

Central Land Council

The Land is always alive..

Council NEWS

AUGUST 2018

Molly Presley Napurrurla, Peggy Martin Nampijinpa, and Maisie Wayne Napurrurla performed during the Coniston 90th anniversary commemoration following the council meeting.

LEST WE FORGET: CONISTON 1928-2018



Willowra women and girls danced at the 90th Coniston anniversary commemoration.



Willowra men ended the commemoration with a performance.

After the council meeting delegates travelled to the 90th anniversary commemoration of the Coniston Massacre at Yurrkuru. They joined Chief Minister Michael Gunner, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Ken Vowles, Commissioner of Police Reece Kershaw and federal MP Warren Snowdon, as well as local organisations and students

from many affected communities. Descendants of the massacre victims and perpetrators agreed that all Australians need to know about the country's violent colonial history. CLC chair Francis Kelly and executive members Teddy Long called for a national public holiday to remember those who died during the frontier wars, similar to ANZAC Day.

MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

Delegates discussed land council membership in each CLC region ahead of next year's council elections. Most regions were happy with how their region is represented on the council but two regions have postponed their decision to the November council meeting.

NEW MINISTER



NT Aboriginal Affairs Minister Ken Vowles.

Delegates raised concerns about housing, youth detention and roads with the new Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Ken Vowles. Mr Vowles told delegates he was going to listen and learn and would be a strong voice in cabinet for Aboriginal Territorians. Delegate Sabella Turner criticised moving young people from the Alice Springs detention centre to Darwin. She said the solution is to have children with families in community to get a good education and a job.

AHNT MEMBERS TO PROGRESS HOUSING REFORM

Delegates continued to speak up for more houses and better repairs and maintenance. They said the housing crisis affects everything from health to education and employment. They heard that the Commonwealth and NT governments had each committed \$550million over five years, to be distributed under a new national partnership agreement on remote housing from early 2019. The NT government is looking at making remote housing rent fairer and simpler.

Delegate Barbara Shaw discussed new models for community controlled housing the CLC is working on with Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT) and the NT government. Council nominated five delegates to AHNT: Mathew Palmer, Norbert Patrick, Valerie Martin, Douglas Multa and Kenny Martin.



New AHNT member Douglas Multa

ABA OUTSTATIONS PROJECT UPDATE

Delegates had lots of questions about the consultation process for the \$15.7 million ABA outstations project, such as who will make decisions on and manage the funds. They were reminded that council resolved in November 2017 that each region will

be involved in decision making and get a fair share of the money. The CLC had begun information meetings, with more meetings still to go ahead. The next council meeting will be asked to make decisions.



Delegates from region 4 discussed council membership ahead of the CLC elections in early 2019.



Aysia Rogers and Norbert Patrick present about community development projects in the Tanami region.

ROYALTIES IN THE NEWS

Council discussed negative media coverage about the impact of royalty distributions on the situation in Tennant Creek. Region 6 delegates expressed strong concern about the news reports and said Aboriginal people should not speak for other peoples' country or give misleading information about royalty distributions.



Michael Jones and Heather Rosas from region 6 were critical of the media coverage about royalty distributions.

POWER & WATER RESPONDS

NT Power and Water (PAWA) responded to delegates' worries about the water quality and scarcity in their communities. PAWA said it's responsible for the water in 32 communities. In five of them, including Nyirripi and Willowra, the water does not meet quality standards. It is looking at water pipelines and more bores to increase water supply. PAWA is not responsible for water on outstations, therefore residents need to do their own water testing.



Valerie Martin expressed her concerns about the water situation on Yuendumu.

LAND & SEA ACTION PLAN

The NT government presented 10 action areas under its Aboriginal Land and Sea Action Plan, including land rights, native title, leasing and tenure, sacred sites, parks and economic development. Public servants said nothing will happen until the land councils approve the plan, but delegates want the government to first improve their living conditions and return power back to communities. They also asked how a proposal to allow pastoralists to sub-let land for non-pastoral uses would affect native title rights and interests. CLC lawyers are working with the government to make sure these rights are protected.



CLC Policy officer Genevieve Schulz presented the plan.

WORK FOR THE DOLE SCHEME

Council heard about the federal government's plans to bring in tougher CDP penalties from next year. The CLC policy team said the government had tweaked its top-down scheme a bit but ignored key features of the community-driven model developed with the NT's peak Aboriginal organisations (APO NT). APO NT is part of a national alliance that is lobbying the opposition parties ahead of the coming federal election to support the alternative model.

ALSO DISCUSSED AT COUNCIL:

- **Funeral funding:** delegates said the CLC's ABA funds for funeral support are not keeping up with rising costs.
- **Treaty:** a treaty commissioner will soon be announced.
- **ABA reform:** policy development with other land councils continues.
- **Fracking:** delegates received an update on the implementation of the 135 recommendations of the scientific inquiry into hydraulic fracturing.
- **Community development:** delegates discussed Tanami region projects.



Peter Stafford took part in the region 9 discussion.



CLC chair Francis Kelly and deputy chair Sammy Butcher.



Mildred Inkamala and Sabella Turner wearing a super beanie!



Delegates from region 9 discussed housing issues.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
ARLPARRA
13th-15th November 2018

NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETINGS
ALICE SPRINGS
24-25 October 2018
12 December 2018

CLC OFFICE SHUT DOWN
The CLC wishes you a safe and merry Christmas and a happy New Year.
Alice Springs
Closed Friday 21st December 2018 - 12pm
(Reopen Wednesday 2nd January 2019)
Tennant Creek
Closed Friday 21st December 2018 - 12pm
(Reopen Monday 7th January 2019)
Regional offices
Closed Friday 21st December 2018
(Reopen Wednesday 2nd January 2019)