitjulu: **Sammy Wilson, Craig Woods**; Watarrka (Kings Canyon) outstations: **Stephen Clyne**; Ukaka (Tempe Downs): **Bruce Breden**.

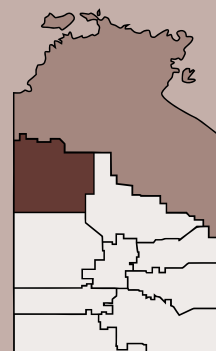


REGION 3 • NORTHWEST



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Andrew Johnson** (until amended by the council, alternate: Leah Leaman)

Bamboo Springs: **Juanita Rogers**; Mistake Creek: **Natasha George**; Daguragu: Dianne King; Daguragu outstations: **Leah Leaman, Justin Paddy**; Lajamanu: **Sharon Anderson, Alistair Jigli**; Lajamanu outstations: **Andrew Johnson**.

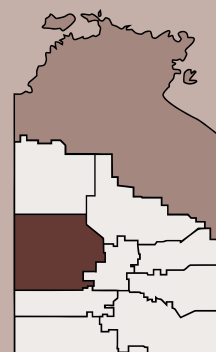


REGION 4 • TANAMI



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Harry Nelson**
(alternate: Teddy Long)

Nyirripi: **Jacob Spencer**; Yuendumu: **Harry Nelson, Matthew Egan**; Yuendumu outstations: **Tess Ross, Warren Williams**; Tanami Downs: **Ross Rockman**; Willowra: **Teddy Long, Dwayne Ross**; Mount Barkly: **April Martin**; Mount Denison: **vacant**.

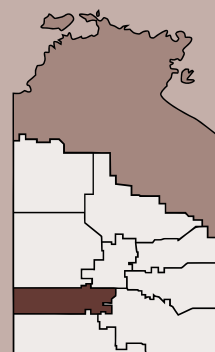


REGION 5 • WESTERN



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Martin Jugadai**
(alternate: Lynda Lechleitner)

Papunya: **Jason Butcher**; Papunya outstations: **Lynda Lechleitner**; Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff): **Jeffery Zimran**; Ikuntji outstations: **Simon Dixon**; Amundurrngu (Mount Liebig): **Martin Jugadai**; Amundurrngu outstations: **Roderick Kantamara**; Walungurru (Kintore): **Tommy Conway**; Walungurru outstations: **Raymond Maxwell**; Mbunghara: **Terry Morris**.

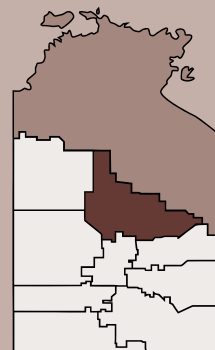


REGION 6 • TENNANT CREEK



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Sandra Morrison**
(alternate: Derek Walker)

Mangalawarra: **Dianne Stokes**; Ngurratiji (Nguyarrmini): **Jorna Murphy**; Kunayungku: **Ronald Brown**; Karlanjarriyi: **Sandra Morrison**; Wutunurrurga (Epenarra): **Owen Torres**; Tennant Creek native title holders: **Brian Crafter**; Tennant Creek: **Michael Jones, Patricia Frank**; Canteen Creek: **Basil Mick**; Wunara: **Tony Willy**; Alekarenge: **Peter Corbett, Derek Walker**; Imangara (Murray Downs): **Ned Kelly**.

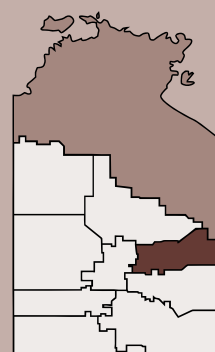


REGION 7 • EASTERN SANDOVER



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Michael Liddle**
(alternate: Jackie Mahoney)

Alpururulam (Lake Nash): **Pamela (Pam) Corbett, John (Jackie) Mahoney**; Ampilatwatja: **Roger Morton**; Utopia homelands: **Michael Liddle**, vacant; Alparra: **Esau Nelson, Sammy Club**; Irrultja: **Eldon Ross**; Atnwengerrpe: **John Lewis**.

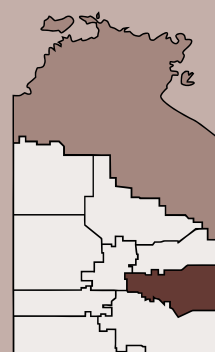


REGION 8 • EASTERN PLENTY



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Neville Petrick**
(alternate: Eric Petrick)

Bonya: **Andrew Rieff**; Urlampe outstations: **Joshua Rankine**; Alcoota: **Kevin Bloomfield**; Irrerlirre (McDonald Downs): **Neville Petrick**; Mount Eaglebeak: **Nigel Bloomfield**; Akarnenhe Well: **Philip Andrews**; Atitjere (Harts Range): **Eric Petrick**.

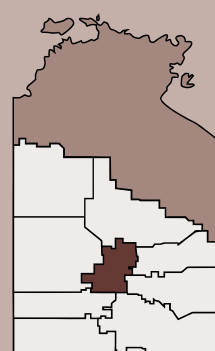


REGION 9 • CENTRAL



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: **Ron Hagan**
(alternate: Timothy Price)

Adelaide Bore (Woola Downs): **Bob Purvis**; Yuelamu (Mt Allen): **David McCormack**; Yuelamu outstations: **Ron Hagan**; Pmara Jutunta (Ti Tree Six Mile): **Tony Scrutton**; Nturiya (Ti Tree Station): **James Glenn**; Wilora (Stirling): vacant; Tara outstations: **Timothy Price**; Laramba (Napperby): **Peter Stafford**; Barrow Creek outstations: **Kim Brown**.



CLC GOVERNANCE

The CLC operates under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (Cth)* (PGPA Act, previously the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*).

PURPOSES STATEMENT

The powers and functions of the CLC are set out in the ALRA. The CLC also has the functions of a native title representative body under the Native Title Act. The CLC's role is described in its published documents including the corporate plan, this annual report, and a half-yearly report to its minister. The Australian Government has not published a key priorities and objectives statement under section 34 of the PGPA Act (CLC Corporate Plan 2019–2023, p. 8).

ENABLING LEGISLATION

The enabling legislation is the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth)* (the Land Rights Act, or the ALRA).

RESPONSIBLE MINISTER

The responsible minister is Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians. He is the first Aboriginal Commonwealth cabinet minister and the minister responsible for the new National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA). The NIAA leads and co-ordinates Commonwealth policy development, program design and implementation and service delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and advises the prime minister and the Minister Wyatt on whole-of-government priorities for these citizens.

MINISTERIAL DIRECTIONS

The responsible minister did not issue directions, general policies or general policy orders.

STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

The statutory functions are described in section 23(1) of the Land Rights Act and are detailed on page 20 of this document.

COUNCIL

The CLC is a council of Aboriginal people from across the southern half of the NT. Its 90 members represent 75 remote communities and outstations. Any Aboriginal adult is eligible for membership provided they are living in or are traditional owners of land within the CLC area, and they meet the eligibility requirements set out under the Land Rights Act. Council elections are held every three years.

COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS

The process for choosing council members is determined by the council and is subject to approval by the minister. The method of choice sets out the list of communities and outstations that can nominate members and the allocation of representatives from each community. Small communities and outstations meet to nominate their representatives, while larger communities vote for their representatives at community meetings convened by the CLC. In a small number of cases, representative Aboriginal organisations are invited to nominate representatives at a properly convened meeting.

COUNCIL GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

The CLC takes its responsibility to ensure that council members are fully informed about their role, rights and obligations very seriously. It employs a policy officer responsible for planning and implementing governance training and support for the council.

It has long-established governance processes for meetings of the council and executive committee, including for authorising a proxy and replacing members who miss three consecutive meetings. When participating in governance training both elected groups use a plain-English governance manual that is updated every three years. Each term, the council has the opportunity to review council meeting rules. The Accountable Authority approves the agenda for and attends council and executive committee meetings. The chair or deputy chair guides every meeting. Minutes are written and recorded and confirmed at a subsequent meeting.



Three executive committee meetings were held via video conference during COVID-19 travel restrictions.

CLC ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

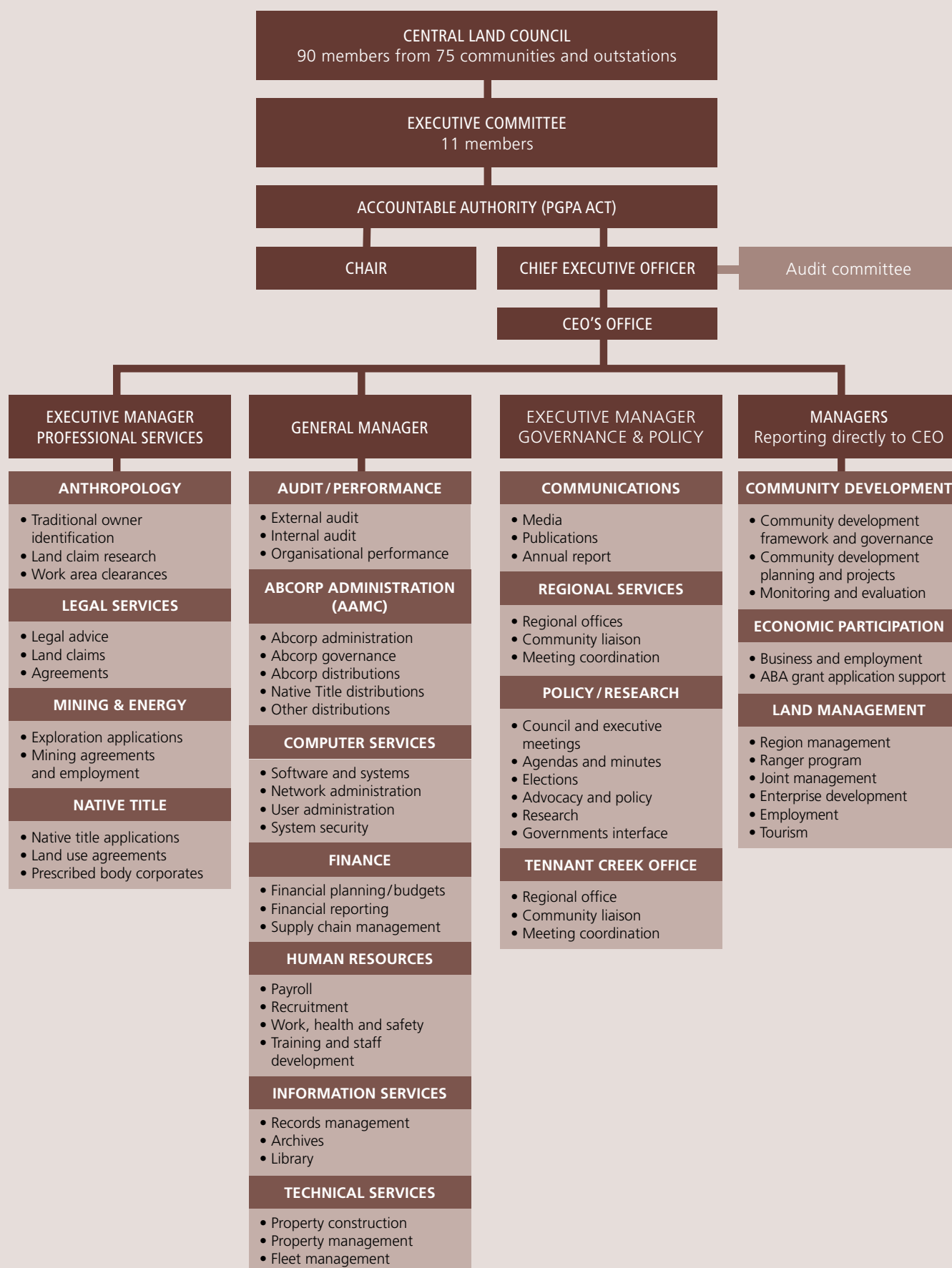


Table 3. Council meetings, 2019–2020

Meeting dates	Location	Resolutions passed
30 July – 1 August 2019	Ross River	8
28 – 30 October 2019	Yulara Pulka	15
April 2020 council meeting cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions		

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 11-member executive committee is a committee of the council, pursuant to section 29A of the Land Rights Act. The executive comprises nine members representing the CLC's nine administrative regions, plus a chair and deputy chair.

The executive committee held nine meetings in the 2019–20 financial year, all in Alice Springs. Three of these meetings were conducted via videoconference due to biosecurity restrictions affecting the majority of the executive members. Members participated in a governance training workshop on 27 February 2020.

Pursuant to s.28 of the Land Rights Act, the council has delegated all of its powers capable of delegation to the executive (except those powers delegated to the CEO, chair and financial controller). In practice, this means that most matters requiring a formal resolution, such as land use agreements and mining matters, are brought to the executive, leaving the council to make decisions on policy.

Table 4. Executive committee meetings, 2019–20

Meeting dates	Resolutions passed
21 August 2019	14
10 – 11 October 2019	19
4 – 6 December 2019	34
30 January 2020	1
28 February 2020	4
26 March 2020	3
15 April 2020	1
7 May 2020	3
24 – 25 June 2020	11

ROLE OF THE CHAIR

The chair is elected by the delegates of the CLC for a three-year term. The chair is also a member of the Accountable Authority in accordance with the PGPA Act. On 10 April 2019 at Yulara Pulka, the council elected Sammy Wilson as chair and Barbara Shaw as deputy chair.



OUTPUT GROUP 1

OUTPUT 1.1. PERMITS

Access to Aboriginal land is managed effectively and efficiently.

The use of permits to enter Aboriginal land is authorised in section 73 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) and contained within the *Aboriginal Land Act 1978* (NT). The permit system, administered by land councils, gives all visitors, workers and researchers regulated access to Aboriginal land. Traditional owners use permits to manage visitation to their lands and to uphold their responsibilities to visitors. Visitors to Aboriginal lands can apply for entry, transit, media, mining and special purpose permits.

Following its NT emergency response, the Australian Government amended the ALRA, allowing access to public areas of larger communities without a permit. Permits are still required outside these areas. In accordance with the wishes of traditional owners, however, many visitors to communities apply for permits even if not required to assure themselves of the consent of residents. The CLC appreciates these displays of goodwill.

Changes to the permit system have led some people to assume they are free to visit Aboriginal land outside communities as well. Traditional owners are particularly concerned about theft of equipment (most commonly solar panels and bore equipment) and damage to sacred sites.

In 2019–20, the CLC processed 4,730 permit applications covering 11,571 individuals by consulting with traditional owners and negotiating with applicants. Permits were issued to 246 visitors of the Madigan Line and 29 travellers along the Hay River Track.

COVID-19 APPROVED REMOTE ESSENTIAL WORKER PERMITS

On 16 March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CLC suspended all non-essential travel to remote communities. Ten days later, the Commonwealth implemented the *Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Emergency Requirements for Remote Communities) Determination 2020*, significantly restricting access to Aboriginal land.

Between 26 March and the end of the determination period on 5 June, the CLC received a high number of permit applications from people wanting to enter Aboriginal land to provide essential services to remote communities. Applicants had to first apply to the NT Government's remote travel team for a travel exemption. The team assessed if the applicants were indeed essential workers before referring approved applicants to the CLC for permits. Thirty-four staff consulted with Aboriginal communities, corporations and associations about the approved essential worker permit applications and the management of access to Aboriginal land.

Figure 3 shows that despite the access restrictions during the biosecurity determination period, the number of individuals receiving permits (2,369) increased significantly compared with the months before the pandemic. This was because the police enforced permits at biosecurity area checkpoints for the first time in the history of land rights. The resulting increase indicates that a significant portion of visitors to Aboriginal land prior to the determination period had not applied for permits. After the determination period ended, there was an approximately threefold increase in permit applications, compared with the same period in 2018–19, indicating improved compliance with the permit system following the end of the police checkpoints.

The CLC received seven permit applications in relation to Aboriginal land under joint management that required consultations with the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (PWC NT) for parks and reserves, and a further eight new applications or alterations to existing permits/licences for the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park.

It eliminated inconsistencies across different sections of the organisation in counting permits. Prior to this period, some sections reported only the number of permits issued but that figure is inaccurate as a permit can cover more than one individual. From this period onwards, all sections of the CLC will be reporting the numbers of individuals covered by permits, rather than the number of permits issued.

Figure 3. Entry permits issued to individuals, 2019–20

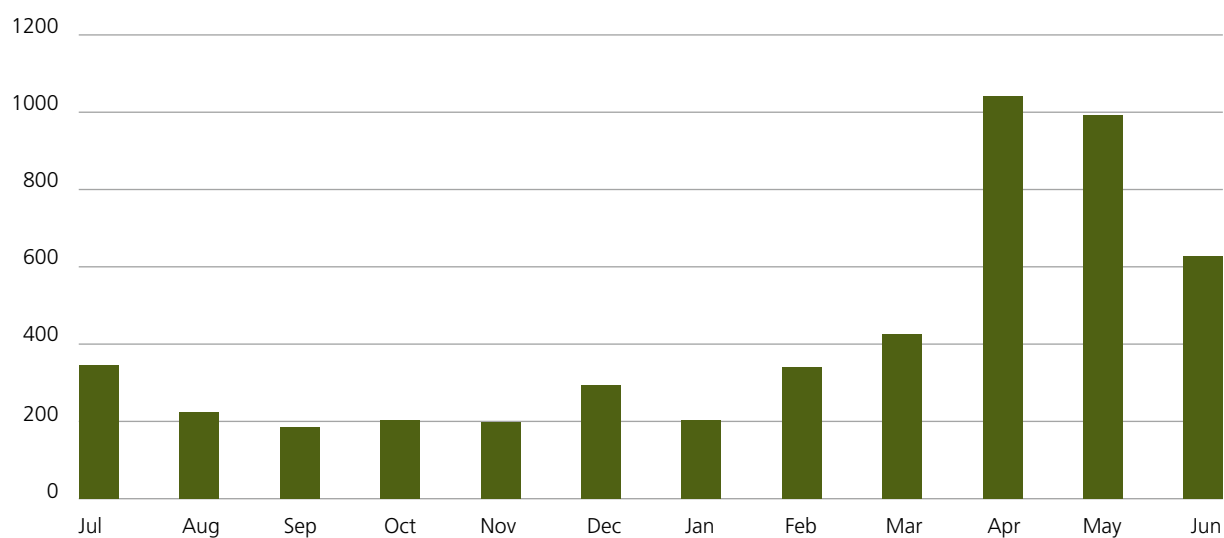


Table 5. Types of permits, 2019–20

Permits	July 2019 – June 2020 TOTALS	26 March – 5 June 2020 (Biosecurity area determination period)
Entry	5,097	2,369
Special purpose (research and media)	110	0
Mining	3,563	0
Transit	2,801	0
Total	11,571	2,369



OUTPUT 1.2. LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Central Land Council assists traditional owners to sustainably manage their land and natural resources.

More than half of the CLC region is Aboriginal freehold land under the Land Rights Act. Some of its constituents live on this land, while others live in townships, on community living areas and pastoral leases. Regardless of where they live, land is of immense cultural and spiritual significance to its Aboriginal owners. They wish to maintain cultural and spiritual connection to their country and ensure that future generations have the same opportunity.

The region contains landscapes of national and international significance that support threatened species and habitats of high conservation value. However, there are threats to both the natural and cultural integrity of the land, including the impact of feral animals, inappropriate fire regimes, invasive plant species and other threats to biodiversity.

Traditional owners want to manage their land sustainably and generate livelihoods from it. The CLC supports them to build the capacity of people to manage and protect environmental and cultural values. It provides advice and assistance with land

use and management planning, fire management, cultural heritage, feral animal and weed management, and traditional owner involvement in the management of protected areas.

Indigenous rangers occupied most of the 140 positions in the CLC's land management section. The rangers are the eyes and ears of the bush and respond to natural and cultural management issues (see ranger program annual report annexure 2019–20 for more details).

CLC anthropologists prepared 51 traditional owner or native title holder identifications. They gave advice and assistance in relation to the Ti Tree water allocation plan, the proposed Jay Creek heritage listing, joint management for the Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park and the Finke Gorge National Park, ranger work planning, burning activities on the Karlantitjpa North and Daguragu Aboriginal land trusts, the Southern Tanami IPA, Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park infrastructure and feral herbivore removal in four locations.

CLC staff took traditional owners on a trip to the Davenport Ranges.



REGIONAL LAND MANAGEMENT

Land resource information and planning

The CLC created a new data collection app for tablets, replacing the ageing Cybertracker app. The new app complements the multilingual Tracks app the rangers use to record animal tracks, scats and burrows.

A review of land condition monitoring procedures led to the trial of a new livestock management system. The system uses both satellite and ground-based monitoring to provide information on land condition. The drought in Central Australia had prompted concerns about the welfare of horses and cattle during the 2019–20 summer. Using a combination of remote sensing and ground-based assessment, the CLC evaluated land condition and carrying capacity of the Santa Teresa, Haasts Bluff, Urrampinyi Iltjiltjarri, Ltalaltuma, Ntaria, Rodna and Arletherre Aboriginal land trusts. After receiving information about the impacts of horses and cattle, including feral animals and animals pastured under grazing licences, the traditional owners instructed the CLC to cull feral horses, cattle and camels and temporarily destock grazing licences.

Territory Natural Resource Management commenced a bilby recovery program, aimed at assessing current populations and implementing activities such as fire management and predator control. With the majority of populations located on Aboriginal land, the CLC negotiated a data sharing agreement with the organisation to share information on bilby populations collected by CLC rangers.

The Threatened Species Recovery Hub (an environmental research project funded by the Australian Government) began to use tracking data collected by CLC rangers throughout Central Australia to investigate the utility of the data in species conservation and mapping, and to improve data collection. The CLC negotiated a data sharing contract with the project.

Following a review of the University of New South Wales' data from a biodiversity monitoring project in the Tanami region, the CLC hosted a workshop about the future of the project. Participants from the university, the Newmont Corporation and Low Ecological Services supported an expansion of the project.

The CLC commenced work on developing 'healthy country' plans (funded under the NT Government's Creating Jobs, Protecting Country policy) for ranger groups based in Tennant Creek, Ntaria, Ltyentye Apurte and Ti Tree by engaging consultants and undertaking initial desktop research.

Fire management

The CLC supported regional fire planning by facilitating the *warlu* committee meeting in Daguragu in October 2019 and the *waru* committee meeting in Alice Springs in March 2020. The meetings of traditional owners and rangers planned fire management for the largest indigenous protected areas and Aboriginal land trusts in Central Australia. CLC rangers took part in a Tennant Creek regional fire planning meeting, and the CLC advocated for Aboriginal fire management on the NT Bushfires Council and the Alice Springs regional bushfires committee.

It conducted three multi-day fire management operations – two on the Karlantijpa North Aboriginal Land Trust (in July 2019 and June 2020 respectively) and one on the Lake Mackay Aboriginal Land Trust in July 2019. Remote site visits, threatened species surveys and aerial incendiary training for nine rangers took place during these prescribed burns. CLC rangers participated in numerous additional prescribed burns throughout the region. The prolonged drought ensured that there was less vegetation to burn than in previous years. Due to this lower fuel load, they burned a smaller area than previously. The 10 Deserts Project resourced some of these country visits and training.

The CLC continued to support the Karlantijpa North savannah burning project by assisting with fire planning, ground operations and governance. The project's fire management on an inaccessible and previously unmanaged land trust has become more financially sustainable and enabled traditional owners to lead cultural and land management activities. The CLC will continue to advocate for Aboriginal participation in the carbon economy. It will help to develop a Judbarra savannah burning project and a desert carbon abatement methodology.

Water resource management

The CLC worked with traditional owners and the NT Government's water resources branch to identify the cultural and biological values of swamps, soakages and plants. The traditional owners want these values to inform monitoring and assessment methodology for areas in the Western Davenport water control district. The CLC participated in meetings with the government and the Northern Land Council to begin implementing the government's strategic Aboriginal water reserves policy and develop regulations under the amended NT Water Act. It also attended a stakeholder workshop aimed at improving the effectiveness of water advisory committees in water planning and management.



George Sambo and Paddy Doolak from the *warlu* committee and Tim Leane from the 10 Deserts Project with a fire planning map they created.



Elders and rangers from Atitjere taught young women how to produce bush medicine.



Invasive species management

FERAL ANIMALS

The CLC helps traditional owners to manage feral animals through planning, consultation and partnerships.

As the drought in Central Australia continued unabated, the lack of water and food saw thousands of feral cattle, horses, pigs, donkeys and camels congregate around a few remaining water sources and often perish there. Polluted water sources kill native animals.

Traditional owners from the Santa Teresa, Ntaria, Rodna, Roulpmaulpma, Ltalaltuma and Pmere Nyente Aboriginal land trusts, who don't usually support feral animal culls, again agreed to them. The 10 Deserts Project funded a camel cull across the Pmere Nyente, Ntaria, Ltalaltuma and Roulpmaulpma Aboriginal land trusts. A total of 2,992 feral animals, many perishing or in poor condition, were culled or sold.

Fifty-four feral cattle from the Angas Downs IPA that were fit for transport were sold with the CLC's assistance. The CLC also facilitated a land use agreement that allowed the Ngaanyatjarra Camel Company to sell 245 camels from the Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust under an agreement with a contractor. Table 6 provides a summary of this year's feral animal management activity.

Location	Camels	Horses	Cattle	Total
Santa Teresa ALT		309		309
Hermannsburg Area	461	933		1,394
Angas Downs	38	21	54	113
Pmere Nyente ALT	520	411		931
Petermann ALT	245			245
Total	1,264	1,674	54	2,992



Waru committee members discuss fire management in Mutitjulu.

WEEDS

Weed infestations impact significantly on the cultural and natural values of the country. Weeds displace bush foods, and cause hotter and more destructive fires from which native vegetation cannot recover. This causes declines in native plant diversity.

CLC rangers conduct most of the weed management on Aboriginal land, but as their resources can only cover a fraction of infestations, they prioritise areas of high cultural and ecological value. Table 7 highlights the weed species and areas where rangers conducted weed control activities.

Name	Status	Work areas
Rubber Bush (<i>Calotropis procera</i>)	B	Yuendumu ALT Lake Mackay ALT Haasts Bluff ALT Ahakeye ALT
Athel Pine (<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>)	WONS A/B	Alkwert ALT
Parkinsonia (<i>Parkinsonia aculeate</i>)	WONS B	Alkwert ALT Santa Teresa ALT Hooker Creek ALT Yuendumu ALT Ahakeye ALT
Prickly pear (<i>Opuntia spp.</i>) survey	A	Ntaria ALT Yuendumu ALT Ahakeye ALT
Buffel grass (<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>)	Not declared	Santa Teresa ALT Petermann ALT Katiti ALT Central Desert ALT
Thornapple (<i>Datura ferox</i>)	A	Yuendumu ALT
Cactus spp.	Not declared	Ahakeye ALT

A/B = necessary to eradicate and prevent introduction into the NT.

B/C = Necessary to prevent the growing, spreading and introduction of the declared weed in the NT.

WONS = Weed of national significance.

Significant and threatened species management

Traditional owners' interests and priorities guide the CLC's management of significant and threatened species, typically through partnerships with other science-based agencies. This year it worked with Territory Natural Resource Management to design projects to monitor the status of both the greater bilby and central rock rat. Some of the few remaining populations of these species occur on Aboriginal land and Aboriginal rangers play a critical role in their survival. Rangers and other staff participated in recovery team meetings for both the greater bilby and night parrot with the Threatened Species Commissioner at the Indigenous Desert Alliance Conference in Yulara.

Table 8. Significant and threatened species surveys, 2019–20

Survey species	Location	Ranger group
Great desert Skink (<i>Egernia kintorei</i>)	Central Desert ALT Petermann ALT Kaṯiṯi ALT	Warlpiri Rangers and Southern Tanami IPA Kaṯutkatjara Rangers Tjakura Rangers
Ninu (<i>Greater bilby – Macrotis lagotis</i>)	Central Desert ALT	Warlpiri Rangers and Southern Tanami IPA
Quandong (<i>Santalum acuminatum</i>)	Petermann ALT	Kaṯiṯi-Petermann IPA
Black-footed rock wallaby (<i>Petrogale lateralis</i>)	Mungkarta ALT	Muru-warinyi Ankkul Rangers Kaṯutkatjara Rangers
Night parrot (<i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>)	Urlampe	Arltarpilta Inelye Rangers
Fauna survey	Warrabri ALT	Muru-warinyi Ankkul Rangers

STRUCTURED COMMUNITY-BASED LAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

A decade of funding from the Australian Government's indigenous advancement strategy, and the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation's real jobs programs, have allowed the CLC's 12 ranger groups to manage cultural and natural resources on Aboriginal land. Four groups manage indigenous protected areas contributing more than 195,000 square kilometres to the national reserve system (see the ranger program annual report annexure 2019–20 for details).

The high value that remote Aboriginal communities place on the ranger program is evident from the large numbers of residents who apply for the limited number of ranger jobs, and by the enthusiasm of traditional owners who direct and oversee the work of the rangers. This critical collaboration strengthens intergenerational knowledge exchange and community engagement.

The CLC's ranger employment model emphasises training and mentoring, and provides career pathways at the CLC and beyond. Rangers regularly transfer the skills and capacities they develop through the program to other employment and leadership roles.

Of the CLC's 87 rangers, 11 were employed fulltime, 54 worked parttime and 8 were casuals. Twelve ranger group coordinators and nine program staff supported 12 established and two emerging groups.

Community demand for ranger employment and for the establishment of additional ranger groups remains high and the CLC continues to advocate for the expansion of the program. The 10 Deserts Project funded the CLC's work with the emerging ranger teams at Arlparra (Utopia Rangers) in the northeast and Kintore (Walungurru Rangers) in the west. The Walungurru ranger team has the strong support of traditional owners, who met twice with the CLC to plan a ranger work program. The Walungurru Rangers attended the annual Indigenous Desert Alliance forum to learn from established groups. The emerging Utopia ranger group started planning work activities, identifying prospective rangers and exploring training delivery. Table 9 shows the areas of operation of the 12 established and 2 emerging ranger groups.

Table 9. Ranger groups and areas of operation

Ranger group	Areas of operation
North Tanami	Lajamanu and Northern Tanami IPA
Warlpiri	Yuendumu, Nyirripi, Willowra and Southern Tanami IPA
Muru-warinyi Ankkul	Tennant Creek Region
Tjuwanpa	Aboriginal land trusts around Ntaria and adjoining national parks
Kaṯutkatjara	Kaṯutkatjara and western half of Kaṯiṯi-Petermann IPA
Ltyentye Apurte	Santa Teresa ALT and surrounds
Anmatyerr	Ahakeye ALT (Ti-tree) and wider Anmatyerr region
Aṅangu Luritjiku	Papunya and eastern half of Haasts Bluff ALT
Murnkurumurnkurru	Dagaragu ALT and surrounds
Arltarpilta Inelye	Atitjere, Huckitta Station and surrounds
Tjakura	Muṯitjulu, Eastern Kaṯiṯi-Petermann IPA
Aṅangu	Angas Downs IPA
Walungurru (emerging)	Kintore and western half of Haasts Bluff ALT
Utopia (emerging)	Arlparra and Ampilatwatja – Sandover region



The Utopia Rangers are an emerging CLC ranger group.

Funding

With funding for ranger jobs due to run out in June 2021, the CLC welcomed the Minister for Indigenous Australians' commitment to extending ranger program funding until 2028 and to consultations about new program guidelines.

After assessment of the Anangu ranger group managing the Angas Downs IPA, the CLC decided to reallocate positions. It reallocated 1.4 fulltime equivalent ranger positions to each of the emerging ranger groups at Kintore and Arlparra. The Anangu Rangers will continue with IPA funding.

The NT Government's ranger grants program provided \$1,350,000 for the grading of firebreaks and access tracks to significant sites and outstations, as well as for the development of four land management plans for the Ltyentye Apurte, Tjuwanpa, Muru-warinyi Ankkul and Anmatyerr ranger groups.

Work program development

Ranger employment develops the capacity not only of individual rangers but also of traditional owners who contribute to and oversee ranger work plans. Traditional owner ranger advisory committees and IPA management committees enable traditional owners to incorporate their own land management aspirations into the cultural and natural resource management objectives of the ranger program.

MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS

Joint management of NT national parks and reserves

The CLC has statutory consultative and representative functions under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976* (NT) in respect to the joint management of 20 NT national parks and reserves. Traditional owners hold Aboriginal freehold or NT parks freehold title to 16 of these parks and have leased them back to the NT Government. Traditional owners jointly manage these parks with the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (PWC NT). The other four parks are jointly managed under indigenous land use agreements registered with the National Native Title Tribunal.

The CLC has supported traditional owners to participate in joint management of the 20 parks and reserves since 2004. A PWC NT-funded joint management officer at the CLC assists traditional owners to plan and make decisions about the parks.

Park management planning and governance

Traditional owners and the CLC executive committee approved the draft joint management plan for the Ruby Gap Nature Park, east of Alice Springs. It will be tabled in the NT Legislative Assembly in 2020–21.

The CLC facilitated five joint management committee and working group meetings for park planning purposes at the Finke Gorge National Park, Rainbow Valley/Chambers Pillar Conservation Reserve, Yeperenye/Emily, Jessie and Heavitree Gap conservation reserves, Arltunga Historical Reserve, Ruby Gap Nature Reserve and Judburra/Gregory National Park. Committee meetings are an opportunity for traditional owners to visit the park and for CLC and PWC NT staff and traditional owners to review and plan joint management activities.

Park permits and concessions

Most jointly managed parks and reserves have permit guidelines, with standard terms and conditions for the efficient processing of permit applications. Permit applications that fell outside these conditions and required consultation and review by the CLC are listed in table 10.

Table 10. Park permit applications, 2019–20

Park/reserve	Number	Type
Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park	5	Access, filming
Watarrka National Park	1	Research
N'Dhala Gorge National Park	1	Access



Grant Cooley found tjakura scats on the Katiti-Petermann Indigenous Protected Area.

ULURU – KATA TJUṬA NATIONAL PARK

Since 1985 the CLC has carried out statutory functions in the management of the Uluru – Kata Tjuṭa National Park (UKTNP) under the terms of the lease with the Director of National Parks. It has maintained a joint management officer position to consult traditional owners and support their involvement in joint management since 2002. A new funding agreement for the position was executed for another three years to 2022.

The CLC continued to support the UKTNP board of management and its consultative committees. It helped Anangu board members prepare for nine board meetings, three of which were special meetings in response to COVID-19. It represented and supported Anangu at three consultative committee meetings and consulted with traditional owners about park management programs, permit requests, commercial tourism proposals and the review of the park's plan of management.

INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS

The CLC supports traditional owners to develop and manage the natural and cultural values of their land through voluntary agreements with the Australian Government that do not affect land tenure. The four IPAs in the CLC region cover approximately 195,000 square kilometres of Aboriginal freehold land. The Kaṯiṯi-Petermann, Angas Downs, and Southern and Northern Tanami IPAs have management committees that develop and review annual work plans. Each IPA has an associated ranger group that implements them. The Kaṯiṯi-Petermann IPA has two ranger groups, one based in Kaṯukajara and one in Muṯiṯulu.

The success of the Southern Tanami Digital Storybook, a Warlpiri-language online version of the IPA's management plan, inspired traditional owners of the Northern Tanami IPA to invest \$250,000 of their mining compensation income to produce the Northern Tanami Digital Storybook. The completed storybook was launched in Lajamanu in November. The North Tanami Rangers distributed USB sticks containing the video files that make up the storybook to 160 households, the learning centre, school, and Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation in Lajamanu.

The CLC successfully applied to the Australian Government to include the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust in the IPA program and a funding agreement was executed in March 2020. It will use the funds to consult with traditional owners about declaring an IPA across the land trust and develop a plan of management. While the CLC's application for inclusion of the Simpson Desert application was unsuccessful, it will use a small grant from Country Needs People to test the feasibility of an IPA across the area. It hopes this will help to attract future funding.

Cross-border collaboration

INDIGENOUS DESERT ALLIANCE

The CLC is a member of the Indigenous Desert Alliance, an incorporated coalition of indigenous land management organisations in desert regions of Western Australia, South Australia and the NT. The alliance aims to support Aboriginal rangers across the region to achieve cultural, environmental, economic and social benefits. Two CLC rangers serve as directors on the alliance's inaugural board and CLC staff attended its annual workshop in Yulara in November.

10 DESERTS PROJECT

The CLC is a member of the 10 Deserts Project, an indigenous-led partnership supporting traditional owners to look after approximately 2.8 million square kilometres of desert country. The area features the world's largest connected network of protected areas and indigenous-managed lands. The Desert Support Services (DSS) is funded by the BHP Billiton Foundation to administer the project on behalf of the members, who include the Central Desert Native Title Services, Kimberley Land Council, Nyangumarta Warrarn, Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara, IDA, Arid Lands Environment Centre, Nature Conservancy and Pew Charitable Trusts.

Figure 4. 10 Deserts Project area



As a member of the project steering committee and associated working groups, the CLC contributed to the development of the project's governance and the implementation of activities. It consulted with traditional owners about work plans for the Walungurru Rangers, an emerging ranger group at Kintore on the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust, and the Utopia Rangers at Arlparra on the Angarapa Aboriginal Land Trust. The Walungurru Rangers now have a logo, designed and chosen by the traditional owners, featuring the *tjapu-tjapu* (black-faced wood swallow), a character from an important story of the region.

Despite the COVID-19 restrictions, the group managed to increase its numbers to 10 casual rangers. Two young group members gained experience in ground burning during a prescribed burn in the Southern Tanami IPA with the Warlpiri Rangers.

The CLC also set up a 'reading the country' project in response to requests by rangers and traditional owners for additional opportunities to learn from each other and balance mainstream education and training with learning from the elders. The project aims to develop regular and structured opportunities for intergenerational knowledge transfer. It employed a project officer and organised a field trip and workshop with senior knowledge holders and rangers. Participants drew mind maps about tracking two animals to identify the information that is part of the tracking process, and expert trackers reflected on the difference between 'tracking to hunt' and 'tracking to teach'.

Participants also identified key features of Warlpiri teaching and mentoring methods.



Molly Napurrurla Tasman prepared a goanna and a black headed python for lunch.



Rangers Donald Robbo (above) and Lionel Mick (bottom) raided the Lajamanu tip to build a watering station for wallabies and other native animals to prevent more drownings in the Emu rock hole on the Northern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area.



The ranger team from Tennant Creek mapped habitat around the town with staff from the Indigenous Desert Alliance.



Michael Wheeler is proud of the logo of the emerging Walungurru ranger group, which is based on a drawing by traditional owner James Brown.



Josephine Grant co-ordinates the Anmatyerr ranger group in Ti Tree.



OUTPUT GROUP 2

OUTPUT 2.1. LAND CLAIMS

WAKAYA ALYAWARRA

Following the execution and certification of the settlement agreement the Canteen Creek Area ILUA was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on 20 May 2020. The CLC then wrote to the Chief Minister of the NT to request that he advise the Minister for Indigenous Australians of the support of his government for the scheduling and grant of NTP 4246 as Aboriginal freehold under the Land Rights Act. The CLC anticipates that the chief minister will do so before the caretaker period prior to the NT election in August 2020. The Commonwealth will then survey the area prior to scheduling.

FRANCES WELL

The finalisation of the claim continues to be stymied by issues related to purported public roads. No resolution has yet been reached with the NT regarding the public roads it claims exist on NTP 1299. The claim may be referred back to the Aboriginal Land Commissioner for a recommendation if a suitable solution to the detriment issues cannot be reached with the NT Government in 2020.



OUTPUT 2.2. LAND ACQUISITION

As a result of negotiations for the settlement of native title claims, the CLC is assisting with the acquisition of land identified in the following ILUAs:

Aherrenge Aboriginal Land Trust: Ammaroo ILUA (DI2014/003): registered 27 March 2015

On 6 November 2019 the Alyawarr traditional owners from the Aherrenge land holding group met with the Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt, to celebrate the handback of this small portion of their land. During the ceremony at Ampilatwatja, 325 kilometres northeast of Alice Springs, the minister handed over the title to approximately 31 square kilometres adjoining the Aherrenge Aboriginal Land Trust to its traditional owners. The handback completes a native title claim settlement from 2014.

The native title holders agreed not to pursue exclusive possession native title rights over a number of former stock routes and a former stock reserve that fall within the Ammaroo

pastoral lease and to allow incorporation of those areas into the lease. In exchange, the pastoralist and the NT Government agreed to support adding an area of station land adjacent to Ampilatwatja to the land trust area. The CLC negotiated for the block to be excised from the station and scheduled as inalienable freehold title under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

Red Gum Store ILUA (DI2017/002) – land swap: registered 30 January 2018

The freehold grant to Tyerrenge Aboriginal Corporation was registered on 17 January 2020. The registration fulfilled an agreement between native title holders and the lessee of MacDonald Downs Station that provided for a block of freehold land for native title holders in exchange for the freehold grant for the Redgum Store for the pastoralist Charlie Chalmers. A graded access road, bore pump and tank were also provided to the corporation.



Frankie Holmes presents Ken Wyatt with a copy of the CLC's oral history collection *Every Hill Got A Story* and an Uluru Statement t-shirt at the Ammaroo handback ceremony. Centre: Nigel Morton.

OUTPUT GROUP 3

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.

LAND USE AGREEMENTS

The CLC dedicates significant effort to the processing of lease applications on Aboriginal land. It consults on and responds to requests for variations, assignments, subleases and surrenders in connection with leased premises.

It prepared 23 traditional owner or native title holder identifications to ensure the right people were consulted about activities relating to land use agreements and continued to consult with and implement the instructions of traditional owners about the application of rent from leases. The identifications related to the following activities: grazing licences on the Alkwert, Ahakeye, Wakaya and Warumungu Aboriginal land trusts; leasing at Standley Chasm, Amoonguna farm, the Wutunugurra, Arlparra, Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa), Amengernterneah, Willowra, Yuendumu, Yuelamu, Pmara Jutunta and Amoonguna communities; horticultural leases on the Ahakey, Ilyarne, Warrabri and Karlantijpa North Aboriginal land trusts; a lease for a roadwork camp on the Yuendumu Aboriginal Land Trust; and advice on the traditional ownership of a road on the Karlantijpa South Aboriginal Land Trust and Stirling and Neutral Junction stations.

Its community development program works with traditional owners who decide to use leasing income to plan and implement community-driven projects. When instructed to distribute money to traditional owners, the CLC's Aboriginal Associations Management Centre (AAMC) manages the distribution.

The CLC's land use trust account receives money from rental payments to 10 Aboriginal corporations and associations that hold community living area titles. It provided them with planning and legal assistance to ensure that funds are used for the benefit of the communities, according to the Aboriginal corporations' rules.

Australian Government

The Australian Government holds leases over 1,180 lots on Aboriginal land and 368 lots on community living areas in the CLC region. It obtained consents for leases over 124 lots.

The CLC is participating in reviews conducted by the Australian Government into township leasing and leasing on Aboriginal land generally.



Barbara Shaw and James Nugent at Ampilatwatja.

NT Government

The NT Government holds leases over 535 lots on Aboriginal land and 90 lots on community living areas. It obtained consent for leases over 207 lots during the year. Applications were received and progressed relating to variations to the NT Government subleases over community housing in seven communities.

The CLC continued to negotiate with the NT Government to finalise the leasing of reticulated services in communities and to ensure the ongoing management and compliance with existing leases.

The impasse between the NT and Australian governments about the provision of improved housing to the five communities in the CLC region that were not currently subject to a community housing lease was resolved. In April 2019 the NT Government advised that it would apply for five-year housing leases in these communities. These applications were received in August 2019. Traditional owners in Amoonguna, Yuelamu, Daguragu and Haasts Bluff gave instructions to consent to these leases, which were all finalised by January 2020. One community still does not have a housing lease as traditional owners are waiting for more information from the NT Government.

Local government

The Central Desert, MacDonnell, Barkly and Victoria Daly regional councils are responsible for local government services in communities of the CLC region.

They collectively hold land use agreements, including leases and licences, over 274 lots in communities on Aboriginal land in the CLC region and 98 lots on community living areas. The CLC continues to consult traditional owners, communities and residents of community living areas about new and outstanding land use applications and negotiates with the councils about the ongoing management of land use agreements. The CLC has discussed with the regional councils their refusal to pay rent for some leases and continues to seek the resolution of this issue.

Non-government organisations

Non-government organisations operating in communities – mostly Aboriginal organisations, such as art centres and stores – currently hold leases over 284 lots on Aboriginal land and 15 lots on community living areas. These organisations demonstrate a commitment to secure tenure over assets on Aboriginal land by negotiating land use agreements. The CLC continues to receive lease and licence applications from organisations operating on Aboriginal land and community living areas. Tables 11 to 14 summarise the number of lease and licence applications; the number of consultations regarding these applications, and the management of lease and licence agreements; the number of leases and licences issued; and the number of all leases and licences currently issued.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

The CLC supports traditional owners in negotiations with proponents seeking grazing licences over Aboriginal land and monitors licence conditions.

It ensures that proponents create training and employment opportunities for traditional owners and residents of remote communities, adhere to grazing levels compatible with cultural and natural values, and develop pastoral infrastructure that continues to benefit traditional owners.

Grazing licences are typically issued for five years, with the option of a further five years or longer. The CLC also issues grazing licences or subleases to Aboriginal pastoral companies to enable them to operate commercially on Aboriginal land.

The CLC continued to monitor 18 grazing licences and subleases, with eight more under negotiation. Traditional owners rejected four grazing licences, two of them new. The CLC consulted about new and monitored existing grazing licences with traditional owners of the Arletherre, Haasts Bluff, Ahakeye, Petermann, Mungkarta, Mangkururpa, Warumungu, Ngalarurtju, Pmere Nyente, Pwanye, Atnetye, Thakaperte, Uruna, Roulpmaulpma, Santa Teresa and Daguragu Aboriginal land trusts and the Angas Downs pastoral lease. It also responded to two incidents of neighbouring pastoralists illegally grazing their cattle on Aboriginal land. Negotiations in relation to these incursions and new proposed grazing licences are ongoing. The CLC executed a land use agreement for the Ngaanyatjarra Camel Company to remove camels from the western side of the Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust.

Table 11. Applications received, 2019–20

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas	ALRA communities
Australian Government	34	88
Local Government	0	5
NT Government	3	162
Others	0	21

Table 12. Consents obtained, 2019–20

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas	ALRA communities
Australian Government	368	1180
Local Government	98	274
NT Government	90	535
Others	15	284

Table 13. Consultations conducted, 2019–20

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas	ALRA communities
Australian Government	3	14
Local Government	2	29
NT Government	3	11
Others	10	59

Table 14. Leases and licences at 30 June 2020

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas	ALRA communities
Australian Government	38	86
Local Government	1	32
NT Government	31	176
Others	6	30

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

The CLC works with proponents to maximise job and business opportunities for remote community residents and traditional owners. Its guidance can improve the prospects of proposals during consultations and negotiations of land use agreements. Significant long-term proposals for jointly managed national parks demonstrate the benefits of this approach.

In 2018, the NT Government proposed investing in two jointly managed parks to stimulate the region's economy. The CLC has facilitated the participation of the traditional owners of the Tjoritja/West MacDonnell and Watarrka national parks in the discussions.

Red Centre Adventure Ride

Following a presentation of the government's multi-million-dollar proposal for an adventure bike trail in the Tjoritja/ West MacDonnell National Park, the CLC negotiated with the government about the economic opportunities local Aboriginal people want to realise and the protection of their culture and country.

It has continued to plan and develop the project with traditional owners and public servants, for example by looking for commercial operators and private sector co-investment for the trail. It has supported local Aboriginal people's involvement in training and capability-building activities, such as workshops about trail design, governance, business development, tourism marketing, and ongoing design of the trail. It has continued to negotiate improved procurement practices that create opportunities for local Aboriginal employment and business development.

Watarrka National Park

The CLC continued its support for traditional owners involved in negotiating employment and business opportunities from the government's tourism proposal. It worked with a traditional owner planning committee and the government to support the aspirations of Aboriginal people and build their capacity to take part in the proposed development. The committee helped develop a process to engage with prospective commercial partners and investors in early 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic slowed progress.



Anthony Petrick, from the Arltarpilta Ineyle Rangers, and Jeremy Kenny used a drone to record aerial footage for a land condition assessment for Atula Station.

OUTPUT 3.2. EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Assist 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 through advocacy with government and industry, direct job placement, and workplace support aimed at employee retention. It converts employment opportunities arising from land use agreements into jobs for Aboriginal people and has built a reputation for placing people from disadvantaged communities in resource industry employment. It also offers land management and enterprise development partnerships, strong community networks, and familiarity with constituent aspirations and circumstances.

MINING AND EXPLORATION

The CLC helped 84 Aboriginal job seekers with applications and placements. It referred 56 of them to the Newmont Corporation and its contractors and nine of these individuals gained employment. It met regularly with the company's social responsibility team to help it revise its Aboriginal employment and training procedure. It also assisted the company to plan cultural awareness training, focussing on the participation of traditional owners in the training sessions.

NATIONAL PARKS

The CLC helped the Parks and Wildlife Commission Northern Territory (PWC NT) to employ and train Aboriginal people in jointly managed national parks. It took part in five selection panels and supported Aboriginal applicants, resulting in four new Aboriginal PWC NT employees in Central Australia. Despite these efforts, the number of Aboriginal people employed in the parks remains well below traditional owner expectations. The CLC offered to help the commission to increase Aboriginal employment by letting the CLC's employment team promote PWC NT jobs to job seekers and contact them directly.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: CLC RANGER PROGRAM

The Commonwealth's indigenous advancement strategy and the Real Jobs (Ranger) program of the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) funded 87 CLC rangers across 12 groups, including casuals. This equates to 71.2 fulltime equivalent positions. The ILSC funded a quarter of the positions.

The CLC ranger program's entry-level positions build capacity and interest among young Aboriginal people with little or no work experience. The program also employs casuals on larger surveys, fire management, weed control and fencing projects. This often results in permanent jobs.

Employment outcomes and ranger retention

Eleven rangers and ranger support officers, were in fulltime positions on 30 June 2020, 54 were parttime and eight were casuals. A variety of employment options are needed to accommodate the responsibilities of and demands on remote community residents. Many prefer parttime and casual employment as this allows time to attend to family and community needs.

Over the past decade there have been 925 CLC rangers, aged between 16 and 67, possessing a wide range of knowledge and skills. In 2019–20 the number of ranger support officer positions, a stepping stone to the ranger group coordinator role, increased from three to four.

Figure 6 shows an all-time low in female employment, with most female rangers continuing to work in groups led by women. The CLC plans to investigate the reasons for this decline so it can improve female participation.

Figure 5. Ranger employment type, 2010–20

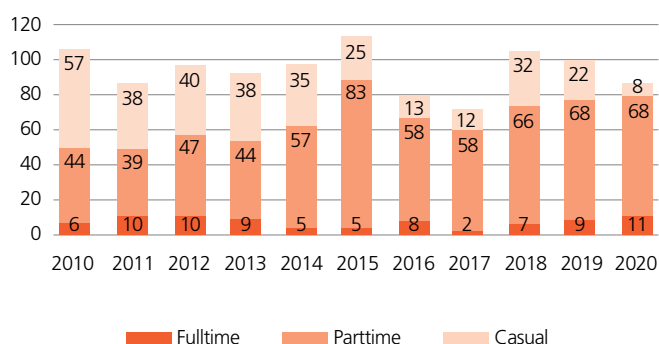
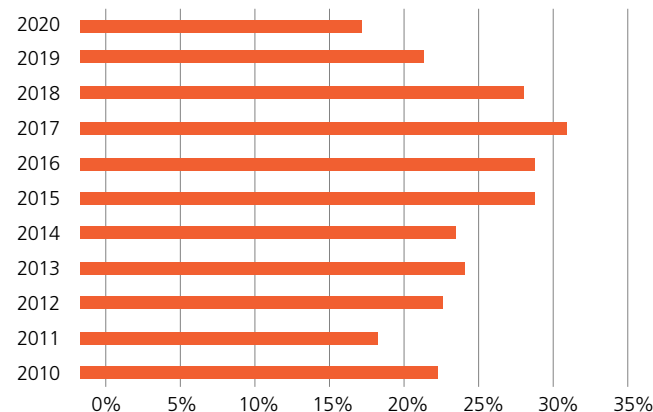


Figure 6. Percentage of women rangers, 2010–20





Elder Paddy Doolak (centre) taught the Murnkurrumurnkurru Rangers and junior rangers about tracking at Cattle Creek.

Quality targeted training and professional development

Training is an important component of the ranger program. It develops basic work skills and competencies, supports experienced rangers to complete studies in conservation and land management, and promotes rangers to ranger support and coordinator roles.

Rangers participated in 14 events delivering 9,140 hours of accredited training. Rangers spent 43 per cent of those hours studying for Certificate III in conservation and land management (more than ever before), 47 per cent for Certificate II, and 10 per cent for Certificate I. There were 74 new enrolments in accredited courses: 42 in Certificate II, 22 in Certificate III and 10 in Certificate IV. Fifteen rangers graduated with a Certificate II, and four with a Certificate III. Training stopped following the COVID-19 restrictions.

Training resources continue to be distributed unequally among ranger groups. Groups with a relatively stable workforce and experienced coordinators completed more training hours, while those without these strengths missed out.

The Ltyentye Apurte ranger group, with its stable workforce and experienced senior rangers, undertook the most training. Groups in very remote communities, such as the Kalṯukatjara, Murnkurrumurnkurru and Tjakura rangers, undertook the least. Rangers in these groups were disadvantaged because of the training's high cost and other delivery challenges. The significant reduction in training for the Muru-warinyi Ankkul group reflects changes and upheaval during its 10 months without a coordinator.

CLC rangers undertook 3,610 hours of compulsory workplace health and safety training. Twelve rangers took part in accredited training in the preparation, storage and safe handling of chemicals, 33 rangers completed first aid training and 14 rangers improved their plant and machinery skills. The Centre for Appropriate Technology delivered plant operator training for erosion control and track maintenance.

The annual ranger camp planned for March 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic.

School-based capacity building

The CLC rangers continued to work with students in remote community classrooms and on country, with junior ranger programs, traditional owners, parents and other interest groups. These interactions demonstrated the value of ranger employment and career paths, contributed to learning outcomes, and motivated students to continue their schooling. The Ltyentye Apurte Rangers conducted a country visit to the *Keringke* rock hole to facilitate knowledge transfer and demonstrate ranger work with eleven 5-to-7-year-olds from the Ltyentye Apurte school. The students and rangers hiked for a kilometre up steep, rocky country to the rock hole. The rangers showed the students petroglyphs and bush foods and spoke about the cultural and environmental significance of the site. The teacher read the story of *Keringke* in English, as told by a senior traditional owner, while the rangers interpreted it back into Arrernte.

The Murnkurrumurnkurru Rangers delivered 13 junior ranger activities to Kalkaringi students. They searched for bush tucker and medicine, timber for making artefacts, and animal tracks. They undertook bird, water insect and other fauna surveys, and used camera traps. They also propagated native seeds, made damper, and learned about looking after rivers and to watch out for saltwater crocodiles. The junior rangers also took part in a Freedom Day Walk-off re-enactment.

Ranger mentoring support

Four ranger mentors implemented more proactive ranger development initiatives, thanks to ILSC funding for two additional mentor positions. They undertook 43 visits to help rangers to self-manage issues affecting attendance and performance. Work-related coaching accounted for most of the mentoring activities, followed by support with health and wellbeing, alcohol and drug use, and financial and legal issues. When COVID-19 travel restrictions put a stop to face-to-face mentoring, mentors stayed in touch with rangers through phone and video meetings.



Barbara Petrick, from the Altarpilta Aneyele Rangers, and elder Jacinda Webb taught Lariza Bird and Latanni White how to make bush medicine using grindstones during a cultural knowledge camp near the Spotted Tiger outstation.



Sophina Mill, Sally Perkins and Richelle Webb filled around 100 containers with bush medicine.

OUTPUT 3.3. MINING

Mining on Aboriginal land continues to contribute significantly to the NT's mining and energy industries. One of the most productive gold mines in Australia is in the Tanami Desert, some 500 kilometres northwest of Alice Springs. The Newmont Corporation's Tanami Operations mine at The Granites has yielded millions of ounces of gold over the past 20 years. Gold exploration continues in the Tanami and Tennant Creek regions. Oil and gas production occurs at Mereenie, west of Alice Springs, Palm Valley, and the new Dingo gas field south of Alice Springs. The new Northern Gas Pipeline has allowed Mereenie to ramp up production and Palm Valley to resume production.

Mining and related agreements deliver benefits to traditional owners, such as community-driven development projects, compensation payments, employment, training, sacred site and environmental protection, and cultural awareness.

When negotiating with exploration companies about access to Aboriginal land, the CLC must ensure that traditional owners are fully informed before they make decisions about exploration and mining. Only where there is informed group consent can Aboriginal people and mining companies make agreements. Adherence to the legislative process provides certainty to all parties.

EXPLORATION LICENCE AND PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Exploration for minerals and petroleum is regulated under the NT's *Mineral Titles Act 2010* and the *Petroleum Act 1984*. Exploration licences allow the holder or operator to explore for minerals over the area of the licence. Exploration permits generally cover the very large areas that are required for oil and gas exploration.

On Aboriginal land in the CLC region, exploration licences and permits can be granted only with the consent of the CLC. The mining provisions (Part IV) of the Land Rights Act set out a clear process for accessing Aboriginal land. When a new application for exploration is made, the NT Minister for Primary Industry and Resources initiates the approval process by consenting to exploration applicants entering into negotiation with the CLC. The applicant then has three months to lodge a comprehensive application with the CLC.

In response to an application, the CLC must consult the relevant traditional owners and ascertain their views. The applicant may be entitled to present their exploration proposals to the traditional owners at a meeting. A representative of the minister may also be invited to attend.

Where instructed by the traditional owners, the CLC negotiates an agreement about the terms and conditions of the grant. This process protects the rights and interests of the traditional owners and, once a decision is made, the applicants have the certainty required to invest in exploration.

Where Aboriginal landowners consent to exploration, they also consent to mining or production. The consent to mining occurs at the very start of the development process, when little is known about the nature and scope of the proposed development. Landowners will not have fine details about a project's future when they make their initial, binding decision



Former minerals and energy unit manager and CLC staff member of 30 years, Julie Ann Stoll, presented about mining proposals at her last council meeting in October 2019. Ms Stoll continues to make her expertise available on a range of high level matters.

at the exploration application stage. Further, they are not allowed to change their mind and say no to a mine later. However, a subsequent mining or production agreement must be in place before a mineral lease or production licence is granted. By the time a project has reached the stage where the proponent lodges a mining or production licence application, more information is available and further negotiation can take place; however landowners have no further veto right.

The CLC is legally obliged to ensure that landowners are as well informed as possible when making such far-reaching and risky decisions. Landowners must understand the nature and purpose of exploration before they consent to an agreement. Mining generally involves significant impacts on the environment and can affect neighbouring communities. The CLC must also consult with these affected communities, even though they do not have the right to refuse a project. It conducts exploration and mining consultation meetings to ensure that landowners affected by applications exercise their rights under the Land Rights Act. Table 15 shows recent data for the processing of applications.

Table 15. Processing of applications for consent to the grant of exploration titles under mining provisions of the Land Rights Act

Performance measures	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Number of exploration titles (mainly ELAs and EPAs) effectively progressed to an initial traditional owner meeting	18	18	18	33	0
Total number of exploration titles considered at traditional owner meetings (includes first and further meetings)	48	35	25	37	3
Number of exploration titles processed to a final decision	44	13	19	15	16
Number of exploration titles completed in total (includes those withdrawn during negotiating period)	77	24	36	15	16
Average time taken (in years) from date of application is received to either CLC Consent or Refusal	2.9	3.0	3.0	1.3	0

In 2019–20, the CLC prepared 36 traditional owner identifications ahead of meetings about exploration licence applications over Aboriginal land but only conducted two consultation meetings with traditional owners who considered three individual exploration titles. By contrast, 37 titles were considered at 10 meetings in 2018–19, 25 titles at nine meetings in 2017–18, and 35 titles at 11 meetings in 2016–17. The significantly lower number of titles processed during 2019–20 reflects a sustained decrease in the number of applications since 2014–15, when 115 titles were considered. This was also a result of COVID-19 travel restrictions. The decline reflects the continued difficult market conditions for exploration investment, low commodity prices (except for gold) and uncertainty about onshore gas exploration.

Exploration permit applications (EPAs) for oil and gas were not considered. This was due to uncertainty about onshore gas application processing, and regulation associated with the NT Government's ongoing implementation of recommendations of the scientific inquiry into hydraulic fracturing. Thirty-four EPAs remain under negotiation. Once new processes are in place and Aboriginal people in the region have received comprehensive information about the regulatory changes, the CLC will start to process the titles. Some are in geologically non-prospective areas and may be subject to regulation about 'no-go zones'. The inquiry recommended that areas not prospective for onshore gas, or where coexistence is not possible, be declared reserved blocks under section 9 of the *Petroleum Act 1984* (NT). This means they become 'no-go zones'. Areas to be reserved include places of high tourism value, towns and residential areas, national parks, conservation areas, high ecological value and high cultural significance areas, and IPAs. Once declared, exploration or drilling for petroleum resources cannot occur there.

In 2019, the government began to declare petroleum reserved blocks in areas that are not on Aboriginal land (except for jointly managed parks) and that fall into these categories, and are not subject to granted exploration permits. By the end of the period, 668 square kilometres of land in the CLC region was gazetted as petroleum reserved blocks. There are other significant areas in the CLC region that have been identified as being non-prospective or not suitable, which may be gazetted as petroleum reserve blocks in the future. These are on Aboriginal land and, therefore, await advice from the CLC. This advice is subject to traditional owner instructions, or to existing petroleum exploration permits, and requires that the NT Government reaches an arrangement with the proponent.

The CLC held meetings in Tennant Creek and in Hatches Creek. These remote area meetings require careful planning and are resource intensive. They can involve several mining companies and numerous traditional owner groups from many different communities, as well as various mineral commodities. They may cover many thousands of square kilometres. Grouping of titles for consideration at a single meeting saves resources, but is complex and challenging. It depends on factors such as the number of traditional owner groups, whether it is appropriate to bring groups together, the number of companies involved and their ability to progress negotiations, and the availability of CLC staff and vehicles to bring the traditional owners to the meeting.

Figure 7 compares the number of exploration licence applications and exploration permit applications processed during 2019–20 with those of the previous five years.

The NT Government issued 34 titles with consent to negotiate in 2019–20, less than half the amount of the previous year (77 titles). Figure 8 shows the trend in the processing of exploration titles on Aboriginal land for the past eight years.

Despite the difficult investment climate, interest in exploration for gold continued due to high and rising prices. Gold has long been seen as a secure investment in uncertain global political and economic landscapes. This was particularly evidenced by increased investment in gold as the COVID-19 pandemic affected investor confidence. Interest in gold in the CLC region has been focussed on the world-class Callie deposit in the Tanami, as well as areas around the proven Tennant Creek region. Other mineral commodities in the CLC region are copper, rare earths, base metals, uranium, tungsten, coal, salt, phosphate and potash.

Poor oil prices persisted through 2019. The price per barrel dived in early 2020, driven down by reduced demand in response to the pandemic. High transport costs of gas from remote areas to markets on the east coast, investor caution, and community concern about fracking also impacted oil and gas exploration title processing. The completion of the Northern Gas Pipeline to Mount Isa at the end of 2018, and the Tanami Gas Pipeline to the Newmont Tanami Operations in May 2019, has created new gas markets in the NT and interstate.

Figure 7. Exploration titles on Aboriginal land applied for and processed, 2012–20

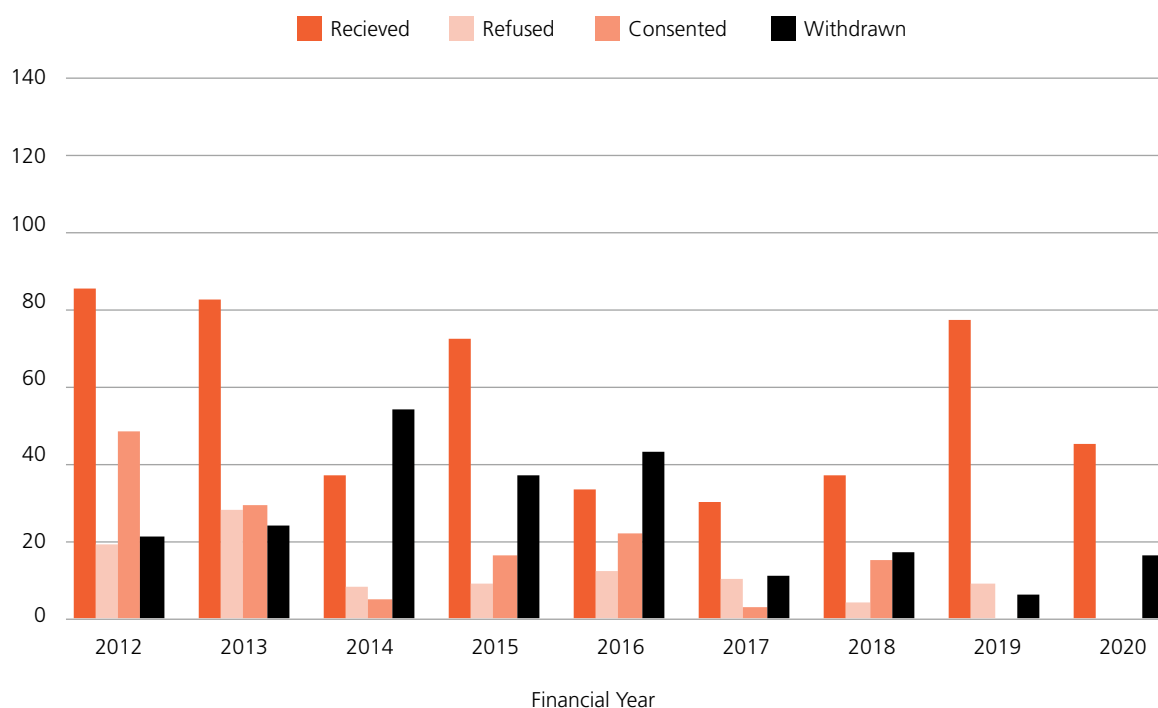
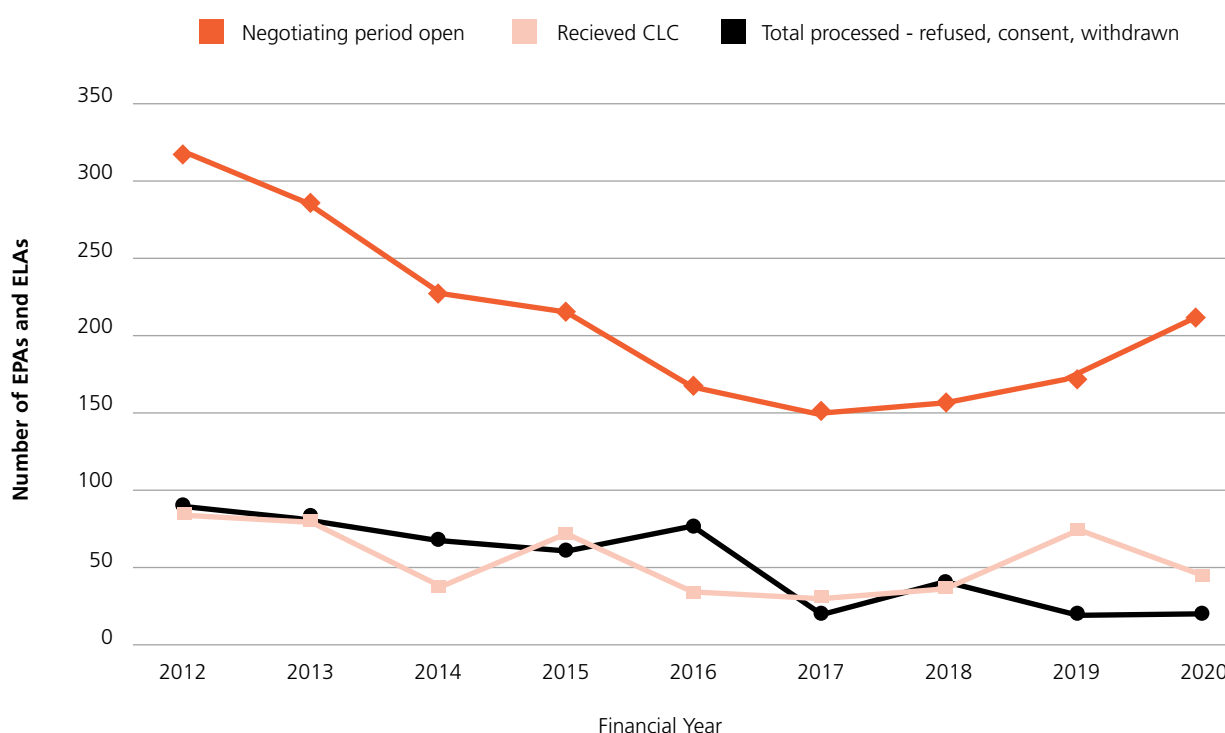


Figure 8. Trends of exploration titles processing on Aboriginal land, 2012–20



Since the lifting of the two-year moratorium on shale gas exploration and fracking in April 2018, work has been undertaken to prepare the NT's legislative and institutional landscape to safely administer an onshore oil and gas industry, in line with recommendations of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory (the fracking inquiry). In June 2019, the NT Government announced the completion of phases one and two of the implementation and that exploration for unconventional gas could recommence. This is yet to have an impact on Aboriginal land in the CLC

region. Processing of 34 EPAs will restart when the government releases an information package on onshore gas exploitation techniques for Aboriginal people by the CSIRO. This is expected in the second half of 2020.

Despite Central Australia's highly prospective geology, ongoing low commodity prices and demand shocks resulting from the pandemic, border closures and travel restrictions, as well as remoteness and a lack of investor confidence, continued to impact on the number of new exploration applications.

Forty-one of the 46 applications received were new, three were no longer under a moratorium (when traditional owners refuse consent and an exploration licence is frozen for five years), and one title had consent to negotiate withdrawn and reissued and, subsequently, a new application submitted. Eighteen titles were withdrawn before the processing of the title was complete and 16 titles were withdrawn during the negotiation period. The modest numbers withdrawn in the past three years suggest that many of the more speculative titles and junior applicants have already rescinded tenements. The Australian Bureau of Statistics' mineral exploration expenditure data shows a downward trend since the record-high years of 2010–2012. The national petroleum exploration spending has trended sharply down since 2014 peaks. However, the NT Government reported a continued recovery in 2018, with an increase in exploration expenditure and reported activity that is supported by the bureau's data, but has been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

Oil and gas

The NT experienced an oil and gas rush several years ago and EPAs and granted titles from those years continue to blanket the jurisdiction. Recent horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing techniques that facilitate the economic targeting of deep shales and tight rocks and continued global demand for gas reflect the renewed interest in the region's hydrocarbon basins.

The 160,000-square-kilometre Wiso Basin, between Tennant Creek and Barrow Creek, and the 170,000-square-kilometre Amadeus basin, southwest of Alice Springs, are subject to numerous applications. The applications cover several Aboriginal land trusts, and some are in areas where landowners have not dealt with oil and gas exploration processes under land rights before. This means the land councils must invest significant efforts in order to facilitate informed decision making.

The 330,000-square-kilometre Georgina Basin, northeast of Alice Springs and extending into Queensland, initially had blanket coverage of applications and granted titles. However, three exploration permits that covered nearly 35,000 square kilometres were surrendered following the unsuccessful exploration of deep shales in the southern parts of the basin. Explorers are also targeting the 150,000-square-kilometre Pedirka Basin, which lies southeast of Alice Springs and straddles the border with South Australia, for underground coal gasification and thermal coal.

Individual application areas for oil and gas may be up to 16,000 square kilometres each, are generally very remote, and are often difficult to access. One EPA is counted as one title even though it may coincide with, or equate to, the total area covered by 20 or more mineral exploration licence applications.

Processing applications

The CLC did not consent to any titles in 2019–20. The lingering impact of the moratorium and the implementation of recommendations from the fracking inquiry continued to delay the processing of EPAs. With the reserve block policy now finalised, the CLC is ready to recommence processing of some titles when the information package for Aboriginal people is released. Large areas of Aboriginal land in the CLC region under application for petroleum exploration have been categorised as not having petroleum potential, or as being of conservation or heritage significance. Despite this, the NT Government is determined not to withdraw consent to negotiate on the applications in question and gazette the areas in reserved blocks. The CLC will have to convene large and potentially costly meetings for the landowners to consider these areas, even though the government acknowledges that there is little potential for hydrocarbon discovery.

As with previous years, some applicants lack capital and a number of mineral explorers with significant portfolios of applications and granted titles under agreements are involved in protracted negotiations. The introduction of biosecurity areas in response to COVID-19 all but stopped consultation meetings in 2020, significantly impacting the CLC's ability to process titles.

Significant ground remains available for application by mineral explorers. This contrasts sharply with the exploration boom years from 2010 to 2012. Table 16 compares the number of exploration licence applications, both consented to and refused, with previous periods.

There were no consents or refusals of applications. As such, no average could be determined for the reporting period to measure against the standard negotiating period of two field seasons, or 22 months, specified under the Land Rights Act. The time required to negotiate an agreement varies considerably and depends on factors such as the applicants' familiarity with the process and access to exploration capital. The CLC has to wait until a company is ready to progress negotiations or, if there is a lack of progress, may refuse the titles and place them under a moratorium.

Table 16. Exploration titles (exploration licence applications and exploration permit applications) on Aboriginal land

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Consent to negotiate from NT Government	74	25	18	33	77	34
Application for consent to the grant*	72	33	29	37	77	46
Withdrawn during negotiating period	37	43	11	17	6	16
Refused	9	12	10	4	9	0
Consent to the grant	16	22	3	15	0	0
Granted by NT Government	6	8	30	22	0	0
Under negotiation as at 30 June	220	169	149	153	172	204

*Includes applications following expiry of moratorium period.

The negotiating period can be extended by agreement. Many applications, which may take years to conclude, are delayed by applicants seeking joint-venture partners when they are unable to explore in their own right. Such searches are often unsuccessful. A title may be subject to multiple joint-venture attempts. Extremely tight funding for exploration programs in Central Australia can result in serious delays in processing applications, yet processing time is a key performance indicator for the CLC. Uncertain economic conditions also influence the completion of negotiations.

The CLC had 204 title applications under negotiation at the end of the financial year, marginally above its target of fewer than 200 applications under negotiation. This is 32 more than the last period's 172 ELAs under negotiation.

Despite its best efforts, the CLC was unable to process any mineral applications to first meeting stage during 2019–20. Meetings planned in 2020 could not occur, due to pandemic restrictions.

The NT Government used section 41 of the Land Rights Act to withdraw consent for 10 ELAs from non-performing companies. One ELA had consent withdrawn in 2018–19, and none in 2017–18. Withdrawing consent helps to avoid 'warehousing' of titles and has improved the active participation of bona fide applicants in negotiations. COVID-19 exacerbated an ongoing global shortage of exploration capital and limited applicants' capacities to access funding.

The CLC received seven new exploration permit applications in 2019–20 and has 34 current EPAs over Aboriginal land. Most applied more than a decade ago. Many old applications do not address shale gas and are silent on the use of fracking. The CLC worked with applicants and the NT Department of Primary Industry and Resources about new consents so new applications could be submitted, reflecting the changes to onshore gas exploration, production and regulation.

Consultations with traditional Aboriginal owners for oil and gas exploration licence applications were suspended during the fracking inquiry and the implementation of its 132 recommendations. The NT Government adopted all of them and has implemented recommendations about changes to approvals, petroleum environmental laws and the Water Act. The CLC kept its delegates and executive informed on the implementation process, building on two onshore oil, gas and fracking fora during council meetings in 2018–19. It continues to collaborate with the CSIRO, the Australia Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, governments, and other interested parties in order to provide traditional owners with comprehensive and balanced information in plain English.

The CLC worked with government, industry and Aboriginal representatives to guide the development of an industry-funded hydrocarbon information package. Once the program is finalised and presented to communities across the CLC region, and traditional Aboriginal owners are better informed, consultations about applications for hydrocarbons and fracking will resume. The COVID-19 restrictions added a further obstacle to existing issues of the number, size and complexity of consultations required for oil and gas EPAs. They will continue to present a challenge for the CLC in processing titles during the next few years.

Uranium and other commodities

Central Australia remains highly prospective for uranium, however, only three applications that identified uranium as a target commodity were received. This is consistent with recent experience. In 2018–19, no applications targeting uranium were received, which marked a logical end point to a steep decline in interest in the commodity over the previous years. In 2017–18 21 per cent of exploration applications received were for uranium, whereas in previous years they made up 95 per cent. The slightly renewed interest probably reflects the jump in uranium price from below US\$25 per pound over the last few years to around US\$30 per pound in early 2020. The price is still low compared to the 2011–12 spike. Traditional owners have mixed views on the exploration, mining and use of uranium. This is evidenced by widely reported opposition to uranium and proposed nuclear waste repositories at Muckaty Station, the Tanami region, and near the date farm south of Alice Springs.

Applications to explore for uranium come with unique transport, use, regulation, radiation protection and waste storage issues. Many traditional owners have broadened their knowledge of uranium and of radiation monitoring at a mine or exploration site over the years, with the support of the CLC. Its uranium information strategy provides affected Aboriginal communities and traditional owners with facts about uranium mining, radiation, downstream processing and storage. It is visual and in plain English, using print and video, and has made traditional owners aware of the contested nature of the nuclear industry.

AGREEMENT MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION

When the CLC enters into agreements with mining or energy companies, it assumes a range of obligations and responsibilities. The agreements generally provide for fiscal benefits to traditional owners; procedures for the protection of sacred sites; approvals for work programs and access permits; environmental protection and rehabilitation; employment, training and contracting; and liaison, reporting and inspection.

Table 17 summarises the CLC's current exploration and mining agreements, including the total area of land under exploration agreements. On 30 June 2020, it had 51 current exploration agreements with respect to 176 exploration titles and the area of land under agreement was 53,110 square kilometres.

Eleven agreements relate to 16 mineral leases or production licences for operations in areas of the Tanami, Utju (Areyonga) and Tennant Creek, as well as oil and gas fields at Mereenie and Palm Valley near Ntaria (Hermannsburg), and the Surprise oil field near Kintore. These numbers do not include native title agreements.

A native title agreement was signed in June 2020 for the Arafura Resources Limited's Nolans rare earth project near Aileron. Project agreements under negotiation on the pastoral estate relate to Tellus Holdings' proposed Chandler salt mine and deep geological waste repository near Titjikala; KGL Resources' Jervois base metal project near Bonya; Tri-Star Energy's Pedirka coal project near Aputula (Finke); and Verdant Minerals Limited's phosphate project on Ammaroo Station, 200 kilometres southeast of Tennant Creek. The CLC did not finalise any new exploration agreements in the reporting period.

Table 17. Current exploration and mining agreements

Type of agreement	New in 2019–2020	Total current at 30 June 2020	
		Total agreements	Number of licences, permits and leases associated with agreements
Exploration	0	51	176
Mining	0	11	16
Total area of Aboriginal land under ELAs and EPAs			53,110 km ²

Tanami mining agreements

The Newmont Corporation's Tanami operation mines gold ore from the Callie deposit and mills it at The Granites adjacent to the Tanami Road. This is one of Australia's most productive and remote gold mines with an endowment of 13 million ounces of gold. Production ramped up from 80,000 ounces per year in 2017 to 425,000–475,000 ounces per year to date, after the completion of a \$150 million expansion project.

In May 2019 the Tanami Gas Pipeline began to supply new gas-fired power stations at The Granites and Dead Bullock Soak mine sites. The CLC monitored the mining agreements and toured the two mines in July 2019 with liaison committees, including representatives from traditional owner groups and the company.

Tanami Gold NL acquired the Newmont Corporation's tenements around the Tanami mine in 2010, but was unable to return the mine to production. Northern Star Resources Limited has an interest in the mine and continued to explore with a view to reopening it. Feasibility studies are ongoing and traditional owners met with the company in September 2019 to discuss progress.

TRL Tanami signed an operator agreement with Prodigy Gold NL to revitalise the historic Old Pirate mine, although work has not commenced and is likely to be further delayed by COVID-19.

The Prodigy Gold NL (Prodigy), owned Twin Bonanza mine, remains in care and maintenance with no activities reported.

Tanami Desert Ten Year Plan

Traditional owners in the Tanami, the CLC and the Newmont Corporation developed the Tanami Desert Ten Year Plan in 2017 (then called the Granites-Kurra Ten Year plan) in order to improve employment and education outcomes in remote communities and to strengthen residents' voices through better collaboration between the communities, the company and the CLC. Yapa teachers from Yuendumu began to translate the plan into Warlpiri, while company representatives attended meetings of the Granites Mine Affected Areas and Kurra Aboriginal corporations to inform the directors about works at the mine and build relationships.

In 2019 Newmont engaged the Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining at the University of Queensland to provide secretariat support for the plan's steering committee, advice, and monitoring and evaluation. The CLC contributed almost \$66,400 from a NIAA grant to the cost. The CLC and the company attended quarterly steering committee meetings, which continued via video conferencing during the COVID-19 travel restrictions. A planning workshop scheduled for March 2020 was postponed due to the pandemic.



The parties decided to rename this plan the Tanami Desert Ten Year plan.

Tennant Creek mining agreements

In November 2019 the CLC and traditional owners visited the Edna Beryl gold mine north of Tennant Creek where Territory Resources was working in partnership with Emmerson Resources. The companies pumped groundwater out of the underground workings in readiness for reopening the mine in 2020.

Oil and gas production agreements

Significant oil and gas production and exploration activities took place in the region south and east of Alice Springs where the CLC is processing approvals for conventional oil and gas exploration.

The mature Mereenie oil and gas field is operated by Central Petroleum Limited which has a 50 per cent stake in the asset that still produces after more than 30 years of operation. The company returned the Palm Valley gas field to production in November 2018. Its Dingo gas field near the Brewer Estate industrial area, which provides gas to the Owen Springs power station servicing Alice Springs, is also online.

Activity in oil and gas production in the region has been boosted by access to east-coast markets via the Northern Gas Pipeline. This connects the Mereenie field to the Darwin



A trip to the Windy Hill mine site for the Granites Kurra traditional owner liaison committee.

pipeline, and to eastern Australia via Mount Isa. The Tanami Gas Pipeline provides an additional market. The CLC continues to administer agreements on behalf of landowners relating to both pipelines.

In July 2019 the CLC helped to establish a liaison committee for the Dingo gas field and helped to facilitate liaison committee meetings for production operations at Mereenie and Palm Valley. The discussion covered updates on current and future projected production and sales, the life of the fields, hydraulic fracturing, environmental monitoring, Aboriginal employment and community sponsorships.

A further Central Petroleum asset, the Surprise oil field near Kintore, has been closed since August 2015 due to the low price of oil but the agreement is still in place.

Exploration agreements: minerals

The majority of exploration activity under agreements occurred in the Tanami and Lake Mackay regions. There was also significant exploration expenditure in the Tanami region in the second half of 2019, however COVID-19 restrictions put the exploration on hold.

IGO Limited has continued extensive greenfields exploration on the 7,700-square-kilometre Lake Mackay JV with Prodigy Gold (formerly ABM Resources) and Castile Resources Limited, targeting gold and base metals following the CLC's two helicopter work area clearances in 2019.

In August 2019 the CLC held a liaison committee meeting with Energy Metals Limited for the Biglyi Project targeting Uranium on Mount Doreen Station. The company updated native title holders about the project and showed them rehabilitation works on exploration areas.

Prodigy Gold regrouped as an exploration company following the closure of the Twin Bonanza mine in 2016. It continues to explore across the Tanami with new partners. The CLC has several exploration or mining agreements with Prodigy Gold and

held a liaison committee meeting in September 2019 to discuss the EL 9250 agreement.

In response to Newmont's ambitious exploration programs close to the Dead Bullock Soak, The Granites and Windy Hill mines, the CLC invested significant planning and resources in four major work area clearances. The company reported on its 2019 exploration activities at a meeting of the combined liaison committee for The Granites and Dead Bullock Soak mines and exploration areas, held at The Granites in July 2019.

The Barkly–Tennant Creek region saw renewed gold and base metal exploration. Some of this is particularly focussed on the Arunta Block, a geological terrain covering around 200,000 square kilometres north and west of Alice Springs, and also at several areas northwest of Tennant Creek.

Also in July 2019 the CLC and traditional owners visited the Bootu Creek manganese mine because some wanted to see what a manganese mine might look like if the mineral were discovered on their land.

In October 2019 the CLC held a liaison meeting at Hatches Creek for GWR Group Limited's advanced tungsten-copper exploration project. The company confirmed multiple high-grade polymetallic tungsten deposits. In the same month, the CLC joined landowners for a trip to observe phosphate exploration conducted by Verdant Minerals Limited at the Elkedra and Ammaroo stations.



Views on fracking continue to divide the NT community.

The CLC and traditional owners carried out a sacred site clearance for Emmerson Resources Limited's gold exploration near the North Star mine and other historic gold targets in November 2019.

Exploration agreements: oil and gas

Conventional petroleum exploration involving the drilling of an exploration well into Amadeus Basin rocks near Imanpa, south of Alice Springs, ended in August 2019.

The NT Government finalised its response to the fracking inquiry, which aims to ensure a safely managed onshore petroleum industry.

GOVERNMENT LIAISON

The CLC participates in onshore gas fora, such as the NT Chief Minister's onshore shale gas community and business reference group; the geological and bioregional assessment program; the Beetaloo sub-basin user panel; the Aboriginal information program committee; and the gas industry social and environmental research alliance's NT regional research advisory committee and stakeholder roundtable group.

It participated in three meetings of the community business reference group, which oversees the implementation of the fracking inquiry recommendations. Recommendation 11.6 requires the development of an Aboriginal information program. The program working group includes a CLC representative, and met three times during 2019–20 to discuss the development of the information program.

In February 2020 the CLC made a submission on a consultation draft by the NT Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The submission argued for a strategic regional environmental and baseline assessment of areas prospective for shale gas, in line with recommendation 15.1. The CLC participates in research committees with the CSIRO, and other parties with interests in shale gas, fracking, and representing community concerns.

In September 2019 the CLC's executive endorsed a letter to the NT Minister for Primary Industry and Resources on behalf of traditional owners in the southwest of the NT, requesting that an exploration permit close to a highly significant sacred site be reserved from petroleum and mineral exploration and production. The minister agreed to reserve the area from petroleum exploration under the 'no-go zones' policy in December. However, unfortunately, the area may still be subject to mineral exploration licence applications.

The CLC attended a workshop with key NT Government departments in August 2019 to gain a better understanding of the regulatory framework for Tellus Holdings' Chandler salt and waste storage project near Titjikala. The CLC and traditional owners are particularly interested in controls relating to the management of hazardous waste storage.

Ongoing discussions between the CLC and the NT Department of Primary Industry and Resources took place to enable explorers to submit new applications pursuant to the Land Rights Act with updated information, including about fracking.

The NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics and the CLC continued to discuss access to gravel on Aboriginal land for road building under the CLC's improved process for monitoring and managing gravel extraction.



Denise Tasman, Myra Herbert, and Jenny Cook (Johnson) took part in the liaison committee visit of the Windy Hill mine site.

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 CLC 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 supported the development of Aboriginal-led commercial activities through advocacy and policy development, network building, entrepreneurship and business support, governance capability building, and brokering of resources and services. Its strategies reflect the diversity of community aspirations and the economic realities in the region and are tailored to the needs of people and organisations involved. To achieve better Aboriginal participation, the CLC worked closely with major banks, specialised consultants, local indigenous intermediaries, the Aboriginal Benefit Account, the Office of the Registrar for Indigenous Corporations, the National Indigenous Australians Agency, Indigenous Business Australia, the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, the Business Enterprise Centre and other NT Government agencies.

For example, the CLC worked intensively with the Imanpa Development Association, an Aboriginal business whose assets and interests include a roadhouse on freehold land, a pastoral lease encompassing an indigenous protected and grazing licence area, and commercial rental properties. It helped the management committee to improve governance practices and undertake strategic and business planning in collaboration with the Aboriginal Governance and Management Program, Community First Volunteers (formerly Indigenous Community Volunteers) and Ngurratjuta Accounting Services. The business subsequently used community funds to pay down a mortgage held against the roadhouse, carried out a small muster of feral cattle, and held preliminary negotiations of a new grazing arrangement with a neighbouring pastoralist that includes a multi-year infrastructure investment.

The CLC explored tourism and cultural and bush product opportunities with Angas Downs traditional owners. It discussed the development of a haulage business connected to prospective mining developments with another group of traditional owners, and asked Indigenous Business Australia for assistance. It carried out business planning, brokered support services and assisted with fundraising by Loves Creek traditional owners. Advisory and planning work with Tjoritja/ West MacDonnell National Park traditional owners continued. Business ideas such as retail concession and community services were explored. Traditional owners from Walkabout Bore also received help to plan and fundraise for a new fencing project.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The CLC continued to support emerging Aboriginal tourism enterprises with business planning and preparations for the 2020 tourism season. This involved adjusting operations progressively impacted by pandemic restrictions.

Traditional owners of the Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust received support with business planning and tour guide training to prepare for an expanded program of special interest 4WD tag-a-long tours to Lasseter's grave at Maṙura and the Walka rock art site near Kaltukatjara's camp ground.

The CLC helped traditional owners of the Batton Hill Bush Camp to access specialist business expertise to establish an independent family-run business on the Atnetye Aboriginal Land Trust. It procured an NT Government Aboriginal business development program grant to replace a solar-powered water pump and diesel generator at the bush camp. It assisted the business to communicate with clients and permit applicants impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. It also helped to prepare the camp and plan for physical distancing and safe hygiene practices in case the Hay River Track reopens in 2021.

The CLC represented the tourism interests and concerns of constituents at interagency meetings, regional tourism and economic development forums, such as the Tourism NT stakeholder masterplan meetings and in the implementation of the 10 Deserts Project's indigenous regional tourism strategy. Jawun (a non-profit organisation which manages secondments from the corporate and public sectors to Aboriginal organisations) helped the CLC to draft a tourism development strategy.

The CLC secured funding from Tourism NT for the restoration of Kunjarra (The Pebbles) cultural site on the Warti-Yangu Aboriginal Land Trust north of Tennant Creek. The CLC and the NT Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics are helping the site's traditional owners to prepare detailed plans for the upgrade of visitor day-use facilities and interpretative signage.

PROTECTED AREAS

Economic development in national parks and indigenous protected areas (IPAs), including several large-scale tourism projects, is a substantial part of the CLC's commercial assistance work.

It continued to plan, develop and negotiate an exclusive walking trail and associated accommodation with traditional owners of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park and other interested parties. It helped the traditional owners to better understand the tourism industry and assisted the proponent to identify how they will involve them in the project. Ongoing consultations are informing negotiations between Parks Australia, the proponent and the CLC.

Project development and negotiation also continued in relation to the NT Government's 'turbocharging tourism' economic stimulus project proposals for the Tjoritja / West MacDonnell and Watarrka national parks. Following initial consultations with traditional owners, the CLC worked with them and the government to identify opportunities for Aboriginal people in the development and operation of the projects (see also page 49).

The CLC secured resources and support for Aboriginal people wishing to work on these projects or to run small businesses linked to them. It helped the contractors building the Tjoritja adventure bike trail to employ seven trainees and two cultural advisors. Traditional owners also found work with contractors working on trails near Alice Springs. It discussed commercial facilitation processes for finding suitable commercial operators and possible co-investment for both projects with traditional owners.

The NT Government funded CLC-facilitated trips of traditional owners involved in both projects to Darwin and Katherine to meet Aboriginal people working in tourism. They attended an Aboriginal economic development forum, visited the Jawoyn Association and Nitmiluk Tours, and spent time with CLC chair and tourism operator, Sammy Wilson, who presented at the forum. The groups also met members of the NT Government's Aboriginal tourism advisory committee.

The CLC progressed an enterprise facilitation project with the management committee of the Katiti–Petermann IPA through Matrix Consulting. The committee is exploring running an Aboriginal-owned campground on the IPA. The consultants presented at committee meetings, formed a project group and stepped the group through possible business models and locations. The project aims to develop a business plan and feasibility study and provide more general guidance for assessing proposals for tourism on IPAs. Joint initiatives with the Angas Downs IPA on the Lasseter Highway have also featured in the planning. The NT Government funded these activities.

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

The CLC continued to support Huckitta Enterprises Pty Ltd, an Aboriginal company operating the pastoral enterprise on Huckitta Station in the Plenty River region. The ABA financed the purchase of the station on behalf of Eastern Arrernte traditional owners in 2010. Huckitta Enterprises Pty Ltd has maintained viable cattle production under a grazing licence from the land-holding body, Huckitta Aboriginal Corporation, since 2011. The CLC facilitated five meetings of the company's board of directors during 2019–20 and increased the support provided to directors and station managers under a management support agreement with the business.

The agreement covers the appointment of a part-time support position; the development of registers of board meeting resolutions, policies and actions since 2011; governance training for the directors; and the review of the company's policies and procedures, including for workplace health and safety. Under the agreement, consultants Bush Agribusiness prepared a business plan to guide the direction and development of the station over the next five years.

Reviews of the outcomes of the Huckitta Station purchase against the original purchase objectives and of available financial and employment data will also be conducted in consultation with the directors of the business and the corporation and other traditional owners. The CLC carried out consultations and research for the purchase review. Traditional owners were highly satisfied with the purchase and felt that it had met their socio-cultural, economic and employment objectives. Notable among its achievements has been the employment of 73 Aboriginal people with local links in fulltime, parttime and casual employment on the station. A further 47 Aboriginal people had been employed


in the Arltarpite–Inelye ranger group which carried out cultural protection and environmental management work on and around Huckitta since the purchase. Traditional owners also identified a range of priorities for the station for the next decade.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The demand for environmental services delivered by Aboriginal people is growing across the region. Rangers are already involved in this emerging industry through prescribed burns on Aboriginal land and the CLC helps Aboriginal organisations to engage with the industry.

It continued to support the Karlantijpa North Kurrawarra Nyura Mala Aboriginal Corporation, which holds a carbon farming licence over a portion of the Karlantijpa North Aboriginal Land Trust, by facilitating two directors' meetings, project administration, a country visit and a prescribed burn. COVID-19 restrictions stopped the corporation's normal operations; for example, its annual general meeting. It held two directors' meetings to approve beneficial works for their carbon abatement operations, including the grading of 100 kilometres of boundary firebreaks and a trial of fixed-wing aerial incendiary burning. The CLC processed its 2019 carbon credit application, facilitated the transfer of contracted credit delivery, and liaised with contractors, neighbouring pastoralists and Bushfires NT to complete firebreaks and secure burning permits.

The CLC established Ranger Works to allow Aboriginal rangers to undertake fee-for-service contracts in cultural and natural resource management. A new supervisor position enabled the ranger program to pursue these opportunities. The program responded to eight requests for environmental services and successfully quoted for fencing, pipeline easement condition assessment, and mine rehabilitation.



RANGER WORKS

We are a uniquely skilled and experienced workforce of Aboriginal rangers undertaking fee-for-service contracts across remote Central Australia. We have the professional skills and expertise to deliver high-quality cultural and natural resource management projects.

WHY CHOOSE RANGER WORKS?

WE ARE THE CUSTODIANS OF OUR COUNTRY
We are traditional owners of the lands on which we work.

WE KNOW OUR COUNTRY AND ITS ECOLOGY INTIMATELY
We understand our native plants and animals, weather cycles and geographic features. Our environmental management practices are informed by a combination of traditional and Western scientific knowledge.

WE ARE QUALIFIED AND READY
We are trained to industry standards and hold white cards and heavy machinery licenses where applicable.

WE OPERATE ACROSS A HUGE AREA
We live and work across more than 468,000 square kilometres of remote Central Australia. The Central Land Council has demonstrated its capacity to safely support its staff in remote work areas.

WE CAN GROW A RANGER WORKFORCE QUICKLY
Our 12 ranger teams employ more than 100 people and can draw on additional casual workers.

YOU CAN HELP US TO KEEP COUNTRY AND PEOPLE HEALTHY
We have a track record of significant positive social, cultural, environmental and economic outcomes. By working with us you contribute to these outcomes and support healthy country and healthy people.

OUTPUT GROUP 4

OUTPUT 4.1. PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

MEDIA

One of the CLC's functions is to raise public awareness of the views and achievements of its members and constituents. Its communications team is the first port of call for many journalists visiting Central Australia and its spokespeople respond to a high volume of media inquiries on a wide range of issues.

The prolonged drought and record temperatures in Central Australia ensured that the impacts of climate change on CLC constituents were never out of the media. Members of the CLC executive supported climate strikers in September, with the chair saying that remote community residents are most at risk from the climate emergency and are "already suffering most during our hotter, longer and drier summers" in overcrowded, poor quality houses, with many remote communities under severe water stress. Another manifestation of global heating, the unprecedented bush fire crisis of 2019–20, fuelled media interest in carbon burning and Aboriginal land management traditions. The CLC rangers were happy to explain the difference between cultural and fuel-reduction burning.

Even before the international Black Lives Matter protests, the need for criminal justice reform in Australia was driven home by the killing of Kumanjaji Walker in Yuendumu. The CLC used its Facebook page to support the Walker family's call for restraint in social media commentary to ensure justice for the family and a fair trial for the police officer charged with Kumanjaji's murder. Ongoing CLC advocacy priorities were the subject of sustained media interest prior to COVID-19, such as the reform of the Australian Government's punitive work-for-the-dole scheme; the council's opposition to the proposed rollout of a cashless debit card; and the council's support for the Uluru Statement.

Fresh food shortages and high prices in remote stores are nothing new but, thanks to intense lobbying by Aboriginal organisations, the pandemic made it impossible for the media to ignore food security. The CLC played a leading role in facilitating media conferences with its partners to call for affordable and plentiful healthy food in remote communities and tougher NT border restrictions.

While COVID-19 dominated most of the CLC's media activities from March 2020 onwards (see p.8), the first half of the reporting period will be fondly remembered for significant joyful events, some of which attracted considerable media attention: the Tennant Creek Station native title determination, the handback of a portion of Ammaroo Station to its traditional owners, the second Vincent Lingiari Art Award, and the celebration of the closure of the Uluru climb. These events, especially the latter, attracted a lot of media interest.



CLC ranger Clayton Namatjira was interviewed about cultural burning by the ABC's AM program in January 2020.



CLC deputy chair Barbara Shaw at one of the protest marches against the police killing of Kumanjaji Walker in Alice Springs.

CELEBRATION OF THE ULURU CLIMB CLOSURE

On the afternoon of the climb closure, in October 2019, an international media scrum waited for the last *minga* (ants/ tourists) to descend the rock. Having addressed the reporters earlier, CLC chair and tourism entrepreneur, Sammy Wilson, hosted selected journalists at his family's homeland, more than 50 kilometers from Uluru. He told them the future of the region's tourism is Anangu-run visitor experiences outside the national park. "What I'm looking at around me is beautiful country, great country where we want to take people. These places you see are surrounded by so many great homelands and so much *tjukurrpa* (dreaming)," he said.

Other Anangu used the media presence to showcase what they have achieved with their share of the rent they receive for the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park. Traditional owners gave politicians, senior public servants, the ABC and The Guardian a tour of the rent-money-funded Mutitjulu pool and surrounding recreation area.

National Indigenous Australians Agency CEO, Ray Griggs, and former NT opposition leader, Gary Higgins, heard that the CLC's Uluru rent money project had invested \$14 million in more than 100 projects in communities across the region since 2005. "That money, we use it everywhere for a swimming pool, bush trips, dialysis, lots of good things for community," said elder Ngoi Ngoi Donald.

Anangu had requested a public celebration to mark the long-awaited closure of the climb. The CLC participated in the consultations and planning for the event at Talinguru Nyakinjaku, the park's sunset viewing area. CLC rangers and other staff provided firewood to Anangu visitors camping at Mutitjulu and transported them to the event. The CLC gave financial and in-kind support to Indigenous Community TV and Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Media to live-stream the celebrations to those who could not afford to attend. It also hosted an information stall and distributed posters commemorating the Uluru handback in 1985 and the rock's recent history (see pages 18-19).



The Guardian's Lorena Allam interviewed CLC chair Sammy Wilson on the afternoon of the Uluru climb closure. The CLC's Patrick Hookey (left) interpreted.



The Guardian's Mike Bowers shot images at the Mutitjulu pool for a photo essay about the climb closure celebration.



Billie Scott and Ian Sweeney staffed the CLC information stall at the climb closure celebration.



Eunice Napanangka Jack won the Vincent Lingiari Art Award in September 2019 for her painting *Kuruyultu*.

VINCENT LINGIARI ART AWARD

NT artist and senior law woman, Eunice Napanangka Jack, was awarded the \$15,000 Vincent Lingiari Art Award prize for her painting *Kuruyultu* in September 2019. The widely acclaimed artist from the remote community of Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff) is only the second person to win the award. Award judge Glenn Iseger-Pilkington said Ms Jack's work "speaks to the story of her life, her birth and her cultural inheritance, which informs all that she paints, all that she is, and where she belongs".

Kuruyultu is a site near the remote community of Tjukurla in Western Australia, where her mother's father speared a wallaby the night before Ms Jack was born, approximately 80 years ago. "Only my father knows all the stories for that country, and he painted them too. I know the story of the wallaby which left me with a birthmark. That's what I paint," Ms Jack said in her artist's statement. The CLC has acquired the painting for its collection.

Ms Jack has held 11 solo exhibitions and has been a finalist in many prestigious art awards, including several times in the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award. However, this award was only her second art prize. It was presented to her by four of Vincent Lingiari's granddaughters: Antoinette Bernard and Lisa, Rosie and Mary Smiler travelled two days from their home community of Kalkaringi to Alice Springs to be at the opening of the award exhibition at the Tangentyere Artists Gallery. Desert and the CLC again joined forces with the gallery to present the award, thanks to funding from the Peter Kittle Motor Company (prize money) and the Newmont Corporation (exhibition catalogue).



Deputy chair Barbara Shaw and elder Kumalie Riley addressed the students' climate strike in Alice Springs in September 2019.

The theme of the exhibition was *Our Country – True Story* and referenced the Uluru Statement's call for truth telling. The 23 entries from across Central Australia and beyond reflected on topics ranging from the fallout of the Maralinga nuclear tests to reconciliation, housing and road construction in a range of media. Aboriginal artists and art centres in the CLC region, as well as Desert member centres, and individual Aboriginal artists with strong links to Aboriginal land in the region were eligible to enter and submitted sculptures, ceramics, a video installation and paintings.

The winner of the CLC Delegates' Choice Award was again selected at a council meeting. In August at Ross River, the delegates picked a small painting by David Frank, from Iwantja Arts in South Australia, which celebrates a handback of land near Pukatja (Ernabella) in the early 1980s. It was the second time they voted for one of Mr Frank's works; he won the first CLC Delegates' Choice Award four years earlier.

The inaugural Vincent Lingiari Art Award, in 2016, celebrated 40 years since the passage of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act, and 50 years since the Wave Hill Walk Off. That year's award judge, Hetti Perkins, chose a soft sculpture by Marlene Rubuntja, *My Future Is In My Hands*, as the winning artwork.

CLC PUBLICATIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic saw the CLC ramp up the publication of posters, radio and video community service announcements for Aboriginal broadcasters and social media, informing constituents about the developing crisis. From the earliest “stay home and stay safe” and health and hygiene messages in March, and information about changing biosecurity area restrictions and permissions in April, to the new rules for CLC meetings in June, the communications team and its collaborators in the Aboriginal medical and media sectors responded flexibly to fast-moving developments.

The 15 video messages produced were delivered by trusted community leaders, mostly CLC executive members, speaking in their own languages. Three messages featured Aboriginal staff. Eleven posters with original artwork and 10 radio scripts for translation into six community languages were also produced for broadcast.

Australia’s longest running Aboriginal newspaper, *Land Rights News*, produced a special coronavirus edition. Two other issues of the paper, as well as two editions of *Community Development News* with stories about the achievements



Land Rights News is one of only two printed newspapers left in Central Australia.

of the CLC’s community development program, were also published and distributed. *Land Rights News* and the *Tennant Creek and District Times* are now the only printed newspapers serving the CLC region.

The cancellation of the council meeting scheduled in April 2020 meant that only the July and November 2019 editions of *Council News*, a newsletter informing constituents of the outcomes of council meetings, appeared during 2019–20.

Other publications ranged from the ranger program annual report supplement to brochures about the CLC’s new fee-for-service Ranger Works and ABA application support projects, and a future NT remote housing model.

CLC ONLINE

The remote community audience of the CLC’s website and Facebook page struggles with poor internet, computer and phone access. Smartphone and tablet users are continuing to find it difficult to access the ageing website, adding renewed urgency for the redesign that is now underway.

In line with the trend of recent years, visits to the site decreased by 5.47 per cent (the vast majority new visitors), however there was an increase in returning visitors this year. There was a 10 per cent increase in the number of people using phones and other mobile devices to access the site, in line with a longstanding trend. The bounce rate (a single-page visit that leaves the site without interacting with the page) for those users, however, also went up.

The CLC reviewed the structure of the existing site and produced fresh content. It requested proposals from web development companies in late 2019 and proceeded to scope the redesign with one of them, before requesting additional proposals in June.

The CLC’s digital archive serves as a de facto photo album for many Aboriginal families in the southern half of the NT. While still working reduced hours during the reporting period, the digital archive officer added 483 new items to the archive and identified 500 new features of existing and new items. An inventory of archival material kept in storage boxes is progressing in collaboration with the information services team. Items appropriate for uploading to the archive have been identified and digitised.

Table 18. Communications activities, 2016–20

Activity	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Media releases	20	22	16	22
Website visits	132,838	124,895	156,932	109,009
Newsletters	42	27	30	16
<i>Land Rights News</i>	3	3	3	3
Special purpose videos	34	5	38	19
Information booklets and brochures	21	8	23	12
Posters	14	25	44	79
Other	–	–	38	3

Let's stay safe at CLC meetings!

A lot has changed since the coronavirus pandemic and so have Central Land Council meetings.

The meetings we postponed in March to keep you all safe from the virus can go ahead now.

But we won't be able to run them like we used to because the danger is far from over.

If we don't keep up physical distancing and good hygiene we'll risk spreading the virus.

We will have to stay two big steps away from the next person at our meetings.

And keep up good habits such as lots of hand washing and coughing into elbows or tissues.

We can't share drinks and cigarettes or shake hands.

If a meeting is indoors, we will need to limit the number of people in the room.

Remember, this virus is still around and it's sneaky and very dangerous.

Thanks for helping us to keep our communities safe and see you soon!



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL



Don't gamble with your lives!

People are too close to each other when they are gambling.

Stop the spread of the coronavirus in your community and

- Stay three big steps apart from people outside your home
- Only two people can be together outside - three big steps apart
- Stop playing cards, footy and other team sports
- Stop going to funerals and sorry camps

We can get through this if we stick to these hard rules until we defeat this virus.

Help keep your loved ones safe and stay home!



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL



Don't go to funerals and sorry camps. Stay safe at home.

We know how important funerals and sorry camps are to our communities.

COVID 19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, is turning funerals into a big risk for everyone's health.

When too many people get together for a funeral they are making it easier for COVID 19 to spread through our communities.

They are putting everyone at the funeral and their loved ones at home at risk of getting the virus.

Right now, Australian governments are only allowing 10 people to get together for a funeral. This also goes for sorry camps.

Everyone at a funeral should keep three steps away from each other. They should not shake hands or touch each other.

This is called social distancing. It is really hard to do, but it will help save lives.

If you don't think you can do this please send a message that can be read out at the funeral service.

If you are in a high risk group because you are old or have a chronic disease like diabetes or kidney disease please send a message that can be read out at the funeral service

You can also pay your respects by visiting the cemetery later.

Don't go to the funeral and the sorry camp and put yourself and others at risk.

Everyone will understand why this is necessary in this time of crisis.

Everyone will think very highly of people who help to keep the numbers at funerals as low as possible.

Only very close family should attend the service for their loved one. Families should also think about postponing funerals until it is safer.



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL



Central Australian
Aboriginal Congress



Coronavirus warning: Don't risk the lives of your family for a game.

Footy games have to stop. Do not travel between communities to play.

This is a government rule but COVID-19 is NOT a whitefella sickness.

Everybody can get sick.

Keep yourself and your mob safe and don't play.



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL



www.clc.org.au

Stay on country care for family



**If you are not sick
the best place to be right now
is in your community.**

If you get a fever or cough or sore throat,
please ring the COVID-19 Congress hotline 8959 4782
for advice from a health professional and don't go to the clinic.
If you need transport home, call Tangentyere on 8951 4262 or 8951 4291.



Test, test, test!

Lots of people feel safe inside the Northern Territory because there has been no person-to-person transmission of the coronavirus.

The Australian Government is lifting the biosecurity restrictions inside the Territory on **5 June**.

The Central Land Council supports this as long as the outside borders stay shut.

The NT borders should be the last thing to open up because this virus is far from finished up elsewhere.

Health experts warn that the more we open up, the more likely is an outbreak of the virus in one of our communities.

Getting tested for coronavirus is really important if we want to stop outbreaks early.

Not just for your own health, but for our whole community.

This virus is really sneaky and you could be spreading it even if you are not that sick.

Lots of testing lets our health workers find out if the virus is spreading in the community and stop it before it is too late.

So please get tested - even if you only feel a little bit sick.

Don't wait until you feel really sick! Get tested at the first sign that you may be coming down with a cold, or flu or just feel a bit off.

To get tested, call your clinic or if you are in town call Congress on **1800 514 400**. You can also drop into 127 Todd Street between 8.30-11am weekdays.

Testing doesn't take very long, and is very safe.

Test, test, test - it's one of the best things you can do to keep yourself and your family safe in the months ahead.



Stay safe at home or face quarantine!

Everyone needs to stay on country now or face quarantine if they come to town. It's the law and the police will enforce it.

Anyone but essential workers will have to quarantine themselves before they can enter the biosecurity areas.

Except for in an emergency, we cannot provide permission letters for you to return home.

You will have to stay on your own in a hostel or motel room in town for 14 days before you can go home.

Territory Families at Minerals House, 58 Hartley Street, Alice Springs will organise a room for you.

If you need help with their paperwork please come to us.

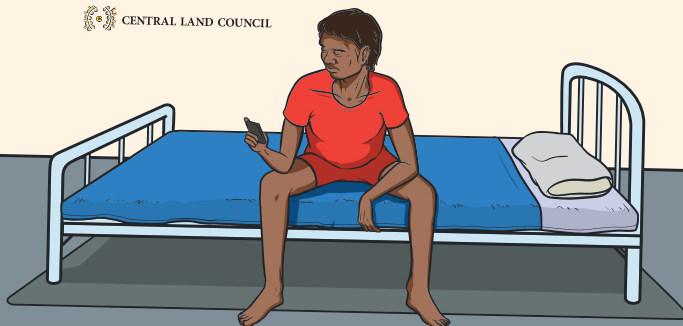
If you don't have signs of coronavirus sickness after 14 days of quarantine they will clear you to return home.

They will give you a piece of paper to show to police at the road blocks so you can go home.

In a medical emergency, the clinic or the hospital will organise for you to go to town and return home again. Please contact them before you travel.

Remember: if you are at home please stay there.

You are safest from the coronavirus in your community.



NT border opening: what does it mean?

Mandatory quarantine finishes in the Northern Territory on 17 July, BUT NOT for people arriving from Victoria or a COVID hotspot.

People from Victoria shouldn't come to the NT yet, there are too many COVID cases there. They need to stay home and not put NT mob at risk.

If you're in the NT and want to travel in the tri-state area LISTEN UP: SA and WA have different rules.

You can't just drive there on a back road.

You must register in WA 14 days before you leave. Many remote communities are still in LOCKDOWN and don't want visitors.

For more info call these COVID hotlines:

NT - 1800 490 484

WA -13 26843

SA -1800 253 787





Young women dance at the Uluru climb closure ceremony.

OUTPUT 4.2. ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION

Provide advocacy and representation as appropriate to the traditional owners and other clients of the CLC.

The CLC has a statutory responsibility to ascertain, express and represent the wishes and opinions of Aboriginal people in the CLC area and to protect their interests. To meet this responsibility, it identifies significant legislative and policy matters, consults with traditional owners and Aboriginal people to ascertain their views, and develops positions on significant policy issues with the council and the executive.

It also carries out research to support policy development and engages with all stakeholders to ensure that Aboriginal interests are taken into account. It therefore represents Aboriginal views and aspirations with a high degree of authority.

PERFORMANCE

The CLC made 12 submissions to the Australian and NT governments on policy matters.

Table 19. CLC policy submissions

Jurisdiction	Issue	Date
NT Government	Burial and Cremations Bill 2019	September 2019
	Water Further Amendment Bill 2019	September 2019
	Northern Territory Draft Climate Change Response	October 2019
	Amendments to NT Petroleum Legislation 2019 (jointly with Northern Land Council)	January 2020
	Draft Strategic Regional and Environmental and Baseline Assessment Framework	February 2020
	Draft Northern Territory Offsets Policy	February 2020
	Overview of Draft Animal Protection Regulation 2020	May 2020
	Implementation of Environment Protection Authority Act	June 2020
Australian Government	Inquiry into Education in Remote and Complex Environments	February 2020
	Regional Connectivity Program – draft grant opportunity guidelines	March 2020
	Independent review of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	April 2020
	Inquiry into food pricing and food security in remote communities	June 2020



Senators McCarthy and Lambie speak with Centrelink's Roseranna Larry and the MacDonnell Shire's Rachel Kantawarra.

THE LAND RIGHTS ACT

The four NT land councils and the Australian and NT governments agreed to meet for an NT Biannual Strategic Forum, aimed at achieving effective engagement on policy matters relating to land rights and land councils.

At the August 2019 meeting, the Australian Government reported on the establishment of the National Indigenous Australians Agency. Strategic priorities were discussed, including the reform of the ABA and more ABA investment in homelands; and reform of the Commonwealth's community development program and its alternative, the *Fair Work and Strong Communities* proposal of the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT. The meeting committed to developing costed strategic proposals for ABA funding for morgue refurbishments and dialysis infrastructure, and to participate in a joint land councils and governments working group to progress funding for outstations. It also discussed strategic water allocations and solutions for water-stressed communities. Participants agreed to further consultation and collaboration between land councils and the NT Government.

Better engagement with Aboriginal people on housing reform was high on the four land councils' agendas. The CLC presented about its new community-driven housing model and the meeting participants agreed to progress housing reform through a new joint steering committee on the national partnership for remote Aboriginal housing. The committee includes representatives from the Australian and NT governments and, for the first time, the four NT land councils.

The strategic forum meeting scheduled for April/May 2020 did not proceed because of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

ABORIGINAL PEAK ORGANISATIONS OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the Northern Territory (APO NT) is an alliance that has represented the Aboriginal people, communities and organisations of the NT since 2010. The alliance was formed to improve collaboration among organisations advocating on remote community issues. Until May 2020, it included the Central Land Council, the Northern Land Council, Aboriginal Housing NT and the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT (AMSANT). The NLC suspended its membership in May 2020, pending the outcome of an independent review of the APO NT in 2020–21.

The alliance works with government and non-government organisations to promote a better understanding of, and improve policy and program outcomes affecting, its constituents. It delivers policy advice, advocacy, community engagement and sector development activities. It promotes programs and initiatives that support strategic and collaborative approaches to services and social and economic policy development.

The NT Government funds the APO NT secretariat, a coordinator, a network coordinator and an administrative officer. An early APO NT initiative, the Aboriginal Governance and Management Program, secured funding from the Australian Government for three positions for three years. The program supports governance training for Aboriginal community controlled organisations across the NT.

The program has promoted partnership principles and an associated checklist for non-Aboriginal organisations that want to work respectfully with Aboriginal organisations, rather than compete with them for scarce funds.

The CLC has provided significant in-kind contributions and support to the secretariat and prepared five submissions to the following reviews and inquiries:

- Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Income Management to Cashless Debit Card Transition) Bill 2019
- Adequacy of Newstart and related payments and alternative mechanisms to determine the level of income support payments in Australia
- Council of Attorneys-General Age of Criminal Responsibility Working Group Review
- Northern Territory Aboriginal Justice Agreement (2019–2025)
- Australian Senate select committee on COVID-19 inquiry into the government's response to the pandemic.

It advocated on behalf of the alliance in Canberra about the proposed cashless debit card in November 2019 and about the reform of the Australian Government's work-for-the-dole program in February 2020.

Child protection and detention

The Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory (2016) remains a priority for the alliance. APO NT representatives participated in meetings that brought together community organisations with the Australian and NT governments to progress the reform program arising from the royal commission. As one of seven community sector representatives, the CLC participated in three of the five meetings during the period. The APO NT has urged the government to maintain a strong commitment to the royal commission reforms. It particularly wants the age of criminal responsibility to be raised from 10 years to 14 years.

The Children and Families Tripartite Forum held its second meeting in May 2020. It discussed the Productivity Commission's study into expenditure on children in the NT. The commission made recommendations on how governments can work together better to keep children safe and well. The APO NT agreed that the recommendations should be actioned through the development and implementation of a 10-year generational strategy for NT children and families. The forum also agreed, in principle, to expanding its role in line with the commission's recommendations. It called for additional funding to resource the community sector to have more input into the tripartite forum.

The Commonwealth funded a policy officer position each at the APO NT, NT Council of Social Services (NTCOSS), and Northern Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA). A senior policy position works across the community sector to provide high-level input to the forum. The four positions support the additional workload of the community sector members of the forum, resulting from the 10-year strategy.



NPY Women's Council director Maimie Butler, CLC delegate Valerie Patterson, MP Warren Snowdon, Arnhem Land Progress Association deputy chair Mickey Wunungmurra, Senator Patrick Dodson and CLC delegate Joshua Rankine. The delegation travelled to Parliament House to tell politicians why they are opposed to the cashless debit card proposal.



Central Australian Aboriginal families are still waiting for the full implementation of the royal commission recommendations. Photo courtesy Emma Murray, *Centralian Advocate*.

Closing the Gap

Federal, state and territory governments, meeting as the now-disbanded Council of Australian Governments (COAG), failed to meet most targets of the 10-year-old Closing the Gap strategy. In 2018, a coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians asked Prime Minister Scott Morrison for a more collaborative and consultative process. The result was the Closing the Gap Joint Council, the first COAG body to include members from outside government. A formal partnership between the COAG and the National Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations (Coalition of Peaks), the joint council came into effect in March 2019 and met only once, in August. John Paterson, the chief executive of the AMSANT, represents the APO NT on the council. CLC chief executive Joe Martin-Jard and executive manager policy and governance, Josie Douglas, participated in Coalition of Peaks meetings and contributed to the development of new Closing the Gap targets.

The Coalition of Peaks, with the support of all levels of government, embarked on extensive community consultations across the nation between September and October 2019. The APO NT led the Closing the Gap engagement process in the NT, chairing and facilitating seven consultations that involved a total of 198 delegates. The CLC was responsible for the consultations in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.

Participants in the national consultations endorsed three priority actions around Aboriginal control and governance and the transformation of mainstream services to meet the needs of Aboriginal people:

- developing and strengthening structures so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people share in decision making with governments on closing the gap
- building formal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled service sectors to deliver Closing the Gap services
- ensuring mainstream government agencies and institutions that deliver services and programs to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people undertake systemic and structural transformation to contribute to Closing the Gap.

A fourth priority area was added later by the Coalition of Peaks, based on the issues raised in the 2019 consultations:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to have access to data and information on Closing the Gap priorities and targets at the local level to support decision making about their communities.

All four have been included as priority reforms in the new national agreement on Closing the Gap.

HOUSING

National Partnership Agreement for Remote Housing

The CLC joined the three other NT land councils and the Australian and NT governments on the joint steering committee of the National Partnership for Remote Housing NT. The agreement between the governments aims to improve the standard and supply of housing for Aboriginal people in 73 remote communities and 17 Alice Springs town camps. The establishment of the steering committee acknowledges that governments must work with Aboriginal people if they are to improve health and housing outcomes. The committee aims to reduce overcrowding, give the land councils a role in the governance of the agreement, spend money transparently and deliver works, wherever possible, through Aboriginal Territorians and businesses.

The CLC took part in four committee and sub-committee meetings since August 2019 to oversee the implementation of the agreement. One sub-committee is developing a reporting framework for the agreement, while another is reviewing leasing and housing models. The joint steering committee endorsed a property and tenancy management framework; contributed to a draft reporting framework for the implementation of the agreement; and endorsed two stages of a capital works programs for demolitions, transitional housing, new home builds and additional rooms for existing homes, as well as preventative maintenance programs.

Housing Leases

The CLC consulted with five communities that had steadfastly refused to sign the 40-year housing leases the Australian and NT governments demanded before they would invest in new housing infrastructure. Leases signed during the financial year extend only to the end of the current national partnership agreement in 2023, rather than to four decades. With the exception of Wallace Rockhole, all of the communities that resisted long leases have now agreed. Amoonguna, Yuelamu and Daguragu signed in November 2019, and Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff) signed in January 2020.

CLC Housing Project

An ABA housing project grant allowed the CLC to engage suitably qualified consultants to develop a community housing model for Central Australia. The project focusses on remote communities on Aboriginal land, community living areas excised from pastoral leases, smaller homelands and town camps. It has progressed rapidly in collaboration with partner organisations and Aboriginal housing stakeholders. Extensive consultations across Central Australia were supported by a project advisory group, while more limited consultations in the north of the NT, due to COVID-19, were undertaken with Northern Land Council staff and the chief executive of the Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation.

In February 2020 the consultants presented a proposed community housing model to an ABA reform working group. The working group was established to negotiate changes with the Australian Government about the operations and guidelines of the ABA. One consultant took part as an 'expert member' in a meeting of the subcommittee on housing and leasing models. In April the project distributed a background discussion paper on the history of Aboriginal housing delivery, funding and management in the NT. It also circulated a draft housing model proposal. Following feedback from a small group of housing and strategy experts, the paper is now being updated for wider distribution prior to submission to the joint steering committee.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

The council reaffirmed its commitment to constitutional reform and a constitutionally enshrined voice to parliament at its July 2019 meeting at Ross River and, again, at its October 2019 meeting at Yulara Pulka. A voice to parliament, with constitutional protection, ensures Aboriginal aspirations and policy priorities can be considered directly by the legislature. Australian Government proposals for a voice to government is at odds with this commitment.

Aboriginal people from Central Australia want a real say in the laws and policies made about and for them. Giving advice directly to the parliament, rather than the government of the day, is critical to achieving the structural changes the council



The 7.30 Report interviewed Josie Douglas about remote community policing in the wake of the Kumanjaji Walker killing.



Pat Anderson (right) and Sally Scales at the CLC meeting at Yulara Pulka.

wants to see. This desire for change is also reflected in the reforms of Closing the Gap championed by the council. It wants to develop and strengthen structures to ensure the full involvement of Aboriginal peoples in decision making with governments on policy. A voice to government lacks the capacity for structural reform that the Uluru Statement from the Heart seeks to achieve.

Constitutional lawyer, Professor Megan Davis, Referendum Council chair, Pat Anderson, and Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Council chair, Sally Scales, updated the CLC delegates about the constitutional reform process at their council meeting at Yulara Pulka. The delegates reiterated their desire to be part of designing a voice to parliament to ensure it represents people from the bush.

NT TREATY

The historic Barunga Agreement between the four NT land councils and the NT Government in 2018 provided a framework for negotiating a treaty, or treaties, in the NT. The government has since established an independent treaty commission headed by Treaty Commissioner, Professor Mick Dodson, and his deputy, Ursula Raymond. Both attended the CLC's July 2019 council meeting to explain their roles and key deliverables and inform the delegates about the treaty or treaties. They released an interim report in March 2020. The NT's legislative assembly voted in favour of Professor Dodson's statutory appointment in June 2020. The land councils had insisted on a statutory appointment and ensured that the Barunga Agreement formed part of the legislation governing his appointment. A few days before his statutory appointment, Professor Dodson briefed the land councils about treaty-making in the NT. The discussion paper forms the template for NT-wide treaty consultations between August 2020 and December 2021. The CLC will assist the treaty commission with consultations in its region and ensure that council and executive members receive regular updates from the commissioners.

ABORIGINALS BENEFIT ACCOUNT

The ABA administers 'royalty equivalent' funds paid to the Commonwealth for mining on Aboriginal land in the NT. Since its inception, the CLC has advocated for the devolution of the ABA to Aboriginal control. The NT land councils agreed to 12 principles that must underpin comprehensive and strategic reform of the ABA and its grant-making

functions. Key reform areas include Aboriginal control of grants administration, funding for strategic projects, ABA investment and spending, and reform of grant guidelines. The CLC helped to finalise the terms of reference of an ABA working group set up by former Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion to progress reform as part of the NT biannual strategic forum. It attended two meetings of the group. In August 2019, it considered the process for co-designing the reform and the establishment of projects at the land councils supporting ABA grant applicants. A follow-up meeting in February discussed the review and streamlining



Mick Dodson and Ursula Raymond at the CLC's July 2019 council meeting at Ross River.

of grant guidelines, ABA finances and investment, and the establishment of a new Aboriginal-controlled ABA entity in the NT. CLC consultants also presented to the group about a proposed new community-controlled housing system for the NT, and an NT housing entity.

Small communities and homelands

Secure funding and services for homelands remain key policy and advocacy priorities for the CLC. In 2018-19, its 90 delegates chose 105 outstations to share a \$15.75 million ABA grant for upgrading homelands infrastructure. Council decided that each of the chosen outstations will receive infrastructure works worth up to \$150,000.

The CLC consulted with the residents of the outstations and submitted ABA grant applications for their priority projects on their behalf. The submissions concluded the CLC's involvement in the project. The next stages of the project are being implemented by the National Indigenous Australians Agency. In May 2020, the agency advised that the Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt, had approved 90 of the 105 applications, and that it had invited organisations, many of which are Aboriginal-run, to submit proposals to deliver the works. All but four actual submissions have been delayed by the COVID-19 lockdowns and travel restrictions. The restrictions have also put a stop to meetings of the ABA's advisory committee, which has yet to consider 15 grant applications and make recommendations to the minister.

COMMONWEALTH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In May 2017, the APO NT released *Fair Work and Strong Communities*, a detailed proposal to replace the Commonwealth's punitive work-for-the-dole scheme (also known as 'community development program'). The APO NT proposal would fund 12,000 additional jobs in Aboriginal organisations across remote communities. The advocacy work generated by the 2017 proposal influenced the Australian Government's decision to sever the link between provider incentive payments and penalties for non-attendance at work-for-the-dole activities. The CLC welcomed this change because it reduced an unprecedented level of penalties. However, many of the underlying problems remote community residents face, when trying to access income support, remain.

In January 2020, the CLC raised an NT-specific jobs-creation package based on the proposal with Anne Ruston, federal Minister for Families and Social Services. Minister Ruston expressed an interest in holding further discussions with the APO NT and the Minister for Indigenous Australians, Ken Wyatt. The package features 5,000 parttime positions and offers a pathway to employment, particularly to young Aboriginal people from remote NT communities. In February, the APO NT met with 13 mostly Aboriginal organisations to workshop the package. Although there was strong support for it, COVID-19 stalled this initiative.

FOOD SECURITY

The security, supply and affordability of food in remote communities has long been inadequate. The NT Government's 2019 market basket survey shows that, on average, residents pay 57 per cent more for healthy food in remote stores than in urban supermarkets. The COVID-19 lockdown period brought the existing food security issues to a head for remote community residents. Faced with empty shelves and trying to make ends meet by shopping for cheaper groceries in regional towns, they had to apply for permission letters to return to biosecurity areas after these trips. The CLC advocated for government subsidies of essential goods, such as healthy food and cleaning products, in all remote community stores to ensure price parity with regional centres. It documented reports about remote stores and relayed them to the NT Government's critical goods team for follow up.

The CLC was part of a group of 13 Aboriginal organisations that called on the governments to subsidise goods for bush stores at a media conference at the CLC on 20 April 2020. Minister Wyatt held a roundtable meeting on the following day to discuss food security with the NT Government, food retailers and suppliers. While the government did not support a food subsidy, it announced an inquiry into food prices and food security in remote communities in May 2020. The CLC and the APO NT submitted recommendations to the inquiry for achieving equitable access to affordable food in remote communities.

WATER

Water security is a major concern for remote NT communities and improving the availability and quality of water is among the council's policy priorities. Five of the communities in the CLC region are considered to be so water-stressed that no more houses can be built there.

The NT has no laws protecting and prioritising drinking water above other uses in remote communities, and no minimum quality standards for drinking water. Larger towns are subject to drinking water laws while there are few protections of the water supply in remote communities. This discriminatory situation does not exist in any other Australian jurisdiction. The CLC executive has called for a Safe Drinking Water Act for the NT and the organisation is developing a water strategy for the CLC region.



Donna Ah Chee, chief executive of the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, joined Joe Martin-Jard for a media conference about remote community food security at the CLC. Photo courtesy Emma Murray, *Centralian Advocate*.

OUTPUT 4.3. CULTURAL AND HERITAGE SUPPORT

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

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND CUSTOMARY PRACTICES

The CLC continued to assist traditional owners to visit country to fulfil their cultural obligations, maintain sacred sites, pass on cultural knowledge, and undertake customary land management practices. These visits happen in association with a wide range of IPA and ranger program activities. Traditional owners especially value extended trips to seldom-visited country because these trips rejuvenate remote parts of the region and owners' knowledge of their country.

The CLC conducted three country visits in the Kaṭiṭi-Petermann IPA, facilitating knowledge transfer and practical outcomes, such as fire management and protection of waterholes and sacred sites. In collaboration with Atitjere Sports and Recreation and Children's Ground, the Arltarlpilta Inelye Rangers, based in Atitjere (Harts Range), organised and carried out an indigenous cultural and ecological knowledge camp for local young women. This resulted in the passing on of women's knowledge and served to inform young women of the importance of protecting their bodies and culture. The women also made bush medicine, prepared meals and visited sacred sites. The Ltyentye Apurte Rangers conducted three country visits, focussed on the intergenerational transfer of cultural and ecological knowledge. This is critically important for the development of future ranger leaders.

Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara women commenced the Kungka Kutjara project in 2017, following the songline from its beginning at a site near Kata Tjuta to a site near Utju (Areyonga). The CLC sourced ABA funds to complete the final stage of the Kungka Kutjara songline project within Arrernte country. Western and Central Arrernte women collaborated with women from across the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands to maintain and strengthen women's cultural understanding and practice of this defining story for Aboriginal women in Central Australia. Approximately 120 women visited the sites, shared knowledge and practised the *inma* (ceremony) with successive generations. These activities were recorded and will be produced into audio-visual teaching resources for generations to come.

CULTURAL SUPPORT AND SACRED SITES

Sacred sites are places of deep spiritual significance and are integral to Aboriginal culture. Their identification and protection ensure the continuity of religious and cultural practices, and sustain identity. Confidence in the protection of sacred sites also allows traditional owners to make informed decisions about using land for development and other purposes.

Following Rio Tinto's blasting of the ancient caves in Juukan Gorge in the Pilbara, the CLC attended a national crisis meeting in June 2020. This meeting of land councils, native title representative bodies and Aboriginal community controlled organisations resolved to pursue heritage protection reforms



Joanna Dixon, from Kaltukatjara, took part in a trip to significant women's sites on the Kaṭiṭi Petermann Indigenous Protected Area in August 2019.

across the nation. It formed the First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance to develop a national approach to protect and promote Australia's cultural heritage. CLC chief executive, Joe Martin-Jard, joined the co-convenors of the alliance, NSW Aboriginal Land Council chair, Anne Dennis, and National Native Title Council deputy chair, Kado Muir; along with the chief executives of the National Alliance of Community-controlled Health Services and Northern Land Council, Pat Turner and Marion Scrymgour, to form the alliance's organising committee.

The CLC receives many development proposals for land in its region. Proposals undergo a work area approval process that ensures traditional owners are consulted, and sacred sites are protected by a sacred site clearance certificate.

Table 20. Sacred site clearance certificates, 2019–20

Exploration and mining on Aboriginal land	24
Exploration and mining on native title lands	7
Research for telecommunications infrastructure	7
Community and other infrastructure	65
Housing and leases	38
Roadworks	15
Land management activities	14
Other	2
Total	172

The CLC's anthropologists conducted research, issued advice or assisted in consultations in 331 instances related to the provision of cultural and heritage support to traditional owners or native title holders. Table 21 lists anthropological research and advice on the maintenance of Aboriginal culture and heritage.

Table 21. Cultural and heritage support, 2019–20

Exploration and mining on Aboriginal land	26
Exploration and mining on native title land	13
Research for telecommunications infrastructure	17
Community and other infrastructure	64
Housing and leases	58
Roadworks	25
Land management activities	17
Site damage investigations	7
Other	6
Repatriation	1
Genealogical requests – External	60
Genealogical requests – Internal	4
Genealogical historical data	23
Sites database administration and research	10

The CLC responded to 60 requests for genealogical information and performed other duties to maintain and improve genealogical and other anthropological information by completing 28 research projects. This included community consultations with constituents to update genealogies, and the digitisation of land claim and other historical materials.

It has progressed the redevelopment of its sacred sites database and completed 10 sites database administration and research projects, such as audits of historical materials, scoping studies and project design documentation.

The Willowra mapping project is a community-led initiative to record and paint sacred sites along the Lander River on a large canvas map to be housed in the community's learning centre. The project is funded by the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust and aims to assist the intergenerational transfer of cultural knowledge. The project continued to collect information from senior traditional owners, some of whom are the last generation to have lived off the land. The use of digital recording technology assisted in recording a number of sites and songlines early in 2020. Documenting this important information as it is being relayed to the next generations forms an important legacy for senior people participating in the project. Other communities in the region have expressed an interest in establishing similar projects.

In 2019 the CLC progressed consultations about the repatriation of objects held by 10 German museums and made a submission to these museums. The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted plans to visit them to continue negotiations; however, the CLC received responses from three of six museums it approached for advice about objects in their collections.

It repatriated 15 objects from its own collection to senior men across the region and continued to store sacred objects under an agreement with the Strehlow Research Centre, until the objects can be identified and repatriated. The CLC and the centre discussed future funding of positions at the centre and its capacity to store objects there.

The CLC also progressed agreements with South Australian and Victorian museums about access to their information and repatriation from their collections. It also met with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies to work on the return of cultural heritage objects from overseas museums.

ABORIGINAL CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES AND FUNERALS

The ABA funds the CLC to help Aboriginal families meet some of the high costs of funerals and ceremonies.

Traditional owner groups and communities also use leasing and compensation income streams to set up funeral funds administered by the organisation.

The CLC allocated the ABA funds according to strict guidelines. It processed 207 applications for funeral expenses. Table 22 shows the communities that received resources for ceremonies during the summer.

Table 22. Communities supported to conduct ceremonies

Region 1	Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Wallace Rockhole, Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa)
Region 2	Utju (Areyonga), Kaltukatjara (Dockers River)
Region 3	Kalkaringi, Lajamanu
Region 4	Yuendumu, Willowra
Region 5	Kintore, Papunya, Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff), Mt Liebig
Region 6	Tennant Creek
Region 7	People travelled to Irrelirre (Number 5 community)
Region 8	Irrelirre (Number 5 community), Atitjere (Harts Range), Mulga Bore
Region 9	Tara, Ti Tree, Pmara Jutunta (6 Mile), Yuelamu (Mt Allen), Laramba



OUTPUT 4.4. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Facilitate targeted Aboriginal community development initiatives with the traditional owners and other clients of the CLC.

The CLC's community development program helps Aboriginal groups investing income from land use agreements, such as rent, royalty, leasing and compensation payments, to develop their communities. It works with the groups to plan and implement community-driven projects that maintain identities, languages, cultures and connections to country, strengthen governance and improve health, education and employment outcomes.

Its effective and flexible community development approach employs processes that ensure residents and traditional owners control assets, projects and programs. It aims to build individual and collective capacity, self-reliance, good governance and stronger communities, as outlined in its community development framework.

The program started in 2005 and now employs 16 staff. It is active in all 31 communities in the CLC region, and works with traditional owner groups from 15 national parks, and five other groups that allocate income to community benefit projects. It also works with communities in South Australia where traditional owners of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park live, and with the Western Australian communities of Balgo, Billiluna and Ringers Soak that receive compensation income from the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation. It works with six major regional income streams and a growing number of smaller sources of mostly mining-related income.

PERFORMANCE

Since 2005 these groups committed approximately \$139 million to more than 1900 projects ranging from multi-million-dollar multi-year initiatives to small infrastructure projects. These investments have attracted millions of dollars in co-contributions from government, and hundreds of thousands of dollars from mining company, the Newmont Corporation.

Independent monitoring of the program by La Trobe University's Institute for Human Security and Social Change, during 2018–19, confirmed the high-value Aboriginal participants place on the outcomes these projects have achieved. The report also considered the program's future directions, because constituents asked for the CLC to work harder to show all levels of government how they would like them to work with Aboriginal people. As one participant from the Tanami region put it: "We talked about how we can lobby government to get engaged and start listening. I think government could learn how to work better, more equal, with Yapa, like CLC work with Yapa."

In 2019–20 Aboriginal groups committed \$16.6 million to 153 new projects following 267 consultations. These figures are down from the previous year, largely because the groups could not meet with the CLC during the pandemic biosecurity restrictions.

These projects created 32,107 hours of employment for 470 Aboriginal people and delivered more than 1,037 accredited training hours. They supported 78 students through boarding school.

More and more constituents want to tell their stories to a broader audience. The CLC published two editions of *Community Development News* to showcase projects and inspire pride and ideas. Four participants in the community development program, including CLC chair, Sammy Wilson, presented at the Secretariat for National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care conference in Adelaide.



The WETT's advisory committee and CLC staff attended the PULiIMA conference in Darwin.

Table 23. Community development income streams, 2019–20

Income Stream	Purpose	\$ Value
Uluru rent money project	Use rent paid to traditional owners of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park for a range of sustainable regional initiatives	1,480,328
Warlpiri Education and Training Trust	Using mining royalties of The Granites gold mine in the Southern Tanami for sustainable education, training and employment benefits	4,118,477
Tanami Dialysis Support Project (Kurra AC)	Use interest earned on mining royalties of The Granites mine to support dialysis facilities and patient support services in remote communities in the Southern Tanami	660,000
Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC)	Use affected area monies from The Granites mine to support nine communities in the Southern Tanami to apply those monies toward broad community benefit activities.	7,709,769
NT Parks Rent Money Project	Use rent paid to traditional owners of national parks, conservation and nature reserves for a range of sustainable initiatives.	1,462,001
Community Lease Money Project	Use rent paid for community leases to members of 31 communities for a diverse range of community benefit projects.	795,684
Other Income Streams	Use mainly new and smaller payments linked to mining and exploration for a variety of community benefit projects.	392,669
Total		16,618,927

Table 24. Summary of income streams and projects, 2005–20

Income Stream	Cumulative 2005-2019		2019–2020		Total under management at 30 June 2020*	
	Allocated \$	Projects	Allocated \$	Projects	Allocated \$	Projects
Uluru rent money project	14,063,997	106	1,480,328	9	5,973,294	31
Warlpiri Education and Training Trust	34,383,027	191	4,118,477	13	16,446,932	39
Tanami Dialysis Support Project (Kurra Aboriginal Corporation)	3,538,286	25	660,000	1	660,000	1
Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC)	43,615,738	907	7,709,769	81	20,959,550	192
NT Parks Rent Money Project	9,376,489	219	1,462,001	23	3,406,691	75
Community Lease Money Project	15,019,420	336	795,684	24	6,632,585	109
Other Income Streams	2,209,363	31	392,669	2	1,036,637	16
Totals	122,206,320	1815	16,618,928	153	55,115,689	463

* includes projects continuing from previous years

PROCESS

The CLC works with Aboriginal groups to prioritise, plan and develop community benefit projects and to identify partner organisations that can help to implement the projects. Once a group makes a decision, the CLC's CEO reviews the consultation process and signs off on the project proposal and funding allocation. The CLC then negotiates funding agreements with partner organisations and manages the project and the agreement. It also monitors and evaluates the project by measuring its outcomes against each group's expectations.

ULURU RENT MONEY PROJECT

The traditional owner group of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park was among the first to work with the community development unit, in 2006. The unit invests the rent from park leases and gate fees in community benefit projects in the Mutitjulu community inside the park, as well as in projects across the region. Two groups collectively allocated more than \$1,480,300 to fund nine community benefit projects during the period.

The project's regional traditional owners' group met three times during 2019–20. Their working group met twice to prioritise and plan the projects, followed by a meeting of traditional owners to decide and allocate money. The group plans and funds projects aligned with a priority theme the group chooses each year. It monitors projects funded under the previous years' priority themes and decides whether to keep funding them.

The priority theme for 2019–20 was cemetery upgrades. The group allocated more than \$513,200 to repair or fence cemeteries in Amata, Pukatja (Ernabella), Yunjarinji (Kenmore Park), Young's Well, Imanpa, Utju (Areyonga), Ulpanyali and Mutitjulu. Such repairs and updates will stop feral animals from getting into cemeteries and damaging graves, create shade for funeral services, and record, document and restore graves. The residents said the projects will help them to remember and honour their loved ones, their history and cultural knowledge.

The group decided to continue to fund a secondary education support project. It invested more than \$335,000 in initiatives supporting 13 young people to remain in high school, including boarding schools. One of these students successfully completed Year 12. It invested an additional \$220,000 in a bilingual support project with the Tangentyere Council in Utju, Mutitjulu and outstations in the Watarrka National Park. It also paid the Ara Irititja social history database project \$5,900 to print 100 resource booklets of the related Ara Winki digital app for eight schools in the region, to help transmit cultural knowledge to the students.

Five of these projects created a total of almost 1,300 hours of employment for 12 Aboriginal people.

The Uluru Rent Money project's Mutitjulu working group manages initiatives the community has prioritised, such as Mutitjulu Tjurpinytjaku Centre (swimming pool), sporting facility upgrades, and Anangu culture. The group continued to fund the pool's operation and secured tenure over a lot for a pool manager's house. The construction has been put out to tender and is due to commence in the second half of 2020. In September 2019 members of the working group and the pool's steering committee set up an Aboriginal corporation to manage the house and the pool in line with community expectations.

The working group also funded significant upgrades to turn the community's ceremony ground and the adjacent former adult education centre into a space for cultural activities and events. The ceremony ground's dance area has been repaired and a concrete stage and shade shelters for performers have been added. Structural repairs of the education centre have commenced. The community plans to host NAIDOC and other events and teach *inma* (ceremonial song and dance) to the younger generation. The \$375,000 project is managed by the Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation and aims to strengthen local culture and ownership of community spaces and provide local employment.

WARLPIRI EDUCATION AND TRAINING TRUST

Warlpiri teachers and traditional owners of the site of Newmont's mine in the Tanami set up the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) in 2005 to invest mining royalties in education and training for the residents of Lajamanu, Nyirrpri, Willowra and Yuendumu.

The Kurra Aboriginal Corporation, whose members are traditional owners of the site, is the WETT trustee. Kurra directors meets twice a year to consider the recommendations of a WETT advisory committee and make funding decisions about WETT programs. The committee consists of four representatives from each of the four communities, a representative from Newmont and a representative from the CLC. It meets three times a year to design, plan and monitor WETT-funded programs and recommends funding priorities to the corporation. The CLC administers the trust and contracts project partners to implement approved projects.

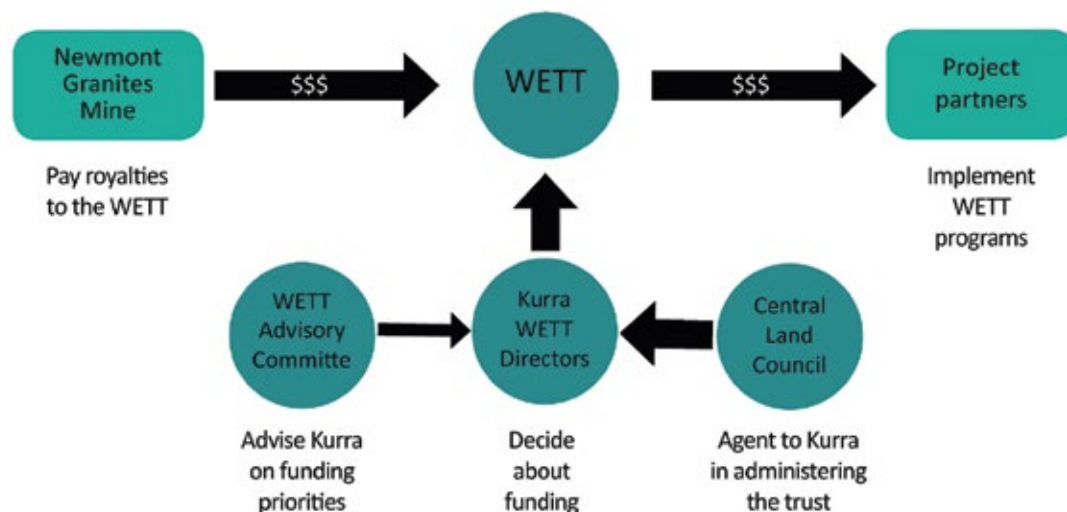


The CLC's Patrick Hookey interpreted for Ngoi Ngoi Donald (centre) during an interview with the ABC about the achievements of the Uluru rent money project.



Fiona Gibson (left) was one of the teachers Selena Uibo honoured with an award for their contributions to bilingual and bicultural education in the Tanami region on World Teachers Day.

Figure 8. Governance structure of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust



Project highlights:

On World Teacher Day 2019 eight advisory committee members received awards from NT Education Minister Selena Uibo for their long and committed contributions to education. Advisory committee members also attended and presented at three conferences: the PULiIMA Indigenous Language and Technology Conference in August, the SNAICC conference in September and the Snapshot of SNAICC conference in October 2019.

The Kurra directors allocated more than \$3,744,000 across the WETT's programs: children and families, language and culture in schools, secondary school support, youth development and the community learning centres.

The trust contracted World Vision Australia to deliver a playgroup program at Willowra from January 2020.

Following a smooth transition, World Vision delivered the service to 21 of the community's 22 under-five-year-olds. Nine children attended regularly. A playgroup reference group met regularly and, of the centre's six Aboriginal staff, two were enrolled in a Certificate III in children's services.

In January 2020 the trust contracted the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation, which operates the Yuendumu learning centre, to also manage the Lajamanu learning centre with its four Aboriginal employees. The Batchelor Institute for Indigenous Tertiary Education improved its management of the learning centres in Willowra and Nyirpi by providing stronger community governance and training, such as the driver education program, Back on Track.



Mutitjulu elder Reggie Uluru cools down in the community's pool with grandson Andre Tucker.

The CLC contracted the Nous Group on behalf of the WETT to evaluate the WYDAC's youth development program. The completed evaluation included consultations in the four communities and a workshop in Yuendumu to discuss findings and program priorities. The evaluation found that the communities are happy with the program model and identified 13 recommendations to strengthen its delivery.

Three of the schools involved in the WETT's language and culture in schools program conducted a week-long country visit in 2019. The Warlpiri theme cycle project also continued to align the Warlpiri curriculum with the NT's Aboriginal language and culture framework.

The trust continued to fund the Yuendumu early childhood reference group to participate in trauma awareness workshops, governance support activities and a study trip to present at a conference of the Secretariat for National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care in September 2019.

The NT Education Department engaged the WETT and the CLC to develop a local decision-making strategy for the schools of the four communities.

The secondary school support program funded education expenses of 25 boarding school students, while students in the Tanami took part in excursions to Perth, Melbourne, Cairns and Darwin.

Advisory committee members and Kurra directors commenced work on a monitoring and evaluation framework at a design workshop, with consultants from La Trobe University and CLC staff.

TANAMI DIALYSIS SUPPORT PROJECT

In 2019 the Kurra directors allocated \$660,000 from their social investment funds for the construction of a dialysis clinic in Nyirripi. The Western Desert Nganampa Waltja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (the Purple House) was selected to deliver the project with co-funding from the Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC). Kurra has historically used interest on investments to fund the operational costs of the Yuendumu and Lajamanu dialysis services, however, since the Australian Government introduced a Medicare rebate for remote dialysis services in 2018, the Purple House no longer needs support with these running costs. Kurra is instead investing in building dialysis units in communities that don't have a dialysis service.

GRANITES MINE AFFECTED AREA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

The GMAAAC allocates half of its compensation income into community benefit projects in the nine affected Tanami communities every year. The corporation invests the other half to ensure the communities continue to benefit after the mine closes. The nine communities elect GMAAAC committees and their directors every three years. The committees work with the CLC to develop projects and investments that are in line with the corporation's objectives: to improve housing, health, education, essential services, employment and training, and Aboriginal self-management. GMAAAC directors are responsible for the corporation's investment and the governance of the corporation.

The corporation is now the largest income stream within the community development program. Its income increased from \$7.3 million to just under \$10 million during the period and is predicted to increase further, due to the expansion of Newmont's forecast mining operations until 2040. Last financial year the CLC facilitated 16 GMAAAC committee meetings, 10 community meetings, two elections and 47 community consultations. GMAAAC committees approved almost \$7,346,800 million for 78 new projects and executed 38 project agreements.

GMAAAC directors participated in a good-governance program for a second year. The training aims to help them make decisions about future investment opportunities. The directors agreed to fund an assessment of the rules governing the CLC's funeral, sorry and ceremony projects, aimed at updating the terms of the agreement in line with community needs.

Community development projects managed by the nine committees prioritise local enterprise and employment. During 2019–20 the projects employed 289 Yapa for a total of 18,259 hours. The projects support arts and culture (museums, ceremony grounds, cultural mapping, music programs and cultural festivals), education (school nutrition, language support and school pastoral care projects) and infrastructure (building upgrades, outstation and access road maintenance).

The CLC managed 114 projects that started in previous years. It processed payments, helped partner organisations to submit reports and financial acquittals, and supported the GMAAAC committees to review project outcomes and compliance with project agreements.

Project highlights:

Willowra and Nyirripi elected new GMAAAC committees. Directors appointed by the committees have been inducted into GMAAAC governance.

Lajamanu's GMAAAC committee paid for the grading of more than 200 kilometres of outstation roads. The initiative facilitates better access to outstations and the land management work of the local ranger group. The drilling of a new bore at Emu Bore outstation and the installation of a submersible solar pump and a new generator were completed with funding from Nyirripi's GMAAAC committee.

The Tanami Downs GMAAAC committee continued to restore infrastructure and services to the outstation. It funded the construction of a community meeting space, repairs of the communal toilets and plumbing works.

Yuelamu's GMAAAC committee funded a school excursion for 18 students and three staff. The students travelled to Melbourne in December 2019 as a reward for their efforts and participated in the interactive displays at the Melbourne Museum.

Yuendumu's GMAAAC committee contributed to the upgrade of the community's op shop and laundry, and funded the operation of these services. It also committed multiple years of funding to ongoing projects, such as the Yuendumu school linguist, the bilingual resource development unit, and the school nutrition, dog health, and sports academy programs.



Raylene McLarty, Loyd Gibson, Benjamin Brown, Alister Nagomarra, Scott Boxer, Anton Whisput, Eli Gill, Albert Boxer, Marjorie Guguman and Sherry Boxer from Balgo's Kutjungka Trade Training Centre at the community's new basketball court.

NT PARKS RENT PROJECT

Traditional owner groups working with the CLC's NT parks rent money project invest all the rent and income they receive for 16 national parks in longterm community benefit projects. The groups want to maintain, visit and live at their outstations. Most of their projects, therefore, feature employment and training of residents to upgrade outstation infrastructure, while some support people to access education, cultural maintenance and funeral expenses. They have allocated \$10.56 million to 240 projects since 2010.

In 2019–20 the CLC undertook 100 consultations with the groups – five more than during the previous year. The groups approved almost \$1,160,800 for 21 new community benefit projects. The projects employed seven people who worked a total of almost 278 hours. The CLC executed 21 new agreements with project partners and managed a further 60 projects which continued from previous years.

Project highlights:

Southern Judbarra National Park traditional owners living in Lingarra allocated more than \$41,800 to meeting shelter and diesel support projects for their outstation, which can be cut off from the outside world for up to six months during the wet season. The diesel support project ensures that the generator powering the outstation does not run out of diesel. The Victoria Daley Regional Council is managing both projects.

The Williams family continued to support the maintenance and development of their outstation, Uluperte, with income from the East MacDonnell National Park. The group invested almost \$247,200 in a new three-bedroom house. The sum also covers maintenance and plumbing repairs, air conditioners and solar hot water systems for two existing dwellings.



Magda and Latoya Curtis installed reticulation at the new bush tucker and medicine garden at the Yuendumu's dialysis unit.

The traditional owners of the Arltunga Historical Reserve commenced two projects at the Pantharrpilenhe outstation, allocating almost \$63,900 to a communal shade shelter project, and up to \$44,000 to an ablutions block.

The Iwupataka Water Aboriginal Corporation continued to work with Aboriginal social enterprise Tangentyere Design on water infrastructure upgrades, a project started in 2014. The corporation is part of the project's steering committee and received a \$2,025,100 capital works grant from the ABA in 2019. ASPLUM & CIVIL won the tender for the construction component of the project and completed it in June 2020.

The traditional owner group for the Native Gap Conservation Reserve met three times to plan and allocate funds for a communal meeting space with an outdoor kitchen at Burt Creek and two sheds at the newly established Anpanaye outstation. These projects are expected to be completed in 2020.

The Palm Paddock group invested income from the Finke Gorge National Park in the upkeep of the old ranger station at Palm Valley and Palm Paddock outstation. It funded both repairs and maintenance at the ranger station over which it holds a sublease to run a tourism enterprise, and fencing at Palm Paddock, to be installed and maintained by the outstation residents. The residents plan to muster cleanskin cattle from the adjacent Finke Gorge National Park.



The Williams family built shady decks and fixed fences at the Ulperter outstation.

COMMUNITY LEASE MONEY PROJECT

One-off compensation payments for the compulsory leases taken out during the NT emergency response, and ongoing lease income from government and non-government organisations for community facilities, make up the bulk of the income of this project. It commenced in 2012 with 31 communities. The CLC helped the communities to set up groups prioritising and planning projects and to find and contract partners implementing the projects.

The communities have since allocated more than \$14,287,200 of their compensation income and more than \$4,322,100 of their lease money towards 383 community benefit projects. Of the original 31 communities seven have completed community development projects funded with their compensation payments and 24 have continued to commit lease income to community-driven projects.

In 2019–20 the project facilitated 17 group and 10 community meetings and funded 24 projects costing a total of almost \$795,700. Four of the projects contributed a total of 5,485 hours of employment for 19 Aboriginal people.

Project highlights:

Ntaria (Hermannsburg) invested almost \$721,000 in the construction and running costs of club rooms for the Hermannsburg Football Club. The club rooms comprise a multi-purpose community space with a kitchen, bathroom and washing machines. The Alekarenge Wi-Fi hotspot project cost more than \$8,100 and delivers free internet access to the residents. It contributes to a safe youth hub and allows residents to use online services, such as internet banking.

Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) invested \$407,000 in low-maintenance LED lights at the community's football oval. The local working group initially paid for a feasibility study to determine the construction scope of work.



Workers Graham, Josh and David Silverton and William Palmer built the West Waterhouse cemetery fence.



Andrew Teece was part of the local crew that built new pews for the Alpurururlam Church.

Community Development **NEWS**

**OLIVE PINK ON
THE BIG SCREEN**
**WETT PROMOTES
WARLPIRI LANGUAGE**

STRONG ANANGU FAMILIES

INDEPENDENCE DAY FOR MULBERA

RECOGNITION FOR WILLOWRA'S CULTURAL MAPPING

WATARRKA INVESTS IN HOMELANDS

YUENDUMU BUSH MEDICINE



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

Aboriginal people driving
their own development
in Central Australia

SUMMER 2019

Kintore's community lease money working group funded a men's gathering where young men learned about ceremony, sand art and tool making.

The Atyenhenge-Atherre Aboriginal Corporation will operate the lights for three years.

The Kintore community funded the installation and regular maintenance of rainwater tanks at two outstations. This \$56,000 project supports families to return to their country and develop a CLC ranger group.

OTHER INCOME STREAMS

The CLC promoted its community development program to Aboriginal people negotiating exploration, mining and other land use agreements. It held 16 meetings to consult and plan with groups interested in investing income from such agreements in community-driven projects.

Of the 13 traditional owner groups receiving income from the extensive Statoil exploration lease in the Plenty region, one allocated \$209,000 to community benefit projects.

Of the seven traditional owner groups that will receive income from a proposed mine at Mount Peake, three allocated at least \$250,000 to community benefit projects. This income would significantly increase, should the mine go into production.

The CLC met with the native title holders affected by the proposed Nolans Bore mine. It consulted with the smaller estate groups about committing some of their future income to community benefit projects. Two groups are scheduled to make decisions in July 2020.

The CLC also works with 13 other groups using small amounts of investment or exploration compensation income for community benefit projects. It did not execute any new project agreements during this period but managed a number of ongoing projects from previous years, with a combined value of more than \$1,036,600. Two new groups allocated almost \$392,700 to community benefit projects and set up governance structures to plan and implement them.



James Johnny, Clinton Weston and Aiden Johnny installed the roof over the new veranda at Likkaparta, thanks to compensation from the Northern Gas Pipeline. The income also funded mobile phone reception, a toilet and shower block and a workshop at the outstation near Tennant Creek.



The crew that helped build the Hermannsburg Football Club's first club rooms.

Figure 9. Community development projects, 2016–20

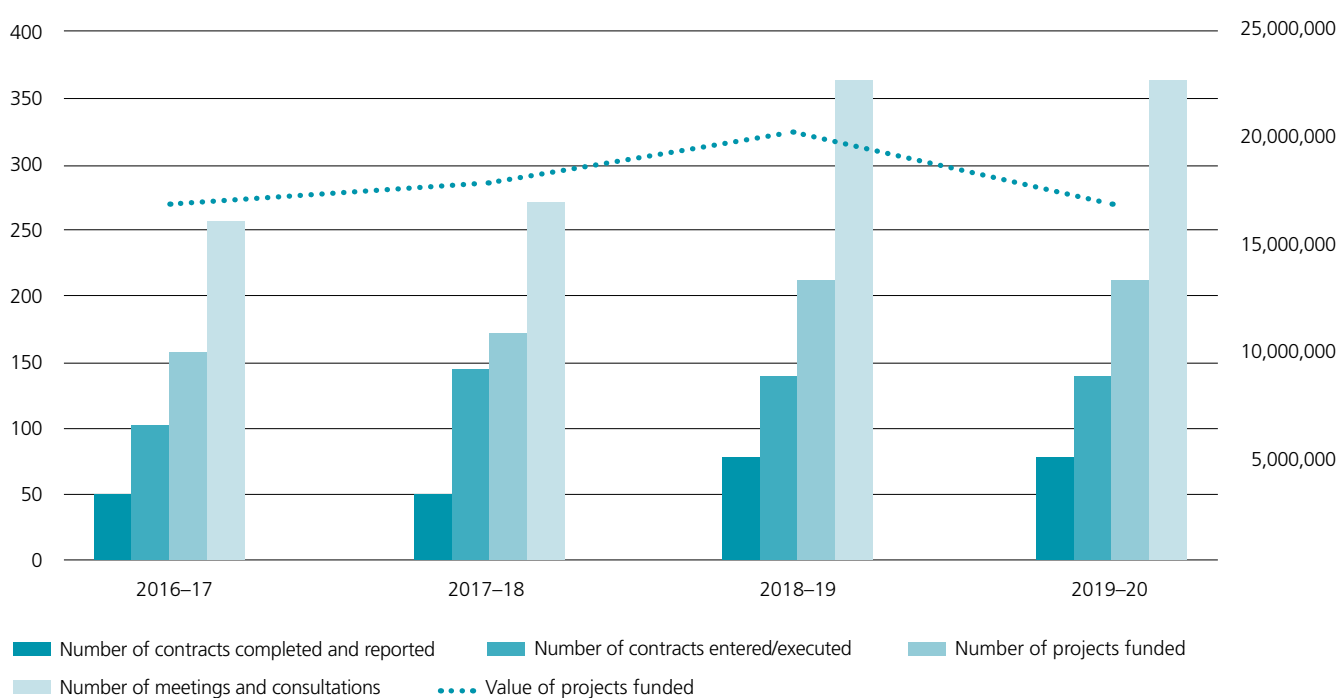
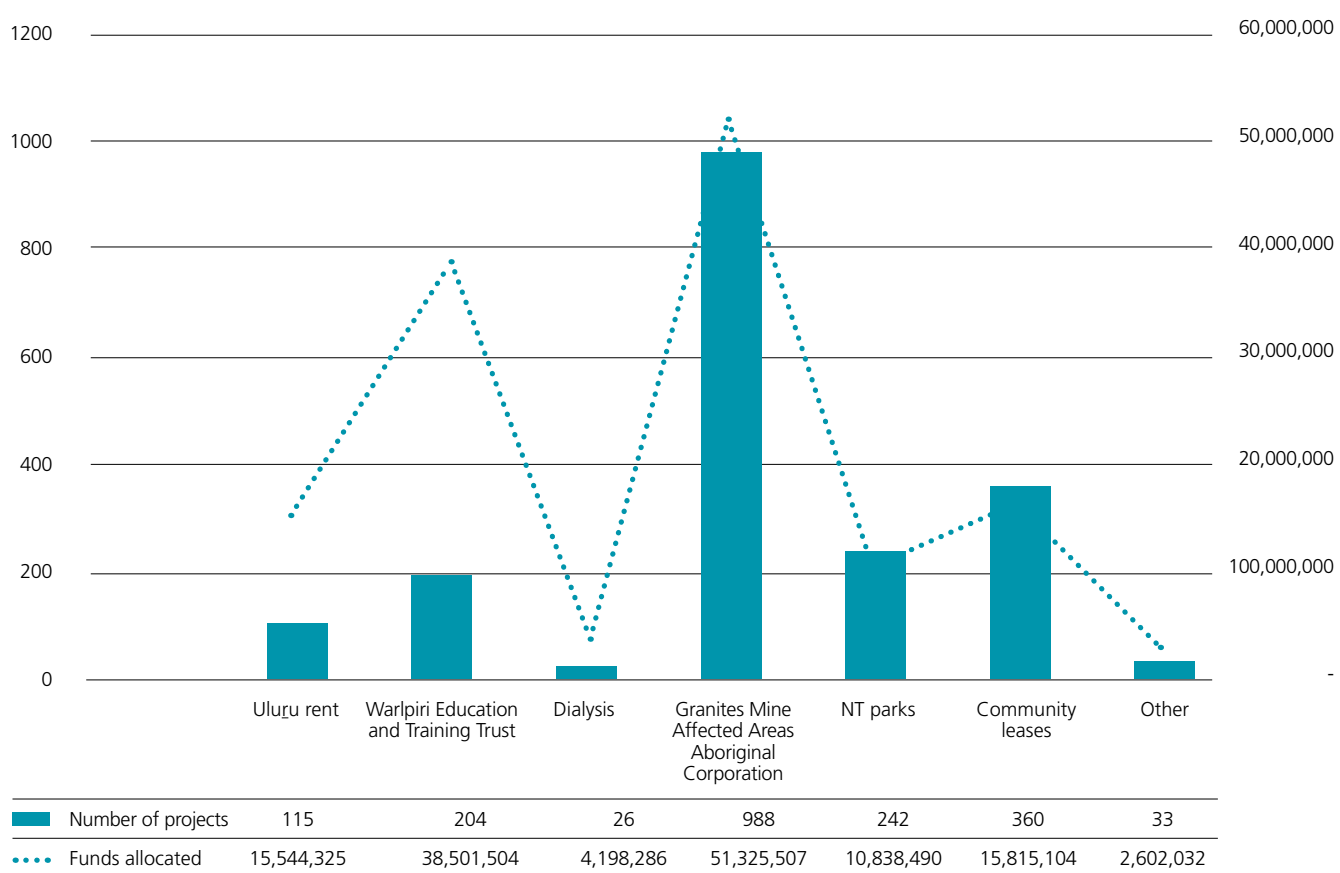


Figure 10. Total funds committed to community development projects, 2005–20



OUTPUT GROUP 5

OUTPUT 5.1. DISTRIBUTIONS

Administer and distribute statutory, negotiated and other payments to the traditional owners and other clients.

The CLC deposits income from the use of Aboriginal land in the land use trust account and distributes it in accordance with council decisions. Funds are mainly distributed to Aboriginal associations incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act) and must be paid to a corporation set up under that act.

Pursuant to section 35C of the Land Rights Act, those corporations are required to provide the CLC with their financial statements and a written report. There is no statutory mechanism to enable enforcement of these reporting requirements, other than where payments were made to a corporation pursuant to a determination. However, financial statements are publicly available on the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations website.

When funds are distributed to those corporations, the CLC's Aboriginal Associations Management Centre assists them to administer their obligations under the CATSI Act, and distribute funds or benefits to, or on behalf of, their members. Corporations may engage the services of the centre on an opt-in basis, subject to an agreement about cost recovery. The services to each corporation are specified in a letter of engagement, confirmed at each annual general meeting. Total distributions to all corporations in 2019–20 was \$19.9 million, down from \$22.4 million the previous year. This reduction is directly related to COVID-19 restrictions.

The CLC prepared 72 traditional owner identifications to ensure the right people were consulted about the distribution of income.



Directors of the Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation took part in governance training.

PERFORMANCE

Table 25. Compliance with the CATSI Act and services provided to corporations

Annual general meetings and directors meetings/ income distribution instructions taken	28
Directors meetings	27
Income distribution instruction meetings	84
Corporations' statutory financial statements to be lodged with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations	28
Trust statements lodged with Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	2

GOOD GOVERNANCE— ABORIGINAL CORPORATIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE CLC

The CLC is unable to offer financial advice to the Aboriginal corporations it administers. As the investment funds of the corporations grow, their boards need to develop the capacity to make investment decisions or to engage appropriate advice.

The Granites Mine Affected Area and Kurra Aboriginal corporations embarked on a largely self-funded three-year governance program during 2016–17. The program was designed to strengthen the boards of directors' capacity in, and understanding of, corporate, financial and investment governance. Mark Lewis Consulting Services delivered two multi-day applied learning workshops for each corporation. These workshops were tailored to each board and aimed to build culturally appropriate and legitimate governance capacity. The CLC is monitoring and evaluating the program to assess progress and to suggest improvements as the learning progresses.

INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE— GMAAAC AND KURRA

In addition to strengthening directors' governance capacity with the Good Governance Program, Price Waterhouse Cooper Indigenous Consulting has been engaged to assist directors of both the Granites Mine Affected Area and Kurra Aboriginal corporations to develop and implement a tender process for the selection of investment advisors for those corporations. The engagement of investment advisors will enable the directors to realise their long-held vision of ensuring significant funds are secure and growing for the benefit of future generations.

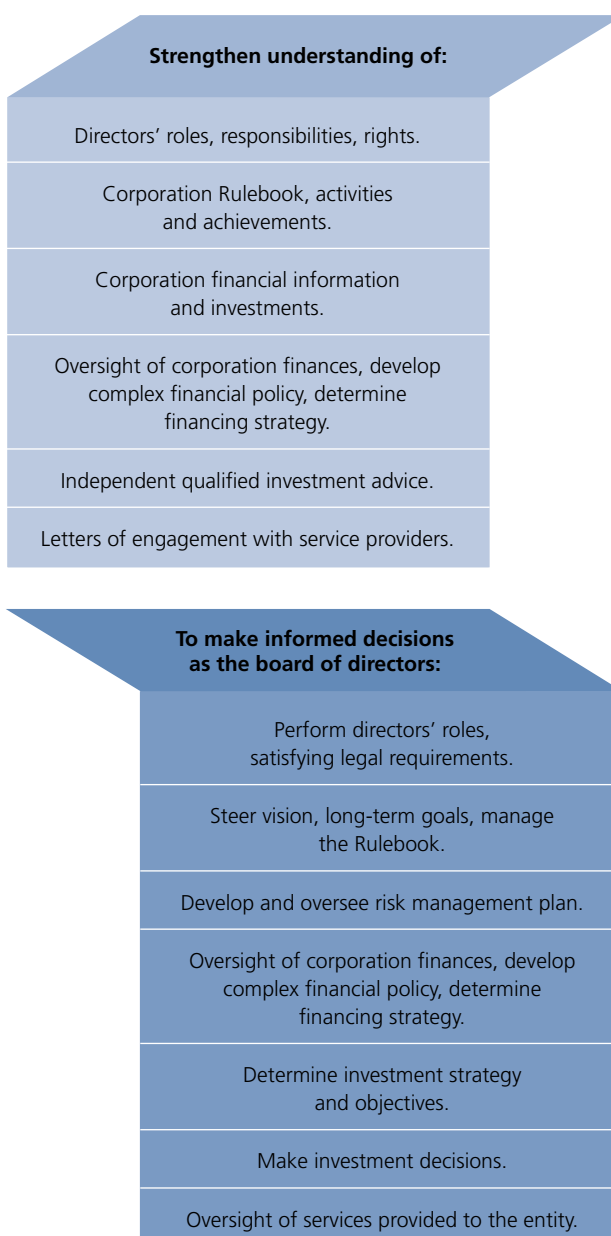
LEASING

The granting of leases and licences over Aboriginal land generates a significant income for traditional owners. Rental income is applied, in accordance with their instructions, through the CLC's community development program and AAMC. The centre manages the distribution of leasing income when traditional owners decide to distribute money among themselves.

The CLC conducted five consultations to receive standing instructions from traditional owners about the distribution of rental income and held 16 meetings to distribute income.

It prepared seven traditional owner identifications to ensure the right people were consulted about the distribution of income. Most payments were for exploration and mining-related compensation. The CLC also made distributions for gravel extraction access payments and lease payments.

Figure 11. Good governance program aims



OUTPUT 5.2 ADMINISTER LAND TRUSTS

Aboriginal land is formally held by land trusts, that is, by Aboriginal people who hold the title for the benefit of all the traditional owners and people with traditional interests in the land. Aboriginal land trusts (ALTs) are statutory entities and usually consist of a chair and not less than three members who hold office for up to five years. Land trust members are usually drawn from among traditional owners of the land held in trust.

The functions of a land trust are to hold title to land and to exercise powers to acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property for the benefit of the traditional owners. Where land is granted in a deed of grant held in escrow (that is, the land council holds the title deed in trust until a specific event or condition takes place, such as the lapse of a lease or interest), the function of a land trust is to acquire the estates and interests of other persons with a view to gaining the delivery of the title to the land trust.

A land trust may only deal with the land as directed by the land council. Such directions are provided only after identification of, and consultation with, the traditional owners and on the basis of their informed consent.

Figure 12. Land tenure in the CLC region, 2019–20

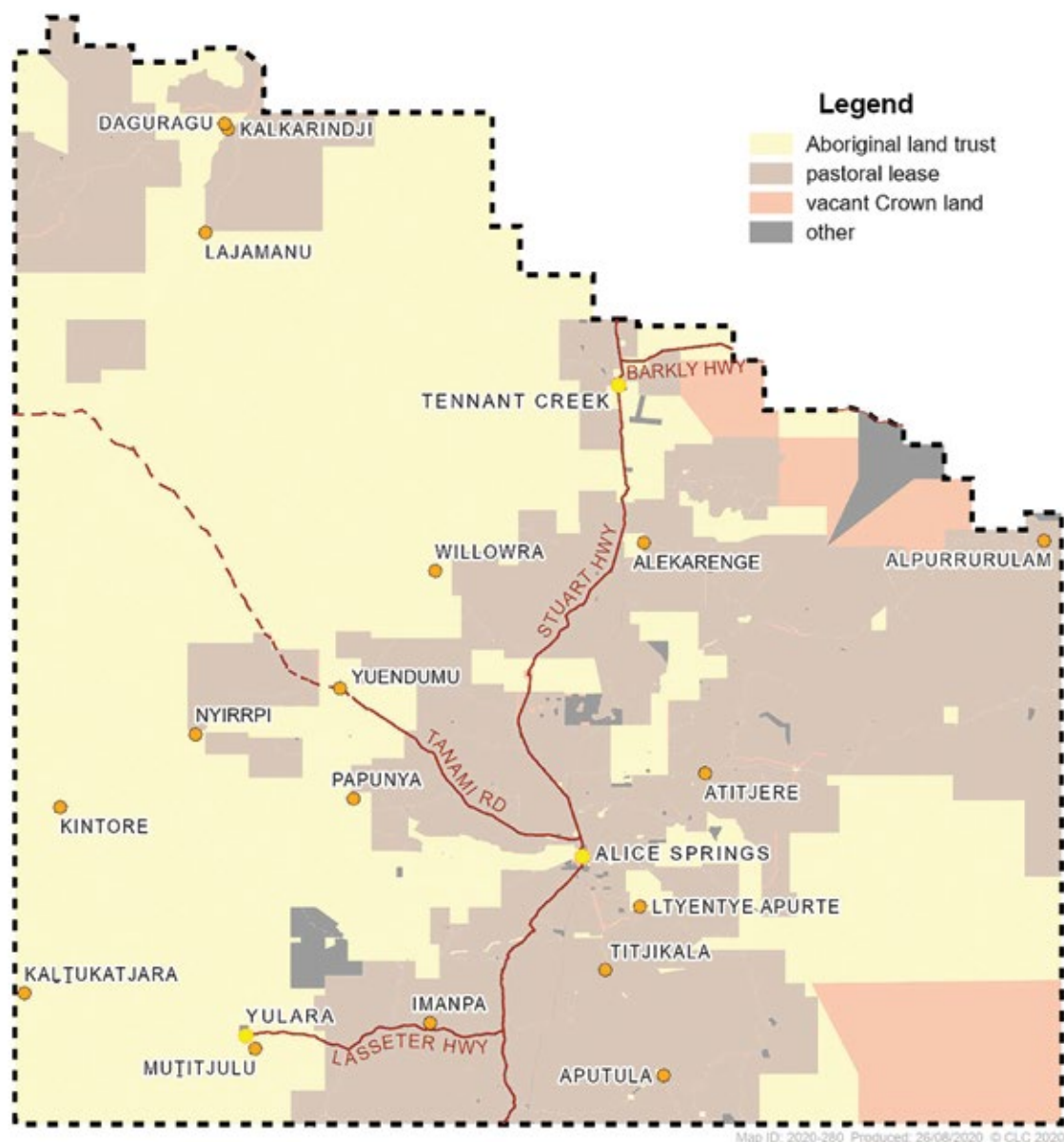


Table 26. Aboriginal land trusts in the CLC region, 2019–20

Ahakeye Aboriginal Land Trust
Aherrenge Aboriginal Land Trust
Akanta Aboriginal Land Trust
Akekarrwenteme Ureyenge Aboriginal Land Trust
Alatjuta Aboriginal Land Trust
Alkeperre-Atwarte Ayepe-Arenye Arleye Aboriginal Land Trust (Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Reserve)
Alkwert Aboriginal Land Trust
Alyawarra Aboriginal Land Trust
Amoonguna Aboriginal Land Trust
Anatye Aboriginal Land Trust
Angarapa Aboriginal Land Trust
Ankweleyelengkwe Aboriginal Land Trust
Anurrete Aboriginal Land Trust
Aputula Aboriginal Land Trust
Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust
Arltunga Aboriginal Land Trust (Arltunga Historical Reserve)
Arnapipe Aboriginal Land Trust
Athenge Lhere Aboriginal Land Trust
Atnerperrke Aboriginal Land Trust (Trephina Gorge Nature Park)
Atnetye Aboriginal Land Trust
Atwengerrpe Aboriginal Land Trust
Ayleparrantenhe Aboriginal Land Trust (Devils Marbles)
Bilinarra-Jutpurra Aboriginal Land Trust (Gregory National Park)
Central Desert Aboriginal Land Trust
Daguragu Aboriginal Land Trust
Erlterlapentye Aboriginal Land Trust (Davenport Range National Park)
Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust
Hooker Creek Aboriginal Land Trust
Iliyarne Aboriginal Land Trust
Ilparle Aboriginal Land Trust
Inarnme Aboriginal Land Trust
Irlwentye Aboriginal Land Trust (N'dhala Gorge Nature Park)
Irrinjirrinjirr Aboriginal Land Trust
Irrmarne Aboriginal Land Trust
Irrerkewarre Aboriginal Land Trust (Chambers Pillar)
Iwupataka Aboriginal Land Trust
Kanttaji Aboriginal Land Trust
Karlantijpa North Aboriginal Land Trust
Karlantijpa South Aboriginal Land Trust
Katiti Aboriginal Land Trust
Lake Mackay Aboriginal Land Trust
Lhere Pirnte Aboriginal Land Trust (Finke Gorge including Palm Valley)
Ltalaltuma Aboriginal Land Trust
Mala Aboriginal Land Trust
Malngin 2 Aboriginal Land Trust
Malngin Aboriginal Land Trust
Mangkurrpa Aboriginal Land Trust
Melkngge Aboriginal Land Trust
Mount Frederick Aboriginal Land Trust

Mount Frederick 2 Aboriginal Land Trust
Mpwelarre Aboriginal Land Trust
Mpweringe-Arnapipe Aboriginal Land Trust
Mungkarta Aboriginal Land Trust
Ngalurtju Aboriginal Land Trust
Ntaria Aboriginal Land Trust
Pantyinteme Aboriginal Land Trust
Pawu Aboriginal Land Trust
Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust
Pmere Ulperre Ingwemirne Arletherre Aboriginal Land Trust
Pmere Nyente Aboriginal Land Trust
Purta Aboriginal Land Trust
Pwanye Aboriginal Land Trust
Pwanye 2 Aboriginal Land Trust (Corroboree Rock Carvings Conservation)
Rodna Aboriginal Land Trust
Roulpmaulpma Aboriginal Land Trust
Rrurtenge Aboriginal Land Trust
Santa Teresa Aboriginal Land Trust
Thakeperte Aboriginal Land Trust
Thangkenharenge Aboriginal Land Trust
Twertentye Aboriginal Land Trust (Rainbow Valley excision swap – dissolved)
Tyurretye Aboriginal Land Trust (West MacDonnell National Park including Simpsons Gap and Simpsons Gap Extension)
Uluṛu – Kata Tjuṛa Aboriginal Land Trust
Uremerne Land Aboriginal Land (Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation)
Uretyingke Aboriginal Land Trust
Urrampinyi Iltjiltjarri Aboriginal Land Trust
Uruna Aboriginal Land Trust
Wakaya Aboriginal Land Trust
Wampana-Karlantijpa Aboriginal Land Trust
Warrabri Aboriginal Land Trust
Warti-Yangu Aboriginal Land Trust
Warumungu Aboriginal Land Trust
Watarrka Aboriginal Land Trust
Wirliyajarrayi Aboriginal Land Trust
Yalpirakinu Aboriginal Land Trust
Yewerre Aboriginal Land Trust
Yingualyala Aboriginal Land Trust
Yiningarra Aboriginal Land Trust
Yuendumu Aboriginal Land Trust
Yunkanjini Aboriginal Land Trust
Yurrkuru Aboriginal Land Trust

Table 27. NT park land trusts

Arrelte Twatye Park Land Trust (Native Gap Conservation Reserve)
Atnwarle Park Land Trust (Dulcie Ranges)
Kweyeunpe Park Land Trust (Kuyunba Conservation Reserve)
Watarrka Park Land Trust (Watarrka National Park)

Note: Park freehold title is a distinct form of fee simple estate created under the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act 2003* (NT).

OUTPUT 5.3 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Assist in the resolution of disputes with respect to land, as appropriate.

Various types of disputes in the CLC region have some link with land. Analysis of disputes affecting CLC constituents indicates there are four broad, interrelated categories: those based on land and traditional ownership; competition for money or resources; family matters; and individual behaviours.

The CLC has statutory functions under both section 25 of the ALRA and section 203BF of the Native Title Act to help resolve disputes that relate to land; however, disputes within each of the identified categories affect the CLC's functions.

There are a growing number of communities and groups in the CLC region where conflicts (some arising as a result of a dispute over traditional ownership of land, including group composition and boundaries) are causing stress and anxiety for traditional owners and other Aboriginal people. These conflicts make it difficult for the CLC to fulfil its duties to them.

The CLC developed a traditional owner dispute management framework and an engagement strategy aimed at managing these functions better. They are being implemented within the 2018–2022 corporate plan. The framework reflects the following principles:

- the empowerment of Aboriginal groups, families and individuals to identify and manage their own disputes
- a reduced reliance on the CLC or any external parties in relation to mediating disputes
- a policy of 'wait to be asked' for assistance but respond in a consistent and timely manner, recognising that a timely response can lessen the likelihood of exacerbation of a dispute

- the recognition that disputes are part of systems and structures where numerous external parties and factors are likely to be causing or exacerbating disputes
- the recognition that the work of the CLC may unintentionally cause or exacerbate a dispute
- the recognition that getting the decision-making processes of the group right is a major preventative measure
- a determination that engagement processes should do no harm.

CLC support is conditional on the disputing parties demonstrating a commitment to managing a dispute, and that the CLC may withdraw ongoing support, services and resources where parties are not committed.

The CLC executive is briefed about the progress of dispute resolution processes and advised when any parties repeatedly breach agreed processes or show little or no interest in resolving a dispute. The executive committee may decide to withdraw CLC services from the disputing party or parties for a period of time. To ensure that disputes are not exacerbated by the identification of those involved, disputes are not the subject of individual reports.

Anthropological advice informs the mediation or resolution of minor ongoing issues. During 2019–20 anthropologists contributed advice in relation to seven disputes and completed a report addressing traditional ownership issues. One dispute is the subject of further research and consultation.



OUTPUT GROUP 6

NATIVE TITLE

The Central Land Council aims to provide Aboriginal landowners with information, advice and support to enable them to manage their land sustainably and productively.

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.

NATIVE TITLE

Native title is the legal term used by the Australian High Court to describe the rights and interests Aboriginal people have had over their lands for millennia before European settlement. These rights and interests are common law indigenous property rights, and were recognised by the High Court in the Mabo judgment of June 1992 and legislated in 1993. The court's subsequent Wik judgment of December 1996 further determined that native title could coexist with other rights held under pastoral leases.

While native title recognises that indigenous people have traditional rights to speak for country, to protect sites and to be consulted regarding developments on their land, it does not give them ownership of land as the Land Rights Act does.

THE CLC'S NATIVE TITLE PROGRAM

In 1994 the CLC became a recognised native title representative body for Central Australia under section 203 of the Native Title Act. In this capacity, the CLC has statutory functions to facilitate and assist native title holders to make native title applications, respond to proposed future acts and negotiate agreements, resolve disputes between groups, and assist prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs, native title holder corporations) to manage and protect native title rights and interests. In 2018 the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs granted the CLC re-recognition as a native title representative body for a maximum of six years to June 2024.

The CLC continued to certify native title applications for determination, and applications for registration for indigenous land use agreements in a timely manner. Native title determination and ILUA applications are presented to council meetings for certification, before being dispatched to the National Native Title Tribunal for registration.

The CLC has a multidisciplinary team of 25 native title-funded positions. It also engaged nine consultants on native title matters. Its anthropologists completed 12 native title holder identifications in preparation for meetings where the native title holders considered exploration licence applications and other activities and gave advice at the meetings. They also completed 21 research activities for and assisted with five native title claims.

National Native Title Council

The CLC has been a member of the National Native Title Council since its inception in 2005 and contributed to its submissions, discussions and representations to government on matters of national importance.

The CLC joined with the council on the development of a strategic approach to native title compensation following the Timber Creek High Court decision, supported the production of its submission to the Close the Gap 'refresh', and participated in the council's native title operations and management training. During 2019–20 the CLC's native title manager chaired the council and helped recruit its CEO.



Andrina Webb collected *inernte* seeds near Atitjere during a native title claim research trip.

Native title consent determinations

On 4 July 2018 Justice Charlesworth handed down a non-exclusive native title consent determination over Tennant Creek Station at a Federal Court sitting near the site of Lirripi, approximately 40 kilometres south of Tennant Creek. The determination covers an area of approximately 3,650 square kilometres and recognises the native title rights and interests of seven landholding groups to access, hunt, gather and fish on the land and waters, to use their resources, and to conduct cultural activities and ceremonies in the area. These rights will coexist with the rights of the leaseholders of Tennant Creek Station.

The CLC filed the native title application with the Federal Court in October 2017, following mining and other development interests. These interests raised concerns over the protection of sites and areas of cultural significance to the Kankawarla, Kanturrpa, Kurtinja, Patta, Purrurtu, Pirttangu and Warupunju landholding groups. Native title holders instructed the CLC to lodge the application as they were anxious to protect their cultural areas and have a say over exploration and other activities on their country. The Ngurramarla Aboriginal Corporation will hold the native title for the area, and was registered as a native title body corporate on 22 May 2020.

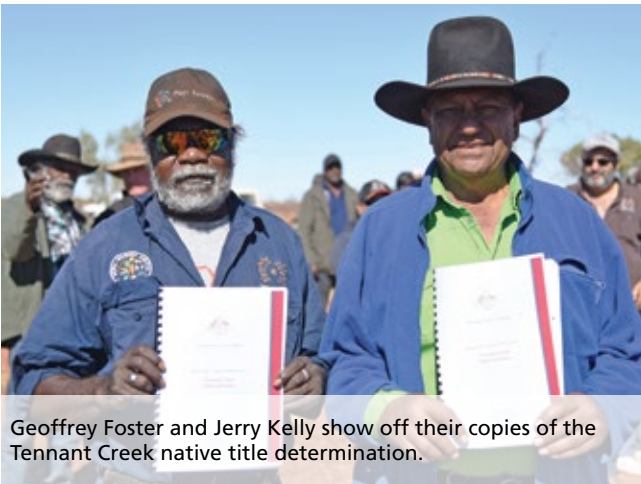
COMPENSATION APPLICATIONS

Where possible, the CLC seeks to deal with compensation matters by negotiation, and to secure compensation for acts resulting in the extinguishment or impairment of native title rights and interests. Although it lodged no new native title compensation applications, it is considering how elements of the High Court's Timber Creek decision (NT v Griffiths) applies to tenure in its region.

LITIGATION

In *Western Australia v Brown* [2014] HCA 8, the High Court found that the construction of homesteads and bores does not extinguish native title on pastoral leases. It said that an earlier decision (DeRose No.2) about pastoral improvements had been incorrectly decided. This meant that the clause in previous native title determinations on pastoral leases in the CLC region, which provided for extinguishment of native title where pastoral improvements had been built, was no longer in accordance with the current law.

The CLC intervened in proceedings before the Federal Court to enable clarification of the legal issues in the Minyerri-Banka Banka matters in the NLC region. Following an order made by Justice White on 26 October 2018, in a number of NLC pastoral lease native title applications, senior counsel for the CLC appeared before the court to argue that the terms of the consent determinations would affect claimants in the CLC region.



Geoffrey Foster and Jerry Kelly show off their copies of the Tennant Creek native title determination.



Patrick Nandy, Ross Jackamarra Williams and Justice Charlesworth at the Tennant Creek native title determination ceremony.



Pamela, Beryl and Vivian Brown at the Tennant Creek native title determination ceremony.

On 19 December 2019 the court accepted the CLC's submissions. It confirmed that improvements on a pastoral lease, such as the homestead, do not extinguish native title and should not be separately referred to in a native title determination. Following this decision in the NLC region, the parties to the CLC's amendment applications all said they would agree to the variations sought by the prescribed bodies corporate. In 2019–20, the CLC applied to the court to vary schedule C of the approved native title determination in the Glen Helen determination by removing references to extinguishment of native title due to pastoral improvements.

On a separate issue, the native title claimants in the Jinka Jervois native title claim decided to challenge the NT Government's policy of not seeking native title holder consent when allowing pastoralists to include old stock routes in their pastoral leases. The CLC engaged senior counsel to represent the claimants, and initially the government sought to have the matter determined in court. Immediately prior to the hearing, however, the government agreed that the CLC position was correct at law, and the native title holders should have been asked for their consent. The parties resolved the matter in favour of the native title applicants and the government agreed to pay the applicants' legal costs. The government has now agreed to recognise the native title of the Jinka Jervois claimants and a consent determination is scheduled to be held in early May 2021.

CLAIMANT APPLICATIONS

The CLC pursues native title determinations to achieve recognition and protection of native title rights and deliver beneficial outcomes for native title holders. It organised 51 meetings and consultations relating to native title applications and significantly progressed anthropological research, preparation and delivery of several consent determination reports.

Anthropologists completed 12 native title holder identifications in preparation for meetings where the native title holders considered exploration licence applications, prescribed body corporate-related consultations and other activities, and provided legal and anthropological advice at the meetings.

As at 30 June 2020 the CLC had six active native title claimant applications registered with the tribunal, and six revised applications prepared to vary existing determinations of native title to remove the pastoral improvements clause following the resolution of issues in the Minyerri–Banka Banka matters.

The CLC also expanded its native title investigations to include research into claimants' rights to take and use resources on the land for any purpose they require. Claimants who have their rights recognised in this manner will be able to more easily use the recognition of native title rights as a basis for economic development. If the anthropological research supports the existence of this right, the CLC will be advising native title claimants to include recognition of their economic entitlements in future determinations.

New and revised applications

Table 28. Applications lodged with the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT)

Application	Date filed	Date registered with NNTT
New		
Karinga Lakes Native Title Claim (NTD3/2020)	13/2/2020	27/3/2020: In Notification (6/5/2020 to 5/8/2020)
Unemarre Arlatyeye Polygon Claim (NTD10/2020)	28/4/2020	26/5/2020: In Notification (1/7/2020 to 30/9/2020)
Revised		
Pmarra Tjurritja Alturla Aboriginal Corporation (NTD9/2020)	16/4/2020	In Notification (17/6/2020 to 16/9/2020)

KARINGA LAKES (NTD3/2020)

The CLC filed an application over the area extending over the Curtin Springs, Lyndavale and Erldunda stations on 13 February 2020, with the notification period ceasing on 5 August 2020. The application was filed to protect an extensive and significant sacred site and secure native title holders' interests over the pastoral leases.

UNEMARRE ARLATYEYE POLYGON CLAIM (NTD10/2020)

The CLC filed an application on 28 April 2020, which was very quickly assessed and registered by the NNTT. It was filed to secure the right to negotiate in relation to a mineral lease application on The Garden Station. The right applies to the area of the mineral lease. The claimants intend to incorporate this claim into a larger claim over the Ambalindum and The Garden stations, once that claim is filed.

PMARRA TJURRITJA ALTURLA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC (NTD9/2020)

The CLC filed an application on 16 April 2020, with the notification period ceasing on 16 September 2020. The application was lodged to revise the existing determination over Glen Helen Station to amend the reference to the pastoral improvements outlined in schedule C.

Finalised applications

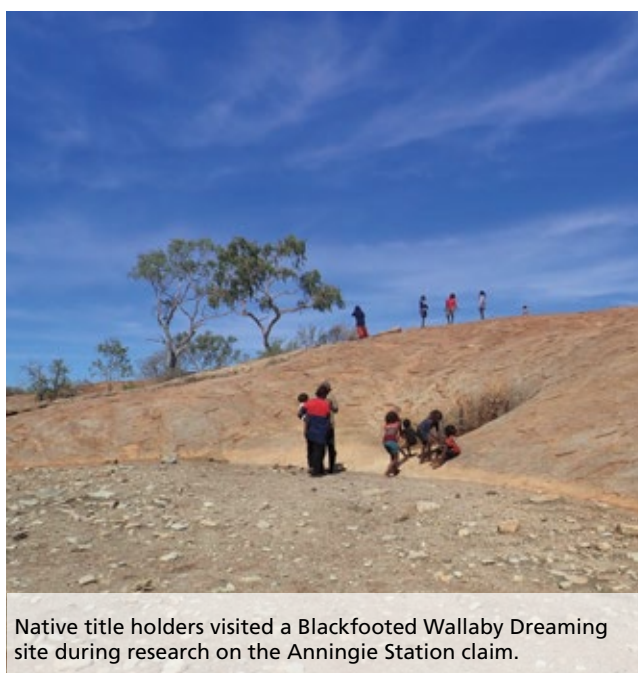
A consent determination over the Tennant Creek pastoral lease (NTD48/2017) took place on 4 July 2019, with the determination taking effect on 22 May 2020 following registration of the Ngurramarla Aboriginal Corporation as the prescribed body corporate.

Current applications and claims under research

The anthropology reports and material regarding the Karinga Lakes (Curtin Springs, Lyndavale and Erldunda stations) and Unemarre Arlatyeye Polygon claims were finalised in the reporting period enabling the completion and lodging of the claims. A revised application was lodged on behalf of the Pmarra Tjurritja Alturla Aboriginal Corporation. Anthropological research commenced or progressed in the Simpson Desert, on the Huckitta, Anningie, Ambalindum, The Gardens, Mount Skinner and Woodgreen, Horseshoe Bend, Lilla Creek and Idracowra stations and on NTP 2138



Sisters Maureen and Jennifer Purvis during native title claim fieldwork.



Native title holders visited a Blackfooted Wallaby Dreaming site during research on the Anningie Station claim.

Table 29. Applications lodged with the National Native Title Tribunal, 2019–20

Applications current at 1 July 2019	2019–20 – Revised applications prepared	2019–20 Research or other assistance completed	2019–20 – Anthropological research progressed
Wave Hill Station (NTD62/2016)	Napperby #2 Station (NTD26/2018)	Litigation re: Jinka Jervois stations (NTD16/2018)	Huckitta Station
Limbunya Station (NTD1/2017)	Mount Doreen Station (NTD29/2018)	Karinga Lakes (NTD3/2020)	Anningie Station
Jinka Jervois stations (NTD16/2018)	Kurundi Station (NTD36/2018)	Unemarre Arlatyeye Polygon Claim (NTD10/2020)	Simpson Desert
	Neutral Junction Station (NTD38/2018)		Ambalindum/The Garden stations
	Singleton Station (NTD42/2018)		Mount Skinner/Woodgreen stations
	Pmarra Tjurritja Alturla Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (NTD9/2020)		NTP 2128
			Horseshoe Bend Station
			Lilla Creek Station
			Idracowra Station

WAVE HILL STATION (NTD62/2016)

The CLC filed an application on 25 November 2016, which was registered with the tribunal on 2 March 2017. Additional materials to finalise the application were provided in 2018–19. The determination was delayed due to seasonal constraints and coronavirus restrictions. A determination is scheduled in September 2020.

LIMBUNYA STATION (NTD1/2017)

The CLC filed an application on 19 January 2017, which was registered with the tribunal on 4 May 2017. Additional materials to finalise the application were provided in 2018–19. As with the Wave Hill application in the same region, this determination was delayed and both claims are scheduled for completion in September 2020.

JINKA/JERVOIS STATIONS (NTD16/2018)

The application was registered on 7 September 2018. A future act (proposals with the potential to impact on native title rights and interests) matter delayed the application, resulting in the applicants and CLC entering into litigation. The matter was recently resolved and a determination is likely to take place in early May 2021.



Randall Long, Clancy Long, Eldon Ross, Reggie Clubb and Antonio Long painted wooden shields with *Ntyerrm* Dreaming designs during the Mount Skinner and Woodgreen native title claim research.

FUTURE ACTS

Mining future acts (mining or exploration proposals with the potential to impact on native title rights and interests) are the largest driver of the CLC's native title work program, although the number of exploration tenements notified under section 29 of the Native Title Act has fluctuated considerably year by year.

The ongoing administration of future acts is a high priority for the CLC, which has continued to notify native title holders and claimants about future acts. The CLC maintains a register of applications and informs all applicants about the native title process and its preference for negotiated agreements. Its anthropologists provided advice and support in 12 instances in relation to mining future acts, and in 22 instances related to non-mining future acts.

Mining and exploration future acts

All applications for exploration licences in the NT include a statement from the NT Government that the grant attracts 'expedited procedures,' as outlined in section 237 of the Native Title Act. This determines a strict time limit of four months within which a native title holder party can lodge an objection.

The CLC responded to 45 notifications under section 29, and other notifications under the act. It assessed each notification for its potential impact on native title rights and interests. It undertook 26 future-act mining and exploration related field trips, meetings and consultations with affected native title holders. In other instances, existing instructions adequately dealt with the application.

The CLC assisted two prescribed bodies corporate and a native title applicant group to prepare and/or lodge objections to three separate exploration licence applications. The applications attracted the expedited procedure provisions under the Native Title Act. The objections related to the protection of sacred sites or areas of significance to native title holders.

Mining and exploration agreements

Table 30 shows native title exploration and mining matters and decisions for 2019–20 and the allocation of compensation to native title holders flowing from agreements.

Exploration agreements	0
Mining agreements	1
Distribution of compensation monies	15
Miscellaneous	3
Total	19

Non-mining future acts

The CLC undertook 10 field trips, consultations, instruction meetings and activities related to non-mining future acts.



Native title holders visited a Rain Dreaming site on Anningie Station.

INDIGENOUS LAND USE AGREEMENTS

The CLC secures beneficial outcomes for native title holders through negotiated indigenous land use and other agreements, including agreements under section 31 of the Native Title Act. It has 89 agreements registered with the tribunal, is awaiting the registration of another three and is negotiating an additional 10.

Table 31. Indigenous land use agreements finalised and registered, 2019–20

Registered
Canteen Creek Area ILUA – registered on 20/5/2020
Registration Pending
Dingo gas field – pipeline agreement and production agreement
Commonwealth of Australia acting through the Department of Defence–CLC–Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap commercial power project
In Negotiation
Kalkaringi – land release and swap, construction of public housing
Suplejack Station – exploration agreements (renegotiation)
Tennant Creek – extension of waste management facility – juvenile detention facility – fossicking area – Barkly work camp (renegotiation)
Newhaven Station – Conservation program and feral proof fence
Mount Riddock Station – Community living area excision
Orange Creek Station and Owen Springs Station – Land swap
Neutral Junction Station – Irrigated agriculture (non-pastoral use permit application)



Native title holders Alfred and Archie Glen discussed the Nolans Bore project at a negotiation meeting at Aileron.

POST DETERMINATION ASSISTANCE

Table 32. Assistance delivered to prescribed bodies corporate, 2019–20

Aboriginal corporation	Area	Type of assistance
Alherramp Ilwerr Mamp Arrangkey Tywerl Aboriginal Corporation	Napperby Station	<p>Assisted the PBC to hold two director meetings and seeking instructions to enter into an ILUA for the Nolans Bore project.</p> <p>Briefed directors and affected native title holders on lodging an objection to the inclusion of “expedited procedure” in an exploration notice within the determination area.</p>
Eynewantheyne Aboriginal Corporation	Stirling and Neutral Junction stations	<p>Assisted with holding a directors meeting and processing membership applications.</p> <p>Provided a briefing and took instructions from native title holders regarding the establishment of a corporation to manage compensation funds.</p> <p>Supported directors to attend native title operations and management training.</p>
Gurindji Aboriginal Corporation	Kalkarindji Station or township	<p>Advised and assisted the corporation regarding a native title holder residing within the exclusive possession land and the construction of an offal pit, on the same land, for a local business.</p> <p>Supported the corporation with negotiations of an ILUA over a land release and construction of public housing.</p> <p>Supported directors and native title holder with negotiations to attend native title operations and management training.</p>
Ilkewartn Ywel Aboriginal Corporation	Pine Hill Station (east)	<p>Assisted the corporation to hold an annual general meeting and lodge its general report.</p> <p>Provided a briefing to native title holders and the PBC regarding the new water allocation plan for the Ti Tree water control district, and implications for the PBC’s application for a groundwater extraction license.</p> <p>Facilitated presentation by Centrefarm Aboriginal Horticulture Ltd to native title holders regarding the implications of the water allocation plan on the PBC’s horticulture project site ‘Pine Hill B’.</p>
Irretyepwenty Ywentent Pwert Aboriginal Corporation	Aileron Station	<p>Assisted the corporation to hold an annual general meeting and lodge its general report, and supported a special general meeting to elect additional directors.</p> <p>Facilitated a briefing on the Nolans Bore project, assisted at a directors meeting and obtain instructions for the PBC to enter into the Nolans Bore project ILUA.</p>
Kaytetye Alyawarr Awenyerraperte Ingkerr-wenh Aboriginal Corporation	Sandover (Ammaroo, Derry Downs, Murray Downs and Elkedra stations)	<p>Helped native title holders to visit an exploration drill site to monitor compliance with a sacred site clearance certificate.</p> <p>Facilitated a briefing at a directors meeting and received instructions to lodge an objection to the inclusion of “expedited procedure” in an exploration notice within the determination area.</p> <p>Supported PBC members to participate in the Aherrenge Aboriginal Land Trust title handover ceremony finalising the Sandover native title claim.</p>

Aboriginal corporation	Area	Type of assistance
Kaytetye Tywerate Arengge Aboriginal Corporation	Neutral Junction Station (Crawford Range)	<p>Assisted at a directors meeting and facilitated a briefing by a proponent involved in a horticulture project.</p> <p>Facilitated a work area clearance over existing mining tenements within with determination area.</p>
Kwaty Aboriginal Corporation	Aileron Station	<p>Assisted at a directors meeting, provided a briefing on the Nolans Bore project and received instructions to seek additional legal advice.</p> <p>Briefed and consulted native title holders about the Nolans Bore project. Directors received instructions to enter into an ILUA and executed the agreement.</p> <p>Supported directors to attend native title operations and management training.</p>
Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation	Alice Springs township	<p>Received a briefing from the CEO and NT Government representatives on the ILUA under negotiation, and responded to requests from native title holders seeking information on legislative processes to certify an ILUA.</p> <p>Distributed income from NT Parks and Wildlife Commission agreement.</p>
Mpwerempwer Aboriginal Corporation	Singleton Station	<p>Advised and assisted on-site briefing with affected native title holders and initial meeting with the proponent, Fortune Agribusiness, about their plan to develop 4,000 hectares of intensive irrigated horticulture.</p> <p>Informed directors and native title holders about the role of directors and their obligations to consult with affected native title holders.</p>
Ngaliya Aboriginal Corporation	Mount Doreen Station	<p>Helped to hold an annual general meeting, facilitated a briefing on mining-related activities, lodged its general report and facilitated a directors meeting.</p> <p>Supported the affected native title holder to participate in a liaison committee meeting with mining company representatives.</p> <p>Helped to hold a special general meeting to correct the spelling of the corporation's name.</p>
Ngurramarla Aboriginal Corporation	Tennant Creek Station	<p>Assisted native title holders to hold a meeting to establish an Aboriginal corporation to become the PBC.</p> <p>Supported directors to attend native title operations and management training.</p>
Ooratippra Aboriginal Corporation	Ooratippra Station	<p>Assisted the corporation to hold an annual general meeting and lodge its general report. Provided instructions to pay invoices and renew existing financial arrangements.</p>

Aboriginal corporation	Area	Type of assistance
Patta Aboriginal Corporation	Tennant Creek township	<p>Assisted the corporation to inform native title holders, hold an annual general meeting, lodge its general report and brief members and native title holders at a special general meeting about proposed amendments to its rule book.</p> <p>Assisted the directors to meet and received instructions on negotiations of proposed ILUAs, helped native title holders with two cultural heritage matters and received instructions to renegotiate an existing ILUA.</p> <p>Supported directors with a funding application and to attend native title operations and management training.</p>
Pine Hill West Aboriginal Corporation	Pine Hill Station (west)	Supported directors to attend native title operations and management training.
Pmarra Tjurritja Alturla Aboriginal Corporation	Glen Helen Station	Assisted the corporation to hold an annual general meeting, lodge its general report and received instructions to lodge a revised native title determination application.
Rodinga Aboriginal Corporation	Maryvale Station	<p>Attended meeting with government and stakeholders to assess existing regulations and improve understanding of deep geological waste repository.</p> <p>Assisted the corporation to inform native title holders about the proposed mine and waste storage facility.</p> <p>Supported directors to attend native title operations and management training.</p>
Twenga Aboriginal Corporation	Henbury Station	<p>Assisted the corporation to hold an annual general meeting and lodge its general report.</p> <p>The directors signed a service agreement with the CLC.</p>
Tyatyekwenhe Aboriginal Corporation	Andado and New Crown stations	Supported directors to attend native title operations and management training.
Tywele Aboriginal Corporation	Mount Riddock Station	<p>Facilitated discussions between applicant and affected native title holders for the grant of a community living area. Agreement researched and aboriginal corporation re-established. Briefing of corporation directors completed and documents prepared for execution.</p> <p>Supported the directors to facilitate a meeting to inform native title holders and community members about the voluntary administration of the mining company.</p> <p>Assisted native title holders to inspect gravel extraction works and assess possible impacts on a sacred site.</p> <p>Suspended extraction following repeated requests by native title holders.</p>
WALA Aboriginal Corporation	Narwietooma Station	<p>Facilitated a senior men's native title holder meeting to discuss the regional ranger group's work program in order to manage disputes.</p> <p>Assisted the corporation to hold an annual general meeting and elect new directors, accept membership applications and lodge its general report. Sought instructions about compensation for a sub-lease in the determination area.</p>

Aboriginal corporation	Area	Type of assistance
Warlmanpa Warumungu Aboriginal Corporation	Phillip Creek Station	Helped native title holders to protect a sacred site in an existing mineral lease.
Wura Aboriginal Corporation	Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve	Informed a small group of native title holders about native title and the role and function of the PBC.
Yankanjini Aboriginal Corporation	Newhaven Station Sanctuary	Reviewed a draft ILUA for the construction of a feral-animal-proof fence.
Yankunytjara Matutjara Aboriginal Corporation	Umbeara, Mount Cavenagh Victory Downs and Mulga Park stations	Carried out archival and field research about the protection of a significant site within a gravel extraction area. Supported the corporation with preliminary consultations with senior men to identify affected native title holders and took instructions to engage a male anthropologist.

PREScribed BODY CORPORATE REGIONAL FORUM

The 2020 forum was postponed to May 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions prohibiting large gatherings and interstate travel.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

There have been no major disputes relating to native title claims. In order to prevent and deal with future disputes, the CLC trained two staff members in mediation skills.

Alternative procedure agreements

The CLC did not enter into alternative procedure agreements.

Body corporate agreements

The CLC entered into one prescribed body corporate service agreement.



Traditional owner Pauline Ryan visited the Wave Hill Walk Off site with the CLC's native title manager, Francine McCarthy.

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The responsibilities are:

- best practice accounting, financial management, performance reporting, unmodified annual audit reports and financial sustainability
- robust corporate financial planning
- relevant, accurate and timely performance-based management and environmental impact reporting
- effective risk management, including managing appropriate governance and risk management frameworks and understanding management's risk appetite
- procurement of funds to sustain and advance corporate and operational plans and performance of statutory functions, promoting indigenous business
- compliance with all statutory regulatory requirements including privacy considerations
- staff recruitment, training and development for administering Aboriginal corporations.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Estimates and review

Estimates of administrative expenditure are submitted annually to the minister. Additional estimates requests for essential additional resources are submitted only as required. Approved estimates fund operational expenses, salaries and wages, and capital expenditure. The minister originally approved \$22.403 million funding from the ABA. He subsequently approved a variation of \$1.058 million including additional funeral funds and to establish an economic participation unit.

Reporting

A half-yearly performance and operations report was submitted to the minister in February 2020 in accordance with funding-agreement and legislative obligations. The Australian National Audit Office performs the annual audit of the financial statements to determine compliance and that the statements present fairly the financial position, performance and cash flows. Its audit opinion indicates that the statements are free from material misstatement.

FINANCE SYSTEM

The finance software package used for financial management control is Microsoft NAV.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND FRAUD CONTROL

An annual review of the risk management plan and framework (including a risk profile and a risk appetite reassessment by the chair and the director) took place in December 2019. The CLC uses the annual Comcover risk management benchmarking survey to assess its improvements.

The Commonwealth's fraud control framework informs the CLC's framework. The Accountable Authority takes all reasonable measures to prevent, detect and deal with fraud, including data collection, reporting and investigation. It certified that the required fraud data was collected and reported using the fraud incident register, which is continually updated. New staff members complete the Commonwealth's online fraud awareness training.

Internal practices and procedures ensure that appropriate financial authorisations and financial delegations are in place for rigorous monitoring and detection of anomalies. Accountable Authority instructions are within the appropriate financial expenditure authorities' framework and are reviewed every July. The review takes into account changes in the value of money and the organisation's structure.

A code of conduct prescribes workplace personal and professional behaviour.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The audit committee has four independent members: Beverley Russ (accounting manager), Danny Masters (lawyer), Bruce Walker (chair/director) and Adrian Watts (accountant). The committee met three times in 2019–20. It oversees an agreed work plan and audit charter, and reports annually to the Accountable Authority. A review of the PGPA Act recommended that Commonwealth entity audit committee members be independent. All committee members are independent. The committees' charter can be found at www.clc.org.au/publications/cat/Other-publications/

Table 33. Audit Committee, 2019–20

Member	Bruce Walker	Danny Masters	Adrian Watts	Beverly Russ
Fees and reimbursements	\$3,000	\$5,061	\$4,554	\$3,000
Qualifications and experience	Former CEO of the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Central Australian resident for three decades with extensive knowledge of the region.	Lawyer with extensive experience and knowledge of Central Australia.	Chartered accountant with qualifications in accounting and auditing and knowledge of audit committee and commonwealth authority audit requirements.	Chartered certified accountant with qualifications in accounting and auditing.

Employee profile

Table 34. Fulltime and parttime staff expressed as fulltime equivalent, 2019–20

Salary classification	Total FTE	Aboriginal	%	Non-Aboriginal	%	Female	%	Male	%
CL 1	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.3
CL 2	46.0	46.0	19.2	0.0	0.0	9.3	3.9	36.7	15.3
CL 3	12.9	12.3	5.1	0.6	0.2	7.3	3.1	5.5	2.3
CL 4	27.2	19.1	8.0	8.0	3.3	12.4	5.2	14.7	6.1
CL 5	32.5	15.1	6.3	17.4	7.2	18.0	7.5	14.5	6.0
CL 6	74.0	15.8	6.6	58.2	24.3	36.3	15.1	37.7	15.7
EM	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
SO C	21.9	2.0	0.8	19.9	8.3	11.9	5.0	10.0	4.2
SO B	9.7	1.5	0.6	8.2	3.4	5.6	2.3	4.1	1.7
SO A	11.8	1.2	0.5	10.6	4.4	6.8	2.8	5.0	2.1
SES1	2.0	-	0.0	2.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.8
SES2	1.1	1.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.4
Total	239.9	115.1	48.0	124.8	52.0	107.8	45.0	132.0	55.0

Table 35. Fulltime and parttime staff (head count) at 30 June 2020

Salary classification	Total	Aboriginal	%	Non-Aboriginal	%	Female	%	Male	%
CL 1	0.8	0.8	0.3	-	-	-	-	0.8	0.3
CL 2	54.8	54.8	21.5	-	-	13.0	5.1	41.8	16.4
CL 3	14.8	13.8	5.4	1.0	0.4	9.0	3.5	5.8	2.3
CL 4	27.4	20.4	8.0	7.0	2.7	10.6	4.2	16.8	6.6
CL 5	32.3	16.0	6.3	16.3	6.4	19.3	7.6	13.0	5.1
CL 6	77.4	13.8	5.4	63.6	24.9	36.7	14.4	40.7	15.9
EM	1.0	1.0	0.4	-	-	1.0	0.4	-	-
SO C	22.6	2.0	0.8	20.6	8.0	14.6	5.7	8.0	3.1
SO B	11.0	1.0	0.4	10.0	3.9	5.0	2.0	6.0	2.3
SO A	10.4	1.0	0.4	9.4	3.7	5.8	2.3	4.6	1.8
SES1	2.0	-	-	2.0	0.8	-	-	2.0	0.8
SES2	1.0	1.0	0.4	-	-	-	-	1.0	0.4
Total	255.5	125.6	49.2	129.9	50.8	115.0	45.0	140.5	55.0

Table 36. Casual staff expressed as fulltime equivalent, 2019–20

Salary classification	Total	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Female	Male
CL 1	0.51	0.5	-	0.1	0.4
CL 2	3.98	4.0	-	0.7	3.2
CL 3	0.17	0.2	-	-	0.2
CL 4	1.45	1.4	0.1	0.1	1.4
CL 5	0.25	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
CL 6	0.74	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.4
SO C	0.46	-	0.5	-	0.5
SO B	0.51	-	0.5	-	0.5
Total	8.1	6.3	1.8	1.3	6.8

INDEMNITIES AND INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR OFFICERS

No indemnity against liability has been given by agreement or by other means to a current or former officer. The general liability and professional indemnity insurance with Comcover includes directors' and officers' liability provisions and compulsory professional indemnity insurance required by the NT Law Society for its member legal practitioners.

JUDICIAL DECISIONS AND REVIEWS BY OUTSIDE BODIES

On 13 May 2020 Justice Hiley provided his judgement in the matter of *Windbox Pty Ltd v Daguragu Aboriginal Land Trust & Ors (No 3) [2020] NTSC 21*, which concluded the action brought against, among others, the CLC and the land trust. The court found that the plaintiff, Windbox, had not proven its case and dismissed the action. The matter concerned expired and newly applied for grazing licences on the land trust. Prior to judgement, Windbox had agreed to withdraw the action and pay costs. It subsequently removed its cattle from the areas of the land trust which were the subject of the court action.



The staff hosted a fond farewell for director and CLC employee of more than 40 years, David Ross AM, in July 2019.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The human resource staff support the CLC's diverse workforce across Central Australia. Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged and diverted key human resources capability for the last third of the reporting year. However, during 2019–20, the team continued to serve the organisation through a human resources information system, payroll, recruitment and safety functions.

Employee relations

The *Fair Work Act 2009* and the CLC's enterprise agreement 2017–20 establish employment terms and conditions and entitlements. The agreement is the CLC's key industrial instrument. The Fair Work Commission approved the latest agreement on 20 March 2018 for a three-year term. Salary progression is subject to meeting the required performance standards. Performance bonuses are not paid.

Workplace health and safety

Obligations under the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011* were met, and pandemic response planning commenced in early March 2020. On 26 March the CEO directed that only essential work would continue and that staff could work from home where practicable. Support to facilitate this change included access to hardware, technology and resources, and advice to staff on safe work practices, effective communication and counselling services. This phase and the subsequent return to work is yet to be fully completed. Early indications from staff suggest that the transition to alternative working arrangements and the subsequent return to work in early June have been successful.

Table 37. Fulltime equivalent staff by ranger group, 2018–20

Ranger group	2018–19 actual Ongoing	2019–20 actual Ongoing
Anangu (Angas Downs)	1.7	1.9
Anangu Luritjiku (Papunya)	3.4	4.8
Anmatyerr (Ti Tree)	5.7	5.3
Arltarpilta Inelye (Atitjere)*	4.4	4.6
Kaltukatjara (Dockers River)	2.6	1.3
Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa)*	5.2	6.2
Murnkurru (Daguragu)*	4.1	3.9
Muru-warinyi Ankkul (Tennant Creek)	8.1	6.6
Tjakura (Mutijulu)	1.5	2.5
Northern Tanami (Lajamanu)	4.3	3.8
Tjuwanpa (Hermannsburg)	6.5	8.2
Warlpiri (Yuendumu, Nyirrpri and Willowra)	3.5	4.0

Ranger group	2018–19 actual Ongoing	2019–20 actual Ongoing
Walungurru (Kintore) emerging group	–	0.4
Ranger support officers	2.6	4.1
Total rangers	53.6	57.6
Training and mentoring	3.1	4
Coordinators	12.1	11.8
Technical/administration	1.8	8.9
Total	70.6	82.3

* ILC funded.

Reporting requirements under the Work Health and Safety Act

There were two notifiable incidents reported to Comcare under section 38. No notices were issued under section 90 (provisional improvement notices), section 191 (improvement notices), section 195 (prohibition notices) or section 198 (non-disturbance notices).

Work Health and Safety commitment statement

The CLC is committed to providing a safe workplace. It understands that it has a primary duty of care to all employees, traditional land owners and other persons in relation to the work it undertakes.

It provides a safe environment for all employees, constituents, contractors and visitors at all its work locations. Its commitment to and engagement in safety ensure it is a safe workplace and a successful organisation.

It demonstrates this commitment by:

- implementing safe work systems that meet legislative requirements: its responsibilities and system framework are outlined in the work health and safety management arrangements published on its intranet
- consulting with and educating employees in safe work practices and their responsibility to work safely
- continuously improving by measuring its performance against safety objectives and targets and conducting internal and external audits regularly within the workplace



All hands on deck: Scott Newland, Alistair Jackson and Shane McMasters helped with the distribution of sleeping bags and warm winter clothes to remote community residents.

- identifying risks and implementing controls to reduce the risk as far as practicable
- encouraging safety leadership throughout the organisation and celebrating its safety achievements.

Workforce (including Aboriginal) development

Training for new CLC staff, such as first aid, four-wheel driving, cultural awareness, fraud awareness and organisation systems, is mandatory. Short course training is offered to staff on topics such as supervisory skills, conflict resolution, report writing, work health and safety and community consultation.

Thirteen contracts supporting tertiary studies were formalised, six of them with Aboriginal staff. The new position of executive manager policy and governance, reporting to the CEO, was internally filled by the promotion of a female Aboriginal manager. The CLC employs an Aboriginal cadet in the communications team and started a cadet recruitment campaign in early 2020.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE REMUNERATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES – KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Senior executives are offered a three-year contract. The chief executive officer is appointed by the council after consultation with the minister. The chief executive officer appoints other key management personnel and consults with the minister if the position includes the roles of chief financial officer or principal legal officer. Contracts are renewed subject to satisfactory performance.

Remuneration is determined in accordance with senior executive service salary bands. Senior executives are placed within the band in accordance with the position's responsibilities and accountabilities. The salary bands, in practice for at least the last 10 years, are adjusted only in accordance with salary increases as part of the organisation's enterprise bargaining process. Senior executive remuneration is detailed in the annual estimates approved by the minister. Other employment conditions are included in the contract of employment, or standard employment conditions such as leave entitlements are referenced to the enterprise agreement.

The elected chair (three-year term) is a fulltime position and is part of the Accountable Authority, and classified as key management personnel, and receives the allowance determined by the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal.

Table 38. Key management personnel

Name	Position	Term
Sammy Wilson	Chair (elected)	One year, three months
Joe Martin-Jard	Chief executive officer	One year, five months
Nigel Graves	General manager and chief financial officer	10 years

Let's stay safe at CLC meetings!

A lot has changed since the coronavirus pandemic and so have Central Land Council meetings.

The meetings we postponed in March to keep you all safe from the virus can go ahead now.

But we won't be able to run them like we used to because the danger is far from over.

If we don't keep up physical distancing and good hygiene we'll risk spreading the virus.

We will have to stay two big steps away from the next person at our meetings.

And keep up good habits such as lots of hand washing and coughing into elbows or tissues.

We can't share drinks and cigarettes or shake hands.

If a meeting is indoors, we will need to limit the number of people in the room.

Remember, this virus is still around and it's sneaky and very dangerous.

Thanks for helping us to keep our communities safe and see you soon!



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL



Table 39. Information about remuneration for key management personnel

Name	Position title	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
		Base salary	Bonuses	Other benefits and allowances	Superannuation contributions	Long service leave	Other long-term benefits		
Mr Sammy Wilson	Chair	195,085	-	-	23,792	5,205	-	-	224,082
Mr Joseph Martin-Jard	Chief Executive Officer	302,688	-	33,016	33,804	7,866	-	-	377,374
Dr Nigel Graves	General Manager / Chief Financial Officer	261,789	-	19,762	41,455	7,538	-	-	330,544
		759,562	-	52,778	99,051	20,609	-	-	932,000

Base salary comprise the key management personnel's base salary plus the net movement in annual leave for the period.

Other benefits comprise benefits associated with the key management personnel's contract of employment, e.g. a vehicle.

Table 40. Information about remuneration for senior executives

Remuneration bands	Number of senior executives	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
		Average base salary	Average bonuses	Average other benefits and allowances	Average superannuation contributions	Average long service leave	Average other long-term benefits	Average termination benefits	Average total remuneration
\$0- \$220,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$220,001 - \$245,000	1	195,085	-	-	23,792	5,205	-	-	224,082
\$245,001 - \$270,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$270,001 - \$295,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$295,001 - \$320,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$320,001 - \$345,000	1	261,789	-	19,762	41,455	7,538	-	-	330,544
\$345,001 - \$370,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$370,001 - \$395,000	1	302,688	-	33,016	33,804	7,866	-	-	377,374
\$395,001 - \$420,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$420,001 - \$445,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$445,001 - \$470,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$470,001 - \$495,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$495,001 - \$520,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$520,001 - \$545,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 41. Information about remuneration for other highly paid staff

Remuneration bands	Number of other highly paid staff	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
		Average base salary	Average bonuses	Average other benefits and allowances	Average superannuation contributions	Average long service leave	Average other long-term benefits	Average termination benefits	Average total remuneration
\$225,000 - \$250,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$250,001 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



NORTHERN
TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT

Department of
THE CHIEF MINISTER

***“My career started
with a CLC cadetship.”***

2020 CADETSHIP PROGRAM

The Central Land Council is currently offering a cadetship program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who are studying at a university or are planning to do so. We're especially keen to hear from you if you study:

- Finance/ Accounting
- Engineering
- Anthropology
- Spatial data sciences
- Management/Business/Commerce
- Public Policy/Political and Social Sciences
- Environmental or Natural Resource Management
- Law
- Mining/Geology
- Community Development
- Media/Public Relations
- Information Technology
- Human Resources

WHO CAN APPLY FOR A CADETSHIP?

Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who:

- Are enrolled to study fulltime on campus at a University in Australia
- Have been accepted to study fulltime within a University in Australia
- Must be enrolled for their first undergraduate degree course: and
- Have already started or about to begin their higher education study in 2020

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Successful cadets will study full time during the academic year and attend 12 weeks of placement at the CLC. On successful completion of their studies every effort will be made to offer the cadet a permanent position.

GET PAID TO STUDY AND GET:

- Fortnightly salary for the whole year, including for study periods
- Support with textbooks, laptop, equipment and travel costs
- Mentoring and support from industry professionals



**For more information or how to apply, please contact Leonie Jones,
Human Resources Advisor on 08 8951 6377 or jobs@clc.org.au.**

COMPUTER SERVICES

The computer services team develops, supports and maintains modern computing infrastructure and provides a high level of service to regional offices through the best available communication systems and remote support services.

The team supports a fully networked, standardised computer workstation for each employee, except for the rangers. It provides access to email, word processing, internet browsing and a range of other services through the CLC's computing infrastructure. It ensures the integrity and security of electronic data with backup systems, secure network access and virus protection. It also contributes to increased efficiency through the development and implementation of new systems for improved access to information and communications. It includes three specialist geospatial services staff who maintain an extensive geographical information system and manipulate data sets to produce customised maps and who are expanding into web-based mapping.

Major achievements include a new firewall, a wide area network services upgrade, a major document management system upgrade, and videoconferencing for all staff. A range of system migrations and upgrades also took place, such as remote desktop services, certificate servers, a fax/SMS system and mobile device management. As in every year, the team performed its duties with dedication, skill and good humour.

Team members rapidly enabled many of their colleagues to work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic response. They provided them with:

- a transparent virtual private network service, allowing laptops to securely connect to the CLC network via the internet
- access to Zoom videoconferencing, featuring secure single-sign-on and licensing for extended group meetings
- an intranet form and workflow to request equipment for home use
- more than 100 additional equipment items such as laptops, monitors, docks, keyboards, mice, mobile broadband modems, webcams and headsets
- a desktop softphone service for secure external access to the CLC phone system
- a secure remote desktop system for access to specialised desktop computers running in the office
- expanded general remote desktop resources to accommodate additional usage
- significant modifications to the physical security system to restrict access to CLC offices
- a dedicated intranet page with user guides for remote access systems.

Support for the permits/permission letter activities during the biosecurity restrictions included:

- numerous systems changes allowing new cross-sectional groups access services
- additional data storage and capture facilities for the new activities

- office equipment relocation to facilitate physical distancing and improve access
- significant additions and changes to phone system call queues and messaging to accommodate the new activities.

Once the biosecurity zones were lifted and the CLC returned to normal operations, the team carried out extensive work to reverse these changes and return equipment.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The information services team provides archive, records, registry, preservation/digitisation and library services. It preserves and enables access to existing and newly emerging organisational information collections, acquires relevant information resources and ensures that staff can always access them. It does this by managing business systems suitable for the short and longterm management of sensitive information, continuous training, information retrieval, marketing and promotion.

It also plays a key role in information management and governance. Its roles and responsibilities are outlined in the information management framework. The framework is undergoing its first revision in relation to future policy and strategy.

Electronic data and records management and preservation

The CLC manages its records with an electronic data and records management system called eDIS. Paper-based archival material exists as legally mandated by records authorities until digital preservation plans have been actioned. The team has started to preserve/digitise the collections of non-digital material by prioritising at-risk formats, such as analogue audiovisual collections; high use collections, such as land and native title claims; and corporate records, such as council and executive meeting agendas, minutes and resolutions.

These non-digital collections contains audio recordings, video and film footage from the early 1980s to the early 2000s. The digitised Australian Research Council's linkage and CLC cultural media project materials are in the final stages of being transferred to eDIS.



Richard Tuckwell, Blythe Schembri and Andrew Love are the geospatial services team, better known as 'mapping'.

Table 42. Digitisation of archival material, 2019–20

Source	Number	Digital records produced
Paper (meetings and land claim files)	454	454
Film, video and audio	1,826	2,465
ARC linkage/CLC cultural media project	637	808
Total	2,917	3,727

Retention and disposal

The digitisation process has facilitated the identification of duplicate records, consolidation of holdings and freeing up of storage space. Files managed in accordance with National Archives retention requirements include 98 boxes identified as required by National Archives, 23 boxes of land claim records, and 90 boxes of council and executive committee files. The team consolidated and securely stored 279 boxes of pre-2016 personnel files. It identified 49 boxes of pre-2016 registry files and 242 boxes of financial and accounting files that will be destroyed. It disposed of 1,301 print and digital records and identified 1,923 records as due for destruction, pending business unit approvals.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Fleet management

The CLC owns and manages a substantial fleet of vehicles, including four-wheel drives and all-terrain vehicles, trailers and trucks. The fleet management strategy ensures vehicles are reliable, safe, suitably equipped and prepared for remote staff travel. It also aims to maximise availability and repair/maintenance downtime. The majority of the vehicle fleet is replaced every three years, depending on use, which minimises the whole-of-life-cycle costs. By that time, remote operational vehicles reach their optimal age and maintenance expenditure escalates.

BDO Data Analytics commenced a comprehensive review of the CLC's Stuart Highway fleet in 2018. The consultants used vehicle booking and GPS tracking data to model fleet movements. Building on two years of data, they analysed factors influencing vehicle availability. The analysis continues to inform fleet investment decisions and identify areas for improvement. Staff booking practices significantly impact on vehicle availability and are being targeted for improvement. The size of the Stuart Highway fleet will meet current demand if booking practices improve.

Land and buildings management

After some commissioning delays, the 350-kilowatt rooftop solar array at the Stuart Highway office started operating in March 2020. In its first months, the system showed a significant reduction of grid energy use. This was reflected in lower electricity expenditure and increased contribution to renewable energy targets. The Power and Water Corporation's requirements included a cloud camera to control energy

demand from the town grid. When the camera detects clouds, it reduces solar energy production and increases the amount of power drawn from the grid, preventing a rapid spike in demand for mains electricity when an unexpected cloud bank appears.

Tangentyere Constructions completed the new CLC office in Kalkaringi in November 2019. The facility offers a modern office with an undercover meeting space, and two accommodation units for visiting staff. The buildings were partially constructed in Alice Springs, facilitating quality control and access to trades as well as reducing construction waste in the community.

The CLC has progressed plans for new ranger sheds and visiting staff accommodation units at Willowra and Nyirrpri. Construction is programmed to commence in the second half of 2020.

Two projects in Mutitjulu, new staff accommodation, and an upgrade of the CLC office cannot progress until Parks Australia, which manages essential services in the community, reviews the current and projected demands on power, sewerage and water services. The delay means CLC staff continue to live in poor quality and shortterm housing and cannot hold effective meetings, consolidate the ranger group operations, nor provide visiting colleagues with secure accommodation.

ABORIGINAL BENEFIT ACCOUNT (ABA) APPLICATIONS SUPPORT PROJECT TRIAL

This three-year project aims to assist Aboriginal organisations or individuals needing help to apply for ABA grants. The National Indigenous Australians Agency has funded two positions to establish, implement and evaluate the trial. The CLC has recruited a suitably experienced project manager to mentor a project officer in an identified staff position. The project officer will commence in July 2020.

Starting in January, the project manager set up the project before being effectively grounded by COVID-19. Despite these constraints, he designed and implemented a community information campaign featuring a plain English pamphlet, poster, press articles and Aboriginal radio announcements. He also promoted the project to his colleagues, liaised with the NIAA about improved application guidelines, and consulted with 15 potential applicants.

ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION UNIT

The land councils have helped Aboriginal people win back almost half of the NT land mass and 80 per cent of the coastline under land rights, as well as more than an additional 250,000 square kilometres of land and water under native title. In the coming 'post-determination' era, they are increasingly focussed on assisting Aboriginal people to use their land for social, cultural and economic benefits.

The new era presents fresh opportunities and challenges for Aboriginal economic participation.

The CLC's new economic participation unit will play a crucial role in coordinating and catalysing economic development, leveraging the organisation's broad capabilities, and applying learnings from past approaches to support sustainable economic outcomes for its constituents. The CLC engaged consultants to advise on how to structure the unit and its interaction with the following economic participation activities:

- land use agreements
- land planning and enterprise support
- ranger program
- employment support
- community development program
- ABA applications support
- Centrecorp Aboriginal Investment Corporation shareholding (charitable trust benefiting Aboriginal people)
- partnership with the Northern Land Council (Centrefarm horticultural pilots scheme)
- participation in NT remote housing steering committee
- advocacy and policy development relating to land tenure, employment and training and Aboriginal economic development.

DUTY TO KEEP THE MINISTER/FINANCE MINISTER INFORMED (SECTION 19, PGPA ACT)

No matter during 2019–20 required the minister to be informed under section 19.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Aboriginal land councils and land trusts are listed in part I of schedule 2 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth). Pursuant to section 7, the CLC is not subject to freedom of information requests.



The new rooftop solar array includes a cloud camera that controls energy demand from the Alice Springs town grid.



Alistair Jackson stacked boxes of sleeping bags for constituents in the biosecurity areas.



Michael Latz and his IT team made sure the CLC's systems coped with the work-from-home regime during the COVID-19 pandemic.



The new office at Kalkaringi includes a shaded outdoor meeting area.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Central Land Council financial statements

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Indigenous Australians

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Central Land Council (the Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2020:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and
- (b) present fairly the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2020 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Entity, which I have audited, comprise the following statements as at 30 June 2020 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Accountable Authority and Chief Financial Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements for financial statement audits conducted by the Auditor-General and his delegates. These include the relevant independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) to the extent that they are not in conflict with the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Accountable Authority's responsibility for the financial statements

As the Accountable Authority of the Entity, the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer are responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (the Act) for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the rules made under the Act. The Chair and the Chief Executive Officer are also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer are responsible for assessing the ability of the Entity to continue as a going concern, taking into account whether the Entity's operations will cease as a result of an administrative restructure or for any other reason. The Chair and the Chief Executive Officer are also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

GPO Box 707 CANBERRA ACT 2601
19 National Circuit BARTON ACT
Phone (02) 6203 7300 Fax (02) 6203 7777

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

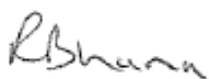
My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Authority;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Accountable Authority regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Australian National Audit Office



Rita Bhana

Audit Principal

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra

28 August 2020

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL
For the period ended 30 June 2020

STATEMENT BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the period ended 30 June 2020 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsection 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Central Land Council will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with this declaration of the Accountable Authority:

Signed

Mr. Joseph Martin-Jard
Chief Executive Officer
Accountable Authority
Date: 27/8/2020

Signed

Mr. Sammy Wilson
Chair
Accountable Authority
Date: 27 August 2020

Signed

Dr Nigel Graves FCPA
Chief Financial Officer
Date: 27/8/2020

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	NOTES	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES EXPENSES			
Employees and council members benefits	3(a)	27,304	25,961
Suppliers	3(b)	16,014	15,328
Finance costs	3(c)	7	–
Depreciation and amortisation	7(a)	2,821	2,776
Total expenses		46,146	44,065
OWN-SOURCE INCOME			
Own-source revenue			
Revenue from contracts with customers	4(a)	4,592	3,924
Interest	4(b)	312	486
Rental Income	4(c)	60	86
Other revenue	4(d)	3,515	3,378
Total own-source revenue		8,479	7,874
Gains			
Gains from sale of assets	4(e)	387	395
Increase in fair value of investment property		–	13
Total gains		387	408
Total own-source income		8,866	8,282
Net cost of services		37,280	35,783
Revenue from government	4(f)	43,563	35,349
Surplus/(Deficit) on continuing operations		6,283	(434)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus	7(a)	–	937
Total other comprehensive income		–	937
Total comprehensive income / (loss)		6,283	503

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	NOTES	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6(a)	23,380	15,104
Trade and other receivables	6(b)	1,725	1,708
Total financial assets		25,105	16,812
Non-financial assets¹			
Land and buildings	7(a)	26,018	25,543
Investment property	7(b)	505	505
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	7(a)	7,225	6,706
Inventories	7(c)	5	20
Total non-financial assets		33,753	32,774
Total assets		58,858	49,586
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	8(a)	8,657	1,457
Other payables	8(b)	1,098	1,794
Total payables		9,755	3,251
Interest bearing liabilities			
Leases	9	452	–
Total interest bearing liabilities		452	–
Provisions			
Employee provisions	10(a)	4,560	4,167
Total provisions		4,560	4,167
Total liabilities		14,767	7,418
NET ASSETS		44,091	42,168
EQUITY			
Asset revaluation reserve		8,012	8,012
Retained surplus		36,079	34,156
TOTAL EQUITY		44,091	42,168

¹ Right-of-use assets are included in the Land and Buildings.

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Retained surplus		Asset revaluation reserve		Total Equity	
	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Opening balance						
Balance carried forward from previous period	34,156	34,590	8,012	7,075	42,168	41,665
Adjustment for initial application of AASB 15 /AASB 1058	(4,360)	–	–	–	(4,360)	–
Adjusted opening balance	29,796	34,590	8,012	7,075	37,808	41,665
Comprehensive income						
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	6,283	(434)	–	937	6,283	503
Total comprehensive income	6,283	(434)	–	937	6,283	503
of which:						
Attributable to the Australian Government	6,283	(434)	–	937	6,283	503
Closing balance as at 30 June 2019	36,079	34,156	8,012	8,012	44,091	42,168

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Equity injections

Amounts appropriated which are designed as 'equity injections' for a year (less any formal reductions).

Other distributions to owners

The *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015* (FRR) requires that distributions to owners be debited to contributed equity unless it is in the nature of a dividend. In 2019–20 the Central Land Council (CLC) did not make any contributions to owners (2018-19 \$0).

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	NOTES	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Operating activities			
Cash received			
Sales of goods and rendering of services		8,440	7,950
Receipts from Government		47,810	38,243
Rental income		27	60
Net GST received from ATO		6	–
Interest		313	500
Total cash received		56,596	46,753
Cash used			
Employees		26,910	25,560
Suppliers		18,460	19,298
Interest payments on lease liabilities		7	–
Net GST paid to ATO		–	32
Total cash used		45,377	44,890
Net cash from operating activities		11,219	1,863
Investing activities			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant & equipment		817	883
Rental income on investment property		33	26
Total cash received		850	909
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	7(a)	3,688	2,983
Total cash used		3,688	2,983
Net cash (used by) investing activities		(2,838)	(2,074)
Financing activities			
Cash used			
Principal payment of lease liabilities		105	–
Net cash (used by) financing activities		(105)	–
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		8,276	(211)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		15,104	15,315
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	6(a)	23,380	15,104

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

OVERVIEW

NOTE 1: THE BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements and are required by section 42 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- a) *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015 (FRR)*; and
- b) Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations - Reduced Disclosure Requirements issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand unless otherwise specified.

Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

The Central Land Council's remote operations were significantly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Commonwealth Health Minister established bio-security boundaries throughout the Northern Territory locking down all remote aboriginal communities. Travel into these restricted zones was restricted to essential services, much of the work CLC does in these communities did not qualify as essential. CLC imposed its own risk-management of all offices with most staff working from home with only deemed essential staff working at the main office in Alice Springs.

NOTE 2 - NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the applicable dates as stated in standard, unless otherwise stated. All new standards/revised standards/interpretations/amending standards issued prior to the sign-off date applicable to the current reporting period did not have a material financial impact, unless otherwise stated.

Adoption of Australian Accounting Standards

Standard/ Interpretation	Nature of change in accounting policy, transitional provisions ¹ , and adjustment to financial statements
AASB 15 <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i> / AASB 2016-8 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Entities</i> and AASB 1058 <i>Income of Not-For-Profit Entities</i>	<p>AASB 15, AASB 2016-8 and AASB 1058 became effective 1 July 2019.</p> <p>AASB 15 establishes a comprehensive framework for determining whether, how much and when revenue is recognised. It replaces existing revenue recognition guidance, including AASB 118 <i>Revenue</i>, AASB 111 <i>Construction Contracts</i> and Interpretation 13 <i>Customer Loyalty Programmes</i>. The core principle of AASB 15 is that an entity recognises revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services.</p> <p>AASB 1058 is relevant in circumstances where AASB 15 does not apply. AASB 1058 replaces most of the not-for-profit (NFP) provisions of AASB 1004 <i>Contributions</i> and applies to transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value principally to enable the entity to further its objectives, and where volunteer services are received.</p> <p>The details of the changes in accounting policies, transitional provisions and adjustments are disclosed below and in the relevant notes to the financial statements.</p>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Standard/ Interpretation	Nature of change in accounting policy, transitional provisions ¹ , and adjustment to financial statements
AASB 16 Leases	<p>AASB 16 became effective on 1 July 2019.</p> <p>This new standard has replaced AASB 117 Leases, Interpretation 4 <i>Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease</i>, Interpretation 115 <i>Operating Leases—Incentives</i> and Interpretation 127 <i>Evaluating the Substance of Transactions Involving the Legal Form of a Lease</i>.</p> <p>AASB 16 provides a single lessee accounting model, requiring the recognition of assets and liabilities for all leases, together with options to exclude leases where the lease term is 12 months or less, or where the underlying asset is of low value. AASB 16 substantially carries forward the lessor accounting in AASB 117, with the distinction between operating leases and finance leases being retained. The details of the changes in accounting policies, transitional provisions and adjustments are disclosed below and in the relevant notes to the financial statements.</p>

Application of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers / AASB 1058 Income of Not-For-Profit Entities

The Central Land Council (CLC) adopted AASB 15 and AASB 1058 using the modified retrospective approach, under which the cumulative effect of initial application is recognised in retained surplus at 1 July 2019. Accordingly, the comparative information presented for 2019 is not restated, that is, it is presented as previously reported under the various applicable AASBs and related interpretations.

Under the new income recognition model CLC shall first determine whether an enforceable agreement exists and whether the promises to transfer goods or services to the customer are 'sufficiently specific'. If an enforceable agreement exists and the promises are 'sufficiently specific' (to a transaction or part of a transaction), CLC applies the general AASB 15 principles to determine the appropriate revenue recognition. If these criteria are not met, CLC shall consider whether AASB 1058 applies.

In relation to AASB 15, CLC elected to apply the new standard to all new and uncompleted contracts from the date of initial application. CLC is required to aggregate the effect of all of the contract modifications that occur before the date of initial application.

In terms of AASB 1058, CLC is required to recognise volunteer services at fair value if those services would have been purchased if not provided voluntarily, and the fair value of those services can be measured reliably. CLC does not have any services provided by volunteers.

Impact on transition

The impact on transition is summarised below:

	1 July 2019
Liabilities	\$'000
Contract liabilities	4,360
Total liabilities	4,360
Total adjustment recognised in retained surplus	4,360

Set out below are the amounts by which each financial statement line item is affected as at and for the year ended 30 June 2020 as a result of the adoption of AASB 15 and AASB 1058. The first column shows amounts prepared under AASB 15 and AASB 1058 and the second column shows what the amounts would have been had AASB 15 and AASB 1058 not been adopted:

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Transitional disclosure

	AASB 15 / AASB 1058 \$'000	Previous AAS \$'000	Increase / (decrease) \$'000
Expenses			
Total Expenses	46,146	46,146	–
Revenue			
Total own-source revenue	8,866	8,866	–
Revenue from government	43,563	45,051	(1,488)
Total Revenue	52,429	53,917	(1,488)
Net (cost of)/contribution by services	(6,283)	(7,771)	1,488
Liabilities			
Contract liabilities	5,848	–	5,848
Retained surplus	(12,131)	(7,771)	(4,360)

CLC recognised contract liabilities totalling \$5,848k related to unearned revenue as at 30 June 2020. \$4,360k relates to unearned income prior to 1 July 2019 and has been recognised as an adjustment to retained surplus. \$1,488k relates to grant funding received during 2019–20 that remains unearned at 30 June 2020.

Application of AASB 16 Leases

CLC adopted AASB 16 using the modified retrospective approach, under which the cumulative effect of initial application is recognised in retained surplus at 1 July 2019. Accordingly, the comparative information presented for 2019 is not restated, that is, it is presented as previously reported under AASB 117 and related interpretations.

CLC elected to apply the practical expedient to not reassess whether a contract is, or contains a lease at the date of initial application. Contracts entered into before the transition date that were not identified as leases under AASB 117 were not reassessed. The definition of a lease under AASB 16 was applied only to contracts entered into or changed on or after 1 July 2019.

AASB 16 provides for certain optional practical expedients, including those related to the initial adoption of the standard. The CLC applied the following practical expedients when applying AASB 16 to leases previously classified as operating leases under AASB 117:

- Apply a single discount rate to a portfolio of leases with reasonably similar characteristics;
- Exclude initial direct costs from the measurement of right-of-use assets at the date of initial application for leases where the right-of-use asset was determined as if AASB 16 had been applied since the commencement date;
- Reliance on previous assessments on whether leases are onerous as opposed to preparing an impairment review under AASB 136 *Impairment of assets* as at the date of initial application; and
- Applied the exemption not to recognise right-of-use assets and liabilities for leases with less than 12 months of lease term remaining as of the date of initial application.

As a lessee, CLC previously classified leases as operating or finance leases based on its assessment of whether the lease transferred substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership. Under AASB 16, CLC recognises right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for most leases. However, CLC has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for some leases of low value assets based on the value of the underlying asset when new or for short-term leases with a lease term of 12 months or less.

In the current year, CLC has applied AASB 2018-8 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Right-of- Use Assets of Not-for-Profit Entities* which is effective for an annual period that begins on or after 1 January 2019.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

For NFP entities with leases that have significantly below-market terms and conditions principally to enable the entity to further its objectives (commonly known as concessionary leases or peppercorn leases), AASB 1058 and AASB 16 requires NFP entities to measure right-of-use assets at initial recognition at fair value (based on AASB 13), the lease liability per AASB 16 and the difference to be accounted as income upfront. AASB 2018-8 provides a temporary option for NFP lessees to elect to measure a class (or classes) of right-of-use assets arising under 'concessionary leases' at initial recognition, at either fair value or cost. For the concessionary leases, CLC has decided to make use of the temporary option under AASB 2018-8 to measure the right-of-use assets at cost on initial recognition.

On adoption of AASB 16, CLC recognised right-of-use assets and lease liabilities in relation to Lots and buildings for staff accommodation. CLC leases various lands in remote locations of Northern Territory to build offices or staff accommodation. Certain land leases are under concessionary arrangements and have been recognised at cost as permitted by AASB 2018-8. These leases are on long term arrangements and are renewed as and when the existing term expires. CLC does not lease vehicles or office equipment.

The lease liabilities were measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments, discounted using CLC's incremental borrowing rate as at 1 July 2019. CLC's incremental borrowing rate is the rate at which a similar borrowing could be obtained from an independent creditor under comparable terms and conditions. The weighted-average rate applied was 2.7%.

The right-of-use assets were measured at the carrying value that would have resulted from AASB 16 being applied from the commencement date of the leases, subject to the practical expedients noted above.

Impact on transition

On transition to AASB 16, CLC recognised additional right-of-use assets and additional lease liabilities, recognising the difference in retained surplus. The impact on transition is summarised below:

	1 July 2019
	\$'000
Right-of-use assets - Land and Buildings	556
Lease liabilities	556
Retained earnings	–

The following table reconciles the minimum lease commitments disclosed in the entity's 30 June 2019 annual financial statements to the amount of lease liabilities recognised on 1 July 2019:

	1 July 2019 \$,000
Minimum operating lease commitment at 30 June 2019	1,272
Less: short-term leases not recognised under AASB 16	(561)
Plus: lease not included in operating lease commitment at 30 June 2019	10
Undiscounted lease payments	721
Less: effect of discounting using the incremental borrowing rate as at the date of initial application	(165)
Lease liabilities recognised at 1 July 2019	556

Taxation

CLC is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Events after the reporting period

CLC is not aware of any event occurring after balance date that would materially affect the financial statements.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

NOTE 3: EXPENSES

NOTE 3(A) - EMPLOYEE AND COUNCIL MEMBER BENEFITS

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Wages & salaries	23,043	22,036
Superannuation (defined contribution plans)	3,008	2,691
Leave and other entitlements	671	614
Other employee benefits	582	620
Total employee benefits	27,304	25,961

All payments are within the terms of the 2017-2020 CLC Enterprise Agreement (EA). The CLC makes an additional superannuation contribution of 3% over and above the Superannuation Guarantee Levy of 9.5%.

The CLC pays compulsory Professional Indemnity Insurance to Law Society NT for all its practicing Lawyers and pays Comcover a premium for Accountable Authority and Officers insurance.

Accounting policies for employee related expenses are contained in Note 10.

NOTE 3(B): SUPPLIERS

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Goods and services supplied or rendered		
Accounting and Audit	204	204
Consultants	1,587	1,551
Contractors	487	169
Travel, motor vehicle and meeting expenses	3,061	3,830
Accommodation and utilities	2,369	2,233
Other operating expenses	4,342	3,449
Community project expenses	3,515	3,372
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	15,565	14,808
Services rendered	15,565	14,808
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	15,565	14,808
Other supplier expenses		
Operating lease rentals ¹	–	169
Low value leases ¹	112	–
Workers Compensation & Professional Indemnity Insurance premium	337	351
Total other supplier expenses	449	520
Total supplier expenses	16,014	15,328

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Leasing commitments

CLC leases various Indigenous lands in remote locations of Northern Territory where offices or staff accommodation, owned by CLC, are located. These leases are on long term lease arrangements and renewed as and when the existing term expires. CLC does not lease vehicles or office equipment.

Accounting Policy

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

CLC has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for leases of low-value assets (less than \$10,000). The entity recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 3(c), 7(a) and 9.

NOTE 3(C) - FINANCE COSTS

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Finance leases ¹	7	–
	7	–

¹ CLC has applied AASB 16 using the modified retrospective approach and therefore the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be reported under AASB 117.

The above lease disclosure should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 3(b), 7(a) and 9.

NOTE 4: INCOME OWN SOURCE REVENUE

NOTE 4(A) - REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Rendering of services	4,592	3,923
Total Revenue from contracts with customers	4,592	3,923
Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers		
Type of customer:		
Australian Government entities (related parties)	89	74
State and Territory Governments	131	74
Non-government entities	4,372	3,775
	4,592	3,923

The principal activities associated with Revenue from contracts with customers relate to fees for service and fees for administrative support. The associated revenue is recognised over time as the services are delivered/performed.

The transaction price is the total amount of consideration which CLC expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring promised services to a customer. The consideration promised in a contract with a customer may include fixed amounts, variable amounts or both.

CLC applies the practical expedient provided in AASB15.121 by not disclosing information for a performance obligation if the duration of the contract is less than 1 year.

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

Receivables for goods and rendering of services, which have 30 days credit term, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at the end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of debt is no longer probable.

NOTE 4(B) - INTEREST

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Interest from cash & short-term deposits	312	486
Total interest	312	486

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method.

NOTE 4(C) - RENTAL INCOME

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Operating lease - other	60	86
Total rental income	60	86

Rental income commitments

CLC leased out an office building at 6 Kennett Court Alice Springs in 2017 for 3 years with the option to renew for another 2 years. Pursuant to the lease agreement the lessee requested a grant of a further lease in May 2020. Thus the right to renew has been exercised as at 30 June 2020.

Commitments for rental income receivables are as follows:

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Within 1 year	31	31
Between 1 to 5 years	37	67
More than 5 years	–	–
Total rental income commitments	68	98

NOTE 4(D) - OTHER REVENUE/GAINS

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Community project income	3,515	3,378
Total other gains	3,515	3,378

Accounting policy

CLC facilitates community projects on behalf of various indigenous organisations and communities in Central Australia. These are on a cost basis with no intention to earn any profit on these activities. At year end, total expenditure is matched with the income leaving no impact on the year end result.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

NOTE 4(E) - GAINS FROM SALE OF ASSETS

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Motor vehicles, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale	817	883
Carrying value of assets sold	(430)	(488)
Net gain from sale of assets	387	395

Sale of assets

Gains from disposal of assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

NOTE 4(F) - REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
From Government – ABA s.64(1)	23,461	19,380
From Government – Special Purpose Contracts	17,622	13,298
From Government – Special Purpose Contracts (revenue received in advance but not yet spent)	2,480	2,671
Total revenue from Government	43,563	35,349

Amounts appropriated for departmental appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as Revenue from Government when the entity gains control of the appropriation, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned.

Funding received or receivable from non-corporate Commonwealth entities (appropriated to the non-corporate Commonwealth entity as a corporate Commonwealth entity payment item for payment to this entity) is recognised as Revenue from Government unless they are in the nature of an equity injection or a loan. Funding received in accordance with ABA s.64(1) is recognised immediately in accordance with AASB 1058. Special purpose grants with sufficient specific performance obligations are recognised in accordance with AASB 15. Contracts with no specific performance obligations are recognised in accordance with AASB 1058.

NOTE 5: STATEMENT OF BUDGET vs ACTUAL ABORIGINALS BENEFIT ACCOUNT APPROPRIATIONS

	ABA approved estimates 2019–20 \$'000	ABA actual 2019–20 \$'000	Variance 2019–20 \$'000
Expenditure			
Salaries and related expenses	15,430	15,100	330
Operational expenses	7,880	7,501	379
Total recurrent expenditure	23,310	22,601	709
Capital	4,512	2,629	1,883
Total expenditure	27,822	25,230	2592
Income			
ABA s.64(1)	23,460	23,460	–

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Administration fees	2,200	2,874	674
Interest	300	305	5
Sale of assets	582	441	(141)
Recoveries	1,100	588	(512)
Other	180	221	41
Total income	27,822	27,889	67
ABA surplus at 30 June 2020	–	2,659	2,659

The net surplus of \$2,659K is accounted for as follows:

	2019–20 \$'000	
ABA surplus at 30 June 2020:	2,659	Notes
(Less) Committed towards building upgrades.	(2,080)	(i)
(Less) Motor vehicles	(181)	(ii)
Add: Pending Motor vehicles disposals	201	(iii)
(Less) IT Projects	(985)	(iv)
(Less) Committed operational expenses	(308)	(v)
(Add) Capital Expenditure from 2018/19 funding	737	(vi)
ABA surplus after commitments as at 30 June 2020	43	

Notes:

- (i) Committed for new regional staff housing and regional offices delayed due to pandemic restrictions on contractors' travel.
- (ii) Pending replacement of motor vehicles as per Transport Strategy.
- (iii) Income budgeted, vehicles yet to be disposed.
- (iv) Enterprise Participation Unit budget supplement approved March 2020, unspent funding.
- (v) Pending operational expenses provided for Enterprise Participation Unit commissioning delayed due to pandemic restrictions.
- (vi) Capital expenditure approved in 2018-19 budget spent during 2019–20.

NOTE 6: FINANCIAL ASSETS

NOTE 6(A) - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Cash on hand or on deposit	23,380	15,104
Total cash and cash equivalents	23,380	15,104

Accounting policy

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents include:

- 1) cash on hand
- 2) petty cash
- 3) demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

NOTE 6(B) - TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Goods and services receivables		
Goods and services	1,580	1,616
Total receivables for goods and services	1,580	1,616
Other receivables		
GST receivable from Australian Taxation Office	115	121
Interest receivable	42	43
Total other receivables	157	164
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	1,737	1,780
Less: impairment allowance account		
Goods and services	(12)	(72)
	(12)	(72)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	1,725	1,708

All receivables are current assets. Debtors are recognised at their nominal amounts due less provisions for impairment, if any. CLC uses the simplified approach from AASB 9 in calculating the less allowance for trade, contract and lease receivables. This approach always measures the loss allowance as the amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses. All debtors are unsecured and, as such the carrying value of the net receivables represent the amount exposed to credit risk.

Credit terms for services were within 30 days (2019: 30 days).

Reconciliation of the Impairment Allowance Account Movements in relation to 2020 – Goods and services

Opening balance	72	72
Provision recognised	7	–
Amounts written off	(30)	–
Amounts recovered and reversed	(37)	–
Increase/(decrease) recognised in net surplus	(60)	–
Closing balance	12	72

Financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period.

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that are held for the purpose of collecting the contractual cash flows where the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, that are not provided at below market interest rates, are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method adjusted for any loss allowance.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

NOTE 7(A): ANALYSIS OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Table (A): Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment 2019–20	Land & buildings \$'000	Motor vehicles^ \$'000	Plant & equipment^ \$'000	Library^ \$'000	Computer equipment & software^ \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2019						
Gross book value	25,543	8,901	3,019	465	2,245	40,172
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	–	(4,413)	(1,806)	–	(1,704)	(7,923)
Net book value 1 July 2019	25,543	4,488	1,212	465	541	32,249
Recognition of right of use assets on initial application of AASB 16	556	–	–	–	–	556
Adjusted total as at 1 July 2019	26,099	4,488	1,212	465	541	32,805
Additions						
By purchase	915	1,985	342	4	442	3,688
Depreciation and amortisation	(879)	(1,295)	(197)	–	(333)	(2,704)
Depreciation on right of use assets	(117)	–	–	–	–	(117)
Disposals - Gross value	–	(1,687)	–	–	–	(1,687)
Disposals - Accumulated depreciation	–	1,257	–	–	–	1,257
Net book value 30 June 2020	26,018	4,749	1,357	469	650	33,242
Net book value as of 30 June 2020 represented by						
Gross book value*	27,014	9,200	3,360	469	2,687	42,729
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(996)	(4,451)	(2,003)	–	(2,037)	(9,486)
Net book value 30 June 2020	26,018	4,749	1,357	469	650	33,243
Carrying amount of right-of-use assets	439	–	–	–	–	439

* Gross book value as at 30 June 2020 includes works in progress of \$45k.

^ These asset classes are presented collectively as Infrastructure, plant and equipment in the Statement of Financial Position.

Revaluations of non-financial assets

All land and buildings were subject to revaluation and were independently revalued by James Lang LaSalle, Adelaide at 30 June 2019.

A revaluation increment of \$937K for land and buildings was credited to the asset revaluation reserve and included in the equity section of the balance sheet in 2019.

At 30 June 2020, the Accountable Authorities believe that all non-financial assets as reported are carried at the present fair market value and no indicators of impairment were found for non-financial assets.

No Land or Buildings are currently held for sale or are expected to be sold or disposed in the next 12 months.

CLC's Library has a collection of books considered valuable. This collection was independently revalued as 30 June 2016 by Matthew Fishburn, a rare book dealer. The value of the collection is considered immaterial for ongoing external valuations. CLC management assessed the valuation of the collection as at 30 June 2020 and deemed it to be fairly valued.

No property, plant or equipment is currently held for sale or expected to be sold or disposed in the next 12 months.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Accounting policy

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Non-financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition.

Asset recognition threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the balance sheet, except for purchases costing less than \$2,000 excluding GST, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located, including any necessary make good provisions.

Lease Right of Use (ROU) assets

Leased ROU assets are capitalised at the commencement date of the lease and comprise the initial lease liability amount, initial indirect costs incurred when entering into the lease less any lease incentive received. These assets are accounted for by CLC as a separate asset classes to the corresponding assets owned outright but are included in the same column where the corresponding underlying assets would be presented if they were owned.

On initial adoption of AASB 16 *Leases* CLC has adjusted the ROU assets at the date of initial application by the amount of any provision for onerous leases recognised immediately before the date of initial application. Following initial application, an impairment review is undertaken for any right of use lease asset that shows indicators of impairment and an impairment loss is recognised against any right of use lease asset that is impaired. Lease ROU assets continue to be measured at cost after initial recognition in CLC financial statements.

Revaluation

Following initial recognition at cost, land, buildings and rare books (excluding ROU assets) are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets are not materially different from their fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in the market value of the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of Asset Revaluation Reserve except to the extent that it reversed a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reversed in a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset is restated to the revalued amount.

Frequency

Freehold land and buildings are subject to a formal independent valuation at a minimum of every three years. The CLC policy is for formal valuations to be carried out by an independent qualified valuer. Between formal valuations assets are assessed for movements in fair value.

Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to CLC using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation.

Capital work-in-progress is not depreciated until the asset is ready for use.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are based on the following useful lives:

	2020	2019
Buildings on freehold land	40 years	40 years
Leasehold improvements	40 years	40 years
Motor vehicles	4 - 10 years	4 - 10 years
Computer equipment	3 - 4 years	3 - 4 years
Plant and equipment	7 - 10 years	7 - 10 years
Right of use assets	over the life of the lease	n/a

The revalued amounts of property, plant and equipment are depreciated for the remaining life of the asset.

The aggregate amount of depreciation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 7. The majority of Library asset purchases are individually under \$2,000 (the fixed asset threshold), and are charged directly to expenses. The Library assets are not subject to periodic revaluations and are not depreciated.

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2020. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment is made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the CLC was deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

Intangibles

The CLC's intangibles comprises an Electronic Documents and a Records Management System (EDRMS) and Microsoft NAV, a finance system, and installation of the software. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life. The useful lives of the CLC's software are 3 - 4 years (2019: 3 - 4 years)

NOTE 7(B) - INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
As at 1 July 2019	505	492
Net gain / (loss) from fair value adjustments	—	13
Total as at 30 June 2020	505	505

CLC leased out an office building at 6 Kennett Court Alice Springs in 2017 for 3 years with the option to renew for another 2 years. Pursuant to the lease agreement the lessee requested a grant of a further lease in May 2020. Thus the right to renew has been exercised as at 30 June 2020.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Accounting Policy

Investment properties are measured initially at cost, including transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, investment properties are stated at fair value. Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair values of investment properties are recognised in profit or loss in the year in which they arise.

Where an investment property is acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, its cost is deemed to be its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Investment properties are derecognised either when they have been disposed of or when the investment property is permanently withdrawn from use and no further economic benefit is expected from its disposal. Any gain or losses on disposals of an investment property are recognised in profit or loss in the year of disposal.

NOTE 7(C) - INVENTORY

INVENTORIES HELD FOR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION (COST):

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Tyres	5	20
Total inventories	5	20

During 2020 \$134k (2019: \$142k) of inventory held for internal distribution was recognised as an expense. All inventories are expected to be utilised within 12 months.

Inventories held for internal distribution are valued at cost, adjusted for any loss of service potential. Costs incurred in bringing each item of inventory to its present location and condition are assigned on purchase cost on a first-in-first-out basis.

Inventories acquired at no cost or nominal consideration, are initially measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.

NOTE 8: PAYABLES

NOTE 8(A) - SUPPLIERS

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Trade payables	1,490	788
Sundry payables and accruals	1,319	669
Contract liabilities	5,848	–
Total supplier payables	8,657	1,457

The contract liabilities are associated with unearned revenue under AASB 15.

All contract liabilities will be expended within 12 months.

NOTE 8(B) - OTHER PAYABLES

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Salaries and wages	1,098	776
Unspent grants	–	1,018
Total other payables	1,098	1,794

Salary and wages accrue as a result of services provided up to the reporting date that remain unpaid.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

NOTE 9: INTEREST BEARING LIABILITIES

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Leases	452	–
Total interest bearing liabilities	452	–

CLC has applied AASB 16 using the modified retrospective approach and therefore the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be reported under AASB 117. Lease liabilities relate to ROU assets included in Land and Buildings.

Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2020 was \$105k. Refer to Note 2 for the accounting policy on leases.

NOTE 10: PROVISIONS

NOTE 10(A) - EMPLOYEE PROVISIONS

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Leave	4,560	4,167
Total employee provisions	4,560	4,167

Long Service Leave liabilities were calculated using the shorthand method as at 30 June 2020 as detailed in FRR.

Employee benefits

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits expected within twelve months of the end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

Other long-term employee benefits are measured as net total of the present value at the end of the reporting period.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of CLC is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time the leave is taken, including the CLC's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The estimate of the present value of the long service leave liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Superannuation

The majority of employees of CLC are members of REST and Acumen Superannuation Funds. The CLC makes employer contributions to the REST, Acumen and other superannuation funds at the rate of 12.5% paid on a fortnightly basis. CLC complies with the requirements of the superannuation choice legislation. All superannuation contributions are to accumulated contribution plan.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions for the final fortnight of the year.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

NOTE 11: RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE

The Central Land Council is a corporate Commonwealth entity. Related parties to this entity are the Key Management Personnel and other Australian Government entities.

There were no loans or grants made to directors or director related entities during the period. All transactions with directors or director related entities were made on normal terms and conditions. In cases where transactions occurred, the directors took no part in relevant decisions.

CLC holds three fully paid ordinary shares issued at \$1.00 each in Centrecorp Aboriginal Investment Corporation Pty Ltd ('Centrecorp'), the trustee of two charitable trusts. Centrecorp itself does not have financial transactions or prepare financial statements. The Deeds of both charitable trusts exclude CLC as a shareholder to benefit from the trusts and precludes the Deeds from being amended to ever allow such a benefit. As a result the CLC does not control or have influence over these entities. The fair value of the three shares is \$nil.

CLC holds one fully paid share valued at \$1.00 Imparja Television Pty. Ltd. The constitution of Imparja Television Pty. Ltd. paragraph 48 (a) states "surplus shall not be distributed to the members." CLC does not control or have influence over the entity. The fair value of the share is \$nil.

NOTE 12: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL REMUNERATION

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any person (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity. The entity has determined the key management personnel to be the Accountable Authority consisting of the Chair of the CLC and the Chief Executive Officer, and General Manager. Key Management Personnel remuneration is reported in the table below.

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits	812	926
Post-employment benefits	99	114
Other long-term benefits	21	23
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses	932	1,063

The total number of key management personnel that are included in the table are three. (2019: five).

One key management personnel, the Chair, had a close family member engaged by CLC for the provision of professional services. The close family member was engaged on a commercial basis.

NOTE 13: REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

Remuneration to auditors for the reporting period are as follows:

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) - for statutory audit	66	61
KPMG - for acquittal of grants	30	27
PriceWaterhouseCoopers for auditing the accounts of Associations assisted by the Land Council	101	109
	197	197

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

The Audit Fees above report the costs associated with auditing each financial year.

CLC incurs the cost of an audit on each of the Aboriginal Corporations, trusts and companies for which the Aboriginal Associations Management Centre (AAMC) assists. Subsequently these costs are covered by fees charged to the Associations. PriceWaterhouseCoopers continues to perform the audits and some tax agent services for these entities.

No other services were provided by the ANAO during the reporting period.

NOTE 14: LAND USE TRUST ACCOUNT

CLC maintains a Land Use Trust Account. Monies received on behalf of the associations of Aboriginal people and individuals in accordance with section 35 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976* (ALRA), are held in the Land Use Trust Account and are disbursed in accordance with the terms of the trust. These monies are unavailable for other purposes of the CLC, and are not recognised in the financial statements.

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Opening balance	35,093	33,724
Add receipts		
Subsection 64(3) statutory royalty equivalents	25,327	19,819
Section 42, 43, 44, 46, 48a and 48d negotiated monies	30,060	24,072
Section 15, 16, 19 and 20 rental and lease monies	11,045	9,779
Other monies	3,610	5,823
Total receipts	70,042	59,493
Deduct payments		
Section 35(2) statutory royalty equivalents	24,162	19,617
Section 35(3) negotiated payments	30,482	23,229
Section 35(4) rental and lease monies	9,500	7,606
Northern Territory – National Emergency Response Act 2007	1,085	1,895
Other payments	3,630	5,777
Total Payments	68,859	58,124
Closing Balance	36,276	35,093
Cash at bank and term deposits	36,276	35,093

NOTE 14(A) - DETAILS OF AMOUNTS PAID – S.35(2)

Details of amounts paid as required by Section 37(4) ALR (NT) Act:

Ngurrajuta Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation	1,982	906
Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation	22,180	18,711
	24,162	19,617

Determinations under section 42

(i) That all money paid into it under section 42 in respect of the Exploration Agreement for EL's 23780, 23602 and 23603 shall be paid, within 6 months of it's receipt by the Land Council to the Tennant Region Aboriginal Corporation (ICN - 4567) - made on 9 May 2017 for 5 years.

(ii) That all money paid into it under section 42 in respect of the Exploration Agreement for EL's 29747, 29748 and 31606 shall be paid, within 6 months of it's receipt by the Land Council to the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Corporation (ICN - 4307) - made on 29 August 2017 for 5 years.

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

(iii) That all money paid into it under section 42 in respect of the Exploration Agreement for EL's 25146, 30729, 30730, 30731, 30732, 30733, 30739, 30740 and 31234 shall be paid, within 6 months of it's receipt by the Land Council to the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Corporation (ICN - 4307) - made on 29 August 2017 for 5 years.

(iv) That all money paid into it under section 42 in respect of the Exploration Agreement for EL 26626 shall be paid, within 6 months of it's receipt by the Land Council to the Warlpiri Aboriginal Corporation (ICN - 863) - made on 29 August 2017 for 5 years.

(v) That all money paid into it under section 42 in respect of the Exploration Agreement for EL 23523 shall be paid, within 6 months of it's receipt by the Land Council to the Warlpiri Aboriginal Corporation (ICN - 863) - made on 5 June 2018 for 5 years.

NOTE 14(B) - DETAILS OF AMOUNTS PAID AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 35(4A) 'ACCOUNTABLE AMOUNTS' ALR (NT) ACT. Rent paid by the Director of National Parks under the lease of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

Amounts paid	2020 \$'000
Yangkuntjatjarra Kutu Aboriginal Corporation	1,079
Ara Irititja Aboriginal Corporation	5
Casa Leisure	337
Centre Funerals	18
Fulham Funerals	10
McKee Family Funerals	5
Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation	141
Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation	22
NPY Women's Council Aboriginal Corporation	274
Pitjantjatjara Council Inc	39
Sydney Maloney Fencing	39
Tangentyere Council Inc	100
Tangentyere Constructions	51
Waltja Tjutanku Palyapayi	165
CD Project Facilitation Costs	6
	2,291

NOTE 15: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

NOTE 15(A) - CATEGORIES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Financial assets at amortised cost:		
Cash on hand or on deposit	23,380	15,104
Trade and other receivables – net of impairment losses	1,725	1,587
Total financial assets at amortised cost	25,105	16,691

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:

Trade Creditors	1,490	788
Contract liabilities	5,848	1,018
Other Payables	1,098	776
Sundry creditors and accruals	1,319	669
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	9,755	3,251

Accounting Policy

Financial assets

With the implementation of AASB 9 *Financial Instruments* for the first time in 2019 financial year, the CLC classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- financial assets at fair value through profit or loss; and
- financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income; and
- financial assets measured at amortised cost.

CLC classifies its financial assets at amortised cost. The classification depends on both CLC's business model for managing financial assets and contractual cash flow characteristics at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised when CLC becomes a party to the contract and, as a consequence, has a legal right to receive or a legal obligation to pay cash and derecognised when the contractual right to the cash flows from the asset expire or are transferred upon trade date.

Financial assets at Amortised Cost

Financial assets included in this category need to meet two criteria:

- the financial asset is held in order to collect the contractual cash flow; and
- the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI) on the principal outstanding amount.

Amortised cost is determined using effective interest method.

Effective interest method

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis for financial assets that are recognised at amortised cost.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period based on Expected Credit Losses, using the general approach which measures the loss allowance based on an amount equal to lifetime expected credit losses where risk has significantly increased, or an amount equal to 12-month expected credit losses if risk has not increased.

The simplified approach for trade, contract and lease receivables is used. This approach always measures the loss allowance as the amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses. A write-off constitutes a derecognition event where the write-off directly reduces the carrying amount of the financial asset.

Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost

Financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective interest basis.

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

NOTE 15(B) - NET GAINS OR LOSSES ON FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Interest revenue (see note 4(b))	312	486
Net gain/(loss) on financial assets at amortised cost	312	486
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Interest expense	(7)	–
Net gain/(loss) on financial liabilities at amortised cost	(7)	–

The net interest income/expense from financial liabilities not at fair value through profit or loss is \$7k (2019: \$0).

NOTE 16: CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

At 30 June 2020, the CLC had no significant legal claims in progress. Where quantifiable costs exist, accruals have been raised.
At 30 June 2020, the CLC had no significant contingent assets and liabilities. (2019: \$Nil)

NOTE 17: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT

The different levels of the fair value hierarchy are defined below:

Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the assets or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

CLC determines fair value for its non-financial assets using the level 2 and 3 inputs in the fair value hierarchy. The following table disclose the fair value at 30 June 2020 and the valuation techniques used to derived its fair value:

Fair value measurement – valuation technique				
	Category	Valuation technique	2020 fair value \$'000	2019 fair value \$'000
Non-financial assets – recurring fair value measurement				
Land and buildings				
Freehold land	Level 2	Market based valuation of direct comparatives	4,556	4,556
Building on freehold land	Level 2	Capitalisation on an assumed income based on comparative properties	12,126	12,126
Work in progress	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost	45	312
Building on leasehold land	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost	9,291	8,549
Investment property				
Land and buildings	Level 2	Market based valuation of direct comparatives	505	505
Plant and equipment				
Motor vehicles	Level 3	Market comparables	4,749	4,488
Plant and equipment	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost	1,357	1,212
Computer equipment	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost	650	542
Library	Level 3	Depreciated replacement cost	469	465
Total non-financial assets			33,748	32,754

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

The fair value of CLC's freehold land and building, as at 30 June 2020, has been determined using the basis of the valuation carried out by James Lang LaSalle, Adelaide, as at 30 June 2019, who is a certified practising valuer and with relevant experience in the valuation of property in Alice Springs. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in the market value of the relevant assets. The fair value measurement for the freehold land and building has been categorised as Level 2 fair value based on the valuation technique noted above.

The fair value of CLC's buildings on leasehold land as at 30 June 2020 has also been determined using the basis of the valuation carried out by James Lang LaSalle as at 30 June 2019. The fair value measurement for the building on leasehold land has been categorised as Level 3 fair value based on the inputs of the valuation technique (see above).

The revaluation of valuable books as at 30 June 2020 was performed by management using the 2016 valuation and a review of the sale/valuation prices obtained from specialist booksellers' web sites.

For those infrastructure, plant and equipment that are carried at cost, their depreciated cost approximates their fair market value. The highest and best use of the infrastructure, plant and equipment approximates its current use.

The reconciliations for the recurring level 2 and 3 fair market value measurements of Land and Building and Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment are detailed in Note 7.

There were no changes in valuation techniques used by CLC during the year.

NOTE 18: AGGREGATE ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months	25,110	16,832
More than 12 months	33,748	32,753
Total assets	58,858	49,585
Liabilities expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months	13,307	6,476
More than 12 months	1,459	942
Total liabilities	14,766	7,418

NOTE 19: AMOUNTS PAID TO CONSULTANTS

	2020 \$'000
Anthropology	27
Anthropos Consulting Serv P/L	8
Beit Holmes And Associates P/L	10
Luke Kelly	9
Community Development	26
Anthropos Consulting Serv P/L	2
La Trobe University	12
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel	12

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	2019 \$'000
Corporate Services	392
Aka Consulting	6
Bdo (Qld) Pty Ltd.	39
David Jagger	52
Deloitte Private	5
Gilbert + Tobin	14
Hal Bisset	38
Integrated Valuation Services (Nt)	2
Jayne Weepers	24
Lisa Fowkes	2
Maggie Kavanagh	1
Mercer Consulting Group	18
MLcs Corporate	151
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel	6
Richard Lever	2
S2 Consulting Samantha Togni	26
Sandra Jarvis	6
Land Management and Ranger Program	323
Andrew Schubert	28
Beit Holmes And Associates P/L	44
Bruderlin Maclean Publishing Services	6
Colin Stanton	5
David Jagger	28
Digital Storytellers	6
Dr Fiona Walsh	11
Integrated Land Information System	2
Joanna Henryks	1
Keeping Culture Pty Ltd	38
Maggie Kavanagh	4
Matrix On Board Training	15
Metta Young	37
Michael Cawthorn	12
Social Ventures Australia Ltd	22
Terry Mahney	13
Theresa Nano	13

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2019 \$'000
University Of Sydney	16
Warlpiri Media Assoc Inc	22
Mining	6
Sarah Bell	6
Native Title	547
Adult Literacy Services	9
Aka Consulting	110
Craig Elliott	135
Dr John Morton	30
Geoffrey Bagshaw	52
Michael Cawthorn	61
Natalie Kwok	64
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel	30
Sally Hodson	21
Sandra Jarvis	35
Grand total	1,321

NOTE 20A: DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET: NATIVE TITLE: OPERATIONAL

	2019–20 Approved budget \$'000	2019–20 Actual \$'000
INCOME		
Other project income		
Bank Interest	10	7
Vehicle Trade-in	85	121
Activity generated income - cost recovery	–	71
Activity generated income - others	38	24
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet funding		
Capital	138	182
Operational	3,671	3,627
Prescribed Body Corporate Basic Support	1,000	1,000
	4,942	5,032
EXPENDITURE		
Capital		
Vehicles	138	182
IT equipment*	–	–
	138	182

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	2018–19 Approved budget \$'000	2018–19 Actual \$'000
OPERATIONAL		
Salaries		
Chief Executive Officer/General Manager or equivalents	140	140
Corporate staff	347	347
Project staff	2,180	2,180
Services		
Accommodation	150	138
Motor Vehicles - Corporate	20	29
Motor Vehicles - Attributable	51	52
Repair and Maintenance - Equipment *	18	29
Repair and Maintenance - Buildings	22	22
Bank Charges	1	–
Audit Fees	7	8
Consultants - Corporate	–	–
Consultants - Attributable	703	630
Communications, Telephones, Fax and IT *	86	78
Insurance - Workers compensation	25	14
Insurance - Assets	16	16
Insurance Professional Indemnity	20	15
Corporate HR / Finance / Property Serv / Library	92	134
Training and development		
Governing Committee	2	2
Staff	5	3
Meetings		
Governing Committee	11	11
Attributable other meetings expenses	31	32
Travel and allowances		
Chairperson	2	2
Other Governing Committee members	2	2
Members (travel)		
Claimants (travel)	45	35
Staff (travel) Corporate	15	15
Staff (travel) Attributable	40	39
Supplies and Consumables		
Corporate office supplies/office miscellaneous	3	6
IT Equipment*	–	–

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2018–19 Approved budget \$'000	2018–19 Actual \$'000
Other		
Misc. recoverable meetings attributable expenses	99	99
Prescribed Body Corporate Basic support	50	–
	4,183	4,078
Balance as at 30 June 2020	621	772

Consistent with Note 1 the NTRB maintains accounts on an accrual basis. However, this statement includes elements of cash accounting consistent with the terms and conditions of the Native Title Grant.

* Spending below capitalisation threshold for IT Equipment.

NOTE 20B: NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS – NATIVE TITLE GRANT

Analysis of Plant and Equipment

Table (A): Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of plant and equipment 2019–20	Motor vehicles \$'000	Office equipment \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2019			
Gross book value	1,206	316	1,522
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(610)	(294)	(904)
Net book value as at 1 July 2019	596	22	618
Additions			
By purchase	182	–	182
Depreciation and amortisation	(127)	(1)	(128)
Disposals - Gross Value	(121)	–	(121)
Disposals - Accumulated Depreciation	132	–	132
Net book value as at 30 June 2020	662	21	683
Net book value as at 30 June 2020 represented by			
Gross book value	1,267	316	1,583
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(605)	(295)	(900)
Closing net book value 30 June 2020	662	21	683

GLOSSARY

AAMC	Aboriginal Associations Management Centre
ABA	Aboriginals Benefit Account
Aboriginal land	(a) land held by a land trust for an estate in fee simple; or (b) and the subject of a deed of grant held in escrow by a land council (the land council holds the title deed in trust until a specific event or condition takes place, such as the lapse of a lease or interest).
ALRA	<i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i> (Cth)
ALT	Aboriginal land trust
AMSANT	Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT
Aṅangu	Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people
APO NT	Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory
APY	Aṅangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara
ARC	Australian Research Council
CASSE	Creating a safe and supportive environment
CATSI Act	<i>Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006</i>
CDP	The federal government's community development program
CLC	Central Land Council
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
Corporate Governance	The process by which agencies are directed and controlled; it is generally understood to encompass authority, accountability, stewardship, leadership, direction and control.
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
Council	The CLC's 90-member governing council
Cth	Commonwealth
eDIS	Electronic document information system
ELA	Exploration licence application
EPA	Exploration permit application
Expenses	The full costs of an activity; that is, the total value of all the resources consumed in producing goods and services or the loss of future economic benefits in the form of reductions in assets or increases in liabilities of the entity; includes expenses and cash items such as salary payments, as well as expenses that have been incurred, such as accruing employee entitlements that will be paid in the future.
Fol	Freedom of information
FTE	Fulltime equivalent
GMAAAC	Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation
Grants	Non-reciprocal transfers of economic resources, where the payer agency does not receive approximately equal value in return.
IAS	Indigenous Advancement Strategy
IDA	Indigenous Desert Alliance
ILC	Indigenous Land Corporation
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area

IT	Information technology
Kurra	Kurra Aboriginal Corporation
Land council	An Aboriginal land council in the Northern Territory established by or under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act to represent Aboriginal people.
Land Rights Act	<i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i> , also ALRA
Land trust	An Aboriginal land trust established under the Land Rights Act to hold land on behalf of the traditional owners.
Mineral royalties	Royalties payable to the Australian Government or the NT Government in respect of the mining of minerals.
Native Title Act	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth)
NLC	Northern Land Council
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
NT	Northern Territory
NTA	Native title application
Outcomes	Desired results, impacts or consequences for Aboriginal people as influenced by the actions of the CLC. Actual outcomes are assessments of the end results or impacts actually achieved.
PBC	Prescribed body corporate
PGPA Act	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> (Cth)
PWC NT	Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory
ROU	Right of use (assets recognised by accounting standard which brings lease assets and liabilities onto the statement of financial position)
SA	South Australia
Sacred sites	Areas of spiritual significance to Aboriginal people, marking an association with, or a specific act of, a creation being. They may be parts of the natural landscape such as hills, rocks, trees, springs or offshore reefs and include burial grounds and places where ceremonies have been held.
Traditional owners	In relation to land, a local descent group of Aboriginal people who have common spiritual affiliations to a site on the land, being affiliations that place the group under a primary spiritual responsibility for that site and for the land; they are entitled by Aboriginal tradition to forage as of right over that land.
UKTNP	Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park
WAN	wide area network
WDNWPT	Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku
WETT	Warlpiri Education and Training Trust
WHS	workplace health and safety
WYDAC	Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation
Yapa	Warlpiri people

COMPLIANCE INDEX

COMPLIANCE INDEX OF PUBLIC GOVERNANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RULE 2014 (PGPA RULE) REQUIREMENTS FOR CORPORATE COMMONWEALTH ENTITIES

Requirement under 17BE of the PGPA Rule	Page(s)
Details of the legislation establishing the body:	
(i) A summary of the objects and functions of the entity as set out in the legislation;	14
(ii) The purposes of the entity as included in the entity's corporate plan for the period.	20, 22–27
The names of the persons holding the position of responsible minister or responsible ministers during the period, and the titles of those responsible ministers.	31
Any directions given to the entity by a minister under an Act or instrument during the period.	31
Any government policy orders that applied in relation to the entity during the period under section 22 of the Act.	31
If, during the period, the entity has not complied with a direction or order referred to in paragraph (d) or (e) – particulars of the non compliance.	n/a
The annual performance statements for the entity for the period in accordance with paragraph 39(1)(b) of the Act and section 16F of this rule.	22–27
A statement of any significant issue reported to the responsible minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the Act that relates to non compliance with the finance law in relation to the entity.	114
If a statement is included under paragraph (h) of this section – an outline of the action that has been taken to remedy the non compliance.	n/a
Information on the accountable authority, or each member of the accountable authority, of the entity during the period, including:	
(i) the name of the accountable authority or member; and	20
(ii) the qualifications of the accountable authority or member; and	20
(iii) the experience of the accountable authority or member; and	20
(iv) for a member – the number of meetings of the accountable authority attended by the member during the period; and	20
(v) for a member – whether the member is an executive member or non executive member.	20, 33
An outline of the organisational structure of the entity (including any subsidiaries of the entity).	32
An outline of the location (whether or not in Australia) of major activities or facilities of the entity.	14, 113
Information in relation to the main corporate governance practices used by the entity during the period.	31–33
The decision making process undertaken by the accountable authority for making a decision if:	
(i) the decision is to approve the entity paying for a good or service from another Commonwealth entity or a company, or providing a grant to another Commonwealth entity or a company; and	n/a
(ii) the entity, and the other Commonwealth entity or the company, are related entities; and	n/a
(iii) the value of the transaction, or if there is more than one transaction, the aggregate value of those transactions, is more than \$10,000 (inclusive of GST).	n/a
If the annual report includes information under paragraph (n):	
(i) if there is only one transaction – the value of the transaction; and	n/a
(ii) if there is more than one transaction – the number of transactions and the aggregate of value of the transactions.	n/a
Any significant activities and changes that affected the operations or structure of the entity during the period.	22–27
Particulars of judicial decisions or decisions of administrative tribunals made during the period that have had, or may have, a significant effect on the operations of the entity.	107
Particulars of any report on the entity given during the period by:	
(i) the Auditor General, other than a report under section 43 of the Act (which deals with the Auditor General's audit of the annual financial statements for Commonwealth entities); or	nil
(ii) a committee of either house, or of both houses, of the parliament; or	nil
(iii) the Commonwealth Ombudsman; or	nil
(iv) the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.	nil

Requirement under 17BE of the PGPA Rule	Page(s)
If the accountable authority has been unable to obtain information from a subsidiary of the entity that is required to be included in the annual report – an explanation of the information that was not obtained and the effect of not having the information on the annual report.	n/a
Details of any indemnity that applied during the period to the accountable authority, any member of the accountable authority or officer of the entity against a liability (including premiums paid, or agreed to be paid, for insurance against the authority, member or officer's liability for legal costs).	105
Executive remuneration, under subsections 17CA, CB and CC.	110

Requirement under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976		Page(s)
Fees	PART IV, section 33A and section 33B	The CLC received \$694,522 in deed administration fees relating to Part IV (Mining). No fee types prescribed under section 33A. No fees were requested under section 33B.
Determinations	Section 35	139
Amounts held in trust	Section 37(5)	138
Delegations	Section 28 and section 28A	NIL
Committees	Section 29A	28–33, 105
Consultants	Section 37(8)	143–145
OTHER		
Environmental matters	Section 516A EPBC Act	23
Work, Health and Safety Act	Item 4, Schedule 2	107–108
FOI Act	Reporting requirements	114



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

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Back cover image: Kaltukatjara elder Martha Protty received a bag full of warm winter items from the CLC during the COVID-19 'lockdown' period.
Front cover image: Mutitjulu elder Reggie Uluru cools down in the community's pool with grandson Andre Tucker.

