



CLC delegates proudly showed their support for the Uluru Statement at the August council meeting at Ross River.

WATER RIGHTS ARE LAND RIGHTS

The council debated the CLC policy priorities for the next three years and decided to add water to the land council's top advocacy issues.

Delegates voiced concerns about poor water quality and water shortages in communities as well as concerns about the water use in fracking.

CLC chair Sammy Wilson said: "The government gave us the land back but not the water. Water is the new land rights."

Expect to see some strong CLC

lobbying in this area.

The other four policy themes are governance and control (for example constitutional reform, treaty and closing the gap), youth law and justice (royal commission, remote education and policing), land rights (economic opportunities, ABA, leasing and native title) and remote communities and outstations (housing, climate change, government policies).



Sammy Wilson chaired the August council meeting.



NT treaty commissioner Mick Dodson introduced his new deputy, Ursula Raymond.

NT TREATY COMMISSIONER

Treaty commissioner Mick Dodson introduced his new deputy, former ABC journalist and public servant Ursula Raymond.

The two independent commissioners explained that a treaty is an agreement that gives binding obligations to the parties who make it. A treaty can be between governments and peoples,

not just between countries.

They discussed their plans to consult widely about a treaty (or treaties) between the Territory and its Aboriginal peoples and talked about what is happening outside the Territory.

The delegates broke into regional groups to discuss what they want from a treaty.

NEXT MEETINGS

Council Meeting
28 - 30 October 2019
YULARA PULKA

Executive Meeting
10 - 11 October 2019
ALICE SPRINGS

Delegates want to support Anangu during the celebration of the closure of the Uluru climb on 27 October. Therefore, the next meeting will be at Yulara Pulka from 28 - 30 October.

The delegates also decided to hold the CLC's August council meetings in Kalkaringi from 2020 so they can take part in the community's annual Freedom Day Festival.



April Martin spoke up at Ross River.

THE REAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The delegates heard from Lynette Ellis, Chris Ryder, Sanchia Scott and Dave Howard how traditional owners for the East MacDonnell Ranges are using their NT parks rent money.

Ms Ellis spoke about tourism projects at Emily and Jessie Gap while Mr Ryder spoke about fixing up his family's outstation.

Mr Howard said constituents are investing more and more money in the CLC's community development program - \$19.8 million in 2018/19, up from \$17.7 in 2017/18.

The number of Aboriginal people employed in community projects has gone up from 207 to 424 people.



Lynette Ellis updated council about her group's plans for a walking and cycling track from Emily Gap to Jessie Gap.

VINCENT LINGIARI ART AWARD 2019 - THE DELEGATES' CHOICE

Council voted for the winner of the 2019 Delegates Choice Award, part of this year's Vincent Lingiari Art Award.

The delegates' favourite and the main \$15,000 art prize will be

announced at the Tangentyere Artists Gallery at 6pm on Wednesday, 4 September.

The exhibition runs until 18 October at 16 Fogarty Street in Alice Springs.



Jason Butcher (right) and other delegates had a hard time choosing the winner of the CLC Delegates Choice Award.



Simon Dixon selected his favorite artwork for the CLC Delegates Choice Award.

ABA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The delegates also elected Jeffrey Zimran, from Ikuntji, and Robert Hoosan, from Aputula, to represent the CLC on the advisory committee of the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA).

The men will be joining ABA

advisory committee members Barbara Shaw (Alice Springs), Harry Nelson (Yuendumu) and Leah Leaman (Daguragu) and their fellow council members in pushing for Aboriginal control of the fund.



ABA advisory committee members Barbara Shaw, Harry Nelson and Leah Leaman were joined by new ABA members (below).



Jeffrey Zimran and Robert Hoosan represent the CLC on the ABA advisory committee.

CLOSING THE GAP REFORMS

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (NACCHO) CEO Pat Turner and Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT (AMSANT) CEO John Paterson spoke about reforming the failed Closing the Gap policy.

For the first ten years of the policy the Australian government spent extra money on programs and services for Aboriginal people. However, because Aboriginal people were not part of designing the policy only two of its seven targets are on track.

Last October, 14 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak bodies asked the Prime Minister not to change Closing the Gap without

giving our communities a say in the reform and a seat at the table to share the decision making.

The growing group known as the coalition of peaks includes NACCHO and the Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT (APONT) of which CLC and AMSANT are members.

The coalition of peaks managed to become a formal partner with the Council of Australian Governments in the next 10 years of Closing the Gap.

A new national agreement will set out how governments and the coalition will work over the next ten years to improve the lives of our peoples across Australia.



John Paterson and Pat Turner reported back on the Closing the Gap reforms.

