

# Central Land Council

*The Land is always alive..*

## Council NEWS



August 2017

Uluru Statement working group delegates Barb Shaw and Vince Forrester talk about constitutional reform.

### BRUMBY PLAINS STATEMENT ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM



Senior Policy Officer Josie Douglas.

Council considered the different ideas for changing Australia's constitution. Phillip Wilyuka translated information presented by Josie Douglas while Barb Shaw and Vince Forrester reported on the outcomes of Uluru and Garma meetings. Council passed a resolution, the Brumby Plains Statement, which endorsed the Uluru Statement and called for a say in the design of an Aboriginal body advising the Australian Parliament, to be worked out before a referendum.

### BRUMBY PLAINS STATEMENT

We, the members of the Central Land Council are sovereign people drawing our strength and laws from country. We sing for country, we dance for country and our laws and systems of governance are still strong.

The Australian Constitution must recognise us as First Nations of Australia. Nothing will be lost, instead Australia will gain 65,000 years of culture and history. We endorse the Uluru Statement, which calls for constitutional protection for a voice to Parliament, supports treaty-making and truth-telling.

We have long called for Aboriginal self-determination and Aboriginal self-government, and greater control over our own communities. Local treaty negotiations should be protected by a national treaty framework.

In the NT we have benefited from the Commonwealth 'race powers' through the enactment of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. We have also experienced the worst of the 'race powers' with the imposition of the racist NT Intervention. The Australian Parliament should not pass racially discriminatory laws that harm our people. We want to be part of designing the voice to Parliament to ensure it represents people from the bush, and to ensure it is powerful. This work should be progressed before we go ahead with a referendum.

A successful referendum requires the support of non-Indigenous people, and we invite all Australians to join us on this journey to achieve constitutional reform.

Central Land Council  
31 August 2017



### LOCAL DECISION MAKING

Council discussed the NT Government's 10 year 'road map' for returning local decision making to Aboriginal communities. The government has said for more than a year now that it wants to give Aboriginal people and organisations greater control over what happens in their communities - from local government, housing, education, health, children and families to law and justice. Andy Cowan from

the Department of the Chief Minister and former CLC worker Mischa Cartwright from the Office of Aboriginal Affairs presented a model that aims to respect the different needs and ideas of each community. They did not say when the government would start to work with communities on this. They said that the new policy is a response to community anger about the shires.



Andy Cowan from the Department of the Chief Minister and Mischa Cartwright from the Office of Aboriginal Affairs explain government plans for more local control.

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# HERE ARTEPE'S PLANS FOR BUSH KIDS MONEY FOR HOMELANDS

Lhere Artepe presented about youth issues in Alice Springs. Robert Campbell and Shane Lidner said the native title holders of Alice Springs want young people to return to country and will lobby the NT Government for more youth programs and better facilities out bush. They also want the AFL to help return footy to communities. Lhere Artepe will be visiting communities to discuss this.



Robert Campbell and Shane Lidner talk about youth issues in Alice Springs.

## ROYAL COMMISSION UPDATE

The Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the NT updated council about its community meetings. Barb Shaw, Nathan Pepperill and Top End staff from the commission's outreach team handed out information pamphlets on what has happened and when the final report will come out at the end of September.



Barb Shaw, Nathan Pepperill and Top End staff from the royal commission's outreach team.

## TITJIKALA SALT MINE / WASTE DUMP

Council had an update on the proposed Titjikala salt mine, which would be mainly a storage project for hazardous (dangerous and poisonous) waste. This project, a first for Australia, is still in the consultation stage and may not go ahead. As the mine would be on native title land the traditional owners are not able to stop the project, but can negotiate conditions.



Joe Marshall, Jimmy Wavehill, Willy Johnson and Harry Nelson at the August council meeting.

The meeting heard about the three main sources of homelands money: NT Government funding, the new ABA homelands project and Aboriginal groups with community development income streams. The CLC's community development unit has helped traditional owners and residents to invest in their homelands for the past 10 years. Aboriginal groups have invested almost \$9 million of their own money in 156 homelands projects. But not all homelands have these income streams and the new ABA homelands project may be able to help them. The project will use ABA funds for homelands across the NT. The CLC will lead the consultations and help to choose up to 100 homelands that will get some of about \$16 million earmarked for the CLC region between 2018 and 2020.



Policy officer Peta Breadon.

## ALCOHOL POLICY REVIEW

The NT Government's independent panel to review alcohol policies will deliver its recommendations in September. It will report on initiatives to help reduce alcohol fuelled crime, make entertainment areas safer, manage grog in remote communities, improve decision-making under alcohol laws and limit the size of grog shops. Council will discuss the recommendations and hear about the design of the new banned drinkers register (BDR) at its November meeting. In the past council has supported measures to:

- Reduce grog supply (a floor price, fewer grog shops and licences, replace

'cops at shops' with the BDR)

- Keep alcoholics out of jail (deal with grog addiction as a health matter)
- Improve services (more and better grog rehabilitation services and diversion programs, educate young women and families about the impact of grog on unborn babies, invest more in early childhood development programs)
- Make grog licensing more transparent (more say for communities and those who want permits or exemptions, consider the public interest before giving out licenses)

## POLICY PRIORITIES FOR 2017-2018



CLC Director David Ross and Chair Francis Kelly.

Council reviewed next year's advocacy priorities. Delegates agreed that strong land rights, better housing and education, a secure future for small communities and outstations, governance and local control and law and justice reform should top the list.



Vincent Lingiari's great great great grandson Zaccheus Rogers-Maylay with grandmother and CLC delegate Desley Rogers and mother Juanita Rogers.

### NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

#### ALICE SPRINGS

20 Sept, 18 Oct, 6 Dec 2017

### NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

#### ALPURRURULAM

7-9 November 2017