



CENTRAL
LAND
COUNCIL

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23





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20 September 2023

Minister for Indigenous Australians
Hon Linda Burney, MP
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, the *Native Title Act 1993* and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), I am pleased to approve and submit the 2022–23 Annual Report of the operations of the Central Land Council.

The accountable authority is responsible under section 46 of the PGPA Act for the preparation of the report, in accordance with the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014*.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Palmer'.

Matthew Palmer
Chair

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CHAIR'S REPORT

I begin my report by paying tribute to our former chair, Mr Hoosan, who passed away suddenly in November 2022.

All of us at the CLC were deeply shocked and saddened to lose him. In our communities he was a very highly respected man as a leader and as a law person, and he was very strong negotiating with government too. He was a kind man who encouraged us all and touched our hearts.

I thank the Deputy Chair, Mr Warren Williams, for his work during this difficult time, providing support and advice to the administration until I was elected as chair in February 2023. I am very proud to have been chosen to lead the CLC until 2025.

When I was elected, I said my main goal would be to campaign for a big 'Yes' vote in the referendum to recognise our people in the Australian constitution and enshrine our Voice to the parliament.

The CLC has been calling for this for a long time. The Ross River Dialogue in Central Australia – one of the big meetings that led up to the Constitutional Convention at Uluru – was hosted by CLC in 2016. In 2017 our full Council, meeting at Brumby Plains, put out a statement saying we support all of the Uluru Statement from the Heart – Voice, Treaty and Truth.

All of the Northern Territory land councils support this. Around the time the referendum bill was going through the parliament this year, a joint meeting of the Northern and Central land councils met at Barunga in June and gave overwhelming support, calling for all Australians to support our Voice. The Barunga Voice Declaration we made there was signed by more than 200 executive members and delegates from all four land councils. We four chairs went to Canberra to present the Barunga Declaration to the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, at Parliament House.

The Barunga Declaration is just as important as the Barunga Statement from 1988, which called for Treaty. These two important statements should be together there at Parliament House to make future generations of Australians proud.

People sometimes ask why we want this referendum to succeed. To me, there are two important reasons. First, we, our peoples, were left out of the Constitution. We were forgotten. We are Australians too – it's not about black or white. It's about all Australians walking together. We'd like to be in the Constitution and be seen as Australians and work together with our Voice.

Second, we want our voices – the voice from the bush – to be heard, and we want our voice to be listened to.



We don't want other people talking for us. Too often, governments make decisions about us without talking to us and without recognising our knowledge and strength to solve problems.

The big issues that really impact our lives are issues like water, housing, living conditions, employment, and services for youth out bush. These issues come up at every Council meeting. In the Northern Territory some of the Closing the Gap targets – adult imprisonment, employment, life expectancy, housing overcrowding and family violence – are actually going backwards.

We need a voice to Parliament so our solutions are heard and to give us a say in the laws and policies made about us.

When I first started as a CLC delegate, I was very young, in my early 20s – one of the youngest delegates ever chosen. It was a very tough time and I wanted to help my people. The elders and leaders of that time were very respected and very strong and those leaders still inspire us. All these years later there are still a lot of challenges in front of us. We want to pass on the knowledge and inspiration they gave us to the next generation and keep working to improve the lives of our children and their future.

2023 is a very big year for our people. When the Referendum comes later this year, we call on all Australians to open their hearts to our voice.

Matthew Palmer
Chair

TOP CEO Les Turner welcoming participants at PBC camp, June 2023.

BOTTOM CLC delegates at the Council meeting at Atitjere.



CEO'S REPORT

This has been an eventful year for the Central Land Council, marked by some major achievements but also some significant sad events. In November 2022 we were shocked to lose our respected chair, Kunmanara Hoosan. Mr Hoosan passed away suddenly in Darwin. He was a strong and respected leader in Central Australia and is sorely missed by his family, his community, his colleagues and all of us at the CLC.

April 2023 also saw the passing of an important Yolngu leader, Mr Yunupingu. Mr Yunupingu was an advocate for our rights for his entire life. He served eight terms as chairman of the NLC, was an Australian of the Year and presented the Barunga Statement to then Prime Minister Bob Hawke. He was a strong advocate for the Voice to Parliament.

In February 2023, Mr Matthew Palmer, from Corkwood Bore outstation near Alice Springs, was elected as the new CLC chair. Mr Warren Williams, from Yuendumu, remains the CLC's deputy chair.

On the policy front, water policy continues to be an area of major concern. The CLC has been calling for the Northern Territory Government to implement stronger water laws that will respect the knowledge, rights and responsibilities of Aboriginal people. We want bold and strong water reform, developed in consultation with Aboriginal people from the start, and we want our rights and interests in water to be protected. Water is not just a tradable commodity – water is life.

On another matter of policy, the Northern Territory Government has released its Mineral Development Taskforce Report. CLC has concerns that the approach to royalties advocated in the report will disadvantage Aboriginal communities. The report recommends a competitive royalty scheme, supposedly to encourage mining in the NT, and claims that the NT royalty rate is higher than other Australian jurisdictions. We are concerned that even if there is more mining throughout the NT, lower royalty rates can impact affected communities. For mines on Aboriginal land, affected communities receive 30% of equivalent royalty payments under section 64(3) of the Land Rights Act.

Moving forward in terms of economic development, the CLC is focussing on supporting the prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs) that hold Native Title in our region to engage in economic development opportunities.

The largest gathering of Native Title holder corporation members in Central Australia was held on 27 to 29 June at the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs, bringing together 124 people from 25 PBCs. The 'PBC Camp' agenda covered governance, rights and the job of PBC directors. A highlight was the launch of a new mobile phone app with information and resources in six local languages. The multilingual PBCmob app is a new tool that tackles the literacy and language barriers to understanding the Native Title Act, one of Australia's most complex pieces of legislation. There were also presentations from Australian Government representatives and NGOs.



CLC also held a successful ranger camp at Ross River in 2023. The CLC ranger program, which provides good work on country, continues to be transformational for the health of our people and our land.

In addition, our highly successful community development program continues to work with Traditional Owner groups and communities to increase engagement, ownership and development of their communities, homelands and futures. It is pleasing to see the success of the matched funding initiative, which provides equivalent government funding to support communities that have pooled royalties for community generated and controlled projects.

On the administrative front, governance was a focus of this period. The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) reviewed the governance of each of the four Northern Territory land councils. The review provided independent assurance to the Parliament of the effectiveness of the land councils' governance arrangements in meeting their obligations under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (ALRA), the Native Title Act (NTA), and the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act (PGPA Act).

The ANAO audit took place over the course of this reporting period and was published in June 2023. The audit involved significant staff participation and explanation. The outcome for the CLC was positive. The CLC's strong governance results from the ongoing contributions of staff, the Council and the executive committee. It builds on a legacy from those before us and we continue to adapt to the changing environment. I commend all staff and delegates of the CLC for their time and effort.

The CLC administration is moving to a new organisational structure which will come into effect on 1 July 2023. I have created three new general manager positions, reporting to the CEO. I am pleased to advise the appointments of Dr Josie Douglas, as General Manager Professional Services; Mr Robert Cairney OAM, as General Manager Corporate Services; and Ms Mischa Cartwright, as General Manager Regional and Development Services.

The new structure enables a more equitable distribution of workload, improves reporting and management arrangements, and supports collaborative operations. It provides a clear path for CLC to focus on our regions.

Les Turner
Chief Executive Officer

OVERVIEW OF THE CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

About the CLC

The CLC is a corporate Commonwealth entity operating under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) (the Land Rights Act, or the ALRA) and is a Native Title Representative Body under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) (the Native Title Act).

The CLC is one of four Northern Territory (NT) land councils that operate under the ALRA. It serves the southern region of the NT over an area of approximately 780,000km². Its members belong to more than 15 language groups.

Under the operation of the ALRA, more than 417,000km² of land has been returned to Traditional Owners under Aboriginal freehold title in the CLC region and Native Title holders have received recognition of their Native Title rights and interests over 161,020.15km².

The CLC consults with Aboriginal landowners on mining, land management, tourism, employment and other development proposals for their land.

The CLC invests considerable resources in land management and community development programs to assist its constituents to benefit from opportunities on their land, manage threats to the land's cultural and natural values, and support their aspirations for income, improved infrastructure and quality of life, and for community-driven education and cultural initiatives that benefit their communities.

The CLC's 90-member governing Council is elected from Aboriginal communities across the CLC's region and meets three times a year in various bush locations. A nine-member executive committee is elected by council members and headed by the chair and deputy chair.

The CLC is one of the largest employers of Aboriginal people in the NT. It employs 288 staff, full time equivalent of 267 staff, of whom 48% are Aboriginal.

In 2022–23 Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) funding comprised \$37.4 million of the total revenue of \$64.1 million. Total operating expenses were \$69.2 million and capital expenditure was \$7.2 million.

Statutory functions

The statutory functions of the CLC, as described in section 23(1) of the Land Rights Act, are:

- to ascertain and express the wishes and the opinion of Aboriginals living in the area of the land council as to the management of Aboriginal land in that area and as to appropriate legislation concerning that land

- to protect the interests of Traditional Owners of, and other Aboriginals interested in, Aboriginal land in the area of the land council
- to assist Aboriginals in the taking of measures likely to assist in the protection of sacred sites on land (whether or not Aboriginal land) in the area of the land council
- to consult with Traditional Owners of, and other Aboriginals interested in, Aboriginal land in the area of the land council with respect to any proposal relating to the use of that land
- where the land council holds in escrow a deed of grant of land made to a land trust under section 12:
 - to negotiate with persons having estates or interests in that land with a view to the acquisition of those estates or interests by the land trust
 - until those estates or interests have been so acquired, to negotiate with those persons with a view to the use by Aboriginals of the land in such manner as may be agreed between the land council and those persons
- to negotiate with persons desiring to obtain an estate or interest in land in the area of the land council:
 - where the land is held by a land trust – on behalf of Traditional Owners (if any) of that land and of any other Aboriginals interested in the land; and
 - where the land is the subject of an application referred to in paragraph 50(1)(a) – on behalf of the Traditional Owners of that land or on behalf of any other Aboriginals interested in the land
- to assist Aboriginals in the area of the land council to carry out commercial activities (including resource development, the provision of tourist facilities and agricultural activities), in any manner that will not cause the land council to incur financial liability or enable it to receive financial benefit
- for land that is a community living area and in the area of the land council – to assist the owner of the land, if requested to do so, in relation to any dealings in the land (including assistance in negotiating leases of, or other grants of interests in, the land)

Deputy Chair, Warren Williams, CEO Les Turner and Chair, Matthew Palmer at the Council meeting at Barunga in June 2023.



- to assist Aboriginals claiming to have a traditional land claim to an area of land within the area of the land council in pursuing the claim, in particular, by arranging for legal assistance for them at the expense of the land council
- to negotiate, and enter into agreements, as necessary, for the purposes of subsection 70(4)
- to compile and keep:
 - a register recording the names of the members of the land council; and
 - a register recording the names of the members of the land trusts holding, or established to hold, Aboriginal

land in its area and descriptions of each area of such Aboriginal land

- to supervise, and provide administrative or other assistance for, land trusts holding, or established to hold, Aboriginal land in its area.

Accountable authority

Central Land Council Chair, Matthew Palmer and Chief Executive Officer, Les Turner comprised the accountable authority at the end of the reporting period. The accountable authority met five times during the reporting period.

Table 1. Details of the accountable authority during the reporting period (2022–23)

Name	Qualifications and experience	Position	Start date	End date	No. of meetings
Mr Hoosan	Mr Hoosan, from Aputula (Finke), was a former police officer, health worker, a member of the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women’s Council Uti Kulintjaku Watiku (men’s) project leadership group, and chair of the Northern Regional Council of Congress (NRCC) of the NT Uniting Church in Australia	Chair	1 July 2022	28 November 2022	2
Matthew Palmer	Mr Palmer, from Corkwood Bore outstation, is a multilingual speaker of Central Arrernte, Alyawarr and English and is a former court translator, and co-founder and former chair of the Alice Springs Native Title representative body, Lhere Artepe	Chair	21 February 2023	30 June 2023	3
Les Turner	Mr Turner is a former senior federal public servant who previously led both the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council and the New South Wales Aboriginal Legal Service	Chief Executive Officer	1 July 2022	30 June 2023	5

CLC governance

The CLC operates under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).

Purpose statement

The powers and functions of the CLC are set out in the ALRA. The CLC also has the functions of a Native Title representative body under the Native Title Act. The CLC's role is described in its published documents including the corporate plan, this annual report, and a half-yearly report to its minister. The Australian Government has not published a key priorities and objectives statement under section 34 of the PGPA Act (*CLC Corporate Plan 2021–2025*, p.98).

Enabling legislation

The enabling legislation is the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) (the Land Rights Act, or the ALRA).

Responsible minister

The responsible minister is the Hon Linda Burney, Minister for Indigenous Australians, who is the minister responsible for the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA). The NIAA leads and coordinates Commonwealth policy development, program design and implementation and service delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and advises the Prime Minister and Minister Burney on whole-of-government priorities for First Nations peoples.

Ministerial directions and government policy orders

The responsible minister did not issue directions in the reporting period. No government policy orders were issued in relation to the entity during the reporting period.

Freedom of information

Aboriginal land councils and land trusts are not subject to freedom of information requests (see section 7 and part I of schedule 2 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth)).

Council

The CLC is a council of Aboriginal people from across the southern region of the NT. Its 90 members represent 75 remote communities and outstations. Any Aboriginal adult is eligible for membership provided they are living in, or are Traditional Owners of, land within the CLC area, and they meet the eligibility requirements set out under the Land Rights Act. Council elections are held every three years.

Council election process

The process for choosing council members is determined by the Council and is subject to approval by the minister. The method of choice sets out the list of communities and outstations that can nominate members and the allocation of representatives from each community. Small communities and outstations meet to nominate their representatives, while larger communities vote for their representatives at community meetings convened by the CLC. In a small number of cases, representative Aboriginal organisations are invited to nominate representatives at a properly convened meeting.

Council governance processes

The CLC ensures that Council members are fully informed about their role, rights and obligations. Our executive manager policy and governance, and the policy and governance support officer, are responsible for planning and implementing governance training and support for the Council.

The CLC has long-established governance processes for meetings of the council and executive committee. When participating in governance training, both elected groups use a plain-English governance manual that is updated every three years. The Council has the opportunity to review council meeting rules during each three-year term. The accountable authority approves the agenda for and attends council and executive committee meetings. The chair or deputy chair guides every meeting. Minutes are written and recorded and confirmed at a subsequent meeting.

Role of the chair

The chair is elected by the delegates of the CLC for a three-year term. The chair is also a member of the Accountable Authority in accordance with the PGPA Act.

The Council elected Mr R Hoosan as chair and Mr Warren Williams as deputy chair at its meeting at Tennant Creek on 6 April 2022. Mr Hoosan passed away unexpectedly in November 2022.

Mr Matthew Palmer was elected chair at a special Council meeting held at Tennant Creek on 21 February 2023. The terms of both Mr Williams and Mr Palmer conclude in April 2025.

Executive committee

The executive comprises nine members representing the CLC's nine administrative regions, plus a chair and deputy chair. The 11-member executive committee is a committee of the Council, pursuant to section 29A of the Land Rights Act. The executive committee held eight meetings during the reporting period.

Pursuant to section 28 of the ALRA, the Council has delegated all powers capable of delegation to the executive (except powers that have been delegated to the chief executive officer, chair and chief financial officer). Most matters requiring a formal resolution, such as land use agreements and mining matters, are brought to the executive, leaving the council to make decisions on policy.

Chairs of the four Northern Territory land councils hand the Barunga Voice Declaration to Hon Linda Burney, Minister for Indigenous Australians, to take the declaration to Parliament House in Canberra; Barunga, June 2023.



Council and executive committee meetings

Table 2. Council meetings, 2022–23

Meeting dates	Location	Resolutions passed
23 – 25 August 2022	Kalkaringi	5
1 – 3 November 2022	Watarrka	1
21 February 2023	Tennant Creek Special Council meeting	1
18 – 20 April 2023	Atitjere	1
6 – 8 June 2023	Barunga: CLC meeting	2
	Combined CLC and NLC Council meeting	4

Table 3. Executive committee meetings, 2022–23

Meeting dates	Resolutions passed
20 – 21 July 2022	24
27 – 28 September 2022	37
19 – 20 October 2022	19
6 – 7 December 2022	43
22 February 2023 Special Meeting	19
21 – 22 March 2023	53
16 – 17 May 2023	56
20 – 21 June 2023	38

CLC executive members at the Council meeting at Atitjere.



CLC executive committee and Council members at 30 June 2023

The CLC has 90 elected members who represent 75 communities across nine regions.
The chair is Matthew Palmer and the deputy chair is Warren Williams.



Chair: Matthew Palmer



Deputy chair: Warren Williams

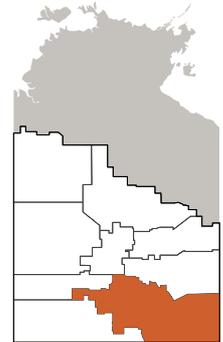
CLC executive committee and delegates by region

Region 1 – Alice Springs

Executive member: Barbara Shaw (alternate: Roseanne Ellis)



Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa):	Raymond Palmer
Titjikala:	Rodney Katatuna
Wallace Rockhole:	Gordon (James) Abbott
Amoonguna:	Roseanne Ellis
Uruna:	David Silverton
Yatemans Bore outstations:	Patrick Oliver
Alice Springs town camps:	Barbara Shaw
Alice Springs Native Title holders:	Kristy Bloomfield, Mr D Stevens
Alice Springs outstations:	Barbara Shaw, Matthew Palmer
Iwupataka:	Glen Sharpe
Ntaria (Hermannsburg):	Conrad Ratara
Ntaria outstations:	Byron (Troy) Ratara, Christian Malbunka, Mildred Inkamala

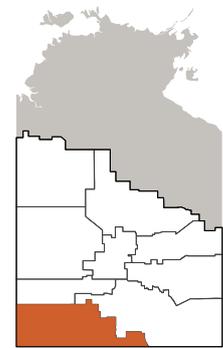


Region 2 – Southwest

Executive member: Charles Gibson (alternate: Sammy Wilson)



Imanpa (Mount Ebenezer):	Charles Gibson, Lillian Inkamala
Utju (Areyonga):	Jacob Carrol
Aputula (Finke):	vacant
Kaltukatjara (Docker River):	Marlene Abbott
Kaltukatjara outstations:	Thardius Mitchell
Muṯitjulu:	Sammy Wilson, Rene Kunitja
Watarrka (Kings Canyon) outstations:	Janine Clyne
Ukaka (Tempe Downs):	Jennifer Breaden

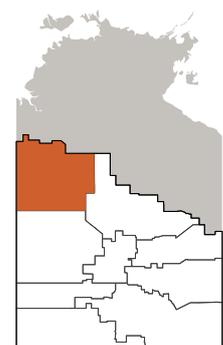


Region 3 – Northwest

Executive member: Geoffrey Matthews (alternate: Sharon Anderson)



Bamboo Springs:	Juanita Rogers
Mistake Creek:	Natasha George
Daguragu:	Dianne King
Daguragu outstations:	Leah Leaman, Daniel Algy
Lajamanu:	Geoffrey Matthews, Sharon Anderson
Lajamanu outstations:	Peter Patterson

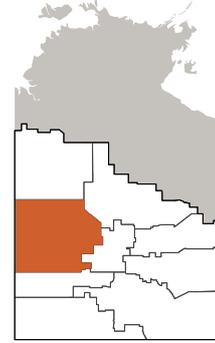


Region 4 – Tanami

Executive member: Valerie Martin (alternate: vacant)



Nyirripi:	Ricardo Gallagher
Yuendumu:	Valerie Martin, Ned Hargraves
Yuendumu outstations:	Warren Williams, vacant
Tanami Downs:	Ross Rockman
Willowra:	Teddy Long, Terence Payton
Mount Barkly:	Newton Long
Mount Denison:	Gibson Long

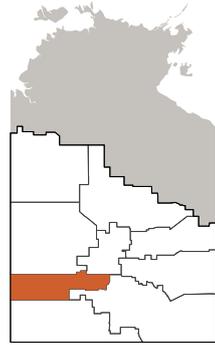


Region 5 – Western

Executive member: Martin Jugadai (alternate: Joseph Zimran)



Papunya:	Dalton McDonald
Papunya outstations:	Terrence Abbott
Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff):	Martin Jugadai
Ikuntji outstations:	Arnold Butler
Amundurrngu (Mount Liebig):	Neil Peterson
Amundurrngu outstations:	Roderick Kantamara
Walungurru (Kintore):	Ms M Robinson
Walungurru (Kintore) outstations:	Joseph Zimran
Mbungbara:	Terry Morris

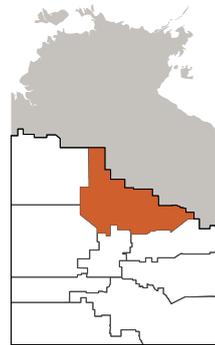


Region 6 – Tennant Creek

Executive member: Sandra Jones Morrison (alternate: Dianne Stokes)



Mangalawarra:	Dianne Stokes
Ngurratiji (Nguyarrmini):	Greg Murphy
Kunayungku:	Ronald Brown
Karlanjarriyi:	Sandra Jones Morrison
Wutunurrngura (Epenarra):	Jeremiah Corbett
Tennant Creek Native Title holders:	Jimmy Frank
Tennant Creek:	Michael Jones, Annie Morrison
Owairtilla (Canteen Creek):	Basil Mick
Purrukuwarra:	vacant
Alekarengge:	Graham Beasley, Derek Walker
Imangara (Murray Downs):	Elizabeth Dobbs

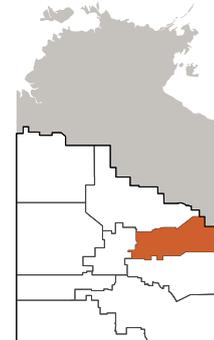


Region 7 – Eastern Sandover

Executive member: Jackie Mahoney (alternate: Esau Nelson)



Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash):	Pamela (Pam) Corbett, John (Jackie) Mahoney
Ampilatwatja:	Roger Morton
Utopia homelands:	Graham Long, Joyce Jones
Alparra:	Esau Nelson, Malcolm Club
Irrultja:	Eldon Ross
Atnwengerrpe:	John Lewis

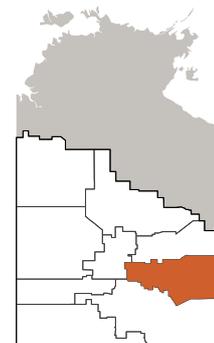


Region 8 – Eastern Plenty

Executive member: Neville Petrick (alternate: Peppi Drover)



Bonya:	David Blue Jnr
Urlampe outstations:	Joshua Rankine
Alcoota:	Kevin Bloomfield
Irrerlirre (McDonald Downs):	Neville Petrick
Mount Eaglebeak:	Herbie Bloomfield
Akarnenhe Well:	Andrew Alice
Atitjere (Harts Range):	Peppi Drover

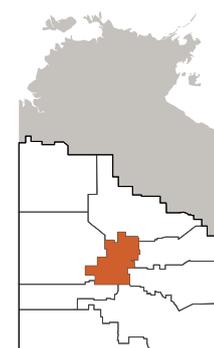


Region 9 – Central

Executive member: Kim Brown (alternate: Ron Hagan)



Adelaide Bore (Woola Downs):	Ross Purvis
Yuelamu (Mount Allen):	David McCormack
Yuelamu outstations:	Ron Hagan
Pmara Jutunta (Ti Tree Six Mile):	Malcolm Ross
Nturiya (Ti Tree Station):	vacant
Wilora (Stirling):	Gerry Price
Tara (Neutral Junction) outstations:	Timothy Price
Laramba (Napperby):	Peter Stafford
Thangenarenghe (Barrow Creek outstations):	Kim Brown



Warren Williams and Geoffrey Matthews signing the Barunga Voice Declaration.



CLC external committees and board memberships

The CLC is represented on the Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC) Board (two members) and the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA) (four members).

During 2022–23, CLC executive committee members also served on the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) Advisory Committee until the commencement of the NTAIC in November 2022.

Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) Advisory Committee (until November 2022)



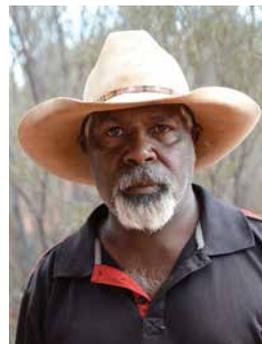
Barbara Shaw



Kunmanara Hoosan



Warren Williams



Kim Brown



Sandra Morrison

Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC) Board



Barbara Shaw (Chairperson)



Derek Walker

Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)



Valerie Martin
(Deputy Chairperson)



Barbara Shaw

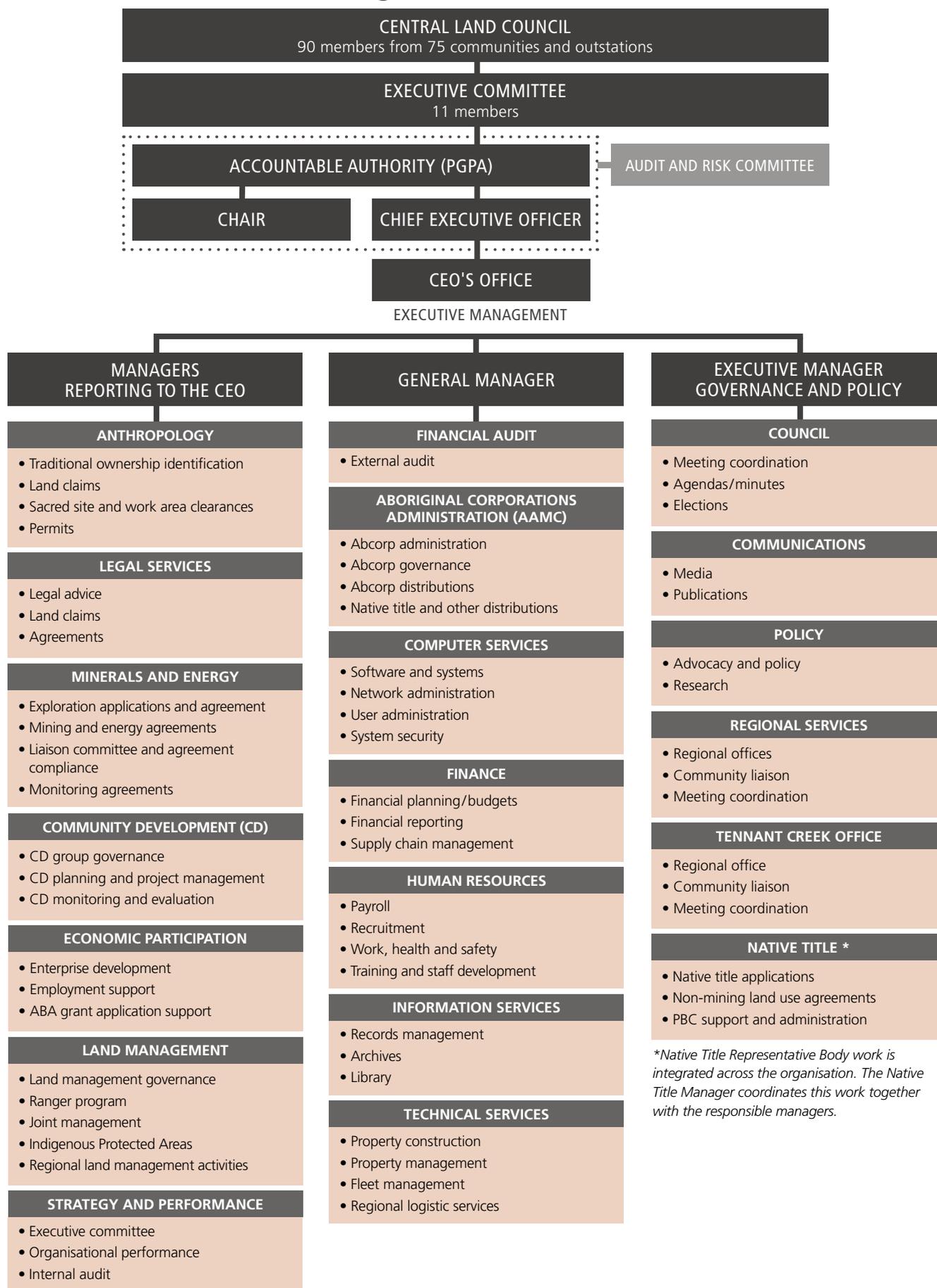


Neville Petrick



Geoffrey Matthews

CLC organisational structure



**Native Title Representative Body work is integrated across the organisation. The Native Title Manager coordinates this work together with the responsible managers.*

CLC history

The CLC's roots reach deep into the Aboriginal struggle for justice and land rights in Central Australia. The most prominent example is the famous 1966 Gurindji strike at Wave Hill pastoral station, where more than 200 Aboriginal people made history when they walked off the station in protest against low wages and the very poor working and living conditions, starting the land rights movement.

In response to the demands of the striking families, the Whitlam Labor government set up a royal commission into land rights in the NT in 1973. One of its recommendations was that Central and Northern land councils be established to present the views of Aboriginal people.

A 1975 meeting of representatives of Central Australian Aboriginal communities elected Charlie Perkins and Wenten Rubuntja as chair and deputy chair, respectively, of the CLC. The Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service assigned a lawyer to work with them.

Later that year, the Land Commissioner began hearing claims about the needs of residents in Alice Springs' town camps. The Whitlam government drew up an Aboriginal Land Rights Bill, but the government was dismissed before the bill could be passed.

In June 1976 the new Liberal–Country Party Federal Government passed the legislation but omitted provisions for land claims based on need and various other features of the original bill. In the same year, the CLC published the first edition of *Land Rights News*, now Australia's oldest Aboriginal-owned newspaper.

The Land Rights Act came into operation in January 1977. It gave Aboriginal people title to most of the Aboriginal reserve lands in the NT and the opportunity to claim other land not already owned, leased or used.

One year later the CLC celebrated its first successful land claim. Like almost all claims that followed, the Warlpiri and Kartangarurru–Gurindji land claim was won against the bitter opposition of the Northern Territory's Liberal–Country Party government.

The CLC's constituents began to set up outstations on their country but some were unable to return because their country lacked water and other essential infrastructure.

In 1983, in line with the recommendations of HC Coombs, members elected a new, regionally based executive. The CLC hired Patrick Dodson to manage what would become its directorate and regional services section, while two research officers started the land management section. In the same year,

Traditional Owners set up a protest camp at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station to stop an NT Government proposal for a recreational lake that would have flooded sacred sites. The Commonwealth followed up on its promise to protect sacred sites through the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984* (Cth), but left the protection of sites to ministerial discretion.

In 1984, Traditional Owners gave the Alice to Darwin railway the all-clear, although it was not completed until 2003. Attempts to establish a Central Australian women's council over two years failed.

In 1985, the Governor-General handed back the title for the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park to the Traditional Owners, who leased it back to the Commonwealth for joint management.

In the same year, the CLC opened its first regional office, in Tennant Creek, followed by seven more offices in remote communities in subsequent years.

In 1986, in response to a mining industry campaign, the Commonwealth abandoned its commitment to national land rights legislation and tried to weaken the Land Rights Act.

The following year, the CLC helped Ipolera outstation near Hermannsburg to become the first community to open a small tourism business, and the Commonwealth inserted a June 1997 deadline, or 'sunset clause', into the Land Rights Act, preventing lodgement of any new land claims after that date.

In 1988 the CLC and Traditional Owners signed an exploration agreement for the area around The Granites in the Tanami Desert – the first agreement negotiated from scratch under the Land Rights Act.

Later that year CLC members joined a convoy to the bicentenary protest march on Australia Day in Sydney, and at the Barunga Festival that year, CLC Chair, Wenten Rubuntja and Northern Land Council (NLC) Chair, Mr Yunupingu presented then Prime Minister Bob Hawke with the Barunga Statement calling for a treaty.

In 1990, the NT Government tried again to dam the Todd River, against the wishes of the Traditional Owners, and damaged sacred sites near Junction Waterhole. After a long CLC campaign, in 1992 the Commonwealth declared the sites protected for 20 years.

The Barrow Creek Telegraph Station, site of a massacre of Kaytetye people in 1874, was handed back in 1992 to the Traditional Owners, despite NT Government obstruction.

Following the passage of the Native Title Act in 1993, the CLC became a Native Title Representative Body in January 1994. It

lodged its first, and ultimately successful, Native Title claim over the town of Alice Springs. It also won a settlement of the long-running Lake Amadeus land claim.

Central Australian women formed an independent women's council in 1995. Set up with the support of the CLC, the council had been 15 years in the making.

In 1997, the sunset clause in the Land Rights Act came into effect. The CLC managed to lodge several claims before the deadline, especially over parks and reserves.

Land rights came under siege again in 1998 when the Howard government launched reviews of both the Land Rights Act and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*, and sought to weaken the Native Title Act following an unprecedented scare campaign.

The mining and employment unit commenced operations in 1999. Within five years, 20 per cent of the mining workforce in the Tanami was Aboriginal. Also in 1999, the NT Government gained control of parts of the Native Title Act and replaced the right of Aboriginal people to negotiate with a limited right to be consulted and to object.

The House of Representatives launched an inquiry into the Reeves Review of the Land Rights Act in 1999. Its recommendations, which included the dismantling of the NT land councils, sparked an outcry.

The first CLC ranger group started in Lajamanu in 2000, funded in part by royalty payments.

In 2004, the CLC and the NT Government negotiated joint management arrangements for 20 national parks and reserves. Sixteen were to be handed back to their Traditional Owners and leased to the NT Government for 99 years, with four jointly managed under Indigenous land use agreements.

Following requests by Aboriginal educators in the Tanami, the CLC established its community development program in 2005. The first program initiatives, the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) and the Uluru rent money project, saw Aboriginal groups plan and implement community benefit projects with their collective income from royalty and rent payments.

The Land Rights Act was again amended in 2006, by the federal Howard government to allow the Aboriginal Affairs Minister to delegate core land council functions to Aboriginal corporations that were not required to be made up of Traditional Owners and/or which could lack the capacity to carry out CLC functions.

The Northern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area, the first IPA in the CLC region, was declared in 2007. That year was also a low point in Indigenous affairs in the NT, with the declaration by Prime Minister John Howard of the NT Emergency Response and accompanying legislation – the so-called Northern Territory Intervention.

In 2008 the CLC commemorated the 80th anniversary of the 1928 Coniston massacre. In the same year, the community development unit started the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) project, which invests

compensation income in community benefit projects throughout the Tanami region.

In 2009, the then Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, opened the CLC's new building, which enabled the location of all staff sections together for the first time since 1986. Minister Macklin also handed back seven national parks at this time.

In 2010, CLC delegates elected Tennant Creek's Gina Smith as the first female deputy chair and decided to use all rent income from jointly managed national parks for community benefit projects through the CLC's new NT Parks rent money project.

In 2012 the CLC delegates voted unanimously to spend the majority of the Commonwealth's compensation for the compulsory community leases imposed during the NT emergency response on community benefit projects to be supported by the CLC's community development program.

Following the Strong Aboriginal Governance Summit in Tennant Creek, organised by the Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT (APO NT), the Commonwealth invested in a new Aboriginal Governance and Management Program to assist Aboriginal organisations in 2013.

In 2014 the handback of Yurrkuru (Brooks Soak) concluded a 22-year struggle for justice. The CLC celebrated its 40th birthday in 2015 with the opening of a new operational and training centre in Alice Springs for its 11 ranger groups.

The community development program celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2016. With its support, Aboriginal groups in 31 communities have driven their own development by investing \$58 million of their royalty, rent and compensation income in many hundreds of projects that benefit their communities.

In May 2017, the First Nations Constitutional Convention was held near Uluru. The CLC helped organise the convention at the request of the Referendum Council, as well as the earlier First Nations Regional Dialogue at Ross River, which sent Central Australian delegates to the convention to join with delegates from similar dialogues across Australia. The statement issued by the convention has become widely known as the Uluru Statement from the Heart and its call for Voice, Treaty and Truth was endorsed by the CLC at its meeting in August 2017.

On 8 June 2018, 30 years after the Barunga Statement that led to the broken promise of a national treaty, the chairs of the four Territory land councils and the then Chief Minister Michael Gunner signed the Barunga Agreement. The memorandum of understanding sets out the process for consultations about a treaty between Aboriginal Territorians and the NT Government, and in June 2022 the Northern Territory Treaty Commission delivered its final report.

In March 2019, a coalition of Aboriginal peak organisations, including the CLC and the NLC, entered into an historic partnership agreement with the Council of Australian Governments to reform the failed Closing the Gap policy, the first time Aboriginal peak bodies were given an opportunity to contribute to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the policy. Also in March, the Australian and

TOP Then CLC Director, Patrick Dodson and Deputy Director, David Ross at Barunga in 1988.

BOTTOM Yunupingu and Wenten Rubuntja present the Barunga Statement to the then Prime Minister Bob Hawke in 1988.



The Barunga Voice Declaration signed by the chairs of the four Northern Territory land councils and by delegates of the Northern and Central land councils on 9 June 2023.



NT governments signed a partnership agreement for remote housing to address the Territory's housing crisis. Again for the first time, NT land councils were represented on a steering committee created by the governments, where they led a review of the existing housing model and leasing arrangements and took part in policy and strategy decisions about remote housing spending.

In October 2019, Anangu celebrated the closure of the climbing path on Uluru, righting an historic wrong. After years of climber accidents and deaths and a decline in climber numbers, the board of management of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park decided to end this disrespectful practice.

In January 2020, former CLC director David Ross was awarded membership of the general division of the Order of Australia,

honouring the more than 40 years of his life he devoted to the CLC and the people of Central Australia.

In the early 2020s, CLC faced the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, diverting its staff and resources to help to control the spread of the virus, while continuing its work to represent the Traditional Landowners of Central Australia and strengthen land management and economic participation, while striving to improve living conditions and support constituents to protect the land, water sources and sacred sites vital to our future.

In December 2021, the passage of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment (Economic Empowerment) Bill 2021 established a new Commonwealth entity – the NT Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC). This change empowered Aboriginal people in the NT to take a substantial decision-making role in the new body through strategic

CLC delegate Jimmy Frank with grandson, signing the Barunga Voice Declaration in June 2023.



investment and allocation of funds formerly administered by the ABA. The four Northern Territory land councils had advocated for this change for decades and from 2018 engaged in a co-design process to establish the new corporation. Aboriginal people have majority control on the NTAIC Board through elected representatives from the four land councils. The NTAIC commenced operations in November 2022. CLC executive member Barbara Shaw was elected inaugural chair of NTAIC in March 2023.

Since 2017, the CLC has formally endorsed and supported the Uluru Statement from the Heart and its call for constitutional recognition that will enshrine a First Nations Voice to Parliament in the Australian Constitution. In 2023, the Commonwealth parliament passed historic legislation to establish a referendum on this question later in 2023. On 9 June 2023, representatives of the Northern, Central, Tiwi and Anindilyakwa land councils met at Barunga and signed the Barunga Voice Declaration in support of a Voice, echoing the 1988 Barunga Statement calling for a Treaty that was presented to then Prime Minister Bob Hawke. The Barunga Declaration was presented to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on 22 June 2023.

Performance report

CLC's purpose

The CLC's purpose is defined by the powers and functions legislated in the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and its responsibilities as a Native Title representative body under the Native Title Act.

Organisational goals

These powers and functions are embodied in the CLC's seven strategic goals outlined in its Corporate Plan. These are addressed in this report by reference to the output groups shown in parentheses below:

1. Rights and interests (Output Group 4)
2. Land ownership and interests (Output groups 2 and 5)
3. Culture (Output Group 4.3)
4. Looking after country (Output Group 1)
5. Economic (jobs, training and business) (Output Group 3)
6. Communities and outstations (Output Group 4)
7. Governance (CLC governance).

Corporate planning and performance framework

Corporate planning integrates longer-term objectives with performance driven by outputs and outcomes. The PGPA Act requires the CLC, as a Commonwealth corporate entity, to update its corporate plan annually. The CLC's corporate plan, which guides activities and priorities for the four-year period from 2022 to 2026, was published on the CLC website and presented to the minister this financial year. Action planning ensures that the activities in the plan are monitored and achieved.

The CLC also maintains qualitative case studies in addition to performance measurement. Given that much of the organisation's performance cannot be assessed by metrics alone, these case studies enhance information available to understand the importance of how CLC delivers its activities and enables more qualitative assessment. These case studies – a community development project, an outstation project, and a section 64(4) ABA grant application support project – are published on the CLC website at <https://www.clc.org.au/monitoring-evaluation/>.

One such study is the longitudinal study of the CLC's Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) outstations project. The CLC's involvement was to choose 105 priority outstations from 310 across Central Australia and to write applications with and on behalf of the residents. This was completed in 2019. This project will help the 105 prioritised outstations to access up to \$150,000 each of ABA funding for much-needed infrastructure improvements. The project provides an example of good project governance and well-informed and harmonious decision making to determine which outstations will most benefit from the opportunity to make improvements. The National Indigenous

Australians Agency (NIAA) is now responsible for facilitating the works described in the applications, while the CLC monitors progress.

Performance management

The CLC's outcomes and achievements are described in the respective output chapters of this report. In summary, these include:

- working with Traditional Owners to manage their land and resources, protect sacred sites and foster economic development (Outputs 1.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 4.3)
- pursuing Traditional Owners' Native Title interests (Output 6)
- supporting Traditional Owners and other constituents to realise their aspirations for community development (Output 4.4)
- negotiating commercial agreements with parties interested in using Aboriginal land and managing income arising from land use agreements (Output 3.4)
- representing the land interests and aspirations of Aboriginal people in Central Australia (Output 3.1)
- managing community-based rangers to deliver a range of land management services (Output 3.2).

A performance information framework ensures that properly maintained records are the basis of the reported performance and facilitates the selection of performance information and metrics to measure organisational performance. The framework incorporates metric dashboards, each including measures categorised by the seven strategic goals. The dashboards include a seven-year history of actual performance, the corporate plan target and where relevant, forecasts for the following three financial years. The CLC manages non-metric performance by action planning and qualitative analysis.

Annual performance statement

The accountable authority hereby presents the CLC's 2022–23 performance statement, in compliance with subsections 39(1) (a) and (b) of the PGPA Act, and section 16F of the PGPA Rule. In the opinion of the accountable authority, the performance statement is based on properly maintained records, accurately presents the CLC's performance for the reporting period, and complies with subsection 39(2) of the PGPA Act.

The statement comprises:

1. metric performance measures – cross-referenced to the corporate plan activities
2. non-metric performance measures – targeting completion of key initiatives.

Glenys Drover collecting Yalke at Bore no.6, Plenty River, during an Indigenous protected area planning trip.



Table 4. Annual performance statement: actual v target

Strategic goal	Performance criteria	KPI #	Key activity reference ²	Measure	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	Target	Variance
1. Aboriginal peoples' rights and interests are protected and represented	Successful communication of CLC's 'Rights and Interests' advocacy activities to Aboriginal constituents and key stakeholders	1	1	External publications produced for key stakeholders regarding Aboriginal rights and interests and the CLC's work	146	87	120	- 33
2. Aboriginal land ownership and interests are protected and enhanced	ALRA land claims and Native Title claims – recognition of Aboriginal constituents' interests in land through successfully negotiating and obtaining land rights and Native Title determinations in compliance with the ALRA and the Native Title Act Determine traditional owners for all claims and interests (e.g. land claims, land use and development, land management, caring for country, land use income) Post land and Native Title claim administration: ALRA access permits; negotiate, consult and manage land use and access outcomes (leasing, exploration and mining, grazing, other applications and future acts)	2	2	Traditional Owner 'ownership' (square km) administered with rights and interests protected and represented under ALRA ¹	418,548	418,548	423,386	- 4,838
		3	2.4	Native Title claim for which consent determination has been handed down ³	33	34	38	- 4
		4	2.2	Anthropological advice issued to determine relevant Traditional Owners (claims and interests) – excludes certificate work at KPI #9 ³	305	257	300	- 43
		5	2.7-2.11	Current leases and licences entered into and managed	2,965	2,997	2,600	397
		6	2.5-2.6	Native Title non-mining Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) entered and managed	63	70	70	-
		7	2.7-2.11	Exploration agreements (ELs & EPs) entered into and managed on land subject to ALRA or Native Title	68	69	70	- 1
		8	2.7-2.11	Minerals and energy production agreements entered into and managed on land subject to ALRA or Native Title	19	17	21	- 4
		3. Aboriginal people protect and maintain their sacred sites, land, cultures, languages and cultural heritage	Activities to protect sacred sites, plan and manage cultural heritage, maintain culture and languages by transferring knowledge on country and supporting traditional Aboriginal ceremony and funeral customs	9	3.1	Sacred Site Clearance Certificates (SSCC) / Work Area Clearance Issued	176	184
10	3.5			Cultural heritage management and Intergenerational IEK transfer projects supported	75	56	60	- 4

Strategic goal	Performance criteria	Key activity		Measure	2021–22	2022–23	Target	Variance
		KPI #	reference ²		Actual	Actual		
4. Aboriginal people are looking after their country	Traditional Owners are leading or influencing land management across the region, having their voice respected and deploying their traditional and ecological knowledge	11	4.1, 4.2	Land management committee meetings and consultative forums with effective TO representation	101	161	70	91
	Effective Aboriginal employment and training in land management through the Traditional Owner-directed ranger program	12	4.2	Rangers employed in the ranger program – Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	55	49	82	- 33
5. Generations of Aboriginal people are successful in training, jobs and businesses	Support Aboriginal people in the effective management of income derived from the use of their land	13	5.1	Distribution committee meetings held regarding land use income	100	140	100	40
	Effective and compliant administration of Aboriginal corporations in accordance with CATSI Act (CLC engaged under ALRA and through service agreements)	14	5.2	AGMs and SGMs facilitated for Aboriginal Corporations with land holding or land use income, under service agreements – by Aboriginal Association Management Centre (AAMC) and PBC teams	43	78	83	- 5
	Supporting Aboriginal people to connect with employment opportunities	15	5.5	Employment placements: connecting people with opportunities in the region (mining, exploration, construction, remote employment, pastoral)	9	7	30	- 23
6. Aboriginal people control their communities and outstations	Actions to support Aboriginal people in their development of strong communities and outstations	16	6	Community-funded community benefit initiatives	217	240	195	45
		17	6.2	Community development project expenditure across CLC region (\$000)	11,236	14,555	16,500	- 1,945
7. Governance and management meet constituents' and legal requirements	Governance meetings held to administer ALRA and Native Title Act requirements, and to provide Council members with regular cultural engagement opportunities	18	7.1	Council meetings held (90 elected delegates from across the CLC region convene for several days)	3	5	3	2
		19	7.1	Executive committee meetings held	8	8	8	-
	Human resources planning and capability	20	7.3	Aboriginal staff as a percentage of workforce (FTE)	45.1%	47.3%	50.5%	- 3.2%

¹ No new ALRA land claims permitted under the legislation – only two claims remain in the CLC region.

² Key activity reference: refer to the strategic goals and activities section.

³ Correction made to 2021–22 figure.

Table 5. Annual performance statement non-metric performance: actual v target

GOAL/ACTIVITY	NON-METRIC PERFORMANCE MEASURE	2021–22	2022–23		
		Actual	Actual	Target	Variance
1. Aboriginal peoples' rights and interests are protected and represented					
1.2	Annual policy priority review		✓	✓	
2. Aboriginal land ownership and interests are protected and enhanced					
2.3	Review procedures for management and monitoring of disputes under ALRA and NTA functions	✓	✓	✓	
2.3	Dispute management and facilitation training	✓	✓		Positive
	Apply for NTRB recognition			✓	Action not required until 2023–24
3. Aboriginal people protect and maintain their sacred sites, land, cultures, languages and cultural heritage					
3.1	Sacred site clearance certificate update of procedures	✓	✓	✓	
3.2	Review CLC policy and procedure for repatriation of objects		✓	✓	
3.4	Update CLC policy and procedure for cultural information management	✓	✓	✓	
	Establish and engage with an Aboriginal sub-committee on cultural guidance regarding 3.2 and 3.4	✓	✓	✓	
	Language interpreter policy review	✓		✓	No trigger requiring review
5. Generations of Aboriginal people are successful in training, jobs and businesses					
5.3	Develop a monitoring framework for economic participation activities			✓	Negative
5.7	Annual monitoring and review of the ABA Economic Stimulus Package		✓	✓	
6. Aboriginal people control their communities and outstations					
	Annual external monitoring of Community Development outcomes	✓	✓	✓	
7. Governance and management meet constituent and legal requirements					
7.1	Council elections held every three years	✓	Chair	✓	
	Performance reporting to Minister – annual and half-yearly	✓	✓	✓	
	Legislative compliance framework – non-compliance reporting if applicable (Audit committee oversights)	✓	✓	✓	
	Ongoing unmodified CLC annual audited financial statements (annual)	✓	✓	✓	
	Medium-term financial framework/annual budget update	✓	✓	✓	
	Organisation structure review and implementation		✓	✓	
	Gender report	✓		✓	Negative
7.3	Aboriginal staff development strategy implementation	✓	✓	Review	
	Enterprise Agreement (EA) / Salary determination	✓	✓	✓	Salary determination
	Professional development 'curriculum' established and implemented	✓	✓	✓	
	Staff satisfaction survey/index	✓		✓	
	Facilities development plan and periodic review	✓	✓	✓	
7.4	Cloud-based solutions and data strategy		✓	✓	
7.2, 7.6	Climate change operating strategy			✓	Negative

Berryl Pultara collecting ironbark during Native Title research on Coniston Station.



Environment protection and biodiversity

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* requires Commonwealth authorities to report on environmental matters. Various operational aspects of the CLC are specifically concerned with the environment. Programmatic attention to environmental measures features in land and natural resource management work (Output 1.2) and advocacy services (Outputs 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3). Environmental initiatives continue to be a focus of our corporate services, in particular see the discussion of asset management in the corporate management section later in this report. During the reporting period, the CLC increased the number of electric cars in the town pool. The environmental benefits of the use of these cars is enhanced by recharging them using electricity generated from solar panels at the main office.

Reporting of the recommended environmental measures for Commonwealth entities has been updated to comply with new emissions reporting requirements (see tables 6 and 7).

Table 6. Performance against Commonwealth-recommended environmental measures

Theme	Indicator(s)	Measure	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Energy efficiency	Electricity purchased	\$	233,616	194,023	142,803	153,295	133,961
	Electricity consumed	kWh	748,901	708,348	537,987	616,510	500,462
	Gas purchased	\$	23,523	19,837	18,430	14,628	19,978
	Other fuels purchased/consumed	L	558,145	398,970	568,896	451,187	539,524
	Fuels purchased	\$	1,038,150	754,053	910,234	947,493	1,230,115
	Air travel distances	km	1,066,075	967,434	484,809	530,424	410,843
	Air travel CO ₂	t	132	75	56	54	43
	Electricity CO ₂	t	671	864	660	752	611
	Gas CO ₂	t	15.8	19.2	17	18	18
	Other fuels CO ₂	t	1,507	1,077	1,536	1,190	1,457
	Electricity used	kWh p/e	3,482	2,719	2,881	2,634	2,148
	Gas used	Gj p/e	59	46.2	40.9	49	1
	Other fuels	L p/e	2,052	1,535	2,188	1,928	2,315
	Renewable energy	Electricity produced	kWh	46,831	97,146	210,740	213,392
Savings		\$	10,770	22,341	48,470	49,080	35,942
CO ₂ savings		t	32	67	145	147	107
Renewable electricity		% kWh	6.3	13.7	39	26	24
Waste	Amount going to landfills	m ³	468	460	420	217	263
	Amount going to recycling facilities	m ³	260	240	78	129	135
	Amount of waste per employee	m ³	1.8	1.8	1.6	0.8	1
Water	Water consumption	kL	8,855	7,870	7,683	10,726	15,033
	Relative water consumption – water use	kL p/e	33	30	30	45	65
CO ₂ offsets	Camels removed by muster	number	2,271	1,264	1,491	-	93
	Camels removed by muster – CO ₂ emission savings	t	-	-	62,554	-	-
	Horses removed by joint management	t	3,022	1,728	352	-	-
	Horses removed by joint management – CO ₂ emission savings	t	2,901	1,659	454	-	-

Table 7. Greenhouse gas emissions inventory

Emission source	Scope 1 kg CO ₂ -e	Scope 2 kg CO ₂ -e	Scope 3 kg CO ₂ -e	Total kg CO ₂ -e
Electricity	N/A	275,365	35,696	311,061
Natural Gas	607,384	N/A	95,475	702,859
Fleet vehicles	1,026,527	N/A	252,711	1,279,238
Domestic flights	-	N/A	53,883	53,883
Other energy	-	N/A	-	-
Total kg CO ₂ -e	1,633,912	275,365	437,764	2,347,041

The electricity emissions reported above are calculated using the location based approach. When applying the market based method, which accounts for activities such as Greenpower, purchased LGCs and/or being located in the ACT, the total emissions for electricity, are below:

Emission source	Scope 1 kg CO ₂ -e	Scope 2 kg CO ₂ -e	Scope 3 kg CO ₂ -e	Total kg CO ₂ -e
Electricity (Market Based Approach)	N/A	349,213	46,219	395,432
Natural Gas	607,384	N/A	95,475	702,859
Fleet Vehicles	1,026,527	N/A	252,711	1,279,238
Domestic Flights	-	N/A	53,883	53,883
Other Energy	-	N/A	-	-
Total kg CO ₂ -e	1,633,912	349,213	448,287	2,431,412

CO₂-e = Carbon Dioxide Equivalent

Analysis of performance against purpose

The factors that influence achievement of purpose are mainly:

Resource constraints: organisational reliance upon budget approved annually by the Minister for Indigenous Australians for allocations from the ABA and the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (for programs such as Native Title representative body functions and the ranger program).

External demand: key statutory functions include obtaining Traditional Owner consent for use of Aboriginal land by external parties, mostly related to leases and mining exploration and agreements. The upturn in industry minerals exploration has impacted on the level of applications. Demand has continued for Native Title services, prescribed bodies corporate support, and land-related corporation administration.

Aboriginal constituent services demand: Aboriginal groups continue to request support in land management and community development activities. Aboriginal groups receive royalties, rent and compensation related to mining and other land use activities, with many allocating amounts to community development activities whereby governance is facilitated, and contracts administered, by the CLC's community development program.

Improved productivity: greater productivity allows the CLC to improve its services. A number of (non-cash) productivity improvements that arose from enterprise bargaining continue to provide benefit.

Better than target – material variance

- leases and licences remained high – demand driven
- sacred site clearance certificates issues – demand driven
- land management meetings and forums – a larger number of Indigenous protected area and joint management meetings were held following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions
- distribution committee meetings – increased demand largely related to funds received every three to five years
- community-funded benefit initiatives – matched funds projects approved by governance groups exceeded expectations
- council meetings – additional special Council meeting held to elect a replacement chair, and the council meeting brought forward to June in Barunga.

Targets not achieved – material variance

- traditional ownership land claims are with the government awaiting finalisation
- Native Title consent determination – timing of a determination is difficult to predict with multiple external drivers
- anthropological advice issued – negative variance largely relates to the sites database completion, as well as reduced staff capacity caused by anthropologist vacancies

- Aboriginal staff as a percentage of workforce – improvement however still below target, particularly reflected in the high ranger staff vacancy rate
- rangers employed – COVID-19 saw a 30% decline in permanent rangers, and this year's recruitment has been hampered by difficulty attracting ranger coordinators, flooding and community unrest. Intensive recruitment rounds across all CLC ranger teams and a modified recruitment process were trialled and participants numbers increased; the CLC will continue to focus on recruitment
- AGMs and SGMs – five AGMs postponed due to reasons specific to those corporations
- employment placements – while not all referrals were successful, with the service of employment placements now provided by government-funded service providers across the region the CLC has decided to direct its efforts to the Aboriginal Leadership Program reform and advocating for improved employment practices and outcomes of land use agreements proponents
- community development project expenditure – is largely attributed (89% of the variance) to projects contracted to the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC) not being delivered due to WYDAC governance issues. While the CLC's monitoring processes enabled this issue to be detected, it provides an example of the complex reasons that cause community development project delays and highlights the importance of the CLC's efforts to strengthen its project management systems
- monitoring framework for economic participation activities – a framework was developed for the ABA economic stimulus program. It was deemed no longer effective to progress a standalone economic participation monitoring framework, given these activities are being integrated across the CLC's work
- gender report – Council attention directed to election of replacement chair and the joint meeting in Barunga; insufficient time to develop with Council
- staff satisfaction survey – not completed with several vacancies in the HR team, and efforts directed to engaging staff with the remuneration review
- climate change operating strategy – insufficient resourcing to progress
- publications – fewer posters were produced with assistance of the communications team; note that the CLC does not track the number of posters produced independently by every staff member.

Teddy Long and other claimants during Conistan Native Title claim research.



Financial performance

The deficit for 2022–23 was \$5.2 million compared to a surplus of \$18.7 million in the previous year. The substantial reduction relates to receiving ABA allocations in advance. In 2020–21, the CLC received \$22.0 million of ABA Economic Stimulus Funding, and in 2021–22 it received a further \$14.7 million. Figure 1 lists operational sources of revenue.

As at the end of 2022–23, all stimulus projects had been committed, but most capital projects were incomplete. The major delays included the implementation of a number of staff housing and office accommodation projects, in part due to COVID-19 restrictions that prevented work in remote communities and obtaining building approvals. Building and construction contracts were further delayed by the shortage of trade services in remote areas and delays in the supply of building materials. Unfinished building projects will proceed in 2023–24. Procurement of motor vehicles was a significant issue, with delays of up to twelve months for the supply of four-wheel drive vehicles. These delays are expected to continue through the next twelve months.

The land and natural resource management output group expenditure was \$12.5 million, or 17 per cent of total expenditure.

The economic development and commercial services output group expenditure was \$18.7 million, or 25 per cent of total expenditure. This output group comprises expenditure related to land use agreements, employment, education and training, mining and commercial assistance. It includes statutory mining and land use agreement assistance functions, applications for consent to explore on Aboriginal land, employment unit costs, tourism development and pastoral development projects.

The advocacy output group expenditure was \$18.1 million, or 24 per cent of total expenditure. The demand for community development resources continues to rise and remains unmet. Further details of work performed within the output groups is provided later in this report.

The CLC identifies opportunities for cost recovery to lessen the effect of any reduction in the level or quality of service delivery. It progressively implements productivity improvements proposed during the enterprise bargaining process in order to improve organisational effectiveness.

The financial statements adhere to Australian accounting standards. No annual funding is provided for non-financial asset depreciation and accrued leave liabilities. Net comprehensive income is attributable to the Australian Government.

Figure 1. Sources of revenue 2018–23

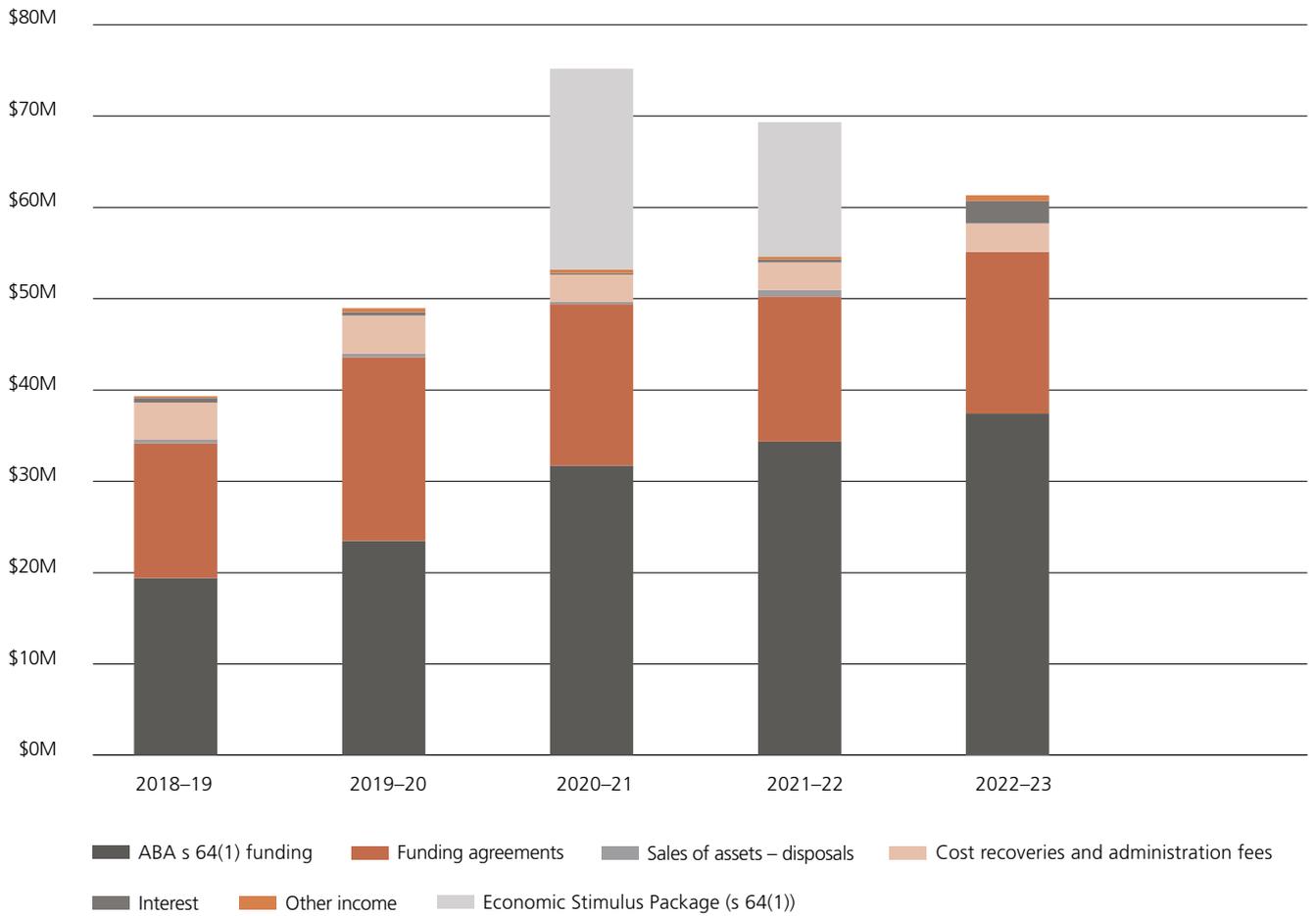
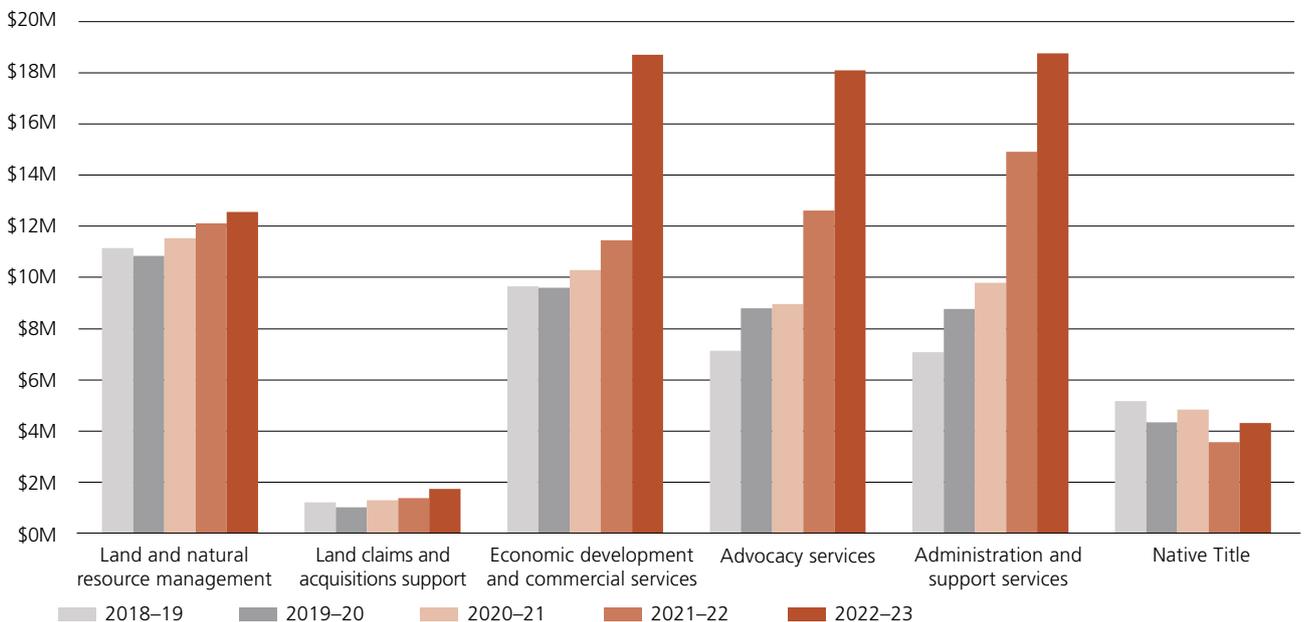


Figure 2. Expenditure classified by CLC output groups 2018–23



OUTPUT GROUP 1

Land and natural resource management

Output 1.1 Permits

Access to Aboriginal land is managed effectively and efficiently.

The use of permits to enter Aboriginal land is authorised in section 73 of the federal *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* and contained within the Northern Territory's *Aboriginal Land Act 1978*. Traditional Owners use the permit system, administered by the land councils, to manage visitation to their lands and to uphold their responsibilities to visitors. Visitors can apply for entry, transit, mining and special purpose permits through the CLC website.

Australian Government amendments of the Land Rights Act allow access to public areas of remote communities without a permit, but permits are still required outside these areas. COVID-19 pandemic-related biosecurity declarations, made in 2020 and again in 2022, prevented travel outside of biosecurity zones except for approved essential workers. These declarations have made the general public and contractors more aware of the permit system. In 2022–23 the CLC processed and issued 6,380 permit applications covering at least 11,067 individuals.

The Simpson Desert tracks (Madigan Line and Hay River Track) on Atnetye ALT continue to be popular and require an entry permit (included in the above figures). The permit numbers are monitored to assist Traditional Owners of Atnetye ALT to make informed decisions about the management of these tracks. In 2023 tourism group operators began paying a fee for Madigan Line permits, and in 2024 the CLC aims to extend this to the general public, subject to completion of an online payment portal. Heavy rains and flooding in some parts of the country led to numerous requests for amendment of issued permits, or requests to delay the issue of permits until floodwaters receded.

From December 2021, applicants for entry, mining and special purpose permits were required by CLC to provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19. At a full meeting of the Council in June 2023, the Council elected to continue this arrangement, requiring permit holders to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, as defined by the Australian Government.

Compared with the pre-pandemic period, there has been a significant increase in telephone and email communications from the general public (tourists and workers), seeking information about which areas require permits and under what conditions permits will be issued.

In response to the increase in work-related permit applications and the increased workload for the permit officer, a casual worker has been employed to assist with permit processing.

CLC anthropology staff consulted Traditional Owners regarding 13 special purpose permit applications, which normally relate to the conduct of research or are of an unusual nature.

Table 8. Number of different types of permits processed 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Permit type	July 2022 – June 2023	Number of People
Entry	1,926	5,664
Special purpose (research)	13	71
Mining	108	993
Transit	4,328	Number unavailable (at least 4,328)
Media	5	11
Total	6,380	At least 11,067

Output 1.2 Land and natural resource management

The Central Land Council assists Traditional Owners to sustainably manage their land and natural resources.

Land is vitally important to the lives and identity of Aboriginal people. The CLC supports its constituents to manage their land through the 14 CLC ranger groups, four Indigenous protected areas (IPAs), joint management support and cultural and natural resource projects. Land is of immense cultural and spiritual significance to its Aboriginal owners. They wish to maintain their cultural and spiritual connection to their country and ensure that future generations have the same opportunity.

The region contains landscapes of national and international significance that support threatened species and habitats of high conservation value. However, there are threats to both the natural and cultural integrity of the land, including the impact of unsustainable groundwater extraction, loss of language, feral animals, inappropriate fire regimes, poor access to country, invasive plant species and other threats to culture and biodiversity.

Traditional Owners want to manage their land sustainably and generate livelihoods from it. The CLC builds their capacity to manage and protect environmental and cultural values. It provides advice and assistance with land use and management planning, fire management, cultural heritage, feral animal and weed management, and Traditional Owner participation in the management of protected areas.

Aboriginal rangers are the eyes and ears of the bush; they report back to their elders about the state of their country and help look after it the right way. The CLC ranger program highlights the impact a program can have when it is driven by the community and places control in the hands of traditional owners (see the *CLC ranger report 2022–23* for more details).

Anthropological advice ensures that the Traditional Owners of country subject to land management projects are correctly identified. CLC anthropologists prepared 21 Traditional Owner identifications for a variety of land management activities including:

- burning trips on Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Land Trust (ALT), Mala ALT, Central Desert ALT, and Karlantitjpa North ALTs

- work towards an Indigenous protected area (IPA) for the Simpson Desert
- the Tanami regional biodiversity survey project
- surveys for the Central rock-rat on Haasts Bluff ALT; feral animal management on Anurrtte ALT, Petermann ALT and Lhere Pirnte ALT.

CLC anthropologists also assisted on site visits with Traditional Owners of Atnetye ALT, Alkwert ALT and Uruna ALT.

Regional land management Land resource information and planning

Three healthy country plans were completed this year: the Anmatyerr, Muru-Warinyi Ankkul and Akityarre ranger groups' plans have been finalised and distributed to Traditional Owners. These groups are all proud of these plans and the large workshops and country visits involved in writing them. The plans will guide ranger work and Traditional Owner engagement into the future. The Tjuwanpa and Ltyentye Apurte Rangers' healthy country plans are in the final stages of production.

CLC Land Management staff provided information and planning support to constituents where required, including land condition analyses for three leases to support pastoral enterprise planning, setting stocking rates and assessing grazing impacts. Additionally, support was provided to Traditional Owners for three grazing licence inspections along with numerous meetings with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal corporations to negotiate lease conditions, oversee and investigate cattle removal and build capacity.

The CLC has continued to participate in efforts to re-establish a regional biodiversity monitoring project that was created in partnership with Newmont Corporation in 2005, to measure changes in biodiversity across parts of the Tanami IPAs following mining and mineral exploration. The project had recorded a wealth of baseline biodiversity data by the time it ceased, in 2012. The CLC participated in regular meetings of the interim steering group and core partner group and facilitated a large

TOP Tjakura rangers returning after patch burning on Katiiti-Petermann IPA.

BOTTOM Ltyentye Apurte Rangers constructing a 400 metre fence designed to protect Oolera Springs from camel intrusion, Arletherre ALT.



Traditional Owner engagement session with the steering committee, to ensure the project utilises cultural knowledge and meets the needs of the Warlipiri. The monitoring program is scheduled to recommence in late 2023.

Fire management

The CLC facilitated the annual Warlu Committee meeting in Tennant Creek. At the meeting, Traditional Owners and rangers from the Tanami regions worked with Bushfires NT, Indigenous Desert Alliance and Territory Natural Resource Management to plan fire management actions in the Tanami region for 2023. The annual Waru Committee was postponed because of the prioritisation of resources to the Tanami region following a very wet summer and high fire risk. The CLC engaged a consultant to conduct a ten-year review of the Waru and Warlu committees to make recommendations on their future operation and review the need for the formation of new regional Aboriginal fire management committees in other parts of the CLC region. This project will conclude at the end of 2023.

The CLC continued to advocate for Indigenous fire management through its representation on both the NT Bushfires Council and the Alice Springs Regional Bushfires Committee, attending two NT Bushfires Council meetings and one Alice Springs Regional Bushfire Committee meeting. These committees have representation from land management organisations across the NT and guide Bushfires NT priorities. CLC staff also held one meeting with Bushfires NT to discuss response arrangements and responsibilities for bushfires on Aboriginal land trusts. Regional staff and the fire management officer assisted fire and national parks authorities with suppression operations on two large bushfires in the south-western NT in 2022, in line with CLC guidelines on bushfire response.

The CLC fire officer addressed high fire risk in the Tennant Creek region by attending one joint stakeholder fire meeting with Bushfires NT, NT Fire and Rescue Service, NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics. The meeting prioritised risks and mitigation strategies for the Aboriginal land trusts surrounding Tennant Creek. The CLC has developed a bushfires mitigation plan for the area, which is being implemented.

The CLC maintained its involvement with the Indigenous Carbon Industry Network – an advocacy body for carbon abatement project proponents and support bodies – including attending the North Australian Savanna Fire Forum in Darwin to share knowledge and present on current operations. It also continued to work with researchers from Charles Darwin University on the development of a low-rainfall carbon abatement methodology for fire management.

One large region-wide fixed-wing aerial burning operation was held over three weeks, with the support of the Indigenous Desert Alliance. Most effort was targeted at the northern part of the CLC region, concentrating on Karlantijpa North ALT (325,300 ha burned), Karlantijpa South ALT (880 ha burned), the Northern Tanami IPA (170,290 ha burned) and the Southern Tanami IPA (150,090 ha burned). This equates to the most extensive burning operation conducted in Central Australia, and was made possible with the approval of the Warlu Committee and the financial and operational support of the Indigenous Desert Alliance.

The CLC continued to support the Karlantijpa North Savanna Burning project by assisting with fire planning, stakeholder liaison, ground operations and governance. One fire management operation in collaboration with Traditional Owners and the Muru-Warinyi Ankkul and Murnkurrumurnkurru ranger groups, resulted in 1070 hectares being burnt along boundary firebreaks. In addition, the CLC facilitated the delivery of a one-week carbon farming course to corporation members, with the aim of building the capacity and independence of the corporation.

Invasive species management

Feral animals

The CLC helps Traditional Owners to manage feral animals through planning, consultation and partnerships. As in previous years, the comparatively mild and wet conditions meant that feral animal removal work has been relatively limited. However, CLC rangers and Traditional Owners are increasingly witnessing or hearing reports of increased feral animal numbers across Central Australia. With a forecast dry summer, it is likely that there will be an increase in feral animal removal in the coming financial year. As the feral animals move closer to communities, CLC will work closely with Traditional Owners and community members to negotiate removal.

The CLC performed a cull on the Northern Tanami IPA to reduce the impact of large feral herbivores on known greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) habitat. However, a relatively wet year meant that feral herbivores were comparatively dispersed and staff made the decision to finish the cull early. Ninety-three feral camels and 55 feral cattle were culled as part of the operation.

The CLC continued to participate in the 10 Deserts Feral Camel Working Group. While this project is almost completed, working group members will continue to meet semiregularly to discuss camel movement across the desert country. The group is also investigating nominating camels as a key threatening process for consideration by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee.

The CLC has continued to support Traditional Owners to protect sacred sites and significant water places from the impacts of feral animals. A highlight for this year was the completion of an approximately 400-metre camelproof fence at Oolera Spring, on Arletherre ALT. This work was completed by Ltyentye Apurte Rangers and Traditional Owners and should ensure the ongoing protection of this permanent spring.

On advice from Traditional Owners, the CLC worked to negotiate the terms of agreement for the muster and sale of horses from ALTs surrounding Ntaria and Ltyentye Apurte. However, the price offered was deemed too low by Traditional Owners and the sale did not proceed. There are ongoing challenges to the management of feral animals caused by some Traditional Owners placing a higher value on feral animals than the market rate.

Weeds

Weed infestations impact significantly on the cultural and natural values of the country. Weeds displace bush foods and other important plants, and cause hotter and more destructive fires from which native vegetation cannot recover. This causes declines in native plant diversity.

The CLC rangers conduct most of the weed management on Aboriginal land, but as their resources can cover only a fraction of infestations, they prioritise areas of high cultural and ecological value. Ranger teams monitor water sites of significance to ensure weeds are being regularly removed. Buffel grass is also commonly removed from around outstations to lower the fire risk. Ranger groups are seeing success in some areas where no weeds have returned after their previous treatment works (e.g. Kalumpurlpa, Karlinjarri and Kunjarra on Warumungu ALT).

The CLC has also been actively advocating for effective weed regulation and management and has been appointed to the NT Government's Buffel Grass Technical Working Group. The CLC is working to get buffel declared as a weed in the Northern Territory. The CLC is also a member of the Alice Springs Regional Weed Reference Group.

The CLC Rangers have been partnering with other agencies to learn how to better remove weeds on Aboriginal land. Aputula Rangers travelled to Witjira National Park in South Australia to observe the effectiveness of Athel Pine (*Tamarix aphylla*) removal in the lower Finke River. MuruWarinyi Ankkul Rangers participated in a workshop with NT Weeds Management Branch to increase their skills in weed identification.

Table 9. Weed species and areas of control work

Species	Status	Location
Buffel (<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>)	Not declared	Petermann ALT Katiti ALT Ahakeye ALT Santa Teresa ALT
Common couch (<i>Elymus repens</i>)	Not declared	Santa Teresa ALT
Thornapple (<i>Datura sp.</i>)	A	Arletherre ALT Huckitta PPL
Rubber bush (<i>Calotropis procera</i>)	B	Haasts Bluff ALT Karlantijpa North ALT
Mexican poppy (<i>Argemone mexicana</i>)	B	Santa Teresa ALT
Kapok bush (<i>Aerva javanica</i>)	Not declared	Atitjere Plenty Highway
Parkinsonia	WONS B	Yuendumu ALT

A/B = necessary to eradicate and prevent introduction into the NT.

B/C = Necessary to prevent the growing, spreading and introduction of the declared weed in the NT.

WONS = Weed of national significance.

Ranger Kitana Shaw learning to operate a bobcat to conduct long-awaited women's sacred site protection near Aputula (Finke) community.



Significant and threatened species management

The CLC relies on external scientific and technical expertise as it helps Traditional Owners to manage significant and threatened species. An ongoing partnership with Territory Natural Resource Management continues in the Tanami region with rangers utilising their knowledge of country to assist researchers to find the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*). Northern Tanami and Warlpiri (Yuendumu, Nyirripi, Willowra) rangers undertook multiple surveys throughout the year.

Walungurru, Tjakura and Kaltukatjara rangers participated in a collaborative, simultaneous tri-state monitoring event called Mulyamiji March. The event, coordinated by Indigenous Desert Alliance, focused on the Tjakura (Great desert skink, *Liopholis kintorei*), a species of cultural significance for Indigenous people, both as an important Tjukurrpa (dreaming) species and historically, a favoured food resource. It occurs almost exclusively on Aboriginal land. Tjakura Rangers also led a field trip at the Indigenous Desert Alliance Conference in Yulara.

Anangu-Luritjiku and Tjuwanpa rangers attended a Territory Natural Resource Management black-footed rock wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis*) drone survey workshop hosted by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy at Central Mount Wedge wildlife sanctuary. These skills will be put into practice in future surveys. Warlpiri Rangers completed a black-footed rock wallaby survey in partnership with Nyirripi School as part of a larger cultural engagement trip.

The CLC is also increasing efforts to survey for the night parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*) across multiple locations. Warlpiri Rangers contributed to a night parrot knowledge trip to Pullen Pullen in Western Queensland, facilitated by Bush Heritage. The week was spent exchanging western and traditional ecological knowledge of the night parrot to assist further surveys. Warlpiri rangers conducted surveys throughout the year on Lake Mackay ALT while Walungurru (Kintore) Rangers completed a survey on Haasts Bluff ALT. Tjuwanpa and Akityarre Rangers spent considerable time searching for likely places to undertake night parrot monitoring.

Table 10. Significant and threatened species surveys 2022–23

Location	Species	Ranger group
Petermann ALT	Great desert skink (<i>Egernia kintorei</i>)	Kaltukatjara
Katiti ALT	Great desert skink (<i>Egernia kintorei</i>)	Tjakura
Haasts Bluff ALT	Great desert skink (<i>Egernia kintorei</i>)	Walungurru
Haasts Bluff ALT	Black-footed rock wallaby (<i>Petrogale lateralis</i>)	Anangu
Petermann ALT	Black-footed rock wallaby (<i>Petrogale lateralis</i>)	Kaltukatjara
Lake Mackay ALT / Yunkanjini ALT	Black-footed rock wallaby (<i>Petrogale lateralis</i>)	Warlpiri
Haasts Bluff ALT	Night parrot (<i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>)	Walungurru
Lake Mackay ALT	Night parrot (<i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>)	Warlpiri
Haasts Bluff ALT	Central rock rat (<i>Zyzomys pedunculatus</i>)	Anangu-Luritjiku
Arletherre ALT	Slater's skink (<i>Egernia slateri</i>)	Ltyentye Apurte
Mac Clark Conservation Reserve	Birdsville wattle (<i>Acacia peuce</i>)	Aputula
Central Desert ALT	Greater bilby (<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>)	Northern Tanami Warlpiri (Nyirripi)
Karlantjpa North ALT	Greater bilby (<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>)	Muru-Warinyi Ankkul

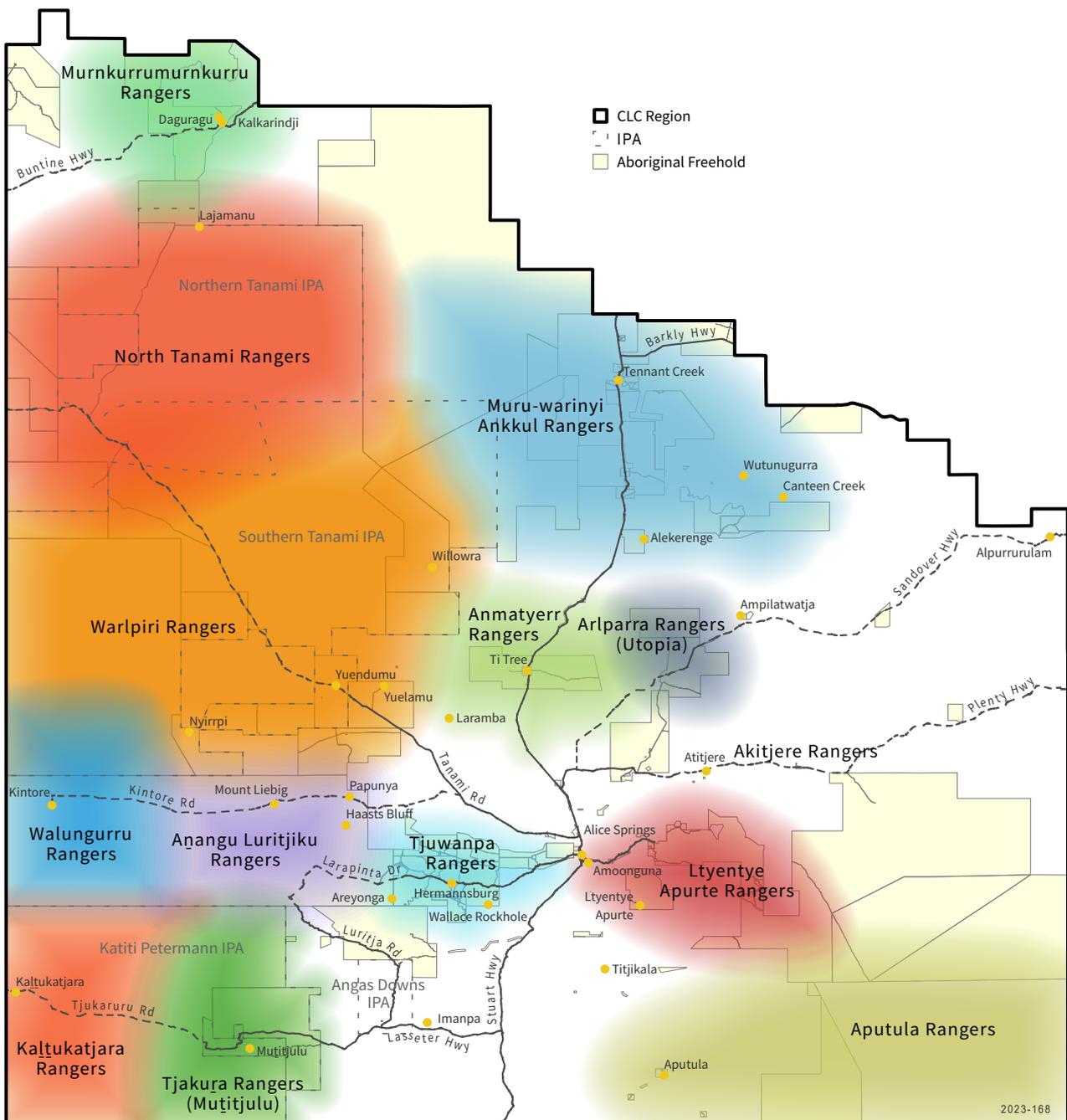
Ranger program

The CLC ranger program empowers Aboriginal communities to preserve cultural and natural resources on Aboriginal land. This program has achieved remarkable success and provides meaningful employment and career pathways to remote community residents. The CLC's 14 ranger groups manage over 58,000km² of land, contributing significantly to the national reserve system (see Figure 3).

The demand for additional ranger groups within communities in the CLC region continues, and the CLC is actively advocating for the expansion of the program to meet these requirements. The CLC is progressing the establishment of the Walungurru, Utopia and Aputula ranger groups. These groups were developed with a stimulus grant from the Aboriginals Benefit Account and require secure, long-term funding to ensure their sustainability.

For further information on the CLC ranger program, please refer to the *CLC ranger report 2022–23* published on the CLC website.

Figure 3. CLC ranger groups



CLC rangers Gladys Brown, Helma Bernard, Rhonda Rankin and Salbena Cleary at the Women's Wellbeing Workshop at Tilmouth Well, August 2022.



Management of protected areas Joint management of NT national parks and reserves

The CLC has statutory consultative and representative functions with respect to the joint management of 20 NT national parks and reserves under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976* (NT). Traditional Owners hold either Aboriginal freehold or NT parks freehold title to 16 of these parks and have leased them back to the NT Government. These parks are jointly managed with the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT. The other four parks are jointly managed under Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs) registered with the National Native Title Tribunal.

The CLC has facilitated Traditional Owner participation in joint management since 2004. Parks and Wildlife (NT) fund the equivalent of one position at the CLC to support joint management. The CLC supports joint management through five regional officer positions and their managers. This regional approach facilitates strong relationships with Traditional Owners and assists them to plan and make decisions about their parks and participate in operational matters such as recruitment, permits, sacred site clearances and land use agreements.

Planning and governance

The CLC supported the development of two joint management plans for the Kuyunba and Mac Clark (Acacia peuce) Conservation Reserves. Three working group meetings with Traditional Owners and the NT Parks and Wildlife division were carried out to develop the plans for both reserves, and the plans will soon be sent for public comment and tabled in the NT Legislative Assembly. The

CLC facilitated the contribution of two paintings from Traditional Owners as part of the development of the draft Mac Clark (Acacia peuce) Conservation Reserve plan, strengthening the Traditional Owners' voices and participation in the process.

Nine joint management committee meetings and 15 working group meetings were facilitated between Traditional Owners and Parks and Wildlife NT. The meetings are an opportunity for Traditional Owners to visit their respective parks and for them to review and plan joint management activities.

Park management

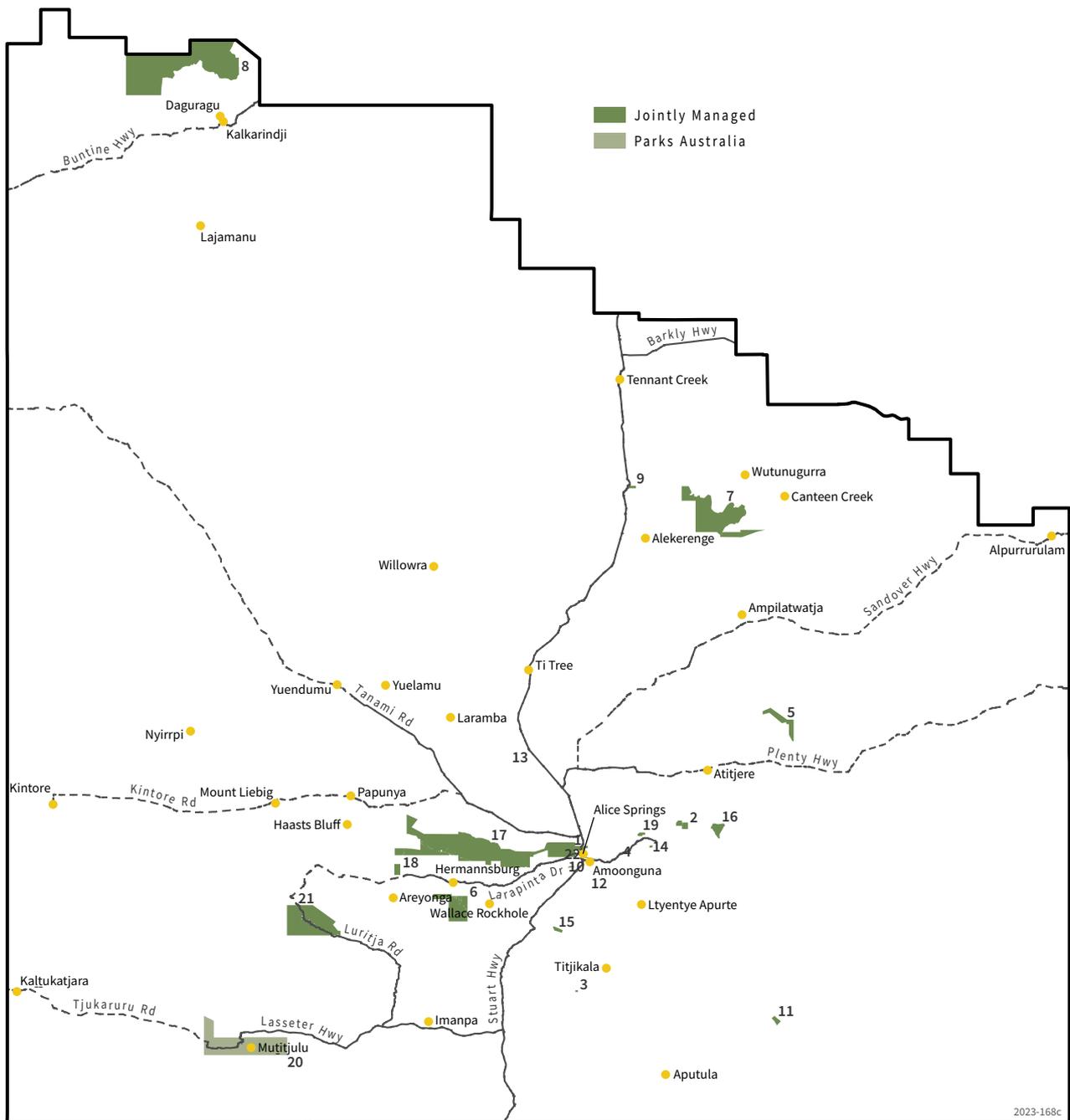
With assistance from the CLC, Traditional Owners assist Parks and Wildlife NT with operational tasks such as fire management. The CLC facilitated Traditional Owner involvement in a prescribed burn planning meeting with Iytelepenty, Tjoritja, Finke Gorge and Watarrka National Parks and the Kuyunba and Mac Clark Conservation Reserves.

Two Traditional Owners from Watarrka undertook aerial incendiary training, one Tjuwanpa Ranger participated in a prescribed aerial burn in Finke Gorge National Park and six Traditional Owners led a cultural burn of about 15 hectares on Tjoritja National Park, with support from the Tjuwanpa Rangers and NT Parks Rangers. The CLC facilitated participation of three Traditional Owners in planning and implementing two aerial incendiary burns and site visits on Iytelepenty/Davenport Ranges National Park.

The CLC staff facilitated a trip to Sydney for Yeperenye Joint Management Committee members to attend the National Landcare Conference and Awards Ceremony to present on work they had done on the Yeperenye Trail project in collaboration with the Parks and Wildlife Division NT.

Figure 4. Jointly managed national parks and reserves in the CLC region

1	Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve	12	Napwerte / Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation Reserve
2	Arltunga Historical Reserve	13	Native Gap Conservation Reserve
3	Chamber's Pillar Historical Reserve	14	N'Dhala Gorge Nature Park
4	Corroboree Rock Conservation Reserve	15	Rainbow Valley Conservation Reserve
5	Dulcie Range National Park	16	Ruby Gap Nature Park
6	Finke Gorge National Park	17	Tjoritja / West MacDonnell National Park
7	Iytwelpepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park	18	Tnorala (Gosse Bluff) Conservation Reserve
8	Judbarra / Gregory National Park	19	Trephina Gorge Nature Park
9	Karlu Karlu / Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve	20	Uluṟu-Kata Tjuṯa National Park
10	Kuyunba Conservation Reserve	21	Watarrka National Park
11	Mac Clark (Acacia peuce) Conservation Reserve	22	Yeperenye / Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park



TOP Former CLC staff member Jamie Moore (left) and Kevin Malthouse planning a Central rock-rat survey in Tjoritja National Park.

BOTTOM Board of Management of the UKTNP with Parks Australia and CLC staff at the 2023 Joint Boards Meeting at Arakwal National Park, NSW.



Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (UKTNP)

Since 1985, the CLC has carried out statutory functions in the management of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park under the terms of the lease with the director of National Parks (Cth). A CLC joint management officer has consulted with Traditional Owners and facilitated their participation in joint management since 2002.

In October 2022, the long-term CLC joint management officer resigned and despite numerous advertisements the CLC has not been able to successfully recruit to the role. In the absence of a dedicated staff member, other CLC staff members have dedicated their time to backfill the duties of the role.

The CLC has assisted Anangu board members to prepare for four board meetings, supported Anangu at eight working group meetings and completed consultations with Traditional Owners about park management programs, permit applications and commercial tourism proposals. Additionally, the CLC Kaṯiṯi-Petermann Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) staff have worked closely with UKTNP staff to manage cross-tenure issues, including bushfires and planned burning, threatened species surveys and buffel grass advocacy.

The CLC also supported Traditional Owners at a joint board meeting in Ballina, New South Wales. The meeting was attended by Aboriginal board members from UKTNP, Kakadu National Park and Booderee National Park, with an on-country welcome by Traditional Owners of the jointly managed Arakwal National Park. Board chairs and park managers shared some of the joint management successes occurring on their parks. Board members completed a session behind closed doors, as well as a number of open workshop sessions on priority topics. A significant learning for UKTNP Board members was to advocate for an Anangu joint park manager, and increased Anangu employment within Parks Australia.

Indigenous protected areas (IPAs)

Since 2007 the CLC has participated in the IPA program, an Australian Government initiative in which Traditional Owners are supported to protect the natural and cultural values of their country. The CLC administers the declared Kaṯiṯi-Petermann, Angas Downs, and Southern and Northern Tanami IPAs, and the soon-to-be declared Central Western Desert IPA, which together encompass around 24 million hectares of Aboriginal freehold land. Rangers undertake the day-to-day management of these areas under the guidance of Aboriginal management committees and in line with comprehensive management plans.

The management plan for the Central Western Desert IPA is near completion, with the plan's launch to take place next financial

year. Traditional Owners are excited to have the opportunity to manage their country and are looking forward to an on-country celebration recognising the two years of hard work it has taken to create the plan and declaring their country as an IPA.

Ongoing Traditional Owner disputes and concerns for safety have meant that no work has been completed on Angas Downs IPA this financial year. The CLC aims to engage a consultant to undertake mediation and governance work with Traditional Owners, in order to establish a new governance model through a co-design approach that is in line with cultural protocols.

The Kaṯiṯi-Petermann IPA completed a number of land management activities this year, including a significant focus on ground-based and aerial burning to address high fuel loads following two years of above-average rainfall. The CLC finalised a five-year grading project to rehabilitate tracks that provide access to country, multiple outstations and sacred sites. Without the need for high clearance 4WD, this will help Traditional Owners to access country without requiring CLC support. A number of on-country trips have taken place, including a successful visit to confirm and assess the condition of a site that has not been visited since the 1930s. This year the IPA has also focused on a number of cultural heritage projects, including cataloguing archival footage and recordings.

The Southern Tanami IPA has been impacted by significant unrest in the Yuendumu community for the entire reporting period. However, a highlight for the IPA was a substantial country trip to Mini Mina and Lake Mackay/Wilkinkarra where song meters were deployed in the hope of finding night parrot activity. This included visiting many sacred sites along the way.

The Northern Tanami IPA has completed multiple field trips despite significant summer rains and flooding, including a trip to Farrands Hills, a site that hasn't been visited for many years. This was a great trip where Traditional Owners were able to identify the location of multiple sites that they had not visited since childhood.



OUTPUT GROUP 2

Land claims and acquisition support

The CLC has statutory functions to assist and support Aboriginal people who have a traditional claim to land within our region to pursue their claim.

Output 2.1 Land claims

Wakaya Alyawarra

The Commonwealth's contracted surveyor prepared a survey following site clearance advice from the CLC. The CLC has reviewed that survey and it is now awaiting approval by the NT Surveyor General. This should enable the land description to be included within a schedule of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory) 1976* and the title to be handed to Traditional Owners in the next year.

Frances Well

Traditional Owners have agreed to enter into an Indigenous land use agreement (ILUA), at the request of the Northern Territory Government, to enable the surrender of part of the claim area for promulgation of the existing public road that services the school and adjacent staff houses at Titjikala. Finalisation of the agreement should allow for the grant of NTP 1299.

Output 2.2 Land acquisition

There were no land acquisitions during the reporting period.

Chambers Pillar Historical Reserve (Itirkawara).



OUTPUT GROUP 3

Economic development and commercial services

Output 3.1 Land use agreements

The CLC has statutory functions to help Traditional Owners manage their land and to negotiate, on their behalf, with people wanting to use Aboriginal land.

Land use agreements

The CLC dedicates significant effort to the processing of lease applications on Aboriginal land. It consults on and responds to requests for variations, assignments, subleases and surrenders in connection with leased premises. CLC anthropologists prepared 18 Traditional Owner identification advices and provided other assistance related to:

- consultations for grazing licences or mustering on the Alkwert ALT, Haast Bluff ALT, and Petermann ALT
- tourism activities on Katiti ALT, Petermann ALT, Ntaria ALT and Rodna ALT
- various agreements for mining-related activities on Central Desert ALT
- a Tennant Creek Borefield Expansion for the supply of town water to Tennant Creek township Kanttaji ALT
- an Aboriginal Corporation seeking to develop sports and recreational facilities on Roulpmaulpma ALT, Uruna ALT and Ntaria ALT
- leasing at Yuendumu community.

Australian Government leases

The Australian Government holds leases over 1076 lots on Aboriginal land and 362 lots on community living areas in the CLC region. It obtained consents for leases over 16 lots.

Most of the CLC's consultations for Australian Government leases in 2022–23 were to vary existing community housing leases in order to secure additional land for more housing in various communities.

The CLC continues to participate in the Mutitjulu Consultative Forum for the Mutitjulu sub-lease. The CLC is also participating in reviews conducted by the Australian Government into community housing leasing and leasing on Aboriginal land generally.

Some leases held by the Australian Government during the previous period expired and were not renewed.

NT Government leases

The NT Government holds leases over 566 lots on Aboriginal land and 130 lots on community living areas.

In 2022–23, the CLC continued to negotiate with the NT Government to finalise the leasing of reticulated services in communities and to ensure the ongoing management and compliance with existing leases. The CLC is also negotiating agreements connected with proposed upgrades of roads within the region.

Local government

The Central Desert, MacDonnell, Barkly and Victoria Daly regional councils are responsible for local government services in communities in the CLC region.

They collectively hold land use agreements, including leases and licences, over 103 lots in communities on Aboriginal land in the CLC region and 273 lots on community living areas. The CLC continues to consult Traditional Owners, communities and residents of community living areas about land use applications and variations of existing agreements and negotiates with the councils about the ongoing management of land use agreements.

Non-government organisations

Non-government organisations operating in communities – mostly Aboriginal organisations, such as art centres and stores – currently hold leases over 315 lots on Aboriginal land and 29 lots on community living areas. The CLC continues to receive lease and licence applications and applications to vary leases from organisations operating on Aboriginal land and community living areas. Many leases in Aboriginal communities will expire in 2024 and will require review and renegotiation, as well as consultation with Traditional Owners.

Tables 11 to 14 summarise: the number of lease and licence applications; the number of consultations regarding these applications and the management of lease and licence agreements; the number of leases and licences issued; and the number of all leases and licences currently issued.

Table 11. Applications received 2022–23

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas	Communities on Aboriginal land
Australian Government	1 (1 lot)	3 (3 lots)
Local Government	1 (1 lot)	0
NT Government	1 (1 lot)	7 (12 lots)
Others	11 (11 lots)	26 (34 lots)

Table 14. Leases and licences at 30 June 2023

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas	Communities on Aboriginal land
Australian Government	21 (368 lots)	65 (1,076 lots)
Local Government	42 (103 lots)	73 (273 lots)
NT Government	39 (130 lots)	96 (566 lots)
Others	27 (29 lots)	217 (315 lots)

Table 12. Consents obtained 2022–23

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas	Communities on Aboriginal land
Australian Government	0	10 consultations (16 consents)
Local Government	1 consultation (1 consent)	0
NT Government	2 consultations (4 consents)	6 consultations (7 consents)
Others	5 consultations (6 consents)	34 consultations (28 consents)

Table 13. Consultations conducted 2022–23

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas	Communities on Aboriginal land
Australian Government	0	13 (21 lots)
Local Government	2 (2 lots)	0
NT Government	3 (27 lots)	7 (10 lots)
Others	5 (7 lots)	34 (56 lots)

Output 3.2

Employment, education and training

Assist in the economic advancement of Aboriginal people through employment, education and training, particularly in relation to land use proposals.

The CLC continued to maximise sustainable Aboriginal employment and training outcomes through advocacy to government and industry, direct job placement and workplace support aimed at employee retention. Employment opportunities arising from land use agreements and community development projects create jobs for Aboriginal people. The CLC has built a reputation for placing people from disadvantaged communities into work. The CLC also offers land management and enterprise development partnerships, strong community networks, and familiarity with constituent aspirations and circumstances.

Employment and training support

Mining and exploration projects

The CLC continued to work with mining companies to support the implementation of Aboriginal employment and local procurement commitments under mining agreements, including to:

- identify employment opportunities and pathways
- establish job referral processes and support referrals
- identify appropriate job readiness training
- collaborate on career expos to promote employment opportunities
- connect companies with CDP Providers to work on job readiness and job requirements
- advocate for local Aboriginal businesses through tenders and direct contracting opportunities.

Key activities during this reporting period included working with Newmont Corporation to support the implementation of employment commitments under the Tanami Desert Ten Year Plan (see Output 3.3), and participating in workshops with Arafura Rare Earths Ltd (Arafura), Tellus Holdings Ltd (Tellus), Tennant Mining and regional stakeholders about how to support local Aboriginal job readiness and employment pathways. These included:

- Tennant Mining – participated within the Local Workforce and Development Taskforce meeting hosted by Tennant

Mining; the meeting included several stakeholders within Tennant Creek and throughout the Region

- Arafura Rare Earths Ltd – participated within the Workforce Development Planning Workshop hosted by NTG, and reiterated the commitments contained within the Indigenous Engagement Strategy around Aboriginal Employment and tender opportunities for Aboriginal businesses
- Tellus Holdings Ltd – collaborated with Tellus to conduct a jobs analysis on employment opportunities and pathways
- Newmont Corporation – collaborated with Newmont to host two job Information sessions within Alice Springs and actively participated in preliminary Interview's for shortlisted candidates.

Aboriginal business procurement

The CLC continued to advocate for improvements to procurement practices to create opportunities for local Aboriginal businesses on large projects in the region. This year, the CLC:

- advised mining companies and tourism operators about best practice approaches to Aboriginal business procurement and development
- worked closely with the NT Indigenous Business Network (NTIBN) to establish referral pathways with mining companies including Newmont, Arafura and Tellus, and tourism operators including Australian Walking Company
- provided direct Aboriginal business referrals to mining companies and tourism operators
- subscribed to NTIBN's Blak Business Directory to improve the CLC's procurement of goods and services from local Aboriginal businesses.

Job fairs and expos

The CLC continued to promote employment opportunities on major projects in the CLC region with key regional stakeholders, including by:

- working collaboratively with Newmont under the Ten Year Plan to promote employment pathways for Aboriginal people in the Tanami region, including by hosting a careers expo event in Lajamanu in November 2022, and to host Job information sessions
- participating in the Papunya Jobs Fair
- providing input around the Arafura community information sessions hosted by Central Desert Regional Council in Laramba, Ti Tree and Wilora to promote local jobs.

Job readiness and referrals

During this reporting period, the CLC assisted 33 constituents seeking work to prepare resumes, obtain clearances and required cards, prepare for interviews, and obtain referrals. Of the 33 constituents referred by the CLC, five obtained employment. The CLC is currently working with nine constituents who are in the process of on-boarding and undertaking the mining pre-employment process.

Regional economic priorities and profiles

The CLC finalised workshops with delegates to discuss economic opportunities and aspirations in their regions. The delegates' views varied across regions, reflecting the diversity of language, geography and economic activity. Some common themes also emerged, including the need for:

- better training and employment opportunities within communities, particularly for youth
- development support for people to participate in existing and emerging sectors through employment and enterprise, including tourism, housing, civil works, agriculture, bush foods, pastoral activity and art
- support for new and existing Aboriginal enterprises to enable financial independence and increase community control
- support for development of and employment on outstations.

To complement this work, the CLC identified Aboriginal businesses, corporations, essential services and major projects in each CLC governance region and is working with the Australian Bureau of Statistics on key demographic data for each CLC governance region.

CLC ranger program

The CLC ranger program is committed to providing employment pathways for Aboriginal people residing in their communities. These pathways encompass entry-level positions that foster the growth of skills among young people, up to ranger coordinator positions for experienced and capable project leaders. This hierarchy ensures that knowledge is passed on to younger rangers and provides developmental pathways for program participants. Casual positions are also offered for larger projects such as surveys, fire management, weed control and fencing.

The CLC rangers are offered a range of services to help them stay in work and become leaders in their community. The CLC training and development officer provides training support to the 131 rangers employed by CLC during the reporting period, ensuring that effective and accessible training is delivered to our rangers.

The mentoring team works with our rangers from recruitment and induction through to lead ranger. They act as a friend and guide in the workplace, assisting with matters that are affecting the rangers' ability to stay in work or are undermining family life. To read more about the CLC's ranger program outcomes and work completed in 2022–23, see the *CLC ranger report 2022–23*.

Output 3.3 Minerals & Energy

Ensure the rights and interests of Aboriginal people in the CLC region are protected through the efficient processing of applications for mineral and petroleum exploration and production.

The CLC has responsibilities under the Land Rights Act and the Native Title Act. In the NT, the Land Rights Act has proved an effective mechanism to achieve land use agreements that protect cultural values, reach mutually beneficial terms and conditions with respect to impacts and benefits, and facilitate Traditional Owner consent processes that provide certainty to the proponent. The Act also assigns land councils a statutory function to protect sacred sites.

Accordingly, the CLC undertakes effective and appropriate consultation with Traditional Owners and Native Title holders in relation to exploration and mining proposals on their land. When negotiating with proponents about access to Aboriginal land, the CLC must ensure that Traditional Owners are fully informed before they make decisions. The CLC enters into agreements with mining companies on behalf of Traditional Owners only where there is informed group consent. The CLC negotiates exploration and production-related agreements to achieve the best possible outcomes in accordance with Traditional Owners' instructions and views.

Where an agreement is reached, the CLC administers it and ensures that contractual obligations are fulfilled diligently and effectively. Agreement terms and conditions relate to impacts and benefits across cultural, social, training, employment and environmental aspects. The CLC assesses work programs received in relation to agreements and conducts work area clearances to ensure that sacred sites are protected. It currently manages 87 deeds, agreements and ILUAs for exploration, production or ancillary activities related to minerals and energy exploration and production.

In 2022–23 the CLC Anthropology Section prepared 16 Traditional Owner identification advices for Traditional Owner meetings to consider exploration licence applications over Aboriginal land. In addition, where exploration licence application meetings were convened with Traditional Owners, often on country, the Anthropology Section provided significant logistical advice and support. Subsequent to the meetings, anthropologists prepared reports on the validity of Traditional Owner instructions at those meetings. These activities covered the following Aboriginal land trusts: Alkwert, Angarapa, Atneye, Central Desert, Yunkanjini, Wayillinyapa, Yuendumu, Ngalurrtju, Yalpirakinu, Lake Mackay, Mungkarta, Mungkarta 2, Karlantijpa South, Wirliyarrayi, Wakaya, and Warumungu.

Minerals and energy in the CLC region

There are significant mineral resources in the CLC region. Minerals and energy exploration and mining on Aboriginal land continues to contribute significantly to the NT economy, and includes one of the most productive gold mines in Australia, some 500 kilometres northwest of Alice Springs. Minerals and energy sectors together contribute 37 per cent of gross product to the Northern Territory economy. Approximately 48 per cent of the NT is Aboriginal land, and 30 per cent of its population is Aboriginal. This means that mining has the potential to both significantly impact and benefit Aboriginal people. Large areas of the NT remain under-explored, due to remoteness, sand and alluvial cover and lack of infrastructure. Several areas are seen as potentially prospective, but also pose feasibility challenges.

Mineral exploration activity, including exploration for critical minerals has increased rapidly since 2020, with 2022 mineral exploration expenditure being reported as the highest since 2011. The main areas being investigated for their potential are the Tanami Arunta and Tennant regions, the Warumpi and Irindina Provinces and the Barkly Tableland / South Nicholson Basin, where gold, copper, nickel cobalt, lead, zinc, lithium and rare earths have been targeted. Oil and gas exploration and production primarily occurs within the Amadeus Basin, with production wells at Mereenie and Palm Valley, west of Alice Springs, and the Dingo gas field south of Alice Springs which supplies gas to the town generators. Exploration for helium and hydrogen accumulations is also focused on the Amadeus Basin.

Encouraging this exploration activity, the NT Government continues to maintain its commitment to support exploration and mining in the Territory. The NT Government aspires to grow the NT to a \$40 billion economy by 2030. In December 2020, the Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission (TERC) report identified that mining has a significant role to play, and that reaching this goal would require five new mines in the next five years, and 10 in the following 10 years. The NT Government's four-year Resourcing the Territory initiative (2018–2022) aimed to increase exploration and support discovery and development of new mineral and petroleum resources. Funding increased to \$9.5 million per year in 2022 and the government offered up to \$3 million in co-funding grants to aid exploration.

The Northern Territory Geological Survey (NTGS) conducts pre-competitive research of underexplored areas in the CLC region,

Traditional owner Lionel Minor at Muruntji.



with a recent focus on potential for hosted mineral resources in the Aileron and Irindina provinces. The Irindina province demonstrates a favourable geological setting and potential for hosting a range of mineral systems, which is likely to encourage more exploration in that region.

The Australian Government's March 2022 Critical Minerals Strategy articulates a plan to de-risk critical mineral projects, create an enabling environment and strengthen international partnerships to secure offtake agreements that support the Australian economy. The \$2 billion Critical Minerals Facility to support Australian critical minerals projects and infrastructure was established in 2021, and issued its first two loans in 2022.

At present gold exploration and production predominate, but new exploration applications demonstrate a growing interest in other in-demand commodities. Among them are base metals, including copper, lithium, cobalt, rare earths, uranium, tungsten, phosphate and potash. The global demand for critical minerals is increasing, specifically because of the increased focus on clean energy technologies. In 2022–23, decarbonisation commitments by the world's largest economies and corporations, ongoing post-COVID-19 disruption to supply chains and war in Ukraine have increased interest in projects that can supply these critical minerals. The potential occurrence of these critical minerals within the CLC region has resulted in increased interest in exploration.

Gold

The Newmont Corporation's Tanami Operation is the Territory's largest gold producer. Production is focused on the Callie underground deposit while the gold is processed at the nearby Granites mine, with approximately 500,000 ounces produced per annum. Construction on Newmont's Tanami Expansion 2 is expected to be completed in 2024, which is expected to increase production by between 150 000 and 200 000 ounces per annum and extend the mine life beyond 2040.

Exploration continues at the Oberon prospect, 70 kilometres north of Newmont's Tanami Operations. In 2021–22, Newmont commenced an in-depth Environmental Profile of the project area before commencement of a planned intensive exploration and sterilisation drilling program. An initial on-ground study was conducted in December 2021, and an extensive late wet season survey was conducted in March 2022. CLC Rangers and Warlpiri Master Trackers participated in the March survey. A late dry season survey occurred in October 2022 to complete the study.

In 2021, Northern Star increased its stake in the Central Tanami Joint Venture and now holds a fifty per cent interest with Tanami Gold in the Tanami Mine, which includes the Groundrush deposit. The operation has been in care and maintenance since 2005, but the joint venture has commenced investigating the potential for commencement of gold production.

Oil and gas

Central Australia hosts several sedimentary basins which are prospective for hydrocarbons (and helium and hydrogen). These include the producing 170,000km² Amadeus Basin, southwest of Alice Springs, the 160,000km² Wiso Basin, west of Tennant Creek and the 300,000km² Georgina Basin, of which the southern portion is within the CLC region. These basins are subject to numerous exploration permit applications. The applications cover several Aboriginal land trusts, and include areas where landowners have not previously dealt with oil and gas exploration processes. This requires the CLC to invest significant effort to facilitate informed decision making about fracking and unconventional gas production.

The 330,000km² Georgina Basin, northeast of Alice Springs and extending into Queensland, initially had blanket coverage of applications and granted titles. However, following the unsuccessful exploration of deep shales in the southern parts of the basin, three exploration permits that covered nearly 35,000km² were surrendered. This area was the first in the CLC region to be subject to a petroleum acreage release by the NT Government after a moratorium on onshore petroleum was lifted. The acreage release process was a recommendation of the 2018 Pepper Inquiry (the independent Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory), which requires public consultation before new exploration permit applications are accepted. In June 2023 the government reported that it had completed implementation of the 138 recommendations. The CLC continues to monitor the government's response to and implementation of the recommendations.

As at 30 June 2023, 31 exploration permit applications remain under negotiation in the CLC region. In the second half of 2022, the CLC resumed processing of exploration permit applications for oil and gas which had previously been paused due to uncertainty about onshore gas application processing and regulation associated with the government's ongoing implementation of recommendations of the Pepper Inquiry. In 2022, the NT Government outsourced responsibility to the CSIRO for completion of recommendation 11.6, which relates to an Aboriginal Information Program about oil and gas exploration. Processing of applications was initially supported on the ground by the CSIRO Community Engagement and Information Program (CEIP), which involved face-to-face meetings with Traditional Owners to explain the technical and environmental aspects of fracking using simple language and visuals. These were held prior to decision-making meetings on specific applications.

During the previous reporting period, the CLC became aware of a proposal by a company with exploration permits to use hydraulic fracturing in an upcoming work program, the first since the

moratorium on hydraulic fracturing. Significant consultations with the Traditional Owners were undertaken by the CLC, supported by the CSIRO CEIP, to ensure that Traditional Owners were properly informed.

Uranium

Traditional Owners have mixed views on the exploration, mining and use of uranium. There has been widely reported opposition to uranium and proposed nuclear waste repositories on Muckaty Station in the Barkly region, in the Tanami region and on private land near Alice Springs. Central Australia remains highly prospective for uranium but only one application that identified uranium as a target commodity was received within this reporting period and interest was also low during previous periods, despite the jump in uranium price from US\$30 per pound in 2021 to around US\$56 per pound in June 2023. In comparison, the CLC received 45 applications in 2012 when the price was above US\$50 per pound. The present low interest may indicate a lack of appetite for uranium, hesitancy due to unstable prices, or a lag in the translation of market price to exploration targeting. The CLC will continue to monitor this and perform its role in consulting communities and Traditional Owners if they are affected by future uranium exploration.

Applications for exploration and production titles (ALRA)

An exploration licence on Aboriginal land in the NT allows the holder or operator to explore for minerals over the licence area. An exploration permit must be obtained for oil and gas exploration. Exploration permits generally cover very large areas. In response to an application for exploration on Aboriginal land, the CLC must consult the relevant Traditional Owners and ascertain their views. This can involve significant logistical effort to arrange consultation with multiple Traditional Owner groups across a large area.

Section 42 of the Land Rights Act sets out the process for the consideration of exploration applications. The CLC has statutory obligations to ensure that Traditional Owners understand the nature and purpose of exploration and agree to it before the CLC can consent to an agreement. The CLC is obliged to listen to the Traditional Owners and act on their instructions to either refuse consent or to negotiate an agreement about the terms and conditions of the grant. The NT may grant an exploration, mining or production licence over Aboriginal land under the Land Rights Act with the consent of the CLC.

During the reporting period, five meetings were held to consider new applications for the first time. In total, eleven exploration title applications on Aboriginal land were discussed at meetings. Table

15 relates to the processing of applications on Aboriginal land at Traditional Owner meetings.

This process protects the rights and interests of the Traditional Owners and, once a decision is made, the applicants have the certainty required to invest in exploration. Where landowners consent to exploration, they also consent to mining or production. They are not allowed to say no to a mine later, but a subsequent mining or production agreement must be in place before a mineral lease or production licence for petroleum is granted.

Mining activities can have social and environmental impacts on neighbouring communities. Although Traditional Owners make the consent decision, the CLC must also consult these communities. The CLC conducts exploration and mining consultation meetings to ensure that landowners exercise their rights under the Land Rights Act. Table 16 records the numbers and status of exploration titles on Aboriginal land in the CLC region.

Table 15. Processing of applications for consent to the grant of exploration titles (exploration licence applications and exploration permit applications) under mining provisions of the Land Rights Act

Performance measures	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Number of exploration titles (mainly ELAs and EPAs) effectively progressed to an initial traditional owner meeting	33	0	7	6	5
Total number of exploration titles considered at traditional owner meetings (includes first and further meetings)	37	3	9	20	11
Number of exploration titles completed in total (includes those withdrawn during negotiating period)	15	16	20	12	2
Average time taken (in years) from date of application is received to either CLC Consent or Refusal	1.3	0.0	3.5	5.4*	0

* The average for 2021–22 is heavily skewed by the refusal of ELs25562, 25564, 31924, 31925, which relate to one project. The average reflects a single, particularly drawn-out negotiation, rather than a true indication of the usual time taken to process a title to completion.

Table 16. Exploration titles (exploration licence applications and exploration permit applications) on Aboriginal land

Action or step under Part IV ALRA process	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Consent to negotiate from NT Government	77	34	47	68	59
Application for consent to the grant*	77	46	35	59	55
Withdrawn during negotiating period	6	16	16	21	2
Refused	9	0	2	10	0
Consent to the grant	0	0	2	0	0
Granted by NT Government	0	0	2	0	0
Under negotiation as at 30 June	172	204	197	206	276

* Includes applications following expiry of moratorium period.

In 2022–23, the NT Government issued 59 exploration titles on Aboriginal land with consent to negotiate and the CLC received 55 applications from proponents. Two titles were withdrawn during the negotiation period. Figure 5 compares the annual numbers of exploration licence applications and exploration permit applications on Aboriginal land processed during the past 10 years.

At the end of the reporting period, the CLC had 276 title applications under negotiation. This is an increase of approximately 34% from the previous period and reflects several factors including the increase in new applications received in the past two years and a time lag caused by interruptions to remote travel by COVID-19 restrictions. Some companies have continued to decline to attend meetings, often after significant CLC resources have been committed. This impacts the CLC’s ability to arrange alternative meetings, and overall reduced the number of titles that could be processed during the period. Figure 6 shows the trend in the processing of exploration titles on Aboriginal land over the past 10 years.

Figure 5. Cumulative trend of exploration title applications in negotiating period on Aboriginal land

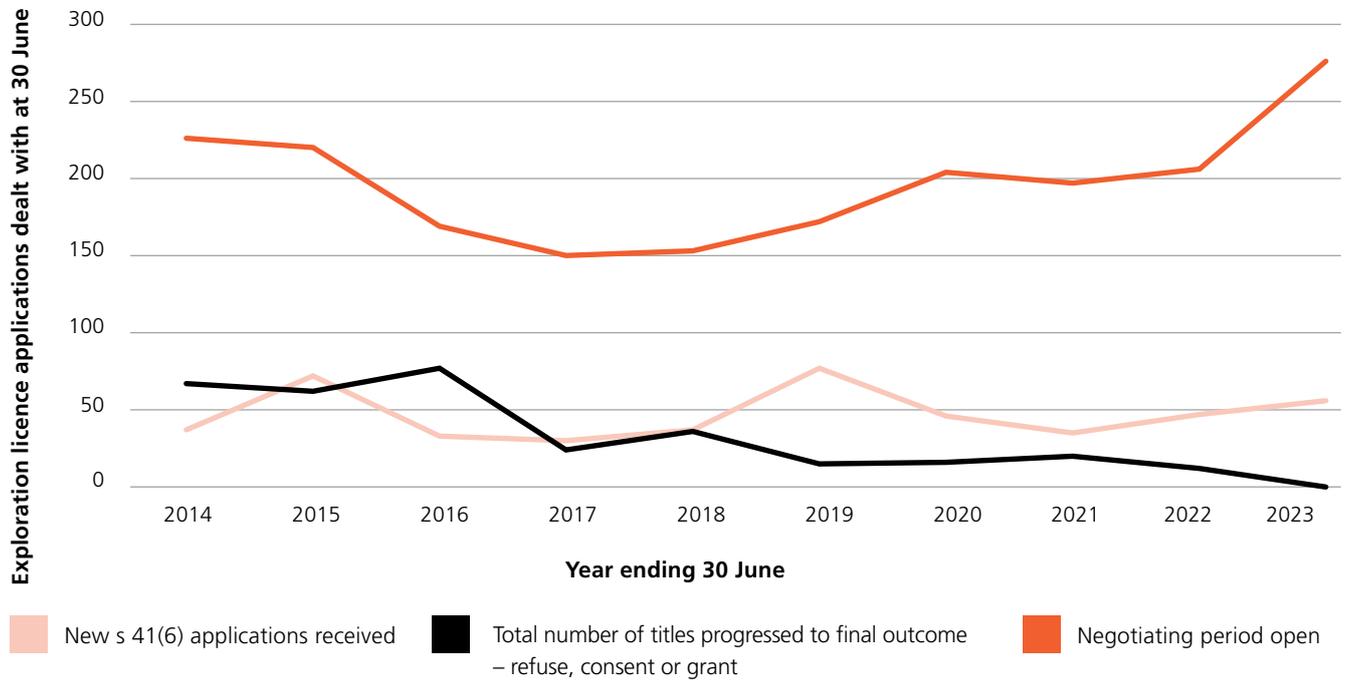
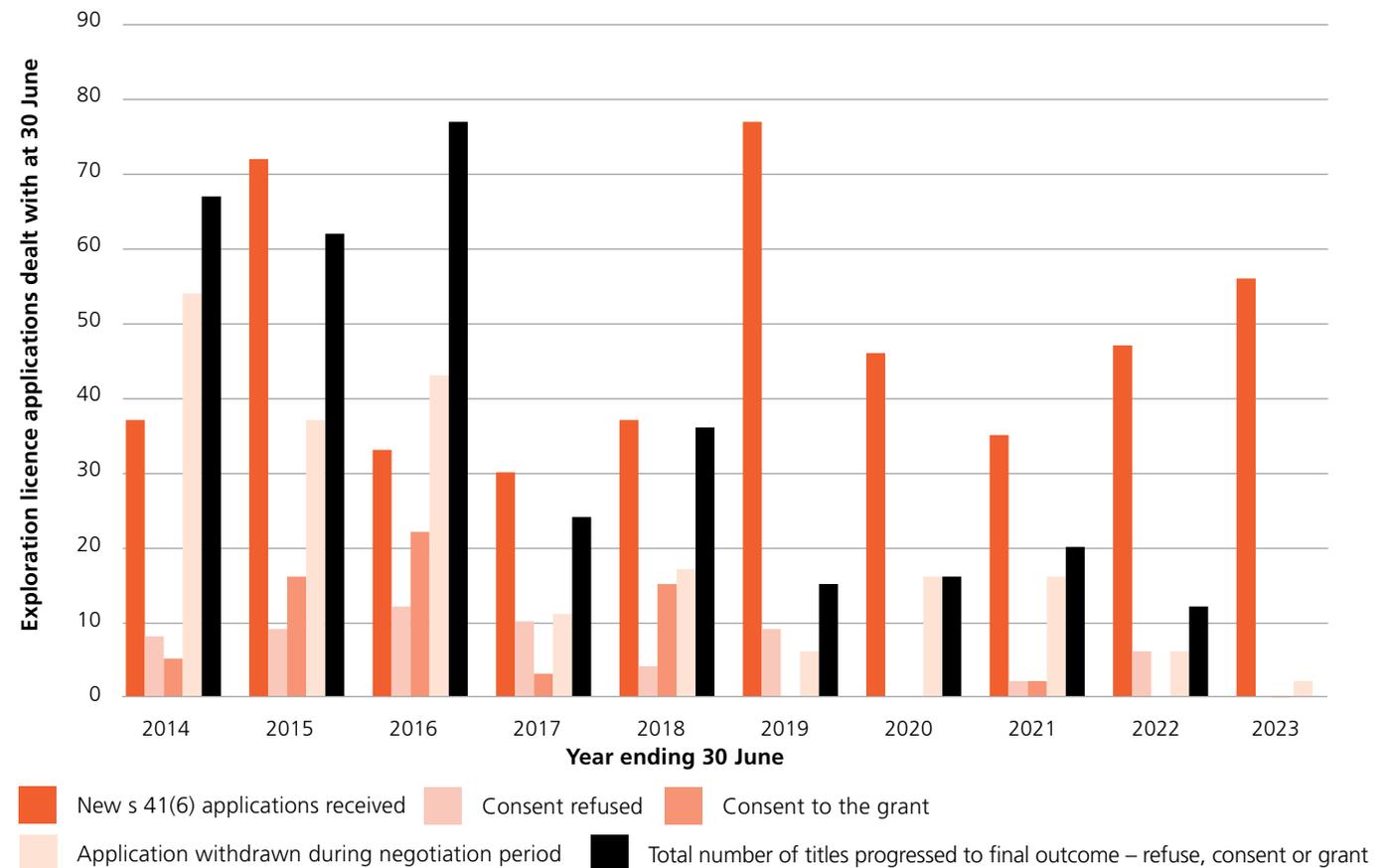


Figure 6. Number of exploration titles applied for and processed to final outcome on Aboriginal land



Future acts under the Native Title Act

Mining future acts (mining or exploration proposals with the potential to impact on Native Title rights and interests) are the largest driver of the CLC’s Native Title work program, although the number of exploration tenements notified under section 29 of the Native Title Act has fluctuated considerably, year by year.

The ongoing administration of future acts is a high priority for the CLC, and it continues to notify Native Title holders and claimants about future acts and maintains a register of applications. The CLC informs all applicants about the Native Title process and its preference for negotiated agreements. Its anthropologists provided advice and support in six instances in relation to mining future acts.

All future act applications for exploration licences in the NT include a statement from the NT government which requires that the grant attracts the ‘expedited procedure’ as outlined in section 32, and defined in section 237, of the Native Title Act. This means that Native Title holders do not have the right to negotiate an agreement with an applicant before the exploration title is granted by the government. If Native Title holders instruct the CLC to object to a licence application, the CLC has only four months in which to file the objection. A company may still negotiate an agreement with Native Title holders after the licence is granted, but is not required to do so.

The large volume of applications on remote land and limited Native Title funding make it impossible for the CLC to consult on all applications within the brief objection time frame. The CLC prioritises consultations based on known Aboriginal values of an area, informal contacts with Native Title holders and consideration of relevant Native Title Tribunal jurisprudence. Regrettably, the combined effect of the NT Government’s blanket expedited procedure policy and the provisions of the Native Title Act is that the government grants most exploration licences without any engagement with Native Title holders or claimants.

Where significant sites are identified, the ‘right to negotiate’ (RTN) process should be applied to protect Native Title holder interests. In these cases, Traditional Owners can inform proponents about the sites early in the process, to allow certainty and the best use of land council, government and company resources.

The CLC responded to 68 notifications under section 29, which included two extractive mineral leases and one mineral lease application to undertake mining activities on land with Native Title interests. It assessed each notification for its potential impact on Native Title rights and interests and undertook 48 future act mining and exploration-related field trips, meetings

and consultations with affected Native Title holders. In other instances, existing instructions adequately dealt with the application.

Mining and exploration agreements – Native Title

Table 17 shows Native Title exploration and mining agreements and other mining matters and decisions for 2022–23.

Table 17. Exploration and mining agreements and distribution of compensation 2022–23

Exploration agreements	23
Mining agreements	6
Meetings for distribution of compensation monies	4

Agreement monitoring and implementation

When the CLC enters into agreements with mining or energy companies it assumes a range of obligations and responsibilities. The agreements generally provide for: fiscal benefits to Traditional Owners; procedures for the protection of sacred sites; approvals for work programs and access permits; environmental protection and rehabilitation; employment, training and contracting; and liaison, reporting and inspection.

At 30 June 2023 the CLC managed 86 agreements for minerals and energy exploration or production:

- On Aboriginal land (i.e. land held under Aboriginal freehold title under the Land Rights Act), there were 46 current exploration agreements with respect to 150 exploration titles and 11 production agreements relating to 16 titles covering 45,689km². Table 18 summarises exploration and mining agreements on Aboriginal land that are administered by the CLC.
- On land subject to the Native Title Act, there were 23 exploration agreements and six mining agreements.

Table 18. New and current exploration and mining agreements

Type of agreement	New in 2022–23	Total current at 30 June 2023	
		Total agreements	Number of licences, permits and leases associated with agreements
Exploration	0	46	150
Mining	0	11	16
Total area of Aboriginal land under ELAs and EPAs			45,689 km ²

Mineral leases or production licences exist across the CLC region but operating mines are in the Tanami region, near Utju (Areyonga) and around Tennant Creek. Oil and gas production occurs at Mereenie and Palm Valley near Ntaria (Hermannsburg), and the Dingo gas field near Mparntwe (Alice Springs).

Work area clearances are a critical component of agreements, as they enable Traditional Owners to visit country to review a proposed work program and then provide instructions to the CLC on protection of sacred sites. The CLC then issues the company with a sacred site clearance certificate, which provides certainty that the company will be acting with the consent of Traditional Owners and that, if it complies with the conditions of the certificate, sacred sites will be protected. During the reporting period the CLC conducted 13 on-ground work area clearances for mineral and energy work programs, and issued 37 sacred site clearance certificates, including 11 variations, to companies under agreements.

Liaison committees are an important aspect of agreement governance. Along with work area clearances, they provide an opportunity for Traditional Owners to visit country affected by exploration or mining, to be informed about project developments, impacts and opportunities, and to build relationships with companies. The CLC facilitated three liaison committee meetings for various projects with some meetings being held on country, in conjunction with work area clearances.

Tanami Desert Ten Year Plan

Traditional Owners, the CLC and Newmont Corporation developed the Tanami Desert Ten Year Plan (Ten Year Plan) in 2017. Under the plan, the CLC, Newmont and Warlpiri community members work together on agreed areas to strengthen Yapa (local Aboriginal) people's voices and improve employment and education outcomes in remote communities in the Tanami region. The aim is to ensure that Yapa benefit from Newmont's operations for a long time to come.

Key activities under the Ten Year Plan in 2022–23 included:

- a careers expo in Lajamanu promoting jobs and training opportunities for Aboriginal people in the Tanami region
- Indigenous pathways to employment information sessions in Alice Springs for Newmont to promote employment opportunities at the Granites Mine to local Aboriginal community members and support them to apply for jobs
- establishing a working group with Newmont, training institutions, job service providers and government stakeholders to better coordinate training in the Tanami region

- working with these stakeholders to commence development of a tailored foundation skills (work readiness) pilot training program for Yapa in the Tanami region
- planning with contractors to install a new shade structure, mobile phone reception booster and emergency water hand pumps on the Tanami Highway, to improve safety for Yapa who travel long distances along the remote unsealed road
- continued advocacy to NT Government about the need for new rest stops or the upgrade of existing rest stops on the Tanami Highway
- supporting planning of the Tanami Regional Biodiversity Monitoring surveys, including involvement of CLC rangers and Newmont's Yapa Crew.

In April 2023, Traditional Owners, CLC Council delegates from the Tanami region, advisory committee members from the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust and staff of CLC and Newmont came together for an annual planning workshop. They discussed progress under the Ten Year Plan in 2022 and identified next steps for projects to be undertaken in 2023–24.

The Ten Year Plan steering committee, consisting of senior staff of CLC and Newmont, met in person and via videoconference throughout the year to oversee implementation of the activities under the plan.

Government liaison and advocacy

The CLC regularly engages with government to progress concerns or discuss improvements to government processes to benefit Traditional Owners. The CLC regularly provides submissions to government which advocate for Traditional Owners' rights.

Mineral Development Taskforce Final Report

The NT Government's Mineral Development Taskforce was established in November 2021 in response to the Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission final report, which calls for the NT to become a \$40 billion dollar economy by 2030. The task force provided a report to the NT Government in December 2022, which outlined 28 recommendations, including proposed changes to the mineral royalty scheme and reductions in regulation. The NT government has asked the NT Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) to engage with the CLC as part of a three-month stakeholder engagement process, and the CLC, in conjunction with the Northern Land Council (NLC), is preparing a submission to the report, which is due 11 August 2023. The CLC's concerns regarding the report and recommendations are discussed in Output 4.2 of this report.

Seed grinding depressions found whilst doing a helicopter clearance.



Re-issue of consent to negotiate

Under the Land Rights Act, there is a fixed period of time in which a decision must be reached on the grant or refusal to grant an exploration application. The land council can extend this period by agreement with the company. In cases where a company is not displaying a serious intent to progress a title, the land council may choose not to extend the negotiation period, however companies can request that the NT Minister for Mining and Industry re-issue consent. The DITT has undertaken to consider the reasons that land councils have given for not extending the negotiating period before re-issuing consent to negotiate on exploration applications. The CLC continues to liaise with DITT on the matter.

Recovery of petroleum on an appraisal basis

In December 2022 the Petroleum Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly. At the time of its introduction, the minister agreed to consult with key stakeholders on a draft version of the *Recovery of petroleum on an appraisal basis – application guideline*. On 23 June 2023, the CLC and NLC provided a combined response on the guideline.

Onshore petroleum

CLC continues to monitor the government's response to the recommendations of the independent Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing of Onshore Unconventional Reservoirs in the Northern Territory as reported above.

In July 2021, the NT Government proposed an acreage release for petroleum exploration of areas in the Southern Georgina Basin northeast of Alice Springs. The CLC consulted Traditional Owners of these areas, and advised the NT Government in a submission in November 2021 that some areas of the proposed acreage release were unsuitable for petroleum exploration due to the existence of sacred sites or use of the areas by Aboriginal people for other activities. The CLC insisted that the principles of free, prior, informed consent should be applied, and that Native Title holders must be properly consulted and sacred sites protected before any petroleum exploration permits are granted. As at 30 June 2023, no new exploration permit applications had been advertised in the proposed areas.

In December 2022, the NT Government wrote to the CLC advising that they were considering those areas identified by the CLC as unsuitable for exploration and production (due to cultural values), and that those areas would be considered should the land be re-released in the future.

Output 3.4 Economic participation

Provide research and assistance and identify infrastructure requirements as appropriate to enable Aboriginal landowners and other Aboriginal people to undertake commercial activities and support Aboriginal economic participation.

Section 23(1) (ea) of the Land Rights Act empowers the Northern Territory land councils to

assist Aboriginals in the area of the Land Council to carry out commercial activities (including resource development, the provision of tourist facilities and agricultural activities), in any manner that will not cause the Land Council to incur financial liability or enable it to receive financial benefit.

In 2022–23, the CLC’s primary focus was on allocating \$36.7 million from the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) Economic Stimulus funding program provided to the CLC by former Indigenous Affairs Minister Ken Wyatt to stimulate the Aboriginal economy in the CLC region. Alongside this work, the CLC:

- supported constituents to access funding through its ABA Application Support project
- provided enterprise support to Aboriginal corporations, groups and businesses
- supported constituents to access training and employment opportunities in the region
- identified constituents’ economic priorities and started to develop regional profiles
- advocated for constituent-led economic development activities at meetings and forums.

ABA economic stimulus funding

The CLC’s ABA Economic Stimulus funding program was established in 2021 following the allocation of \$36.7 million from the ABA to stimulate the Aboriginal business sector and employment in the CLC region in response to impacts of COVID-19. Funding could be applied to:

- existing Aboriginal businesses
- small-scale infrastructure projects to create jobs and improve the potential of Aboriginal land
- Aboriginal-owned infrastructure to connect Aboriginal people to economic opportunities
- building skills of Aboriginal men and women on country
- maximising ABA investment through co-investment and coordination.

Over the reporting period, CLC approved expenditure of \$19.5 million to four homelands and 28 Aboriginal businesses and organisations operating in diverse sectors, including construction, housing, civil works, land management, horticulture, pastoral industry, human services, hospitality, art and media (see Figure 7). Projects were approved across the whole CLC region and were largely concentrated in the economic centres of Alice Springs (region 1) and Tennant Creek (region 6) (see Figure 8). To date a total of \$36.2 million funds have been allocated.

Figure 7. Approved economic stimulus funding by sector 2022–23

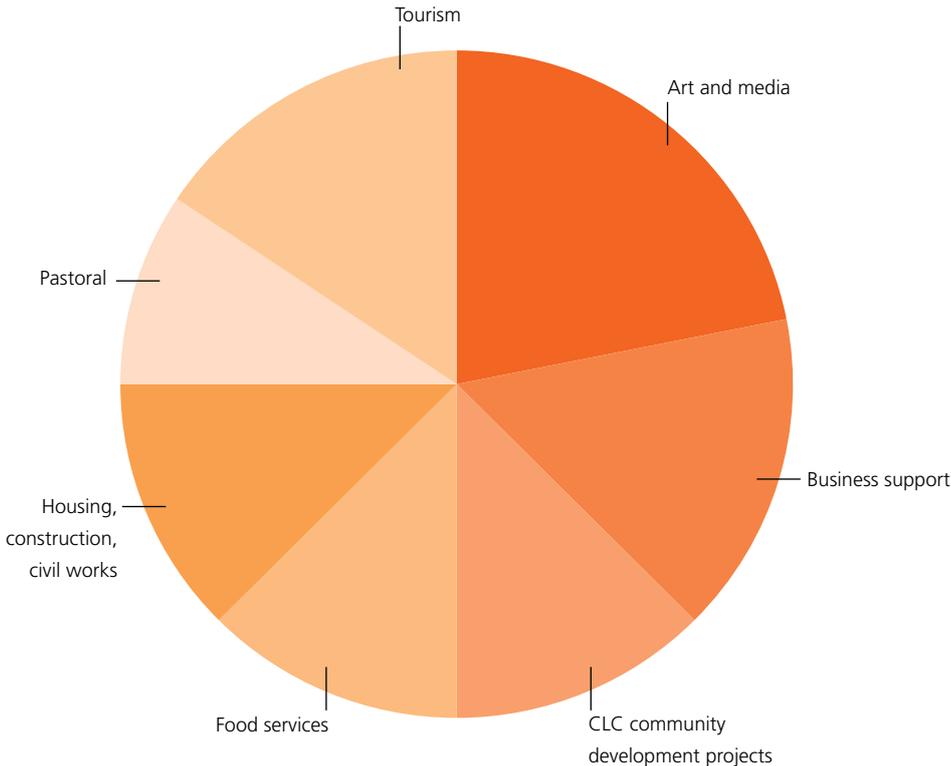
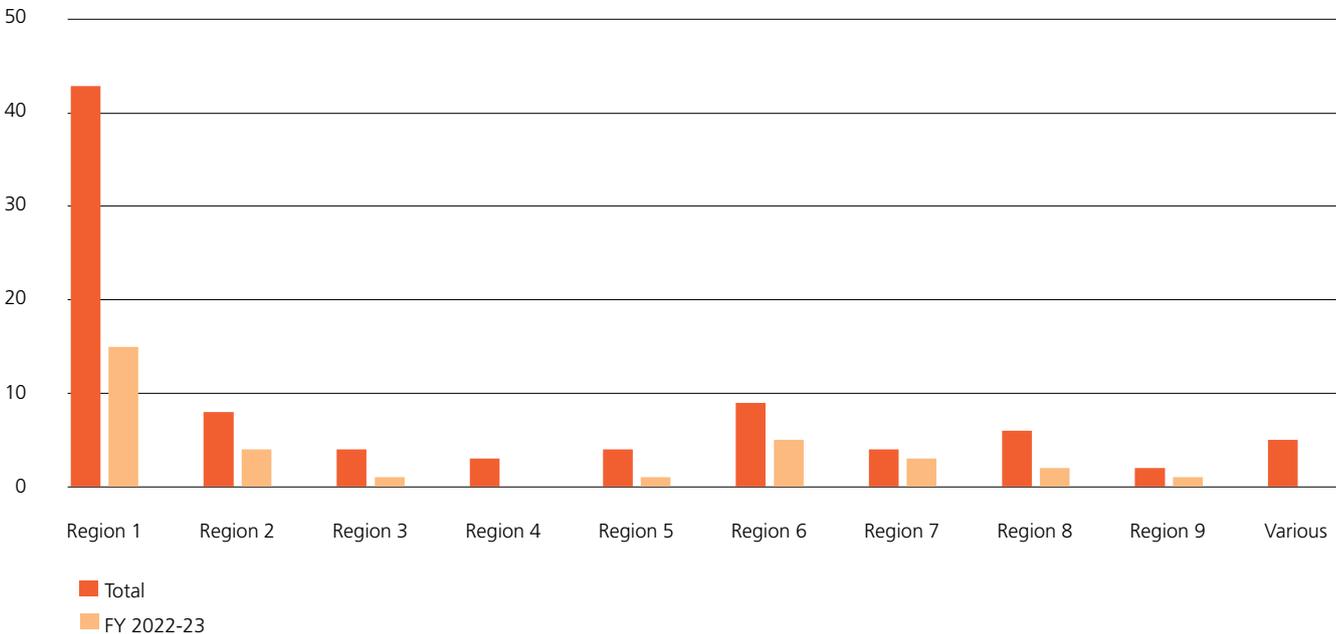


Figure 8. Approved economic stimulus funding by CLC region 2022–23



These funds will lead to significant outcomes for constituents in the CLC region through the growth of the Aboriginal business sector and Aboriginal business leadership, investment in Aboriginal-owned infrastructure, and creation of Aboriginal employment and training opportunities. It is expected that these projects will create 65.8 full time equivalent (FTE) jobs over the life of the projects, and of these positions 94% are Aboriginal identified roles.

Examples of projects funded by the ABA economic stimulus package:

- an Aboriginal corporation to purchase a food truck and entertainment equipment to create local employment opportunities and boost the corporation's revenue
- an Aboriginal-owned funeral service in Alice Springs for purchase of equipment and vehicles to provide culturally appropriate and cheaper services
- an Aboriginal-owned and governed tourism enterprise west of Alice Springs to upgrade infrastructure and provide a broader range of tourism services
- an Aboriginal construction and civil works businesses for plant and equipment and operating expenses to expand their services, creating training and employment opportunities
- establishment and growth of Aboriginal art organisations
- upgraded infrastructure on an Aboriginal-governed pastoral station
- an Aboriginal-owned bus service to create training and employment opportunities and deliver reliable and cheaper transport to communities northeast of Alice Springs
- outstation upgrades to provide reliable power and water that enable constituents to spend more time living on country.

Ali Curung Work Experience Pilot Program (WEPP) (Alekenge Horticulture Pty Ltd; Centrefarm)

The Alekenge WEPP has successfully established a training and commercial facility that aims to empower Alekenge community through employment opportunities in farming. With the support of ABA Economic Stimulus funding, the program has acquired farming equipment, developed a 20 ha irrigation farm, and built essential infrastructure including a new classroom and amenities block. The program's achievements include training 36 young individuals, employing two community members full time, and engaging ten community members in casual employment. Notably, the successful harvest of a 4 ha garlic crop resulted in local and interstate sales. Additionally, middle-year students actively participated in a greenhouse project, cultivating and selling produce to the community while also learning valuable skills in food preparation. Overall, the Alekenge WEPP demonstrates its commitment to fostering economic growth, community engagement, and sustainable farming practices.

Standley Chasm (Angkerle Aboriginal Corporation)

Standley Chasm, an Aboriginal-owned and managed tourist destination in the West MacDonnell National Park, successfully rebounded from the impacts of COVID-19 and flood damage with the help of ABA economic stimulus funding. The Angkerle Aboriginal Corporation, which operates the Standley Chasm precinct, has ensured the continuity of operations and the employment of 20 local Aboriginal staff for the 2023 tourism season.

The funding enabled Standley Chasm to undertake significant infrastructure development to enhance the visitor experience. The upgraded entrance provides an inviting welcome to tourists and the newly expanded campground increases visitor capacity and improved BBQ facilities. The business also enhanced its sustainability by upgrading wastewater and solar systems.

The program indicates a high level of emerging activity and need in the Aboriginal business sector in the CLC region. With funding almost fully allocated, the CLC is undertaking monitoring of the approved projects.

TOP Residents of Alekareng (Ali Curung) at their garlic farm.

BOTTOM A successful harvest of the garlic crop at Alekareng achieved local and interstate sales.



ABA Application Support project

In December 2022, the CLC completed the three-year pilot ABA Application Support project to support Aboriginal organisations and businesses to apply for ABA grant funding.

The ABA grants program has since been replaced by the NTAIC grants program. Previously, under the ABA grants program, ABA funding could support activities that benefit Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory (NT) in areas of enterprise, employment, education and training, sport, health and safety, language and culture, land management, building and other infrastructure, media, leadership and youth.

The ABA Application Support project aimed to address a trend of grant applications being inadequate and not meeting ministerial approval requirements. The project provided application support to improve the likelihood of applications being approved and important Aboriginal community initiatives being funded. The project provided comprehensive support for approximately 70 per cent of the work required for an effective application as well as some ad hoc support. Applicant surveys indicated strong positive feedback for the assistance provided. The project achieved significant success over its three years, conducting nine regional information sessions, responding to 82 requests for support, and assisting 25 requests. Of those supported, 18 applications were submitted and of these, 14 were approved to a total of \$22.2 million in funding.

Examples of successful projects include:

- *Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC) Santa Teresa Horse program* – to improve school attendance, education and employment opportunities for young people and employ local Aboriginal stockmen
- *Western Region Community Museums project* – funds for the construction of men's and women's keeping places in Kintore, Haasts Bluff and Papunya to enable the repatriation and safe storage of sacred and ceremony objects and create local training and employment opportunities during construction and maintenance phases
- *Urapuntja Aboriginal Corporation Sport Facilities Upgrade project* – funds to upgrade existing Utopia sports facilities, change rooms and recreational areas and create local employment opportunities during construction
- *Nyinkka Nyunyu Digital Archive project* – funds to enable the corporation to better record, store and display archived material, artefacts and objects, and enable Wumpurrarni people to undertake intergenerational knowledge transfer and create employment opportunities.

The project revealed that applicant governance and management capacity was often too 'stretched' to apply for funding, including for some large applicant organisations. The project affirmed that the ABA application guidelines were complex and inhibited completion and success.

Enterprise support

In 2022–23 the CLC provided dedicated support to Aboriginal corporations, groups and businesses to pursue their enterprise development aspirations. In coming years, the CLC will focus on providing enterprise support to prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs).

Support for Aboriginal corporations WOEDAC

The CLC supported the Western Outstations Economic Development Aboriginal Corporation (WOEDAC) to explore the feasibility of a tourism venture in the Mereenie region West of Alice Springs. Two meetings were convened with WOEDAC directors to determine the project scope and choose a consultant, and a further two meetings were held with directors and the consultant to discuss the directors' aspirations and initial findings. The CLC also undertook consultation to identify feasible enterprise opportunities.

The first stage of this project is expected to be completed in 2023. If a viable enterprise opportunity is identified, the CLC will support WOEDAC with a second-stage business planning phase.

Huckitta Aboriginal Corporation (HAC) and Huckitta Enterprises Pty Ltd (Huckitta Enterprises)

The CLC has supported Huckitta Enterprises to operate a successful grazing operation at Huckitta Station since 2011 and at Atula since 2022. This year, the focus was on supporting HAC directors, Huckitta Enterprises directors and station managers with day-to-day business operations (accessing business services), facilitating business planning, and training and development planning. CLC convened two meetings with HAC and Huckitta Enterprise directors to discuss current business operations, business aspirations, and options for transitioning management to local Aboriginal community members over time. The CLC continue to support this work.

Ooratippra Aboriginal Corporation

The CLC provides support to Ooratippra Aboriginal Corporation (OAC) to manage the Ooratippra pastoral lease, which it holds. Since 2000, OAC has sub-leased the station to commercial operators. The lease is due to expire in July 2023. In 2022–23, CLC focused on working with OAC directors to identify their business aspirations in cattle grazing and other areas, develop a

Sharon and Natasha Watkins from Tjinatjarra with CLC staff member, Alex Burgess, and Tjoritja West Community Development Working Group.



caretaker plan for OAC directors to be implemented when the current lease ceases, engage a consultant to update their current business plan, and to develop a training and development plan for OAC directors. CLC will continue to work with OAC directors to progress this work in the coming year.

Community campground projects

Kintore campground

In 2021, the Kintore Community Lease Money Working Group (Kintore WG), facilitated by the CLC, resolved to prioritise developing a campground near Kintore community and successfully applied for ABA economic stimulus funds. A contractor was engaged to scope and design the campground concept, and the Kintore WG were supported to survey the proposed campground site and determine their aspirations and the future management of the campground.

Milpingi campground

In 2021, the Yuendumu GMAAAC committee allocated funds to develop a campground at Milpingi, two hours northwest of Yuendumu. A contractor was engaged to complete a scoping and concept design. The CLC has been working with Traditional Owners, the Milpingi Ngapa Aboriginal Corporation and Wanta Aboriginal Corporation to develop the business plan for the campground.

Aboriginal sole traders

Spotted Tiger

Spotted Tiger campground northeast of Alice Springs is owned and operated by an Eastern Arrernte woman. In 2022–23, the CLC facilitated support to the business from local service providers, including Many Rivers, Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network (NTIBN), and Community First Development. The CLC reviewed the business plan and supported their prioritisation process, and brokered a relationship with Children’s Ground to deliver bush medicine and women’s and children’s wellbeing programs on country.

Tjinatjarra Services

Tjinatjarra Services (Tjinatjarra) started trading in 2022 in Alice Springs and is owned and operated by two Western Arrernte sisters. In 2022, the Tjoritja West Traditional Owner community development group, facilitated by CLC, funded Tjinatjarra to deliver a cultural program. Following this, Tjinatjarra has moved into the NDIS sector and has negotiated program delivery with schools. In 2023, the CLC supported them to refine their business plan and review their business proposal. The CLC also facilitated referral to NTIBN, who will provide Tjinatjarra with ongoing business support.

Regional economic priorities and profiles

This year CLC finalised workshops with delegates to discuss economic opportunities and aspirations in their regions. The delegates' views varied across these regions, reflecting the diversity of language, geography and economic activity, but some common themes emerged, including the need for support in the following areas:

- better training and employment opportunities within communities, particularly for young people
- development support for people to participate in existing and emerging sectors through employment and enterprise, including tourism, housing, civil works (e.g. roads), agriculture, bush foods, pastoral activity and art
- support for new and existing Aboriginal enterprises to enable communities to be financially independent
- support for Aboriginal corporations to enable communities to have control and be financially independent
- support for development of and employment on outstations.

To complement this work, CLC undertook a mapping process to identify Aboriginal businesses, corporations, essential services and major projects in each CLC governance region and is working with the Australian Bureau of Statistics to obtain key demographic data for each CLC governance region. These profiles will assist CLC to prioritise economic participation support activities going forward.

Stakeholder engagement and advocacy

The CLC attended meetings and forums related to economic development such as the Aboriginal Economic Development Forum, Developing Northern Australia conference, Tourism NT 2030 Conference, NT Aboriginal Leadership and Governance Forum, Aboriginal Tourism business development Central Australia, and Central Australia Business Support Working Group. The CLC went to these forums to advocate for investment in economic activities that align with our constituents' needs and aspirations, including the ability to live and work on country and in their communities, to do work that enables people to practise and maintain culture, to be financially independent, and to be able to manage their own futures.

A highlight this year was the workshop convened by the CLC on Aboriginal economic development in a remote context. Representatives from local Aboriginal businesses, experts in social impact investment and joint ventures, and organisations including NSW Aboriginal Land Council, Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, Indigenous Business Australia, NTIBN, and AGMP met over two days to discuss key issues relating to economic development in a remote context. Focus areas included business and joint venture development, regional planning, and social impact investment. This workshop strengthened shared knowledge and relationships for collaboration.

Kwarritnama Art Exhibition artworks.



OUTPUT GROUP 4

Advocacy services and community development

Output 4.1

Public awareness and education

Media

The Central Land Council promotes the views and achievements of its members and constituents, and during this reporting period the Council's advocacy for a constitutionally enshrined Voice to parliament and executive government became the main focus of the CLC's public awareness and education efforts. As the CLC is one of the 'go-to' organisations whenever issues affecting Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory are in the news, the CLC communications team received a constant stream of media requests for interviews about the forthcoming referendum from early 2023 onwards. It also dealt with a noticeable uptick in media permit inquiries about visits to remote communities and outstations to cover residents' views on the Voice and other issues.

Council resolutions about the Voice and the other objectives of the Uluru Statement from the Heart – treaty and truth-telling – received positive coverage in local, national and international media outlets and included interviews with, and opinion pieces by, members and senior Aboriginal staff. The resounding support for the Voice by past and present members of the council was the subject of an op-ed piece by CLC chief executive Les Turner in *The Guardian* in early December 2022. His comments were reported by media around the nation, including the ABC's flagship radio current affairs program, *PM*. The Executive Manager, Governance and Policy, Dr Josie Douglas, followed up with an op-ed piece in March about what the referendum means to Aboriginal people in Central Australia.

Of the 22 media releases of the period, some issued jointly with the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT (APO NT), seven directly referenced the Voice. The CLC and the Northern Land Council also supported two press conferences by the chairs of the four Northern Territory land councils at Barunga and in Parliament House in June 2023. The latter was preceded by a presentation of the signed Barunga Declaration to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, a call directly to the nation by grass-roots representatives of remote communities in the NT to vote 'yes' in the referendum. The declaration pays homage to the historic 1988 Barunga Statement, and the chairs expressed their wish to see it hanging alongside the original statement in the house of the Australian people. Dr Douglas' comments in *The Australian*, that CLC members wanted the Voice to 'to change lives not dates, were picked up by mainstream and social media, contributing to addressing misinformation and supporting more informed discussion in the media and in public forums.

The CLC supported the Anangu family of Yukun, a police shooting victim who was murdered at Uluru in 1934 and whose remains had later been transported to a museum. The burial of Yukun's skull at the foot of Uluru in October 2022, the rest of his remains having been lost, contributed to truth-telling and reconciliation. The CLC facilitated media interviews with his descendants in Utju (Areyonga) community. In the media coverage of the event, the reporting of the ABC, *The Monthly* and *The Guardian* stood out for thoughtful, sensitive and moving treatment of the crime, its cover-up and its impact on the families of both victim and perpetrator.

The first media release of the reporting period expressed the council's deepening dissatisfaction with water policy in the Northern Territory, particularly in relation to the controversial and unprecedented water licence granted for an irrigated agriculture proposal on Singleton Station, south of Tennant Creek. It triggered national coverage of expert analysis showing that the business case for the venture significantly overstates the proposal's potential economic benefits, in particular in regard to Aboriginal employment. The independent study found that while dependent on a significant public subsidy in the form of supplying free groundwater, the proposal's significant ecological, cultural and social costs had not been properly considered. CLC chief executive, Les Turner, stated the study raised serious questions about the proposal's value and showed that it failed to account for the damage that would be done to Aboriginal communities and country.

In May 2023, a further media release highlighted the Northern Territory Government's water allocation plan for the region around Singleton Station and its disregard for Aboriginal rights and sites. Mr Turner said the plan was based on 'pretend-consultations with Traditional Owners, disrespects their concerns about site protection, their rights and interests in water and is opposed by the government's own water advisory committee for the region'. Alekarenge community leader Graham Beasley said Traditional Owners 'will get sick' if they can't protect their sacred water sites. 'That's our culture – we can't give it away. They have already taken everything. What more do they want?'

On a more positive note, the NT Government raised the age of criminal responsibility to 12 and repealed mandatory sentencing for some offences. Council members had called for these legal reforms for a quarter of a century. The then CLC chair and youth worker Kunmanara Hoosan hailed the end of 'the cruel practice of jailing 10-year-old children' as a welcome step on the way

to raising the age to 14 years, 'in line with more enlightened and civilised societies'. 'I hope the next NT budget will back this important reform with the resources for prevention, therapy and diversion needed to make it a success,' he told the media in October 2022.

Mr Hoosan also applauded the Federal Government's stated intention to abolish the cashless debit card. 'We want to see an end to all forms of compulsory quarantining of welfare money, but this has to be done carefully, making sure that people get good information and support,' he said in a media release in September.

Mr Hoosan advocated for voluntary approaches to income management, investment in culturally and linguistically appropriate financial counselling services and urged the government to 'consult properly with the community-controlled Aboriginal organisations and with communities to co-design a new system with us so people can choose what is best for themselves'.

On 29 November 2022 a media release announced the shock of CLC members and staff at the unexpected death of their widely respected chair of less than a year. The CLC supported the Hoosan family with sorry business and communications around the funeral.

Other releases in 2023 resulted in media coverage of the launch of a multilingual app for Native Title holders at the CLC's biennial prescribed bodies corporate networking and capacity development event, better known as the PBC Camp, the Karinga Lakes Native Title determination, and the ranger camp.

Publications

The CLC produced and distributed communications materials to educate a new generation of council members, constituents and journalists about the 'road to the referendum', raising awareness of the council's long history of support for a national voice for Aboriginal people and a treaty. It designed and distributed flyers, videos, signage, t-shirts and other materials for the CLC's Voice information campaign.

Two of the three issues of *Land Rights News* distributed during the period featured cover stories about the Voice. They appeared in October 2022 and March 2023. A special Voice referendum issue of *Land Rights News*, Australia's longest-running Aboriginal newspaper, and Central Australia's only printed paper, is to be published in August 2023.

The CLC again produced and distributed editions of *Community Development News* and *Council News*. The former appeared twice during the reporting period and showcases the activities and achievements of the CLC community development team's

support for community-driven and community-funded projects. *Council News* informs constituents of the issues debated and decided at council meetings. It appeared three times, following the Kalkaringi meeting in August 2022, the Watarrka meeting in October and the Atitjere meeting in April 2023. Like *Land Rights News*, these publications are available on the CLC website and promoted through its Facebook page.

Posters that visually explain complex information were again produced this year for Council, executive committee and constituent meetings, covering subjects ranging from the council's policy priorities, land claims, leasing and water upgrades, to the future of income management.

While many sections of the CLC produce their own information brochures and flyers for constituents, requests for help from the communications team for publication and design projects from across the growing organisation have been increasing rapidly. Internal demand now outstrips the capacity of the communications team to assist with many of these requests. Examples of support provided during the period are the design of the Ltyentye Apurte Healthy Country Plan, t-shirts and a banner for Native Title holders of the area subject to the Singleton Station water licence, and new logos for CLC events and ranger groups. The communications team also supported other sections to outsource design and publication projects that exceeded internal capacity.

Table 19. Communications activities 2019–23

Activity	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Media releases	22	20	30	22
Website page views	109,009	135,960	103,614 *	112,203
Newsletters	16	21	21	15
Land Rights News	3	3	3	3
Other publications (annual reports, information booklets, posters, videos etc.)	113	146	146	69

* This figure has been corrected.

CLC and NLC delegates at the signing of the Barunga Voice Declaration.



CLC online

The first systematic update of the CLC website since the launch of its redesign in May 2021 is progressing. The CLC's publications, most of the numerous reports and submissions it produces every year, and its growing digital archive keepingculture.com are available on the site. The archive now contains more than 17,000 records and functions as a collective photo album for CLC constituents. Following the archive officer's completion of a certificate IV in records management, responsibility for the archive will move to the information services team in 2023–24.

The CLC Facebook page expanded its reach this year, raising public awareness of the achievements of constituents and staff. The total number of followers broke the 10,000 mark and the page's reach and engagement during the period was up 13.6 per cent on the previous period.

A series of videos featuring messages by members and constituents about the Voice has been uploaded to the CLC YouTube channel and posted on the Facebook page. These were shared widely, including by social media channels, but have also made the page the target of increasingly hateful attacks by some social media users opposed to the Voice. The page also

continued to share a wide range of media reporting of social and political issues that affect remote community constituents who have limited media access.

The communications team continued to offer professional development to CLC staff. This included one-on-one interview training for CLC spokespeople and two smart phone video production workshops held in conjunction with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress. An outcome of the workshops were short videos aimed at recruiting more Aboriginal women to the ranger program. One of the videos, produced with and starring female CLC rangers, was previewed at the Indigenous Desert Alliance conference in November. A video promoting female rangers using heavy machinery to excavate and protect a sacred women's site is in production.

Smart phone video production workshop for CLC staff, Alice Springs, October 2022.



Output 4.2

Advocacy and representation

Provide advocacy and representation as appropriate to the Traditional Owners and other clients of the CLC.

The CLC has a statutory responsibility to ascertain, express and represent the wishes and opinions of Aboriginal people in the CLC area and to protect their interests. To meet this responsibility, it identifies significant legislative and policy matters, consults with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people to ascertain their views, and develops positions on significant policy issues with the Council and the executive.

It also carries out research to support policy development and engages with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that Aboriginal interests are taken into account. It therefore represents Aboriginal views and aspirations with a high degree of authority.

Performance

In 2022–23, the CLC made 23 submissions to the Australian and Northern Territory governments on policy matters.

Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the Northern Territory (APO NT)

Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APO NT) is an unincorporated alliance of Aboriginal peak bodies that represents the community-controlled sectors in the Northern Territory. APO NT is currently auspiced by the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency Ltd (NAAJA).

The CLC is a founding member of APO NT, an alliance that has represented Aboriginal people, communities and organisations of the NT since 2010. The alliance was formed to improve collaboration among organisations advocating on remote community issues. As at June 2023, the members of APO NT were the CLC, the Northern Land Council, Tiwi Land Council and Anindilyakwa Land Council, Aboriginal Housing NT, the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT (AMSANT), the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) and the NT Indigenous Business Network (NTIBN).

The alliance works with government and non-government organisations to promote a better understanding of, and improve policy and program outcomes affecting, its constituents. It delivers policy advice, advocacy, community engagement and sector development activities. It promotes programs and initiatives that support strategic and collaborative approaches to services and social and economic policy development.

APO NT is updating its terms of reference to reflect new governance and decision-making arrangements. Dr John Paterson, the acting CEO of NAAJA, is Lead Convenor and Jerome Cubillo, the CEO of NTIBN, is Deputy Lead Convenor. APO NT has developed a draft strategic plan to reflect current priorities set by the governing group and is undertaking an organisational structure review. The CLC is represented on the APO NT governing group by its chief executive, Les Turner, and Executive Manager, Governance and Policy, Josie Douglas.

In 2022–23, the CLC provided advice and support to the APO NT to progress the establishment of a peak education body. The steering committee for the peak body held its first meeting in Darwin in June 2023. The committee is advising on an approach to ongoing broader engagement and input through regional roundtables and providing advice on policy to inform education advocacy.

The CLC also contributed to the work of APO NT through strategic planning, submission writing and advocacy, and participated in the Partnership Working Group and Executive Council for Closing the Gap in the NT.

Table 20. CLC submissions to government 2022–23

Jurisdiction	Issue	Date
Australian Government	Inquiry into the Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Repeal of Cashless Debit Card and Other Measures) Bill 2022	August 2022
	National Biodiversity Market legislative framework consultation	September 2022
	Input to NBN RepTrack Survey	September 2022
	Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters Inquiry into the 2022 Federal Election	October 2022
	Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Amendment Bill 2022	December 2022
	Parliamentary Joint Committee on Northern Australia Inquiry into Northern Australia Workforce Development	January 2023
	Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into the Extent and Nature of Poverty in Australia	February 2023
	Critical Minerals Strategy 2023 Discussion Paper	February 2023
	ACCC Regional Mobile Infrastructure Inquiry 2022–23	March 2023
	Nature Repair Market Exposure Draft Bill	March 2023
	Senate Inquiry into the provisions of the Constitution Alteration (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice) Bill 2023	April 2023
	Draft principles to guide recognition of other effective area-based conservation measures in Australia	May 2023
	Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Income Management Reform) Bill 2023	April 2023
	Senate Inquiry into the Nature Repair Market Bill 2023 and Nature Repair Market (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2023 [Provisions]	June 2023
NT Government	Joint NLC and CLC submission, Petroleum Royalty Bill 2022	August 2022
	Northern Territory Government Infrastructure Audit	September 2022
	NT Parks Masterplan 2022–2052	September 2022
	Improving Economic Regulation of Water and Sewerage Services	November 2022
	Draft Territory Water Plan	November 2022
	Draft Georgina Wiso Water Allocation Plan 2022–2030	December 2022
	Joint Land Council submission – Review of Part V of the Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act (Cth) 1976	February 2023
	Singleton Horticulture project referral to the NT Environment Protection Agency	February 2023
	Draft Western Davenport Water Allocation Plan 2023–2033	May 2023

TOP Dianne Stokes, CLC delegate for Mangalawarra, speaking up at Atitjere Council meeting, April 2023.

BOTTOM Valerie Martin, CLC delegate for Yuendumu, at a regional breakout group at the Atitjere Council meeting.



Table 21. CLC contribution to APO NT submissions 2022–23

APO NT Position Paper on Independent Aboriginal Education Peak Body	July 2022
APO NT Letter to Tripartite Forum Chair on behalf of Community Sector	July 2022
APO NT Letter to Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney	August 2022
APO NT submission on Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Repeal of Cashless Debit Card and Other Measures) Bill 2022	August 2022
Joint submission of the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency and the Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory – Exposure Draft Anti-Discrimination Amendment Bill 2022	August 2022
Letter to AGD on Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility	September 2022
Support for NAAJA letter on the UN SPT visit to Australia	September 2022
Response to the SNAICC Family Matters Campaign	October 2022
Letter to Australian Business Registry Services re Director Identification	November 2022
Submission on Care and Protection of Children Amendment Bill	November 2022
Joint Submission on Coercive Control	November 2022
Community Sector Joint Response to Youth Justice Evaluation (Bail amendments)	November 2022
Media Release Raising the Age of Criminal Responsibility	November 2022
APO NT Position on NT Remote Aboriginal Investment	November 2022
Submission on Closing the Gap Review	December 2022
Submission on the Treasury Employment White Paper	December 2022
Appearance at NT Public Accounts Committee Inquiry into Local Decision Making	Feb 2023
Submission to the NT Government's Alcohol Policy Coordination Unit regarding proposed regulations regarding Community Alcohol Plans	March 2023
Letter to Chief Minister re Proposed Regulations: Community Alcohol Plans	March 2023
Submission to Australian Business Registry Services on the director ID requirement for directors of Aboriginal corporations in the NT.	March 2023

Children and Families Tripartite Forum

The Children and Families Tripartite Forum was established in 2018 to progress the reform program recommended by the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children and to advise the NT and Australian governments. The forum's members are the NT and Commonwealth governments, APO NT, the NT Council of Social Services (NTCOSS) and NAAJA. As a member of APO NT, CLC participated in three meetings of the forum in August 2022, November 2022 and February 2023.

At the November 2022 meeting, the Australian Government endorsed the *Kids Safe, Family Together, Community Strong 10-Year Generational Strategy for Children and Families in the Northern Territory* and approved the Coordinated Investment Framework. The development of a 10-year generational strategy fulfils a recommendation by the royal commission.

In March 2023 the Tripartite Forum met to discuss the implementation of the strategy and the future release of the first of three action plans that will deliver the 10-year generational strategy. APO NT received funding to employ a coordinator and project officer for 12 months to coordinate community sector input to the first action plan, *Planting the Seeds (2023–2025)*, which includes the following central themes:

- actions focused on healing and building cultural security of services for Aboriginal children, young people and families across the NT
- a focus on community planning that builds on what is working well and gives communities more control over services for children, young people and families that operate in their communities
- development of a plan to strengthen the Aboriginal community-controlled organisation (ACCO) sector and identify child and family services that can be transitioned to ACCO control when organisations are ready
- reforms to the child protection and out of home care systems to embed Aboriginal self-determination principles and improve application of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principles (ATSICPP)
- actions that ensure the voices of young people, elders and families influence reforms in youth justice, education, and child and family services.

Justice reinvestment

More than 30 years after the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, Aboriginal people remain over-represented in the criminal justice system and national action to reduce Indigenous incarceration is a priority of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

The Australian Government's October 2022–23 Budget included \$69 million for a National Justice Reinvestment Program that will support 30 community-led, place-based justice reinvestment initiatives across Australia. Central Australian communities will be able to apply for funding when the program commences in September 2023. Alice Springs was identified for early investment, and a further \$10 million has been allocated for Central Australia over four years to support capability building and governance for justice reinvestment initiatives that meet community-identified priorities.

In February 2023, a justice reinvestment workshop, hosted by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation (LAAC), was held in Alice Springs. The workshop established an interim working group to initiate thinking about collaborative community-led justice reinvestment in Alice Springs. The CLC participated in the workshop and was represented on the interim working group by Josie Douglas, Executive Manager, Governance and Policy.

In June 2023, the Australian Government announced a consortium of three organisations – Lhere Artepe, Desert Knowledge Australia and Anglicare NT – as the 'backbone' entity to drive community engagement and justice reinvestment in Alice Springs. These organisations signed a formal agreement with the Attorney-General's Department to drive and deliver justice reinvestment in Alice Springs and the 'backbone' entity is currently mapping out strategic priorities and long-term governance arrangements. LAAC is the lead organisation and will hold the funding. Each organisation will contribute in-kind services, including research expertise and cultural and community knowledge and connections.

Closing the Gap

The CLC is a contributing member of the Coalition of Peaks, a representative body of more than 80 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled peak organisations and members that came together as formal partners to share decision making with governments on Closing the Gap initiatives.

The CLC is committed to work to ensure that the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, which came into effect in July 2020, is fully implemented. CLC attends regular teleconferences of the Coalition of Peaks and, as a member of APO NT and the

NT jurisdictional member of the National Coalition of Peaks, advocates on matters related to implementation of Closing the Gap initiatives in the NT and nationally. APO NT co-chairs the NT Partnership Working Group and supports its members' participation in the NT Executive Council for Aboriginal Affairs.

The Northern Territory Government, APO NT and the Local Government Association of the NT developed the first NT Closing the Gap Implementation Plan (IP1) in 2021. In June 2023, a second Implementation Plan (IP2) was close to being finalised, however the CLC and APO NT have advocated for a clear understanding of how actions identified in IP1 are tracking before settling IP2. IP2 includes actions that relate to Target 15: land, sea and inland waters. CLC will provide input into this target along with other land councils.

Housing

The CLC full Council has identified remote housing as a key policy priority. Housing is a well-established social determinant of health and a fundamental human right. The NT Closing the Gap target to reduce overcrowding to 18 per cent remains a long way from achievement and for most remote residents in our region, housing conditions remain abysmal. The focus of the CLC's advocacy is to improve the quality and availability of housing and to achieve a transition back to Aboriginal community control.

National Partnership Agreement for Remote Housing

In 2019, the four NT land councils joined the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) for a National Partnership for Remote Housing NT (NPRHNT). This was the first intergovernmental agreement on remote housing to include the four NT land councils in governance of the agreement. The agreement between the Australian and NT governments aims to improve the standard and supply of housing for Aboriginal people in 73 remote communities and 17 Alice Springs town camps, and to reduce overcrowding by an average of 22 per cent. The land councils oversee the agreement and provide strategic advice about its implementation.

In August 2022, the CLC took part in a strategic planning workshop to develop an agreed approach to the work of the JSC and a strategic map for its future planning. In 2022–23, the CLC participated in four JSC meetings at which the land councils ensured transparent reporting by the NT Government of expenditure and program delivery. A joint review of the effectiveness of remote leasing arrangements and remote housing delivery models was released, and in March 2023, the

CLC attended a meeting of the joint review subcommittee to discuss the outcomes and provide feedback.

The current National Partnership Agreement was due to expire in mid-2023, but has been extended to 30 June 2024. The CLC has welcomed the Federal Government's commitment to negotiate a new agreement and is seeking a 10-year tripartite agreement that:

- fully reflects the strong partnership elements defined in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap
- embeds and materially supports the vision of an Aboriginal community-controlled housing system
- encompasses homelands as part of the remote housing continuum
- improves the quantity, quality, cultural appropriateness and liveability of housing, including climate-resilient design
- addresses the need for additional investment in critical infrastructure, including power, water, waste, roads and communications
- is of sufficient scale to meet the housing shortfall and future demand, as over the life of the current agreement overcrowding was reduced by only 3.1%.

CLC housing project

Through the JSC, the CLC has focused on mapping a return to Aboriginal community control of housing and is working to implement this through trials that build the capacity of ACCOs in housing and also ensure a sound understanding of liabilities, costs and ongoing government investment to reduce risk, as responsibility for housing is transitioned back to community control.

Since the release of the CLC's Remote Community Housing Trial proposal in August 2021, the CLC has engaged with ACCOs and the NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (DTFHC) to identify an ideal ACCO for the trial. In mid-2022, the CLC began discussions with Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation (JCAC) in Tennant Creek about partnering to undertake a trial consistent with the CLC model. The CLC and JCAC have agreed to partner and have commenced first-phase development of a detailed local implementation plan which is expected to take 12 months.

Small communities and homelands

The CLC has worked for many years to support its constituents to live on their homelands on their own country. This is fundamental to the right to practice and pass on culture, yet homelands continue to suffer chronic underfunding. The full

Council reaffirmed this as a policy priority at its meeting at Kalkaringi in August 2022.

In 2022–23, the CLC worked closely with the NTG Advisory Committee on Homelands until this committee was absorbed into the JSC in May 2023. In October 2022, the Australian Government committed \$100 million over two years for urgent repairs and maintenance on homelands in the NT, managed by the NT Government Homelands Housing and Infrastructure Program (HHIP). Stage 1 of the project in 2022–23 targets investment to homelands already identified as requiring urgent works. Guided by the CLC executive committee's support for the eligibility criteria proposed by the NT Government, the CLC worked with the NTG to plan use of the funds in the CLC region and took part in panel assessments of service providers' capability to complete works planned for the region in Stage 2.

ABA homelands project

The ABA homelands project, launched in 2019, is a Federal Government initiative to deliver \$40 million of investment into homelands across the NT using funds from the Aboriginals Benefits Account. The CLC has been closely involved in consultations with outstation residents and in the development of detailed infrastructure project plans since the inception of the project. Nine CLC delegates were nominated to participate in Homelands Reference groups and decision making for each regional plan group. In the reporting period, CLC continued to work closely with NIAA to deliver the investment.

Voice to Parliament and referendum

Aboriginal people in Central Australia have long advocated for a national representative body of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Australia's first people in the Australian constitution and for commitment and action on a treaty.

In 1988, the presentation to the then Prime Minister Bob Hawke of the joint Central and Northern land councils' Barunga Statement, calling for a treaty, was a pivotal moment in this advocacy.

The establishment of the bipartisan Referendum Council in 2015 injected new energy into the constitutional recognition campaign and triggered 13 regional dialogue consultations across the country. The CLC, for example, hosted the Ross River Dialogue in 2016, which brought together 100 people from across central Australia and the Barkly region of the NT. This extensive national process culminated in the Constitutional Convention at Uluru in 2017, and the development of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

In 2017, a meeting of the full Council issued the Brumby Plains Statement, supporting all elements of the Uluru Statement from the Heart – Voice, Treaty and Truth – reflecting decades of discussion, consultation and advocacy.

In January 2023, the CLC executive endorsed creation of a small 'Voice' team to develop an information and awareness campaign to explain the CLC's long-standing support for the Uluru Statement and provide information to CLC constituents about the national referendum and proposed Voice to Parliament. The Voice team was drawn from staff of the CLC's policy and community development units and funded through CLC self-generated income and philanthropic funds.

The work began with a range of briefings in March and April 2023, including meetings with local Aboriginal corporations, presentations to 140 rangers at the CLC ranger camp, and a community meeting in Alice Springs attended by more than 90 local residents.

A communications workshop in March 2023 brought together CLC Aboriginal staff and town camp and remote community residents to guide development of accessible information about the proposed Voice and forthcoming referendum. Videos of participants interviewing each other about the Voice were recorded at the workshop and have been used to assist remote consultations.

In April 2023, the full Council meeting near Atitjere dedicated considerable time to informing CLC's 90 delegates. A panel of speakers shared information about the history leading to the Uluru Statement and their experience of taking part in the Ross River dialogue and the Uluru Convention. The CLC's nine regional groups met separately to hear audio recordings of the Uluru Statement in regional languages, and language recordings explaining the referendum process and timing. The regional delegate groups advised the CLC Voice team about the best approach to information sessions in each region.

Remote engagement conducted from early May to 30 June 2023 included 15 remote community meetings, two all-staff information workshops (each attended by more than sixty staff), and briefings to the Aboriginal Governance and Management Program (AGMP), Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT (AMSANT), Central Desert Shire staff, Yeperenye Shopping Centre Board, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park staff, the NTG Aboriginal employee forum and a Yes 23 volunteer meeting.

The Central and Northern land councils agreed to hold a combined council meeting at Barunga to celebrate the 35th year of the Barunga Statement and the year of the NLC's 50th anniversary. Given the historical significance of 2023 as a referendum year, the reaffirmation of the councils' commitment to focus on the Voice at Barunga, on the land of the Bagala (Jawoyn) group southwest of Katherine, was an important way of showing unified support. The Tiwi and Anindilyakwa land councils joined their commitment and the Barunga Voice Declaration was born. Consensus on the wording of the declaration was done through members from the floor. The Barunga Voice Declaration was signed by more than 200 representatives of the four NT Aboriginal land councils and was handed to Prime Minister Albanese by representatives of the four land councils in Canberra on 22 June 2023.

During the reporting period, representatives of the CLC senior management team attended six meetings of the national Referendum Engagement Group in Canberra, Adelaide and Yulara.

Referendum Engagement Group meeting dates:

Meeting dates	Location
26 May 2023	Yulara
30 March 2023	Canberra
17 March 2023	Adelaide
3 February 2023	Canberra
12 December 2022	Canberra
29 September 2022	Canberra

TOP Chairs of the four Northern Territory land councils present the Barunga Voice Declaration to the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, at Parliament House, Canberra.

BOTTOM Residents of Pmara Jutunta at a Voice information session, one of many locations visited by the CLC Voice team from March 2023.



TOP Children at the Voice information session at Alpururulam.

BOTTOM Barbara Shaw, Thomas Mayo, CLC staff members Natasha McCormack and Josie Douglas at the Voice information panel in Alice Springs, March 2023.



The CLC communications team has diligently documented the views of CLC constituents and other remote community members. These are contained in three short videos which are being used in the remote information sessions.

NT Treaty

On 8 June 2018, the NT Government and the four NT land councils signed the historic Barunga Agreement, which acknowledges that First Nations peoples of the Northern Territory never ceded sovereignty of their land and waters, and before colonisation were self-governing peoples in accordance with their traditional laws and customs. Under the Barunga Agreement, the NT Government committed to establishing a treaty process, commencing with the establishment of a Northern Territory Treaty Commission to consult Aboriginal Territorians and conduct research to inform a possible treaty-making framework. The Treaty Commission operated from March 2019 until June 2022, when its work concluded with delivery of a final report on the outcomes of its consultations and recommendations for a treaty-making framework to the NT Government.

Public submissions to the Treaty Commission's 2020 Discussion Paper and feedback from consultations informed the final report, which was delivered by Acting Treaty Commissioner Tony McAvoy SC to the NT Government on 29 June 2022. The Treaty Commissioner made nine recommendations with seven implementation recommendations. Minister Selena Uibo tabled the final report in the NT Parliament on 26 July 2022, confirming the NT Government's commitment to:

1. continuing the treaty journey
2. supporting the Treaty Report's vision of a two-step process comprising an overarching Territory-wide treaty followed by individual treaties with First Nations
3. working with land councils to develop a First Nations Forum to work with government around treaty
4. exploring truth-telling
5. providing a comprehensive response to the Treaty Report and its recommendations by the end of 2022.

On 29 December 2022, the NT Government published its response to the Treaty Report. In 2023 the NTG formed a Treaty Working Group supported by the newly created NTG Treaty Unit. CLC attended three meetings of the treaty working group on 11 April, 18 April and 30 May.

At the June 2023 Barunga Council meeting, members passed a resolution expressing dissatisfaction with the NTG response

to the Treaty Commissioner's final report, stating that it failed to meet the expectations of the CLC. A meeting of the land councils was convened by CLC on Friday 30 June to discuss the NT Government's response to the Treaty Commissioner's report. It was agreed that the land councils would work together on a united response to the Commission's Report and its recommendations and this would be advanced through the NTG Treaty Working Group.

Aboriginal Land Rights Act and the Aboriginals Benefit Account

The *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) (ALRA) was significantly amended in December 2021. The reforms were co-designed with the four NT land councils and resulted in a package of reforms as part of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment (Economic Empowerment) Act 2021* (Cth). These changes included the establishment of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC).

With the 2021 amendments and NTAIC established, discussions on broader policy matters within the ALRA framework commenced in this reporting period. An ALRA Policy Forum has been established between the four NT land councils and the NIAA. The first meeting, held on 31 May 2023, was attended by CLC's chief executive, Les Turner.

A concern for CLC in relation to the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) is the NT Government's Mineral Development Taskforce Report. The taskforce final report, released in April 2023, recommended that the royalty scheme be fundamentally reformed to accelerate mining development in the NT. The NT Government has accepted all the taskforce recommendations in principle, including the proposal for a new *ad valorem* mineral royalty framework. The potential impact on ABA revenue if the royalty rate is lowered is a major concern to the CLC. The closure of two significant mines in the NT, the Rio Tinto bauxite mine and GEMCO manganese mine, will have a significant impact on the ABA. CLC is engaging independent economists to interrogate the impact of reducing royalties on ABA and the assumption that there would be increased mining activity because of the reduction.

Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC)

On 1 December 2021, the Australian Parliament passed the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment (Economic Empowerment) Bill 2021. This created the NT Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC), a new Aboriginal-controlled body that will draw funds from the ABA to empower Aboriginal people in the NT to invest in projects that will support Aboriginal economies and communities for generations to come.

The legislation follows many years of advocacy by the four NT land councils to bring control of ABA funds to the NT, rather than having only an advisory role on the ABA with decision making power in the hands of the federal minister. Since 2018, representatives of the four land councils, the NT Government and the ABA Advisory Committee met more than eight times in a co-design process to develop the new corporation, based on ABA reform principles developed by the NT land councils.

The NTAIC legally commenced on 15 November 2022. The inaugural round for the NTAIC ABA Grants Program opened in April 2023. The Grants Program has been developed in partnership with the ABA Advisory Committee (ABAAC) and NT Land Councils.

The 12-member board of the NTAIC includes two elected representatives of each of the four NT land councils, two independent members appointed by the board, and two independent members appointed by the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Indigenous Australians. The new corporation will work within the rules set out in the PGPA act.

The CLC elected Ms Barbara Shaw and Mr Derek Walker to represent CLC for a three-year term that ends in 2025. An interim board was established in 2021–22 and met for the first time in Darwin on 27–28 April 2022. At the November 2022 board meeting, the board agreed to appoint Ms Barbara Shaw as the chair of the NTAIC for a limited term of three months until a full-term chair could be elected at the first board meeting of 2023. This short-term appointment was necessary as the NLC had their election process at the end of 2022 and ensured NLC representatives were known before proceeding to appoint the full-term chair. Ms Barbara Shaw was subsequently appointed as chairperson at the NTAIC Board Meeting on 15 March 2023 for three years.

The NTAIC receives funding from the ABA, with an initial allocation of \$60 million per year for the first three years to provide grants for the benefit of Aboriginal people in the NT. From 2025–26, it will receive yearly funding to support its grants program. Over the next year, NTAIC will develop its strategic

investment plan, to be approved by the Minister for Indigenous Australians and parliament, before it receives \$500 million to invest in an endowment fund managed in perpetuity.

Commonwealth Community Development Program (CDP)

The CLC welcomed the Australian Government's commitment in 2021–22 to abolish the controversial remote Community Development Program (CDP) – often referred to as 'work for the dole'. The CLC and other APO NT members campaigned for an end to the program for several years and, as a member of APO NT, CLC contributed to the *Fair Work and Strong Communities 2018* proposal for a new approach to remote employment and community development.

Prior to its election in May 2022, the Labor Party committed to replace CDP with 'a new program with real jobs, proper wages and decent conditions – developed in partnership with First Nations people.' On 31 August 2022, the Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Linda Burney MP, hosted a remote employment roundtable as a first step towards a 'new CDP'. CLC chief executive, Les Turner, attended the roundtable.

In 2022–23, the NIAA initiated two trials which will ultimately inform a new program, the Trialling Pathways to Real Jobs program, which commenced in November 2022 and is expected to continue until CDP provider contracts expire in October 2024, and the New Jobs Program Trial, which is intended to create up to 200 job opportunities nationally in remote communities over three years. The New Jobs Program Trial was allocated \$9.4 million in the October 2022–23 federal budget, supplemented by \$97.7 million in the May 2023 budget.

The CLC and APO NT have substantial interest and expertise which can inform major reform in remote employment; there are concerns, however, that the trials were not developed with the input of key Aboriginal stakeholders and that most engagement appears to have focused on existing CDP providers. Further, the trials have very short timeframes. The need for national governance arrangements for the CDP reform process is a high priority that is consistent with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

TOP CLC delegates, left to right, Jimmy Frank, Derek Walker, Barbara Shaw and Dianne Stokes. These delegates were nominated by Council to NTAIC roles: Jimmy Frank, NTAIC grants committee; Derek Walker, NTAIC director; Barb Shaw, NTAIC director; and Dianne Stokes, NTAIC grants committee.



Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory

The Commonwealth's Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Act included a sunset provision and ceased on 17 July 2022, 10 years after it came into effect.

In October 2022, the Australian and NT governments announced a two-year extension to the National Partnership on Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment (NTRAI). The partnership provides funding that was originally part of the Stronger Futures package, and extension of the partnership provided an additional \$173.2 million for health, education, policing and Aboriginal interpreter services in remote NT communities.

During the extension period, the NIAA and the Department of Health and Aged Care are to work in partnership with APO NT and the NT Government to design options for future investment in remote Aboriginal communities, giving life to the priority reforms identified in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. As a member of APO NT, the CLC engaged in a number of meetings with NIAA and the NT Government to discuss the impact of the cessation of the Stronger Futures Act and plans to extend and redesign NTRAI-funded programs. The APO NT position is that detail about new investment funding should be negotiated through a formal tripartite agreement between the Commonwealth, NT Government and APO NT that reflects the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

A Joint Steering Committee (JSC) was established to oversee design and future investment, with APO NT represented by the CLC, NLC, AMSANT and NAAJA. APO NT established a project team to progress the tripartite agreement and tabled a draft agreement at the JSC meeting in March 2023. The Commonwealth and NT governments agreed to negotiate a process for the parties to work together to develop the final tripartite agreement. APO NT plans community engagement activities for September and October 2023 that will inform negotiation and implementation of the tripartite agreement.

Water

Security of drinking water is a major concern for remote NT communities and improving the availability and quality of drinking water is among the CLC's top policy priorities. Water for country and development are also critical concerns for our constituents.

Our constituents have a right to safe, quality drinking water and a right to protect the water on their traditional lands. The CLC has worked for many years to advocate for these rights by mounting a comprehensive strategy on water to meet the goals of the Council. This has engaged many staff in our policy, legal,

land management and anthropology teams in a combined effort to ensure our constituents' rights to safe drinking water and to protect water sources on traditional lands.

In 2022–23, water issues were again a key focus that encompassed health, essential services, water planning and allocation, decision making and monitoring, advocacy and litigation. The CLC continued a high level of activity to support urgently needed changes on behalf of our constituents, including:

- Advocacy for laws with respect to safe drinking water and for funding of essential water services infrastructure, including meetings, letters and submissions to the NT and Australian Governments. The CLC's submission to the NT Government on its draft Territory Water Plan demanded safe drinking water laws similar to other Australian jurisdictions, and more funding and support for homelands.
- Preparation of submissions on water-use planning processes, seeking improved legislation and planning that centres Aboriginal people in decision making and monitoring and implements proper protections for cultural values and country. The CLC's Policy, Legal and Land Management teams provided a detailed submission on the draft Western Davenport Water Allocation Plan, raising concerns about lack of proper consultations and protections for cultural values and the environment. This submission was based on comprehensive feedback provided by Traditional Owners at multiple engagement sessions throughout the year.
- Good faith participation in the Western Davenport and Ti Tree Water Advisory committee, despite deep concerns about the Western Davenport water allocation planning process.
- Advocacy for water laws that properly secure Aboriginal water interests for economic development.
- Pursuing litigation on behalf of Traditional Owners, when necessary, to challenge water planning decisions, as in the case of the Singleton Station water licence (see further below).
- Raising the profile of water issues in our region through media campaigns and conference presentations alongside Traditional Owners – for example highlighting the concerns of Native Title holders about the Western Davenport water allocation planning process and drinking water issues in remote communities such as Alpururulam.



In April 2023, the Council passed a resolution articulating the critical importance of water to the future survival of Aboriginal people and culture, and reiterated demands for stronger water governance that recognises and secures Aboriginal water rights.

In June 2023, a combined land council meeting at Barunga passed a joint resolution in response to the NT Government's commitments to reform water governance in the NT. Mindful that the NT Government has shown a lack of commitment to appropriate consultation and shared decision making in the past, the land councils called for bold and overdue water reforms to deliver safe drinking water, protect country and support Aboriginal development through close consultation with Aboriginal people. These strong principles have and will continue to guide the CLC's advocacy and its input into the NT Government's strategic water reform process.

Singleton Station water licence

In April 2021, the NT Water Controller granted a 30-year water licence to Fortune Agribusiness for an allocation of up to 40,000 megalitres of water per year. This is the biggest licence ever granted in the NT for the purposes of establishing a significant horticulture project. The CLC consulted with Native Title holders in response to the licence application, who directed us to seek review of the licence if granted and to take the matter to court if Native Title holders' concerns were not adequately considered.

In May 2021, Native Title holders of the licence area instructed the CLC to identify the cultural values associated with the area and to consider how these values might be impacted by the granting of the water licence. The CLC anthropology team assisted consultant anthropologist Susan Dale Donaldson, who was engaged by the CLC to undertake a cultural values assessment. This assessment identified a vast array of sacred sites in the area that depend on groundwater and demonstrated the significant impacts this licence could have for these sacred sites, cultural values and rights of Native Title holders.

The CLC sought a review under the *Water Act 1992* (NT) and in September 2021 addressed the review's panel of experts appointed by the Minister for Water Resources. The review resulted in some minor but insufficient changes to the licence conditions.

From 2021 to 2023, the CLC commissioned expert analysis of the Singleton project which indicated it is likely to have a significant impact on groundwater resources, sandplain habitat, culturally significant groundwater dependent ecosystems and other sacred sites and values, while the project is unlikely to deliver the economic benefits stated by the proponent.

In September 2022, the CLC appeared at the NT Supreme Court on behalf of Mpwerempwer Aboriginal Corporation, challenging the NT Government's granting of the licence. The CLC supported

CLC executive member Jackie Mahoney, CLC delegate Pam Corbett, and CLC staff members Georgia Stewart and Evie Rose at the launch of the Water Services Association of Australia report *Closing the Water for People and Communities Gap*, Parliament House, Canberra, November 2022. Photo courtesy of the Australian Water Association.



Traditional Owners to attend the hearings and speak publicly outside the court. We are still waiting on the judge's decision.

In February 2023, the CLC provided a submission to the NT Environmental Protection Agency (NT EPA) regarding the Singleton project's referral, seeking a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (also known as a 'Tier 3' Assessment). The CLC's policy, legal, land management and anthropology staff drew on internal expertise and engaged expert hydrogeologists, anthropologists and economists to support the submission. In March 2023, the NT EPA decided the project would require a full EIS, which means the project start will be delayed until the end of the process, which could take up to two years. The EPA had not released the draft terms of reference for public comment at the end of the reporting period.

First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance (FNHPA)

In November 2021, following the desecration of Juukan Gorge in Western Australia and subsequent inquiry, the Federal Government and the First Nations Heritage Protection Alliance (FNHPA, 'the Alliance') forged a partnership to focus on law reforms to protect First Nations cultural heritage. This partnership was led by the former Minister for Indigenous Australians, Hon Ken Wyatt and then Environment Minister, Hon Sussan Ley. On 24 November 2022, an updated and renewed

partnership agreement was jointly signed by the Minister for the Environment and Water, Hon Tanya Plibersek and the Alliance. The agreement commits both parties to a co-design process to reform cultural heritage protection. The engagement in law reform that encourages full protection as a national standard, and aligns with international cultural heritage standards, remains a key driver to ensure First Nations cultural heritage is protected, recognised and celebrated.

The CLC is a member of the Alliance leadership working group and participates in Alliance meetings. The CLC contributed to policy development and facilitated engagement of the Alliance with our council members. The Alliance presented information and sought feedback on proposed national First Nation heritage protection measures. Key priorities for the FNHPA include:

- national heritage legislative reform (Commonwealth)
- amendments to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
- Indigenous cultural and intellectual property (ICIP) legislative reform, including stand-alone legislation for Indigenous knowledge.

Barbera Leo Kemarre checking for a budgerigar nest.



Output 4.3

Cultural and heritage support

Provide cultural and heritage support as appropriate to the Traditional Owners and other clients of the land councils.

Cultural heritage and customary practices

Many Traditional Owners consider being on country essential to keeping their land and themselves healthy. Most CLC field trips, whatever their main purpose, provide opportunities for Traditional Owners to visit cultural sites. The CLC continues to facilitate country visits by Traditional Owners so they can discharge their cultural responsibilities.

The Reading the Country project aims to help rangers to advance their knowledge and skills in the art of tracking. Warlpiri trackers and teachers are developing teaching and learning aids, and a shared database of photos to help read the signs of desert mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds in desert country. The database will include photos of animal tracks and other signs of animals in the landscape such as burrows, nests, diggings, pellets and poo.

Cultural support and sacred sites

Sacred sites are places of deep spiritual significance and are integral to Aboriginal culture. Sacred site protection is vital for the continuation of religious and cultural traditions and as a source of identity for Aboriginal people. The sacred site clearance certificate process reassures Traditional Owners that they can safely permit development of their lands while ensuring the protection of their culture and sacred sites. In 2022–23, the sacred site clearance certificate procedures were updated to simplify and streamline the process, and now include the issuing of sacred site clearance letters in lieu of a certificate. These ensure greater compliance by the applicant and speed up the administrative process. Clearance letters are issued for simple works in some communities and outstations where the CLC has a very high degree of confidence that no sites are in the area of the proposed works.

Development proposals undergo a work area approval process that ensures Traditional Owners are consulted and sacred sites are protected by clearance procedures. The CLC issued 184 sacred site clearance certificates or sacred site clearance letters in lieu of a certificate. Projects ranging from construction of new houses in communities, road upgrades on Aboriginal land, installation of telecommunications infrastructure, fence and water infrastructure on cattle stations, and in advance of mineral exploration on ALTs were issued sacred site clearance certificates. Simple works that were issued sacred site clearance letters in lieu of a certificate include the installation of shade structures, lights and seating around community sporting ovals, renovations

and extensions to existing community buildings such as the shop, school, clinic and church, and upgrades to community aerodromes.

The Willowra mapping project is a community-led initiative to record and paint sacred sites along the Lander River on a large canvas map to be housed in the community's learning centre. It is funded by Traditional Owners through the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust. The project facilitates intergenerational transfer of knowledge of the location and names of sites, dreamings and songs for sites, and olden time and other stories about the sites and related countries. The project continued to collect information from senior Traditional Owners, some of whom are the last generation to have lived much of their lives off the land. In 2022–23, the elders continued to work with consultant anthropologists to record sites and songlines. Documenting this information as it is being relayed to the next generations forms an important legacy for senior people participating in the project and other communities in the region have expressed an interest in establishing similar projects.

The CLC had been in discussions with the South Australian Museum about the repatriation of skeletal remains taken from Uluru in the 1930s. In the lead-up to the reburial in late 2022, small Traditional Owner consultation meetings were held to plan the return and reburial of the remains in a Traditional Owner led and a culturally appropriate manner. The return and reburial occurred on 13 October 2022, with over 100 Anangu from across the southern CLC region and northern Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands brought together to participate and mark the event.

In 2022–23, the CLC continued to assist Traditional Owners in a project to record stories and map Coniston Massacre sites, with a view to the sites being added to the Northern Territory Heritage Register. Consultant anthropologists assisted with the research. Traditional owners have sought provisional protection of the Yurrkuru (Brooks Soak) site while the consultation process continues.

The CLC genealogist sent out extracts of genealogies in response to 64 requests from CLC constituents. Four historical land claim genealogies were digitised.

The redevelopment of the CLC anthropology section's sacred sites database was completed in June 2023. This long and detailed project involved data hygiene on 17 different types of data and weekly bug fixes. Anthropologists have begun to use the new database.

In 2023, the CLC executive committee established a steering committee to provide guidance to the anthropology section on policy around best practice repatriation of information and objects in a culturally appropriate manner. A senior anthropologist for major projects and repatriation was recruited with a key aim to develop policy and procedure for repatriation of objects sent to the CLC by the general public, and repatriation of information held in the CLC archives.

Members of the public contact the CLC to return objects in private collections to their home communities or community keeping places. This work is ongoing, as often the objects have little in the way of provenance. The work around the identification of the objects, where they are from and who might own them needs to be done sensitively as objects may have restrictions around who should view them.

CLC constituents from time to time request access to, or copies of, material held in the CLC archives. Currently the CLC provides copies of photos and extracts of genealogies to constituents. A previous executive committee Steering committee recommended in March 2022 the CLC Anthropology section develop further policies around the provision of other materials from the CLC archives. Four staff from the Anthropology section participated in a five-day intensive course offered by the Australian National University on repatriation with the view to learn about current best practice approaches in this field.

Site damage investigations

CLC Anthropologists investigated five areas where CLC constituents had reported concerns about ground-disturbing works in close proximity to sacred sites; two of these areas were reported to the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.

Table 22. Cultural and heritage support 2022–23

Advice and support – land, sea and natural resource management	43
Advice and support – land use agreements	18
Advice and support – economic development and commercial services	1
Advice and support – advocacy	5
Administration and support services	76
Advice and support – Native Title activities	16

Table 23. Sacred site clearance certificates 2022–23

Exploration and mining (Aboriginal land)	11
Exploration and mining (Native Title land)	8
Research for telecommunications infrastructure	15
Community and other infrastructure	121
Housing and leases	8
Road works	21
Land management activities	6
Other	8

Aboriginal ceremonial activities and funerals

The CLC receives ABA funding to help Aboriginal families meet some of the high costs of funerals and ceremonies. Traditional Owner groups and communities also use leasing and compensation income streams to set up funeral funds administered by the CLC.

The CLC allocates the ABA funds according to strict guidelines and processed 267 applications for funeral expenses in 2022–23 and the Anthropology section provided advice on 25 applications that required further research. Table 24 shows the communities that received resources for ceremonies during the summer.

Table 24. Communities supported to conduct ceremonies

Region 1	Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Wallace Rockhole, Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa), Titjikala, Alice Springs
Region 2	Utju (Areyonga), Kal̄tukatjara (Dockers River), Muṯitjulu, Imanpa, Finke (Aputula)
Region 3	Daguragu, Lajamanu
Region 4	Yuendumu, Willowra, Nyirripi
Region 5	Kintore, Papunya, Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff), Mount Liebig
Region 6	Tennant Creek
Region 7	Arlparra, Irrultja, Ampilatwatja, Soapy Bore
Region 8	Mount Eaglebeak/Irrelirre (Number 5), Mulga Bore, Alcoota, Ambalindum
Region 9	Tara (Neutral Junction), Ti Tree, Pmara Jutunta (6 Mile), Yuelamu (Mount Allen), Laramba, Wilora (Stirling)

Output 4.4

Community development support

Facilitate targeted Aboriginal community development initiatives with Traditional Owners and other clients of the CLC.

The CLC helps Aboriginal groups to invest income primarily from land use agreements, such as rent, royalty, leasing and compensation payments, in the development of their communities. It works with the groups to build their capacity through the planning and implementation of community-driven projects that maintain identities, languages, cultures and connection to country, strengthen the governance of locally controlled organisations and improve health, education and employment outcomes.

The CLC's effective and flexible community development approach employs processes that ensure residents and Traditional Owners control their assets, projects and programs. It aims to build individual and collective capacity and self-reliance, as outlined in the CLC's community development framework.

The community development program started in 2005 and employs 25 staff. It is active in 40 communities and supports 30 Traditional Owner groups from 14 national parks and 23 other Traditional Owner groups. Of these communities, 35 are in the CLC region and three are the Western Australian communities of Balgo, Billiluna and Ringer Soak which receive compensation income from the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation. The program also works with communities in South Australia where Traditional Owners of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park live.

The program works with seven major regional income streams and a growing number of smaller, increasingly diverse sources of land use income such as grazing licences, carbon credits and infrastructure developments.

Performance

Since 2005 these Aboriginal governance groups have committed \$224.3 million to more than 2,600 projects, ranging from multi-million-dollar, multi-year initiatives to small infrastructure projects. These investments have attracted millions of dollars in co-contributions from government, and hundreds of thousands of dollars from Newmont Corporation which operates a mine in the region.

The CLC continued to work with the Institute for Human Security and Social Change, La Trobe University, on

implementation of the unit's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strategy, including:

- Completion of Independent monitoring of the community develop program during 2021–22 that found the program was increasingly applying two emerging strategies outlined in the unit's revised community development framework; partnerships and networks and lobbying and advocacy.
- Completion of a comprehensive assessment of the initial 2.5 years of the Matched Funds trial, including case studies in three participating communities. The report found the initiative had successfully incentivised Aboriginal groups to allocate their income to community benefit projects.
- Continuation of the Lajamanu longitudinal study. The project team, which includes Warlpiri advisors and Aboriginal community researchers, co-designed and trialled longitudinal assessment tools during this period.

In 2022–23, Aboriginal groups committed more than \$33.8 million to 240 new projects following 713 consultations with community. The amount committed is an increase of 64% from the previous year, with much of the additional funds relating to projects approved by GMAAAC committees. The numbers of consultations are significantly higher than previous years as staff undertake deeper work with communities in building governance capacity and developing partnerships with local organisations, and in project development.

A key part of community development projects is the local training and employment that they deliver to communities. Community development projects delivered 47,540 hours of employment for 659 Aboriginal people and 3,060 hours of accredited training. They provided wrap-around support to 58 boarding school students to help them manage the challenges of studying far from home.

Increasingly participants in the community development program want to share their stories to a broader audience. The CLC published two editions of *Community Development News* and showcased projects in other media to spread project ideas, celebrate successes and inspire pride. During this period a record number of participants in the community development program presented at conferences, summits and other events. This is

Junior Cole gives the thumbs up to a colour run at the Mutitjulu Swimming Pool.



Opening day of the Lajamanu Water Park, August 2022.



evidence of the impact of the capacity-building work the CLC does to support constituents. Forums included:

- Australian Evaluation Society International Conference August 2022, Adelaide
- 2022 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education, Adelaide
- 2022 Utyerre Apanpe First Nations Educators Forum, Ross River
- 2022 Desert Knowledge Symposium ‘Channels for a thriving desert’, Alice Springs
- 2023 Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Summit, Perth
- 2023 Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women’s Voices) National Summit, Canberra
- 2023 NT Writers Festival, Alice Springs

- 2023 Warlpiri Encyclopaedic Dictionary Launch, Yuendumu
- 2023 World Community Development Conference “FROM the EDGE”, Darwin.

Process

The CLC works with Aboriginal groups to prioritise, plan and develop community benefit projects and to identify partner organisations that can implement the projects. Once a group decides on a project, the CLC’s chief executive officer reviews the consultation process and signs off on the project proposal and funding. The CLC then negotiates funding agreements with partner organisations in accordance with the group’s instruction. The CLC manages the contracts, often with the involvement of the group. It also monitors and evaluates the project by measuring its outcomes against each group’s project plans, agreements and expectations.

Major income stream projects

Table 25. Community development income streams 2022–23

Income Stream	Purpose	\$ Value
Uluru rent money project	Use rent paid to Traditional Owners of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park for a range of sustainable regional initiatives	2,694,222
Warlpiri Education and Training Trust	Use mining royalties of The Granites gold mine in the Southern Tanami for sustainable education, training and employment benefits	6,856,208
Tanami dialysis support project (Kurra Aboriginal Corporation)	Use interest earned on mining royalties of The Granites mine to support dialysis facilities and patient support services in remote communities in the southern Tanami	0
Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC)	Use affected area monies from the Commonwealth Government (calculated by reference to Granites mine royalties paid to the NTG) to support nine communities in the Southern Tanami to apply those monies toward broad community benefit activities	17,212,986
NT Parks rent money project	Use rent paid to Traditional Owners of national parks, conservation and nature reserves for a range of sustainable initiatives	1,738,279
Community lease money project	Use rent paid for community leases to 31 communities for a diverse range of community benefit projects	499,546
Other income streams	Use mainly new and smaller payments linked to mining and exploration for a variety of community benefit projects	2,315,155
Matched funds trial	Provides complementary funding for groups that have new income from land use agreements that is allocated to community benefit projects	2,484,080
Total		33,800,476

Uluru rent money (URM)

The Traditional Owner group of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (UKTNP) was among the first to work with the CLC's community development unit, in 2006. The group, known as the Muṯitjulu working group, invests the rent from park leases and gate fees in community benefit projects in the Muṯitjulu community inside the park, as well as in projects across the region. From 2005 to 2023 the two groups invested \$21.9 million in regional projects. The Uluru-Kata Tjuta Traditional Owner working group allocated almost \$2.7 million dollars to fund seven community benefit projects during the period. The Muṯitjulu working group allocated their Matched Funds income to these projects, as discussed further below.

The project's working group met once to prioritise and plan the projects, followed by a meeting of the Traditional Owners that allocated funds to the projects.

Projects align with the priority themes ('important Ara') the regional Traditional Owner group chose in 2014. The Traditional Owner group also monitors projects funded in previous years and decides whether to keep funding them.

Continuing priorities for 2022–23 were funeral, culture and education support projects. This included continuation of the boarding school project with NPY Women's Council for a further 18 months, totalling \$407,933. The project supports boarding school students from the Amata, Pukatja, Kaṯtukatjara, Imanpa and Muṯitjulu communities with their enrolment and travel costs, support for emotional needs and advocacy.

The Traditional Owners added homelands to their list of important Ara at their Traditional Owner meeting in 2021. The group funded their first homeland support projects during the reporting period, allocating \$200,192 to the Umpiyara Homeland Upgrade, and an allocation of \$161,035 to the Little Kenmore Concert Stage Renovation project. Both of these construction projects include local employment and training, and demonstrate a focus on creating spaces that will facilitate further opportunities for connection to country, and intergenerational learning.

The group also allocated \$122,000 to the Utju Men's project. This program includes camps and workshops, and aims to engage men in Utju to reconnect to culture and understand trauma in a culturally safe way.

The project's Muṯitjulu working group manages initiatives the community has prioritised. The group previously funded the pool operations and the successful pool season saw the employment of three local Aboriginal people for a total of 325 hours.

The Muṯitjulu working group continued to work on the planning of public spaces in Muṯitjulu through the Shaded Walkway project. They also funded an animal management project involving regular veterinary visits in collaboration with other community organisations, and a cultural dance (inma) project with Maruku Arts from their community Matched Funds income.

Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT)

Warlpiri teachers and Traditional Owners of the site of Newmont's gold mine in the Tanami set up the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) in 2005 to invest mining royalties in education and training for the residents of Lajamanu, Nyirrpi, Willowra and Yuendumu.

The Kurra Aboriginal Corporation, whose members are Traditional Owners of the site, is the WETT trustee. Kurra directors continued to take part in the Good Governance Program (GGP) to support strong governance and investment decisions. CLC staff and WETT AC members presented WETT's sustainability strategy to Kurra directors at their GGP training in March 2023. Further information about the GGP is in section 5.1 of this report. A subcommittee of Kurra directors (Kurra WETT directors) met three times to consider the recommendations of a WETT advisory committee and make funding decisions about WETT programs. The committee consists of four representatives from each of the four communities, a representative from Newmont and a representative from the CLC. They met three times to design, plan, monitor WETT-funded programs, and recommend funding priorities to the corporation. The CLC administers the trust and contracts project partners to implement approved projects.

Project highlights

The Kurra directors allocated over \$6.8 million across WETT's children and families, language and culture in schools, secondary school support, youth development, community learning centre programs and monitoring and evaluation.

In July 2022, the WETT advisory committee held elections in Lajamanu. Thirty community members voted for three positions from among eight nominees.

The four WETT-funded learning centres continued to operate with Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education as the program partner in Willowra, Nyirrpi and Lajamanu. Highlights included a digital literacy program in three learning centres, a mechanics workshop in Lajamanu, and upgrades to existing infrastructure. The WETT AC members made the decision to close the Yuendumu learning centre for a minimum of six months in order seek new partnerships.

WETT funded the delivery of three Jinta Jarrimi educator workshops and a milestone Warlpiri Triangle workshop at which the Warlpiri Encyclopaedic dictionary was launched. The country visit and elder payment program supported learning on country activities and engagement of elders in all four Warlpiri schools.

The partnership between WETT and World Vision Australia (WVA) was strengthened as WVA continued to deliver a valued playgroup program in Willowra using the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) and 3a (Abecedarian). The playgroup employed and trained local educators and a playgroup reference group met regularly. The playgroup used bilingual reading materials, undertook bush trips, and conducted school transition activities and smoking ceremonies. WETT also contributed funds towards WVA's Unlock Literacy Program, which seeks to promote biliteracy in out-of-school contexts.

WETT ceased its partnership with the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC) in the delivery of the Youth Development Program in four communities and funded the Central Desert Regional Council (CDRC) to run a school holiday program in Yuendumu over the summer break. WETT also continued to fund Yuendumu's Yurrampi Child and Family centre for Yapa (Warlpiri) staff and reference group training and development. WETT continued a partnership with PAW media to develop a new season of the popular *Manyu Wana* series (also known as *Warlpiri Sesame Street*).

WETT, the CLC and La Trobe University began their second year of the WETT Tracking and Learning project, Yitaki-maninjaku manu pina-maninjaku (YWPP), an innovative approach to monitoring and evaluation of WETT programs. A workshop was held in Alice Springs led by a senior Yapa researcher from La Trobe University, which provided training in community research methods for three senior community researchers and two young mentees. The community researchers gathered feedback from more than 30 young people in Yuendumu and Willowra, which was taken to the March 2023 WETT AC meeting and shared with stakeholders to inform a youth development strategy in the Tanami. Community researchers shared their work at the October and March WETT AC meetings, at the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Community of Practice and facilitated a workshop at the World Community Development Conference in Darwin.

WETT, the CLC, the Department of Education and Batchelor Institute worked in partnership to deliver a Regional Forum on local decision making in Warlpiri schools in March 2023. A total of 32 community members participated in the forum, including four joining in online from Lajamanu. Six senior representatives from the Department of Education attended on the second day along with the four school principals. A report with recommendations

for a regional governance model was developed to be presented to the Department of Education for response and action.

In 2022, WETT AC members attended the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education in Adelaide and the Utyerre Apanpe First Nations Educators Forum in Ross River. WETT AC members co-presented with the Department of Education and Batchelor Institute staff about their partnership on local decision making in Warlpiri schools at the 2022 Desert Knowledge Symposium 'Channels for a thriving desert' in Alice Springs. The WETT advisory committee was invited by Human Rights Commissioner June Oscar to present at the 2023 Wiyi Wiyi Yani U Thagani (Women's Voices) National Summit in Canberra and at the 2023 NT Writers Festival in Alice Springs. WETT AC presented at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Summit, Perth and the World Community Development Conference in Darwin.

Tanami Dialysis Support

Historically significant funds were directed to Tanami Dialysis Support. However, in recent years the Medicare rebate has meant that most operational costs for dialysis are now covered. Most funding allocations are now made for capital works. During this period there were no allocations made to Tanami Dialysis Support.

Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC)

GMAAAC allocates half of its affected areas income to community benefit projects in the nine affected Tanami communities every year. The corporation invests the other half to ensure the communities will continue to benefit after the mine closes. The communities elect GMAAAC committees and directors every three years. The committees work with the CLC to develop and invest in projects that improve housing, health, education, essential services, employment and training, and Aboriginal self-management. GMAAAC directors are responsible for the corporation's governance and investments.

The corporation provides the largest income stream administered by the CLC community development program. In the 2022–23 financial year, GMAAAC income decreased slightly to just over \$15 million.

During this reporting period GMAAAC committees approved 85 new projects valuing \$17.2 million.

GMAAAC directors continued to take part in the Good Governance Program (GGP) to support strong governance and investment decisions. For more information on the GGP, see Output 5.1 of this report.

GMAAAC committees prioritised local employment again this year, with 142 Yapa working a total of 14,945 hours across a wide variety of projects. Employment opportunities generated through GMAAAC projects range from short-term appointments on project steering committees, cultural consultants and contract work on construction projects, through to long-term employment delivering community programs.

The CLC helped partner organisations to submit reports and financial acquittals, and supported GMAAAC committees to review compliance with project agreements.

Project highlights

This period has again been characterised by significant investment in much-needed improvements to community infrastructure. GMAAAC committees have undertaken comprehensive design works for large-scale infrastructure projects and community masterplan projects, with some projects now reaching the construction phase. These processes included regular collaborations with the Northern Territory Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, the Power and Water Corporation, and Indigenous Essential Services. The following are examples of these projects:

- Lajamanu GMAAAC committee allocated \$48,836 for consultation and concept design for a new multi-purpose pump track and a skate park.
- Lajamanu GMAAAC committee allocated \$406,863 to design and build a community laundry.
- With the Tanami Downs Landscape Design Report completed in this reporting period, the Tanami Downs GMAAAC Committee allocated \$116,000 to the first components of the implementation, including storm-water management, road works and a bush food garden.
- Following the completion of the detailed design stage, the Yuelamu GMAAAC Committee allocated \$1,057,540 to the construction of a new music recording studio.
- Yuelamu GMAAAC Committee also allocated \$70,081 to the Community Solar Scoping project to investigate different operating models for a potential future community-owned solar array.
- After completion of the detailed design stage, the Billiluna GMAAAC committee allocated \$41,800 to the repairs and upgrade of the community basketball court lights.
- Following the completion of the Yuendumu Sports Ovals Masterplan, the Yuendumu GMAAAC Committee allocated \$1,100,000 to the construction of the softball change rooms and a \$530,000 contribution to the construction

of the new grandstand. The Masterplan was instrumental in Yuendumu community securing a further \$1 million of federal funding for the upgrades.

These consultation, design and scoping projects provide the foundation from which committees can advocate for co-investment.

After years of detailed planning, Lajamanu community saw their \$3.8 million investment in building a community waterpark come to fruition, with construction completed in August 2022. The waterpark offers training and employment for three full time equivalent positions, spread among local Aboriginal casual pool attendants and cultural advisers.

In addition to funding a large number of infrastructure planning projects, GMAAAC committees continued to prioritise projects that support cultural maintenance and young people. Some examples include:

- Yuendumu GMAAAC committee allocated funds to a series of cultural maintenance projects including the Warlpiri Songlines project (\$120,000) and the Southern Ngaliya Tanami Dance Camps (\$508,702), as well as funding the employment of a Language and Resource Officer, and a Learning on Country Coordinator at Yuendumu School.
- After extensive planning and funding by the Yuelamu and Willowra GMAAAC Committees, new North Park and South Park playgrounds were installed in Yuelamu, and new Westside and Eastside playgrounds were installed in Willowra.
- The Ringer Soak, Billiluna and Yuelamu GMAAAC committees all prioritised looking after their cemeteries and funded Cemetery Research projects. The Ringer Soak Cemetery Research project (stage 1) was completed in this reporting period. The Billiluna and Yuelamu GMAAAC committees allocated \$75,000 and \$35,400 to Cemetery Research and upgrade projects, respectively.

Production of the new GMAAAC film was completed, with filming taking place in all nine GMAAAC communities. A selection of GMAAAC directors travelled to Darwin to show the film at the World Community Development Conference.

TOP GMAAAC Committee member Tracie Patrick with CLC's Rebecca Humphries.

BOTTOM CLC staff and GMAAAC committee members from Yuendumu, Tanami Downs, Willowra, Lajamanu and Yuendumu at the World Community Development conference in Darwin, June 2023.



CLC staff member Dianna Newham gives project updates to the Davenport Range lytwelepey National Park Traditional Owners.



NT Parks Rent Money

Traditional Owner groups working with the CLC's NT Parks Rent Money income stream invest all the rent and income they receive for 14 jointly managed national parks in community benefit projects. The groups want to maintain, visit and live at their outstations and most projects provide employment and training to residents for infrastructure upgrades. Some projects support people to access education, maintain their culture and meet the high cost of funerals. The groups have allocated more than \$16.3 million to 354 projects since 2010.

The CLC facilitated 26 meetings with 17 groups during the reporting period. The groups approved more than \$1.7 million for 40 new projects.

Project highlights

Cultural support

Yeperenye/Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park Traditional Owners continue to support the Yeperenye Walking Trail, which was a community development project launched in July 2021. In June 2023, Traditional Owners completed the first Yeperenye Trail maintenance project, supporting the ongoing connection to the Jessie-Emily walking and biking trail for the Traditional Owners, and ensuring properly maintained facilities for tourists walking the trail.

The Tjoritja (West MacDonnell) National Park Traditional Owners allocated \$131,386 to the Kwarritnama Women's Circle and Men's Ground project. This project is to deliver two cultural and well-being projects (one each for men and women) and includes country visits, art activities and community events.

Traditional Owner community development groups who receive relatively low amounts of park rent income also continue to prioritise cultural support. For example:

- Traditional Owners from the Southern part of Judbarra National Park have completed projects that supported the intergenerational teaching of music and assisting families to install headstones on the graves of senior family members.
- Traditional Owners for the Arltunga Historical Reserve allocated \$33,000 to an intergenerational knowledge exchange Country camp and \$16,500 to installing headstones for deceased senior members of the family.

Outstation support

The Watarrka Traditional Owners allocated \$78,826 to the Iltitjarri Power Upgrade – Stage 1 project to upgrade the homeland's hybrid power system. They also received \$55,000 from the ABA economic stimulus for this project.

Nguyarramini Traditional Owners from the Davenport Ranges National Park completed work on the Holding Yard and Fence project. The project involved designing and assembling new

cattle holding yards, and saw the intergenerational transfer of knowledge, encouraging younger people to spend more time on the homeland.

Work was completed on the Antarrengeny Housing and Outstation Repairs project, using rent money from the Davenport Ranges National Park. This work saw electrical upgrades done on houses on the outstation, and air-conditioners installed in all the houses.

The completion of the Red Sandhill Communal Area was achieved by the Watarrka Traditional Owners, who allocated funds to build a shade structure with amenities as a communal meeting area at the Red Sandhill homeland.

Traditional Owner groups from the East MacDonnell Ranges allocated funds to outstation improvement projects: \$23,100 for a solar-powered water pump; \$65,219 for a water tank to secure water storage; and \$63,535 to a solar power repairs and maintenance project. The Uluperte outstation upgrade project was completed in July 2022, enabling Traditional Owners to conduct an on-country community development meeting at their homeland for the first time.

Urremerne Working Group members from the Napwerte/Ewaninga Conservation Reserve celebrated the completion of the Urremerne Solar Power Supply project in December 2022, connecting seven dwellings at their homeland to solar power. This project cost \$495,000 and was funded by various income streams including Parks Rent money, Matched Funds and ABA economic stimulus. The group also funded three new projects during this period that support improved road access and improved outstation housing to a value of \$268,878.

In implementing the emerging community development framework strategies, the Tjoritja East (West MacDonnell Ranges) Traditional Owners group continued to advocate for solutions to the water supply billing and infrastructure issues faced by residents of Iwupataka Aboriginal Land Trust. The Iwupataka Water Working Group was ministerially appointed in October 2021 to work through these issues. The working group is made up of CLC, Power and Water Corporation and Ingkerreke Outstation Resource Centre staff, as well as advisors to the ministers and NT Government staff. The working group met twice in the reporting period.

Community lease money

Lease income from government and non-government organisations for community facilities provides most of the ongoing Community lease money income, which began in 2012. Since then, 31 communities have spent more than \$14 million of their one-off compensation payments (for compulsory leases taken out during the NT Emergency Response) on community-driven projects. Since 2010, communities have allocated more than \$20.1 million of their ongoing lease income to 390 community benefit projects.

The Matched Funds initiative has seen increased investment of community lease money (see further below). Twenty-seven communities continue to allocate income and plan projects with their lease money. There was also additional funding for some infrastructure projects through the ABA economic stimulus program.

In 2022–23 the project facilitated 55 community and working group meetings and 54 consultations with community, and allocated their income to four projects at a total of \$499,546. It is worth noting that many of the projects that funds were allocated to are outlined in the Matched Funds income stream.

Project highlights

Imangara Traditional Owners and community members resolved to allocate \$567,494, including \$40,594 of their five-year lease funds, to the Imangara Church project. The new church will be an appropriately designed community-owned meeting place for residents, contributing to a sense of community and pride.

Ltyentye Apurte allocated \$2,156 to the Phillipson's Bore Scope Buildings Works project. The project was to hold a consultation at Phillipson's Bore Homeland with the Traditional Owners and draft a scope of works including costings.

Mount Liebig allocated \$126,293 to upgrades to the community church, including the installation of an ablution block for the residents and visitors to use during church activities.

The Docker River Softball Solar Lights project was successfully completed. The Docker River community allocated \$44,000 of their lease money to this and an ABA grant contributed the remaining \$272,630. Community members have been utilising the lights which now enable softball training and matches to be played in the evening during the hot summer months.

Projects under management

Projects under management (see Table 26) refers to projects that are currently being implemented. Typically these are under contract with a project partner before a final report is received. It includes multiyear service delivery projects, funds allocated for long-term projects such as funeral and ceremony support projects, and allocations that Aboriginal groups have made to save funds for large projects or projects with ongoing repairs and maintenance schedules.

Table 26. Income streams and projects 2005–2023

Income Stream	Cumulative 2005–2022		2022–2023		Total under management at 30 June 2023	
	Allocated \$	Projects	Allocated \$	Projects	Project value \$	Projects
Uluru rent money project	19,241,795	141	2,694,222	7	5,682,231	18
Warlpiri Education and Training Trust	54,934,407	241	6,856,208	14	18,641,884	48
Tanami dialysis support (Kurra Aboriginal Corporation)	4,298,286	27			100,000	1
Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC)	71,755,948	1138	17,212,986	85	35,189,482	184
NT Parks rent money project	14,603,982	314	1,738,279	40	4,073,088	73
Community lease money project	19,669,308	386	499,546	4	2,630,568	43
Matched funds trial	1,924,606	63	2,484,080	72	6,396,324	89
Other income streams	4,147,094	51	2,315,155	18	2,589,311	28
Totals	190,575,426	2,334	33,800,476	240	75,302,888	484

Other income streams

The CLC held 64 meetings and consultations with 23 communities and Traditional Owner groups with other land use agreements to plan and implement community benefit projects. These groups allocated more than \$2.3 million to new projects.

The Tanami Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (TMAAAC) is included in this category. The Tanami Mine has not been in operation for some years. In 2020 the directors resolved to wind up the corporation and distribute the affected area income to the affected communities for community benefit projects. Each of the TMAAAC communities has different governance arrangements. To gain some efficiencies, four of the six TMAAAC communities chose to utilise existing community development working groups to plan and fund projects using the TMAAAC income.

TMAAAC project highlights include:

- Yuendumu Community allocated \$902,105 to improve community safety by increasing community safety patrols to operate at night-time.

- Balgo community allocated \$50,000 to Cemetery Research project. Balgo community also saw the completion of the Piriwa Op Shop and Enterprise Hub in this reporting period, funded using the community's TMAAAC income.
- Ringer Soak community completed stage 1 of their Cemetery Research project, and allocated \$35,750 to the Kundat Djaru Office Scoping and Design project.

Another income stream that falls in the 'other' category is Twin Bonanza affected area income. The Twin Bonanza working group members, who reside in Balgo, use the income for outstation upgrades. In this reporting period the Twin Bonanza working group allocated an additional \$32,400 to the Ngulupi road grading project.

Most other groups under this category allocated funds in this period under the Matched Funds income stream, or were supported by the ABA economic stimulus program.

Figure 9. Community development income received since 2009 in the CLC region

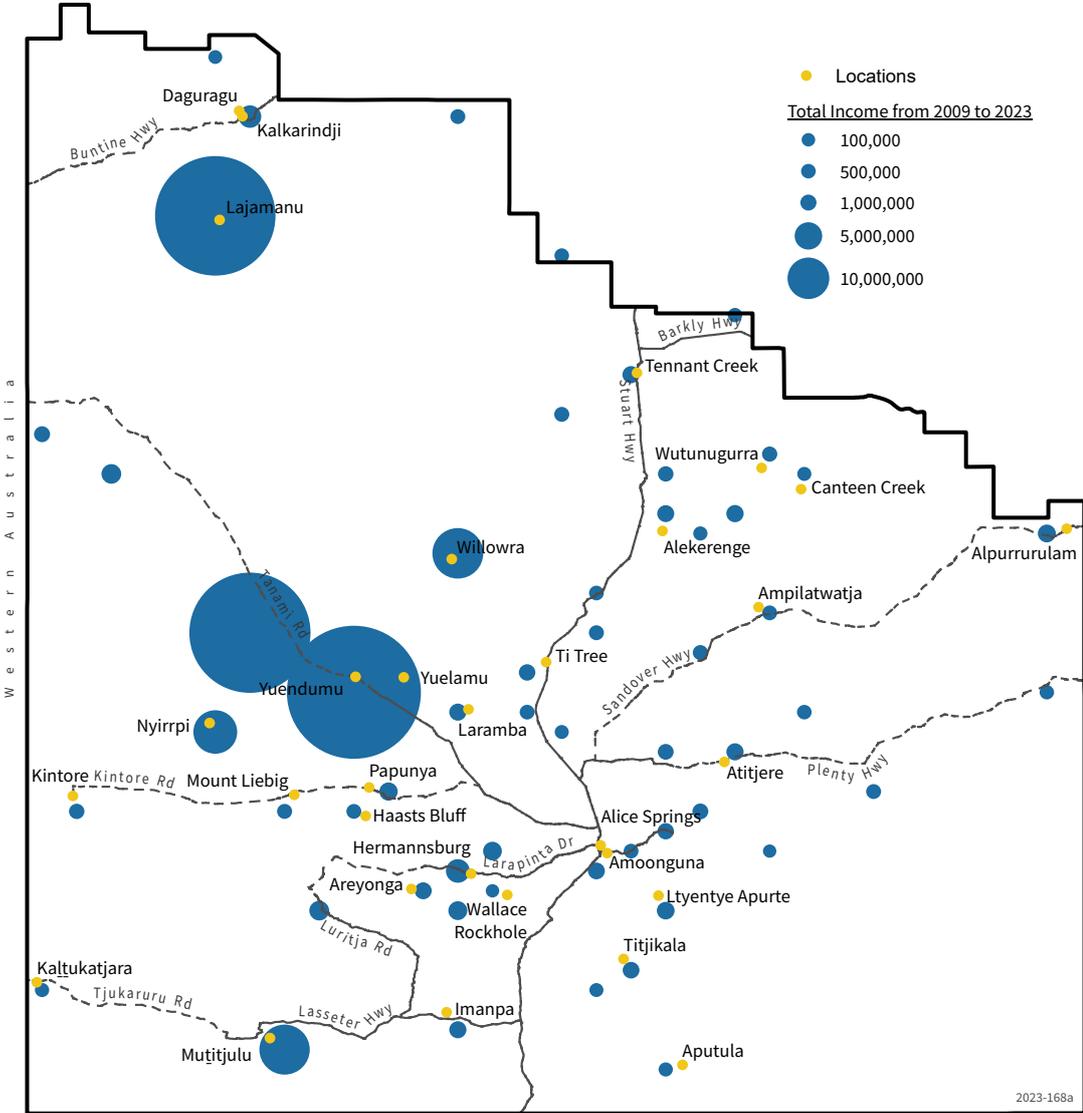


Figure 10. Community development projects 2018–23

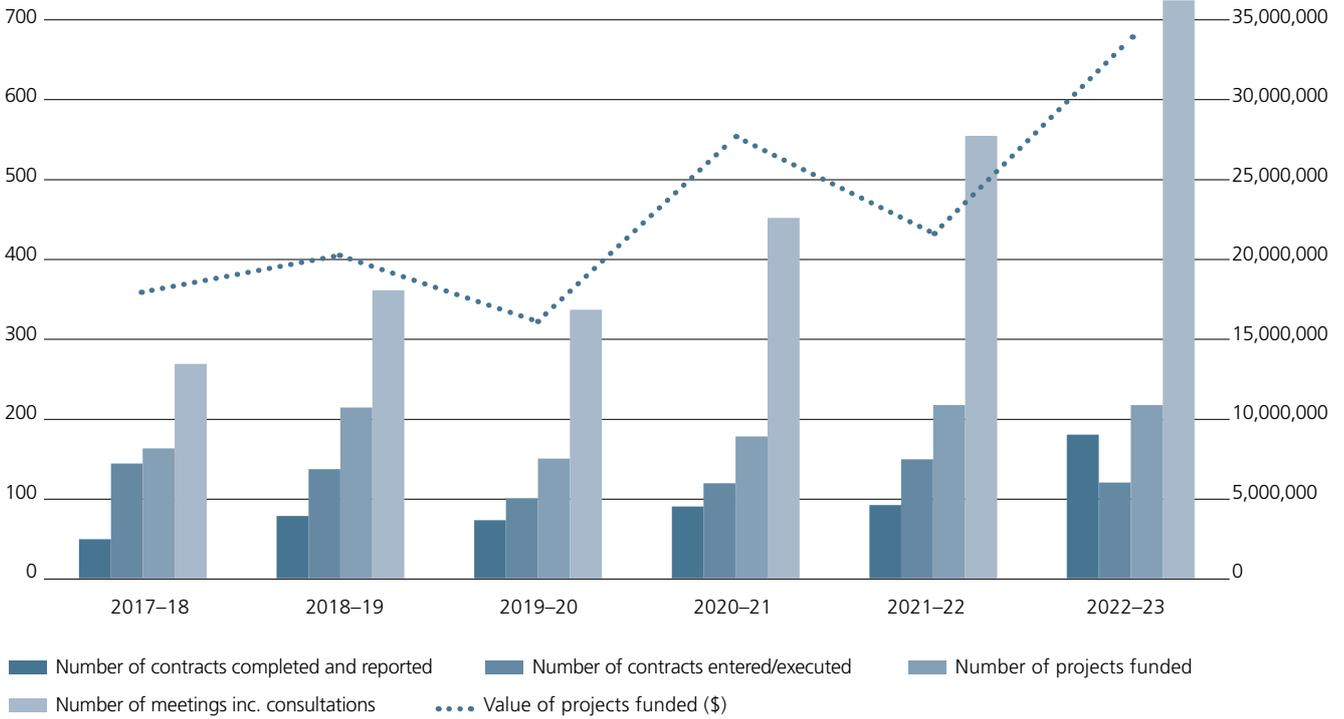
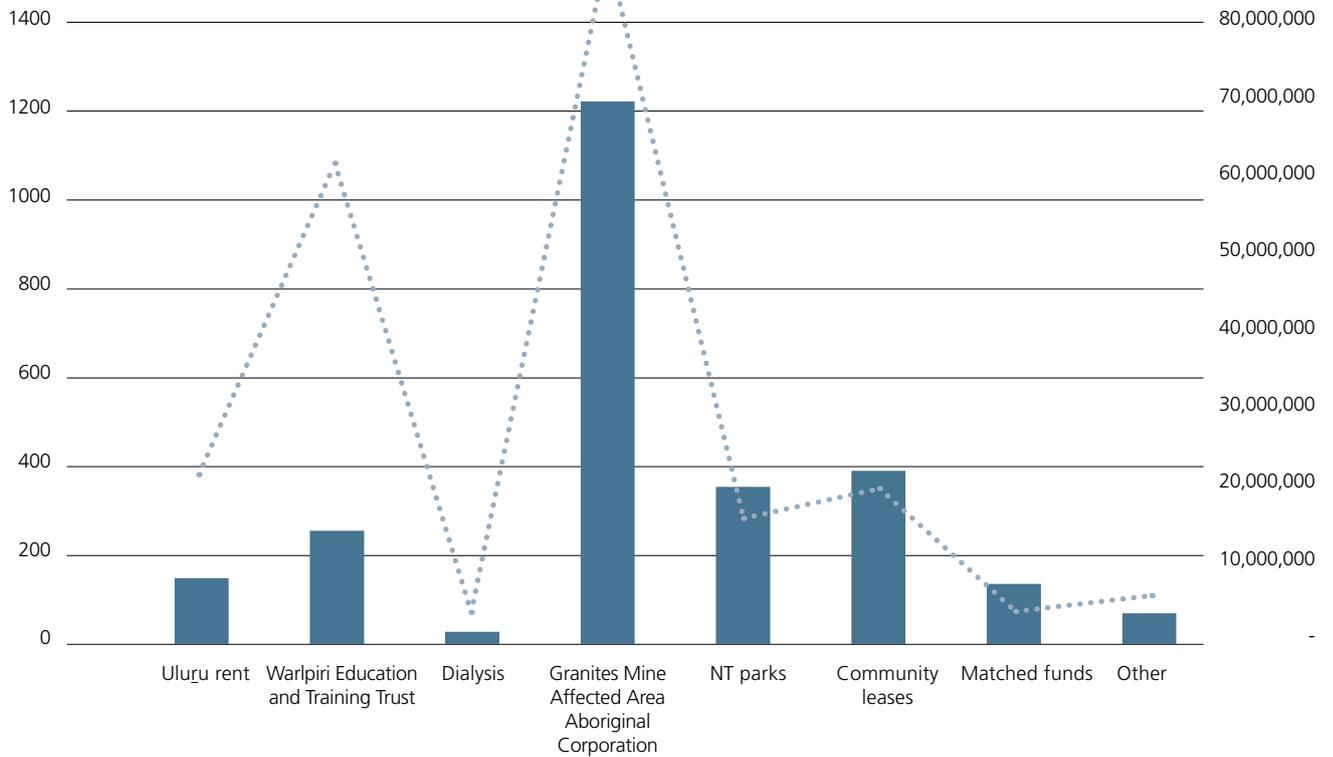


Figure 11. Total funds committed to community development projects 2005–23



Projects	148	255	27	1223	354	390	135	69
Funds allocated (\$)	21,936,017	61,790,615	4,298,286	88,968,935	16,342,261	20,168,855	4,408,686	6,462,249

Matched funds trial

A three-year matched funds trial started in 2020. The trial provides additional funds from the Aboriginals Benefit Account for groups that want to use new income from land use agreements for community benefit projects in the CLC region. The initiative is the result of more than a decade of CLC advocacy and is designed to incentivise more groups to allocate their income to projects they drive and to tackle the disparity between the amounts of income from land use agreements available for community development projects across the region. As Figure 9 shows, in the east of the CLC region relatively few groups receive income from land use agreements and incomes are smaller than, for example, in the Tanami region. The trial aims to increase the amount of money available for community development projects for groups with a small income, enabling them to tackle bigger projects.

The CLC executive committee endorsed a program design that has seen a significant amount of the matched funds go to areas that receive less income from land use agreements than others.

It decided that all communities with new community lease income and Traditional Owner groups with new income from land use agreements between \$50,000 and \$150,000 are eligible to have their investments in community-driven projects matched dollar for dollar. The executive committee resolved that Aputula (Finke), Muṯitjulu, Canteen Creek, Utju, and Lajamanu communities that receive no community lease income due to their land tenure and associated issues, will also be eligible.

Twenty-one Traditional Owner groups and 26 communities agreed to participate, with all funds fully allocated. Most communities and groups have established governance arrangements and project planning and implementation is underway, with more than \$4.4 million allocated to 135 projects. These projects range from sport infrastructure and youth support to upgrading churches and cemeteries. A total of 74 meetings and 189 consultation meetings with Traditional Owners and residents have been conducted. Many of these engagements have been reported under the source income of other income streams and community lease money.

Project highlights

The Haasts Bluff Community Development Working Group and community members allocated \$111,056 of matched funds to the Memory Mountain Festival on the Easter weekend – a community-run festival to celebrate the community's history and the launch of a locally run tour business.

A number of groups allocated their matched funds to scoping and masterplan projects for significant infrastructure investments. These include the Kalkarindji community's football ovals development masterplan (\$26,170), Atyelp Traditional Owner groups scoping for Mamp outstation infrastructure (\$18,000), Santa Teresa first stage planning of the Ltyentye Apurte Language and Culture Centre (\$55,000) and the Jinkaji Traditional Owner group's Scoping and Design for a campground (\$39,650).

Engawala community allocated \$204,000 of matched funds to replace their cemetery fence, which will help to reduce the damage caused by roaming animals. Imangara community allocated \$165,000 of matched funds combined with three other sources of income to construct a church to the value of \$567,000.

The trial presents a new opportunity for Aboriginal groups in the CLC region, however their decision to allocate funds and have them matched applies only for the duration of the trial. Traditional Owners for several communities are reserving future decisions about their income until they find out whether the trial will continue beyond 2022–23. A longitudinal case study about community-driven development projects in Papunya using matched funds is periodically updated at <https://www.clc.org.au/monitoring-evaluation/>.

The matched funds trial has met its objective of increasing funds for community development projects. Most of the funds are being invested in areas that don't receive much income from land use agreements, such as the Sandover region, the Plenty and southwest regions. Independent monitoring and evaluation is showing that higher value projects which will have greater expected impact are being planned and implemented.

Isiah Larry Jugadai leads a cultural tour at the Memory Mountain Festival.



Figure 12. Income committed to projects 2005–23

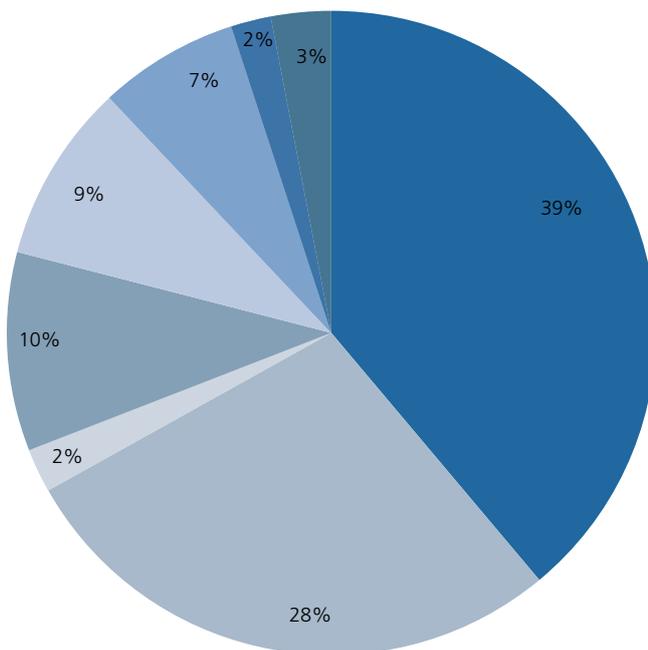
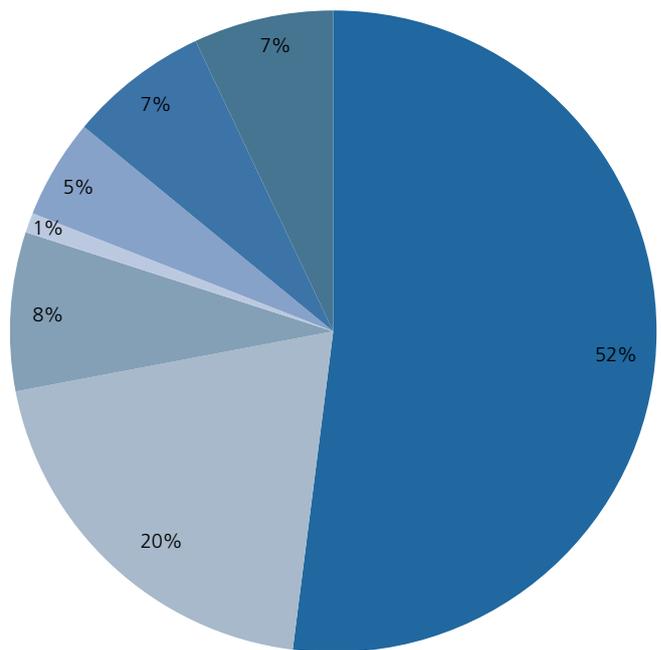


Figure 13. Income committed to projects 2022–23

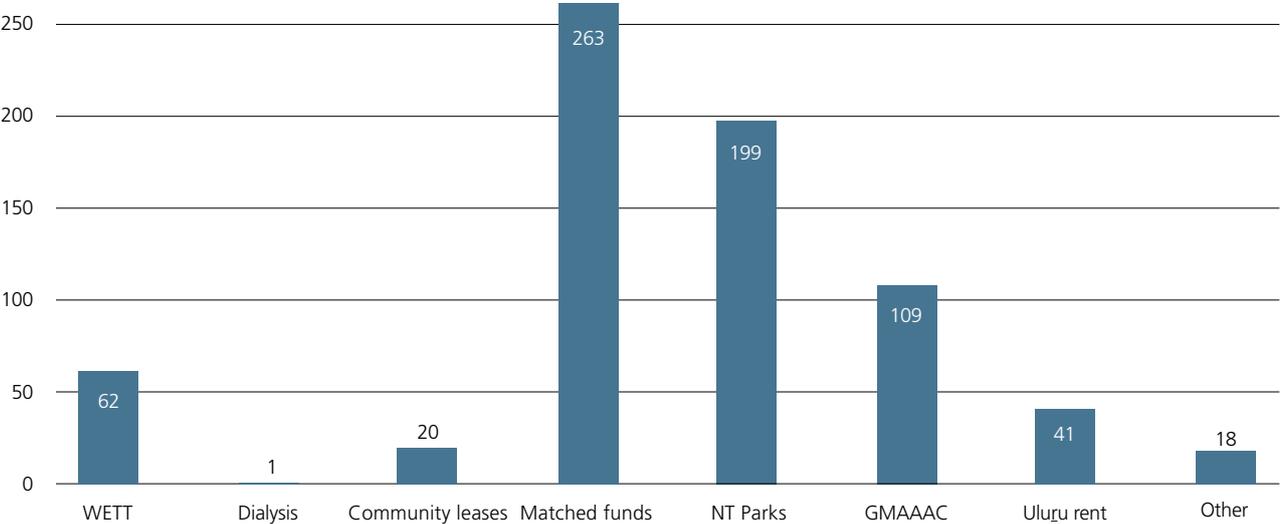


- GMAAAC
- WETT
- Dialysis (0% in 2022–23)
- Uluru rent
- Community leases
- NT Parks
- Matched funds
- Other

Urremerne residents and family at the handover of their new solar power system in December 2022.



Figure 14. Meetings and consultations per income stream 2022–23



OUTPUT GROUP 5

Administration and support services

Output 5.1 Distributions

Administer and distribute statutory, negotiated and other payments to the Traditional Owners and other clients.

The CLC is responsible for distributing income from the use of Aboriginal land. It deposits this income in the land use trust account and distributes it based upon Council decisions and in accordance with the instructions of Aboriginal Traditional Owners and the relevant legislation. Funds are generally paid to Aboriginal corporations incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act), as may be required by agreements under the provisions of ALRA Part IV Mining, or, in other cases may be paid to, or for the benefit of, the Traditional Owners of the relevant land, for example lease payments.

In 2022–23, the CLC Anthropology Section prepared a total of 22 Traditional Owner identifications and other advice related to a variety of distributions. Traditional Owner identifications were prepared for grazing licence and gravel extraction payments as well as exploration and mining-related compensation on Aboriginal Land Trusts throughout the CLC region. The ALTs include Angarapa ALT, Alkwerte ALT, Arlparra ALT, Atnetye ALT, Central Desert ALT, Haasts Bluff ALT, Lake Mackay ALT, Yunkanjini ALT, Ltalaltuma ALT, Ngalurr tj u ALT, Ntaria ALT, Petermann ALT, Pmere Nyente ALT, Santa Teresa ALT, Ulu ru-Kata Tju ta ALT, Uruna ALT and Wirli yajarrayi ALT.

Pursuant to section 35C of the Land Rights Act, Aboriginal corporations are required to provide the CLC with their financial statements and a written report. There is no statutory mechanism to enable enforcement of these reporting requirements, other than where payments are made to a corporation pursuant to a determination. However, financial statements are publicly available on the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations website.

In addition to distributing funds to Aboriginal corporations, the CLC’s Aboriginal Associations Management Centre (AAMC) helps them to administer their obligations under the CATSI Act to distribute funds to, or for the benefit of, their members. Corporations can choose to engage the centre’s services, subject to a cost recovery agreement. The services are specified in a letter of engagement, confirmed at the corporation’s annual general meeting. Total distributions to all corporations in 2022–23 were \$31.6 million, an increase from \$30 million the previous year.

In addition to these royalty receiving corporations, AAMC has expanded to provide compliance services to an additional 85

Aboriginal entities in 2022–23. These entities include 68 land-holding Aboriginal corporations with little or no income, 10 non-land-holding Aboriginal corporations, six associations registered under the NT Association’s Act and one registered Native Title body corporate.

Performance

Table 27. Compliance with the CATSI Act and services provided to corporations

Annual general meetings and directors meetings/income distribution instructions taken	29
Non-royalty receiving entity AGMs/meetings	33
Directors meetings	62
Income distribution instruction meetings	78
Corporations’ statutory financial statements to be lodged with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations	37
Trust statements lodged with Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	2

Good governance – Aboriginal corporations administered by the CLC

The CLC is unable to offer financial advice to the Aboriginal corporations it administers. As the investment funds of the corporations grow, their boards are developing the capacity to make investment decisions or to engage appropriate advice.

The Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) and Kurra Aboriginal Corporation continued their self-funded Good Governance Program (GGP), commenced in 2016–17. Both corporations approved a further three years funding for the GGP in 2021, which included a jointly funded dedicated GGP Coordinator position at the CLC.

The program is designed to strengthen the boards of directors’ capacity in, and understanding of, corporate, financial and investment governance. The CLC is monitoring and evaluating the program to assess progress and suggest improvements as the learning progresses. Through an embedded evaluation process, directors have created a training program that suits their learning needs.

In addition to strengthening directors' governance capacity through the Good Governance Program, both GMAAAC and Kurra Aboriginal Corporation decided to appoint two investment advisors, JBWere and QIC (Queensland Investment Corporation), enabling the directors to realise their long-held vision of ensuring that their significant funds are secure and growing for the benefit of future generations long after the mine closes.

In 2022–23, two additional days were added to the training to allow time for directors to build relationships with their newly appointed investment advisers. GMAAAC directors attended three training sessions (each six days) and Kurra directors attended two six-day training workshops and one five-day workshop.

In August 2022, representatives of the GMAAAC and Kurra boards gave presentations about their Good Governance Program to the Australian Evaluation Society (AES) International Evaluation Conference in Adelaide, and to the World Community Development Conference held in Darwin in June 2023.

Leasing

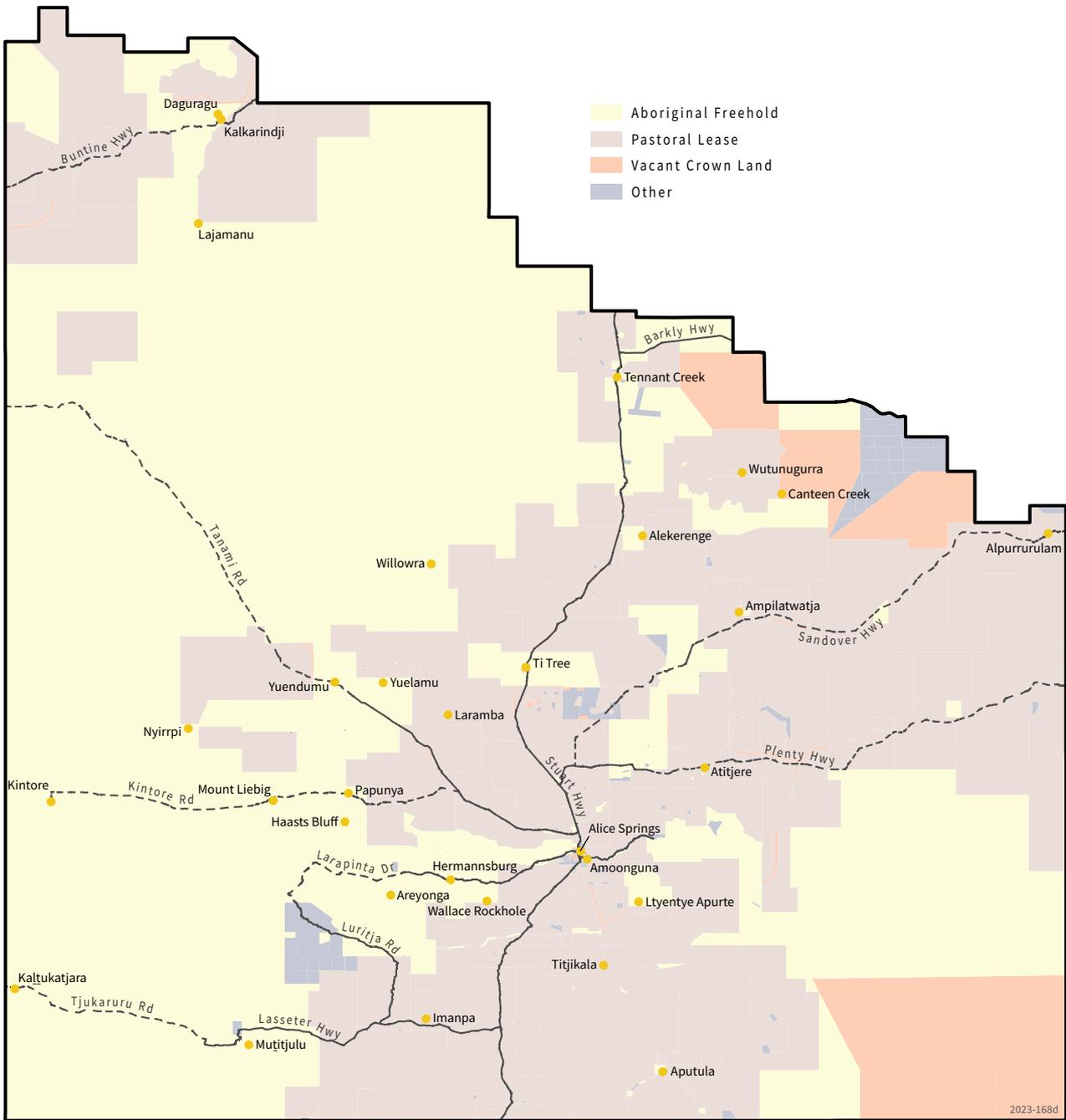
The granting of leases and licences over Aboriginal land generates a significant income for Traditional Owners. Rental income is applied, in accordance with their instructions, through the CLC's community development program and the Aboriginal Associations Management Centre. The centre manages the distribution of leasing income when Traditional Owners decide to distribute money among themselves.

In 2022–23, the CLC conducted two consultations to receive standing instructions from Traditional Owners about the distribution of rental income and held 18 meetings to distribute income. Twenty-one Traditional Owner identifications were prepared to ensure that the right people were consulted about the distribution of income. Most payments were for exploration and mining-related compensation. The CLC also made distributions for gravel extraction access payments and lease payments.

Figure 15. Good governance program



Figure 16. Land tenure in the CLC region 2022–23



Output 5.2 Administer land trusts

Aboriginal land is formally held by land trusts for the benefit of all the Traditional Owners and people with traditional interests in the land.

Aboriginal land trusts are bodies corporate which usually consist of a chair and not less than three members who hold office for up to five years. Land trust members are usually drawn from among Traditional Owners of the land held in trust.

The functions of a land trust are to hold title to land and exercise its powers as owner of that land for the benefit of the Aboriginal people concerned.

A land trust may only deal with the land as directed by the land council. Such directions are provided only after identification of, and consultation with, the Traditional Owners and on the basis of their informed consent.

CLC continued to liaise with NLC towards a meeting regarding a proposed CLC/NLC boundary change for Bilinarra-Judburra ALT and part of Victoria River Downs Station.

Overall, 29 ALT memberships were renewed in 2022–23.

Table 28. Aboriginal land trusts (ALTs) in the CLC region 2022–23

Ahakeye ALT
Aherrenge ALT
Akanta ALT
Akekarrwenteme Ureyenge ALT
Alatjuta ALT
Alkeperre-Atwarte Ayepe-Arenye Arleye ALT (Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Reserve)
Alkwert ALT
Alyawarra ALT
Amoonguna ALT
Anatye ALT
Angarapa ALT
Ankweleyelengkwe ALT
Anurrete ALT
Aputula ALT
Arletherre ALT
Arltunga ALT (Arltunga Historical Reserve)
Arnapipe ALT

Athenge Lhere ALT
Atnerrperrke ALT (Trepkina Gorge Nature Park)
Atnetye ALT
Atwengerrpe ALT
Ayleparrarntenhe ALT (Devils Marbles)
Bilinarra-Jutpurra ALT (Gregory National Park)
Central Desert ALT
Daguragu ALT
Erlterlapentye ALT (Davenport Range National Park)
Haasts Bluff ALT
Hooker Creek ALT
Iliyarne ALT
Ilparle ALT
Inarnme ALT
Irlwentye ALT (N'dhala Gorge Nature Park)
Irrinjirrinjirr ALT
Irrmarne ALT
Irtterkewarre ALT (Chambers Pillar)
Iwupataka ALT
Kanttaji ALT
Karlantijpa North ALT
Karlantijpa South ALT
Katiti ALT
Lake Mackay ALT
Lhere Pirnte ALT (Finke Gorge including Palm Valley)
Ltalaltuma ALT
Mala ALT
Malngin 2 ALT
Malngin ALT
Mangkururra ALT
Melkng ALT
Mount Frederick ALT
Mount Frederick 2 ALT
Mpwelarre ALT

Kylie McDonald, Jean Brown, Robyn Lawson and CLC staff member Karina Menkhorst at a GMAAAC Good Governance Program workshop.

Marjorie Brown at the GMAAAC Good Governance Program workshop in June 2023.



Mpweringe-Arnapipe ALT
Mpweringe-Arnapipe (2) ALT
Mungkarta ALT
Ngalurrntju ALT
Ntaria ALT
Pantyinteme ALT
Pawu ALT
Petermann ALT
Pmere Ulperre Ingwemirne Arletherre ALT
Pmere Nyente ALT
Purta ALT
Pwanye ALT
Pwanye 2 ALT (Corroboree Rock Carvings Conservation)
Rodna ALT
Roulpmaulpma ALT
Rrurtenge ALT
Santa Teresa ALT
Thakeperte ALT
Thangkenhareng ALT
Twertentye ALT (Rainbow Valley excision swap – dissolved)
Tyurretye ALT (West MacDonnell National Park including Simpsons Gap and Simpsons Gap Extension)
Uluṛu-Kata Tjuṛa ALT
Uremerne Land Aboriginal Land (Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation)
Uretyingke ALT
Urrampinyi Iljtjjarri ALT
Uruna ALT

Wakaya ALT
Wampana-Karlantijpa ALT
Warrabri ALT
Warti-Yangu ALT
Warumungu ALT
Watarrka ALT
Wirliyajarrai ALT
Yalpirakinu ALT
Yewerre ALT
Yingualyala ALT
Yiningarra ALT
Yuendumu ALT
Yunkanjini ALT
Yurrkuru ALT

Table 29. NT park land trusts

Arrelte Twatye Park Land Trust (Native Gap Conservation Reserve)
Atnwarle Park Land Trust (Dulcie Ranges)
Kweyeunpe Park Land Trust (Kuyunba Conservation Reserve)
Watarrka Park Land Trust (Watarrka National Park)

Note: Park freehold title is a distinct form of fee simple estate created under the *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act 2003* (NT).

Output 5.3 Dispute resolution

Assist in the resolution of disputes with respect to land, as appropriate.

Various types of disputes in the CLC region have some link with land. Analysis of disputes affecting CLC constituents indicates there are four broad, interrelated categories: land and traditional ownership; competition for money or resources; family matters; and individual behaviours.

The CLC has statutory functions under both section 25 of the Land Rights Act and section 203BF of the Native Title Act to help resolve disputes that relate to land; however, disputes within each of the identified categories affect the CLC's functions.

There is a growing number of communities and groups in the CLC region where conflicts (some arising from disputes over traditional ownership of land, including group composition and boundaries) are causing stress and anxiety for Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal people. These conflicts make it difficult for the CLC to fulfil its duties to constituents. The CLC developed a Traditional Owner dispute management framework and an engagement strategy aimed at better managing these functions. The framework reflects the following principles:

- empowerment of Aboriginal groups, families and individuals to identify and manage their own disputes
- reduced reliance on the CLC or external parties in relation to mediating disputes
- a policy of 'wait to be asked' for assistance but respond in a consistent and timely manner, recognising that a timely response can lessen the likelihood of exacerbation of a dispute
- recognition that disputes are a part of systems and structures where numerous external parties and factors are likely to be causing or exacerbating disputes
- recognition that the work of the CLC may unintentionally cause or exacerbate a dispute
- recognition that getting decision-making processes of the group right is a major preventative measure
- a determination that engagement processes should do no harm.

CLC support is conditional on the disputing parties demonstrating a commitment to managing a dispute, and the CLC may withdraw ongoing support, services and resources if parties are not committed.

The CLC executive is briefed about the progress of dispute resolution processes and advised when any parties repeatedly breach agreed processes or show little or no interest in resolving a dispute. The executive committee may decide to withdraw CLC services from the disputing party or parties for a period of time. To ensure that disputes are not exacerbated by the identification of those involved, disputes are not the subject of individual reports.

Anthropological advice informs the mediation or resolution of minor land-related issues. During 2022–23, anthropologists contributed advice in relation to nine disputes within the CLC region regarding unauthorised access to ALTs, occupancy rights to housing on homelands, Aboriginal corporation membership, traditional ownership, Native Title holder rights and interests, and burial requests.

OUTPUT GROUP 6

Native Title

The Central Land Council provides Aboriginal landowners with information, advice and support to enable them to manage their land sustainably and productively.

Outcomes

Enhanced social, political and economic participation and equity for Aboriginal people in the Central Land Council's area as a result of the promotion, protection and advancement of their land rights, other rights and interests.

Native Title

The Australian High Court's decision in the Mabo case in 1992 recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have rights and interests in land and waters according to their traditional law and customs. This historic decision ruled that Australia was not *terra nullius* – a land belonging to no one – at the time of European colonisation, and that these traditional rights and interests continued to exist. The High Court used the legal term 'native title' to describe these Indigenous property rights.

In 1993, the Australian Government passed the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) (the Native Title Act, the Act), which established the National Native Title Tribunal and processes to enable Native Title holders to assert and protect their Native Title rights. The Native Title Act came into operation on 1 January 1994, and the CLC was recognised as the Native Title representative body for Central Australia under section 203 of the Act from the same date.

While Native Title recognises that Indigenous people have traditional rights to speak for country, to protect sites and to be consulted regarding developments on their land, it does not give them ownership of land as the Land Rights Act does.

The Native Title Program

The CLC established its first Native Title Unit in 1994; in 2018, the CLC was granted re-recognition as a Native Title representative body for six years until June 2024. The Native Title program enables the CLC to fulfil its statutory functions to:

- research, facilitate and assist native title holders to make Native Title applications
- respond to proposed future acts and negotiate land use agreements
- resolve Native Title disputes
- following successful claims, establish Native Title holder corporations (prescribed bodies corporate [PBCs]) and assist them to manage and protect Native Title rights and interests.

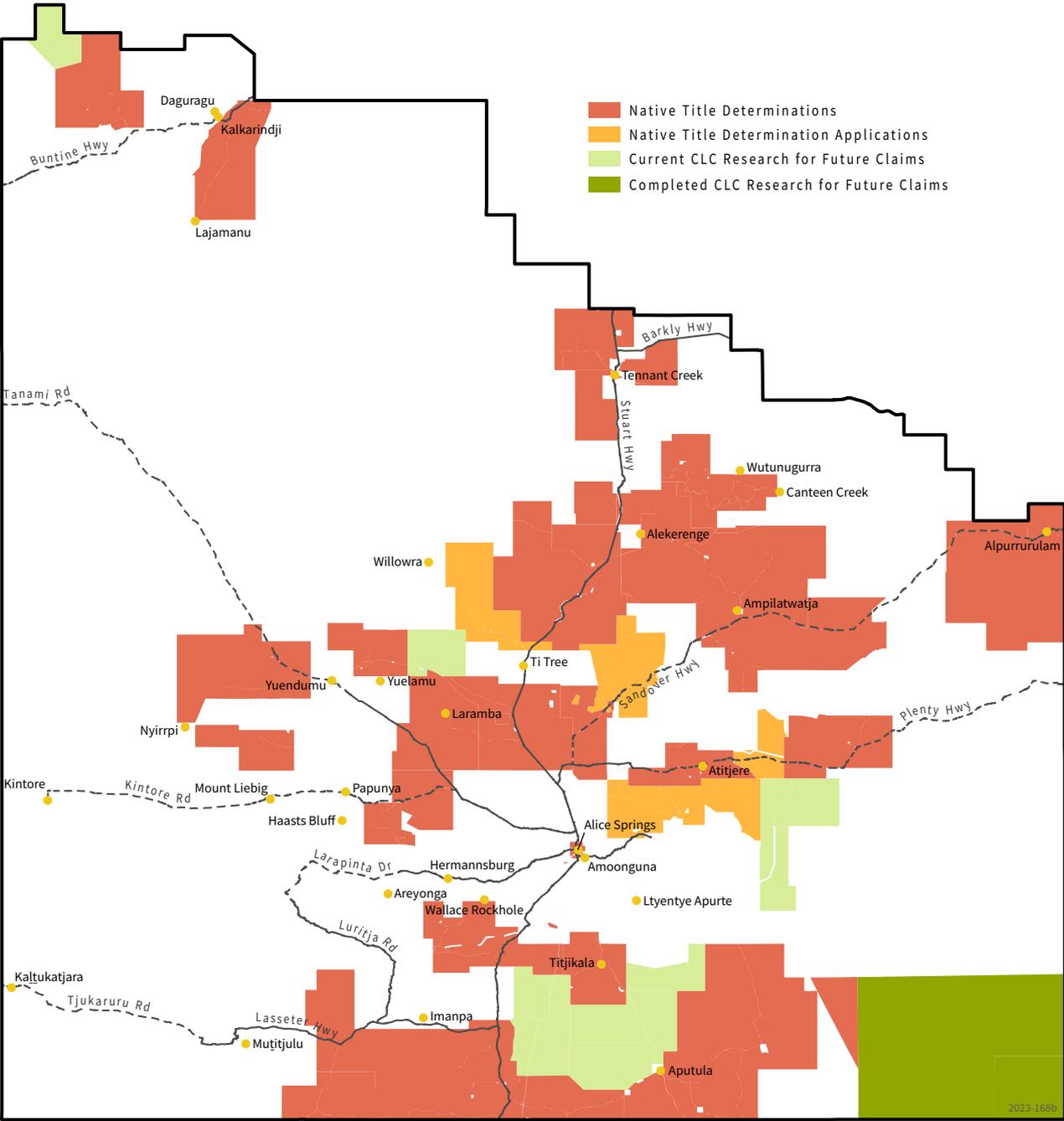
The CLC has a multidisciplinary team of 25 Native Title funded positions, with its Native Title operations integrated across the organisation. CLC also engaged 11 consultants during the reporting period – eight anthropologists, two meeting facilitators and two consultants engaged to prepare a report following a facilitated event. Anthropologists completed 16 Native Title holder identifications in preparation for meetings where the Native Title holders considered exploration licence applications and other activities. The team also completed nine research activities for, and assisted with, eight Native Title claims. The CLC continued to certify Native Title applications for determination, and registration of Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs). Native title determinations, applications and ILUAs continue to be presented to and certified by the CLC before being submitted to the National Native Title Tribunal for registration. The CLC provides ongoing services and support to 34 prescribed bodies corporate in its region.

Native Title outcomes and activities 2022–23

Table 30. Native Title applications and claims under research at 30 June 2023

Native Title claim applications lodged with Federal Court	4
Native Title claims currently under research	7

Figure 17. Native title determinations, applications and research in the CLC region 2022-23



Native Title determinations

On 5 April 2023, the Federal Court held a special sitting at Imanpa Community, where Justice Bromberg handed down a non-exclusive Native Title consent determination over Curtin Springs, Lyndavale and Erldunda pastoral leases, an area covering approximately 10,840km². The decision recognised the Native Title rights and interests of Anangu with connections to the area.

The determination recognises the Native Title holders' rights and interests to access, hunt, gather, conduct cultural activities and ceremonies and to take and use natural resources for any purpose in the determination area. The Native Title rights will co-exist with the rights of the pastoral leaseholders.

In 2016, Native Title holders asked the CLC to lodge a Native Title claim over the Karinga Lakes area to protect the culturally and environmentally sensitive lake system from mining. Following research and meetings of Native Title holders, a Native Title application was filed in 2020. Native title holders also lodged an objection with the National Native Title Tribunal to protect the lake system from mining activity; however, the objection was unsuccessful.

The Iyangka Kularta Aboriginal Corporation is the PBC for the determination area and will assist the Native Title holders as their agent.

Claimant applications

The CLC pursues Native Title determinations to achieve recognition and protection of Native Title rights and deliver beneficial outcomes for Native Title holders.

As at 30 June 2023, four active Native Title claimant applications were registered with the tribunal, and the CLC continues to research claimants' rights to take and use resources on the land for any purpose they require. Claimants who have their rights recognised in this manner will be able to more easily use the recognition of Native Title rights as a basis for economic development. If the anthropological research supports the existence of this right, the CLC will be advising Native Title claimants to include recognition of their economic entitlements in future determinations.

Huckitta (NTD18/2020)

An application was filed on 23 December 2020, and registered with the NNTT on 10 October 2021. A consent determination is likely to take place in 2024.

Ambalindum/The Garden (NTD5/2021)

The Ambalindum/The Garden claim (NTD5/2021) was filed on 13 October 2021 as an amended application and registered by the NNTT on 26 November 2021. The application combines the previous application Unemarre Arlatyeye Polygon (NTD10/2020). A Supplementary Report was provided to the Territory, and connection resolved. A consent determination is likely to take place in 2024.

Angentj (NTD7/2023)

The CLC filed an application on 17 March 2023, and registered with the NNTT on 15 May 2023. The application is in a pre-notification period until 15 October 2023.

Mount Skinner–Woodgreen (NTD18/2020)

An application was filed on 7 June 2023 and is in a period of pre-notification.

Claims under research

The anthropology reports and material regarding Ambalindum/The Garden, Angentj and Mount Skinner–Woodgreen claims were finalised in the reporting period, enabling the completion and lodgement of the claims.

Anthropological research commenced, continued and progressed in the Simpson Desert, on the Horseshoe Bend, Lilla Creek, Idracowra, Indiana and Numery, Coniston and Waterloo stations.

Compensation applications

Where possible, the CLC seeks to deal with compensation matters by negotiation, and to secure compensation for acts resulting in the extinguishment or impairment of Native Title rights and interests. It lodged no new Native Title compensation applications.

Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs)

The CLC secures beneficial outcomes for Native Title holders through negotiated Indigenous land use and other agreements, including agreements under section 31 of the Native Title Act. It has 91 agreements registered with the tribunal, is awaiting the registration of two and is negotiating an additional 13.

Riley Williams participating in Native Title research on Indiana Station.



Table 31. Indigenous land use agreements 2022–23

Registered
Nil
Registration Pending
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of waste management facility – Tennant Creek • Youth justice facility – Tennant Creek
In Negotiation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land release and town development – Kalkaringi • Bureau of Meteorology weather facility – Tennant Creek • Barkly correctional facility (renegotiation) • Ooramina Oaks private development • Newhaven Station – ongoing negotiations regarding conservation program, feral animal proof fencing and tenure issues • Suplejack Station – exploration agreements (renegotiation) • Tellus Chandler project – Maryvale Station • Mount Peake project – Stirling Station – variation • Ammaroo phosphate project – Ammaroo and Murray stations • Gempart Pty Ltd – The Garden Station • Territory Lithium Pty Ltd – Huckitta and Jinka stations • Arafura Nolan’s Bore project – Aileron Station • Rio Tinto exploration – Phillip Creek and Tennant Creek stations

Post-determination assistance

PBCs are required under the Native Title Act to consult with, and obtain consent from, Traditional Owners in regard to any decisions that affect Native Title rights and interests. The *Native Title (Prescribed Bodies Corporate) Regulations 1999* (Cth) (PBC Regulations) require that a PBC can produce evidence that Native Title holders were consulted and provided consent in regard to Native Title decisions.

The Native Title Act also states that once PBCs are established, they must register under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act). The CATSI Act guides how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations are run. The CLC provides post-Native Title determination assistance to PBCs to meet these responsibilities through service agreements between the CLC and respective PBCs.

The CLC entered into one PBC service agreement during the reporting period, making a total number of 27 service agreements.

Table 32. Additional assistance delivered to prescribed bodies corporate 2022–23

Aboriginal corporation	Area	Type of assistance
Eynewantheyne AC RNTBC	Stirling and Neutral Junction stations	Dispute management assistance provided to the RNTBC in regard to ineligibility of members and applicant members. Support ongoing.
Irretyepwenty Ywentent Pwert AC RNTBC	Aileron Station	Assisted the RNTBC undertake negotiations regarding the proposed change of project scope and access authorities.
Warlmanpa Warumungu AC RNTBC and Ngurramarla AC RNTBC	Phillip Creek and Tennant Creek stations	Assisted the RNTBCs to undertake consultations with Native Title holders in regard to exploration licence applications over Phillip Creek and Tennant Creek pastoral leases, and enter into an exploration agreement.

Aboriginal corporation	Area	Type of assistance
Ooratippra AC RNTBC	Ooratippra Station	Assisted the RNTBC to continue to pursue compensation for environmental degradation and violation of Native Title holders' rights. Assisted the RNTBC to apply for funding to support the purchase of equipment to retain and manage assets. To hold director meetings to obtain instructions, and provide information.
Rodinga AC RNTBC	Maryvale and Idracowra PPLs	Assisted the RNTBC to negotiate a draft agreement and undertake consultations with Native Title holders.
Kaytetye Alyawarr Awenyerraperte Ingkerr-wenh AC RNTBC	Ammaroo, Derry Downs, Murray Downs and Elkedra stations (Sandover)	Assisted the RNTBC to engage with proponent over proposed changes to project plan, and engage with Native Title holders regarding the changes.
Patta AC RNTBC	Tennant Creek Township	Assisted the RNTBC to hold an AGM and director meetings and undertake consultations with Native Title holders to provide information and progress ILUA negotiations.
Ingkekure AC RNTBC	Huckitta and Jinka PPLs	Assisted the RNTBC to undertake consultations with Native Title holders and negotiate an exploration agreement over Huckitta and Jinka stations.

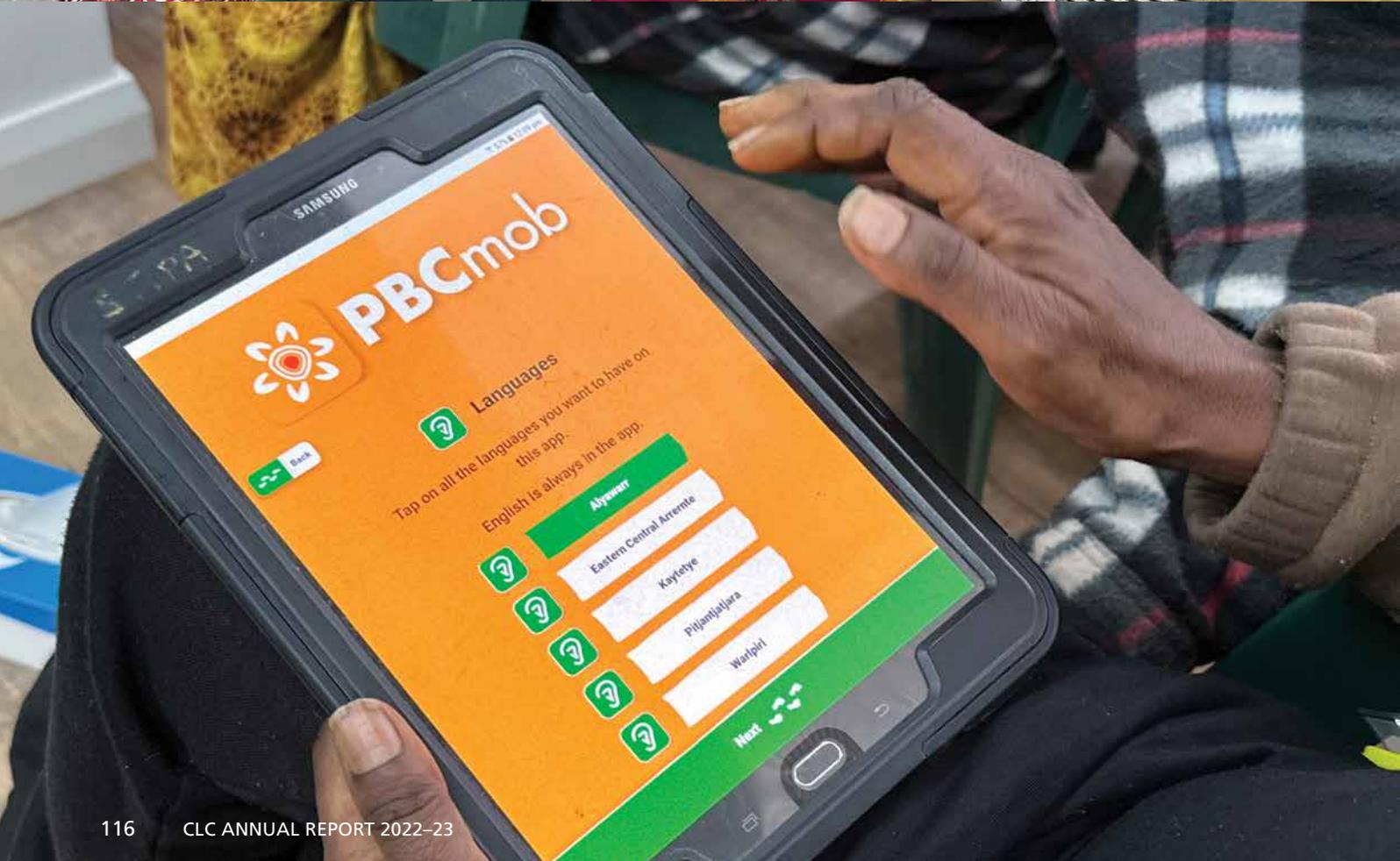
TOP Michael Tommy shows his country during Native Title research on Coniston Station.

BOTTOM Teddy Long, during Native Title research on Coniston Station.



TOP Mildred Inkamala, the CLC's Francine McCarthy, Amy Stafford and Amy Nelson at the PBCmob app launch at PBC camp.

BOTTOM The PBCmob app has recordings in six different Aboriginal languages and English.





Prescribed bodies corporate reporting obligations

Under the CATSI Act, PBCs are required to lodge reports with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations. All PBCs supported by the CLC have met their reporting obligations for the 2022–23 financial year.

Annual general meetings held	10
Directors meetings held	19

The PBC Support Unit was involved in two major projects to improve access to Native Title information, increase awareness of Native Title and PBCs and access to corporations’ documents and resources – the 2023 PBC Regional Forum (PBC Camp 23) and development of the mobile app, PBCmob. These projects included the engagement of Aboriginal interpreters, who undertook oral translations of seven Aboriginal languages for the PBCmob app, and engaged four translators to attend the PBC Camp 23 to support participant engagement during the event.

PBC Support Unit staff worked with local organisations to undertake the recordings of seven Aboriginal languages for the app and other resources.

Prescribed Body Corporate Regional Forum

The CLC organised the third PBC regional forum with support from the Aboriginals Benefit Account, the National Native Title Council and the National Indigenous Australian Agency. Regional forums provide an opportunity for Native Title holders and other stakeholders to learn about current Native Title issues, explore opportunities and share experiences.

Approximately 85 directors of prescribed bodies corporate from across the CLC region and beyond gathered at Yipirinya School in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) in June 2023. Speakers addressed themes such as governance, advocacy and relationship building, Native Title and water rights and changes to legislation. Directors spoke about their own experiences, discussed common challenges, shared success stories and local solutions and learnt how to access services to assist prescribed bodies corporate.

The event saw the launch of PBCmob, a phone app accessible on both iOS and Android phones, tablets and other electronic devices. PBCmob is a platform enabling PBC directors and members greater access to publicly available resources about Native Title and PBCs. The app also provides information in six local Aboriginal languages to facilitate better understanding of, accessibility to and engagement with the resources available. The inclusion of six Aboriginal languages (with more to come) increases accessibility for users in our region, and encourages and facilitates engagement and access to resources through the app.

Dispute resolution

There were no disputes relating to Native Title claims during the reporting period.

In order to prevent and deal with future disputes, the CLC supported 15 staff to attend Practical Mediation Skills training offered through the Community Justice Agency.

Alternative procedure agreements

The CLC did not enter into alternative procedure agreements in 2022–23.

Performance review

During the reporting period, the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) engaged Nous Group to conduct independent reviews of 13 Native Title representative bodies (NTRBs) and service providers (NTSPs), to assess their performance in delivering Native Title outcomes for Indigenous Australians under the NTA during the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022. The review requires Nous to give particular consideration to the performance of these organisations during and post the COVID-19 pandemic and their implementation of recommendations arising from previous organisational reviews.

Nous commenced its review of the CLC in March 2023, and is expected to deliver its final report in August 2023. The CLC welcomed the review, considering such analysis good practice and an opportunity for identifying potential improvements.

The review methodology has enabled a comparative and transparent assessment of each of the NTRB organisations. The mixed method approach included collection of quantitative data on the progress of claims, future acts and Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs), performance against milestones, budgetary performance, staffing, and broader social and geographical factors that impact performance. This information was complemented by interviews with selected available constituents, Native Title holders, CLC staff and Council members, and representatives of the Federal Court, the Northern Territory Government and other organisations across the Northern Territory.

Native Title advocacy

National Native Title Council

The National Native Title Council (NNTC) is the peak body for the Native Title sector. It is a membership-based non-profit organisation made up of Native Title representative bodies, Native Title service providers, prescribed bodies corporate and Traditional Owner corporations.

The CLC has been a member of the NNTC since its inception in 2005 and contributed to its discussions regarding suggested amendments to the Native Title Act, PBC matters and representations to government on issues of national importance.

Native Title conferences and workshops

AIATSIS NTRB Legal Workshop 2022

The 2022 AIATSIS NTRB Legal Workshop was held in Naarm (Melbourne) in August 2022. It was an opportunity for lawyers from Native Title representative bodies to share knowledge, create connections and discuss common legal experiences and issues. Three members of CLC's legal staff attended.

PBC support officer workshop

The CLC hosted a PBC Support Officer workshop on Eora County, Sydney, from 6 to 7 December 2022, facilitated by the NNTC. The workshop brought together representatives from 7 NTRB/SPs to discuss their experiences, challenges and achievements in providing governance and compliance support to PBCs and to assist them to fulfil their aspirations. A workshop report was prepared and distributed to workshop participants.

AIATSIS Summit 2023

The 2023 AIATSIS Summit, a combination of what was previously known as the National Native Title Conference and the AIATSIS Research Conference, was convened in partnership with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (Western Australia) and hosted by Traditional Owners of Whadjuk Land, Noongar Boodja (Perth), from 5 to 9 June 2023. The theme, Navigating the Spaces in Between, continued the conversation from the 2022 summit and expanded on the brilliance and value of Indigenous ways of knowing, seeing and being in the world. Fourteen staff attended, two of whom supported Traditional Owner presenters and other CLC staff presenting on CLC's community development projects.

TOP LEFT CLC staff member Michelle Goodwin and consultant Gareth Lewis with Riley Williams talking about Country for the Indiana Station Native Title claim.

TOP RIGHT Peter Stafford collected bush yams during the Coniston Native Title claim research.

BOTTOM Peter Stafford, Clem Tilmouth, Jamesie Stafford, Malcolm Ross, Stanley Tilmouth and Maxie Tilmouth during Native Title research on Coniston Station.



CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

Management and accountability

The responsibilities are:

- best practice accounting, financial management, performance reporting, unmodified annual audit reports and financial sustainability
- robust corporate financial planning
- relevant, accurate and timely performance-based management and environmental impact reporting
- effective risk management, including managing appropriate governance and risk management frameworks and understanding management's risk appetite
- procurement of funds to sustain and advance corporate and operational plans and performance of statutory functions, promoting Indigenous business
- compliance with all statutory regulatory requirements including privacy considerations
- staff recruitment, training and development opportunities for administering Aboriginal corporations.

Financial management

Estimates and review

Estimates of administrative expenditure are submitted annually to the minister. Additional estimates requests for essential additional resources are submitted only as required. Approved estimates fund operational expenses, salaries and wages, and capital expenditure. The minister originally approved \$33.8 million funding from the ABA for the 2022–23 financial year, and subsequently approved variations totalling \$3.6 million.

Reporting

A half-yearly performance and operations report was submitted to the minister in February 2023 in accordance with funding agreement and legislative obligations. The Australian National Audit Office performs the annual audit of the financial statements to determine compliance and that the statements present fairly the financial position, performance and cash flows. Its audit opinion indicates that the statements are free from material misstatement.

Finance system

The finance software package used for financial management control is known as Microsoft NAV. In the financial year 2023–24 the system will be upgraded to MS Business Central.

Financial risk and fraud control

The Commonwealth's fraud control framework informs the CLC's risk management and fraud control framework. The Accountable Authority takes all reasonable measures to prevent, detect and deal with fraud, including data collection, reporting and investigation. It certified that the required fraud data was collected and reported using the fraud incident register, which is continually updated. New staff complete the Commonwealth's online fraud awareness training.

Internal practices and procedures ensure that appropriate financial authorisations and financial delegations are in place for rigorous monitoring and detection of expenditure anomalies. Accountable Authority instructions are within the appropriate financial expenditure authorities' framework and are reviewed every July. The review takes into account changes in the value of money and the organisation's structure.

A code of conduct prescribes workplace personal and professional behaviour.

Risk management system

Section 16 of the PGPA Act requires any accountable authority of a Commonwealth entity to maintain a system of risk oversight and management. The annual review of the CLC's risk profile was completed. A plan to review and revitalise the risk management system was completed and presented to the audit and risk committee in June. The Comcover annual best-practice benchmarking is used as the basis for continuous risk management improvement.

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee has four independent members: Bruce Walker (chair), Beverley Russ (deputy chair), Danny Masters (lawyer), and Neil McLeod (chartered accountant).

The committee met four times during the 2022–23 financial year. It oversees an agreed work plan and audit charter, and reports annually to the Accountable Authority. The PGPA Act recommends that Commonwealth entity audit committee members be independent. All CLC's Audit and Risk Committee members are independent. Members are entitled to a fee of \$1,250 per meeting, with the chair entitled to a fee of \$1,500 per meeting (fees effective at June 2023). Members are also entitled to a fee for travelling, dependent on travel distance.

Table 33. Audit and Risk Committee 2022–23

Member	Qualifications and experience	Number of meetings attended	Total number of meetings held	Total annual remuneration	Additional Information/ role on committee
Bruce Walker AM	Mr Walker is the former chief executive of the Centre for Appropriate Technology and a Central Australian resident for three decades with extensive knowledge of the region. Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (FTSE); Fellow of the Australian College of Educators (FACE); Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD); Bachelor of Science (Hons 1); PhD	4	4	\$7,500	Chair
Danny Masters	Mr Masters formerly practised as a solicitor and barrister. He has extensive experience of the Northern Territory. Bachelor of Laws (UTA); Bachelor of Economics (UQ); Master of Business Administration (Deakin); FAICD (1988–2008)	4	4	\$7,450	Member
Neil McLeod	Mr McLeod has specialist knowledge of audit committee and Commonwealth entity audit requirements. Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia and NZ (FCA); Bachelor of Arts (Accounting)	4	4	\$6,250	Member
Beverly Russ	Ms Russ is a chartered certified accountant with qualifications in accounting and auditing. BBus (Bachelor of Business (Acc)); FCCA (Fellow, Association of Chartered Certified Accountants); MBA (Master of Business Administration); GAICD (Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors); CA (Chartered Accountant)	4	4	\$5,000	Deputy Chair

CLC Audit and Risk Committee charter

The direct electronic address of the charter determining the functions of the CLC Audit and Risk committee is <https://www.clc.org.au/?s=audit+committee+charter> (PGPA Rule Section 17BE (taa)(i)).

Indemnities and insurance premiums for officers

No indemnity against liability has been given by agreement or by other means to a current or former officer. The general liability and professional indemnity insurance with Comcover includes directors' and officers' liability provisions. The CLC has compulsory professional indemnity insurance with Lawcover Insurance Pty Ltd, as required by the Law Society Northern Territory for legal practitioners.

Judicial decisions and reviews by outside bodies

There were no judicial decisions or decisions of administrative tribunals in the 2022–23 financial year. The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) completed and published the performance audit report on Governance of the Central Land Council on 7 June 2023 (reference Auditor-General Report No.35 2022–23).

Human resources

Human Resources (HR) has overcome many challenges faced by the organisation in the past year, including the lingering impacts of COVID-19 and the ongoing staff shortage across Australia. The CLC has a diverse workforce spread across Central Australia and strives to attract and retain skilled employees. However, one of the primary challenges faced by the CLC is the limited pool of candidates for job vacancies in the small population of Alice Springs.

In addition to recruitment and retention, the human resources team has also been abreast of changes to the *Fair Work Act 2009*, ensuring CLC compliance. Various policy updates have also been made to improve support for CLC staff and ensure compliance in areas of governance.

Overall, the CLC continues to navigate the challenging employment environment to attract and retain skilled employees and this focus will continue in the coming year.

Remuneration

Under the Fair Work Act, the CLC's enterprise agreement (EA) 2017–20 establishes employment terms and conditions and entitlements, and continues to be our key industrial instrument. The EA was due for renewal in March 2021 but CLC staff voted to replace bargaining with a determination that would align annual increases with the Wage Price Index (WPI). In December 2022, staff received a three per cent WPI increase, with the final increase to be determined in the June 2023 quarter and to be implemented in December 2023. The CLC will commence bargaining for a new EA in 2024.

Policy

The CLC HR unit has been proactive in updating and implementing policies to ensure compliance with various audits, legislative changes and internal needs, with a focus on retaining staff. Among the policies developed were the Conflict of Interest policy that was recognised in the Australian National Audit Office audit. The HR team has updated many policies in the areas of work health and safety (WHS) and other areas, including policies on protective clothing, work health and safety at council meetings and domestic violence. New policies were implemented or updated in response to decisions by the Fair Work Commission.

Updating and amending these policies is an ongoing process, with the HR team committed to ensuring that employees' safety and wellbeing and fair employment practices are always addressed. Through these efforts, the CLC aims to create an environment that promotes productivity, satisfaction and retention of skilled employees.

Compliance

In 2022–23, a number of changes were made to staff induction processes and to ensure compliance with requirements for first aid training, four-wheel driving qualifications and fraud awareness certification. New requirements for staff compliance such as anti-discrimination and domestic violence training have also required the development of courses and workshops to accommodate these needs. Platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams were successfully used to facilitate remote learning and to ensure that all staff, including those who work in remote locations, have access to the training.

The impact of COVID-19

The CLC is still managing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on its staff. In response, the CLC provided face masks, gloves and sanitizers to support services in the office and field. Safe practices are encouraged through toolbox talks and visual cues, such as posters and signage placed throughout the organisation.

Overall, the CLC's response to the pandemic has been highly successful, and CLC continues to provide up-to-date information and advice to its staff. To minimise the risk and exposure of staff and constituents, the CLC also provides rapid antigen testing (RAT) upon staff requests.

Workplace health and safety (WHS)

Obligations under the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011* (WHS Act) were met. The focus is on ensuring compliance with mandatory trainings and CLC Policies. The WHS committee met twice in the reporting period.

Reporting requirements under the WHS Act

Two notifiable incidents were reported to Comcare under s 38 of the WHS Act. Both inspections by Comcare resulted in an assessment that there were reasonably practicable measures in place to ensure the health and safety of workers. No notices were issued under s 90 (provisional improvement notices), s 191 (improvement notices), s 195 (prohibition notices), or s 198 (non-disturbance notices).

Workplace health and safety commitment

The CLC is committed to providing a safe workplace. At the CLC we understand and recognise that we have a primary duty of care to all employees, Traditional Owners and other persons in relation to the work that the CLC undertakes.

The CLC provides a safe environment for all employees, constituents, contractors and visitors at all locations in which we

work. Our commitment and engagement in safety ensures the organisation is a safe workplace and successful organisation. The CLC demonstrates this commitment by:

- implementing safe work systems that meet legislative requirements (our responsibilities and system framework are outlined in the WHS management arrangements located on the CLC intranet)
- consulting with and educating our employees in safe work practices and their responsibility to work safely
- continuously improving by measuring our performance against safety objectives and targets, achieved by conducting internal and external audits regularly within the workplace
- identifying risks and implementing controls to reduce the risk as far as practicable
- encouraging safety leadership throughout the organisation and celebrating our safety achievements within the workplace.

Workforce development

CLC recognises the importance of improving Aboriginal employment, development and career pathways to support the organisation's mission. To achieve this, HR has implemented various initiatives and has redesigned the Aboriginal Leadership Program (ALP), previously known as the Aboriginal Development Group (ADG), to enhance the skills of Aboriginal staff.

As part of the CLC's Aboriginal employment and leadership strategy, the organisation has created two new general manager roles specifically for Aboriginal staff and has successfully recruited skilled senior staff to these positions; the appointments are due to commence on 1 July 2023. Additionally, the CLC is expanding its network and collaborations with educational institutions and Aboriginal organisations to help support recruitment initiatives. We also support Aboriginal employment through cadetships, traineeships and work experience programs cultivating the leaders of tomorrow.

Overall, the CLC recognises the importance of supporting and nurturing its Aboriginal staff in the remote Central Australian conditions to maintain effective service delivery. Ongoing efforts to improve Aboriginal employment, development and career pathways are critical to achieving the strategic goals.

Organisational development

The CLC has had limited success recruiting staff to its training development area and a new campaign is underway to fill key available positions.

The organisation has continued to run all compliance training, as well as specialist courses ranging from anti-discrimination to conflict management and leadership and management courses.

In 2022–23, the CLC formalised 11 new study contracts with staff undertaking tertiary studies; six are Aboriginal staff. In addition, CLC has eight Aboriginal cadets who are completing tertiary education. The cadets come to the CLC for specific work experience in media, land management, anthropology, computer services, policy and technical services.

The Aboriginal Leadership Program (ALP) reflects the CLC's commitment to its Aboriginal staff and aims to strengthen professional development within the organisation. It focuses on skill enhancement, building leadership skills and providing training that assists staff to align their professional development with relevant career opportunities within the CLC and in the community.

The program aims to:

- build the internal capacity of the CLC
- support staff in professional development that is relevant to the unique operating environment in Central Australia
- provide opportunities for senior Aboriginal staff to pass on their knowledge and wisdom to younger staff, and for junior staff to aspire to senior positions.

Employee profile

Table 34. Full time and part time staff expressed as full time equivalent 2022–23

2022–23 (paid FTE)	FTE	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Female	Male	Non-Binary
CL 1	1.4	1.4	0	0.7	0.7	0
CL 2	46.2	46.2	0	8.8	37.4	0
CL 3	13.3	12	1.0	6.6	7	0
CL 4	20.61	14.8	5.81	7.61	13	0
CL 5	30.4	16	14.4	13.4	17	0
CL 6	89.54	17.97	71.6	41.76	46.8	1
SO C	40.8	8	32.8	29	11.6	0
SO B	3	1	2	3	0	0
SO A	19.6	2	17.6	11.6	8	0
EM	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES1	2	1	1	1	1	0
SES2	1	1	0	0	1	0
Total	267.69	121.64	146.05	123.52	143.2	1

Table 35. Full time and part time staff (headcount) at 30 June 2023

Over the 2022–23 period	Headcount	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Female	Male	Non-Binary
CL 1	6	6	0	3	3	0
CL 2	57	57	0	11	46	0
CL 3	14	13	1	7	7	0
CL 4	21	15	6	8	13	0
CL 5	31	16	15	14	17	0
CL 6	91	18	73	43	47	1
SO C	42	8	34	30	12	0
SO B	3	1	2	3	0	0
SO A	20	2	18	12	8	0
EM	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES1	2	1	1	1	1	0
SES2	1	1	0	0	1	0
Total	288	138	150	132	155	1

Table 36. Ongoing and non-ongoing staff (excluding casuals) 2022–23

		Male			Female			Non-Binary	Total
		Full time	Part time	Total Male	Full time	Part time	Total Female		
2022–23	Ongoing	49	1	50	42	3	45	0	95
	Non-ongoing	57	48	105	63	24	87	1	193
	Total	106	49	155	105	27	132	1	288

Table 37. Casual staff paid FTE 2022–23

Classification	Total	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Female	Male
CL 1	0	0	0	0	0
CL 2	62	62	0	26	36
CL 3	5	5	0	2	3
CL 4	8	7	1	2	6
CL 5	0	0	0	0	0
CL 6	3	0	3	2	1
SO C	0	0	0	0	0
SO B	1	0	1	1	0
SO A	1	0	1	1	0
Total	80	74	6	34	46

Table 38. All ongoing employees current report period 2022–23

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
NSW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Qld	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ACT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NT	49	1	50	42	3	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95
External Territories	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overseas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 39. All non-ongoing employees current report period 2022–23

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	Full time	Part time	Total	
NSW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Qld	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ACT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NT	57	48	105	63	24	87	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	193
External Territories	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overseas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Senior executive remuneration policies and practices – key management personnel

Senior executives are offered a three-year contract. The chief executive officer is appointed by the CLC after consultation with the minister. The chief executive appoints other key management personnel and consults with the minister when appointing chief financial and principal legal officers. Contracts are renewed subject to satisfactory performance.

Remuneration is determined in accordance with senior executive service salary bands. Senior executives are placed within the band in accordance with the position's responsibilities and

accountabilities. The salary bands, unchanged for at least 10 years, are adjusted only in accordance with salary increases as part of the CLC's enterprise bargaining process. Senior executive remuneration is detailed in the annual estimates approved by the minister. Other employment conditions are included in the contract of employment, and standard employment conditions such as leave entitlements are referenced to the enterprise agreement.

The elected chair (three-year term) is a full time position and part of the Accountable Authority. The chair is a member of key management personnel and receives the allowance determined by the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal.

Table 40. Information about remuneration for key management personnel

Name	Position title	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
		Base salary*	Bonuses	Other benefits and allowances**	Superannuation contributions	Long Service Leave	Other long-term benefits		
Mr Matthew Palmer	Chair	\$72,714	\$0	\$0	\$7,635	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$80,349
Mr Hoosan	Chair	\$82,967	\$0	\$0	\$8,712	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$91,679
Mr Lesley Turner	Chief Executive Officer	\$310,716	\$0	\$8,777	\$41,551	\$10,546	\$0	\$0	\$371,590
Mr Robert Cairney	General Manager/CFO	\$245,245	\$0	\$6,353	\$28,351	\$58,736	\$0	\$0	\$338,685
Mr Andrew Knight	Former General Manager	\$32,786	\$0	\$2,479	\$4,145	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$39,410

*'Base salary' comprises the key management personnel's base salary plus the net movement in annual leave for the period.

**'Other benefits' comprise benefits associated with the key management personnel's contract of employment, e.g. a vehicle.

Table 41. Information about remuneration for senior executives

Remuneration bands	Number of senior executives	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
		Average base salary	Average bonuses	Average other benefits and allowances	Average superannuation contributions	Average Long Service Leave	Average other long-term benefits	Average termination benefits	Average total remuneration
\$0 – \$220,000	1	\$64,851	\$0	\$0	\$7,680	\$27,111	\$0	\$0	\$99,642
\$220,001 – \$245,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$245,001 – \$270,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$270,001 – \$295,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$295,001 – \$320,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$320,001 – \$345,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$345,001 – \$370,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$370,001 – \$395,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$395,001 – \$420,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$420,001 – \$445,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$445,001 – \$470,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$470,001 – \$495,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$495,001 –	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

The average figures presented in each of the total remuneration bands are based on the total amount for the relevant category divided by the number of senior executives in each band.

Table 42. Information about remuneration for other highly paid staff

Remuneration bands	Number of highly paid staff	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
		Average base salary	Average bonuses	Average other benefits and allowances	Average superannuation contributions	Average Long Service Leave	Average other long-term benefits	Average termination benefits	Average total remuneration
\$0– \$220,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$220,001– \$245,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$245,001– \$270,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$270,001– \$295,000	1	\$214,789	\$0	\$10,651	\$28,510	\$34,712	\$0	\$0	\$288,662
\$295,001– \$320,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$320,001– \$345,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$345,001– \$370,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$370,001– \$395,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$395,001– \$420,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$420,001– \$445,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$445,001– \$470,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$470,001– \$495,000	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$495,001–	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Computer Services

The Computer Services team is committed to delivering high quality robust and reliable ICT and GIS services to the organisation.

The team maintains a fully networked, standardised environment that provides computer access for all staff, whether they are operating from our geographically dispersed offices or working remotely – be that local, interstate or overseas. We ensure the integrity and security of electronic data using rigorous authentication, well-established authorisation processes, system activity monitoring and comprehensive backups. We contribute to increased efficiency through the development and implementation of new systems for improved access to information and communications.

Computer Services also operates a Geospatial Services unit that provides a high level of GIS services to the organisation. The specialised staff maintain an extensive geographical information system, and utilise numerous data sets to produce detailed custom map products and reports. The system also provides all staff access to interactive online maps incorporating the features from the GIS dataset.

Projects completed during the year include:

- a major upgrade of the organisational document management system
- introduction of an organisation-wide security awareness training platform
- implementation of a digital asset discovery platform
- upgrade of the Anthropology Database
- security measures such as entering into the Australian Cyber Security Centre Joint Cyber Security Centre program and Centre for Internet Security SecureSuite membership.

Key ongoing projects and planned projects include:

- organisational migration to Microsoft M365, Business Central and Azure hosted infrastructure
- implementation of a board management platform for the Executive
- introduction of the ManageEngine service desk system
- support of business systems upgrades
- migration to Starlink satellite data services at remote offices, and provision of roaming services for remote operations
- extensive policy development.

Additionally, Computer Services responded to over 2300 support requests and 330 email 'potential threat' reports from staff. Geospatial Services fielded over 930 map requests.

Information services

Information management and governance

Since March 2023, a renewed Business Systems and Information Governance Committee (BSIGC) meets every two months. The Information Management Policy was updated and endorsed in June 2023.

Systems and information management software

In April 2023 the organisational records management system eDIS was upgraded while a new web interface is still being trialled as to its suitability for the organisation. Twenty-three training sessions held over two weeks, together with ongoing incidental support and training, helped to ensure a smooth transition to eDIS 10. Further formal eDIS training sessions were held throughout 2022–23.

TRAKS support software was also upgraded and a discovery system software was commenced during the reporting period. In addition, sub-pages on our library catalogue homepage have been created to make it easier for CLC staff to find information about the variety of services the library offers. This led to Softlink, a cloud-based library management system provider, featuring the CLC library as one of its successful case studies.

Library

For the CLC library, 2022–23 was an eventful year. CLC was approached by EBSCO, a provider of online resources and services to libraries throughout the world, seeking permission to add the CLC's *Land Rights News* to one of their large databases, EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS). EDS is an all-inclusive search platform that searches across a library's own resources and more widely across many other resources and databases. There are EDS versions for various streams, including Academic, Public, Corporate and Schools. From 2023 onwards, all published issues of *Land Rights News* will be uploaded to EDS, enabling this significant CLC publication to be more widely read.

Key subscription services such as Lexis-Nexis, InfoRMIT and Workplace Express have been extended and journal subscriptions, such as *Australian Geographic*, the *Extractive Industries and Society Journal*, and *Koori Mail*, can now be accessed digitally. Ebooks were also made available on personal devices through the library app. The library catalogue also now features an improved menu structure and search functions.

Other activities included an information literacy workshop with the Ltyentye Apurte Rangers at their remote office to assist them

to refine their newsletter and annual ranger report contribution, and to learn about the library's resources and how rangers can access these out bush.

Information Services continued to promote its services throughout 2022–23. The resource centre was turned into an event hub for this year's Library Lovers Day. With the motto Only YOU, the event was attended by almost 50 local staff and resulted in a significant increase in Library loans.

Archive digitisation project

In 2022–23, CLC Information Services commenced a major project to digitise its paper-based files and map collections for permanent preservation. The launch of this project followed pilot projects in the past few years, targeting CLC's audio-visual recordings, photographic collection and some key paper files. The initial stages identify records that require permanent retention, physical condition assessment (and conservation treatment if necessary) and identification of any cultural or legal restrictions associated with particular records.

These collections comprise the bulk of the CLC's archive holdings. The records span 50 years and date from the earliest days of the CLC in 1976 up to 2016, when the electronic records system was introduced. This year, more than 100,000 pages, 550 maps and 10,000 photographs were digitised. It is expected that the digitisation project will take up to five years to complete.

The digitisation project is critical for preserving this invaluable cultural and heritage resource for the Aboriginal communities of Central Australia. The archives not only document the work and achievements of the CLC, but also represent a significant repository of cultural knowledge and heritage. The project is also essential both to enable ongoing access for constituents and CLC staff and to meet the CLC's obligations to maintain records that are required to be kept indefinitely under Commonwealth law.

A digitisation project collaboration between CLC and the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) was also completed successfully in 2023.

TOP LEFT CLC's Ltyentye Apurte Rangers with Zoe Smithies at an information literacy training workshop at the rangers' office.

TOP RIGHT Ltyentye Apurte Rangers looking at CLC library resources during a library workshop.

BOTTOM Library Lovers Day 14 February 2023.



Asset management

Fleet management

The CLC manages a substantial fleet of vehicles, including four-wheel drives, all-terrain vehicles, trailers and trucks. The fleet management strategy focuses on equipping vehicles with standard modifications, safety, tracking, communication and recovery equipment that are suitable for remote staff travel.

Following an update of the CLC's motor vehicle policy and procedure during 2022–23, all staff were required to attend refresher training on safety, staff responsibilities and use of vehicles in remote conditions.

CLC policy requires vehicle replacement every three years. The resale value of the vehicles is usually high due to regular service and maintenance, while new vehicles provide best practice safety features suited to remote conditions. Since mid-2021, however, there have been significant delays in new vehicle deliveries, with extended waiting times of up to two years. In 2022–23, only 16 new vehicles were delivered; a backlog of 70 vehicles remained on the wait list for changeover.

Proactive measures such as early ordering and close monitoring of vehicle servicing and maintenance were implemented to minimise disruptions (e.g. for repairs) caused by the delay in vehicle replacement. There was a corresponding increase in repair and maintenance costs, however CLC has successfully managed a cost-effective outcome while retaining the quality and reliability of the fleet. The wait list for vehicle replacement is expected to reduce in 2023–24.

Land and buildings management

Minor works at the CLC's main office on the Stuart Highway in Alice Springs were completed in 2022–23, including a bathroom renovation and courtyard works (tables, seats, fans, charging points, planting). A new electric vehicle charging point was also installed for visiting vehicles.

Works to replace the lift to the reception area to provide secure access for constituents and visitors were commenced in 2022–23. A full replacement of the lift shaft was required as replacement parts for the existing lift were no longer available.

Further major works for the main office building on the Stuart Highway were progressed in 2022–23, including a substantial building extension to be constructed at an adjoining block purchased in 2021–22. Tender documentation for the proposed extension was released in 2022–23, accompanied by a national advertising campaign. A successful tender was selected. The

design for the new office and an exceptional development permit were submitted to the Northern Territory Government.

Renovations and amenity improvements were completed at remote CLC offices and staff accommodation sites. These support staff retention and improved office function, such as providing better work spaces and facilities for meetings with community members. These included:

- Docker River staff accommodation for the ranger coordinator
- Atitjere (Harts Range) office renovation to improve workplace facilities for the growing ranger teams and an internal meeting space, and renovation of the attached accommodation unit
- visiting staff accommodation at Lajamanu was expanded with construction of two units on the office lot, and a new shade structure to hold large meetings (Lajamanu is a busy site for meetings and facilitating development projects in the community)
- two duplexes were purchased in Tennant Creek, enabling CLC to offer community-based accommodation for two permanent staff, and short-term accommodation for visiting staff as a cost-effective alternative to hotel accommodation
- renovations to the Papunya ranger coordinator house were completed, including electrical, bathroom and kitchen renovation, and replacement of windows and security screens
- construction of the Walungurru Kintore Ranger hub – office, shed/workshop, shaded meeting area, ablutions block and ranger coordinator accommodation
- installation of rooftop solar power, commenced in 2021–22, continued with installations at Atitjere (Harts Range), Lajamanu and Kalkaringi
- stabilisation of the office floor at Kalkaringi was completed shortly before a major flooding event in March 2023 (the Daguragu office was severely damaged during the flooding and the rangers were relocated to Kalkaringi, pending assessment of the damage)
- purchase of a block of land in the industrial area of Tennant Creek, with an established large shed, office and site accommodation for use by the Tennant Creek ranger team; renovations of the office and accommodation and a shed fit-out were commenced
- construction approvals for the Muṯitjulu office amenity upgrade were received during the last quarter of 2022–23, with works for the new office, shed, meeting area and a new ablutions block to commence later in 2023.

TOP Bird's eye view of CLC main building and site for new extension in Alice Springs. Rooftop solar panels power the CLC, including EV charging for a small fleet of electric vehicles

BOTTOM The CLC's motor vehicle policy and procedure was updated during 2022-23.



Bush / pencil yams.



Financial Statements

Central Land Council financial statements

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Indigenous Australians

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Central Land Council (the Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2023:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and
- (b) present fairly the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Entity, which I have audited, comprise the following as at 30 June 2023 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Accountable Authority and Chief Financial Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to and Forming Part of the Financial Statements, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements for financial statement audits conducted by the Auditor-General and his delegates. These include the relevant independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) to the extent that they are not in conflict with the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Accountable Authority's responsibility for the financial statements

As the Accountable Authority of the Entity, the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer are responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (the Act) for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the rules made under the Act. The Chair and the Chief Executive Officer are also responsible for such internal control as the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer are responsible for assessing the ability of the Entity to continue as a going concern, taking into account whether the Entity's operations will cease as a result of an administrative restructure or for any other reason. The Chair and the Chief Executive Officer are also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

GPO Box 707, Canberra ACT 2601
38 Sydney Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603
Phone (02) 6203 7300

Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor’s report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity’s internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Authority;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Authority’s use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity’s ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Accountable Authority regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Australian National Audit Office



Peter Kerr

Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra

23 August 2023

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL
For the period ended 30 June 2023

STATEMENT BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsection 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Central Land Council will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with this declaration of the Accountable Authority:

Signed 

Mr. Lesley Turner
Chief Executive Officer
Accountable Authority
Date: 23 August 2023

Signed 

Mr. Matthew Palmer
Chair
Accountable Authority
Date: 23 August 2023

Signed 

Mr. Robert Cairney OAM FCPA
Chief Financial Officer
Date: 23 August 2023

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	NOTES	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employees and council members benefits	3(a)	31,131	28,203
Suppliers	3(b)	34,692	20,979
Finance costs		8	7
Depreciation and amortisation	7(a)	3,148	3,212
Impairment of assets/receivables	3(c)	236	109
Total expenses		69,215	52,510
Own-source income			
Own-source revenue			
Revenue from contracts with customers	4(a)	3,676	3,357
Interest	4(b)	2,464	300
Lease and rental income		85	59
Other revenue	4(c)	2,708	2,472
Total own-source revenue		8,933	6,188
Gains			
Gain/(loss) from disposal of assets	4(d)	(18)	645
Gain in fair value of investment property		–	45
Total gains		(18)	690
Total own-source income		8,915	6,878
Net cost of services		60,300	45,632
Revenue from Government	4(e)	55,078	64,912
Surplus/(Deficit) on continuing operations		(5,222)	19,280
Other Comprehensive Income			
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services			
Change in asset revaluation reserve	7(a)	–	(532)
Total comprehensive income/(loss)		(5,222)	18,748

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2023**

	NOTES	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6(a)	60,455	69,936
Trade and other receivables	6(b)	1,751	932
Total financial assets		62,206	70,868
Non-financial assets			
Land and buildings	7(a)	32,525	30,015
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	7(a)	7,794	6,712
Investment property	7(b)	550	550
Inventories		26	13
Other non-financial assets	7(c)	145	209
Total non-financial assets		41,040	37,499
TOTAL ASSETS		103,246	108,367
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	8(a)	8,329	7,814
Other payables	8(b)	353	160
Total payables		8,682	7,974
Interest bearing liabilities			
Leases	9	1,664	2,209
Total interest bearing liabilities		1,664	2,209
Provisions			
Employee provisions	10(a)	4,850	4,912
Total provisions		4,850	4,912
TOTAL LIABILITIES		15,196	15,095
NET ASSETS		88,050	93,272
EQUITY			
Asset revaluation reserve		7,480	7,480
Retained surplus		80,570	85,792
TOTAL EQUITY		88,050	93,272

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Retained surplus		Asset revaluation reserve		Total Equity	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Opening balance	85,792	66,512	7,480	8,012	93,272	74,524
Comprehensive income						
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(5,222)	19,280	–	(532)	(5,222)	18,748
Total Comprehensive income	(5,222)	19,280	–	(532)	(5,222)	18,748
of which:						
Attributable to the Australian Government	(5,222)	19,280	–	(532)	(5,222)	18,748
Closing balance as at 30 June 2023	80,570	85,792	7,480	7,480	88,050	93,272

Accounting Policy

Other distributions to owners

The *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015* (FRR) requires that distributions to owners be debited to contributed equity unless it is in the nature of a dividend. In 2022–23 the Central Land Council (CLC) did not make any contributions to owners (2021–22 \$0).

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

	NOTES	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Operating activities			
Cash received			
Sales of goods and rendering of services		5,456	6,124
Receipts from Government		57,142	66,805
Rental income		48	25
Net GST received from ATO		(237)	(214)
Interest		2,464	315
Total cash received		64,873	73,055
Cash used			
Employees		30,858	27,589
Suppliers		36,221	22,324
Interest payments on lease liabilities		8	7
Total cash used		67,087	49,920
Net cash from operating activities		(2,214)	23,135
Investing activities			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		492	1,146
Rental income on investment property		37	34
Total cash received		529	1,180
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	7(a)	7,227	6,165
Total cash used		7,227	6,165
Net cash (used by) investing activities		(6,698)	(4,985)
Financing activities			
Cash used			
Principal payment of lease liabilities		568	452
Net cash (used by) financing activities		(568)	(452)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		(9,480)	17,698
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		69,936	52,238
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	6(a)	60,456	69,936

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

OVERVIEW

OBJECTIVES OF THE CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

The Central Land Council (the 'CLC' or the 'Council') is an Australian government controlled corporate not-for-profit entity.

The CLC's registered address and principal place of business is 27 Stuart Highway, Alice Springs, NT 0870.

The objectives of CLC are to:

- protect and represent the rights and interests of Aboriginal peoples
- pursue and protect Aboriginal land ownership and interest
- protect land and culturally significant sites, and maintain cultural heritage & languages
- support economic development and effective land income management
- support Aboriginal peoples' development of strong communities and outstations
- support strong/sustainable ranger program providing work on country & achieving land management outcomes
- facilitate Aboriginal peoples sustainably using and managing their land
- provide good governance and engagement to ensure best possible decisions made to fulfill constituent and legislative requirements.

The continued existence of the CLC in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing funding by Parliament for CLC's administration and programmes.

NOTE 1: BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements and are required by section 42 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- a) *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015 (FRR)*; and
- b) Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations – including simplified disclosure for Tier 2 Entities under AASB 1060 issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand unless otherwise specified.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 2: NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

Two amending standards (AASB 2021-2 and AASB 2021-6) were adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard. This amending standards have been adopted for the 2022–23 reporting period.

The following amending standards were issued prior to the signing of the statement by the accountable authority and chief financial officer, were applicable to the current reporting period and had a material effect on the entity's financial statements:

Standard/ Interpretation	Nature of change in accounting policy, transitional provisions ¹ , and adjustment to financial statements
AASB 2021-2 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates</i> (AASB 2021-2) and	AASB 2021-2 amends AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 108, AASB 134 and AASB Practice Statement 2. The amending standard requires the disclosure of material, rather than significant, accounting policies, and clarifies what is considered a change in accounting policy compared to a change in accounting estimate.
AASB 2021-6 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards</i> (AASB 2021-6)	AASB 2021-6 amends the Tier 2 reporting requirements set out in AASB 1049, AASB 1054 and AASB 1060 to reflect the changes made by AASB 2021-2. The details of the changes in accounting policies and adjustments are disclosed below and in the relevant notes to the financial statements. This amending standard is not expected to have a material impact on the entity's financial statements for the current reporting period or future reporting periods.

Taxation

The CLC is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

The main impact of the pandemic during the financial year continued to be supply-chain delays particularly in relation to purchases of motor vehicles and IT equipment. Supply-chain delays also affected the disbursement of ABA Stimulus funds to approved recipients, as outlined in Note 4(g). Otherwise, the pandemic did not significantly affect the CLC's operations or financial result during 2022-23.

Events after the reporting period

CLC is not aware of any event occurring after balance date that would materially affect the financial statements.

NOTE 3: EXPENSES

NOTE 3(A) – EMPLOYEE AND COUNCIL MEMBER BENEFITS

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Employee and council member benefits		
Wages and salaries	26,562	23,691
Superannuation (accumulated contribution plans)	3,318	2,913
Leave and other entitlements	206	865
Other employee benefits	1,045	734
Total employee benefits	31,131	28,203

All payments and benefits are within the terms of the 2020–2023 CLC Enterprise Agreement (EA). The CLC makes an additional superannuation contributions of 3% over and above the Superannuation Guarantee Levy (11% effective 1 July 2023).

The CLC pays compulsory Professional Indemnity Insurance to Law Society NT for all its practicing Lawyers and pays Comcover a premium for Accountable Authority and Officers insurance.

Accounting policies for employee related expenses are contained in Note 10.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 3(B) – SUPPLIERS

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Goods and services supplied or rendered		
Accounting and audit ¹	214	219
Consultants	1,962	1,623
Contractors	809	384
Travel, motor vehicle and meeting expenses	6,030	4,363
Accommodation and utilities	4,530	2,982
Grants ²	14,167	6,058
Other operating expenses	3,518	2,544
Community Project expenses (refer Note 4(c))	2,838	2,224
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	34,068	20,397
Other supplier expenses		
Low value and short term leases ³	174	145
Workers Compensation and Professional Indemnity Insurance premium	450	437
Total other supplier expenses	624	582
Total supplier expenses	34,692	20,979

Amounts included in the prior year 'Other operating expenses' has been reclassified to 'Grants' \$6.058m, 'Travel, motor vehicle and meeting expenses' \$0.824m and 'Accommodation and utilities' \$0.495m.

¹ The above audit expense disclosure should be read in conjunction with note 13.

² CLC is administering \$36.700m of NT Indigenous Economic Stimulus funding received during 2020–21 and 2021–22. The grant expenditure mainly represents funding provided to support Indigenous businesses, jobs and economic development within the CLC region.

³ The CLC had short term and low value lease commitments of \$0.086m as at 30 June 2023 (2022: \$0.095m). The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with accompanying notes 3(c), 7(a) and 9.

Accounting Policy

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

In accordance with AASB16, CLC does not recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for leases of low-value assets (less than \$10,000 per asset). CLC recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

NOTE 3(C) – IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS/RECEIVABLES

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Impairment of trade and other receivables	236	109
Total Impairment of assets	236	109

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 4: INCOME OWN SOURCE REVENUE

NOTE 4(A) – REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Rendering of services	3,676	3,357
Total Revenue from contracts with customers	3,676	3,357
Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers		
Type of customer:		
Australian Government entities (related parties)	267	141
State and Territory Governments	16	32
Non-government entities	3,393	3,184
	3,676	3,357

Revenue from contracts with customers consists of fees for service and fees for administrative support. Revenue is recognised as the services are delivered/performed, in accordance with AASB 15. CLC applies the practical expedient provided in AASB15.121 by not disclosing information for a performance obligation if the duration is less than 1 year.

The transaction price is the total amount of consideration which CLC expects to receive in exchange for providing services to a customer. Consideration may include fixed and/or variable amounts.

Receivables for goods and rendering of services, which have 30 days credit terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at the end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of debt is no longer probable.

Refer to Note 6(b) for details of the Impairment on trade and other receivables.

NOTE 4(B) – INTEREST

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Interest from cash and short-term deposits	2,464	300
Total interest	2,464	300

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

NOTE 4(C) – OTHER REVENUE/GAINS

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Community Project income	2,708	2,472
Total other gains	2,708	2,472

Accounting Policy

CLC facilitates community projects on behalf of various Indigenous organisations and communities in Central Australia. These services are provided on a cost basis, therefore total expenditure (refer Note 3(b)) equates to total income over time.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 4(D) – GAIN/(LOSS)FROM DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Motor vehicles, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale	492	1,146
Carrying value of assets sold	(159)	(501)
Net gain from sale of motor vehicles, plant and equipment	333	645

Sale of assets

Gains from disposal of assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Loss from disposal of buildings		
Proceeds from sale	–	–
Carrying value of assets disposed	(351)	–
Net loss from disposal of buildings	(351)	–

During 2022-23 CLC demolished buildings at 26 Stuart Highway, Alice Springs in preparation for building works.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Net Gain/(Loss) from asset sales and disposals		
Proceeds from sale	492	1,146
Carrying value of assets disposed	(510)	(501)
Net gain/(loss) asset sales and disposals	(18)	645

NOTE 4(E) – REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
From Government – ABA s.64(1)	37,428	34,338
From Government – ABA s.64(1) Economic Stimulus Funding	–	14,700
From Government – Special Purpose Contracts	17,650	15,874
Total revenue from Government	55,078	64,912

CLC receives the majority of its operational funding as a departmental appropriation from the Commonwealth government, funded from the Aboriginal Benefits Account in accordance with s.64(1) of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) 1976. Departmental appropriations received during the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as revenue in accordance with AASB 1058 when CLC gains control of the appropriation. ABA departmental funding was \$41.433m for the year ended 30 June 2023, refer to Note 5 for further detail.

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

In November 2020 the Minister for Indigenous Australians announced the funding of a NT Indigenous Economic Stimulus Package of up to \$100 million as a special appropriation under s.64.1 from the ABA to support Indigenous businesses, jobs and economic development in the NT.

CLC received \$22.000m in February 2021 and a further \$14.700m in July 2021. Both tranches were recorded as revenue on receipt in accordance with AASB 1058. As at 30 June 2023, approximately \$36.583m of the total \$36.700m had been contractually committed to specific Indigenous businesses and projects, with approximately \$17.650m disbursed at that date. Disbursements of committed funding has been affected by industry supply constraints which have delayed acquisitions by recipients. Remaining funds are expected to be distributed or approved for distribution during 2023–24 with expenditure continuing into 2025–26.

Funding received or receivable from non-corporate Commonwealth entities is recognised as Revenue from Government unless provided under an enforceable contract, or where performance obligations are not sufficiently specific to determine whether they have been satisfied, funding received is recognised as revenue immediately in accordance with AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*.

CLC applies the practical expedient provided in AASB15.121 by not disclosing information for a performance obligation if the duration of the contract is less than 1 year.

In the year ended 30 June 2023 the majority of grant funding received under special purpose contracts related to the federally funded CLC Rangers programme \$8.640m, Native Title Unit \$3.847m and the Real Jobs for Rangers Program \$2.878m The majority of the federal funding comes from the National Indigenous Australians Agency and the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation.

NOTE 5: STATEMENT OF BUDGET vs ACTUAL ABORIGINALS BENEFIT ACCOUNT APPROPRIATIONS

	ABA approved estimates 2022–23 \$'000	ABA actual 2022–23 \$'000	Variance 2022–23 \$'000
Expenditure			
Salaries and related expenses	21,336	19,579	1,757
Operational expenses	15,596	14,815	781
Total recurrent expenditure	36,932	34,394	2,539
Capital	4,501	5,413	(912)
Total expenditure	41,433	39,807	1,627
Income			
ABA s.64(1)	37,428	37,428	–
Administration fees	2,200	1,939	(261)
Interest	190	2,218	2,028
Sale of assets	900	(18)	(918)
Recoveries	550	881	331
Other	165	662	497
Total income	41,433	43,110	1,677
ABA surplus at 30 June 2023	–	3,303	3,303

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The net surplus of \$3,303k is accounted for as follows:

	2022-23 \$'000
ABA surplus at 30 June 2023:	3,303
Less:	
(i) Committed Community Development Matched Expenses	(3,250)
(ii) Unspent Capital Expenditure Software	(677)
ABA deficit after commitments as at 30 June 2023	(624)

Notes:

- (i) Committed Community Development matched expenditure has been delayed as the CD Unit continues to address the delays caused by the COVID pandemic
- (ii) Capital expenditure on IT projects were only approved in the second half of the financial year

NOTE 6: FINANCIAL ASSETS

NOTE 6(A) – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Cash on hand or on deposit	60,455	69,936
Total cash and cash equivalents	60,455	69,936

Accounting policy

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents include:

- 1) cash on hand
- 2) petty cash
- 3) demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 6(B) – TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Goods and services receivables		
Goods and services	1,863	1,045
Total receivables for goods and services	1,863	1,045
Other receivables		
GST receivables from Australian Taxation Office	237	–
Total other receivables	237	–
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	2,100	1,045
Less: impairment allowance account		
Goods and services	(349)	(113)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	1,751	932

All receivables are current assets. Debtors are recognised at their nominal amounts due less provision for impairment, if any, refer Note 3(d). CLC uses the simplified approach from AASB 9 in calculating the loss allowance for trade and other receivables. This approach measures the loss allowance as the amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses. All debtors are unsecured and, as such, the carrying value of the net receivables represent the amount exposed to credit risk.

Credit terms for services were within 30 days (2022: 30 days).

Financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period.

Trade and other receivables that are held for the purpose of collecting the contractual cash flows where the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, that are not provided at below market interest rates, are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method adjusted for any loss allowance.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 7: NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

NOTE 7(A) – PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Table (A): Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment 2022–23	Land and buildings* \$'000	Motor vehicles^ \$'000	Plant and equipment^ \$'000	Library^ \$'000	Computer equipment and software^ \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2022						
Gross book value	35,756	9,464	4,128	475	2,780	52,603
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(5,741)	(5,143)	(2,442)	–	(2,550)	(15,876)
Net book value 1 July 2022	30,015	4,321	1,686	475	230	36,727
Additions						
By purchase	4,266	1,981	850	–	130	7,227
Right of Use assets	23	–	–	–	–	23
Depreciation and amortisation	(851)	(1,262)	(344)	–	(114)	(2,571)
Depreciation on right of use assets	(577)	–	–	–	–	(577)
Disposals – Gross value	(360)	(505)	–	–	–	(865)
Disposals – Accumulated depreciation	9	346	–	–	–	355
Change in Net book value 30 June 2023	2,510	560	506	–	16	3,592
Net book value as of 30 June 2023 represented by						
Gross book value*	39,685	10,940	4,978	475	2,910	58,988
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(7,160)	(6,059)	(2,786)	–	(2,664)	(18,669)
Net book value 30 June 2023	32,525	4,881	2,192	475	246	40,319
Carrying amount of right-of-use assets	1,643	–	–	–	–	1,643
Work in progress	2,883	687	753	–	173	4,496

+ Land and Buildings includes current 'Right of Use assets' (leased premises) with a recognised 'acquisition' cost of \$2.883m and carrying value of \$1.643m as shown above.

* Gross book value as at 30 June 2023 includes works in progress of \$4.496m (2022: \$0.830m).

^ These asset classes are presented collectively as Infrastructure, Plant and Equipment in the Statement of Financial Position.

Revaluation – 30 June 2022

All land and buildings, with the exception of Right of Use Assets, were independently valued at 30 June 2022 by Jones Lang LaSalle ('JLL') of Adelaide, a certified practicing valuer. Refer to Note 17 for detail on the methods and assumptions applied in estimating the fair values of land and buildings.

A revaluation decrement of \$0.532m for land and buildings was credited to the asset revaluation reserve and included in the equity section of the Statement of Financial Position in 2021.

Motor vehicles are recognised at cost and the majority are depreciated to expected residual value over a period of 4 years or 100,000kms if later. This method is considered to reflect the expected decline in fair value over the useful life of motor vehicles.

An independent valuation of motor vehicles was not conducted at 30 June 2023. CLC replace the majority of its motor vehicles after the later of three years or approximately 100,000 kms driven.

No Land or Buildings are currently held for sale or are expected to be sold or disposed in the next 12 months.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Library assets are not depreciated on the basis of their indefinite useful life, and are instead carried at fair value and assessed for impairment at each reporting period. An independent valuation of CLC's collection of rare books, which comprise a significant portion of the overall library asset fair value, was conducted as at 30 June 2022 by Matthew Fishburn, a rare book dealer. The fair value of rare books was based on a combination of Mr Fishburn's experience as a rare book dealer, comparative values from copies currently being offered by reputable dealers and consideration of historical sales. The valuation of \$0.146m was comparable to previous valuations. CLC management assessed the valuation of the collection as at 30 June 2023 and deemed it to be fairly valued.

No property, plant or equipment is currently held for sale or expected to be sold or disposed in the next 12 months.

Accounting policy

Initial Recognition

Property, plant and equipment are recorded at cost on acquisition, measured as the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and/or liabilities assumed.

The initial cost of an asset, where relevant, includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located, including any necessary make good provisions.

Property, plant and equipment purchases are capitalised as assets, except for purchases costing less than \$2,000 (excluding GST) or where the estimated useful life is less than 12 months, which are expensed in the year of acquisition.

Subsequent to Initial Recognition

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment that are material are carried at fair value. Asset classes carried at fair value by the CLC are land and buildings (excluding Right of Use assets), and Library assets.

Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets are not materially different from their fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in the market value of the relevant assets. It is CLC policy to obtain an independent valuation of freehold land and buildings a minimum of every three years. Between formal valuations, assets are assessed annually for movements in fair value.

Revaluation Adjustments

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of Asset Revaluation Reserve except to the extent that it reverses a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reverse a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset is restated to the revalued amount.

All other items of property, plant and equipment are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation.

No property, plant or equipment is currently held for sale or expected to be sold or disposed in the next 12 months.

Right of Use (ROU) assets

ROU assets under lease arrangements are capitalised at the commencement date of the lease and comprise the initial lease liability amount, initial indirect costs incurred when entering into the lease, less any lease incentive received. These assets are accounted for by CLC as a separate asset class but are included in Land and Buildings (where the corresponding underlying assets would be presented if they were owned) in the Financial Statements.

On initial adoption of AASB 16 Leases as at 30/6/19, CLC adjusted ROU assets at the date of initial application by the amount of any provision for onerous leases recognised immediately before the date of initial application. Following initial application, an impairment review is undertaken for any right of use lease asset that shows indicators of impairment and an impairment loss is recognised against any right of use lease asset that is impaired. Lease ROU assets continue to be measured at cost after initial recognition in CLC financial statements.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment (except as stated below) are depreciated to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives under the straight-line method of depreciation.

Capital work-in-progress is not depreciated until the asset is ready for use.

Library assets are not depreciated due to their indefinite useful lives and instead are assessed annually for impairment, and subject to an external independent valuation every three years.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and any necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

	2023	2022
Buildings on freehold land	40 years	40 years
Leasehold improvements	40 years	40 years
Motor vehicles	4–10 years	4–10 years
Computer equipment and software	3–4 years	3–4 years
Plant and equipment	7–10 years	7– 10 years
Right of use assets	over the life of the lease	over the life of the lease

The revalued amounts of property, plant and equipment that are carried at fair value are depreciated over the remaining life of the asset.

The aggregate amount of depreciation allocated for each class of asset during the reporting period is disclosed in Note 7.

Impairment

All assets are assessed for impairment at each reporting date. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment is made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the CLC was deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

At 30 June 2023, the Accountable Authority believes that all material non-financial assets as reported are carried at an amount that does not differ materially from fair value and there are no indicators of impairment for non-financial assets.

Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

Intangibles

The CLC's intangibles comprises an Electronic Documents and a Records Management System (EDRMS) and Microsoft NAV, a finance system, and installation of the software. These assets are included in computer equipment and software and are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life as shown in the depreciation rate table above.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 7(B) – INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
As at 1 July 2022	550	505
Net gain from fair value adjustments	–	45
Total as at 30 June 2023	550	550

CLC leases out an office building at 6 Kennett Court Alice Springs.

The property was revalued by independent valuer JLL at 30 June 2022 to \$550k, with the \$45k increase recorded in profit and loss. Refer to Note 17 for details on the methods and assumptions applied in estimating the fair value of the investment property.

Accounting Policy

Investment properties are measured initially at cost, including transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, investment properties are carried at fair value. Independent valuations are carried out every 3 years and management reviews the fair value of the investment property for material changes in value in the years between independent valuations.

Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair values of investment properties are recognised in profit or loss in the year in which they arise.

Where an investment property is acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, its cost is deemed to be its fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Investment properties are derecognised either when they have been disposed of or when the investment property is permanently withdrawn from use and no further economic benefit is expected from its disposal. Any gain or losses on disposals of an investment property are recognised in profit or loss in the year of disposal.

NOTE 7(C) – OTHER NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Prepaid supplies and services	145	209
Total Other Non-financial assets	145	209

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 8: PAYABLES

NOTE 8(A) – SUPPLIERS

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Trade payables	1,154	818
Sundry payables and accruals	39	113
Contract liabilities from contracts with customers	7,136	6,883
Total supplier payables	8,329	7,814

Contract liabilities represents the portion of revenue received in relation to federal, state and other sources grants where specific performance obligations have not yet been met. Refer to Note 4(e) for further detail.

The majority of contract liabilities are expected to be expended within 12 months.

NOTE 8(B) – OTHER PAYABLES

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Salaries and Wages – year end accrual	232	66
Accrued superannuation	121	94
Total other payables	353	160

Accrued salary and wages are earned but not yet paid as at 30 June 2023 (inclusive of superannuation).

Accrued superannuation is due to former employees and Council Delegates for which the CLC does not have current superannuation fund and/or contact details. CLC is continuing its efforts to locate this information and settle the amounts owing.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 9: INTEREST BEARING LIABILITIES

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Lease liabilities	1,664	2,209
Total interest bearing liabilities	1,664	2,209

Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2023 was \$0.608m (2022: \$0.479m).

Maturity analysis – contractual undiscounted cash flows

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Within one year	570	581
Between one to five years	1,042	1,585
More than five years	52	43
Total leases	1,664	2,209

Lease liabilities relate to Land and Buildings leased by the CLC which are recognised as Right of Use assets (refer Note 7(a)). The increase in lease liabilities during the year relates primarily to additional office space leased on Level 4, 14 Parsons St, Alice Springs. Some leases are Indigenous land in remote locations of the Northern Territory where office buildings or staff accommodation buildings, owned by CLC, are located. These leases are on long term lease arrangements and are renewed as and when the existing term expires.

CLC does not lease vehicles or office equipment.

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with accompanying notes 3(b), 3(c) and 7(a).

Accounting Policy

For all new contracts entered into, CLC considers whether the contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'.

Once it has been determined that a contract is, or contains a lease, the lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, if that rate is readily determinable, or the Commonwealth Government's published zero coupon bond rates applicable for the lease term.

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability is reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification to the lease. When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset or profit and loss depending on the nature of the reassessment or modification.

Refer to Note 3(b) for CLC's accounting policy for short-term and low value leases.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 10: PROVISIONS

NOTE 10(A) – EMPLOYEE PROVISIONS

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Leave	4,850	4,912
Total employee provisions	4,850	4,912

Long Service Leave liabilities were calculated using the shorthand method as at 30 June 2023 as detailed in the FRR.

Employee benefits

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits expected to be settled within twelve months of the end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

Other long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of expected future payments as at the end of the reporting period.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting.

Leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employee remuneration rates expected to apply at the time the leave is taken, including CLC's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

In accordance with the shorthand method, the estimate of the present value of the long service leave liability takes into account attrition rates, pay increases and inflation and is discounted to present value using government bond rates.

Superannuation

The majority of employees of CLC are members of REST and Acumen Superannuation Funds. The CLC made employer contributions to the REST, Acumen and other superannuation funds at the rate of 13.5% (13% year ended 30 June 2022) paid on a fortnightly basis. CLC complies with the requirements of the superannuation choice legislation. All superannuation contributions are to accumulated contribution plans.

NOTE 11: RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE

The Central Land Council is a corporate Commonwealth entity. Related parties of the CLC are Key Management Personnel ('KMP') and other Australian Government entities. Key Management Personnel are defined in Note 12.

There were no loans or grants made to KMP or other related parties during the period. Any transactions with KMP and other related parties are made on normal, arms-length, terms and conditions.

CLC holds three fully paid ordinary shares issued at \$1.00 each in Centrecorp Aboriginal Investment Corporation Pty Ltd ('Centrecorp'), the trustee of two charitable trusts. Centrecorp itself does not have financial transactions or prepare financial statements. The Deeds of both charitable trusts exclude CLC as a shareholder to benefit from the trusts and precludes the Deeds from being amended to ever allow such a benefit. No member of CLC's key management personnel are on the Board of Centrecorp. As a result the CLC does not control or have influence over these entities. The fair value of the three shares is \$nil.

CLC holds one fully paid share valued at \$1.00 Imparja Television Pty Ltd. CLC does not control or have influence over the entity. The constitution of Imparja Television Pty Ltd (paragraph 48(a)) states "surplus shall not be distributed to the members." The fair value of the share is \$nil.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 12: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL REMUNERATION

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any person (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity. The entity has determined the key management personnel to be the Accountable Authority consisting of the Chair of the CLC and the Chief Executive Officer, and also the General Manager. A new Chair was elected by the Council in February 2023, and a new General Manager was employed in August 2023.

Key Management Personnel remuneration is reported in the table below.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Short-term employee benefits	762	765
Post-employment benefits	90	91
Other long-term benefits	66	9
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses	918	865

Note 12 was prepared on an accrual basis. No bonuses were paid or are payable.

The total number of key management personnel that are included in the table is five. (2022: five).

NOTE 13: REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

Remuneration to auditors for the reporting period are as follows:

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) – for statutory audit	57	52
Crowe Australia – acquittal of grants	30	30
PriceWaterhouseCoopers for auditing the accounts of Aboriginal Corporations to whom CLC provides administrative services	139	127
	226	209

The CLC incurs the cost of an audit of each of the Aboriginal Corporations, trusts and companies for which the CLC (via its Aboriginal Associations Management Centre, AAMC) assists. Subsequently these costs are recovered by charging the relevant entities. PriceWaterhouseCoopers performs the audits and provides some tax agent services for these entities.

No other audit services, other than those noted above, were provided by the ANAO during the reporting period.

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

NOTE 14: LAND USE TRUST ACCOUNT

The CLC maintains a Land Use Trust Account. Monies received on behalf of the associations of Aboriginal people and individuals in accordance with section 35 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976* (ALRA), are held in the Land Use Trust Account and are disbursed in accordance with the terms of the trust. These monies are unavailable for other purposes of the CLC and are not recognised in the financial statements, but are reported here under section 37(5) of the ALRA.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Opening balance	37,578	35,050
Add receipts		
Subsection 64 (3) statutory royalty equivalents	37,996	38,179
Section 42,43,44,46,48a & 48d negotiated monies	35,280	33,156
Section 15,16,19 & 20 rental and lease monies	10,691	9,395
Other monies	3,582	2,026
Total receipts	87,549	82,756
Deduct payments		
Section 35(2) statutory royalty equivalents	38,002	38,520
Section 35(3) negotiated payments	33,708	32,398
Section 35(4) rental and lease monies	7,102	7,686
Northern Territory – National Emergency Response Act 2007	84	–
Other payments	1,628	1,624
Total Payments	80,524	80,228
Closing Balance	44,603	37,578
Cash at bank and term deposits	44,603	37,578

NOTE 14(A) – DETAILS OF AMOUNTS PAID – S35(2)

Details of amounts paid as required by Section 37(4) ALRA:

Ngurrajuta Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation	2,015	1,740
Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation	35,981	36,439
	37,996	38,179

Determinations under s.42

Previously noted s42 Determinations expired early in 2022-23. No s42 Determinations were issued during 2022–23. As at 30 June 2023 there were no active s42 Determinations.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 14(B) – DETAILS OF AMOUNTS PAID AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 35(4A) 'ACCOUNTABLE AMOUNTS' ALRA. Rent paid by the Director of National Parks under the lease of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

Amounts paid	2023 \$'000
Yangkuntjatjarra Kutu Aboriginal Co	963
CASA Leisure	413
Centre Funerals	28
Desert Funerals Ltd	5
Hickey & Co Pty Ltd	24
Ingkerreke Aboriginal Corp - Outstations	2
Mai Wiru Regional Stores Abcorp	15
NPY Women's Council Aboriginal Corporation	337
Rise-Ngurratjuta Pty Limited	2
Rock City Music	30
Sydney Maloney	1
Tangentyere Council Inc.	83
Western Desert Nganampa	94
	1,997

NOTE 15: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

NOTE 15(A) – CATEGORIES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Financial assets at amortised cost:		
Cash on hand or on deposit	60,455	69,936
Trade and other receivables – net of impairment losses	1,515	932
Total financial assets at amortised cost	61,970	70,868
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:		
Trade Creditors	1,154	818
Contract liabilities	7,136	6,883
Other Payables	353	160
Sundry creditors and accruals	39	113
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	8,682	7,974

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Accounting Policy

Financial assets

In accordance with AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*, the CLC classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- a) financial assets at fair value through profit or loss; and
- b) financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income; and
- c) financial assets measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets measured at amortised cost need to meet two criteria:

1. the financial asset is held in order to collect the contractual cash flow; and
2. the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal outstanding amount.

CLC classifies and measures its financial assets at amortised cost, which reflects both CLC's business model for managing financial assets and contractual cash flow characteristics at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised when CLC becomes a party to the contract and, as a consequence, has a legal right to receive or a legal obligation to pay cash and derecognised when the contractual right to the cash flows from the asset expire or are transferred.

Amortised cost is determined using effective interest method. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts future cashflows to the carrying amount recognised. Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis for financial assets that are recognised at amortised cost.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period based on Expected Credit Losses, using the general approach which measures the loss allowance based on an amount equal to lifetime expected credit losses where risk has significantly increased or an amount equal to 12 months expected credit losses if risk has not increased.

The simplified approach for trade, contract and other receivables is used. This approach always measures the loss allowance as the amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses. A write-off constitutes a derecognition event where the write-off directly reduces the carrying amount of the financial asset.

Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost

Financial liabilities, including lease liabilities, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective interest basis.

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (irrespective of having been invoiced).

NOTE 15(B) – NET GAINS OR LOSSES ON FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Interest revenue (see note 4(b))	2,464	300
Net gain/(loss) on financial assets at amortised cost	2,464	300
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Interest expense	8	(7)
	8	(7)

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 16: CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

At 30 June 2023, the CLC had no significant contingent assets and liabilities (2022: \$0). In particular, there are no significant legal claims or matters in progress involving CLC.

NOTE 17: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT

The different levels of the fair value hierarchy are defined below:

Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the assets or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

CLC determines fair value for its non-financial assets using the level 2 and 3 inputs in the fair value hierarchy.

The following table disclose the fair value at 30 June 2023 and the valuation techniques used to derived its fair value:

Fair value measurement – Valuation technique				
	Category	Valuation technique	2023 Fair value \$'000	2022 Fair value \$'000
Non-financial assets – Recurring fair value measurement				
Land and buildings				
Freehold land	Level 2	– Market based valuation of direct comparatives	5,920	5,523
Building on freehold land	Level 2	– Market based valuation of direct comparatives	13,491	10,998
Building on leasehold land	Level 3	– Depreciated replacement cost	8,590	10,893
Investment property				
Land and buildings	Level 2	– Market based valuation of direct comparatives	550	550
Other PP&E				
Library	Level 3	– Depreciated replacement cost	475	475
Total non-financial assets			29,026	28,439

The fair value of CLC's freehold land and buildings has been determined based on market value and a valuation carried out by Jones Lang LaSalle, Adelaide, as at 30 June 2022. JLL is a certified practising valuer and with relevant experience in the valuation of property in Northern Territory. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in the market value of the relevant assets. The fair value measurement for freehold land and buildings has been categorised as Level 2 (land, all but \$117k which was Level 3) and Levels 2 and 3 (buildings) based on the valuation technique noted above.

Key inputs used for Level 2 valuations were selling prices per square metre for comparable market transactions. For those assets valued using Level 3 inputs, key sources of information included various construction costing publications relevant to the Northern Territory as well as the age, physical condition and any indications of obsolescence relevant to the particular asset.

Refer to Note 7(a) for the detail of the 30 June 2022 revaluations.

A valuation of valuable books (part of Library assets) as at 30 June 2022 was performed by an independent expert (Matthew Fishburn, a rare book dealer). Key assumptions underlying Mr Fishburn's valuation are contained in Note 7(a).

For infrastructure, plant and equipment carried at cost, depreciated cost approximates fair market value, determined on a highest and best use basis.

There were no changes in valuation techniques used by CLC during the year.

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

NOTE 18: CURRENT/NON-CURRENT DISTINCTION FOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months		
Cash and cash equivalents	60,455	69,936
Trade and other receivables	1,751	932
Inventory	26	13
Other non-financial assets	145	209
Total no more than 12 months	62,377	71,090
More than 12 months		
Land and buildings	32,525	30,392
Investment property	550	550
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	7,794	6,335
Total more than 12 months	40,869	37,277
Total assets	103,246	108,367
Liabilities expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months		
Suppliers	8,329	7,880
Other payables	353	94
Leases	570	581
Employee Provisions	2,740	2,495
Total no more than 12 months	11,992	11,050
More than 12 months		
Leases	1,094	1,628
Employee provisions	2,110	2,417
Total more than 12 months	3,204	4,045
Total liabilities	15,196	15,095

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

NOTE 19: AMOUNTS PAID TO CONSULTANTS

	2023 \$'000
Anthropology	259
Anthropos Consulting Serv P/L	154
Comhar Group	7
Empius Pty Ltd	18
Helixos Pty Ltd	3
Luke James Kelly	40
Michael Cawthorn	13
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel	4
Susan Donaldson	13
University Of Western Australia	7
Community Development	105
Anthropos Consulting Serv P/L	5
Innovative Groundwater Solutions Pty Ltd	16
La Trobe University	73
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel	11
Corporate Services	658
Alice Kemble	8
Australian Payroll Association Pty Ltd	47
BDO Services Pty Ltd	26
Hal Bisset - Wbcc Pty Ltd	46
KPMG Chartered Accountants	10
Maggie Kavanagh	10
Mercer Consulting Group	74
MLCS Corporate	35
PriceWaterhouseCoopers	220
S2 Consulting Samantha Togni	63
Siller Systems Administration	72
The Fulcrum Agency	4
University Of Western Australia	28
Votar Partners Pty Ltd	18

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

	2023 \$'000
Economic Participation Unit	56
David Jagger	52
Jodie Hummerston Literacy Solutions	3
Sonja Dare (Barilarra Aboriginal Art)	1
Land Management and Ranger Program	118
Adaptive Nrm	3
Beth Sometimes	11
Conservation Management	15
HGH Contracting	5
Hydro Geo Enviro Pty Ltd	5
Jodie Hummerston Literacy Solutions	25
McBryde Consulting	22
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel	30
Terry Mahney	2
Native Title	520
AKA Consulting	75
Catherine Wohlan	24
Craig Elliott	11
Cross Country Native Title Services Pty Ltd	19
Dr John Morton	54
Gareth Lewis	18
Geoffrey Bagshaw	95
Helixos Pty Ltd	2
Jodie Hummerston Literacy Solutions	3
Luke James Kelly	31
Maor Lambert	92
Natalie Kwok	3
Peter Graeme Renehan	3
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel	36
Redmond Mccarthy Consulting Pty Ltd	20
Wolfpeak Pty Ltd - Steve Fermio	35
Grand Total	1,715

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

NOTE 20: NATIVE TITLE**NOTE 20 (A) – NATIONAL INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS AGENCY: NATIVE TITLE – OPERATIONAL**

	Approved budget 2022–23 \$'000	Actual 2022–23 \$'000
INCOME		
Other project income		
Bank interest	20	74
Vehicle trade-in	100	–
Activity generated income – cost recovery	10	–
Prior year funds c/fwd	1,651	1,651
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet funding		
Capital	200	200
Operational	3,579	3,579
Variations	68	68
	5,628	5,572
Capital		
Vehicles	400	–
	400	–
OPERATIONAL		
Salaries		
Chief Executive Officer/General Manager or equivalents	140	140
Corporate staff	345	261
Project staff	2,582	2,019
Services		
Accommodation	129	144
Motor Vehicles - Corporate	28	52
Motor Vehicles - Attributable	95	76
Repair and Maintenance - Equipment	15	27
Repair and Maintenance - Buildings	22	22
Bank Charges	–	–
Audit Fees	9	6
Consultants – Corporate	95	12
Consultants – Attributable	796	625
Communications, Telephones, Fax and IT	60	59
Insurance – Workers compensation	14	20
Insurance – Assets	17	17
Insurance – Professional Indemnity	20	20
Corporate HR / Finance / Property Serv / Library	110	105
Training and development		
Governing Committee	3	5
Staff	25	31

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

	Approved budget 2022–23 \$'000	Actual 2022–23 \$'000
Meetings		
Governing Committee	12	6
Attributable Other meetings expenses	91	77
Regional PBC Meetings	50	10
PBC Mapping	50	
Interpreting	78	19
Travel and allowances		
Chairperson	3	–
Other Governing Committee members	3	10
Claimants (Travel)	109	151
PBC Director (Travel) – Training	7	7
Staff (Travel) Corporate	15	39
Staff (Travel) Attributable	155	112
Supplies and Consumables		
Corporate Office Sup / office misc.	20	23
IT Equipment	15	5
Other Supplies – Attributable	115	5
	5,228	4,105
Balance as at 30 June 2023	–	1,467

Consistent with Note 1 the Native Title Representative Body maintains accounts on an accrual basis. However, this statement includes elements of cash accounting consistent with the terms and conditions of the Native Title Grant.

NOTE 20 (B) – NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS – NATIVE TITLE

Analysis of Plant and Equipment

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of plant and equipment 2022-23	Motor vehicles \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2022		
Gross book value	703	703
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(224)	(224)
Net book value as at 1 July 2022	479	479
Additions		
By purchase	–	–
Adjustment Opening Gross Value	–	–
Adjustment Opening Accum Depreciation	–	–
Depreciation and amortisation	(119)	(119)
Disposals – Gross Value	–	–
Disposals – Accumulated Depreciation	–	–
Net book value as at 30 June 2023 represented by		
Gross book value	703	703
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(343)	(343)
Closing net book value 30 June 2023	360	360

GLOSSARY

AAMC	Aboriginal Associations Management Centre
ABA	Aboriginals Benefit Account
Aboriginal land	As defined in the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i> (Cth), Aboriginal land means: (a) land held by a Land Trust for an estate in fee simple; or (b) land the subject of a deed of grant held in escrow by a Land Council.
ALRA	<i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i> (Cth)
ALT	Aboriginal land trust
Anangu	Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people
APO NT	Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory
CATSI Act	<i>Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006</i>
CDP	Community Development Program – the Australian Government’s remote employment and community development service, administered by the NIAA, that aims to prepare job seekers for work while contributing to the goals of the community
CLC	Central Land Council
Corporate governance	The process by which agencies are directed and controlled, encompassing authority, accountability, stewardship, leadership, direction and control
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
Council	The CLC’s 90-member governing council, referred to in this report to as the Council
Cth	Commonwealth
eDIS	Electronic document information system
Expenses	The full costs of an activity; that is, the total value of all the resources consumed in producing goods and services or the loss of future economic benefits in the form of reductions in assets or increases in liabilities of the entity; includes expenses and cash items such as salary payments, as well as expenses that have been incurred, such as accruing employee entitlements that will be paid in the future
FoI	Freedom of information
GMAAAC	Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation
Grants	Non-reciprocal transfers of economic resources, where the payer agency does not receive approximately equal value in return
ILUA	Indigenous land use agreement
IPA	Indigenous protected area
Kurra	Kurra Aboriginal Corporation
Kunmanara	Substitute name used when the name of a person is the same as, or sounds like, the name of someone recently deceased; may also be used to refer to the deceased person

Land council	An Aboriginal land council in the Northern Territory established by or under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act to represent Aboriginal people
Land Rights Act	<i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i> , also ALRA
Land trust	An Aboriginal land trust established under the Land Rights Act to hold land on behalf of the traditional owners
Native Title Act	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth)
NAAJA	North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Agency
NLC	Northern Land Council
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
NT	Northern Territory
NTAIC	Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation
Outcomes	Desired results, impacts or consequences for Aboriginal people as influenced by the actions of the CLC. Actual outcomes are assessments of the end results or impacts actually achieved.
PBC	Prescribed body corporate
PGPA Act	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> (Cth)
PGPA Rule	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014</i> (Cth)
PPL	Perpetual pastoral lease
PWD NT	Parks and Wildlife Division of the Northern Territory (NT Parks)
SA	South Australia
Sacred sites	Areas of spiritual significance to Aboriginal people, marking an association with, or a specific act of, a creation being. They may be parts of the natural landscape such as hills, rocks, trees, springs or offshore reefs and include burial grounds and places where ceremonies have been held.
SNAICC	Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care
Traditional Owners	In relation to land, a local descent group of Aboriginal people who have common spiritual affiliations to a site on the land, being affiliations that place the group under a primary spiritual responsibility for that site and for the land; they are entitled by Aboriginal tradition to forage as of right over that land
WETT	Warlpiri Education and Training Trust
WOEDAC	Western Outstations Economic Development Aboriginal Corporation
WYDAC	Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation
Yapa	Warlpiri people

COMPLIANCE INDEX

The following table sets out the location of reporting requirements for corporate Commonwealth entities as required in Schedule 2A of the PGPA Rule.

PGPA Rule Reference	Page no.	Description	Requirement
17BE		Contents of annual report	
17BE(a)	8	Details of the legislation establishing the body	Mandatory
17BE(b)(i)	6–7	A summary of the objects and functions of the entity as set out in legislation	Mandatory
17BE(b)(ii)	6–8, 22	The purposes of the entity as included in the entity's corporate plan for the reporting period	Mandatory
17BE(c)	8	The names of the persons holding the position of responsible Minister or responsible Ministers during the reporting period, and the titles of those responsible Ministers	Mandatory
17BE(d)	8	Directions given to the entity by the Minister under an Act or instrument during the reporting period	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(e)	8	Any government policy order that applied in relation to the entity during the reporting period under section 22 of the Act	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(f)		Particulars of non-compliance with: a) a direction given to the entity by the Minister under an Act or instrument during the reporting period; or b) a government policy order that applied in relation to the entity during the reporting period under section 22 of the Act	n/a
17BE(g)	22–26	Annual performance statements in accordance with paragraph 39(1)(b) of the Act and section 16F of the rule	Mandatory
17BE(h), 17BE(i)		A statement of significant issues reported to the Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the Act that relates to non-compliance with finance law and action taken to remedy non-compliance	n/a
17BE(j)	7	Information on the accountable authority, or each member of the accountable authority, of the entity during the reporting period	Mandatory
17BE(k)	16	Outline of the organisational structure of the entity (including any subsidiaries of the entity)	Mandatory
17BE(ka)	123–125	Statistics on the entity's employees on an ongoing and non-ongoing basis, including the following: a) statistics on full time employees; b) statistics on part time employees; c) statistics on gender; d) statistics on staff location	Mandatory
17BE(l)	6, 132	Outline of the location (whether or not in Australia) of major activities or facilities of the entity	Mandatory
17BE(m)	8–9, 120	Information relating to the main corporate governance practices used by the entity during the reporting period	Mandatory
17BE(n), 17BE(o)		For transactions with a related Commonwealth entity or related company where the value of the transaction, or if there is more than one transaction, the aggregate of those transactions, is more than \$10,000 (inclusive of GST): a) the decision-making process undertaken by the accountable authority to approve the entity paying for a good or service from, or providing a grant to, the related Commonwealth entity or related company; and b) the value of the transaction, or if there is more than one transaction, the number of transactions and the aggregate of value of the transactions	n/a
17BE(p)		Any significant activities and changes that affected the operation or structure of the entity during the reporting period	n/a
17BE(q)	121	Particulars of judicial decisions or decisions of administrative tribunals that may have a significant effect on the operations of the entity	If applicable, mandatory

PGPA Rule Reference	Page no.	Description	Requirement
17BE(r)	121	Particulars of any reports on the entity given by: a) the Auditor-General (other than a report under section 43 of the Act); or b) a Parliamentary Committee; or c) the Commonwealth Ombudsman; or d) the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	nil nil nil
17BE(s)		An explanation of information not obtained from a subsidiary of the entity and the effect of not having the information on the annual report	n/a
17BE(t)	121	Details of any indemnity that applied during the reporting period to the accountable authority, any member of the accountable authority or officer of the entity against a liability (including premiums paid, or agreed to be paid, for insurance against the authority, member or officer's liability for legal costs)	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(taa)	121	The following information about the audit committee for the entity: a) a direct electronic address of the charter determining the functions of the audit committee; b) the name of each member of the audit committee; c) the qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience of each member of the audit committee; d) information about each member's attendance at meetings of the audit committee; e) the remuneration of each member of the audit committee	Mandatory
17BE(ta)	126–127	Information about executive remuneration	Mandatory

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 Section 37 Additional Land Council reporting requirements			Location in the report
37(2)	Fees	Fees relating to Part IV (Mining) Sections 33A and 33B	The CLC received \$652,677 in deed administration fees relating to Part IV (Mining). No fee types prescribed under section 33A. No fees were requested under section 33B.
37(3)	Section 35 Determinations	By the Council (subsection 35(2) or (3)) By the Minister (subsection 35(6))	No determinations No determinations
37(4)	Amounts paid	Section 35(2) Section 35(4A)	p 159 (refer Note 14(A)) p 160 (refer Note 14(B))
37(5)	Amounts held in trust	Section 35(2)–(4), and 35(6B), (8) or (9)	p 159
37(5A)	Details of approved entities	Section 19A	n/a
37(7)	Committees	Section 29A	p 8–9
37(8)	Consultants	Section 37(8)	p 145 (refer Note 3(B)), pp 164–165 (refer Note (19))

Other legislation		
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act	Section 516A(1)	pp 27–28
Work, Health and Safety Act	Schedule 2, Part 4, 4 Annual reports	pp 122–123
Fol Act	Reporting requirements	p 8





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