



The August council meeting at Ampilatwatja was the CLC's first council meeting of 2020, following the cancellation of the April meeting due to COVID-19.

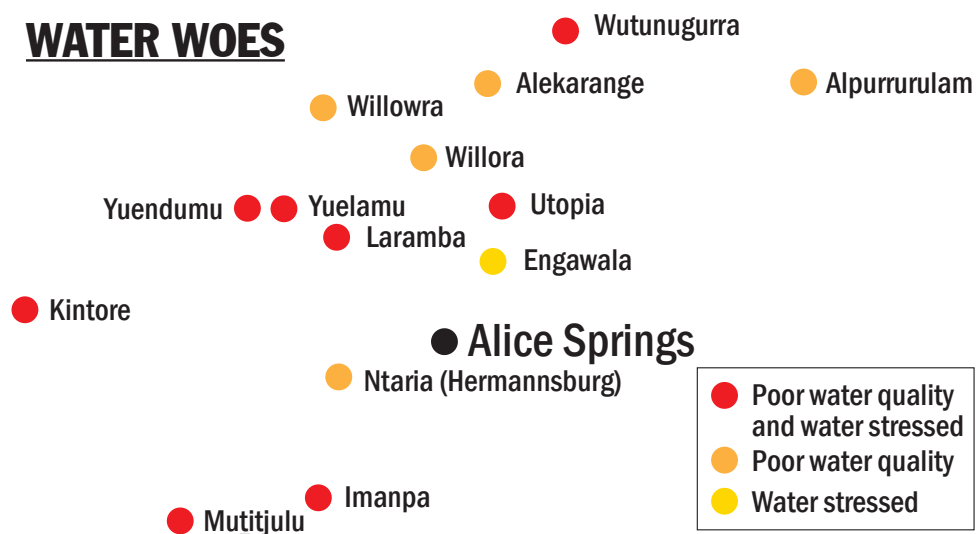
## SAFE WATER FOR ALL

The council called on the NT Government to legislate a Safe Drinking Water Act. They want the government to have a legal duty to guarantee safe and adequate drinking water for all Territorians, not just for those living in towns. It also called on the government to develop a water security strategy to protect this precious resource.

Jackie Mahoney and Pam Corbett, from Alpururulam's community development working

group, presented about their water project. Many years ago, the community committed \$140,000 of its community lease money for a pipeline to the nearby Georgina River, where the water quality is better. The community has applied to the Aboriginals Benefit Account for funding to complete the project. The council resolved to write to Indigenous Australians Minister Ken Wyatt seeking an urgent response.

### WATER WOES



## HOUSING DELAYS WORRIES

The council was worried about the lack of progress on the new rooms and new houses promised under the National Partnership Agreement on Housing.

It resolved to notify the agreement's joint steering committee, which includes the NT and Australian governments,

about its concern.

Policy staff also updated the council about a new Aboriginal community-controlled housing model that has the support of all four NT land councils. The council directed staff to keep negotiating with both governments about implementing the model.

## JOBS PACKAGE ENDORSED

The council endorsed a new plan to create jobs in remote communities. The proposal by the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT (APO NT) would create an estimated 5,000 jobs in Aboriginal organisations and has the support of the NT's four land councils.

The delegates directed the staff to lobby governments for its implementation. The employment gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people is widest in the NT, and could get worse because of COVID-19.



Georgie Stewart presented to the council.



Delegates Conrad Ratara and Ron Hagan.

## BIG INCREASE IN FUNERAL AND CEREMONY SUPPORT

Minister Wyatt approved a \$31.2 million ABA budget allocation for the CLC. Chief executive Joe Martin-Jard told the delegates that this year's record budget will pay for a big increase in ceremony and funeral support. The CLC will contribute \$5,000 per funeral, up from \$1,500, and it will pay \$14,000 per region for ceremony, up from \$9,000 per region.

The budget will allow the CLC to match the funds Aboriginal

groups are investing in community projects, thanks to a federal government co-contribution of \$9 million over three years. This will make traditional owner funds for community development go further. The budget will also fund a \$2.16 million new ranger hub in Tennant Creek, an upgrade of the Atitjere regional office, and new staff housing or upgrades at Kaltukatjara, Atitjere, Lajamanu and Tennant Creek.



Jackie Mahoney talked about Alpururulam's water project.



# ABORIGINAL JUSTICE AGREEMENT

Leanne Liddle, from the NT Government’s Aboriginal Justice Unit, presented about the draft Aboriginal Justice Agreement. She said the agreement was developed in consultation with Aboriginal Territorians and will help to reform the NT justice system.

The CLC resolved to support the



Leanne Liddle sought the views of the delegates on the NT’s Aboriginal Justice Agreement.

# NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Region 3 delegates chose Sharon Anderson, from Lajamanu, to represent them on the CLC’s executive. Ms Anderson works as a teacher’s assistant at the community’s school and is a



Sharon Anderson, from Lajamanu, represents her region on the CLC executive.

member of the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust. She is also an interpreter and mediator. Ms Anderson replaces temporary executive member Andrew “AJ” Johnson.

agreement and the role law and justice groups. It wants more than five groups across the NT, and the location and management of these groups should be a decision for individual communities.

The CLC urged the government to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years as part of the reforms.

# ALEKARENGE WORK EXPERIENCE PROJECT

Joe Clarke from the Aboriginal Land Economic Development Agency gave an update about the agency’s activities.

A great example is a project in

Alekarenge, where students and young people who are not going to school do work experience on the watermelon and peanut farms to get skilled up.



Dianne King, from Region 3, had her say.



Jacob Spencer, from Nyirрпи, spoke up.



Joe Martin-Jard, Sammy Wilson and Barabara Shaw at Ampilatwatja.

# MEMBERS VOTE IN NT ELECTION

The CLC organised postal ballots for all delegates and proxies at the council meeting. Thirty-two cast their votes during the meeting, while the others had already voted. Sadly, there has been a record

low turnout in the bush this year, with fewer than half of the enrolled voters turning out to have a say about who gets to run the Territory for the next four years.



Valerie Patterson was one of 32 CLC delegates and proxies who cast postal votes at Ampilatwatja.

## CLC MEETINGS

### EXECUTIVE MEETINGS:

23 - 24 September 2020, Alice Springs

27 - 28 December 2020, Alice Springs

### COUNCIL MEETING:

27 - 29 October 2020, Kintore