

Central Land Council

The Land is always alive..



Council NEWS



November 2016

Delegates from Region 5 (West) discuss constitutional recognition meetings.

SUPPORT FOR GROG POLICY CHANGE

Delegates discussed NT grog policy with Vicky Gillick from the People's Alcohol Action Coalition.

They supported the reintroduction of the Banned Drinkers Register (BDR) and requested additional support for families affected by the NT's extreme drinking rate.

They called for the racially discriminatory Temporary Beat Locations (TBL) policy to be scrapped but accepted that it needs to be phased out.

Delegates also want police who no longer have to stand outside bottle shops to catch grog runners instead.



CLC delegate Patrick Oliver speaks up about alcohol policy changes.

The delegates passed the following resolution:

"The Central Land Council acknowledges the devastating effects of alcohol on Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families and communities.

Alcoholism is a disease, not a criminal offence.

Alcohol policy should treat all people the same and not discriminate.

The CLC calls for

- the TBL to be phased out, and for police to deal only with alcohol issues, not other offences or warrants on the temporary beat;
- the BDR to be reintroduced in a way that targets problem drinkers and those with alcohol-related offences;
- more support and rehabilitation services for individuals and families living in town and remote communities who are struggling with alcohol issues;
- more education for young women and their families about the impact of alcohol and the risk of foetal alcohol spectrum disorder; and
- greater transparency about and access to the process of seeking a permit or exemption for a dry area."

THE ROYAL COMMISSION IS LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS

For the second time since the Royal Commission was announced the delegates talked with Commissioner Mick Gooda about his investigation into the treatment of young people in NT jails and his search for community based solutions.

Mr Gooda said the commission held 13 meetings in communities and everywhere people told him they lack control over their lives.

Some of the positive stories were about community driven initiatives such as Mt Theo and school food programs.

Several delegates spoke strongly about keeping young people on country and taking responsibility for them. They said things like:

"Our kids are breaking the law. We need to find a way to stop this. What we do today affects our kids tomorrow." "You can't blame everybody else." "You've got to teach your kids when they're young." "Education is the key."

Call the Royal Commission on 1800 500 853. For legal advice and information call 1800 940 948.



"We need your stories and ideas": Mick Gooda's Royal Commission team encouraged delegates to put forward community-based solutions.

ABORIGINALS BENEFIT ACCOUNT (ABA)

ABA Advisory Committee member Barbara Shaw updated the meeting about the ABA.

Ms Shaw said the ABA had received very few applications from the CLC region. People need help with their applications and supporting documents, such as feasibility studies and business plans.

The committee insisted on a longer period for applications to be submitted and said a new round would be open in February 2017.

Ms Shaw also said the two independent positions on the ABA Advisory Committee had not yet been filled.



Barbara Shaw updates her fellow delegates on the ABA.



Member for Namatjira, Chansey Paech.

NEW HOUSING POLICY

The member for Namatjira, Chansey Paech, thanked the delegates for their support in the NT election and gave apologies for the Chief Minister and the Housing Minister, who were unable to attend.

Delegates had lots of questions about the Labor government's new 10 year, \$110 million plan for remote housing and its support for outstations.

Mr Paech promised to bring answers and a timeline for the implementation of the government's housing policy to the next meeting.

He said the government would seek the CLC's input.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Dave Howard and Peter Corbett share news about Alekarenge's many great youth projects.

Delegates heard about community development projects across the region and gave lots of feedback about projects people want to do in their communities.

Peter Corbett from Alekarenge and the community development team presented about a record 13 projects for young people in his community, such as multimedia activities and basketball court renovations.

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CONSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION MEETINGS

In regional groups, delegates talked about an Aboriginal-only meeting in Central Australia to discuss the proposed referendum on the constitutional recognition of Aboriginal people.

The CLC requested such a meeting last year and has agreed to help the Referendum Council with the meeting at Ross River from 31 March - 2 April 2017.

It will be one of 12 First Nations Regional Dialogues the Referendum Council plans to organise across Australia on an invitation-only basis.

Delegates suggested names of traditional owners, Aboriginal organisations and individuals from their region who should be invited by the Referendum Council.

The Ross River meeting will choose five delegates to take part in a national Aboriginal meeting late next April, to agree on the referendum question to be put to all Australians.

The Referendum Council would like to hold that meeting at Uluru, if the traditional owners agree.



Rosalie Morton from Ulpanyali outstation reports back from the Region 2 delegates discussion.

CEREMONY SUPPORT

If you need help with ceremonies
please call Jesyjames on
8951 6264.

CLC PUBLICATIONS RESEARCH

Publications such as *Land Rights News*, *Community Development News* and this newsletter - *Council News* - are part of the strong voice of the CLC.

Council heard that independent researchers had asked nine groups from remote communities about their views and found that most of the publications are working well for people.

Regional groups discussed how to make sure more people in communities get *Council News* so they can stay informed about what their representatives are discussing and deciding.

Council News comes out one week after every council meeting. For copies please go to the CLC web site or see your regional officer.



Members honoured former chair Bruce Breaden for his long and distinguished contribution to the Central Land Council and the fight for land rights.



Rayleen Silverton: "You can't blame everybody else."

NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING
ALICE SPRINGS
7 - 8 December 2016

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
KINTORE
May 2017

The recommendations of the royal commission and the outcome of the constitutional referendum meetings are some of the things to be discussed at the next council meeting. It will also be a chance to talk to the Chief Minister and senior ministers.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE

The CLC's Alice Springs offices must be closed for major repairs as a result of damage caused by the June storm.

Closed on Friday 16 December 2016
Reopening on Tuesday 3 January 2017

We apologise for any inconvenience and wish you a happy and safe summer break.
Be kind to your families, don't drink and drive.