

# Central Land Council

*The Land is always alive..*

## Council NEWS



May 2017

The delegates broke into nine regional groups at the CLC's first council meeting of 2017 at Tennant Creek.

### MINISTERS FRONT THE COUNCIL

Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion invited the land councils to help improve the work for the dole program, also known as CDP. He also congratulated the CLC on its research on school attendance and royalties.

Delegates then grilled Territory Chief Minister Michael Gunner and Housing Minister Gerry McCarthy about progress on remote housing and local government reform.

Mr Gunner said it was important to spend time consulting with communities in order to get remote housing right and that he wants to negotiate a new funding agreement about remote housing with the federal government. He promised to fix some of the mistakes Labor made when it brought in the shires but said he would not bring back community councils.



Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion.



CLC delegate Mildred Inkamala.



NT Chief Minister Michael Gunner and Housing Minister Gerry McCarthy.



Mary James from Elliott (with microphone) and CLC delegates Valerie Martin, Barbara Shaw, Ngarla Kunoth-Monks and Rayleen Silverton are worried about fracking.

### FRACKING INQUIRY

Justice Rachel Pepper, who chairs the independent scientific inquiry into fracking in the NT, talked about the investigation by her panel of experts. Delegates voiced many concerns about the controversial gas extraction practice, especially about its use of water and its impact on climate change. Fracking is banned in the Territory - for now.

Justice Pepper said when she reports to the NT Government, before the end of the year, it will be up to the government to decide whether it continues the ban.



Fracking inquiry Chair Rachel Pepper.

### SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RESEARCH

Senior Policy Officer Josie Douglas presented the CLC's research into the impact of royalty distributions on school attendance.

Delegates heard that the analysis of attendance statistics between 2011 and 2015 showed that some schools (Ale-karenge, Lajamanu, Tennant Creek High and Willowra) had lower attend-

ance during royalty meeting week but not all schools did.

During the week after people receive royalty payments school attendance was lower in Alekarenge, Epenarra, Lajamanu and Papunya.

Attendance returned to normal during the following week.

### WHO WILL PAY FOR ASBESTOS CLEAN-UP?



Valerie Martin wanted answers about asbestos removal.

The buck-passing around who pays for asbestos removal continued.

Senator Scullion said he gave the previous NT Government \$45 million to clean up, while Mr Gunner said there was only \$5 million left.

Removing asbestos from NT community houses and dumps is estimated to cost tens of millions of dollars.



# OUTSTATION FUTURES



CLC Policy Project Officer Peta Breaden informed the regional groups about the government's plans for outstations.

# CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM



Senior Policy Officer Josie Douglas.

Josie Douglas told the delegates about the constitutional convention at Uluru in late May, which will be attended by 10 delegates from the CLC region chosen at Ross River in April. She said the next steps will be a report from the convention organiser, the Referendum Council, to the Prime Minister and the Opposition Leader for discussion in Canberra. Many CLC members agreed with Philip Wilyuka, who said constitutional recognition must build on the Jukurrpa/laws of the different Aboriginal groups and is important for their future.

# ALSEDA – THE ABORIGINAL LAND AND SEA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

The NLC and the CLC are setting up ALSEDA to drive economic development on Aboriginal and native title land in the Territory, starting with six pilot projects. Delegates discussed a video presentation about how the new agency plans to work with landowners, industry and governments. CLC executive member Michael Liddle said unlike previous initiatives ALSEDA needs to get remote community residents to work in the jobs it hopes to create. ALSEDA's Vin Lange said increasing Aboriginal jobs and lobbying governments to improve employment and training programs in communities were the agency's main goals.



Michael Liddle wants jobs on country for locals.

# AAPA ON THE NT SACRED SITES ACT REVIEW

Board members and the CEO of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority talked about the protection of sacred sites following the previous NT Government's review of the NT Sacred Sites Act. CEO Ben Scambary said many recommendations the land councils had asked for had been left out of the review report.

He said the agency is investigating the recent desecration of Karlu Karlu (Devils Marbles) and would do everything it can to prosecute those responsible. He also said traditional owners of Mt Gillen near Alice Springs had told AAPA they did not want the climbing track to the summit 'formalised' in any way.



Traditional owners of Karlu Karlu, Annie and Kumanjayi Morrison, are upset about the desecration of the site. They also showed how they are investing rent money for the reserve in community projects that create work for local men.



AAPA board member Philip Wilyuka (left) and CEO Ben Scambary talked about how the authority protects sacred sites.

# TOWARDS BARUNGA 2018: UNITY IS STRENGTH



CLC Chair Francis Kelly, NLC Chair Sammy Bush-Blanasi and Anindilyakwa Land Council Chair Tony Wurramarrba want all NT land councils to meet at Barunga.

Northern Land Council Chair Sammy Bush-Blanasi and Anindilyakwa Land Council Chair Tony Wurramarrba came to the CLC meeting to discuss greater collaboration between the NT land councils on issues such as economic and community development, constitutional and ABA reform. CLC members agreed to continue their discussions

during a joint land council meeting at Barunga next June, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Barunga Statement. In 1988, then Prime Minister Bob Hawke promised a treaty at the joint land councils meeting at Barunga. There will also be a meeting of all land council executive members in the NT before next June.

# ABA CEREMONY MONEY

Regional groups gave feedback on the 'back to basics' changes regional officers made during the distribution of this year's ceremony funds. Delegates spoke for and against people chucking in more of their own money for non-basic items. Those in favour said they wanted to make the limited ceremony funds from the Aboriginals Benefit Account go further.



Regional officer Jesy James Carr notes ceremony feedback.

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NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETINGS  
ALICE SPRINGS  
14 and 26 June 2017

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING  
MISTAKE CREEK  
29-31 August 2017