



Former chair Francis Kelly (center) congratulates new chair Sammy Wilson and deputy chair Barbara Shaw at the April 2019 CLC elections at Yulara Pulka outstation.



The new delegates were elected for three years.



CLC CEO Joe Martin-Jard congratulates new deputy chair Barbara Shaw.

NEXT MEETINGS

Council Meeting
30 July - 1 August 2019
TENNANT CREEK

Executive Meetings
29 - 30 May 2019
26 - 27 June 2019
24 - 25 July 2019
ALICE SPRINGS



CLC delegate Sabella Turner casts her vote in the CLC elections.

LAND COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Delegates elected Sammy Wilson as chair and Barbara Shaw as deputy chair at the CLC meeting at Yulara Pulka outstation.

Mr Wilson, who also chairs the Uluru Kata Tjuta National Park's Board of Management, said he has spoken up for his community of Mutitjulu after "learning from the old people ever since I was 11 years old".

He said, as a tourism operator, he meets people from all over the world.

"I talk with them about what they think about government, climate change, everything. I have travelled the world, the United States, and have learned a lot."

The election of Ms Shaw, a youth worker with the Tangentyere Council, marks only the second time that the land council has elected female deputy chair.

"I believe in gender equality and that leadership is earned," Ms Shaw said as she reminded delegates of

her work as the co-chair of Aboriginal Housing NT, "fighting for our housing in communities and outstations" and for the Royal Commission, "fighting for our kids' rights", among many other roles.

Mr Wilson and Ms Shaw thanked their predecessors, Francis Kelly and Sammy Butcher, for leading the land council for two three year terms.

After the elections, the delegates met in regional groups to decide who should represent their region on the CLC executive.

They chose Raymond Palmer, Robert Hoosan, William Johnson, Harry Nelson, Martin Jugadai, Sandra Morrison, Michael Liddle, Neville Petrick and Ron Hagen.

The meeting also elected Harry Nelson, Tony Scrutton, Willie Johnson, Barb Shaw and Leah Leaman to represent the CLC on the advisory committee of the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA).



Sammy Wilson presents former chair Francis Kelly with a locally made kulaja (spear) and a miru (spearthrower).

LAND COUNCIL INDUCTION

The day before the council meeting was devoted to governance training in the very room where the Uluru Statement from the Heart was agreed.

A record number of new delegates listened respectfully as some of the giants of the land rights movement lined up in order of the year they joined the land council, starting with the mid-70s.

“We are still very strong and still battling with the government and others who are damaging our country - I’m talking about the mining companies. That’s why I joined the land council,” said Harry Nelson, from Yuendumu.

“Mr Ross was a young one then,” said Michael Jones from Tennant Creek. “We had no governance training when we first started.”

“I was the first lady and I’m still

standing strong I’ve got to protect my grandmother’s story,” said Raelene Silverton.

It was great to hear so many new members speak up with great confidence.

“The reason why I joined is to be the voice of my people and show them that there is a way like all these old men and women. They were inspirational and they still are. I’m here as a delegate for my outstations and I’m going to try my best,” said Lynda Lechleitner, the new delegate for Papunya outstations.

The delegates really appreciated the CLC’s governance handbook, a great plain English guide on how to represent their communities on the council.

For more information go to <https://www.clc.org.au/files/pdf/CLC-Governance-Manual.pdf>



NT Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Selena Uibo.



Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion.



Senator Malarndirri McCarthy.



Rossy’s last council meeting: Former CLC director Pat Dodson and former CLC staffer Warren Snowdon honour “man of integrity” David Ross.



The surviving giants of the land rights movement, welcome a record number of new delegates during the CLC induction.



“I got involved with land council because of my old people. We have very few old people left. And I would like to thank all them old fellas over there, thank you,” said Timothy Price.



Lynda Lechleitner is one of the new young delegates.



“This is my first time here. I remember back in 1976 my sister who was only 16 years old worked for our land claim and she was one of the people who went down to Canberra for the High Court to fight for our land. I like to pay my respects the elders who are still here today and the elders who passed away and fought for our land. Thank you,” said Patricia Frank.

POLITICIANS CHASE VOTES

Delegates spent two days quizzing politicians ahead of the federal elections.

Willowra delegate, Teddy Long, asked Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, why no new houses have been built at his community since Prime Minister John Howard abolished ATSIC. Mr Scullion thanked the CLC for its work on the National Partnership Agreement for housing. He said housing will improve because the land councils will be at the table for the first time.

Delegates expressed frustration about the lack of police on remote communities. The minister said the Australian government funds 250 police officers and the NT government decides where to put them. He also defended his work for the dole scheme, the CDP.

Patrick Oliver asked for more real jobs and real wages for young people.

Senator Malarndirri McCarthy said Labor would replace the CDP with a better program if it wins the election. She said Labor would also support an Aboriginal voice to parliament and double ranger numbers.

Member for Lingiari, Warren Snowdon, said Senator Pat Dodson would become federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs with a stand-alone department if Labor wins the elections.

Senator Dodson said Labor would set up regional assemblies similar to the ATSIC regional councils to help with consultations for the voice to parliament. He would start a monitoring system for funding for Aboriginal programs and reform out of home care of children. The Labor politicians opposed a cashless debit card. Delegate Sabella Turner said homelands need more houses for growing families.

NT Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Selena Uibo, said that under the NT’s community led schools initiative communities would be able to decide what students learn (the curriculum). She agreed with delegates about the urgent need for more remote dialysis chairs. As the daughter of a dialysis patient she said she understands this well.



Geoffrey Taylor and Shane McMasters help feed the masses.