



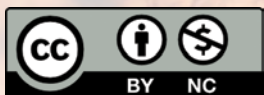
CENTRAL  
LAND  
COUNCIL

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023–24







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CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

23 September 2024

Senator the Hon. Malarndirri McCarthy  
Minister for Indigenous Australians  
PO Box 6100  
Senate  
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 2023–24 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,

Warren Williams  
CLC Chair

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# CHAIR'S REPORT

It was with high hopes that we chairs of the four Northern Territory land councils travelled to Parliament House in Canberra in mid 2023 to present the historical Barunga Declaration to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. Signed by more than 200 executive members and delegates from all our councils, it called on Australians to back us in the referendum for a Voice to Parliament.

The bitterly disappointing referendum result, three months later, showed that while the vast majority of our people voted 'yes', most other Australians rejected our request. Mr Albanese did the right thing by us by going through with the referendum. I thank him and wish him the courage to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full, as promised. This includes a Makarrata Commission to oversee a process of treaty-making and truth-telling, because until Australians know our shared colonial history we can't move forward together as a country.

On a happier note, our rangers keep making me proud. I attended my second ranger camp as chair in April. This year, our annual networking and training event for rangers from the southern half of the NT and beyond took place at Tilmouth Well, northwest of Alice Springs. I really enjoyed meeting the many new rangers and support staff and hearing what they are all up to.

After many years of planning, our Warlpiri Rangers and expert trackers celebrated the completion of Yitaki Maninjaku Ngurungka, bilingual multi-media resources to teach the next generation how to 'read the country' and track its animals. I hope many ranger groups across the desert adapt the resources for their own languages, cultures and teaching styles. It was also great to hear so many female rangers speak up at the camp. We launched a plan to fill half of all land management section jobs with women as soon as possible.

One of the best events I attended over the past year was the opening of our ranger hub in Tennant Creek in February. Muru-warinyi Ankkul Rangers, one of our first ranger groups, has gone from strength to strength and celebrated their twentieth anniversary with the launch of a modern new building. It has on-site accommodation and a large room for joint training and planning meetings with neighbouring ranger groups, as well as plenty of space for the heavy equipment they share.

I would like to congratulate the Amapete, Apwetyerlaneme, Atnweale and Warrtharre traditional owners of Huckitta Station, northeast of Alice Springs, whose exclusive possession of the nearly 1,700 square kilometres under the Native Title Act was recognised by the Federal Court in May. These groups now enjoy the strongest form of title possible under that law, including the right to commercially develop their land. The CLC has helped the traditional owners run a cattle business on the station since



2010. Justice John Halley delivered the native title consent determination in the dry Plenty River bed next to the Huckitta homestead. The ceremony was a moving and fitting end to one of the longest-running land claims in our region.

Further north, the native title holders of the land covered by the Singleton pastoral lease are fighting for the protection of their groundwater and water-dependent sacred sites. We have been helping the Mpwerempwer Aboriginal Corporation to challenge the NT Government's decision to grant the station a massive water licence in the Supreme Court. In February, after the court dismissed the corporation's challenge, we announced that the native title holders will appeal the decision. My fellow executive member Sandra Morrison said, 'We're not going to let it go,' and I wish her, and everyone affected, well for the appeal hearing in August 2024.

We are always talking about our water rights and water security during our meetings. Executive member Jackie Mahoney has spent more than a decade speaking up for the safe drinking water project in which his community of Alpururulam invested its community leasing income back in 2013. After all this time the community thought the funding of the project was finally secure, but then the NT's Power and Water Corporation changed the way it charges for water projects. We repeatedly wrote to the NT Government asking it to remove this latest barrier and allow residents to access better quality water from bores on the neighbouring station.

I am inspired by the persistence of my fellow delegates and look forward to the day when all Territorians can enjoy safe drinking water, no matter where they live.

**Matthew Palmer**  
Chair



TOP: CLC chair Matthew Palmer and CLC chief executive officer Les Turner at the October 2023 council meeting at the Yulara Pulka outstation near Uluru.



BOTTOM: Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was guest of honour when the CLC and traditional owners welcomed Pat Farmer at Uluru as he concluded his marathon run around Australia to raise awareness of the need for a Voice to Parliament in October 2023. Left to right from middle: CLC general manager professional services Dr Josie Douglas, CLC chair Matthew Palmer, local CLC delegate Sammy Wilson, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and CLC chief executive officer Les Turner.





# CEO'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that, over the past year, we have made steady progress on a wide range of important issues for Aboriginal people in Central Australia. I note, in particular, the professionalism of our CLC council and executive committee. All council and executive meetings held in 2023–24 were characterised by strong participation from the nine CLC regions, well-executed logistics, high-level presentations and discussions, strong advocacy and clear policy advice — all reflected in strong resolutions and work programs.

In addition to ongoing CLC business, council and executive engaged with some important social issues in the reporting period. The council heard presentations from Australian, Northern Territory and local government politicians and officials on issues including water, housing, employment, homelands, health, roads, transport, education, native title, treaty, sacred sites and election platforms.

The Voice to Parliament referendum was a clear focus for council and staff in 2023. The CLC established a small staff unit and committed resources to explain the Voice to our constituents. We conducted information sessions and consultations across the 780,000 square kilometres of the CLC region and used our social media platforms to provide information and videos in language. Notably, while Australia voted 'no', all regional and remote communities in Central Australia voted 'yes'.

Minister Linda Burney, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy, Member for Lingiari Marion Scrymgour, Senator Dorinda Cox and South Australian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Kyam Maher attended a joint meeting of the Northern Territory land councils at the Barunga community prior to the October 2023 Voice referendum. The CLC was also involved in a historic event at Uluru to greet Pat Farmer as he concluded his marathon run around Australia, raising awareness of the need for a Voice to Parliament. Traditional owners of Uluru welcomed Prime Minister Anthony Albanese as the guest of honour.

In May 2024, the council released a moving statement about the scourge of domestic violence, acknowledging the pain and hurt that families and communities experience from domestic and family violence right across Australia.

Some other notable achievements included one of the strongest determinations ever made under the Native Title Act, which was handed down by Justice John Halley on 22 May 2024. Justice Halley of the Federal Court delivered the decision in the Plenty riverbed next to the Huckitta homestead, roughly 270 kilometres northeast of Alice Springs, to hand over almost 1,700 square



Les Turner spoke to native title holders at the Huckitta native title determination, February 2024, watched on by Justice John Halley.

kilometres of land, known as Huckitta Station, to traditional owners. The determination allows the native title holders to hunt, gather, and conduct cultural activities and ceremonies in the area and use resources from the land for economic benefit.

In June 2024, the Australian and Northern Territory governments and the four land councils signed a historic new housing agreement at a ceremony held on Tiwi Island. The new agreement is for \$4 billion over 10 years.

In April 2024, more than 100 rangers met at Tilmouth Well for the CLC's annual ranger camp. A highlight was launching Yitaki Maninjaku Ngurungka, a bilingual animal-tracking training package that combines traditional and modern teaching techniques. It is good to see that all governments are recognising the importance of ranger programs and have committed to increasing the number of ranger groups and their level of financial investment across Australia.

The new organisational structure implemented in 2023 has proven to be highly effective. It has led to a more equitable workload distribution and has improved reporting and management processes. Under the leadership of the three general managers, there have been notable improvements in the CLC's ability to address a greater number and complexity of issues at the same time.

## 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) 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 Land Rights Act. It serves the southern region of the NT, an area of approximately 780,000 square kilometres. Its members belong to more than 15 different language groups.

Under the operation of the Land Rights Act in the CLC region, more than 417,000 square kilometres of land (54 per cent of the region) have been returned to traditional owners under Aboriginal freehold title. Under the Native Title Act, native title holders have received recognition of their rights over, and interests in, 162,735 square kilometres of the region (21 per cent).

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

The CLC invests considerable resources in programs to assist its constituents to benefit from, and manage, development on their land. This includes maximising constituents' opportunities for improving their quality of life, maintaining culture, and managing threats to the cultural and natural values of land.

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. An 11-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 335.7 full-time-equivalent staff. Forty-eight per cent of the CLC's total workforce is Aboriginal.

In 2023–24 Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) funding comprised \$47.2 million of the CLC's total revenue of \$80.1 million. Total operating expenses were \$66.8 million of which \$15.6 million was capital expenditure.

## CLC 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 opinions 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 or is the subject of a deed of grant made to a land trust under section 12 that the land council holds in escrow — on behalf of traditional owners (if any) of that land and of any other Aboriginals interested in the land
  - 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)
- 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
  - 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



Excited and hopeful CLC staff at the Yulara Pulka outstation in the lead up to the October 2023 Voice referendum.



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

Section 23(2) of the Land Rights Act permits the CLC to undertake functions under Northern Territory legislation with the approval of the Minister for Indigenous Affairs. The CLC currently performs functions under the following Northern Territory legislation:

- *Aboriginal Land Act 1978*
- *Burial and Cremation Act 2022*
- *Parks and Reserves (Framework for the Future) Act 2003* and Regulations 2005
- *Pastoral Land Act 1992*
- *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976*.

The CLC is also recognised as a native title representative body until June 2030 under the Native Title Act. The native title

program enables the CLC to fulfil native title representative body (NTRB) statutory functions, including 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
- subsequent to successful claims, establish native title holder corporations (prescribed bodies corporate) and assist them to manage and protect native title rights and interests.

CLC accountable authority

Central Land Council chair Matthew Palmer and chief executive officer Les Turner were the CLC’s accountable authority for the reporting period. The accountable authority met 12 times during the reporting period.

Table 1. Details of the accountable authority during the reporting period 2023–24

Name	Qualifications and experience	Position	Start date	End date	No. of meetings
Matthew Palmer	Mr Palmer, from Corkwood Bore outstation, speaks Central Arrernte, Alyawarr and English; he is a former court translator and co-founder and former chair of the Alice Springs native title representative body, There Artepe.	Chair (non-executive)	1 July 2023	30 June 2024	12
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 (executive)	1 July 2023	30 June 2024	12

Inaugural chairs of the CLC and NLC Wenten Rubuntja and Silas Roberts led a march calling for land rights on National Aborigines Day in Alice Springs, 1976. (Photo: Rod Hagen, CLC collection)

Traditional owners protested at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station throughout the 1980s to prevent a dam being built and destroying sacred sites on Lhere Mparntwe (Todd River). (Photo courtesy NPYWC and Ara Irititja archive, AI-230040)

## CLC history



### Beginnings

The CLC's roots reach deep into the Aboriginal struggle for justice and land rights in Central Australia. A key event in that struggle was the 1966 Gurindji strike at Wave Hill pastoral station, when more than 200 Aboriginal people walked off the station in protest against low wages and very poor working and living conditions. Their action triggered the land rights movement. In 1973, the Whitlam Labor government responded by establishing a royal commission into land rights in the NT. One of its recommendations was that central and northern land councils be established to present the views of the NT's Aboriginal people.

A 1975 meeting of representatives of Central Australian Aboriginal communities elected Charles Perkins and Wenten Rubuntja as chair and deputy chair, respectively, of the new Central Land Council.

The Whitlam government drew up an Aboriginal Land Rights Bill, but the government was dismissed before it could be passed. In June 1976 the new Liberal–Country Party federal government passed the bill and the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* came into operation on 26 January 1977. It gave Aboriginal people freehold title to most of the Aboriginal reserve lands in the NT and the opportunity to claim other land not already owned, leased or used.

### Early days

The CLC published the first edition of *Land Rights News*, now Australia's oldest Aboriginal-owned newspaper, in 1977. The following year, the CLC celebrated its first successful land claim. The Warlpiri and Kartangaruru–Gurindji land claim was won despite the bitter opposition of the NT's Liberal–Country Party government.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the CLC's constituents began establishing outstations on their country. Some returned to these homelands, but some were prevented by a lack of essential infrastructure.

In 1983, CLC members elected a new, regionally based executive. Patrick Dodson became manager of the new directorate and the regional services section, while two research officers started a land management section. In the same year, traditional owners camped near the Alice Springs Telegraph Station to protest against an NT government proposal for a recreation lake that would flood sacred sites at Junction Waterhole.

In 1984, traditional owners gave the Alice to Darwin railway the all-clear, though it was not completed until 2003.

### Native title and some wins

In 1985, the Governor-General handed back the title to the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park to the traditional owners, who leased it back to the Commonwealth under joint management. In the same year, the CLC opened its first regional office, in Tennant Creek, which was followed by seven more remote offices 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 Ntaria (Hermannsburg) become the first community to open a tourism business. Also in 1987, the Commonwealth added a June 1997 deadline, or 'sunset clause', to the Land Rights Act, which prevented lodgement of any new land claims after that date.

In 1988, the CLC and traditional owners signed an exploration agreement for an area around The Granites in the Tanami Desert — the first agreement negotiated from scratch under the Land Rights Act. On Australia Day in the same year, CLC's members marched in protest at Australia's celebrations of the bicentenary of European settlement in Sydney. At the 1988 Barunga Festival, 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 again proposed a dam for the Todd River, against the wishes of its traditional owners. After





In 2008 the CLC commemorated the 1928 Coniston massacre.



a long CLC campaign, in 1992 the Commonwealth declared the sites protected for 20 years under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*. The Barrow Creek Telegraph Station, the 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.

## Expansion

Central Australian women formed an independent women's council in 1995 with the support of the CLC.

In 1997, the sunset clause in the Land Rights Act came into effect. The CLC managed to lodge several claims before the deadline, mostly over parks and reserves. Land rights came under siege again in 1998 when the Howard government launched an unprecedented scare campaign. It ordered 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.

CLC's mining and employment unit commenced operations in 1999, proving very successful: 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 limited the right of Aboriginal people to be consulted or to object in negotiations.

The CLC's first ranger group was established 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 (ILUAs).

## Community development and the Intervention

Following requests by Aboriginal educators in the Tanami, the CLC established a community development program in 2005. Its first initiatives — the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) and the Uluru rent money project — invested royalty and rent income in community benefit projects overseen by Aboriginal committees.

The Land Rights Act was again amended in 2006, by the Federal Howard government. The changes allowed the Aboriginal affairs minister to delegate core land council functions to Aboriginal corporations that did not have to be wholly made up of traditional owners and/or which could lack the capacity to carry out land council functions.

The Northern Tanami Indigenous Protected Area, the first IPA in the CLC region, was declared in 2007. That same year, prime minister John Howard declared the NT Emergency Response — the so-called Northern Territory Intervention — which proved to be a low point for Aboriginal affairs in the NT.

In 2008 the CLC commemorated the 1928 Coniston massacre. In the same year, its community development unit started the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) project. The unit assists the corporation to invest compensation income in community benefit projects across the Tanami.

In 2009, then minister for Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin opened the CLC's new Alice Springs headquarters, the first time all staff were under one roof since 1986. Minister Macklin also handed back seven national parks at this time.

In 2010, Tennant Creek's Gina Smith was elected as the first female CLC deputy chair. That same year the CLC's delegates 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, CLC delegates voted unanimously to spend the majority of the compensation received for compulsory community leases imposed during the NT Intervention on community benefit projects to be supported by the CLC's community development program.

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

## Anniversaries and the Uluru Statement

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 launch of its oral history collection *Every Hill Got a Story* and opened a new operational and training centre in Alice Springs for its 11 ranger groups.

The community development program celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2016. It has supported Aboriginal groups in 31 communities drive their own development by investing \$58

A square mile of Crown land surrounded by the Mt Denison pastoral lease was handed back to traditional owners in 2014 after a 22-year struggle. Yurrkuru (Brooks Soak), the site of a killing which triggered the Coniston Massacre, is located on the block.



million of royalty, rent and compensation income in hundreds of beneficial projects.

In May 2017, assisted by the CLC, the First Nations National Constitutional Convention was held near Uluru. The convention issued the now-famous Uluru Statement from the Heart. Its call for 'Voice, Treaty and Truth' was endorsed by the CLC at an August 2017 meeting.

Thirty years after 1988's Barunga Statement — which had not led to its promised national treaty — the chairs of the four NT land councils and then chief minister Michael Gunner signed the Barunga Agreement. The memorandum of understanding sets out a process for consultations on a treaty between Aboriginal Territorians and the NT government. In June 2022 the Northern Territory Treaty Commission delivered its report, which outlines its proposed pathway to a treaty.

## Invited to the table

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. In the same month, the Australian and 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 to review existing housing model and leasing arrangements, and to share in policy and strategy decisions.

In 2019, Anangu celebrated the closure of the climbing path on Uluru. After years of accidents and deaths, and fewer climbers, the board of management of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park decided to end this disrespectful practice and to right a historic wrong.

Long-time former CLC director David Ross received an Order of Australia award in January 2020 for more than 40 years' work devoted to the CLC and the people of Central Australia. In the early 2020s, the CLC faced the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. It diverted staff and resources to control the spread of the virus, while continuing its work to represent the interests and wellbeing of the traditional landowners of Central Australia.

Lillian Inkamala, Desmarie Dobbs, Sabrina Kelly and Janine Clyne on their way to vote in the October 2023 Voice referendum at Yulara. The CLC region overwhelmingly voted 'yes'.

In 2021, after decades of lobbying by the four NT land councils, an amendment to the Land Rights Act handed substantial decision-making regarding strategic investment and allocation of ABA funds from the ABA to the new NT Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC). The NTAIC commenced operations in November 2022 and its board has a majority of Aboriginal people, including representatives of the four land councils.

## The Voice and beyond

In 2017, the Uluru Statement from the Heart called for constitutional recognition of Australia's First Nations people, and in 2023 the Commonwealth Parliament passed historic legislation to hold a referendum on this question. 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 to Parliament, echoing the 1988 Barunga Statement calling for a treaty. The declaration was presented to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in June 2023.

Leading up to the Voice referendum on 14 October 2023, the CLC vigorously campaigned across its region and nationally. Despite a majority national 'no' vote, the CLC region registered a 73 per cent 'yes' vote.

In April 2021, the NT government granted a 30-year water licence to Fortune Agribusiness's planned horticulture project on Singleton Station for the biggest water allocation ever granted in the NT. On behalf of alarmed native title holders, the CLC challenged the licence in the NT Supreme Court. In January 2024, the judge upheld the licence, but native title holders have vowed to fight on, and will appeal the decision, supported by the CLC.





CLC regional delegates gathered in Tennant Creek for a council meeting from 30 April to 2 May 2024. Resolutions passed included supporting a second Barunga agreement to underpin the next stage of the NT's Treaty process and calling for the NT Government to provide energy security and affordability in remote communities.



## 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 Land Rights Act. The CLC also performs 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 2023–2027*, p 7).

### Enabling legislation

The Central Land Council's enabling legislation is the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) (the Land Rights Act).

### Responsible minister

The responsible minister during the reporting period was the Hon Linda Burney, Minister for Indigenous Australians, the minister responsible for the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA). The NIAA leads and co-ordinates 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 2023–24

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 membership

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.



TOP: CLC executive member Barb Shaw (left) shared a lighthearted moment with proxy delegate Desley Rogers at the October 2023 council meeting at the Yulara Pulka outstation.



BOTTOM: Alvin Brisco and Ross Purvis attended the October 2023 council meeting at the Yulara Pulka outstation.





## Council elections

The process for choosing council members is determined by the council and is subject to approval by the minister. The procedure (referred to as method of choice under the Land Rights Act) lists the 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 by the council to nominate representatives at a properly convened meeting.

## Council governance processes

The CLC fully informs council members about their roles, rights and obligations. The CLC's strategy and performance manager is responsible for planning and implementing governance training and support to the council.

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

## Role of the council chair

The chair is elected by the council of the CLC for the council's three-year term. The chair is also a member of the accountable authority, in accordance with the PGPA Act.

Mr Matthew Palmer was elected chair at a special council meeting held at Tennant Creek in February 2023 after the sudden passing of the previous chair Mr Hoosan in November 2022. Mr Warren Williams was elected deputy chair in April 2022. Their terms will conclude in April 2025.

## CLC executive committee

The executive committee comprises 11 members, representing the CLC's nine administrative regions, plus the chair and deputy chair. It is a committee of the council, as permitted by section 29A of the Land Rights Act. The committee held nine meetings during the reporting period.

Pursuant to section 28 of the Land Rights Act, the council has delegated all powers capable of delegation to the executive committee (except for those powers 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 committee, leaving the council to make decisions on public policy positions.

## Council and executive committee meetings

Table 2. Council meetings 2023–24

Meeting dates	Location	Resolutions passed
3–5 October 2023	Yulara Pulka	8
30 April – 2 May 2024	Tennant Creek	7

Table 3. Executive committee meetings 2023–24

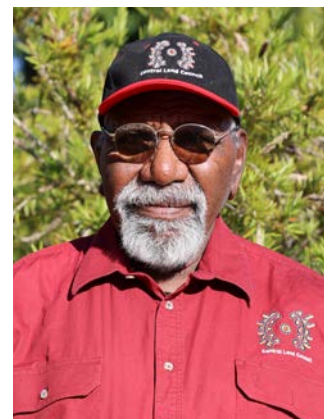
Meeting dates	Resolutions passed
25–26 July 2023	41
19–20 September 2023	42
31 October – 1 November 2023	35
5–7 December 2023	47
15 December 2023	1
20–21 February 2024	58
26–27 March 2024	24
14–15 May 2024	27
18–19 June 2024	45

## CLC executive committee and council members at 30 June 2024

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

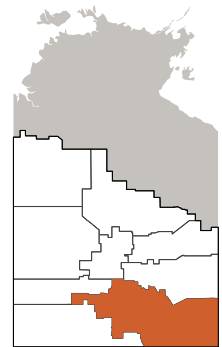
## CLC executive committee and CLC delegates by region

### 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
Urunga	David Silverton
Yatemans Bore outstations	Patrick Oliver
Alice Springs town camps	Barbara Shaw
Alice Springs native title holders (2)	Francis Hayes, Ingrid Williams
Alice Springs outstations	Matthew Palmer
Iwupataka	Glen Sharpe
Ntaria (Hermannsburg)	Conrad Ratara
Ntaria outstations (3)	Byron (Troy) Ratara, Christian Malbunka, Mildred Inkamala

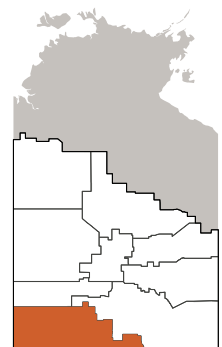


### REGION 2 — SOUTHWEST

Executive member: vacant at 30 June 2024 (alternate: Sammy Wilson, pictured)



Imanpa (Mount Ebenezer) (2)	Lillian Inkamala, vacant
Utju (Areyonga)	Jacob Carrol
Aputula (Finke)	David Doolan
Kaltukatjara (Docker River)	Marlene Abbott
Kaltukatjara outstations	Thardius Mitchell
Mutitjulu (2)	Sammy Wilson, Rene Kulitja
Watarrka (Kings Canyon) outstations	Janine Clyne
Ukaka (Tempe Downs)	Jennifer Breden

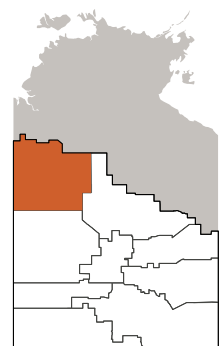


### REGION 3 — NORTHWEST

Executive member: Geoffrey Matthews (alternate: Sharon Anderson)



Bamboo Springs	Juanita Rogers
Mistake Creek	Jessie Cook
Daguragu	Dianne King
Daguragu outstations (2)	Leah Leaman, Daniel Algy
Lajamanu (2)	Geoffrey Matthews, Sharon Anderson
Lajamanu outstations	Peter Patterson



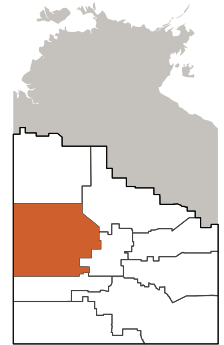


## REGION 4 — TANAMI

Executive member: Valerie Martin (alternate: vacant at 30 June 2024)



Nyirripi	vacant
Yuendumu (2)	Valerie Martin, Ned Hargraves
Yuendumu outstations (2)	Warren Williams, vacant
Tanami Downs	Ross Rockman
Willowra (2)	vacant, Terence Payton
Mount Barkly	Newton Long
Mount Denison	Gibson Long

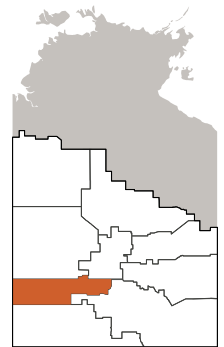


## REGION 5 — WESTERN

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)	Peter Turner
Amundurrngu outstations	Patrick Collins
Walungurru (Kintore)	vacant
Walungurru (Kintore) outstations	Joseph Zimran
Mbungghara	Terry Morris

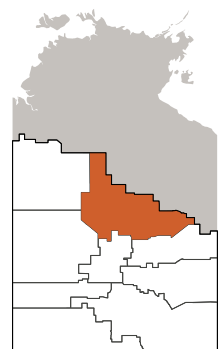


## REGION 6 — TENNANT CREEK

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 (2)	Michael Jones, Annie Morrison
Owairtilla (Canteen Creek)	Basil Mick
Purrukuwarra	vacant
Alekarenge (2)	Graham Beasley, Hamish Robertson
Imangara (Murray Downs)	Elizabeth Dobbs

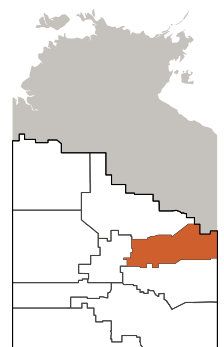


## REGION 7 — EASTERN SANDOVER

Executive member: Jackie Mahoney (alternate: Esau Nelson)



Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash) (2)	Pamela (Pam) Corbett, John (Jackie) Mahoney
Ampilatwatja	Roger Morton
Utopia homelands (2)	Graham Long, Joyce Jones
Alparra (2)	Esau Nelson, Malcolm Club
Irrultja	Eldon Ross
Atnwengerrpe	John Lewis

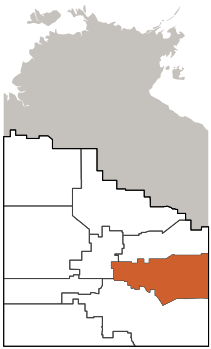


REGION 8 — EASTERN PLENTY

Executive member: Neville Petrick (alternate: Peppi Drover)



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

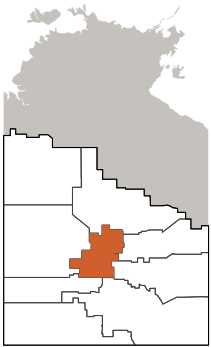


REGION 9 — CENTRAL

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)	Serena Presley
Wilora (Stirling)	Gerry Price
Tara (Neutral Junction) outstations	Timothy Price
Laramba (Napperby)	Peter Stafford
Thangenarenghe (Barrow Creek outstations)	Kim Brown





## CLC representation on external committees and boards

The CLC is represented on the Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation Board (two members) and the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (four members). The council must nominate council members to each of these organisations.

### NORTHERN TERRITORY ABORIGINAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION BOARD



Barbara Shaw (chair)



Derek Walker (until 9 September 2023)



Martin Jugadai (3 October 2023 to 30 April 2024)



Jimmy Frank Junior (commenced 1 May 2024)

### ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY



Valerie Martin



Barbara Shaw



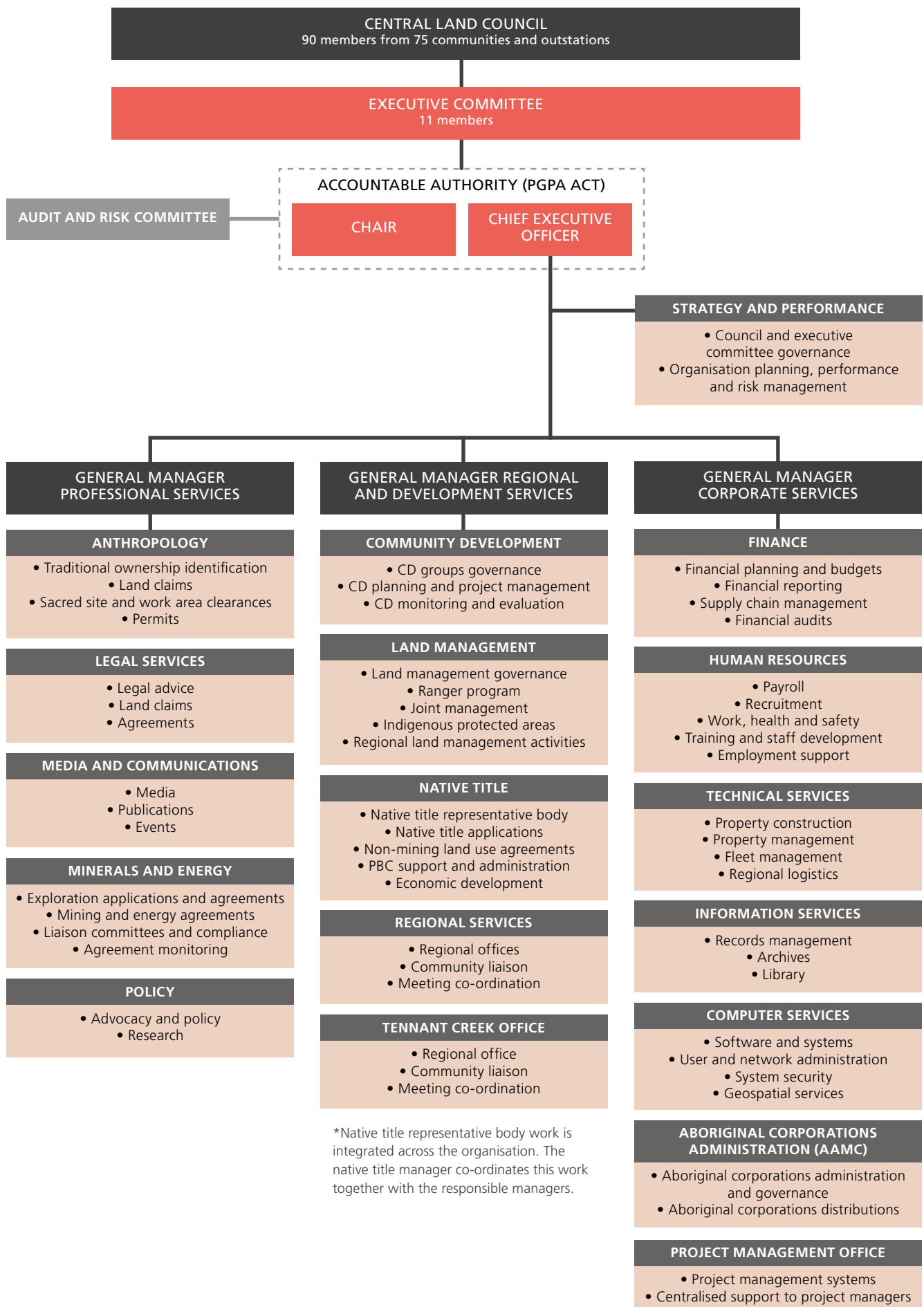
Neville Petrick



Geoffrey Matthews (deputy chair)

OPPOSITE: Former executive committee member Teddy Long (left) and elected member Ronald Brown (right) with CLC chair Matthew Palmer (centre) at a council meeting in Tennant Creek.

## CLC organisational structure





# PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023–24

## CLC purpose

The CLC's purpose is defined by the powers and functions legislated in the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) 1976* (the Land Rights Act) and its responsibilities as a native title representative body under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

## CLC goals

The CLC's powers and functions are embodied in its seven goals as outlined in the *Central Land Council Corporate Plan 2023–2027*. This year's work towards these goals is described in the output group sections of this report, 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

The PGPA Act requires the CLC, as a Commonwealth corporate entity, to update its corporate plan annually. The *Central Land Council Corporate Plan 2023–2027* guides activities and priorities for the next four years. It was published on the CLC website and presented to the Minister for Indigenous Australians in 2023–24. The corporate plan maps the CLC's purposes, goals and key activities.

The CLC also maintains qualitative case studies in addition to performance measurements. 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/>.

The CLC's outcomes and achievements are described in the respective output sections 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 (outputs 1.2 and 3.2)
- maintaining robust organisational governance, which is specifically reported under 'CLC governance' and 'Corporate management' and demonstrated throughout the report.

The CLC's performance framework ensures that properly maintained records are the basis of its reported performance. The framework incorporates dashboards which capture metric performance data organised by the CLC's seven goals set out in the *Central Land Council Corporate Plan 2023–2027*. The dashboards record historic actual performance, the target shown in the corporate plan and forecasts, where relevant. Non-metric performance is measured by action planning and qualitative analysis.

## Performance statement 2023–24

The accountable authority hereby presents the CLC's 2023–24 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 CLC has established 19 performance measures that demonstrate its performance across the breadth of its purposes. These are grouped by goal and cross-referenced to the relevant key activity number in the *Central Land Council Corporate Plan 2023–2027*. Table 4 lists metric performance, and Table 5 lists non-metric performance.

Analysis of the CLC's performance against its purposes is embedded within the tables. As an overall comment, staff vacancies affected some CLC activities in the reporting period; in particular, staff vacancies in the anthropology and land management sections reduced activity related to researching and issuing anthropological advice — which, in turn, affected other CLC functions and reduced the number of land management and cultural knowledge transfer activities usually held across a year. Staff vacancies and recruitment difficulties are a challenge for many other organisations across Alice Springs. To address this, the CLC embarked on a targeted recruitment campaign, and in 2024 staff vacancies have decreased. Recruitment and staff retention remain a focus for the organisation to ensure it can continue to effectively fulfil its functions.

**Table 4. Annual performance statement (metric)**

Goal	Performance criteria	KPI #	Key activity <sup>1</sup>	Measure	2022–23
					Actual
1. Aboriginal peoples' rights and interests are protected and represented	Successful communication of the CLC's 'Rights and interests' advocacy activities to Aboriginal constituents and key stakeholders	1	1	Publications produced for key stakeholders regarding Aboriginal rights and interests, and the CLC's work	87
2. Aboriginal land ownership and interests are protected and enhanced	Land Rights Act 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 Land Rights Act and the Native Title Act	2	2	Traditional owner ownership (square kilometre) administered with rights and interests protected and represented under the Land Rights Act <sup>2</sup>	418,548
		3	2.4	Native title claims for which consent determination has been handed down	34
	Determine traditional owners for all claims and interests (e.g. land claims, land use and development, land management, caring for country, land use income)	4	2.2	Anthropological advice issued to determine relevant traditional owners (claims and interests)	257
	Post land and native title claim administration: Land Rights Act access permits; negotiate, consult and manage land use and access outcomes (leasing, exploration and mining, grazing, other applications and future acts)	5	2.7–2.11	Current leases and licences entered into and managed	2,997
		6	2.5–2.6	Native title non-mining Indigenous land use agreement entered into and managed	70
		7	2.7–2.11	Exploration agreements (licences and permits) entered into and managed on land subject to the Land Rights Act or native title	67 <sup>3</sup>
		8	2.7–2.11	Minerals and energy production agreements entered into and managed on land subject to the Land Rights Act or native title	22 <sup>3</sup>
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 and other advice issued	184
		10	3.5	Cultural heritage management and intergenerational Indigenous ecological knowledge transfer projects supported	56
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 traditional owner representation	161
	Effective Aboriginal employment and training in land management through the traditional owner-directed ranger program	12	4.2	Rangers employed in the ranger program – fulltime equivalent	49
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	140
	Effective and compliant administration of Aboriginal corporations in accordance with CATSI Act (CLC engaged under the Land Rights Act and through service agreements)	14	5.2	Annual general meetings and special general meetings facilitated for Aboriginal corporations with land-holding or land-use income, under service agreements — by AAMC and PBC teams	78
6. Aboriginal people control their communities and outstations	Actions to support Aboriginal people in their development of strong communities and outstations	15	6	Community-funded community benefit initiatives	240
		16	6.2	Community development project expenditure across the CLC region — excluding GST (\$000)	14,555
7. Governance and management meet constituent and legal requirements	Governance meetings held to administer the Land Rights Act and Native Title Act requirements, and to provide council members with regular cultural engagement opportunities	17	7.1	Council meetings held (90 elected delegates from across the CLC region convene for several days)	5
		18	7.1	Executive committee meetings held	8
	Human resources planning and capability	19	7.3	Aboriginal staff as a percentage of workforce — fulltime equivalent	47.3%

1. Key activity reference: refer to the key activities contributing to the goals section of *Central Land Council Corporate Plan 2023–2027*, pp. 9–11.

2. No new Land Rights Act land claims permitted under the legislation — only two claims remain in the CLC region.

3. Correction made to 2022–23 'actual' figure.



2023–24			Analysis
Actual	Target	Variance	
153	90	63	A higher than anticipated number of publications were produced during the period.
418,548	423,386	–4,838	Two land claims remain to be finalised in the CLC's region: Wakaya Alyawarra and Frances Well. Progress was made during the period. Refer to Output 2.1 (page 35) for further details.
35	36	–1	Each native title determination follows a unique process and its timing is outside of the CLC's control. The Federal Court handed down the Huckitta consent determination during the period. The 'Ambalindum/The Garden' consent determination was expected during the period; however, negotiations between the NT Government and the CLC regarding native title interests over a stock route continue. The CLC has taken every opportunity to move negotiations forward as quickly as possible. The consent determination is not expected before 2025. See Output 6 (page 92) for further details.
256	310	–54	Anthropology staffing capacity was insufficient to meet demand, affected by an approximate 30 per cent vacancy rate and the induction period required for new anthropologists. The methodology for this KPI includes anthropological advice issued, excluding sacred site clearance certificates, which are captured at KPI 9.
2,779	2,600	179	Demand for leases and licences remained high and a large number of CLC meetings were undertaken to obtain instructions.
73	72	1	Three new Indigenous land use agreements were registered in the period. One of these was finalised and registered sooner than anticipated.
67	70	–3	The CLC undertook significant work during the period: it facilitated seven section 42 Land Rights Act first and further meetings where traditional owners considered whether to consent to the grant of exploration licences, and 17 meetings with native title holders regarding negotiation of exploration agreements. One new exploration agreement was entered into during the period, with the company ceasing the agreement within the same period.  Note: The 2022–23 actual has been corrected from 69 to 67. As part of the CLC's development of a new agreements system, and to strengthen record keeping, the CLC has developed a centralised system for tracking exploration and production agreements that integrates agreements across different types of land tenure.
23	20	4	One new production agreement was executed during the period. Another production agreement has been authorised by native title holders, but not yet executed. The CLC also facilitated four section 46 Land Rights Act first and further meetings to consider proposed production terms and conditions.  Note: The 2022–23 actual has been corrected from 17 to 22, note explanation at KPI 7 above.
172	190	–18	Sacred site clearance certificates are demand driven by third party applications. While demand for clearance certificates remained steady, understaffing in the anthropology section impacted the number of certificates issued in the period.
37	55	–18	High staff turnover in the land management section during the period affected the ability to facilitate trips and complete projects. Improvement of this KPI is expected in 2024–25, with 80 per cent of roles now filled, and recruitment for remaining positions progressing.
75	100	–25	Sorry business affected several meetings that are now rescheduled for 2024–25. Staffing constraints outlined in KPI 10 also reduced the number of meetings that could be held during the period.
64	82	–18	High staff turnover of co-ordinators during the period affected levels of engagement with ranger groups and ability to undertake recruitment. While the CLC did not achieve its target, it significantly increased the number of rangers employed compared to the previous year. Further improvement is expected in 2024–25, with the majority of co-ordinator-level roles now filled, which will enable more engagement with rangers and recruitment.
147	120	27	Despite significant periods of wet weather and road closures, services were delivered by increased staff numbers and flexibility to reschedule meetings at short notice.
82	84	–2	The CLC facilitated 82 of 84 planned meetings, with two annual general meetings postponed due to those corporations' specific circumstances.
226	265	–39	The number of community benefit initiatives funded is dependent on the priorities and decision making of the Aboriginal governance groups that the CLC supports. Aboriginal governance groups continue to undertake comprehensive project planning to deliver long lasting community benefit.
15,798	16,010	–212	Expenditure reached 98.7 per cent of the target and was 8.5 per cent higher than the previous year. Expenditure included funding for several infrastructure projects and large community programs (such as operating water parks, pools and learning centres) that progressed substantially during the period.
2	3	–1	Only two council meetings were needed in the financial year due to the meetings' timing (the 2023 mid-year meeting was held in June and the 2024 mid-year meeting will be held in July 2024). The minimum of three meetings in the calendar year is on track.
9	8	1	An additional meeting of the executive committee was held in order to administer all business and consider necessary resolutions.
48.2%	50.5%	–2.3%	The CLC continues its efforts to increase recruitment of Aboriginal staff, including through the use of identified roles and preferencing qualified Aboriginal candidates. The CLC remains dedicated to increasing Aboriginal employment, including additional efforts such as partnering with Aboriginal employment agencies, capacity building, succession planning, and a new social media recruitment campaign aimed at local communities.

Table 5. Annual performance statement (non-metric)

Goal/ Activity	Non-metric performance measure	2022– 23 Actual	2023–24		
			Actual	Target	Analysis
1. Aboriginal peoples’ rights and interests are protected and represented					
1.2	Policy priority review	✓	–	–	Not due until 2025.
1.4, 7.1	Council member survey	N/A	–	–	Not due until 2024–25.
2. Aboriginal land ownership and interests are protected and enhanced					
2.3	Review management and monitoring of disputes under Land Rights Act and Native Title Act functions	✓	✓	✓	Review conducted and new framework to be finalised in 2024–25.
2.3	Dispute management and facilitation training	✓	✓	✓	
	Apply for native title representative body recognition	–	✓	✓	The CLC’s status as an native title representative body has been renewed until 2030.
3. Aboriginal people protect and maintain their sacred sites, land, cultures, languages and cultural heritage					
3.2	Develop CLC policy and procedure for repatriation of objects	✓	✓	✓	
3.4	Update CLC policy and procedure for cultural information management	✓	–	✓	Commenced work on some issues, including copyright and privacy. Work will continue in 2025.
	Engage with an Aboriginal subcommittee on cultural guidance regarding 3.2 and 3.4	✓	✓	✓	Subcommittee met seven times to provide guidance on repatriation policy and procedure.
5. Generations of Aboriginal people are successful in training, jobs and businesses					
5.3	Update operating model for the CLC’s development support services for prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs) and land use agreements	N/A	✓	✓	During the period, the CLC’s PBC enterprise support unit identified the PBCs and other entities it would work with to provide business development support and developed the type of support to be provided. Refinement to the operating model to best meet the needs of the PBCs and identified entities will continue in 2024–25.
5.7	Monitoring, and review of, the ABA economic stimulus package	✓	✓	✓	Qualitative evaluation completed. Monitoring of project contracts continues.
6. Aboriginal people control their communities and outstations					
6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4	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)	–	–	Not required until 2024–25.
	Performance reporting to minister — annual and half-yearly	✓	✓	✓	
	Legislative compliance framework — non-compliance reporting if applicable (audit committee oversights)	✓	✓	✓	
	Ongoing unmodified CLC audited financial statements (annual)	✓	✓	✓	
	Medium-term financial framework/annual budget update	✓	✓	✓	
	Organisational structure review and implementation	✓	✓	✓	
7.3	Aboriginal staff development strategy implementation	✓	✓	✓	Aboriginal Leadership Program framework developed and pilot in progress.
	Enterprise agreement / Salary determination	✓	–	✓	Australian Public Service Commission liaison commenced regarding enterprise agreement.
	Professional development curriculum established and implemented	✓	–	✓	Variety of internal training delivered. Continuous improvement of professional development will occur in 2024–25.
	Staff satisfaction survey / Index	–	–	✓	Staff wellbeing survey undertaken.
	Facilities development plan and periodic review	✓	✓	✓	
7.4	Cloud-based solutions and data strategy	✓	✓	✓	Implementation ongoing.
7.2, 7.6	Climate change operating strategy	–	–	✓	Insufficient capacity to complete given property maintenance demands. Budget requested for 2024–25.



## Financial performance

The surplus for 2023–24 was \$8.1 million compared to a deficit of \$5.2 million in the previous year. The surplus relates to increased funding in both core ABA and externally funded grants, and interest received was \$800,000 greater than in 2022–23. Some continuing projects with schedules that span multiple years will have their funding carried over into 2024–25. Figure 1 shows the operational sources of revenue.

As at the end of 2022–23, all stimulus projects had been committed, but most capital projects were incomplete. Major delays were in part due to COVID-19 restrictions, which prevented work in remote communities and gaining 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. Work is now progressing as the effects of COVID-19 disappear; however, unfinished building projects will proceed in financial years 2024–25 and 2025–26. Procurement of motor vehicles was a significant issue, with delays of up to 12 months for the supply of four-wheel-drive vehicles. Delivery times have now reduced significantly, with most now delayed by around three to six months depending on vehicle type.

The expenditure for the land and natural resource management output group was \$13.1 million, or 15 per cent of total expenditure.

The expenditure for the economic development and commercial services output group was \$16 million, or 19 per cent of total

expenditure, a reduction of \$2.7 million on the previous year. 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 for minerals on Aboriginal land, employment unit costs, tourism development and pastoral development projects.

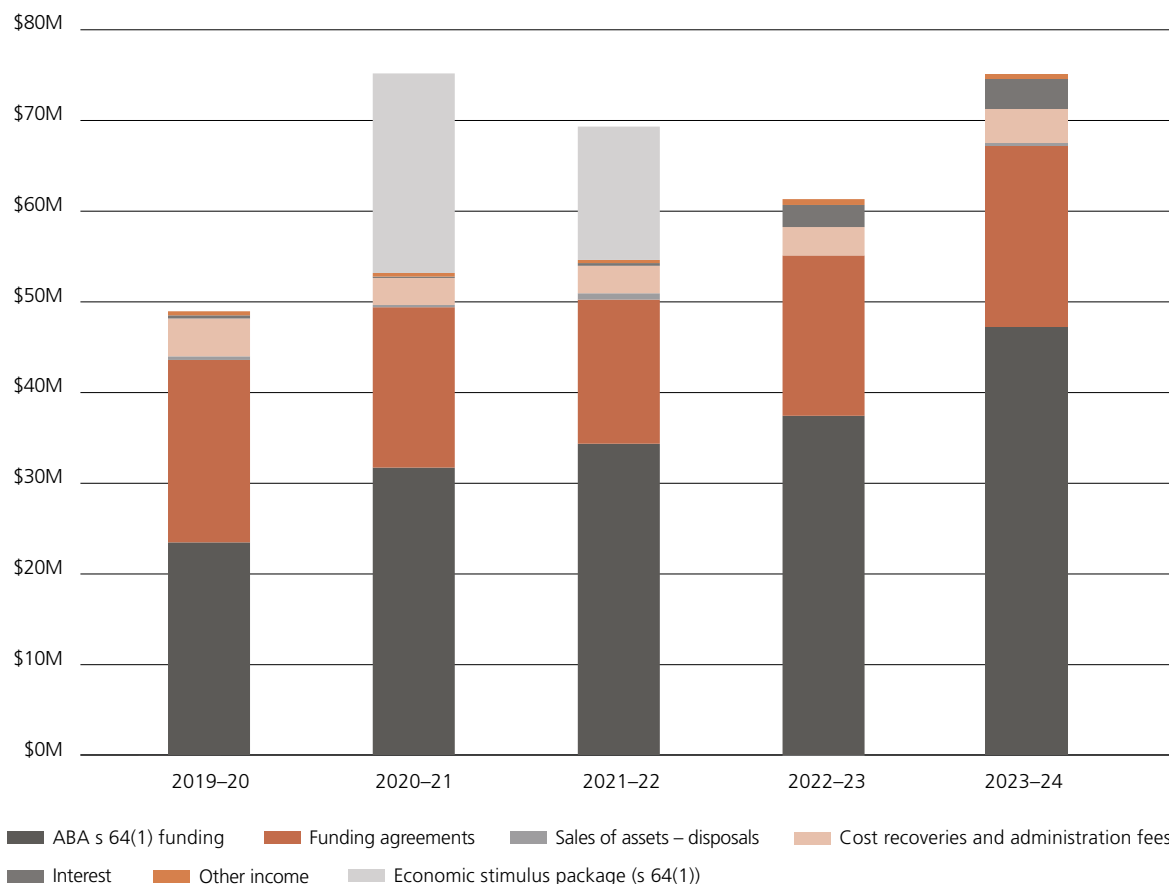
The expenditure for the advocacy output group was \$14.6 million, or 17 per cent of total expenditure, a reduction of \$3.5 million on the previous year.

The demand for community development resources continued to rise and remained unmet. Further detail of work performed is provided in the output group reports.

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

The financial statements in this report 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.

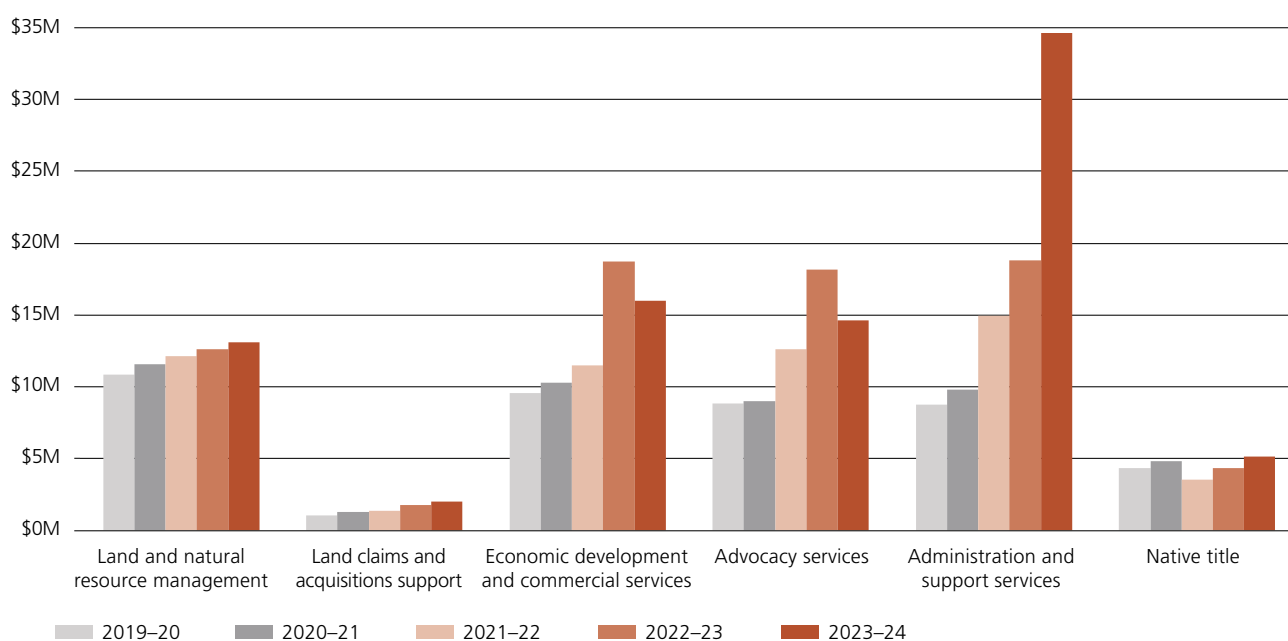
Figure 1. Sources of revenue 2019–24



Ron Hagan at the council meeting at Yulara Pulka in October 2023.



Figure 2. Expenditure classified by CLC output groups 2019–24





# 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 NT 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 to the Land Rights Act allow access to public areas of remote communities without a permit, but permits are still required outside public 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 2023–24 the CLC processed 6,521 permit applications covering at least 12,868 individuals.

Permits to visit the Simpson Desert tracks (the Madigan Line and the Hay River Track) on the Atnetye Aboriginal Land Trust (ALT)

are included in the above figures. The land trust's traditional owners monitor the number of permits issued to inform the management of these popular tracks. A fee for Madigan Line permits issued to group tourism operators was introduced in 2023. The CLC intends to extend this fee to the general public, subject to the introduction of an online payment portal, which will be part of a new permit-processing system.

As in recent years, heavy rains and flooding in some parts of the region led to numerous requests to amend issued permits or to delay the issue of permits until floodwaters receded.

The post-pandemic period continues to see an increase in telephone and email enquiries from the tourists and workers regarding which areas require permits and what conditions need to be met. To meet this increased workload, a casual worker was employed in the winter seasons of both 2023 and 2024 to assist the permit officer respond to enquiries and process permit applications.

Table 6. Number of permits issued 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024

Permit type	Number of permits		Number of people	
	2022–23	2023–24	2022–23	2023–24
Entry	1,926	1,811	5,664	6,521
Special purpose (research)	13	26	71	459
Mining	108	73	993	1,605
Transit	4,328	4,267	Number unavailable (at least 4,328)	Number unavailable (at least) 4,267
Media	5	8	11	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,380</b>	<b>6,185</b>	<b>At least 11,067</b>	<b>At least 12,868</b>

Tjakura rangers Glen Woods, Joyce Tjalyiri and Peter Norman remove buffel grass from the Kaṭiṭi-Petermann Indigenous Protected Area. Anangu in the area have dubbed the grass tjanpi kura (bad grass).



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

The CLC region features landscapes of national and international significance: habitats of high conservation value are home to threatened species. Threats to the natural and cultural integrity of these landscapes include: unsustainable groundwater extraction, loss of language, feral animals, inappropriate fire regimes, poor access to country and invasive plant species.

Traditional owners strive to manage their land sustainably and to generate livelihoods from it. The CLC builds the capacity of traditional owners to manage and protect the environmental and cultural values of their country. It advises and assists with land use and management planning, fire management, cultural heritage,

feral animal and weed management and helps traditional owners manage protected areas.

Aboriginal rangers are the eyes and ears of the bush; they report back to their elders on the state of their country and help look after it in the right way. The CLC ranger program exemplifies the impact of a program that is driven by community and controlled by traditional owners (see the *CLC ranger report 2023–24* for more details).

Anthropological advice ensures that the traditional owners of country are correctly identified. CLC anthropologists prepared 10 traditional owner identifications for a variety of land management activities during 2023–24, including:

- burning on the Northern Tanami IPA
- one feral horse cull in the Mereenie region
- one cultural maintenance visit to the Mount Wedge ALT.

Anthropologists also completed traditional owner identifications for seven pastoral inspections and grazing licence consultations:



- Aluralkwa community living area (Brian Young application)
- Warumungu/Mungkarta (Mungkarta East grazing licence)
- Haasts Bluff (Hubert Pareroutja licence proposal)
- Haasts Bluff (Haasts Bluff grazing licence)
- Karlantijpa North (Middle Bore grazing licence)
- Atnetye ALT (Hale and Plenty grazing licence)
- Anurette ALT (Philomac grazing licence).

CLC anthropologists also assisted traditional owners on site visits within the Southern Tanami IPA and to attend planning meetings for the Tyentye Apurte Rangers.

## Regional land management

### LAND RESOURCE INFORMATION AND PLANNING

The Tyentye Apurte ranger group's healthy country plan was finalised and distributed to traditional owners this year. The group is proud of its plan and the large workshops and country visits involved in writing it. The plan will guide ranger work and traditional owner engagement into the future. A project officer worked with the ranger group and the traditional owner advisory committee to embed the plan into the rangers' work. The Tjuwanpa Rangers' healthy country plan is still under consultation.

Land management staff provided information and planning support to constituents as required, including land-condition analyses for five leases where constituents are planning a pastoral enterprise, setting stocking rates and assessing grazing impacts.

They also supported traditional owners to assess four grazing licence applications. They met many times with Aboriginal corporations to negotiate lease conditions, and to oversee and investigate cattle removal and build cattle-carrying capacity.

The CLC continued its efforts to reboot a regional biodiversity monitoring project that was first created in partnership with Newmont Corporation and which ran from 2005 to 2012. The project recorded a wealth of data on changes to biodiversity following mining and mineral exploration across parts of the Tanami IPAs. Since then, the CLC has been part of an interim steering group and core partner group. The monitoring project recommenced in September 2023 for a three-week survey. Traditional owners met with the steering committee to ensure the project incorporates cultural knowledge and meets the needs of Warlpiri people. A key grant application with the Australian Research Council was unsuccessful and the future of the survey is now under review.

### FIRE MANAGEMENT

The CLC's Tennant Creek staff helped to manage the Barkly region's November 2023 bushfires. They contributed to the local incident management team by providing advice to firefighting operations. The CLC also funded the grading of the Tennant

Creek town firebreaks in preparation for the coming bushfire season. In preparation for future natural disasters, the land management section has prepared an emergency response plan.

The CLC facilitated the annual warlu committee meeting in Kalkaringi in November 2023. At the meeting, traditional owners and rangers from the Tanami region worked with Bushfires NT, Indigenous Desert Alliance and Territory Natural Resource Management to plan fire management actions in the Tanami region for 2024. The tri-state waru committee (of the CLC's southwest region) is under review owing to the logistical challenges of co-ordinating meetings from groups across their large geographical area. The review is being conducted by a consultant anthropologist and will be completed during 2024–25.

The CLC advocates for Aboriginal fire management through its representation on both the NT Bushfires Council and the Alice Springs Regional Bushfires Committee. These committees have representation from land management organisations across the NT and guide Bushfires NT priorities. CLC staff attended one NT Bushfires Council meeting and one Alice Springs Regional Bushfire Committee meeting during the reporting period. A staff member has also been nominated for the Barkly Regional Bushfires Committee.

The CLC continues to address high fire risk in the Tennant Creek region at joint stakeholder fire meetings with Bushfires NT, the NT Fire and Rescue Service and the NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics. During the year, priorities for risk and mitigation strategies for the Aboriginal land trusts surrounding Tennant Creek were set and the CLC developed a bushfires mitigation plan for the area which is being implemented.

The Indigenous Carbon Industry Network is an advocacy body for carbon abatement projects. The CLC continued its membership and attended the North Australian Savanna Fire Forum in Darwin in February 2024 to share knowledge and present on CLC operations.

During 2024, the CLC worked with the Karlantijpa North savanna burning project on its governance and operations. This included site visits, capacity building and, with the CLC's community development program, planned a camp site to be used as a base for on-ground works.

## Invasive species management

### FERAL ANIMALS

The CLC helps traditional owners to manage feral animals by planning, consulting and building partnerships.

As in recent years, comparatively mild and wet weather limited feral animal removal work by CLC rangers in this reporting period, even though rangers and traditional owners increasingly witness or hear reports of growing feral animal numbers across Central Australia.

Feral horses are an ongoing issue in the MacDonnell Ranges and other parts of the CLC region. In July 2023, the CLC's land management staff outlined activities to control horses and cattle at a meeting with Parks and Wildlife NT and traditional owners of Finke Gorge National Park (on the Lhere Pirnte ALT). Other feral horse consultation meetings were held with traditional owner groups for the Santa Teresa, Lhere Pirnte, Haasts Bluff and Iwupataka Aboriginal land trusts.

During the reporting period, staff constructed and maintained a number of fences built to exclude feral animals from important sites, including at Kalkaringi, Palm Paddock (Lhere Pirnte ALT) and the Santa Teresa ALT. Additionally, a feral horse cull plan was negotiated with Central Petroleum and Parks and Wildlife NT for the Mereenie area of Haasts Bluff ALT which will be undertaken in 2024–25.

Anangu Luritjiku Rangers undertook extensive feral cat monitoring and control work on the Haasts Bluff ALT as part of a program to protect the critically endangered central rock-rat.

Rangers deployed Felixer-brand cat traps in the mountains, collected baseline data using motion-sensor cameras and assisted with aerial cat baiting. The Tjakura rangers undertook regular cat tracking to monitor and protect the vulnerable tjakura (great desert skink).

## WEEDS

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

Three CLC staff sit on the NT Government's buffel grass technical working group with other land managers and scientists. A weeds advisory committee (established subsequent to the working group) declared buffel grass as a weed in the NT in early July 2024. This significant declaration for the NT's land managers, brings the NT in to line with neighbouring states and empowers

**Table 7. Status of weed species 2023–24**

Weed species	Status	Location of weed control
Buffel grass ( <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i> )	Recently declared. Status TBA.	All
Common couch ( <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> )	Not declared	Santa Teresa ALT
Thornapple ( <i>Datura</i> sp.)	A <sup>1</sup>	Huckitta PPL
Rubber bush ( <i>Calotropis procera</i> )	B <sup>1,2</sup>	Haasts Bluff ALT, Karlantjipa North ALT, Yuendumu ALT, Alyawarr ALT
Mexican poppy ( <i>Argemone mexicana</i> )	B <sup>1,2</sup>	Santa Teresa ALT, Rodna ALT, Tempe Downs
Kapok bush ( <i>Aerva javanica</i> )	Not declared	Atitjere, Plenty Highway
Parkinsonia ( <i>Parkinsonia aculeata</i> )	WONS <sup>3</sup> B <sup>2</sup>	Ti Tree region, Tempe Downs, Ltyentye Apurte

1 Necessary to eradicate and prevent introduction into the NT

2 Necessary to prevent the growing, spreading and introduction of the declared weed in the NT

3 Weed of national significance

**Table 8. Significant and threatened species surveys 2023–24**

Location	Species	Ranger group
Petermann ALT	Great desert skink ( <i>Egernia kintorei</i> ) Princess parrot ( <i>Polytelis alexandrae</i> )	Kaltukatjara
Katiti ALT	Great desert skink ( <i>Egernia kintorei</i> )	Tjakura
Haasts Bluff ALT	Great desert skink ( <i>Egernia kintorei</i> ) Princess parrot ( <i>Polytelis alexandrae</i> )	Walungurru
Haasts Bluff ALT	Black-footed rock wallaby ( <i>Petrogale lateralis</i> )	Anangu
Rodna ALT	Slater's skink ( <i>Liopholis slateri</i> )	Tjuwanpa
Petermann ALT	Black-footed rock wallaby ( <i>Petrogale lateralis</i> )	Kaltukatjara
Haasts Bluff ALT	Central rock-rat ( <i>Zyomys pedunculatus</i> )	Anangu-Luritjiku
Mac Clark Conservation Reserve	Birdsville wattle ( <i>Acacia peuce</i> )	Aputula
Central Desert ALT	Greater bilby ( <i>Macrotis lagotis</i> )	Northern Tanami Warlpiri (Nyirrpi)
Karlantjipa North ALT	Greater bilby ( <i>Macrotis lagotis</i> )	Muru-Warinyi Ankkul



Muru-warinyi Ankkul Ranger Kylie Sambo spoke at the opening of the new Tennant Creek ranger hub to describe the difference the new building will make to her ranger group's work. The opening in February 2024 also marked the 20th anniversary of the ranger group.



Aboriginal landholders to manage the spread and impact of buffel grass. Further work is underway to decide the weed classification for buffel grass.

The CLC's rangers undertake most weed management on Aboriginal land in the CLC area. Due to the extent of work involved and limited resources, sites of high cultural and ecological value are given priority; for example, significant water sites are regularly weeded.

#### SIGNIFICANT AND THREATENED SPECIES MANAGEMENT

The CLC relies on external scientific and technical expertise to help traditional owners manage significant and threatened species. Nationally significant species, such as the bilby, central rock-rat and great desert skink, inhabit Aboriginal land trusts in the CLC region — their presence is an opportunity to collaborate with scientists.

An ongoing partnership with Territory Natural Resource Management (TNRM) continues in the Tanami region. Northern Tanami Rangers and Warlpiri Rangers undertook multiple surveys throughout the year to assist researchers to find the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*). TNRM staff assisted Warlpiri Rangers on a field trip to Yinapaka in the Southern Tanami IPA in May 2024 and also attended the annual warlu committee meeting in November 2023 to co-ordinate bilby research with fire management activities.

In 2024, in a collaboration with the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security's Flora and Fauna Division, CLC rangers surveyed for the central rock-rat on Ulumbarru (Mount Edward). The rangers reached the summit of Ulumbarru by helicopter.

Twenty central rock-rats were captured using Elliot traps and genetic samples were taken. A webcam captured images of the largest number of rock-rats ever recorded. Camera traps were also set on Ulumbarru, Mount Liebig and Mount Palmer to record the presence of feral cats for four months. The collected data will be used as a baseline against which to measure the effectiveness of aerial baiting planned for July 2024.

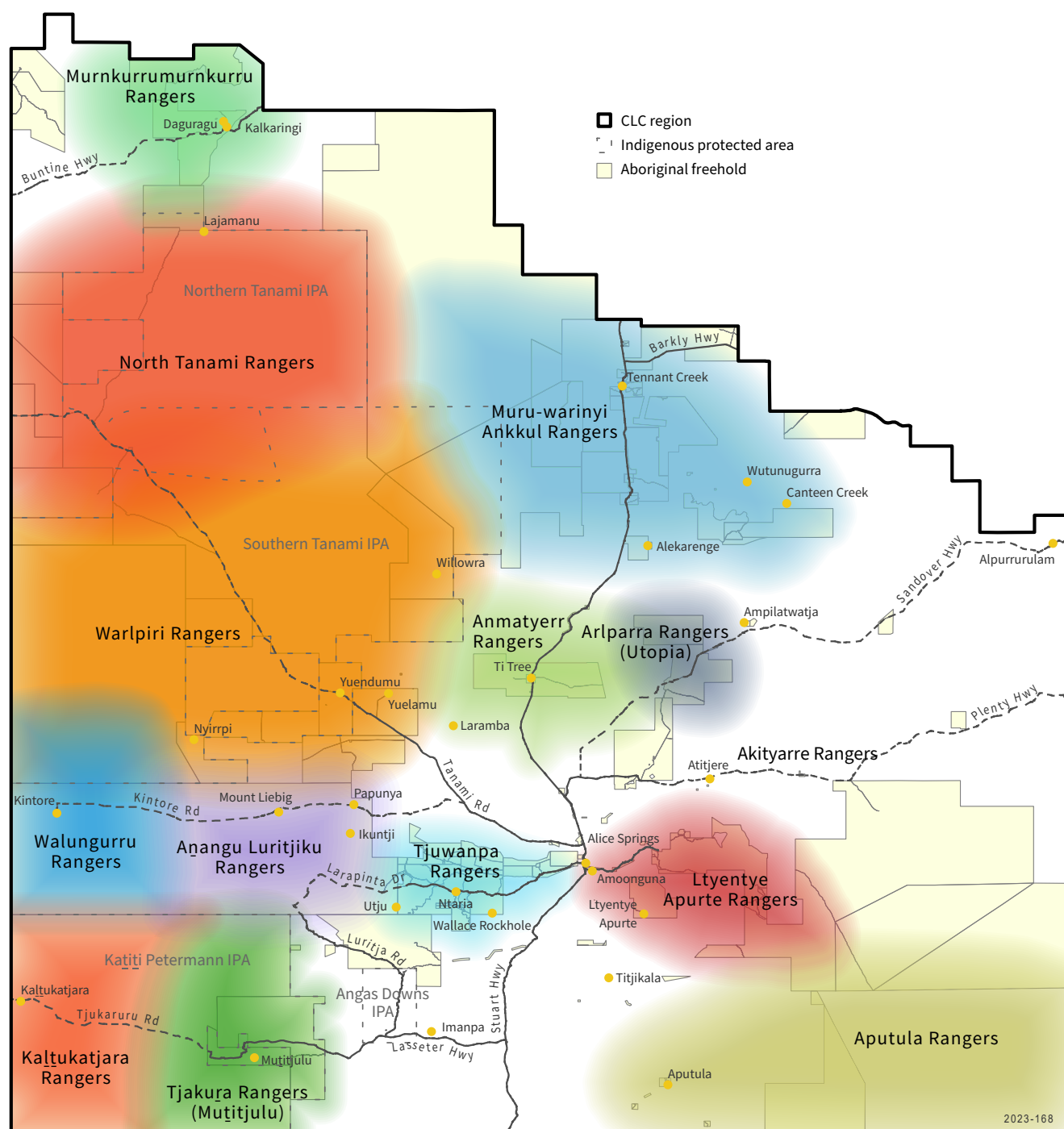
#### Ranger program

The CLC ranger program empowers Aboriginal communities to preserve cultural and natural resources on Aboriginal land. The program has achieved remarkable success and provides meaningful employment and career paths to remote community residents. The CLC's 14 ranger groups manage over 58,000 square kilometres of land, contributing significantly to the national reserve system (see Figure 3). Three groups are funded by the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC), with the remainder funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

The ranger program is supported by a mixed-gender team of five mentors, a ranger training and development officer, and ranger support officers. These positions play an essential role in ranger wellbeing, retention and support, and have proved to be indispensable to the success of the ranger program.

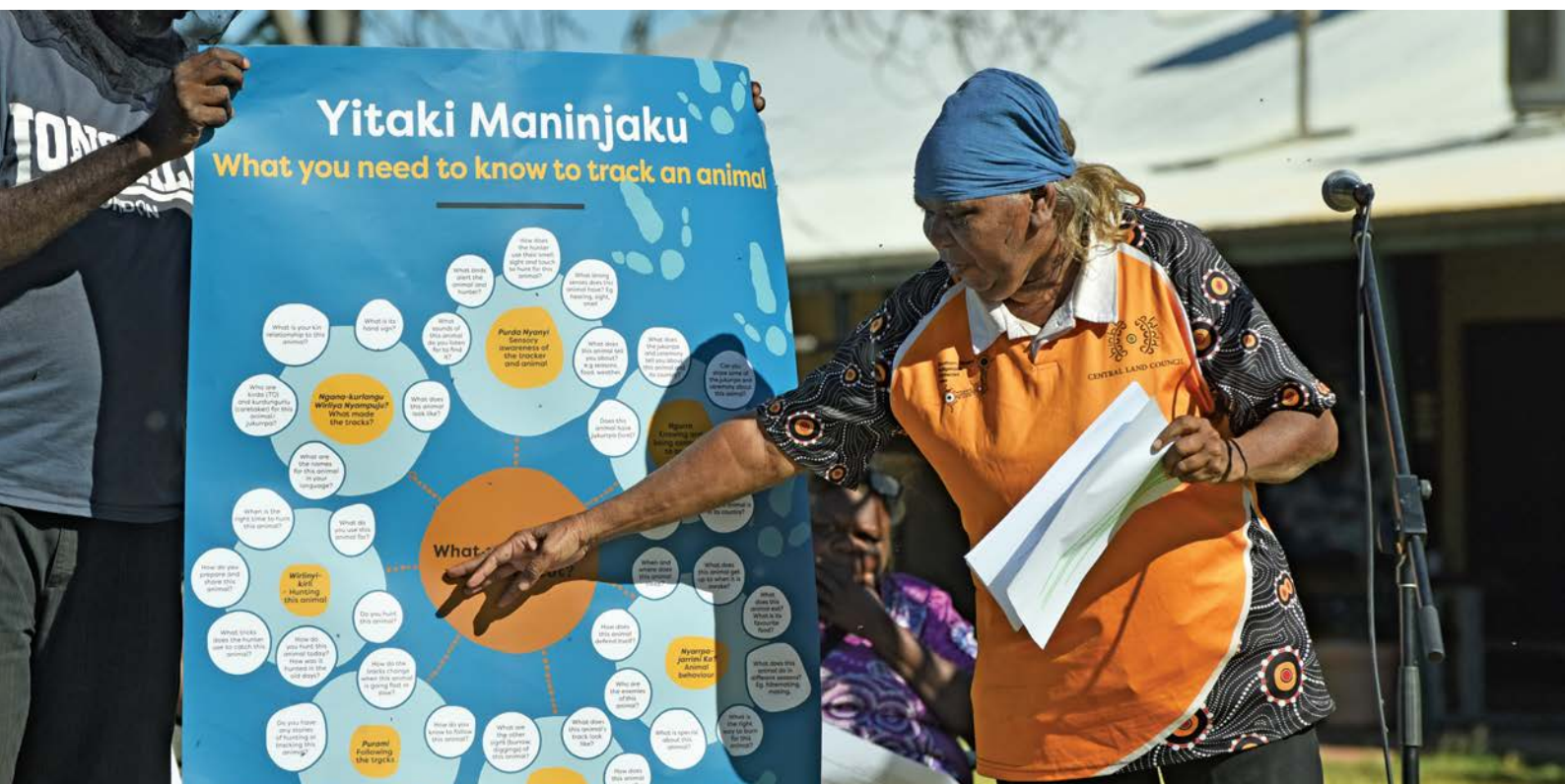
In 2024, the CLC engaged consultants to develop a strategic plan and a monitoring and evaluation framework for the ranger and Indigenous protected areas program. The plan and strategy will help the CLC advocate for the expansion of the ranger

Figure 3. CLC ranger groups





Enid Gallagher explained the Yitaki Maninjaku (mind map) at the ranger camp at Tilmouth Well.



program over the next decade. Additionally, the women's land management facilitator finalised a gender equity strategy for the land management section. The strategy will guide growing women's involvement in the ranger program and across the section. The strategy and its monitoring and evaluation plan will be embedded in work plans during 2024–25.

As outlined in the gender equity strategy, the ILSC has funded a women's ranger team at Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa), along with accommodation for a new co-ordinator for the team. This is a significant milestone for the ranger program. The CLC will continue to develop dedicated women's teams for all of its existing ranger groups.

The NIAA opened its first Indigenous Ranger Program grant round for some years in December 2023. This round prioritises expanding the program's geographic footprint and women's involvement in ranger work. The CLC applied for ongoing funding for its three emerging groups at Walungurru (Kintore), Aputula (Finke) and Alparra (Utopia), and for a new women's group in Tennant Creek. The three emerging groups were developed with a stimulus grant from the ABA and need secure, long-term funding to survive. The CLC continues to fund these groups as it awaits the outcome of the grants round.

In April 2024, the annual ranger camp was held at Tilmouth Well, 187 kilometres west of Alice Springs. Two hundred people participated, including 125 rangers from all 14 CLC ranger groups. Seven other groups from the APY lands, Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT, Ngaanyatjarra Council, Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park and Australian Wildlife Conservancy also attended. The camp was visited by NT government ministers and representatives from funding bodies.

The camp was a valuable opportunity to gather rangers from across Central Australia to share knowledge and provide training for remotely located staff. For more detail on the training delivered at camp see Output 3.2 on page 39.

The demand from communities for additional ranger groups in the CLC region continues, and the CLC is advocating for the expansion of the program. For further information on the CLC ranger program, please refer to the *CLC ranger report 2023–24* published on the CLC website.

## 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 lease them back to the NT Government. These parks are jointly managed by traditional owners and the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT (PWCNT). 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. PWCNT fund the equivalent of two positions at the CLC to support joint management and the CLC employs five regional land management officer positions and their managers. Regional staff create strong relationships with traditional owners and assist with planning and decision making in operational matters such as recruitment, permits, sacred site clearances, land use agreements and economic development aspirations.



Aputula Ranger Pauline Coombs (left) and traditional owner Jennifer Doolan protected a women's sacred site very close to the old Aputula tip. Four rangers removed rubbish, fenced and signposted the area to protect its sacred tree.



## PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE

The CLC is helping to develop two joint management plans for the Kuyunba and Mac Clark (*Acacia peuce*) conservation reserves. The plans will be sent for public comment and tabled in the NT Legislative Assembly in the coming year.

Ten joint management committee meetings were facilitated between traditional owners and the PWCNT. The meetings were an opportunity for traditional owners to visit their respective parks and to review and plan joint management activities.

Joint management meetings held in the reporting period were:

- Akerre (*Acacia peuce*): joint management plan review
- Tjoritja National Park: one pre-planning meeting and two fire planning consultations
- Kuyunba Conservation Reserve: joint management plan review
- Dulcie Range National Park: country camp with site visits; planning meeting scheduled for July 2024
- Native Gap Conservation Reserve: planning meeting
- Watarrka National Park: two joint management committee meetings
- Judbarra National Park: joint management committee meeting.

At the two meetings at Watarrka, traditional owners visited remote parts of the national park to plan a commercial walking trail through the park. CLC anthropologists and land management staff worked with traditional owners to plan the route.

## PARK MANAGEMENT

The CLC helped traditional owners work with the PWCNT on operational tasks such as fire management. During the reporting period, the CLC facilitated traditional owner participation in prescribed burn planning meetings at the Watarrka National Park and the Kuyunba Conservation Reserve.

### ULURU – KATA TJUTA NATIONAL PARK

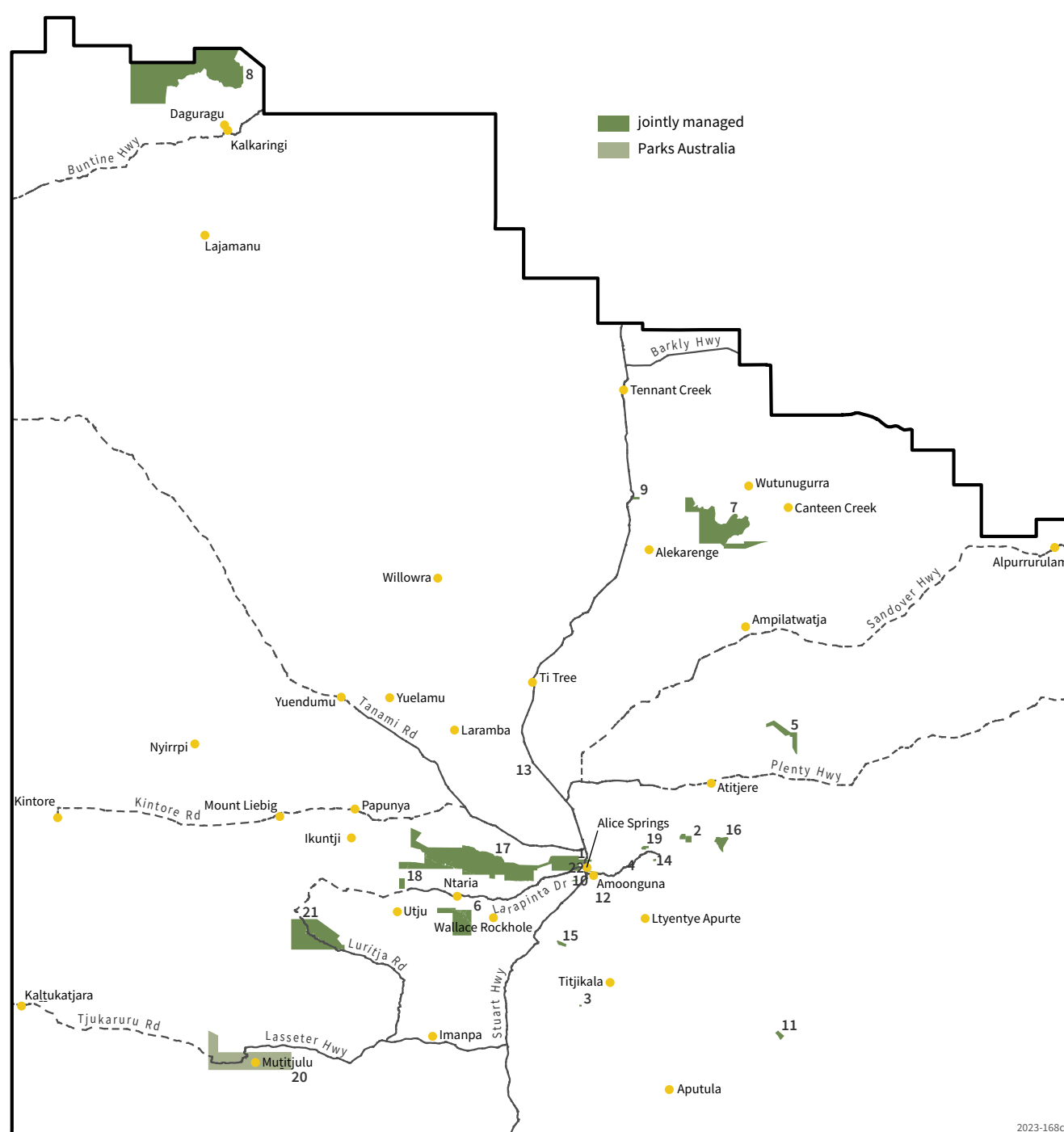
Since 1985, under the terms of the lease, the CLC has carried out statutory functions in the management of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park (UKTNP) with the Director of National Parks (Cth), by supporting traditional owners to govern the park. CLC staff, including some based at the park, have consulted on joint management with traditional owners since 2002.

During 2024, the CLC's UKTNP joint management officer facilitated traditional owners' involvement in all four scheduled UKTNP board meetings, three UKTNP Nyakula Kuliṛa Nintiringanyi (Education, Employment and Training) working group meetings, two Tjungukula Ngura Artungmara (Cultural Heritage and Scientific) working group meetings, one Uluru Lodge Walk steering committee meeting, one tourism working group meeting and one media working group meeting.

Additionally, the CLC's Katitj-Petermann IPA staff worked closely with UKTNP staff to manage cross-tenure issues, including bushfires, planned burns, threatened species surveys and buffel grass management.

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	Chambers 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	Iytwelepenty / Davenport Ranges National Park	18	Tnorala (Gosse Bluff) Conservation Reserve
8	Judbarra / Gregory National Park	19	Trepahina Gorge Nature Park
9	Karlu Karlu / Devils Marbles Conservation Reserve	20	Uluru – Kata Tjuta 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



2023-168c



Traditional owners of the Southern and Northern Tanami IPAs visited remote country at Yinapaka (Lake Surprise) in the eastern region of the Southern Tanami IPA and Mina Mina in the west.



#### INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS PROGRAM

Since 2007 the CLC has participated in the Indigenous protected areas 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 Kaṭiṭi-Petermann, Angas Downs, and Southern and Northern Tanami IPAs, and the soon-to-be-declared Central Western Desert IPA, which together will encompass around 24 million hectares of Aboriginal freehold land. The CLC and traditional owners were delighted to receive approval for the declaration of the Simpson Desert IPA in May 2024. This will allow for traditional owners and ranger groups to carry out conservation and cultural activities in remote parts of the Simpson Desert. At 30 June 2024, the plan is being finalised and the IPA will be declared in 2025.

Rangers undertake the day-to-day management of IPAs under the guidance of Aboriginal management committees and follow comprehensive management plans.

The management plan for the Central Western Desert IPA is near completion, with its launch to take place next financial year. Traditional owners are looking forward to celebrating recognition of their management rights at an event on the IPA.

Work was not completed on Angas Downs IPA because of ongoing traditional owner disputes and safety concerns. The CLC has engaged consultants to undertake mediation and governance work with traditional owners to co-design a new governance model in line with cultural protocols. Consultations are ongoing.

This year's land management activities on the Kaṭiṭi-Petermann IPA focused on ground-based and aerial burning to address high fuel loads following two years of above-average rainfall. They also included visits to remote country for on-ground burning, and princess parrot and tjakura surveys. The IPA also continued a road maintenance program for easier access to country.

Traditional owners of the Southern and Northern Tanami IPAs and CLC staff visited remote country at Yinapaka (Lake Surprise) in the eastern region of the Southern Tanami IPA and at Mina Mina in the west. Rangers visited remote cultural sites on the protected areas by helicopter, conducted aerial prescribed burning and bilby surveys, and collaborated with consultant anthropologists on the Willowra community mapping project. The trips were a rare opportunity for traditional owners to visit remote country.



# OUTPUT GROUP 2

## Land claims and acquisition support

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

### Output 2.1 Land claims

#### Wakaya Alyawarra

In the reporting period, the CLC reviewed a survey of the Wakaya Alyawarra land claim area prepared by a Commonwealth contractor. It now has been approved by the NT Surveyor General. In May 2024, the Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Linda Burney MP, confirmed the Australian Government's support for amendment of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* to include the claim area in Schedule 1 of the Act. This should enable the title to be handed to traditional owners in 2024–25.

#### Frances Well

Traditional owners have agreed to enter into an Indigenous land use agreement at the request of the Northern Territory Government, to enable the surrender of part of the Frances Well claim area for promulgation of the existing public road that services the school and adjacent staff houses at Titjikala. The area needs to be surveyed, a task to be co-ordinated by the National Indigenous Australians Agency. Upon completion of that survey, the land use agreement can be finalised and should allow for the grant of NT Portion 1299. Negotiations with third parties are ongoing to address other land use and detriment issues.

### Output 2.2 Land acquisition

There were no land acquisitions during the reporting period.

# 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.

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.

The CLC's anthropologists prepared 19 traditional owner identification advices and provided other assistance related to:

- consultations for grazing licences or mustering on the Daguragu, Urrampinyi Iltjiltjarri, Atnetye and Arletherre Aboriginal land trusts (ALTs)
- tourism activities on Petermann ALT
- various agreements for mining-related activities on the Central Desert, Pmere Nyente, Atnetye, Haasts Bluff, Ntaria, Roulpmaulpma, Rodna, Ltalaltuma and Lhere Pirnte ALTs, as well as in areas with native title determinations
- leasing in the Ntaria, Kaltukatjara, Mount Liebig, Papunya, Ampilatwatja, Lajamanu and Daguragu communities.

#### Australian Government leases

The Australian Government holds leases over 1,114 lots on Aboriginal land and 365 lots on community living areas in the CLC region. During the reporting period it obtained consents for leases over six lots.

Some leases held by the Australian Government during the previous period expired and were not renewed. Other leases, particularly for Australian Government business manager properties (often used for short-term accommodation in communities), expired and have moved into 'holding over' (when a tenancy runs from payment to payment, but is otherwise on the same terms as the previous lease), and the Australian Government has indicated its intention to surrender them.

#### NT Government leases

The NT Government holds leases over 483 lots on Aboriginal land and 98 lots on community living areas.

In 2023–24, the CLC continued to negotiate with the government to formalise the leasing of reticulated services in communities and to ensure the ongoing management and compliance with existing leases. The negotiations are close to completion. The CLC is also negotiating agreements connected to proposed upgrades of roads within the region.

In June 2024, the NT Government applied for new remote community housing leases in communities where previous leases had expired. The new applications align with the 10-year remote housing partnership agreement between the NT and Australian governments signed in June 2024.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

The regional councils collectively hold land use agreements, including leases and licences, over 285 lots in communities on Aboriginal land in the CLC region and 103 lots on community living areas. In this reporting period, the CLC continued to consult traditional owners, communities and residents of community living areas about land use applications and variations to existing agreements. It also negotiated with regional councils about the ongoing management of land use agreements.

The CLC and one regional council finalised arrangements for payment of back rent on occupied properties and, consequently, consultations for a new lease with the council can now proceed.

#### NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Non-government organisations operating in communities and community living areas — mostly Aboriginal organisations, such as art centres and stores — currently hold leases over 303 lots on Aboriginal land and 28 lots on community living areas. In the reporting period, the CLC received applications from various organisations for new leases and licences, and to vary existing leases. Tables 11 to 15 summarise the number of lease and licence applications received, 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 leases and licences currently issued and those currently in holding over.

Many leases in Aboriginal communities will expire in 2024 and 2025 and will require review and renegotiation, as well as consultation with traditional owners. The CLC is notifying current leaseholders of upcoming expiry dates and is preparing for consultations once new applications are received.

Table 9. Applications received 2023–24

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas		Communities on Aboriginal land	
	Applications for lots	Applications for agreements <sup>1</sup>	Applications for lots	Applications for agreements <sup>1</sup>
Australian Government	0	0	9	5
Local government	12	4	64	20
NT Government	42	5	223	13
Others	5	4	44	37

1 Agreements cover multiple lots in the same lease or licence.

Table 10. Consents granted 2023–24

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas		Communities on Aboriginal land	
	Consents	Number of consultations to reach consent	Consents	Number of consultations to reach consent
Australian Government	1	1	3	6
Local government	0	0	6	9
NT Government	2	3	7	14
Others	2	2	26	42

Table 11. Consultations undertaken 2023–24

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas		Communities on Aboriginal land	
	Consultations	Number of lots included in consultations	Consultations	Number of lots included in consultations
Australian Government	0	0	6	7
Local government	2	3	16	30
NT Government	1	1	21	97
Others	9	9	42	53

Table 12. Leases and licences current at 30 June 2024

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas		Communities on Aboriginal land	
	Agreements	Number of lots covered by agreements	Agreements	Number of lots covered by agreements
Australian Government	18	365	62	1,114
Local government	42	103	74	285
NT Government	47	98	105	483
Others	25	28	212	303

Table 13. Leases and licences in 'holding over'<sup>1</sup> at 30 June 2024

Lessee/licensee	Community living areas		Communities on Aboriginal land	
	Agreements	Number of lots covered by agreements	Agreements	Number of lots covered by agreements
Australian Government	2	2	4	4
Local government	0	0	4	16
NT Government	3	36	7	206
Others	7	8	26	29

1 'Holding over' occurs when a lease expires and a tenancy runs from payment to payment, but is otherwise on the same terms as the previous lease.



## 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 is dedicated to increasing sustainable employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal people in its region. It actively advocates to government and industry for direct job placements and provides workplace support to improve employee retention. Through land use agreements and community development projects, the CLC creates jobs for Aboriginal communities. Known for its success in placing individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds into employment, the CLC leverages its strong community networks and deep understanding of its constituents' aspirations and circumstances to foster land management and enterprise development partnerships.

#### Employment and training in mining and exploration industries

The CLC works with mining companies to implement Aboriginal employment and local procurement commitments made under mining agreements. The CLC:

- advises mineral and energy companies and other stakeholders on best practice approaches to supporting Aboriginal training and employment outcomes in the region (in collaboration with the CLC's policy team)
- supports resource companies and other stakeholders to engage effectively with CLC constituents regarding training and employment opportunities arising from projects
- develops and implements processes and resources to monitor Aboriginal training and employment outcomes from projects
- identifies potential employment opportunities and career pathways
- establishes and supports job referral processes
- identifies suitable job readiness training programs
- partners on career expos to promote employment opportunities
- connects companies with relevant employment providers
- disseminate job opportunities to the CLC's constituents.

The minerals and energy employment facilitator role was vacant in 2023–24 due to internal staff movements. The vacancy affected the team's ability to fulfill its commitments, but the CLC is pleased to have presented an offer to a preferred candidate in June 2024 and expects the vacancy to be filled early in the new financial year.

Under the Tanami Desert Ten Year Plan (see Output 3.3), the CLC, Newmont Corporation and Warlpiri communities co-operate to improve employment outcomes in Tanami remote communities. In 2023–24, the CLC, Charles Darwin University (CDU) and Flinders University began developing a tailored foundation skills pilot training program that will strengthen the work readiness of traditional owners in the region.

The minerals and energy team also advocates to improve the procurement practices of the mining and resources industries. Creating business opportunities for local Aboriginal enterprises flows on to create jobs for Aboriginal workers. The CLC:

- advocates for and support local Aboriginal businesses to tender and contract for work
- advises industry about who to engage with (traditional owners and other constituents)
- advises industry on appropriate communication methods and materials
- advises industry on appropriate ways to engage (e.g. in communities)
- disseminates business procurement opportunities to constituents (e.g. site tours, community meetings, roadshows, expos).

See more on the CLC's support to growing Aboriginal businesses in its region in 'Output 3.4 Economic participation' on page 50.

#### JOB READINESS AND REFERRALS

The CLC continues to develop its work readiness program in partnership with CDU and the Bachelor Institute. The program aspires to deliver a pilot program — supported by Newmont's North Tanami operations — to school leavers living in the Tanami region.

During the reporting period, the CLC assisted 10 constituents seeking work. The minerals and energy team provided the job seekers with information on employment opportunities in the region's mining industry, and connected them with potential employers.

Nathan Campbell is one of three local employees who worked on Imangara church.



## Employment and training in community development projects

The CLC's community development team supports its project partners to create jobs for local Aboriginal people through its projects in communities and homelands across the CLC region. These projects are funded primarily from land use agreements, such as rent, royalty, leasing and compensation payments.

Highlights in 2023–24 were:

- Community development projects delivered a total of 70,444 hours of employment to 658 Aboriginal people; and 3,734 hours of accredited training and 5,265 hours of unaccredited training to 515 participants.
- Four local Aboriginal people were employed for a total of 389 hours at Mutitjulu pool during this year's swimming season, and two local people gained their lifeguard qualifications.
- The Warlpiri Education and Training Trust tracking and learning project, Yitaki-maninjaku, warrirninjaku, payirninjaku manu pina-jarrinjaku, provided 662 hours of employment to Yapa researchers at Nyirripi, Yuendumu and Lajamanu; a professional development workshop was also held in Alice Springs in March 2024.
- Nine Yapa were employed for 900 hours at the Lajamanu water park and the Yuendumu pool.
- Construction of the Imangara church employed three Aboriginal workers for 126 hours, including 54 hours of work for locals.
- The Yuendumu murals project employed five Yapa artists.

See 'Output 4.4 Community development' on pages 70 to 82 to learn more about these projects.

## CLC ranger training

The CLC's ranger program provides employment pathways for Aboriginal community residents. The pathways cover positions from entry-level — that grow the skills of young people — to ranger co-ordinator positions for experienced project leaders. A range of levels ensures that knowledge is passed to younger rangers and provides continuous development for program participants. Casual positions are also offered on larger projects, such as surveys, fire management, weed control and fencing.

Rangers are supported to stay in work and eventually become leaders in their community. During this reporting period the CLC's training and development officer facilitated a range of training to the 131 rangers.

A mentoring team works with all rangers, from new recruits through to lead rangers. They act as a guide in the workplace, and assist rangers to address anything that may affect their ability to stay in work or with any job requirements that may undermine family life.

A highlight is the annual ranger camp, a time for rangers from across Central Australia to gather and share knowledge and undertake training. In 2024 the camp was held at Tilmouth Well, 187 kilometres west of Alice Springs. Two hundred people participated, including 125 rangers.

The 14 training workshops held over two days included:

- compliance-related training (four-wheel-drive and first aid)
- accredited hard skills training (skid steer, side by side, chemical training)

Ranger Anthony Petrick from the Akitjere Rangers celebrated reaching 10 years of service with the CLC at the 2024 ranger camp.



- non-accredited hard skills training (snake handling, tracking, smartphone video production, mapping, mental health first aid and culturally responsive informed trauma training)
- two soft skills sessions (mental resilience, team building).

Rangers' health is essential to fulfilling their roles and to their personal job satisfaction and wellbeing. They often can't access ear and eye health checks services rangers in remote areas. An optometrist from Eyecare Plus and an audiologist from Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, an Alice Springs-based Aboriginal health service, offered these tests at the ranger camp. The optometrist undertook:

- undertook 35 eye examinations — 22 men and 13 women
- carried out 17 diabetic eye examinations
- prescribed 23 pairs of glasses
- provided 12 pairs of ready-made glasses
- made six referrals to an ophthalmologist
- made three referrals for cataract surgery
- made two referrals for diabetic retinopathy
- referred two rangers for follow up examination and monitoring in Alice Springs
- provided 11 non-prescription pairs of sunglasses
- provided 15 ready-made pairs of glasses.

The audiologist undertook 18 hearing tests and fitted six rangers with hearing aids.

Murnkurrumurnkurru Ranger Helma Bernard (centre) is congratulated by Mischa Cartwright and Nick Ashburner at the 2024 ranger camp on reaching 10 years of service.



The government does not fund hearing aids for Aboriginal adults. At a cost of \$3,000, hearing aids are out of reach for many Aboriginal people, especially those living in remote regions. Congress supplied free hearing aids to rangers through ongoing philanthropic support from Specsavers and rehabilitation services.

To read more about the CLC's ranger program outcomes and work completed in 2023–24, see pages 29 to 31 in this report, and the *CLC ranger report 2023–24*.

## Job fairs and expos

The CLC promotes employment opportunities on major mining and resource industries projects in the CLC region to key stakeholders via Aboriginal employment expos and job fairs. Meaningful employment is crucial to economic development and social equity for Aboriginal communities in the region.

The CLC's human resources team also exhibits at job fairs and expos to promote employment opportunities to its constituents. This year, the team took part in:

- two information sessions (November 2023 and April 2024) organised by Saltbush Social Enterprises (an NT-based not-for-profit that seeks to build employment and business opportunities for First Nations Territorians)
- the Alice Springs Jobs Big Day Out in December 2023 at the Alice Springs Convention Centre.



## Output 3.3 Minerals and 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.**

Under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (the Land Rights Act) and the *Native Title Act 1993*, the CLC has a statutory function to protect sacred sites. This is a mechanism to achieve land use agreements that protect cultural values, reach mutually beneficial terms that balance impacts and benefits, and give certainty to traditional owners who are negotiating consents.

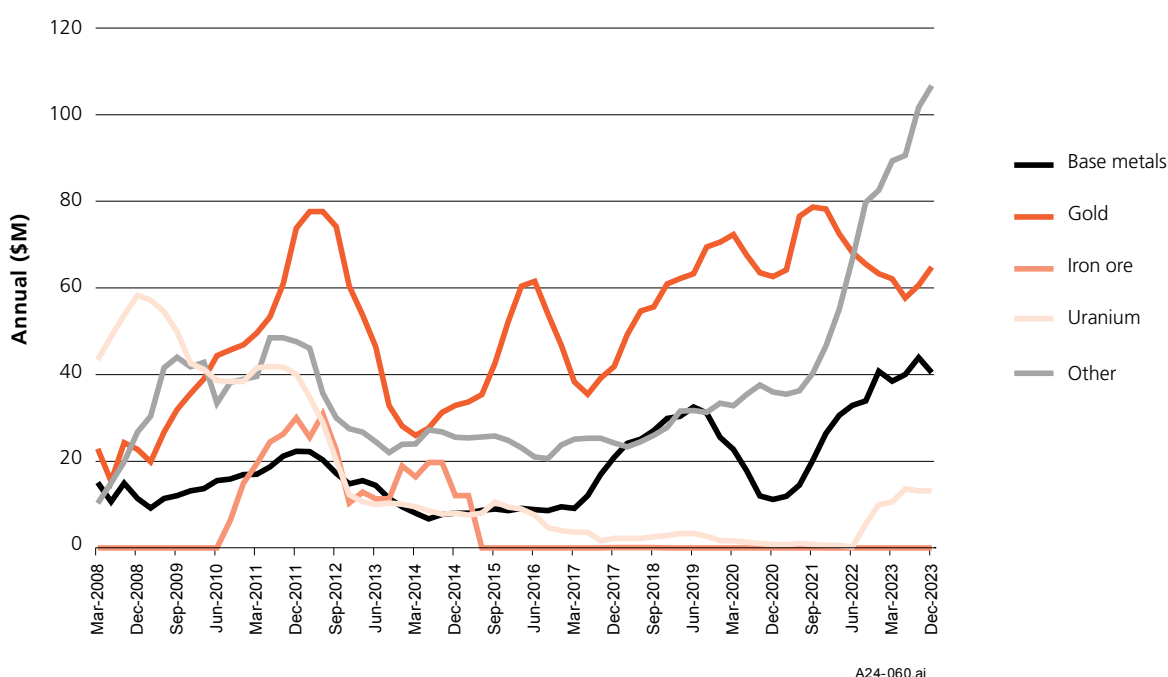
Accordingly, the CLC consults with traditional owners and native title holders about exploration and mining proposals on their land. It ensures that traditional owners are fully informed before they make decisions about proposals. On behalf of traditional owners, the CLC enters into agreements with mining companies where there is informed group consent. It negotiates exploration and production-related agreements to achieve the best possible outcomes in accordance with traditional owners' instructions and views.

The CLC administers agreements and ensures that contractual obligations are diligently and effectively fulfilled.

The terms and conditions of agreements can lead to cultural, social, employment and environmental impacts and benefits. The CLC assesses submitted work programs and conducts work area clearances to ensure that sacred sites are protected. It currently manages 88 deeds, agreements and Indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs) for exploration, production or ancillary activities related to minerals and energy exploration and production.

In 2023–24 the CLC's anthropology section prepared 17 traditional owner identification advices for meetings where traditional owners considered exploration licence applications over Aboriginal land, and also provided significant logistical advice and support for such meetings. Following meetings, anthropologists prepared reports on the validity of traditional owner instructions given at those meetings.

**Figure 5. Exploration expenditure trends by commodity, as recorded by the Australian Bureau of Statistics**  
(Creative Commons licence, AGES 2024 Proceedings, NT Geological Survey, Ian Scrimgeour p 1.)





Minerals and energy officer Alanna Robertson used a drone to research a sacred site clearance for an exploration licence application for Suplejack Downs Station in the northern Tanami.





## 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 contribute significantly to the NT economy; the CLC region includes one of the most productive gold mines in Australia, some 500 kilometres northwest of Alice Springs. In 2022–23, the minerals and energy sectors together contributed 27 per cent of gross state product to the NT economy. Approximately 48 per cent of the NT is Aboriginal land, and 30 per cent of its population is Aboriginal. Consequently, 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. The CLC region has the potential to host future mineral and hydrocarbon developments, but remoteness and lack of infrastructure continue to pose feasibility challenges.

Mineral exploration activity, including exploration for critical minerals, increased significantly since the last reporting period, with mineral exploration expenditure in 2023 in the NT reported as the highest since 2011 — up 14 per cent from the previous year compared with 5 per cent Australia-wide.<sup>1</sup> The majority of expenditure targeted ‘other’ minerals, including rare earths, lithium, tungsten, phosphate and other critical minerals (excluding nickel and cobalt), representing 47 per cent of the total. This was followed by gold (28 per cent), base metals (18 per cent), and uranium (6 per cent). The representation of mineral exploration expenditure, detailed in Figure 5, shows significant increases across different commodity types, particularly over the last 10 years.

The increase in mineral exploration activity is generally linked to increases in commodity prices, due largely to demand associated with the green energy transition, and the influence of geopolitics. Additionally, the Australian and NT governments’ commitment to support and foster exploration and mining is likely to be an influence.

The Australian Government’s 2022 Critical Minerals Strategy and its \$2 billion Critical Minerals Facility have created an enabling environment for critical minerals projects and infrastructure, thereby also encouraging exploration. Over the last 12 months, six additional minerals were placed on the critical minerals list. Geoscience Australia (GSA) continues to promote exploration through provision of pre-competitive data and analysis, and in 2022–23 there was an increase in exploration licence applications for the Barkly Tableland region based on pre-competitive drill-hole data. In May 2024 the Australian Government committed \$566 million over 10 years to produce data, maps and other tools for use by the resources industry.<sup>2</sup> The CLC continued to provide

its services to support GSA programs, including conducting heritage surveys for its quartz sampling program, facilitating access to Aboriginal land for its passive seismic array and advising on how GSA can work better with communities.

The NT Government supports exploration and mining as outlined in the Northern Territory Minerals Industry Plan — Pathway to 2030: Consultation Draft. The strategy focuses on “optimising the Territory’s mineral resources” (p 5) to grow the NT economy to \$40 billion by 2030. It is ultimately underpinned by exploration. The NT Government’s four-year Resourcing the Territory initiative (2018–2022) has committed ongoing annual funding of \$9.5 million aimed at increasing exploration and supporting discovery and development of new mineral and petroleum resources.

## GOLD

The Newmont Corporation’s Tanami operation is the Territory’s largest gold producer. Production is focused on the Callie underground deposit and the gold is processed at the nearby Granites mine. Approximately 448,000 ounces were produced in 2023. Newmont’s Tanami Expansion 2 is expected to increase commercial production from 150,000 to 200,000 ounces per year in 2027 and to extend the mine’s life beyond 2040.

The Central Tanami Project Joint Venture, a 50/50 joint venture between Tanami Gold NL and Northern Star Resources Ltd, continues to progress. The CLC conducted heritage surveys with approvals provided to undertake reconnaissance exploration, surface geochemistry and significant drilling programs across six tenements.

## URANIUM

Traditional owners hold mixed views on the exploration, mining and use of uranium. Central Australia remains highly prospective for uranium; however, the CLC did not receive any applications with uranium as a target commodity during this reporting period. Interest in exploring for uranium has been low in previous periods, potentially due to a lack of appetite for uranium, unstable prices, or a lag in the translation of market price to exploration targets. The spot price of uranium (US\$ per pound) was US\$86 in June 2024, compared to a low of US\$21 in April 2018. In anticipation of renewed interest in uranium exploration, CLC staff undertook a uranium mining overview short-course delivered by the Australian Institute for Mining and Metallurgy. The training ensures that factual and up-to-date information is provided to traditional owners. A uranium roadshow, targeting communities in proximity to uranium exploration proposals, is planned for the 2024–25 reporting period.

1 <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/industry/mining/mineral-and-petroleum-exploration-australia/latest-release#mineral-exploration>

2 <https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/king/media-releases/generational-investment-australias-resources-deliver-future-made-australia>



Mark Edwards and Amanda Schwartz of Prodigy Gold presented an information session on a new exploration licence application to traditional owners at Picininy Bore in June 2024. (Photo courtesy Prodigy Gold)



## OIL AND GAS

Central Australia has several sedimentary basins which are prospective for hydrocarbons (and helium and hydrogen). These include the 170,000 square kilometre Amadeus Basin southwest of Alice Springs, the 160,000 square kilometre Wiso Basin west of Tennant Creek, and the 300,000 square kilometre Georgina Basin, the southern portion of which is in the CLC region. These basins are subject to numerous exploration permit applications, some of which cover several Aboriginal land trusts that have never been explored for oil and gas. To assist landowners make informed decisions about fracking and unconventional gas production, in 2023–24 the CLC took oil and gas information roadshows to the communities of Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff), Ntaria, Wallace Rockhole and Utju (Areyonga). This significant work will continue in 2024–25.

In 2021 the CLC made a submission to the NT Government regarding native title holder concerns over the proposed release of areas of the Georgina Basin for petroleum exploration. In May 2024 the CLC was advised by the government that culturally significant areas identified by native title holders would be declared as petroleum-reserved blocks under subsection 9(1) of the *Petroleum Act 1984*. This declaration prevents the grant of petroleum exploration permits or licences over those areas.

As at 30 June 2024, 31 exploration permit applications remain under negotiation in the CLC region.

## Applications for exploration and production titles

The NT Government issues various licences and permits, collectively known as ‘mineral titles’, to individuals or companies interested in exploring for, or mining, minerals or taking samples like sand or rock within the NT, including on Aboriginal land. A mineral title allows the holder to explore for minerals over an area specified in the title. An exploration permit must be obtained for oil and gas exploration. Exploration permits generally cover very large areas.

Section 42 of the Land Rights Act sets out the process for the consideration of exploration applications by traditional owners. Traditional owners have a right of veto over mining on land granted to them under the Land Rights Act, whereas native title holders do not have a veto but must be consulted under the Native Title Act. The CLC has statutory obligations to ensure that traditional owners understand the nature and purpose of any proposed exploration before they decide to grant licences. The CLC is obliged to act on traditional owners’ instructions to either refuse a licence or to negotiate an agreement, including its terms and conditions. The Land Rights Act legislates a fixed time period of negotiation to reach a decision on granting or refusing an exploration application. The NT may grant an exploration, mining or production licence over Aboriginal land under the Act with the consent of the CLC.

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 are also consenting to mining or production — they cannot veto mining subsequent to approving an exploration title; however, subsequent mining or production agreements must be in place before a mineral lease or production licence for petroleum is granted.

Mining activities can have social and environmental impacts on surrounding communities. Although traditional owners make the consent decision, the CLC must also consult with these communities.

During the reporting period, four meetings were held to consider new applications for the first time. In total, 20 exploration title applications on Aboriginal land were discussed at meetings. Three applications were also considered by native title holders. Table 14 shows the number of licence applications processed over the last five years.

In 2023–24, the NT Government issued 45 exploration titles on Aboriginal land with consent to negotiate and the CLC received

39 applications from proponents. Six titles were withdrawn during the negotiation period. Table 15 records the numbers and status of exploration titles on Aboriginal land in the CLC region.

Figure 6 compares the annual numbers of exploration licence and exploration permit applications on Aboriginal land processed during the past 10 years.

At the end of the reporting period, the CLC had 306 title applications under negotiation. This is an increase on the 276 title applications under negotiation in 2022–23. Some companies continued to decline to attend meetings, often after significant CLC resources have been committed. This impacted the CLC's ability to arrange alternative meetings and, consequently, reduced the number of titles that could be processed during the period.

Figure 7 shows the trend in the processing of exploration titles on Aboriginal land over the past 10 years.

**Table 14. Number of applications for exploration titles (licences and permits) processed under the mining provisions of the Land Rights Act 2019–24**

Performance measures	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Number of exploration titles (mainly ELAs <sup>1</sup> and EPAs <sup>2</sup> ) effectively progressed to an initial traditional owner meeting	0	7	6	5	20
Total number of exploration titles considered at traditional owner meetings (includes first and further meetings)	3	9	20	11	42
Number of exploration titles completed in total (includes those withdrawn during negotiating period)	16	20	12	2	31
Average number of years taken from date application is received to either CLC consent or refusal	0.0	3.5	5.4 <sup>3</sup>	0	2.6

1 Exploration licence agreements

2 Exploration permit agreements

3 The average for 2021–22 is heavily skewed by the refusal of ELAs 25562, 25564, 31924 and 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 15. Status of applications for exploration titles (licences and permits) on Aboriginal land in the CLC region at 30 June 2019–24**

Action or step under Part IV Land Rights Act	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Consent to negotiate from NT Government	34	47	68	59	45
Application for consent to the grant <sup>1</sup>	46	35	59	55	39
Withdrawn during negotiating period	16	16	21	2	6
Refused	0	2	10	0	2
Consent to the grant	0	2	0	0	22
Granted by NT Government	0	2	0	0	0
Under negotiation as at 30 June 2024	204	197	206	276	306

1 Includes applications following expiry of moratorium period.

Figure 6. Cumulative trend of exploration title applications in negotiating period on Aboriginal land

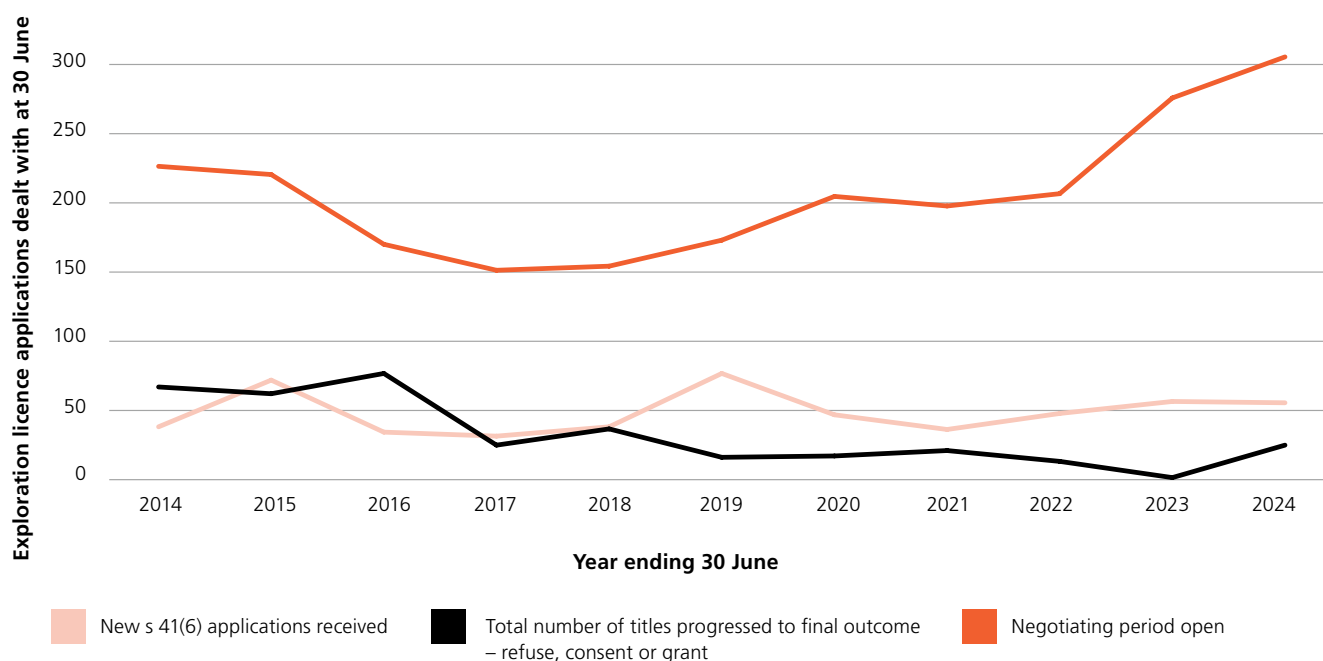
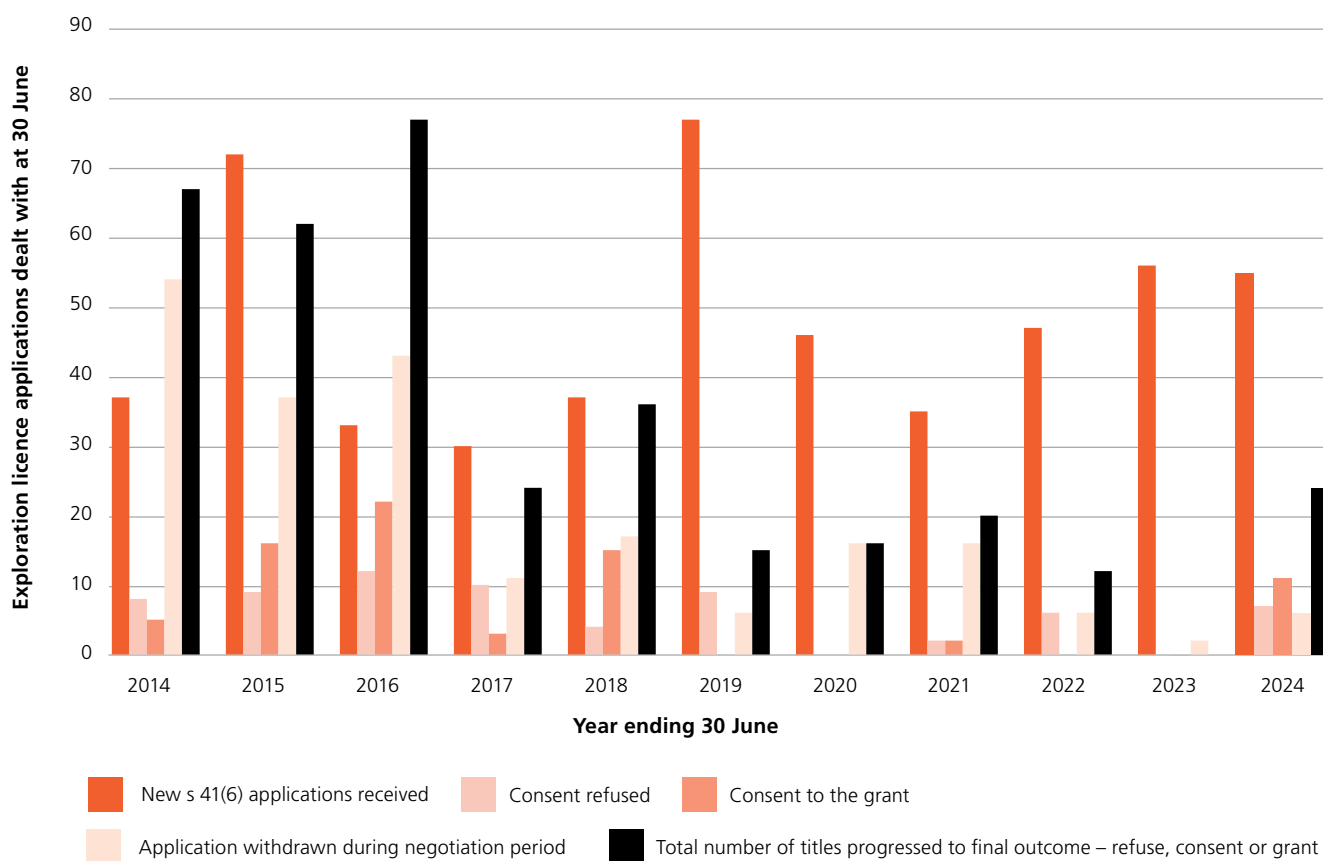


Figure 7. Number of exploration titles applied for and processed to final outcome on Aboriginal land





## 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 fluctuates considerably year by year.

The ongoing administration of future acts is a high priority for the CLC. 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 19 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 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 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' 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 57 notifications under section 29 of the Native Title Act 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 25 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 16 shows native title exploration and mining agreements and other mining matters and decisions for 2023–24.

**Table 16. Exploration and mining agreements and distribution of compensation 2023–24**

Exploration agreements	23
Mining agreements	14
Meetings for distribution of compensation monies	147

## AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

When the CLC enters into agreements with mining or energy companies it assumes a range of obligations and responsibilities on behalf of traditional owners. 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
- liaison, reporting and inspection.

At 30 June 2024, the CLC was managing 90 agreements for minerals and energy exploration or production:

- Sixty-seven agreements were for exploration. This includes 43 agreements on Aboriginal land with respect to 143 titles covering 44,774 square kilometres, and 24 agreements on land subject to the Native Title Act with respect to 49 titles.
- Twenty-three agreements were for mining. This includes 12 agreements on Aboriginal land with respect to 18 titles, and 11

**Table 17. New and current exploration and mining agreements on Aboriginal land 2023–24**

Type of agreement	New in 2023–24	Total current at 30 June 2024	
		Total agreements	Number of licences, permits and leases associated with agreements
Exploration	0	67	192
Mining	1	23	41
Total area of Aboriginal land under ELAs and EPAs			44,774 km <sup>2</sup>

agreements on land subject to the Native Title Act with respect to 23 titles.

Mineral leases or production licences are in place across the CLC region, while operational 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: traditional owners visit country to review proposed work programs and then instruct the CLC on the protection of sacred sites. If the agreement is approved, the CLC issues the company with a sacred site clearance certificate, which certifies the consent of traditional owners if the company complies with the conditions of the certificate. During the reporting period, the CLC conducted 22 on-site work area clearances for mineral and energy work programs, and issued 25 clearance certificates, including five variations, to companies under agreements.

Liaison committees allow 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 16 liaison committee meetings for various projects with some meetings 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 communities work together on agreed areas to strengthen Yapa (local Aboriginal) voices and improve employment and education outcomes in remote communities in the Tanami region. The aim is to ensure long-term benefits for Yapa from Newmont's operations.

The following key activities under the Ten Year Plan were carried out in 2023–24:

- The plan's steering committee, made up of senior staff of CLC and Newmont, met regularly to oversee implementation of the plan.
- Steering committee delegates met in May 2024 with Newmont, CLC and consultant researchers KPMG to discuss the focus of Newmont's latest social impact assessment (in the North Tanami); KPMG are supported by Yapa community researchers.
- Charles Darwin and Flinders universities began developing a tailored foundation skills (work readiness) pilot training program for traditional owners in the Tanami region.
- Planning continued with Newmont and a contractor to improve safety for traditional owners travelling long distances on the remote unsealed Tanami Highway. A new shade structure, mobile phone reception booster and emergency water hand pumps are expected to be installed by the end of 2024.
- The CLC continued to advocate to the NT Government and the Department of Industry, Planning and Logistics to upgrade existing rest stops, to establish new ones on the Tanami Highway, and to upgrade the Lajamanu Road.
- A mid-term review of the plan, including a scope review and contract development, was carried out.

## Government liaison and advocacy

The CLC regularly engages with government to raise concerns about or discuss improvements to government processes that will benefit traditional owners. It regularly makes submissions to government which advocate for the rights of traditional owners.

In the 2023–24 period, the CLC made the following submissions:

- joint CLC and NLC feedback on the Mineral Development Taskforce — Final Report, August 2023
- joint CLC and NLC feedback on the Mineral Royalty Scheme Review, August 2023
- submission to the Northern Territory Environment Protection Agency: Ammaroo Ammonium Phosphate Fertiliser Project, October 2023
- CLC and NLC: Joint submission on the Environment Protection Legislation Amendment (Mining) Bill 2023 and Legacy Mines Remediation Bill 2023, October 2023
- a joint CLC and NLC submission to the Draft Northern Territory Minerals Industry Plan – Pathway to 2030, May 2024.

## REISSUE OF CONSENT TO NEGOTIATE

The Land Rights Act legislates a fixed time period to negotiate a decision to grant or refuse an exploration application. A land council can extend the negotiation period by agreement with the applying company. In cases where a company does not display a serious intent to progress negotiation for a title, a land council may choose not to extend the negotiation period; however, companies can request that the NT Minister for Mining and Industry reissue a consent to negotiate. The Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade (DITT) has undertaken a study to consider why a land council has not extended the negotiating period before the department reissues a consent to negotiate on exploration applications. The CLC continues to liaise with the DITT on the matter.

Comet Fishhook at Ngatijirri aka Atetherr with a stone knife.





## Output 3.4 Economic participation

**Provide assistance and identify support as appropriate to enable prescribed body corporates and entities established through land use agreements to undertake enterprise activities to support economic participation.**

The CLC assists native-title-holding groups and traditional owners to generate income from their land interests, such as through land use agreements, and to grow business and job opportunities across the CLC region.

In 2023–24, the CLC improved and expanded its enterprise support and capacity building for constituents when it established the prescribed bodies corporate (PBC) enterprise support unit.

The CLC's community development program also supports enterprise development in communities through various income streams (see its report on pages 69 to 82).

### ABA economic stimulus funding

Since 2021, Aboriginal organisations working to build business and create employment in the CLC region have taken advantage of economic stimulus funding which was allocated from the ABA by the then minister to the NT's four land councils to alleviate the impacts of COVID-19. The CLC received \$36.7 million and the minister stipulated that it 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 co-ordination.

During 2023–24, the CLC continued to manage some contracts for projects that were approved in past reporting periods and are still in the implementation phase. The projects are being implemented by Aboriginal organisations in construction, housing, civil works, land management, horticulture, pastoral industry, human services, hospitality, art and media. The projects operate across the CLC region but were largely concentrated in the economic centres of Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.

During the reporting period, Dilin Duwa (Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership at The University of Melbourne) was engaged to conduct a qualitative evaluation of the CLC's economic stimulus funding program. The report findings state: 'Overall, the [funding] has had a positive impact on CLC constituents and is progressing positively towards its intended immediate

and short-term outcomes. The program's immediate outcomes were achieved as the funding was successfully deployed to keep several Aboriginal businesses operating and able to retain Indigenous staff. In terms of the short-term outcomes, there was commendable progress made with the most noticeable impact on Aboriginal employment, business expansion, and investment in Aboriginal infrastructure. The resulting employment and training outcomes, as well as the acquisition of assets through program funding, have led to a more positive outlook on the future of businesses and their contribution to Aboriginal communities in the CLC region.'

### Enterprise support to PBCs

#### HUCKITTA ENTERPRISES PTY LTD

The CLC has supported the Huckitta Aboriginal Corporation (HAC) and its enterprise arm Huckitta Enterprises Pty Ltd to operate a successful grazing operation at Huckitta Station since 2011, and at Atula since 2022. The HAC is the only shareholder of Huckitta Enterprises, which is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001*.

The PBC enterprise support unit began supporting the board of Huckitta Enterprises in August 2022. In 2023–24, it assisted the company's directors to:

- convene three meetings to identify their business aspirations and needs
- improve governance processes and review financials
- strengthen station managers' reporting to better inform directors about the station and its operations
- review new bio-security requirements and their legislative impact on management of the station
- increase the board's knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of company directors and, with various resources, demonstrate the difference between company corporations and Aboriginal corporations
- engage the Australian Institute of Company Directors to deliver training to the board in the second half of 2024
- identify a consultant to work with the board to develop a recruitment plan to engage future managers and facilitate handovers
- identify business advisers to develop an enterprise plan to establish a campground at the station.

CLC staff member Roxanne Highfold (left) was part of a fact-finding tour of three Aboriginal-run campgrounds in Western Australia in August 2023.



#### OORATIPPIRA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION REGISTERED NATIVE TITLE BODY CORPORATE

The CLC provides support to Ooratippra Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) to manage the Ooratippra pastoral lease, which the corporation holds. The corporation has sublet its pastoral lease to commercial cattle operators since 2000.

The PBC support unit began to support around OAC's economic aspirations in September 2023. In the 2023–24 reporting period, it assisted the corporation's directors to:

- wind up a grazing licence which expired in July 2023, and assisted in securing a new commercial cattle operator
- convene four meetings to discuss business operations, financials and business aspirations
- develop and implement an interim caretaker plan for the pastoral property which operated until a new grazing licence was signed
- complete the corporation's reporting in line with schedules 1 and 2 of its ABA Stimulus Funding agreement
- secure employment with the pastoral lease's new commercial cattle operator, whose grazing licence was awarded in September 2023.

The CLC will continue to work with the corporation's directors to progress their enterprise aspirations, and identify consultants to work with directors to update their business plan.

#### PATTA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC

During 2023–24, the PBC support unit developed an enterprise project plan for the Patta AC. The plan identified a consultant to work with the board to develop a strategic plan to identify the corporation's strategic objectives and direction. To increase the effectiveness of the corporation, the unit also helped it to engage a not-for-profit organisation to work with the directors to build their governance knowledge and capacity. A leadership coach has also been engaged to deliver leadership training to directors.

#### Support to other projects

##### ULURU – KATA TJUṬA AUSTRALIA SIGNATURE WALK

Since 2016, the CLC has supported Anangu around Uluru to attend several consultation meetings to reach an agreement between Parks Australia, Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park and a private tour company to develop a walking trail between Uluru and Kata Tjuta (UKT). The CLC is not a party to the agreement, but is working with the tour company to help it fulfil its obligations to Anangu, and to assist Anangu to leverage the economic and employment opportunities generated by the project.

Since February 2024, the CLC has helped the tour company to fulfil its secretarial role to the signature walk steering committee, which is developing the project's terms of reference. The CLC is supporting the committee to engage a consultant to develop a framework to manage and administer a portion of the income from the agreement that will go into an Anangu community fund.

The CLC is also liaising with the tour company to ensure the project meets the business, employment and training needs of the Anangu community, and to support the development of a training and employment plan and educational scholarship program.

At the request of the steering committee, the support unit has undertaken research to identify providers to deliver governance training to the committee.

##### WESTERN OUTSTATIONS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

The enterprise support unit supported the Western Outstations Economic Development Aboriginal Corporation to engage a consultant to prepare a scoping report exploring the feasibility of tourism ventures in the Mereenie region west of Alice Springs.

Two directors' meetings were convened to hear the findings of the report, to discuss the project's next phase and business planning, and to identify what assistance is required in the development of local enterprise projects. The enterprise support unit is seeking governance advice to support the directors to manage the corporation.

#### KULPITHARRA TOURS

The enterprise support unit supported Kulpitharra Tours to create a business plan for a campground on the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal land trust. The CLC helped the small family-owned tour business to register the business and connect with external providers of deliver business training and support. The CLC is supporting the business to apply for a lease and to secure funding.

#### KINTORE CAMPGROUND

In 2021, the Kintore community lease money working group, facilitated by the CLC's community development program, resolved to develop a campground near Kintore community. The enterprise support unit is working with the group to explore management and operational options for the campground, including identifying community stakeholders to auspice the campground until the working group is registered as an entity. Representatives of the working group visited Aboriginal-run campgrounds in Western Australia where they gained valuable insights into the operations of a season-based Aboriginal enterprise (see further information in 'Stakeholder engagement and advocacy', page 52).

#### MILPINGI CAMPGROUND

In 2021, Yuendumu's Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation committee allocated funds to develop a campground at Milpingi, two hours northwest of Yuendumu. A contractor has scoped the campground project and presented its findings to traditional owners and members of the Milpingi Ngapa and Wanta Aboriginal corporations. The CLC advised the Milpingi Ngapa corporation directors and stakeholders on the direction and development of the project.

### Support to Aboriginal sole traders

#### SPOTTED TIGER CAMPGROUND

Spotted Tiger campground, near Atitjere northeast of Alice Springs, is a family-run campground operating since 2010. The

campground is overseen by a traditional owner. In 2023–24, the CLC helped develop a project plan for the campground. The CLC advocated for local service providers, including Many Rivers, Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network and Community First Development, to support the individual to manage the campground.

### Stakeholder engagement and advocacy

The CLC attends meetings and forums related to Aboriginal economic development to promote investment in economic activities that meet the needs and aspirations of its constituents. It undertakes activities that allow its constituents to live and work on their country and in their communities, to work in ways that give room for practising and preserving culture, building financial independence, and managing their futures.

In the reporting period, various CLC staff attended:

- the Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network Aboriginal Economic Development Forum
- the Tourism Towards NT 2030 Conference
- the NT Aboriginal Leadership and Governance Forum
- meetings of the Aboriginal Tourism Business Development Central Australia
- meetings of the Central Australia Business Support Working Group
- the Outback Way Stakeholder Forum, and engaged with a local stakeholder.

A highlight this year was a successful field trip to Western Australia to visit three Aboriginal-owned campground businesses, exchange experiences and learn about their business models. The group included representatives from the Milpingi Aboriginal Corporation, Kintore community lease money working group, and Ntorrata Homelands. They visited Violet Valley Campgrounds, Doon Doon Station and Waggabun Campgrounds. The visitors heard that running a business is not always easy and that perseverance and optimism are key success factors. They also learned that native title legislation and processes are tricky to navigate, but having support, such as that provided by Tourism WA or the CLC, makes a difference. In addition, they learned that Aboriginal businesses can thrive in the outback if their owners are resourceful and creative.



# OUTPUT GROUP 4

## Advocacy services and community development

### Output 4.1 Public awareness and education

One of the CLC's functions is to raise awareness of the views and achievements of its members and constituents. Its communications team is the first port of call for many journalists reporting on issues in Central Australia, and its spokespeople respond to a high volume of media inquiries on a wide range of issues.

Leading up to the Voice referendum on 14 October 2023, the CLC actively promoted a 'yes' vote through a robust media campaign that aligned with the organisation's ongoing support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Five of the 21 media releases it issued in the reporting period were dedicated to the Voice referendum. As well, CLC spokespeople contributed op-ed

pieces to *The Guardian* and *The Australian* newspapers, and were interviewed in the media many times. Media staff provided compelling images and videos, including a powerful photo of council members at Uluru, which gained substantial traction in both national and international media.

During the referendum campaign, Coalition senators called for yet another audit of NT land councils, and tried to move a Senate motion to that end. The CLC responded with two media releases. 'Northern Territory land councils are among the most successful and most reviewed organisations in the country, and the CLC has demonstrated over and over that we are well-governed, transparent and effective,' CLC chief executive Les Turner



General manager professional services Dr Josie Douglas addresses a 'yes' rally in Alice Springs's central business district in October 2023. In the lead-up to the Voice referendum on 14 October 2023. The CLC's media team created a robust campaign, which included creating compelling images and videos.



TOP: CLC regional delegates (left to right) David Silverton, Rodney Katatuna and Conrad Rataru read the latest *Land Rights News* at a council meeting at the Yulara Pulka outstation in October 2023.



BOTTOM: CLC communications officer Sophia Willcocks interviewed new delegate Patrick Collins in May 2024. Mr Collins's profile now sits alongside other delegates on the CLC website.





responded in August. ‘Only two months ago, we welcomed an intensive performance audit by the Australian National Audit Office. Not only are we demonstrably accountable to our constituents and governments and improving continuously how we operate, we are also helping to close the gap. We contribute to one of the few targets in the National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap that are on track: the native title target.’ The Senate motion was voted down.

Following the referendum’s defeat, the CLC released a statement titled ‘Always was, always will be’, announcing a week of silence observed by Aboriginal leaders.

As bushfires ravaged Central Australia in November, the CLC advocated for the NT Government to classify buffel grass, an invasive and highly flammable species, as a weed. This call to action was prompted by a resolution of the CLC’s October council meeting, and reflected members’ concerns about the detrimental impact of the introduced species on culture, health and the environment. The CLC expressed its readiness to collaborate with government agencies and traditional owners to devise a weed management plan to protect current land.

In February 2024, a CLC media release announced that the native title holders of Singleton Station vowed to continue to fight the NT Government after the NT Supreme Court rejected their legal challenge to the government’s decision to re-grant a licence to extract the largest amount of groundwater the NT has ever given away. The traditional owners have taken their fight to the Court of Appeal of the NT. “We want to keep on fighting for this water,” native title holder Heather Anderson from Tennant Creek said, “We have got to keep going until the end, until they leave us alone. Until we win.”

A resolution passed at the October council meeting called for a 10-year partnership agreement between Aboriginal Housing NT, the NT land councils and the NT and Australian governments on remote housing. After the meeting the CLC worked with other members of the joint steering committee for remote housing to develop a set of 10 investment principles to inform the next funding agreement. In March 2024, the CLC welcomed an unprecedented investment of \$4 billion from both governments for remote housing in the NT over the next 10 years.

The council’s executive members called on young people to respect cultural leadership in the wake of a riot in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) in March 2024. The disturbance led to a three-day ‘circuit breaker’ lockdown imposed by police. CLC chair Matthew Palmer called out the behaviour, saying: “They have disrespected the native title holders of Mparntwe who have made it very clear how they expect people to behave. Young people should not take matters into their own hands but follow cultural leadership and authority.”

The council released a statement at its May meeting acknowledging the prevalence of domestic and family violence in Australia, particularly in the NT. It highlighted the disproportionately high rate of domestic- and family violence-related homicide in the NT, especially against Aboriginal women, and a lack of federal funding to address the issue. The CLC welcomed Prime Minister Anthony Albanese’s announcement of \$925 million to tackle domestic and family violence. It also called for needs-based funding for the NT, more efforts to meet the targets of the Closing the Gap National Partnership Agreement, investment in men’s healing programs, and support for community-led initiatives to ensure women’s and children’s safety.

Following the conclusion of the coronial inquest in May 2024 into the killing of Kumanjayi Walker at the hands of the NT police, the CLC’s executive committee issued a statement, “Racism in the NT Police must end.” The statement said that the time for vague promises and delayed actions is over. The NT police force must take immediate, transparent steps to eradicate racism and rebuild the shattered trust with Aboriginal people.

Other media releases in the reporting period led to media coverage of the opening of Ltyentye Apurte’s community-funded skate park, the new Tennant Creek ranger hub, the ranger camp at Tilmouth Well and the Huckitta Station native title determination.

## Publications

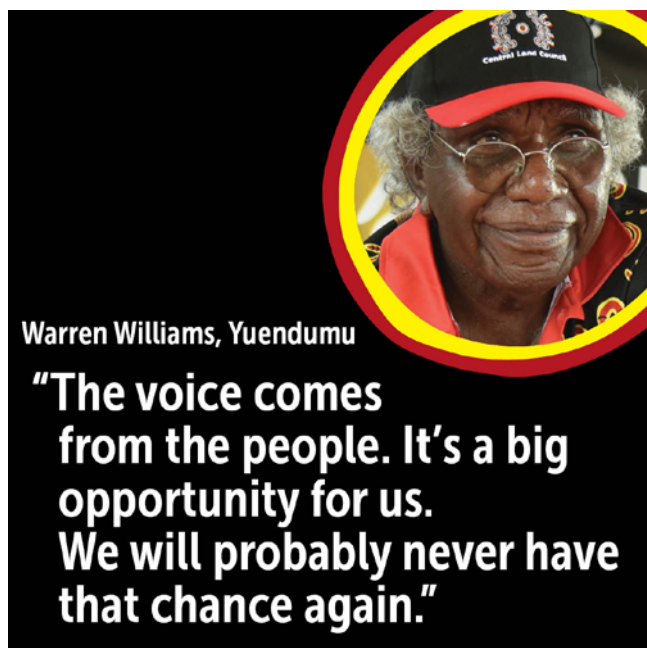
In the reporting period, the CLC published and distributed two editions of *Land Rights News* — Australia’s longest-running Aboriginal newspaper — and finalised production of a third edition, ready for printing and distributing in July 2024. The media team also issued two editions of *Council News*, the CLC’s newsletter informing constituents of the outcomes of council meetings, and two editions of *Community Development News*, the popular newsletter about the CLC’s community development program. The August 2023 edition of *Land Rights News* shed light on the perspectives of Aboriginal people within the CLC region regarding the Voice referendum. The communications team designed and produced promotional items for the Voice campaign, such as banners, t-shirts, print advertisements, corflute posters and stickers.

After the disappointing defeat of the referendum, the CLC looks forward to celebrating its 50th anniversary in October 2024. It began to produce merchandise and a special anniversary magazine, *Building the Bush*. Other merchandise produced during the year included CLC-branded clothing.

Requests to the communications team from CLC staff across the organisation for publications and other collateral has increased rapidly as the organisation has grown over the last few years. Internal demand outstripped the capacity of the communications



The CLC's online audience grew substantially during the lead-up to the Voice referendum; it published messages from respected leaders.



team to assist with these requests. A new senior communications officer position was created and filled in November 2023.

## Online

In an effort to combat misinformation surrounding the Voice referendum, the CLC launched a multilingual advertising campaign titled 'Listen to the leaders you trust'. The campaign amplified the voices of respected community leaders through local Aboriginal community media.

The message was echoed on the CLC's social media platforms, such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, and included 34 videos.

The CLC's online presence experienced remarkable growth this year as a growing audience engaged with the organisation's

referendum content. The CLC's Facebook following is now 12,700, and it now has an Instagram page. Total Facebook impressions surged by 118.5 per cent, increasing from 1.3 million in the previous year to an impressive 2.9 million. Additionally, Facebook post interactions significantly increased, jumping from 46,249 in 2022–23 to 91,371 in 2023–24, a 98.2 per cent increase. CLC's Facebook reach expanded by an astounding 200 per cent. During this time, the CLC's website attracted over 140,000 page views, with a dedicated landing page leading up to the Voice referendum.

There was a large spike in followers, interactions and reach on Facebook around the time of the October 2023 referendum, and the increase in engagement has steadily continued. The growing reach of CLC's online presence exemplifies its commitment to informing constituents about issues that matter to them.

Table 18. Communications activities 2019–24

Activity	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Media releases	22	20	30	22	20
Website page views	109,009	135,960	103,614 <sup>1</sup>	112,203	140,040
Videos	NOT REPORTED	NOT REPORTED	NOT REPORTED	NOT REPORTED	42
Newsletters	16	21	21	15	11
<i>Land Rights News</i>	3	3	3	3	2
Other publications (annual reports, information booklets, posters, etc.)	113	146	146	69	78
<b>Total publications</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>153</b>

<sup>1</sup> This figure has been corrected since it was first published.

## 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 region and to protect their interests. To meet this responsibility, CLC policy staff consult each newly elected council to ascertain their policy priorities. The team also monitors significant legislative and policy proposals from governments and consults the executive, council and broader CLC membership to ascertain their views and seek directions to guide CLC advocacy.

The CLC also carries out research to support policy development and engages with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that Aboriginal rights and interests are considered and upheld when land use and development proposals are put forward, consistent with people's rights under the Land Rights Act and Native Title Act. Consequently, the CLC represents Aboriginal views and aspirations with a high degree of authority.

### Performance

In 2023–24, the CLC made 17 submissions to the Australian and NT governments and non-government agencies on policy matters (including three developed jointly with the Northern Land

Council (NLC)). Twelve of the submissions were prepared by the policy team, which also contributed to the balance of the total submissions. The policy team also contributed to six Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT (APO NT) submissions. Table 19 below refers only to the submissions prepared by the CLC policy team.

### Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the Northern Territory

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

The CLC is a founding member of the APO NT, which was established in 2010 to co-ordinate advocacy and representation to governments following the 2007 NT Emergency Response. At June 2024, members of APO NT are the CLC, NLC, Tiwi Land Council, Anindilyakwa Land Council, Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT), Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT (AMSANT), NAAJA and NT Indigenous Business Network (NTIBN).

Table 19. CLC submissions to government 2023–24

Department or agency	Subject	Date submitted
Australian Department of Social Services	Developing the National Housing and Homelessness Plan	November 2023
	Review of Legislative Instruments under part 3AA or Part 3B of the <i>Social Security Act 1991</i>	January 2024
Productivity Commission	National Water Reform 2024: Inquiry report — an inquiry into renewing the 2004 National Water Initiative	15 February 2024
Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	First Nations Clean Energy Strategy	February 2024
	Reform of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> — October and December 2023 consultation materials	February 2024
	A future national water agreement	May 2024
Australian Parliament Senate Select Committee on Cost of Living	Cost of living	April 2024
NT Environmental Protection Agency	Comments on draft Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Statement to be prepared by Fortune Agribusiness Funds Management Pty Ltd for the Singleton Horticulture Project	September 2023
NT Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs	Inquiry into a Process to Review Bills for Their Impact on First Nations Territorians	September 2023
		April 2024
NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Northern Territory Police Review	December 2023
NT Electoral Commission	CLC response to draft Remote Polling Schedule for 2024 NT election	March 2024

**Table 20. CLC contributions to APO NT submissions 2023–24**

Jurisdiction	Department or agency	Subject	Date submitted
NT Government	Department of Education	NT Pre-School Review: Discussion paper	July 2023
		Review of Secondary Education in the Northern Territory: Discussion paper	August 2023
Federal Parliament, Australian Government and Federal agencies	Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry	Inquiry into the worsening rental crisis in Australia	July 2023
	Productivity Commission	Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap: Draft report	September 2023
	Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs Legislation Committee	Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee Bill 2023	November 2023
	Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights	Inquiry into Compulsory Income Management	May 2024

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. Dr Josie Douglas, general manager of professional services at the CLC, was appointed deputy convener for the APO NT in June 2024 to serve alongside its convener Dr John Paterson.

During the year Dr Douglas represented APO NT on the following national and NT forums:

- First Nations Reference Group for Remote Jobs and Economic Development (co-chair)
- NT and Commonwealth governments Joint Steering Committee on NT Remote Aboriginal Investment (NTRAI)
- NT Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs (NTECCA) which monitors Closing the Gap outcomes
- Coalition of Peaks National Partnership Working Group.

The CLC contributes to the APO NT’s strategic planning, submission writing and advocacy, and has participated in meetings of the NT’s Closing the Gap Partnership Working Group and the NTECAA.

In 2023–24, the APO NT governing group resolved to fund its members to employ senior policy officers to track the NT Government’s progress against the NT Closing the Gap Implementation Plan and the broader National Agreement on Closing the Gap. Under this initiative, the CLC has employed a senior policy officer since October 2023.

The senior policy officer also supports the AP ONT’s work establishing an NT Aboriginal education peak body, which is a commitment under the NT Closing the Gap Implementation Plan. She organised an education forum in October 2023 in Darwin for Aboriginal education groups and leaders to work on the design and development of the peak body. An interim steering committee was established representing educators from homelands, remote communities, and regional, urban, public and independent school communities. The committee convened in June 2024 to continue gathering feedback on government

education policies and to progress work on the establishment of an NT Aboriginal education peak body. On 29 April 2024, the CLC supported a presentation to the Children and Families Tripartite Forum in Alice Springs on progress towards establishing the peak body.

## Closing the Gap

The CLC advocated for the 2020 National Agreement on Closing the Gap to be fully implemented. Through its membership of the APO NT, the CLC participates in a range of national and NT forums and working groups that support this work.

At the national level, the CLC is an active member of the Coalition of Peaks. The coalition is a representative body of more than 80 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled peak organisations that partner with governments on Closing the Gap implementation. In 2023–24, two senior staff attended fortnightly teleconferences and monthly forums.

The CLC is also a member of the National Closing the Gap Partnership Working Group and attended three meetings in 2024.

At the NT level the APO NT co-chairs the NTECCA, which is tasked with monitoring and implementing the NT Government’s progress on Closing the Gap. The NTECCA has five members from the APO NT (including the CLC) plus representatives from the Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT), the NT Government and the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA). The CLC attended two meetings of the NTECCA in April and June 2024. The second Closing the Gap Implementation Plan for the NT was endorsed by the NT Cabinet in December 2023. The APO NT agreed in principle with the plan, but with a provision that a budget accompany each of its items. The CLC has also advocated for a focus on housing, water, health, education, employment and land management reform.

As an APO NT member, the CLC participated in four meetings of the NT Partnership Working Group, which informs the work of the NTECAA. In October 2023, a strong partnership workshop



NT Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs, June 2024: (L to R) Bridgette Bellenger (NIAA), Dr Josie Douglas (CLC), Phillip Brown (NAAJA), Honourable Minister Chansey Paech (NT Government and co-chair of NTECAA), Shaneen Tilmouth (Officer of Aboriginal Affairs), Dr John Paterson (co-chair NTECAA), Dorrelle Anderson (NT Government), Naomi Anstess (NTIBN), Skye Thompson (AHNT). (Photo: Courtesy Office of Aboriginal Affairs, NT)



reviewed the partnership between the NT Government, the APO NT and the LGANT. This review highlighted concerns by APO NT members about the lack of a whole-of-government response to implementing Closing the Gap and the inadequate resourcing of the implementation plans. The APO NT's review was consistent with findings of the Productivity Commission's Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, which states that "there has been no systematic approach to determining what strategies need to be implemented to disrupt business-as-usual of governments". It was a call to all governments to fundamentally rethink how they do business to address the slow progress on delivering the National Agreement's priority reforms and socio-economic targets.

## Housing

Housing is a well-established social determinant of health, a fundamental human right and a key policy priority for the CLC. The national Closing the Gap target to reduce overcrowding to 12 per cent by 2030 is a challenge for most NT remote communities. At 31 December 2023, after five years of joint NT and Commonwealth investment through the National Partnership for Remote Housing NT, the NT overcrowding rate was still high, at 53.7 per cent, and housing conditions across much of the region remain abysmal. The CLC advocates for better quality and greater availability of housing and a transition back to Aboriginal community control of remote housing.

### NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT FOR REMOTE HOUSING

In 2019, the four NT land councils joined the joint steering committee for the national partnership. This was the first intergovernmental agreement on remote housing to include all NT land councils in the governance of the agreement. The agreement between the Australian and NT governments aimed to improve the standard and supply of housing for Aboriginal people in 73 remote communities and 17 Alice Springs town camps. The land councils and the AHNT oversaw and provided strategic advice to the agreement's implementation. The agreement expired on 30 June 2024.

The CLC has focused on mapping a return to Aboriginal community control of remote housing. In August 2023, the CLC and the AHNT successfully proposed a research project to investigate options for establishing an Aboriginal governance agency for remote housing in the NT. A final report is due in the second half of 2024.

In response to a limited-scope desktop review of the national partnership, the CLC successfully advocated for an independent post-occupancy evaluation to capture the views of remote housing tenants. The Fulcrum Agency was engaged and conducted interviews in five communities across the NT, including Yuendumu, Kalkaringi and Alpururulam in the CLC region. The final report is due in July 2024. In October 2023, the CLC's council passed a resolution calling for a renewed and extended (10-year) partnership agreement on remote housing.

The CLC then worked with the other members of the joint steering committee to develop a set of 10 investment principles to inform the next funding agreement between the Australian and NT governments.

On 12 March 2024, the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the NT announced that their governments would invest an unprecedented \$4 billion in remote housing over 10 years from 1 July 2024. This was welcomed by the CLC's council, which had spoken up strongly for a longer and more significant funding commitment.

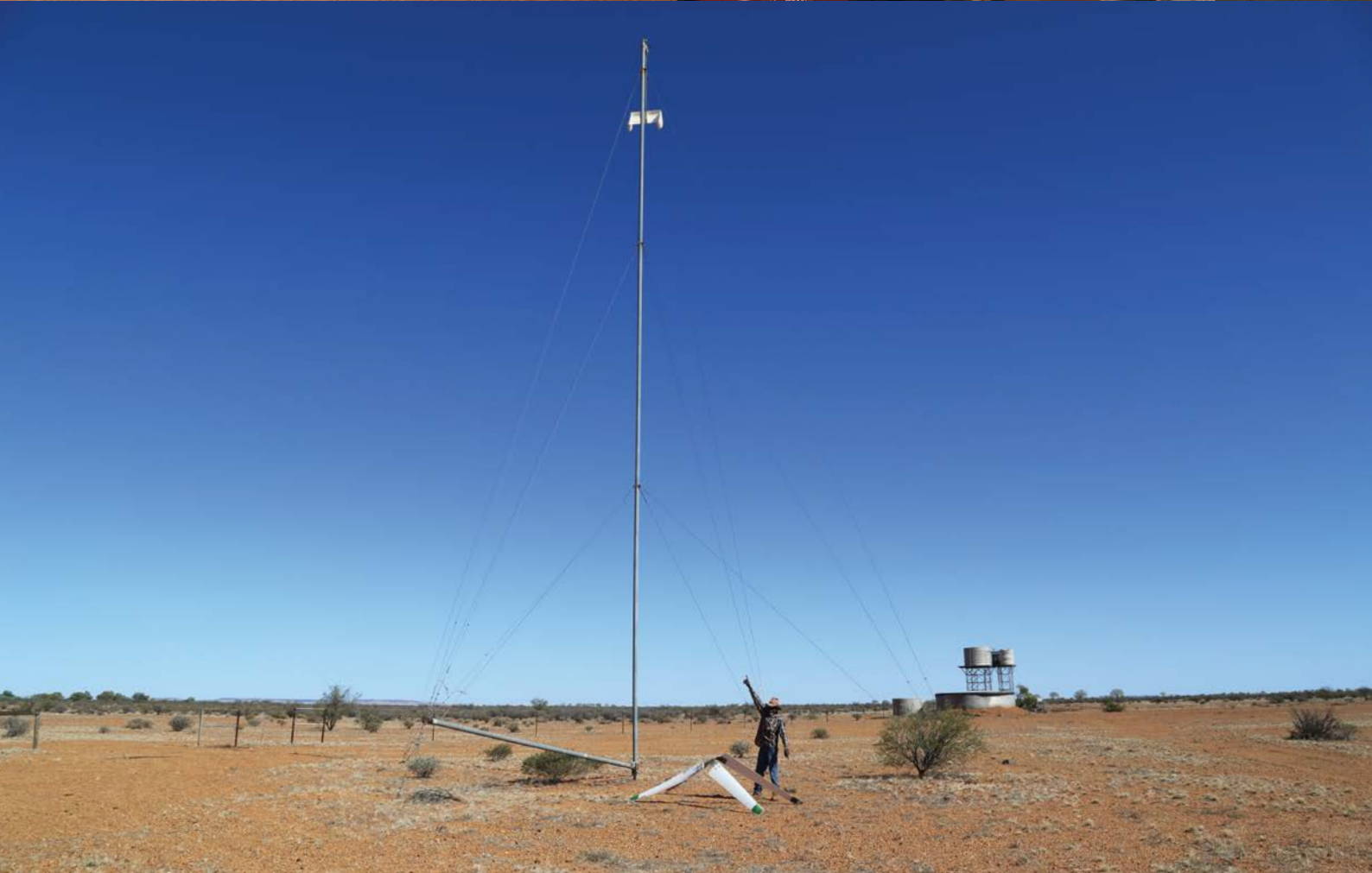
The investment aims to:

- construct up to 270 houses per year — a total of up to 2,700 houses over 10 years
- halve overcrowding from current levels to approximately 25 per cent, although still short of the Closing the Gap target of 12 per cent; and
- provide more money for repairs and maintenance, including preventative maintenance.

In addition, \$240 million will be provided over three years for housing improvements and essential infrastructure upgrades in NT homelands.

CLC deputy chair Warren Williams and regional delegate Ronald Brown presented on establishing infrastructure on homelands at the AHNT's annual Aboriginal Housing and Homelands Conference at Alice Springs in April 2024.

The CLC is lobbying the NT and Australian governments for money for repairs to homeland infrastructure, such as this broken wind turbine at David Doolan's Charlotte Waters outstation.





CLC chair Matthew Palmer signs the new agreement after many years of lobbying and advocacy by the CLC.



Following the announcement, the CLC and the other members of the joint steering committee developed a new partnership agreement on remote housing aligned with the four priority reforms of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap 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 scaled to meet the housing shortage and future demand, given that over the life of the 2019–24 agreement overcrowding was reduced by only 3.1 per cent.

For the first time, this is a genuine partnership agreement between all members of the joint steering committee, not just the two governments. On 20 June 2024, the four land council chairs joined the CEO of the AHNT, the NT Remote Housing and

Homelands Minister Selena Uibo, and the Australian Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney at Milikapiti on Tiwi Island to sign the new 10-year agreement.

### SMALL COMMUNITIES AND HOMELANDS

The CLC has worked for many years to support its constituents to live on their homelands on their own country. Despite the fundamental importance to Aboriginal people of practising and passing on culture, homelands continue to suffer chronic underfunding. The CLC participated in a workshop of the joint steering committee of the homelands working group in March 2024 to present policy priorities and to develop a long-term vision for homelands.

### HOMELANDS HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

In October 2022, the Australian Government announced a \$100 million, two-year investment for urgent repairs and maintenance across NT homelands. The NT Government manages the investment through the Homelands Housing and Infrastructure Program (HHIP). In November 2022, the CLC's council established the homelands reference group as a forum to consult with the NT Government about issues affecting homelands, including decision-making on allocations of HHIP funding in the CLC region. The group comprises one member from each of the CLC regions, nominated by the CLC's regional delegates.

It met for two days in Alice Springs in August 2023 to shortlist projects for funding from the \$22.68 million allocated to the CLC region (the balance of funds available from the first allocation of \$100 million). The group was provided with a 'pipeline' list of proposed priority projects prepared by the NT Government, in consultation with Homelands Service Providers, the AHNT, the CLC and the Barkly Aboriginal Alliance.

In line with principles endorsed by the CLC's executive, the group's decision-making was informed by regional equity, need and fairness, as well as value for money and capacity to deliver (acknowledging limited funding and short timeframes). Fifteen projects were selected by the group across all of the CLC regions except for region 6, which had been allocated \$12.45 million by the program in 2022–23.

The reference group met again in November 2023 and reflected on its decision-making process and discuss other policy issues affecting homelands. A list of policy priorities was developed to be presented to the joint steering committee of the homelands working group to guide further discussion.

In April 2024, two members of the CLC's group presented on the importance of homelands at the Aboriginal Housing and Homelands Conference in Alice Springs.



## Voice to Parliament and referendum

In January 2023, the CLC's executive endorsed the creation of a small 'Voice' team to develop an information and awareness campaign to remind members of the basis for the CLC's long-standing support for the Uluru Statement and provide information 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 the CLC's self-generated income and philanthropic funds. Its priority was to consult members across the CLC region. From July 2023 to the Voice referendum's polling day on 14 October 2023, the team held community meetings and workshops in 19 member communities as well as information stalls at the Alice Springs Show, NAIDOC week, Alice Springs Town Council market and the DESERT Mob Festival. It also consulted with the boards and staff of 13 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal corporations and non-government organisations.

Despite a national majority 'no' vote to the October 2023 referendum, the NT electorate of Lingiari, which covers all of the CLC region, registered a 'yes' vote of 73 per cent.

### 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 NT never ceded sovereignty of their land and waters and, before colonisation, were self-governing peoples in accordance with their traditional laws and customs. The Barunga Agreement committed the NT Government to a treaty process and its treaty commission tabled a report outlining the NT Government's treaty-making framework in the NT Parliament in July 2022.

The treaty process in the NT stalled during 2023 as the NT Government and Aboriginal organisations turned their attention to the Voice referendum. In January 2024, the NT Minister for Indigenous Affairs Chansey Paech announced the government's plan to restart the treaty process. The CLC attended a subsequent NT Government treaty symposium in Alice Springs in April 2024. In May 2024, the CLC's council passed a resolution authorising staff to progress a second treaty memorandum of understanding or agreement to reinvestigate the next phase of a treaty process. A draft agreement prepared by the CLC has been circulated to the three other NT land councils for review and comment.

### THE ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS ACT AND THE ABORIGINALS BENEFIT ACCOUNT

The Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) was set up under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) (Land Rights Act). Under the Land Rights Act the ABA receives funds

from the Commonwealth that are equivalent to the royalties from mines located on Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory. The Land Rights Act allows for the funds to be used to benefit Aboriginal people in the NT and to support the administration of the land councils. Under 2021 amendments to the Land Rights Act, the NT Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC) was established to take over the management and awarding of ABA grants and to develop an investment strategy.

A matter of great concern for the four NT land councils in 2023–24, with future implications for the balance of funds in the ABA, was the NT Government's decision to legislate a new *ad valorem* minerals royalty framework. The decision was in response to a recommendation from the NT Government's Mineral Development Taskforce Report (April 2023) to replace the profits-based royalty regime with a regime based on the value of the mineral resource extracted. The change means that the royalty rate will be set at the outset of production with no possibility of increase in a high profit environment. This would, consequently, reduce the matching payments made to the ABA by the Commonwealth under the Land Rights Act and, in turn, reduce money available to communities affected by mining.

The new *ad valorem* law exempts mines that are operational in 2023, which will continue to operate under the profit-based royalty scheme. The 'grandfathering' of those mines will remain in place for the life of the mines (estimated at less than 10 years); however, there is no guarantee that this aspect of the law will not be subject to amendment under a future NT government. The reduction in funds in the ABA account that will be brought about by the new regime, combined with the forecast closures of the Newmont Granites mine in the Tanami and the Groote Eylandt Mining Company's manganese mine on Groote Island, is very concerning for the four NT land councils and their constituents.

### Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation

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 draws funds from the ABA to empower Aboriginal people in the NT to invest in projects that support Aboriginal economies and communities for generations to come.

The legislation followed 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 to the ABA with decision-making power in the hands of the federal minister.

The 12-member NTAIC board 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 board is chaired by CLC executive member Barbara Shaw. The new corporation works within the rules set out in the PGPA Act and has published its first corporate plan.

During 2023–24, the corporation consulted widely on its investment strategy, which will be submitted to the Minister for Indigenous Australians and Parliament and will release \$500 million of investment funds to the NTAIC.

On 3 October 2023, the CLC’s council passed a resolution appointing Martin Jugadai as a NTAIC director for a period of two years. He joins Barbara Shaw, who was elected in November 2022. Council nominated Jimmy Frank Junior to replace Mr Jugadai on an interim basis on 1 May 2024.

## Commonwealth Community Development Program and remote employment reform

The CLC and other APO NT members have long campaigned to end the Australian Government’s controversial Community Development Program (CDP). Most CDP participants are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, and almost half live in the NT. The program has failed to increase Aboriginal employment in the NT but, during the program’s most punitive era, increased numbers of penalties and payment suspensions. This has contributed to significant harm to communities.

As a member of the APO NT, the CLC played a lead role in the development of the 2017 Fair Work and Strong Communities proposal for a new approach to remote employment and community development. The proposal aims to create jobs and strengthen Aboriginal community control.

The CLC has, therefore, welcomed the Australian Government’s investment, announced in February 2024, of \$707 million for the new Remote Jobs and Economic Development program. The program will create up to 3,000 jobs across remote Australia.

The CLC’s Dr Josie Douglas represents the Coalition of Peaks (as a member of the APO NT) on the First Nations Reference Group of the program and was elected its co-chair in March 2024. The reference group met five times and held three design sessions in 2023–24.

The program is expected to commence in the second half of 2024. The CDP program will continue until 30 June 2025 when it will be replaced with a new remote employment service.

The CLC is actively engaging in the development of both the new program and the new remote employment service. It is seeking to ensure that employment in Aboriginal community-controlled organisations is prioritised, and to securing a longer-term commitment to, and more substantial investment in, remote

jobs and capacity building of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations in Central Australia. In addition to its representation on the reference group, the CLC attended consultations on the new program in Alice Springs in June 2024 and contributed to the APO NT’s response to the NIAA’s discussion paper which will be submitted in July 2024.

## Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment fund

In October 2022, the Australian and NT governments announced they had signed a two-year extension to the National Partnership on Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment (NTRAI). The agreement’s extension included new funding of \$173.2 million to continue services covered by the former Stronger Futures in the NT package, including health, education, policing and Aboriginal interpreter services in remote NT communities. The two-year extension finished on 30 June 2024.

The Australian Government also committed to work in partnership with the APO NT, of which the CLC is a founding member. The NT Government promised 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. To achieve that, both governments agreed with the APO NT’s proposal to negotiate a partnership agreement between the three parties.

Negotiations around a partnership agreement continued in the early part of the 2023–24 financial year in the NTRAI’s joint steering committee but were put on hold by the Commonwealth because of the workload associated with the Voice referendum held in October 2023.

Ultimately, the Australian Government decided to extend the NTRAI for a further 12 months to cover the 2024–25 financial year. The CLC expects that negotiations will resume as soon as possible to settle on a long-term partnership agreement. The CLC attended three joint steering committee working group meetings and two special steering committee meetings during the reporting period.

## Water

Safe and secure drinking water, and water for country and development, are critical concerns for the CLC’s constituents in remote communities. They have a right to safe drinking water and a right to protect the water on their traditional lands. Improving the availability and quality of water is one of the CLC’s top policy priorities and it has advocated for these rights for many years. A comprehensive strategy on water that meets goals set by the CLC’s council has been developed by the CLC’s policy, legal, land management and anthropology teams.

Native title holders of Singleton Station: (left to right) Dianne Curtis, Judith Swan, Valerie Curtis, Mervin Franey and Dawn Swan.



Key water issues focused on in 2023–24 were health, essential services, water planning and allocation, decision making and monitoring, advocacy and litigation.

Highlights were:

- Advocating for legislation to ensure safe drinking water and adequate funding for drinking-water infrastructure in remote communities and homelands, through:
  - Regular meetings with NT Government staff responsible for developing the safe drinking water legislation committed to by the NT Government in July 2023. From these meetings a strategic advisory group was established in February 2024, including the CLC, the NLC, the AMSANT, the Aboriginal Housing NT, the Office of Water Security, the Department of Health, and the Power and Water Corporation. The group has met at least monthly, and held a workshop in April 2024.
  - Issuing media releases on water rights in January and February 2024 and radio and TV interviews with the ABC in February and March 2024 on water rights and drinking water concerns.
  - Leading the development of, and participating in, the remote essential services working group, in December 2023, alongside the NLC and the NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities. The group is a forum to progress Closing the Gap targets related to essential services, and to advocate for the involvement of land councils and affected Aboriginal communities in NT Government proposals to the National Water Grid. The group met three times in the reporting period.
- Preparation of submissions on water-use planning that advocate for centering Aboriginal people in decision making and monitoring, and protection of cultural and environmental values. In February 2024, the CLC's policy team provided

a detailed submission to the Productivity Commission's review of jurisdictional compliance with the National Water Initiative, including a raft of recommendations to bring the NT Government into line with best practice. In May 2024, the team prepared a joint submission, with the NLC and expert water consultants, to the Federal Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water regarding the new National Water Agreement.

- Good-faith participation in the Western Davenport and Ti Tree water advisory committees, despite deep concerns about the Western Davenport water allocation planning process. The committee met three times during the reporting period.
- Litigation on behalf of traditional owners of Singleton Station over the issuing of a water licence (see below).
- Raising the profile of water issues in our region and across Australia through media campaigns and conference presentations alongside traditional owners; for example:
  - participation in the Drinking Water in the Bush Forum organised by The National Water Grid in Alice Springs in July 2023
  - delivery of a keynote address on water by Dr Josie Douglas at the Environment Centre NT's Conference in Darwin in September 2023.

#### SINGLETON STATION WATER LICENCE

In April 2021, the NT Water Controller granted a 30-year water licence to Fortune Agribusiness for up to 40,000 megalitres of water per year. This is the biggest licence ever granted in the NT for a horticulture project. The CLC commissioned expert analysis of the project that indicated it is likely to have a significant impact on groundwater, sand plain habitat, culturally significant ecosystems and sacred sites. Significantly, the analysis found that the project is unlikely to deliver the economic benefits stated by the proponent.

On the instructions of native title holders, the CLC sought review of the licence in 2021. Native title holders also asked the CLC to take the matter to court if their concerns were not adequately considered.

The review led to some minor but insufficient changes to the licence conditions. On behalf of the Mpwerempwer Aboriginal Corporation (the native title holders) the CLC challenged the granting of the licence in the NT Supreme Court. The challenge argued that the granting of the licence was invalid because it did not comply with the NT's *Water Act 1992* and did not adequately take Aboriginal cultural values into account.

On 31 January 2024, the judge dismissed all challenges and upheld the licence. The CLC's lawyers explained the ruling to the native title holders at a meeting in Tennant Creek in February 2024. Native title holder Heather Anderson told the meeting,



CLC community development officer Carl O'Sullivan and GMAAAC director David McCormack at the First Nations Clean Energy Symposium in Adelaide in May 2024. (Photo: Rachel Mounsey)



"We have got to keep going until the end, until they leave us alone. Until we win." Native title holders instructed the CLC to appeal the decision.

The appeal will be heard in the NT Supreme Court in August 2024.

#### SINGLETON STATION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

In March 2023, after lobbying by the CLC, native title holders and other concerned groups, the NT Environment Protection Authority (NTEPA) announced that the Singleton horticulture project would require the most rigorous environmental impact assessment process. The project's start is delayed until the environmental impact statement is completed and the NTEPA will make a recommendation to the Minister for Water to inform their decision. In August 2023, the authority released the draft terms of reference for the statement. On the advice of native title holders, the CLC made written and verbal submissions to the NTEPA in September 2023 on how to strengthen the terms of reference. It highlighted the inadequacy of the proposed social and cultural impact assessment process and the baseline biodiversity studies.

The NTEPA released the final terms of reference for the EIS on 5 October 2023. The NTEPA agreed that a new social and cultural impact assessment was required and it accepted that the CLC should be involved in designing that assessment. It extended the completion time for the EIS to three years to allow for that. Depending on the outcome of the forthcoming August 2024 appeal to the granting of the water licence, the CLC will seek instructions from native title holders, affected traditional owners

and local residents on how to collaborate on a new social and cultural impact assessment.

#### First Nations Clean Energy Strategy

The CLC contributed significantly to the development of the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy. The strategy is a priority under the National Energy Transformation Partnership, agreed to by all Australian energy ministers.

The First Nations Clean Energy and Emissions Reduction Advisory Committee supports the development of the strategy. The CLC is represented on the committee by CLC delegate and GMAAAC committee director David McCormack, who attended six committee meetings in 2023–24. Mr McCormack and two CLC staff also attended the 2024 First Nations Clean Energy Symposium in Adelaide in May 2024.

#### Remote Power Systems Strategy

The Remote Power Systems Strategy is the NT Government's plan to deliver an average of 70 per cent renewable energy to the 72 remote communities currently provided with predominantly diesel-generated electricity through the Indigenous Essential Services (IES) program. The strategy is a commitment under the NT Government's climate change response.

The CLC was concerned by the government's lack of early engagement with remote communities and clear commitment to ensure that the strategy directly benefits them through lower power prices for households. This lack of commitment is out of step with national policy directions. At the request of the CLC, the government set up a working group to develop a

strategy with the land councils — agreeing to shared objectives and principles to guide the strategy’s development and implementation. The group met in May 2024.

## Poverty

While cost-of-living pressures are causing pain to households around the country, Aboriginal people in remote NT face uniquely dire circumstances. The CLC advocated for policy change to address this economic hardship in the CLC region. Its key recommendations include:

- a substantial increase to, and an ongoing indexation of, the remote area allowance to account for the higher cost of living in remote areas
- replacement of the failed CDP program with a new approach that creates jobs and strengthens Aboriginal community control
- targeted efforts by the Department of Social Services to ensure that Aboriginal people in remote communities receive their correct eligible income support and expanded face-to-face Centrelink services in Central Australia
- measures to address the unacceptably high rates of energy poverty in remote communities.

The CLC has listed these recommendations in multiple submissions, including to the Senate Select Committee on Cost of Living in April 2024 and the APO NT’s submission to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee on the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee Bill in November 2023.

## Income management

A discriminatory policy of compulsory quarantining of welfare payments was introduced as part of the NT Emergency Response (the Intervention) in 2007 and the CLC has opposed it since that time.

During 2023–24, the Australian Government undertook consultations on the future of income management. Individuals in South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia who were previously subject to the compulsory cashless debit card have been able to opt out of the program since October 2023, while those in the NT are still unable to do so.

The latest in a long line of CLC submissions on income management is its January 2024 submission to the review of legislative instruments made under Part 3AA or Part 3B of the

*Social Security (Administration) Act 1999*. It also contributed to submissions by the APO NT and the NAAJA to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights Inquiry into Compulsory Income Management in May 2024.

## National environmental law reform

In April 2024, the CLC made a submission to the DCCEEW on the development of proposed new ‘Nature Positive’ national environmental laws. In its submission, the CLC raised concerns, reported in the media,<sup>3</sup> about the minimal effort made by the government to consult with traditional owners. While the CLC strongly supports federal environmental law reform in principle, the extent to which a new regime protects the rights and interests of, and contributes to, better outcomes for Aboriginal people will depend on the design and strength of protections in the new legislation. The government has paused the reforms and the CLC will be seeking to engage with the reform process when it recommences to ensure the rights and interests of traditional owners are upheld.

## Education

In October 2023, the CLC’s council passed a resolution to advocate for the abolition of the NT’s effective enrolment policy that has left remote schools without adequate resourcing for the last nine years. The resolution called on the NT Government to support bilingual education, increase investment in Aboriginal educators and principals, and include community representatives in the recruitment of principals and teachers. The CLC welcomed the Australian Government’s increased funding for education in the NT through a new enrolment-based funding model. The new model will be funded through \$738 million of Commonwealth funds from 2025 to 2029 and an NT allocation of \$250 million for the same period. The new model is informed by the 2022 Deloitte Effective Enrolment Review which found that the NT’s attendance-based model has left NT schools significantly underfunded.

Policy staff met with the Department of Education four times during the year to advocate for increased remote school funding, greater investment in Aboriginal teacher-training, and involvement of community members in teacher and principal school recruitment.

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<sup>3</sup> ‘Internal Labor group chides Plibersek on nature-positive “vacuum”’, J. Greber and T. Rabe, 5 April 2024, *Australian Financial Review*.

## 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, are also opportunities for traditional owners to visit cultural sites and discharge their cultural responsibilities.

The Reading the Country project aims to help rangers advance their knowledge and skills in the art of tracking. In 2023–24 Warlpiri trackers and teachers developed Yitaki Maninjaku Ngurungka, a bilingual animal tracking training package that combines traditional and modern teaching methods. The package includes teaching and learning aids and a database of photos to enable users to better understand the signs of desert mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds. The database includes photos of animal tracks and other signs of animal presence, such as burrows, nests, diggings, pellets and scats. The CLC launched the package at the April 2024 ranger camp.

### Cultural support and sacred sites

Sacred sites are places of deep spiritual significance and are integral to Aboriginal culture. They are a source of identity for Aboriginal people, and sacred site protection is vital for religious and cultural traditions to continue. The CLC's sacred site clearance certificate process reassures traditional owners that development on their lands happens safely and that their culture and sacred sites are protected.

In 2022–23, the CLC simplified sacred site clearance procedures to streamline the process. As well as sacred site clearance certificates, clearance letters are now also issued for simpler works in some communities and outstations where the CLC has a high degree of confidence that no sacred sites are in the proposed work area.

The CLC issued 170 sacred site clearance certificates or sacred site clearance letters in 2023–24. The clearance certificates were issued for developments, such as new houses and aged care facilities, road upgrades on Aboriginal land, installation of telecommunications infrastructure, and proposed mineral exploration on Aboriginal land trusts and perpetual pastoral leases. Simple works that were issued with sacred site clearance letters included shade structures, lights and seating at community sporting ovals, renovations and extensions to shops, schools, clinics and churches and upgrades to airstrips.

The Willowra mapping project is a community-led initiative to record and paint sacred sites along Wirliyajarrayi (the Lander River) on a large canvas map 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, including the names of sacred sites, dreamings, songs associated with sites, and olden time and other stories about country. The project collects information from senior traditional owners, some of whom are the last generation to have lived off the land. In 2023–24, elders worked with anthropologists to record sites and songlines. Other communities in the region have expressed an interest in similar projects, which are seen as an important legacy for senior people.

In February 2024 Rrkwer/Yurrkuru (Brooks Soak), a site associated with the 1920s Coniston Massacres, was added to the NT Heritage Register. The CLC's advocacy for the declaration and its work with traditional owners to record stories and map the site were instrumental. Consultation and research continue for other sites linked to the Coniston Massacres.

The CLC genealogist position was vacant for much of 2023–24. Despite this, 28 extracts of genealogies were sent out in response to requests from constituents.

Members of the public sometimes ask the CLC to return objects in private collections to relevant communities or community keeping places. The objects often have little in the way of provenance — where they are from, who might own them and what cultural restrictions may apply to them — and this sensitive work is ongoing.

A CLC subcommittee of the executive that guides policy around the repatriation of information and objects met seven times in 2023–24. The executive was briefed by the subcommittee in March 2024, and in May 2024 the executive approved a policy and procedure for the repatriation of objects in the CLC collection and for objects sent to the CLC by the public.

From time to time, the CLC's constituents request access to, or copies of, material held in the CLC archives. Currently, the CLC provides copies of photos and extracts of genealogies. After a recommendation from the executive subcommittee in March 2022, the anthropology team is developing additional policies for provision of other archival materials. In 2023–24, the subcommittee discussed issues of copyright, privacy and cultural protocols around repatriation.



### SACRED SITE DAMAGE INVESTIGATIONS

In the reporting period, CLC anthropologists investigated 11 areas where constituents had reported concerns about damage to sacred sites.

### 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 to establish funeral funds administered by the CLC.

The CLC allocates the ABA funds according to strict guidelines. In 2023–24, it processed 267 applications for funeral expenses and the anthropology team advised on 39 applications that required further research.

Table 23 shows the communities that received resources for ceremonies held during the 2023–24 summer.

**Table 21. Cultural and heritage support 2023–24**

Issue	Number of requests for support	
	2022–23	2023–24
Advice and support — land, sea and natural resource management	43	25
Advice and support — land use agreements	18	14
Advice and support — economic development and commercial services	1	2
Advice and support — advocacy	5	2
Administration and support services	76	40
Advice and support — native title activities	16	28
Advice and support — mining-related activities	(NOT RECORDED)	9

**Table 22. Sacred site clearance certificates and letters 2023–24**

Issue	Number of requests for support	
	2022–23	2023–24
Exploration and mining (Aboriginal land)	11	14
Exploration and mining (native title land)	8	12
Research for telecommunications infrastructure	15	13
Community and other infrastructure	121	102
Housing and leases	8	4
Road works	21	12
Land management activities	6	13
Other	8	2

**Table 23. Communities supported to conduct ceremonies 2023–24**

Region 1	Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Wallace Rockhole, Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa), Titjikala, Alice Springs
Region 2	Utju (Areyonga), Kaltukatjara (Dockers River), Mutitjulu, Imanpa, Aputula (Finke)
Region 3	Daguragu, Lajamanu
Region 4	Yuendumu, Willowra, Nyirripi
Region 5	Kintore, Papunya, Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff), Mount Liebig
Region 6	Tennant Creek
Region 7	Arparra, 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 their income — primarily from land use agreements, such as rent, royalty, leasing and compensation payments — in the development of their communities. With this help, the groups build their capacity through the planning and implementation of community-driven projects. These projects maintain identities, languages, cultures and connection to country, strengthen the governance of locally controlled organisations, and improve health, education and employment outcomes.

The CLC takes a flexible approach to community development. It employs processes that ensure residents and traditional owners control their assets, projects and programs. This builds individual and collective capacity and self-reliance, as outlined in the CLC's community development framework.

The community development program started in 2005 and at 30 June 2024 employed 26 staff. It is active in 42 communities and supports 29 traditional owner groups from 14 national parks and 27 other traditional owner groups. Of the communities, 36 are in the CLC region. Three are the Western Australian communities of Balgo, Billiluna and Ringer Soak, which receive compensation income from the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC). The program also works with three communities in South Australia where traditional owners of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park live.

The program uses seven major regional income streams and a growing number of smaller, increasingly diverse sources of land use income, such as from grazing licences, carbon credits and mining exploration.

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 instructions.

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.

### Performance

Since 2005, the Aboriginal governance groups described above have committed \$255.6 million (inc GST) to more than 2,800 projects, ranging from multimillion-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 the Newmont Corporation which operates a mine in the region.

In the reporting period, the CLC continued to work with the La Trobe University's Centre for Human Security and Social Change on implementation of its Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Strategy. In *The CLC Community Development Program Monitoring Report July 2022 – June 2023*, authors Barich et al. found that the program "is continuing to grow and contribute to economic and social development within remote Aboriginal communities". The report also noted that the application of the partnerships and networks, and lobbying and advocacy strategies from the community development program's framework, positively supports the outcomes of the work and is highly valued by constituents. The monitoring included a case study of the Atitjere community that outlined the outcomes from the matched funds initiative (see page 77) in combination with the partnerships and networks, and lobbying and advocacy strategies from the framework.

The longitudinal study of community development projects in Lajamanu also continued in 2023–24. Yapa community researchers and advisers collected and analysed data with the support of the La Trobe University.

In 2023–24, Aboriginal groups committed more than \$31.2 million (inc GST) to 226 new projects, following 736 consultations with communities. The amount committed is a 7 per cent decrease from the previous year. There was a decrease in funding commitments by the NT Parks, Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) and Uluru rent money governance groups, and most of these funds related to projects approved by GMAAAC committees. The number of consultations increased slightly this year as staff continue to build community governance capacity, develop partnerships with local organisations and develop projects with communities involved in the matched funds initiative.

A key outcome of community development projects is local training and employment. In 2023–24, community development projects delivered 70,444 hours of employment for 658

Aboriginal people. It also delivered 3,734 hours of accredited training and 5,265 hours of unaccredited training to 515 participants. The community development program also provided wrap-around support to 49 boarding school students to help them manage the challenges of studying far from home.

Increasingly, program participants want to share their stories with a broader audience, spread project ideas, celebrate successes and inspire pride. During the reporting period the CLC published two editions of *Community Development News* and showcased projects in traditional and social media. Program participants also presented their work at conferences, summits and other events, including:

- 2023 Puliima Indigenous Languages and Technology Conference, August, Darwin
- 2023 SNAICC (Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care) Conference, September, Darwin
- 2023 Australian Evaluation Society International Conference, September, Brisbane
- 2023 APO NT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Forum, October, Darwin
- 2023 First Nations Clean Energy and Emissions Reductions Advisory Group (six meetings)
- 2024 Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Summit, June, Melbourne.

## Major community development income streams

### ULURU RENT MONEY

The traditional owners of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park were among the first to work with the CLC's community development program in 2006. The park's traditional owners formed two governance groups: the Muṯitjulu working group and a regional traditional owner group. The groups invest rent received from park leases and gate fees in community benefit projects in the Muṯitjulu community and across the region.

Between 2005 and June 2024, the two groups invested \$22.5 million (inc GST) in regional projects. In the 2023–24 year, Uluru rent money allocated almost \$575,000 (inc GST) to fund community benefit projects.

The Muṯitjulu working group currently funds the operation of the Muṯitjulu pool. Four Anangu were employed for a total of 389 hours during this year's successful swimming season. Two Anangu qualified as lifeguards. Pool staff reported higher attendance by elders this year, and more intergenerational mixing. The Muṯitjulu school reports that attendance has increased as a result of its 'Yes School, Yes Pool' program.

**Table 24. Community development income streams 2023–24<sup>1</sup>**

Income stream	Purpose	\$ value
Uluru rent money project	Uses rent paid to traditional owners of the Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park for a range of sustainable regional initiatives	574,317
Warlpiri Education and Training Trust	Uses mining royalties of The Granites gold mine in the Southern Tanami for sustainable education, training and employment benefits	2,736,543
Tanami dialysis support project (Kurra Aboriginal Corporation)	Uses 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	Uses affected area monies from the Commonwealth Government (calculated by reference to The Granites mine royalties paid to the NT Government) to support nine communities in the Southern Tanami to apply those monies to broad community benefit activities	20,667,839 <sup>2</sup>
NT parks rent money project	Uses rent paid to traditional owners of national parks, conservation and nature reserves for a range of sustainable initiatives	802,286
Community lease money project	Uses rent paid for community leases to 31 communities for a diverse range of community benefit projects	1,215,083
Other income streams	Uses mainly new and smaller payments linked to mining and exploration for a variety of community benefit projects	2,721,685
Matched funds initiative	Provides complementary funding for groups that have new income from land use agreements that is allocated to community benefit projects	2,578,617
<b>Total</b>		<b>31,296,370</b>

1. All figures shown in this table include GST

2. Includes \$1.4 million for two special-circumstances insurance payments (see GMAAAC report pages 73 to 75)



Kurra directors met in Alice Springs in June 2024. They and other directors of the CLC region's Aboriginal corporations took advantage of the CLC's good governance program to increase their skills.



Highlights for the period are:

- Urgent electrical repairs to the Mutitjulu recreation hall by the Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation have commenced. The corporation will continue to undertake repairs and maintenance at the hall.
- The Mutitjulu working group allocated \$55,000 (inc GST) to the Mutitjulu school holiday program with the corporation as project partner. The program will employ six local workers, and support family cultural learning on country.
- The Mutitjulu working group continued to work on the community's shaded walkway project. The project is creating a new welcoming entrance to the swimming pool which was largely completed during the reporting period.

No new projects were funded in this financial year, but the traditional owner working group met once to prioritise and plan future projects. Planning follows the 'important ara' (work) that the group prioritised in 2016: culture, education, dialysis and homeland support projects. It also monitors projects funded in previous years, such as boarding school and education support which is a partnership with the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council, and a concert stage for the Little Kenmore and Umpiara homelands upgrade projects.

Highlights for this period are:

- The Yunyarinyi (Kenmore Park) orchard scoping project gathered information on orchard management to assist with future decision making. The project — led by women from Little Kenmore — strengthened links with SA Water which led it to investigate how it can support the community to better manage its water.
- The NPY Women's Council boarding school project continues strongly and currently supports eight students from Amata,

Imanpa, Kaltukatjara and Mutitjulu at interstate boarding schools. Fourteen students are currently applying to boarding schools. The project funds their enrolment, assists with travel costs, provides support for emotional needs and advocates on their behalf.

- Four cultural camps were held — two were for young men. They were facilitated by the Utju Men's Project and led by the King's Narrative social enterprise. Elders at the camps taught tool-making, tjukurpa and songlines. Both camps were overwhelmingly positively received.

#### WARLPIRI EDUCATION AND TRAINING TRUST

Yapa teachers and traditional owners of the site of Newmont's gold mine in the Tanami Desert established the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) in 2005 to invest mining royalties in education and training for the residents of Lajamanu, Nyirpi, Willowra and Yuendumu. The CLC administers the trust and contracts project partners to implement approved projects.

The Kurra Aboriginal Corporation (Kurra), whose members are traditional owners of the mine site, is the WETT trustee. Kurra directors continued to take part in the CLC's good governance program to build strong governance and investment decision making. Further information about the program, see section 5.1.

The Kurra WETT directors form a subcommittee of Kurra that is responsible for the design, planning and monitoring of WETT-funded projects. The WETT's advisory committee recommends funding priorities to the Kurra WETT directors. The committee has four representatives from each of the four communities, a representative from Newmont and a CLC representative. The Kurra WETT directors met three times in 2023–24 to consider the committee's recommendations.

Senior community researcher Belinda Wayne Napaljarri interviews Roxella Marshall and Kirsten Egan as part of the WETT's tracking and learning project, Yitaki-maninjaku, warrirninjaku, payirninjaku manu pina-jarrinjaku. The project evaluates the trust's governance and decision making.



Highlights in 2023–24 were:

- The Kurra WETT directors allocated more than \$2.7 million (inc GST) to the WETT's programs for children and families, language and culture in schools, youth development, and the Warlpiri-patu-kurlangu Jaru Association's capacity-building, monitoring and evaluation.
- The WETT-funded learning centres continued to operate at Willowra, Nyirrpri and Lajamanu in partnership with Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education. They continued the digital literacy program, music training workshops in Willowra and 'back on track' driver training in Lajamanu. One Nyirrpri student graduated with certificates I and II in workplace skills. The Yuendumu learning centre remained closed while the WETT advisory committee sought a new partnership.
- The WETT funded the delivery of two jinta jarrimi (becoming one) and one 'Warlpiri triangle' educator workshop. The country visit and elder payment program engaged elders in all four Warlpiri schools. The Yuendumu school's Bilingual Resource Development Unit was funded to digitise and publish Warlpiri resources: 330 books, 72 media files and 56 songs are now available on their website.
- World Vision Australia continued to partner with the WETT to deliver the popular playgroup program at Willowra. The playgroup used bilingual reading materials and undertook bush

trips, transition-to-school activities and smoking ceremonies. It employed and trained local educators and its reference group met regularly. The WETT also contributed funds towards World Vision's Unlock Literacy program, which seeks to promote biliteracy in the wider community.

- The WETT continued to fund training and development for the Yurrampi Child and Family Centre's Yapa staff and reference group in Yuendumu.
- The WETT, in partnership with Pintubi Anmatjerre Warlpiri (PAW) Media, developed a new season of the popular *Manyu Wana* series (also known as the Warlpiri Sesame Street) with its first episode completed.
- For a third year, the WETT, the CLC and La Trobe University partnered to deliver the WETT tracking and learning project, Yitaki-maninjaku, warrirninjaku, payirninjaku manu pina-jarrinjaku. The project delivers Aboriginal-led community research and program evaluation to strengthen the WETT advisory committee's governance and decision making. A newly created position of WETT monitoring evaluation and learning co-ordinator supports the project. After sharing its work at two advisory committee meetings, the project team was instructed to focus its research on youth development issues, and 17 residents were interviewed as part of field research in Nyirrpri, Yuendumu and Lajamanu. The project delivered 662 hours of Aboriginal employment, and a professional development workshop was held in Alice Springs in March 2024, led by a senior Yapa researcher from La Trobe University. Ten researchers attended. The project team presented its work at the September Australian Evaluation Society conference, at La Trobe's monitoring, evaluation and learning community of practice in May and at the June 2024 AIATSIS summit in Melbourne.
- The WETT advisory committee presented at the 2023 Puliima Indigenous Languages and Technology Conference in Darwin and jointly presented with staff of the Willowra playgroup at the 2023 SNAICC Conference in Darwin. Two committee members attended the APO NT's Aboriginal Education Forum in Darwin in October 2023. Committee members and community researchers presented at the AIATSIS Summit in Melbourne in June 2024.
- In 2023 the trust's secondary school support program funded a visit by Lajamanu students to the Gold Coast, a visit by Nyirrpri students to Melbourne, and by Willowra students to Cairns. Thirteen Yapa boarders had school supplies, uniforms, and extracurricular and sporting activities funded by the WETT.
- The trust's youth development program expanded through a new partnership with the Central Australian Youth Link Up Service to provide youth activities and on-country learning in Yuendumu, Willowra and Nyirrpri. The WETT also partnered with the Australian Football League NT to deliver football-themed activities to schools in Yuendumu, Willowra and Nyirrpri.
- The WETT was shortlisted as a finalist in the 2024 national NAIDOC awards in the education category.



New GMAAAC directors were elected in November 2023. They will serve until 2026. A five-day handover and planning workshop introduced nine new members to the nine continuing members.



#### TANAMI DIALYSIS SUPPORT

During this period, Kurra made no new allocations to Tanami dialysis support. The operational costs of dialysis are now largely covered by Medicare and the remaining funds are held by Kurra awaiting future activities.

#### GRANITES MINE AFFECTED AREA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

The GMAAAC is the largest income stream administered by the community development program. Half of its compensation income benefits community projects in the nine Tanami communities affected by the mine. The other half is invested to ensure the communities continue to benefit after the mine closes. The communities elect new GMAAAC committees and directors every three years. Each committee works with the CLC to set goals and priorities for community benefit projects that are in line with the local communities' goals.

In the 2023–24 financial year, GMAAAC income increased to \$17.8 (inc GST) million, and GMAAAC committees approved 117 new projects valued at \$20.6 million (inc GST).

GMAAAC directors continued to take part in the CLC's good governance program to support strong governance and investment decisions. For more information see Output 5.1 of this report.

The CLC helped partner organisations with reports and financial acquittals and supported GMAAAC committees to review the compliance of these organisations with project agreements.

Highlights for 2023–24 were:

- The Lajamanu water park and the Yuendumu pool changed their operating partner to the Remote Pools Project run by

The Y Northern Territory, part of the YMCA. During an interim period between partners, the Lajamanu and Yuendumu GMAAAC committees insured both assets at a cost of \$1.4 million (inc GST). The insurance is now incorporated into the operating agreements. Both facilities enjoyed successful first seasons under the new management, with nine Yapa employed for a total of 900 hours.

- The Tanami Downs outstation's GMAAAC committee continues to prioritise upgrades. Consultants Rattlepod Landscapes completed a landscape design report and a first weed management trip was made in June 2024.
- The construction of the Yuelamu recording studio is now completed.
- Balgo residents are designing an upgrade of the community's sport and recreation facilities. The CLC and the GMAAAC committee engaged the Fulcrum Agency to develop a concept plan for the community's central area adjacent to the recreation hall, oval and basketball courts. The agency completed a first round of community consultations in May 2024.
- The Balgo GMAAAC committee supported its community's young people: it allocated \$77,220 (inc GST) for Wirrimanu Aboriginal Corporation to run a week of music workshops with a visiting hip-hop artist, culminating in a community disco. It also gave \$21,793 (inc GST) to establish a junior bike club at the Balgo school.
- The Billiluna GMAAAC committee funded the upgrade of Billiluna basketball court, including lighting.
- The Yuendumu GMAAAC committee allocated \$1.1 million (inc GST) to build softball change rooms and \$530,000 (inc GST) to construct a new grandstand. Both facilities are part of the Yuendumu sports ovals masterplan. The community secured an additional \$1 million of federal funding for the grandstand



Brandon Hayes and Ricky Lechleitner rerouted a section of the Yeperenye Trail that was damaged after heavy rain. The trail is the largest-ever investment public infrastructure by a Central Australian Aboriginal group.





construction. The GMAAAC has contracted the Central Desert Regional Council to progress a detailed design and tender for the build. The water supply to the new development is still uncertain due to the community's water shortage. The CLC is working with the Central Desert Regional Council, the NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, and the Power and Water Corporation and its subsidiary Indigenous Essential Services to find a solution.

- After 18 months of consultation and planning, and two months of work by a team of Yapa artists and visiting street artists, the Beautiful Yuendumu Murals project was launched in April 2024. The GMAAAC committee and project participants presented on the initiative at the AIATSIS Summit in June 2024. (See case study on page 82.)
- The Yuendumu GMAAAC committee continues to fund PAW Media's community video program, the community music program, and its language and culture room. PAW Media also received money from the committee to demolish an old, unsafe building to make way for an office expansion.
- The Nyirripi GMAAAC committee partnered with the Fulcrum Agency which undertook the consultation and concept planning for an expansion of the Nyirripi Learning Centre. A sum of \$183,351 (inc GST) has been allocated for the agency to progress the design, tender and contract management stages of the build. The agency was also tasked by the committee to create a whole-of-community masterplan, with a budget of \$80,190 (inc GST).
- A Yuelamu community masterplan was completed by Rattlepod Landscapes following two years of community consultation, planning and design. The community's GMAAAC committee allocated \$1,676,750 (inc GST) to implement three 'high-use area' upgrades identified in the masterplan. The committee also agreed to fund an art centre in 2022–23. In 2023–24, \$32,280 (inc GST) was allocated to begin a scoping study for an art centre manager's house.
- An extension to the Willowra church was completed. The Willowra GMAAAC committee also committed \$10,000 (inc GST) to purchase music equipment in time for the 2024 Easter celebrations.
- The GMAAAC was shortlisted as one of three finalists in the Reconciliation Australia Indigenous Governance Awards. The winner will be announced in November 2024.

#### NT PARKS RENT MONEY

The CLC's NT parks rent money income stream is monies received for rent and other income from 14 jointly managed national

parks in the CLC region. Traditional owner groups invest these funds in community benefit projects that maintain quality of life at outstations, ensure that infrastructure upgrades provide local employment and training, support access to education, maintain culture and meet the high cost of funerals.

Since 2010, traditional owner groups have allocated more than \$17.1 million (inc GST) to 365 projects.

The CLC facilitated 11 meetings with 10 of the 29 NT parks governance groups during the reporting period. The groups approved more than \$800,000 (inc GST) for new projects.

Highlights for 2023–24 were:

- Traditional owners of Yeperenye/Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park continue to financially support the trail maintenance for the nature park's walkers and bike riders.
- Hardy Fencing completed a large shade shelter with a solar-powered bush kitchen and ablution block at the Pmere Mpwewe homeland in April 2024 at a cost of \$273,657 (inc GST). This long-awaited development was jointly funded with income from both Watarrka and Finke Gorge national parks. It also received a grant through the ABA that helped Aboriginal communities recover from the effects of COVID-19.
- The Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park central group funded Dynamic Solutions to build a simple new housing structure — concrete slab, paved entrance to two bedrooms, and an outdoor living and kitchen area — to ease overcrowding at the Elitjia outstation. The work was completed in April 2024 at a cost of \$200,200 (inc GST).
- Income from the Watarrka National Park funded several homeland infrastructure projects, including a \$166,000 (inc GST) upgrade at the Lilla outstation to accommodate visiting family. The project was completed in November 2023.
- A campsite has now been established at the Sandy Bore outstation. Residents contributed the labour and are pleased with the finished campsite which supports their plans to bring tourists to the outstation.
- Nguyarramini traditional owners have installed solar panels at the church and laundry at the Nguyarramini outstation. This project was funded with \$79,948 (inc GST) from ABA economic stimulus funds.
- The Watarrka education working group allocated \$110,000 (inc GST) to build a classroom at the Wanmarra homeland to support students undertaking correspondence classes. This allocation was co-funded by Uluru rent money.

The Ltyentye Apurte skate park was funded in part through the community's lease money and opened in September 2023. (Photo courtesy Spinifex Skateboards)



## COMMUNITY LEASE MONEY

The community lease money income stream is derived from monies received for leasing community facilities to government and non-government organisations. Thirty-one communities have allocated more than \$21.3 million (inc GST) of their lease income to 402 community benefit projects since 2012.

The Australian Government's matched funds initiative, which matches funds that groups allocate to community development (see page 77), has led to increased investment by community lease money. Twenty-six communities fund and plan projects with their lease money.

In 2023–24, lease income funded 37 community and working group meetings and 207 community consultations. They allocated income to 12 projects valued at \$1.2 million (inc GST). Many of the projects that were funded are outlined in the matched funds income stream below.

Highlights for 2023–24 were:

- A skate park for Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa) — first proposed by traditional owner Nicky Hayes in 2020 — was completed. The community saw the skate park as a place for local young people to stay active, enjoy themselves, learn new skills and keep busy. "[We are] the first community [in Central Australia] to have an outdoor skate park," Mr Hayes said.
- The Ntaria community development working group has allocated up to \$669,517 (inc GST) of community lease money,

matched funds grants and other income to build a shade structure at the basketball courts in the Sandhill area of Ntaria. The shade structure, to be built by Pedersens, will allow the courts to be used during the hot summer months for basketball and community events and meetings.

- The Ntorrata traditional owner group allocated \$200,750 (inc GST) of matched funds and community lease money to upgrade housing at the Ipolera outstation to allow families to return to the homeland.

## Other income streams

The CLC held 165 planning meetings and consultations with 29 communities and traditional owner groups that are a party to other land use agreements that generate income. These groups allocated more than \$2.7 million to implement new projects that will deliver community benefit.

The Tanami Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation is one of the groups in this category. The Tanami mine has not been in operation for some years. In 2020, the directors resolved to wind up the corporation but to continue to distribute the income to the affected communities for community benefit projects until the funds are exhausted. Each of these communities has individual governance arrangements. To gain some efficiencies, four of the six communities used existing community development working groups to plan and fund projects with this income. Lajamanu opted to establish a separate committee.



Highlights for 2023–24 were:

- Following an investment of \$902,105 (inc GST) from Yuendumu in 2022–23, the first year's pilot of additional night patrols to increase community safety has been completed. The pilot's success attracted a funding commitment from the NIAA which will commence on 1 August 2024.
- The Lajamanu committee allocated \$292,348 (inc GST) to an outstation assessment project, which involves visits which assess infrastructure at nine outstations near the community.
- To improve access to outstations ahead of the outstation assessment project, the Lajamanu committee allocated \$449,467 (inc GST) to grade more than 200 kilometres of access roads.

The Karantijpa North Kurrawarra Nyura Mala Aboriginal Corporation receives revenue from selling carbon credits generated by managing fire on their land. The income stream is managed by the Jinkaji governance group which is comprised of directors of the corporation. The group has committed \$1.5 million (inc GST), including matched funds money, for community development projects. In 2023–24, the group began scoping and designing an operational base and camp site for prescribed burning. This project brings together directors and extended families to fulfil a long-held aspiration to have a place to camp on their country.

Most other income streams allocated funds in 2023–24 under the matched funds initiative or were supported by the ABA economic stimulus program.

## Matched funds initiative

The matched funds initiative committed \$9 million (exclusive of GST) of ABA funding to Aboriginal groups. The initiative matched those groups' investments dollar for dollar, up to a capped amount. The CLC and the NIAA started a three-year trial of the initiative in 2020 and it was extended for another three years in 2023.

Aboriginal groups in the CLC region are eligible for the funds, specifically, communities with new community lease income and traditional owner groups with new income from land use agreements. To receive matched funds, the income must be between \$50,000 and \$150,000 (inc GST) and the money must be used for community benefit projects. To address a disparity in the level of income different groups receive from land use agreements, the program is designed to reach those regions that usually receive less income.

The three key objectives of the initiative are:

- to incentivise groups to allocate income to community benefit projects

- to increase the impact of community benefit projects by funding longer-term or bigger projects
- to tackle the disparity in income received from land use agreements across the region.

Twenty-three traditional owner groups and 27 communities currently receive funds from the initiative. All funds are fully allocated, with almost \$7 million (inc GST) allocated to 186 projects. Most recipients of the matched funds have established governance arrangements, and project planning and implementation is underway. Funded projects range from sport infrastructure and youth support to the upgrade of churches and cemeteries. Fifty-five meetings and 359 consultation meetings with traditional owners and residents have been held. Many of these engagements are covered elsewhere in this report under other income streams.

Highlights in 2023–24 were:

- The Imanpa community is realising a long-held ambition to restore the Mount Ebenezer roadhouse as a community asset and commercial enterprise. It invested \$897,054 (inc GST), including matched funds money, to remove asbestos from the roadhouse. The CLC helped the community source an additional \$300,000 (inc GST) from the NT Government to help pay for the removal.
- The Imangara church is now completed and can accommodate more attendees at services and community meetings in extreme weather. Three Aboriginal workers were employed for 126 hours, with 54 of these hours contributed by local residents.
- Epenarra residents worked with Pedersens, remote construction specialists, to fence the community cemetery against feral animals.
- The Arlpwe Art and Cultural Centre at Alekarenge hosted the annual Artali Festival, a traditional dance and culture festival. The festival featured dancers of all ages, singers, and a large team of residents who prepared body paint and catered with traditional foods.
- The Engawala community invested \$22,000 (inc GST) of matched funds to educate and engage young people with a series of music and performance workshops. Legendary artists Coloured Stone and Uncle Kutcha Edwards ran the workshops which culminated in a community concert.
- The Alekarenge community allocated \$454,830 (inc GST) of matched funds and other income to extensively renovate the community centre.
- The Tara community has allocated \$139,700 (inc GST) of matched funds money to construct a playground in the community.
- The Ntorrata traditional owner group allocated \$155,848 (inc GST) of matched funds to upgrade the Alkngrarrintja

outstation, allowing longer visits by families and to realise their aspirations for a cultural tourism enterprise.

- The Aboriginal Community Veterinary Services (ACVS) completed the first three of eight planned visits as part of a four-year Mutitjulu animal management program. The project aims to eradicate fleas and lice and was planned and funded by the community with matched funds and other income, with co-contributions from the Mutitjulu Community Aboriginal Corporation and Parks Australia. ACVS reported the complete eradication of fleas and lice from the community's animal population.
- A number of groups allocated matched funds to scoping significant infrastructure projects, including a community workshop in Laramba, a community orchard in Titjikala, a community centre in Tara and a church in Nturiya.

The matched funds initiative is a new opportunity for Aboriginal groups in the CLC region; however, allocated funds are only

available for the life of the initiative, which is funded until 2026. Traditional owners for several communities have tailored their decision making to the duration of the initiative. 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/>

### Projects under management at 30 June 2024

Table 25 lists the number and value of projects that are currently active under each income stream. Typically, projects are contracted to a project partner who submits a grant acquittal for review by the community and the CLC. The table includes multi-year service delivery projects, long-term projects, such as funeral and ceremony support projects, future large projects, and ongoing repair and maintenance projects.

Table 25. Income streams and projects 2005–2024<sup>1</sup>

Income Stream	Cumulative 2005–23		2023–24		Total under management at 30 June 2024	
	Allocated \$	Projects	Allocated \$	Projects	Project value \$	Projects
Uluru rent money	21,936,017	148	574,317	4	4,444,782	18
Warlpiri Education and Training Trust	61,790,615	255	2,736,543	10	13,269,408	43
Tanami dialysis support (Kurra Aboriginal Corporation)	4,298,286	27	–	–	100,000	1
Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation	88,968,934	1223	20,667,839 <sup>2</sup>	117	44,048,600	236
NT parks rent money	16,342,261	354	802,286	11	4,201,572 <sup>3</sup>	62
Community lease money	20,168,854	390	1,215,083	12	2,392,612	41
Matched funds initiative	4,408,686	135	2,578,617	51	10,692,172 <sup>4</sup>	100
Other income streams	6,462,249	69	2,721,685	21	4,369,714 <sup>4</sup>	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>224,375,902</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>31,296,370</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>83,518,860</b>	<b>552</b>

1. All figures shown in this table include GST.

2. Includes \$1.4 million for two special-circumstances insurance payments (see GMAAAC report).

3. Includes additional funds from ABA economic stimulus funding.

4. Includes money from other income streams and \$300,000 from the NT Government for asbestos removal at Mount Ebenezer roadhouse.

Figure 8. Community development income received since 2009 in the CLC region

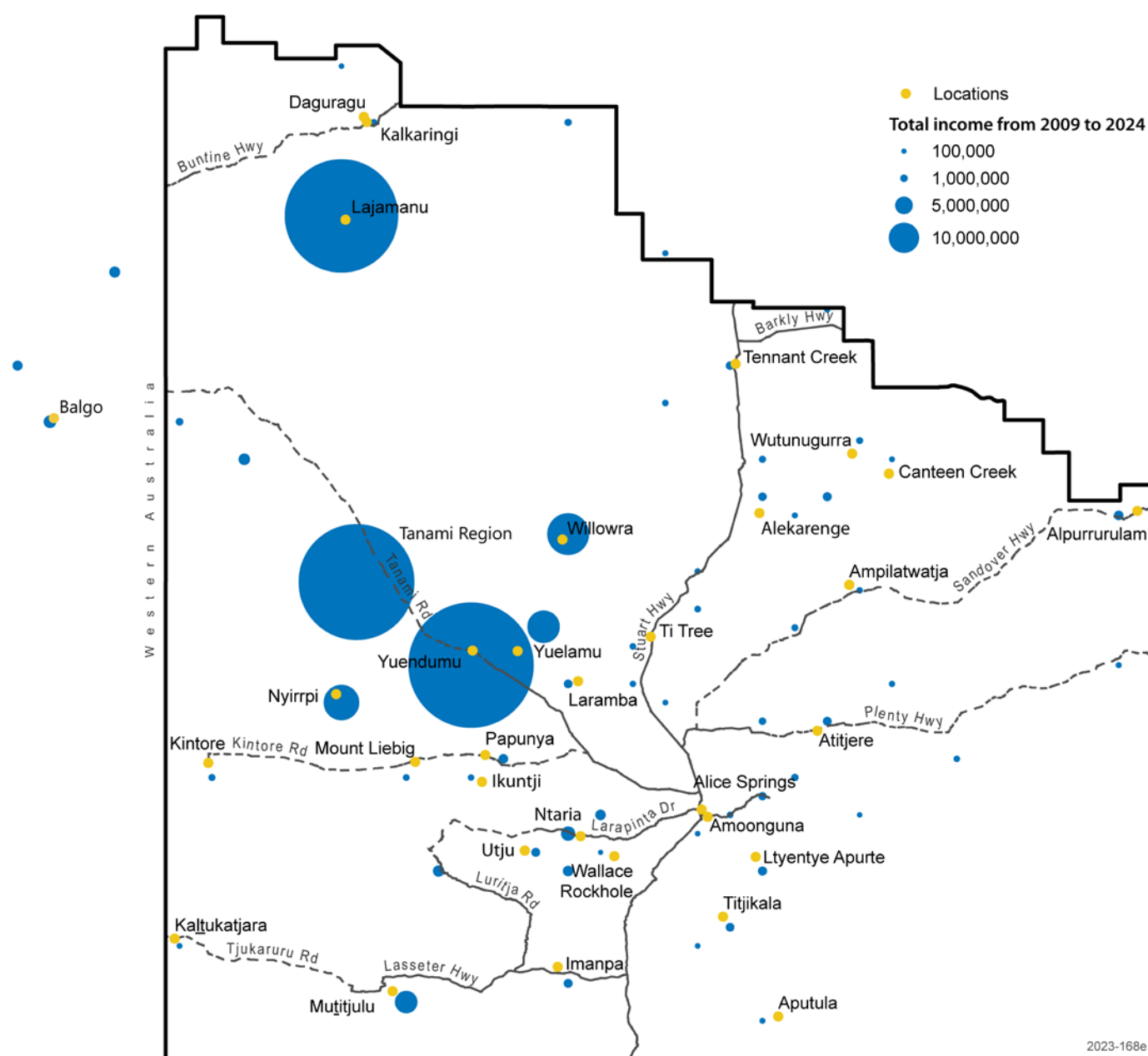




Figure 9. Community development projects 2018–24

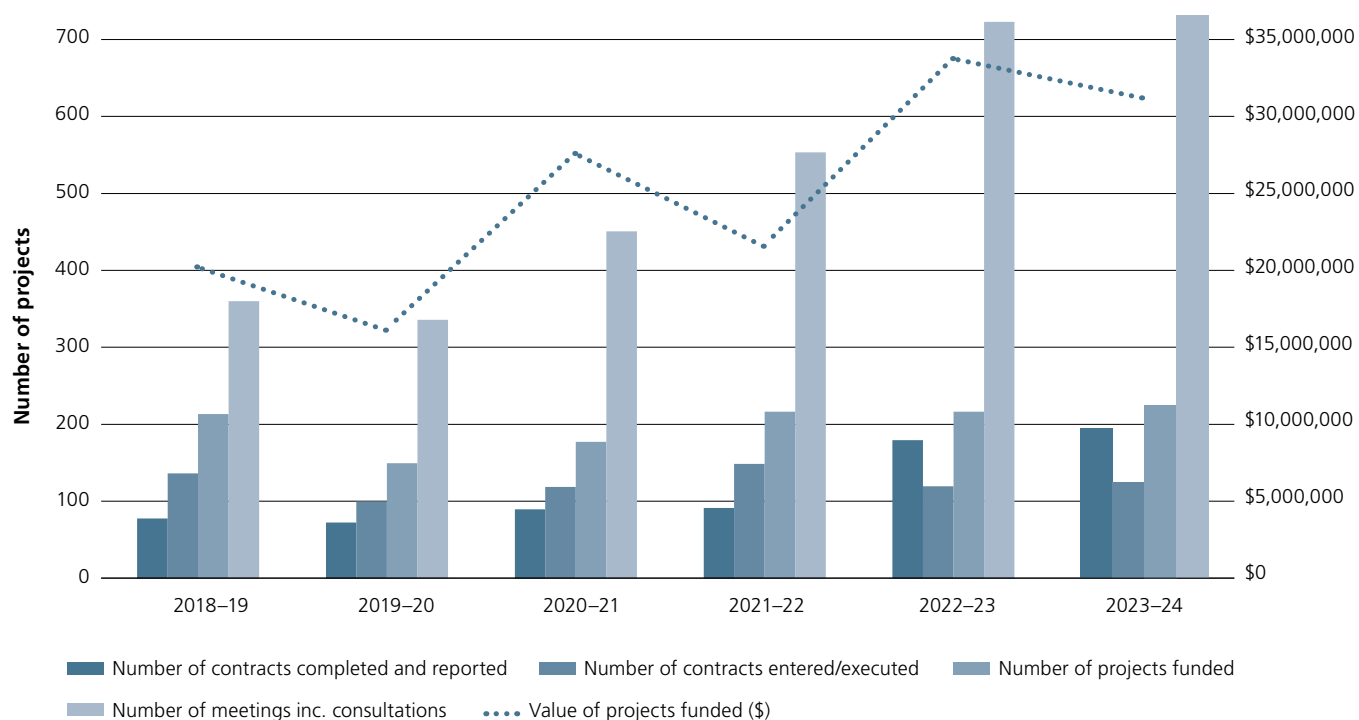


Figure 10. Total funds committed to community development projects 2005–24

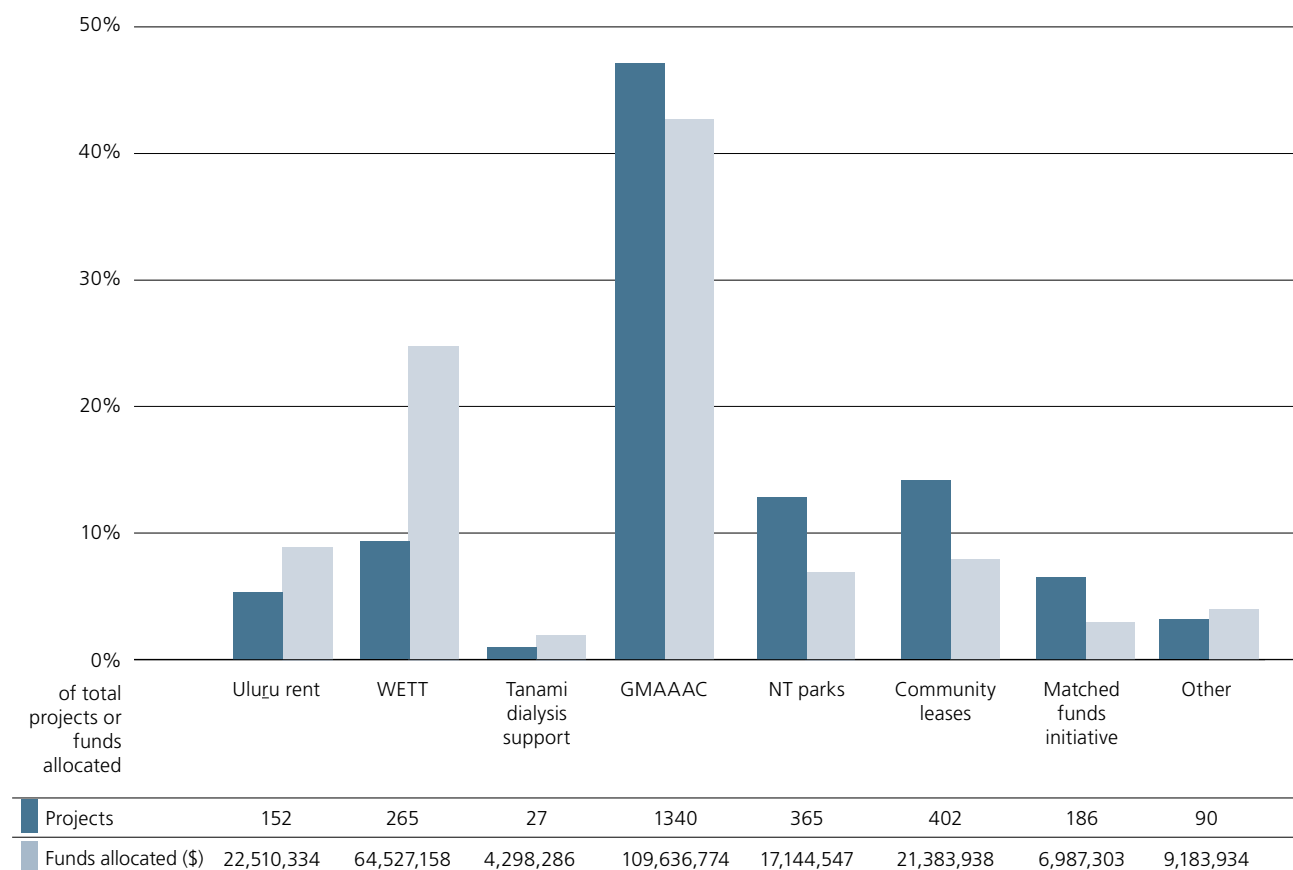


Figure 11. Income committed to projects 2005–24

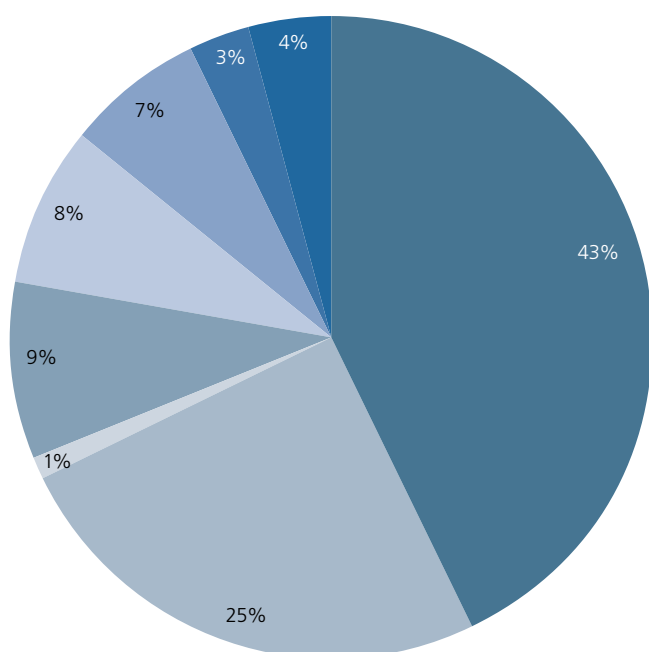


Figure 12. Income committed to projects 2023–24

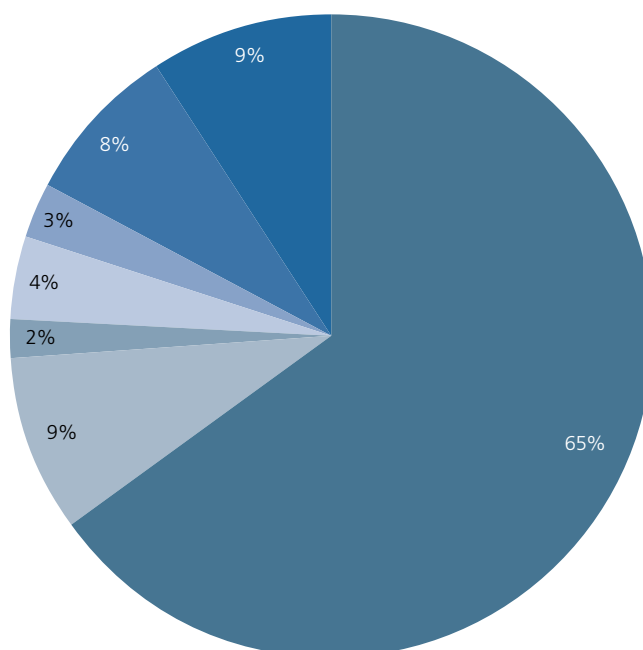
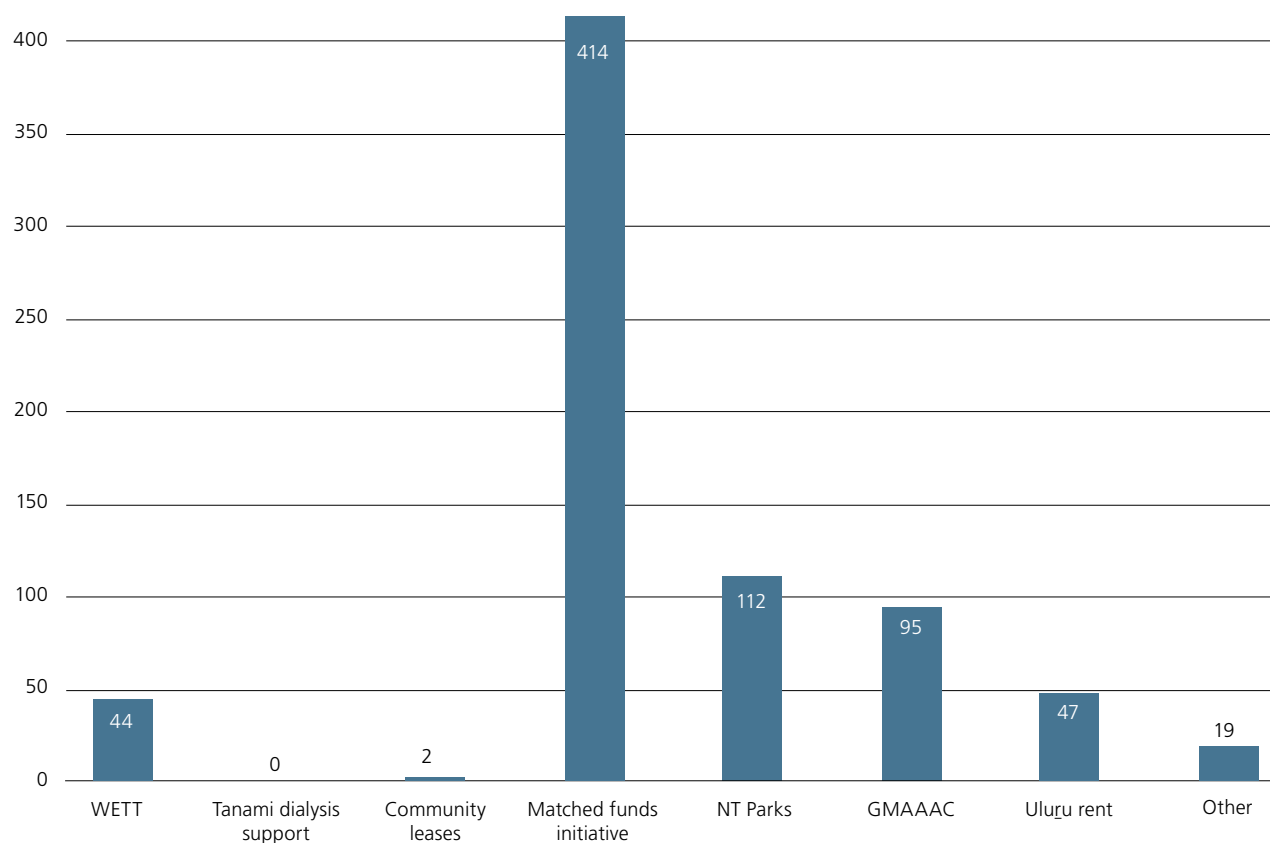


Figure 13. Meetings and consultations per income stream 2023–24



## Case Study: Making Yuendumu Beautiful Murals project

Five beautiful new murals launched in Yuendumu in April 2024 are the product of over a year of close consultation between Yuendumu's community organisations, local young people, Red Hot Arts Central Australia and the CLC's community development team. The murals at the PAW Media office, the police station, the big shop and the Yuendumu safe house were a collaboration between Yapa artists and visiting street artists.

The project idea came from the Marlpa Jungu Jintangka, the Yapa group governing the Yurrampi Child and Family Centre. A local steering committee guided the project and the Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation committee funded the project in October 2022. Local governance and self-determination underpinned the project journey, with community members owning the process.

Red Hot Arts produced the murals, supported by the CLC's Yuendumu community development officer. The officer built a 'two-way' relationship between project partners and the community. Steering committee member Samantha Napaljarri Watson reflected: "Unity is strength. When there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved. This is our future, our Yapa's dream, making it real."

Outcomes of the project extended beyond just vibrant paint on walls to creating local employment. Five Yapa artists developed

their design and painting skills under the mentorship of renowned Australian street artists. Yapa artist Robin Quinsten Jampijinpa Brown said, "[I'm] happy and proud that I did this ... I was really interested in doing these paintings."

Youth engagement helped to build ownership of, and respect for, the murals by Yuendumu's young people. Belinda Napaljarri Wayne said, "This project is about making young people proud of their community and inspire them to feel strong." A series of school activities and holiday workshops supported children to learn the art of storytelling through murals. Many of the children's illustrations and ideas — honey ants, the Aboriginal flag and desert landscapes — were incorporated in the 37-metre-long community jam wall at the big shop.

Success and pride in the finished project were evident when more than 300 community members and stakeholders — Yapa and Kardiya — came together in April 2024 to launch the murals.

A slow, deep-thinking community development approach can be resource- and time-intensive, but the work of the CLC's community development officer was key to this project's success. "It makes us proud when we drive past and you can see these murals which make us proud. It's from our mind and from our heart. Yuendumu is beautiful now, with all these colours," said Jean Brown.

Jason Japaljarri Woods, one of five Yapa artists employed to paint five murals in Yuendumu. (Photo courtesy Red Hot Arts)





# 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 such income in its land use trust account and then distributes it based upon council decisions and in accordance with the instructions of Aboriginal traditional owners and any relevant legislation. Funds are generally paid to Aboriginal corporations incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act). Payments may be required by agreements under the provisions of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) 1976* Part IV Mining or may be paid to, or for the benefit of, the traditional owners of relevant land. An example are lease payments.

In 2023–24, the CLC anthropology section prepared a total of 29 traditional owner identifications and also provided other advice related to a variety of distributions. It prepared traditional owner identifications for grazing licences and gravel extraction payments, and for exploration and mining-related compensation. This year the Aboriginal land trusts (ALTs) receiving payments included the Ahakeye, Alkwerte, Aputula, Arletherre, Central Desert, Haasts Bluff, Katiti, Mala, Mount Frederick 2, Rodna, Urrampinyi Iltjiltjarri, Daguragu, Mangkururra, Yuendumu, Yunkanjini, Yalpirakinu, Petermann and Wirliyajarrayi Aboriginal land trusts.

Pursuant to section 35C of the Land Rights Act, Aboriginal corporations are required to provide the CLC with financial statements and a written report. There is no statutory mechanism to enforce these reporting requirements, except when payments are made to a corporation pursuant to a determination by the Federal Court. However, corporations' 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) assists corporations to administer their obligations under the CATSI Act. Corporations that engage the centre's services are subject to a cost-recovery agreement. Any services are specified in a letter of engagement and confirmed at the corporation's annual general meeting. Total payments distributed by the CLC in 2023–24 were \$25.8 million.

As well as corporations that receive royalties, the AAMC provides compliance services to a further 85 Aboriginal entities. These entities include 68 land-holding Aboriginal corporations with little or no income, 10 non-land-holding Aboriginal corporations, six associations registered under the *Associations Act 2003* (NT) and one registered native title body corporate.

### Performance

**Table 26. Compliance with the CATSI Act and services provided to corporations 2023–24**

Annual general meetings	28
Non-royalty receiving entity AGMs and other meetings	37
Directors' meetings	72
Distribution committee instruction meetings	147
Corporations' statutory financial statements to be lodged with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations	40
Trust statements lodged with Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission	3

### Good governance program

The CLC is unable to offer financial advice to the Aboriginal corporations it administers. As the investment funds of corporations grow, the boards of two of the corporations that the CLC administers have decided to undertake training to develop their capacity to make investment decisions or to engage appropriate advice.

The Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation (GMAAAC) and the Kurra Aboriginal Corporation (Kurra) have self-funded the good governance program which commenced in 2016–17. Both corporations approved a further three years of funding for the program in 2021, which includes a jointly funded, dedicated co-ordinator 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 this embedded evaluation process, directors have created a training program that suits their learning needs.

In addition to strengthening directors' governance capacity through the program, both the GMAAAC and Kurra appointed two investment advisors — JBWere and the Queensland Investment Corporation — to realise their vision of securing and growing their significant funds for the benefit of future generations, long after mining ceases.

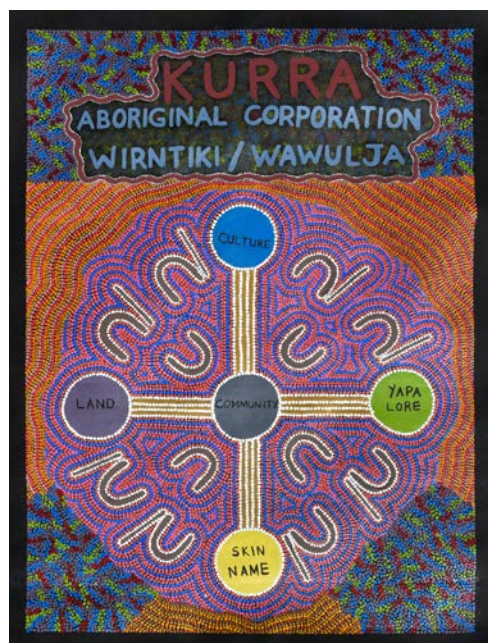


David McCormack of Yuelamu was recognised for 13 years of continuous service as a GMAAAC director at a ceremony in Alice Springs in November 2023. The newly elected GMAAAC board was also introduced on the night.





This painting (left) is one of two created as part of Kurra Aboriginal Corporation activities under the good governance program. It was painted by Daniel Rockman and Belinda Wayne and is based on a striking image (right) drawn by Mr Rockman that is part of Kurra's branding.



In 2023–24, both corporations elected new directors. The new GMAAAC directors attended two five-day training workshops and one seven-day training workshop (including two additional days for a handover to new directors). Kurra directors attended three five-day training workshops.

In June 2024, the GMAAAC was announced as one of three finalists in 'Category 3: Large incorporated organisations' of the Indigenous Governance Awards 2024. The judges will visit each finalist between July and September 2024, before making a decision. Winners will be announced at an awards gala on 6 November 2024.

## Leasing

Leases and licences granted over Aboriginal land generate significant income for traditional owners. The CLC's community development program and the AAMC acquit this rental income according to instructions from traditional owners. The AAMC manages the distribution of leasing income when money is distributed directly to traditional owners.

In the reporting period, the CLC conducted four consultations to receive standing instructions from traditional owners about the distribution of rental income, and held 15 meetings to distribute rental income. Twenty-nine traditional owner identifications were prepared to ensure that the correct people were consulted about the distribution of monies. Most payments were compensation for exploration and mining, but also for gravel extraction access and leases.

Figure 14. The CLC's good governance program

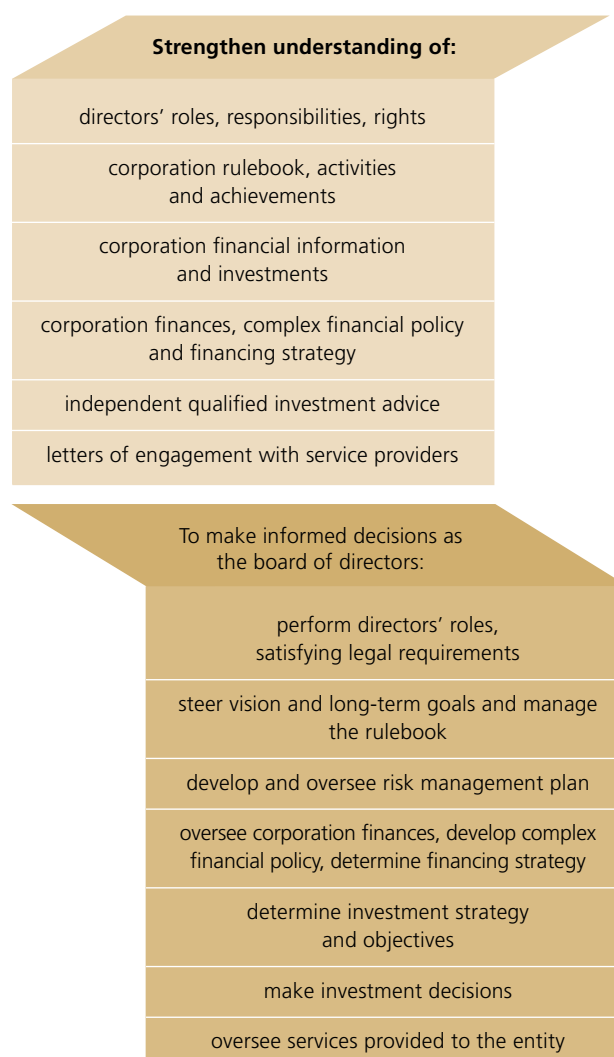
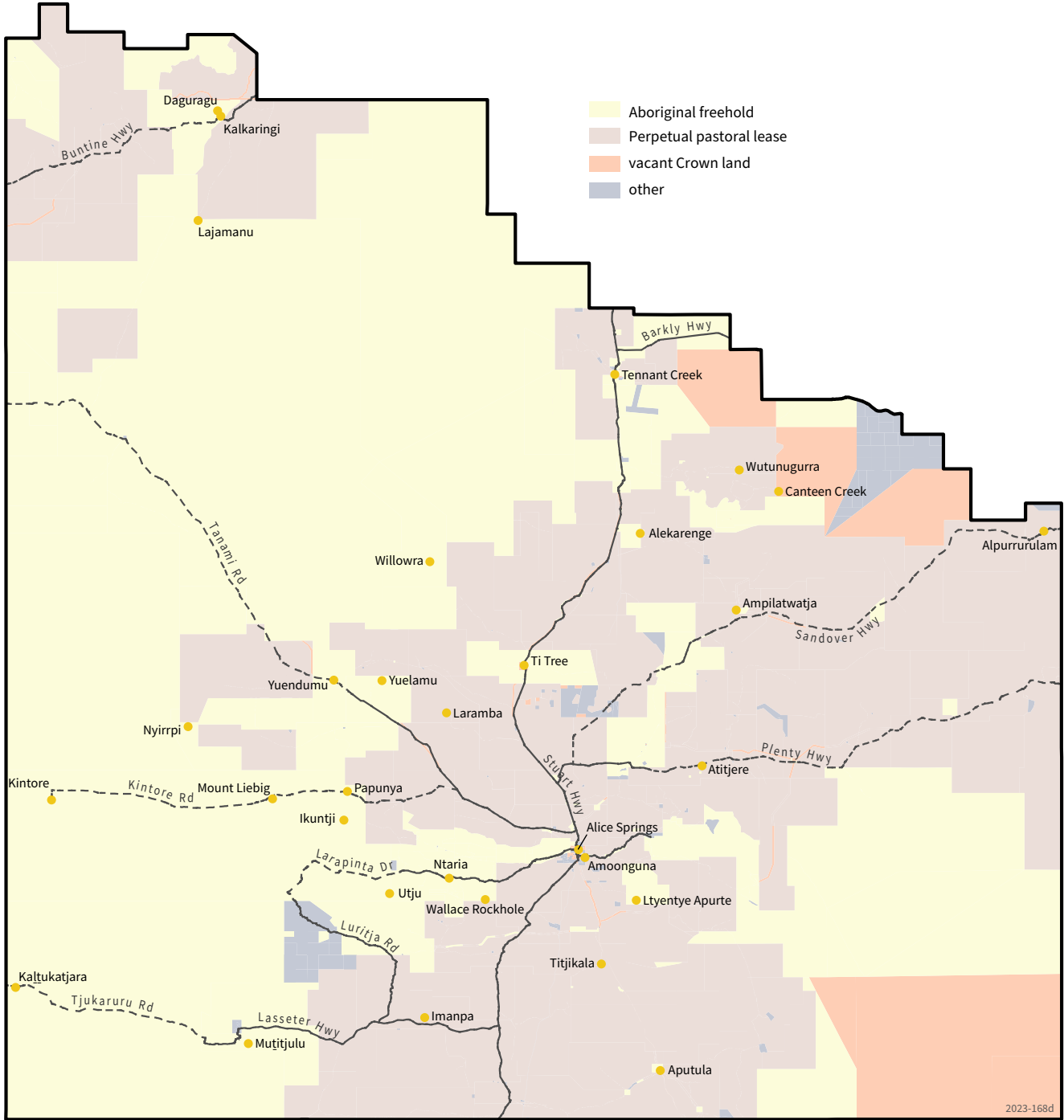




Figure 15. Land tenure in the CLC region 2023–24



## 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 (ALTs) are bodies corporate which usually consist of a chair and no less than three members who hold office for up to five years. Land trust members are usually drawn from the 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 a land council. Such directions are provided only after identification of,

and consultation with, the traditional owners and on the basis of their informed consent.

The CLC continued to liaise with the Northern Land Council about holding a meeting to discuss a proposed CLC–NLC boundary change for the Bilinarra-Judburra ALT and part of Victoria River Downs Station.

Overall, 11 Aboriginal land trust memberships were renewed in 2023–24.

**Table 27. Aboriginal land trusts in the CLC region 2023–24**

Ahakeye ALT	Erterlapentye ALT (Davenport Range National Park)
Aherrenge ALT	Haasts Bluff ALT
Akanta ALT	Hooker Creek ALT
Akekarrwenteme Ureyenge ALT	Iliyarne ALT
Alatjuta ALT	Iparle ALT
Alkeperre-Atwarte Ayape-Arenye Arleye ALT (Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Reserve)	Inarnme ALT
Alkwert ALT	Irlwentye ALT (N'dhala Gorge Nature Park)
Alyawarra ALT	Irrinjirrinjirr ALT
Amoonguna ALT	Irrmarne ALT
Anatye ALT	Irterkewarre ALT (Chambers Pillar)
Angarapa ALT	Iwupataka ALT
Ankweleyelengkwe ALT	Kanttaji ALT
Anurrete ALT	Karlantijpa North ALT
Aputula ALT	Karlantijpa South ALT
Arletherre ALT	Katiti ALT
Arltunga ALT (Arltunga Historical Reserve)	Lake Mackay ALT
Arnapipe ALT	Lhere Pirnte ALT (Finke Gorge including Palm Valley)
Athenge Lhere ALT	Ltalaltuma ALT
Atnerrperke ALT (Trephina Gorge Nature Park)	Mala ALT
Atnetye ALT	Malngin 2 ALT
Atwengerrpe ALT	Malngin ALT
Ayleparrantenhe ALT (Devils Marbles)	Mangkururrpa ALT
Bilinarra-Jutpurra ALT (Gregory National Park)	Melkng ALT
Central Desert ALT	Mount Frederick ALT
Daguragu ALT	Mount Frederick 2 ALT
	Mpwelarr ALT

Maria Ross, Amanda Abbott, Roberta Cavanagh and Bronwen Cavanagh visited a sacred site to discuss its protection.



Table 27 continued

Mpweringe-Arnapipe ALT
Mpweringe-Arnapipe (2) ALT
Mungkarta ALT
Ngalurrtju 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)
Uluru – Kata Tjuta ALT
Uremerne Land Aboriginal Land (Ewaninga Rock Carvings Conservation)
Uretyingke ALT

Urrampinyi Itjiltjarri ALT
Uruna ALT
Wakaya ALT
Wampana-Karlantijpa ALT
Warrabri ALT
Warti-Yangu ALT
Warumungu ALT
Watarrka ALT
Wirliyajarrrayi ALT
Yalpirakinu ALT
Yewerre ALT
Yingualyala ALT
Yiningarra ALT
Yuendumu ALT
Yunkanjini ALT
Yurrkuru ALT

Table 28. Northern Territory park land trusts 2023–24

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.

The Central Land Council has obligations under section 25 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* and section 203BF of the *Native Title Act 1993* to assist with the resolution of disputes that relate to land. In certain circumstances, when asked by disputing parties, the CLC may also engage with non-land based disputes that affect CLC's ability to perform its statutory functions. These might include family, resources and community disputes.

There is a growing number of conflicts in the CLC region arising from disputes over traditional land ownership, including identification of traditional owners and boundaries. These disputes cause stress and anxiety for Aboriginal people and can make it difficult for the CLC to fulfil its duties to its constituents. The CLC has developed a dispute management framework and an effective engagement and consultation strategy aimed at preventing disputes and improving the CLC's approach to dispute management. The framework reflects the following principles and realities:

- empowerment of Aboriginal groups, families and individuals to identify and manage their own disputes
- reduction of reliance on the CLC or external parties to mediate disputes
- adherence to a policy of 'wait to be asked' for assistance, but providing response 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 cause or exacerbate disputes
- recognition that the work the CLC is required by statute to undertake may unintentionally cause or exacerbate a dispute

- recognition that achieving the most appropriate decision-making processes for the group is a major preventative measure
- a determination that engagement processes should do no harm.

The dispute management framework and effective engagement strategy are both under review. The review is addressing and clarifying administrative and procedural arrangements for dispute identification, referral, assessment and management and clarifying the roles of staff in those procedures. The review is also developing and resourcing opportunities for consistent staff induction, training and mentoring through cross-cultural communication training, effective engagement workshops and orientation to the CLC's statutory functions with respect to consultation and informed consent.

The CLC's engagement in dispute management is conditional on disputing parties demonstrating a commitment to manage disputes. If parties are unwilling to follow agreed processes or show little or no interest in resolving a dispute, the executive committee may withdraw the CLC's engagement and support for a period of time. The CLC reports on data related to ongoing or closed disputes to the CLC's executive and in its ABA reporting, but, to avoid exacerbating disputes, and unless the executive's input is required, identifying details of individual disputes remain confidential.

Anthropological advice informs the mediation or resolution of land-related issues. During 2023–24, anthropology and legal services staff provided advice in relation to 20 disputes within the CLC region. These disputes are about occupancy rights to housing on homelands, Aboriginal corporation membership, traditional ownership, and native title holder rights and interests.

# 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 continue 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), which established the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) 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 Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) 1976 does.

### The native title program

The CLC established its first native title program in 1994. In 2024, the CLC was granted re-recognition as a native title representative body for six years until June 2030. 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
- establish native title holder corporations, known as prescribed bodies corporate or PBCs, following successful claims, and assist them to manage their corporations and protect native title rights and interests.

The CLC’s executive committee certifies native title applications for determination and submits them to the National Native Title Tribunal for registration. The CLC provides ongoing services and support to 33 prescribed bodies corporate in its region and three Aboriginal corporations which were established for future determinations.

The CLC has a multidisciplinary team of 27 native title-funded positions, with its native title operations integrated across the organisation. It engaged 14 consultants during the reporting period — nine anthropologists, a linguist, a literacy specialist and three consultants who provided editing, design and illustration services. Anthropologists completed 20 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 meetings and consultations, and assisted with nine native title claims.

### Native title outcomes and activities 2023–24

Table 29. Native title applications and claims under research at 30 June 2024

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

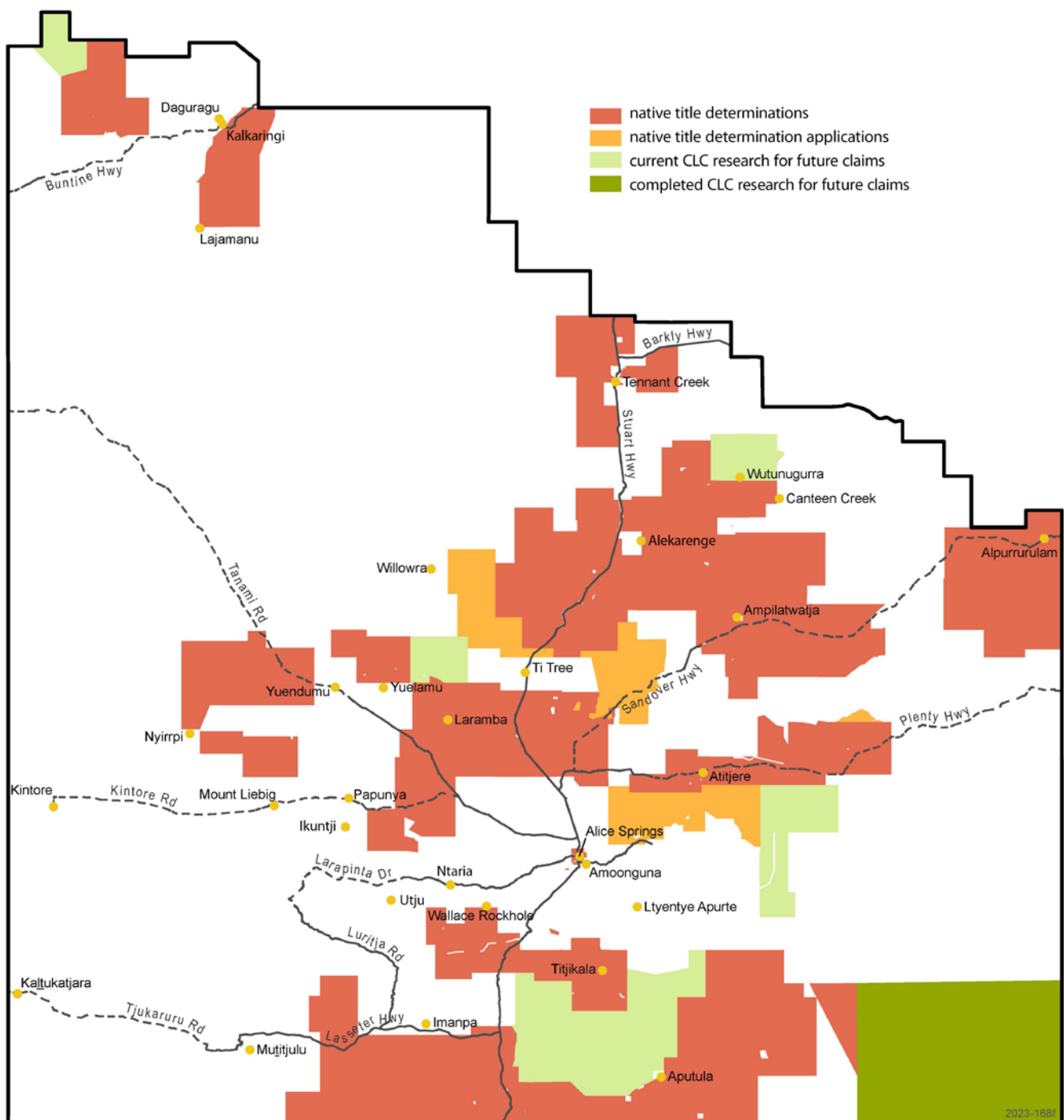
### Native title determinations

In 2020, members of the Amapete, Apwetyerlaneme, Atnweale and Warrtharre landholding group asked the CLC to lodge a native title claim over the Huckitta pastoral lease, which was acquired with ABA funds in 2010. The claim aims to protect their native title rights and interests over an area of approximately 1,700 square kilometres. As holders of the pastoral lease they were entitled to claim the strongest form of native title recognition under the Native Title Act: exclusive possession.

On 22 May 2024, the Federal Court held a special sitting on Huckitta pastoral lease, where Justice Halley handed down a determination of exclusive-possession native title over the pastoral property to the claimants. The determination recognises the native title holders’ rights and interests to access, hunt, gather, conduct cultural activities and ceremonies, and to take and use resources for any purpose, including for economic benefit.

The Huckitta Aboriginal Corporation is the registered native title bodies corporate (PBC) for the determination area and will act as agent for the native title holders.

Figure 16. Native title determinations, applications and research in the CLC region 2023–24





In May 2024, Justice Halley (left) of the Federal Court handed down a determination that recognises the native title rights of a group of claimants over Huckitta pastoral lease. Native title holders Eric Petrick, Kaylene Webb and Gordan Cavanagh were happy to receive a copy of the determination.



With this year's determination of native title handed down over Huckitta Station, native title rights and interests now have been recognised over 21 per cent of the CLC region.

## 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.

At 30 June 2024, four native title claim applications were registered with the tribunal. The CLC continues to research claimants' rights to take and use resources on the land for any purpose as this allows them to more easily use the recognition of native title rights as a basis for economic development. If 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.

### AMBALINDUM AND THE GARDEN (NTD5/2021)

The Ambalindum and The Garden native title claim was filed on 13 October 2021 as an amended application and registered by the NNTT on 26 November 2021. The CLC provided a supplementary report to the NT Government during the previous reporting period. Negotiations regarding a stock route are continuing, and a consent determination is likely to take place in 2025.

### ANGENTJ (NTD7/2023)

The CLC filed an application on 17 March 2023, and registered with the tribunal on 15 May 2023. The NT Government reviewed the submitted connection material and requested additional information. The CLC provided a supplementary anthropology report in response to the request for further information.

### MOUNT SKINNER–WOODGREEN (NTD18/2020)

An application was filed on 7 June 2023, and registered with the tribunal on 22 September 2023. The CLC provided connection materials to the NT Government for review, and a response is expected in early 2024–25.

### ANKERENTE CLAIM (NTD4/2024)

The CLC filed an application on 15 March 2024, and registered with the NNTT on 3 May 2024. It lodged the application to secure the right to negotiate in relation to future act activity on the Lucy Creek pastoral lease.

## Claims under research

The anthropology reports and material regarding the Angentj and Mount Skinner–Woodgreen claims were finalised and provided to the NT Government in 2023–24. Anthropological research commenced and progressed claims in the Simpson Desert, and on Horseshoe Bend, Lilla Creek, Idracowra, Indiana and Numery, Coniston, Waterloo and Epenarra stations.

## Compensation applications

Where possible, the CLC seeks to deal with compensation matters by negotiation 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 during the reporting period.

## Indigenous land use agreements

The CLC secures beneficial outcomes for native title holders through negotiated Indigenous land use and other agreements ILUAs under section 31 of the Native Title Act. It has 95 agreements registered with the tribunal, is awaiting the registration of one, and a further eight are in negotiation.

## 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) 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 has 27 service agreements with PBCs.

**Table 30. Indigenous land use agreements registered in 2023–24**

ILUA name	Location/PBC	Subject matter
Ooraminna Oaks — access road	Deep Well PPL	Infrastructure
One Tank Hill Tennant Creek	Tennant Creek/Patta AC RNTBC	Infrastructure
Tennant Creek Youth Justice Accommodation Facility	Tennant Creek/Patta AC RNTBC	Residential infrastructure
Nolans Project Native Title Agreement	Aileron PPL/Kwaty AC	Mining exploration

**Table 31. Indigenous land use agreements under negotiation at 30 June 2024**

ILUA name	Location/PBC	Subject matter
<b>Non-mining</b>		
Francis Well	Maryvale PPL	Settlement of Aboriginal land claim
Barkly Work Camp	Tennant Creek/Patta AC RNTBC	Renewal of ILUA — Northern Territory correctional facility
Waste management facility	Tennant Creek/Patta AC RNTBC	Extension of waste management facility
Town development	Kalkaringi/Gurindji AC RNTBC	Land for development in Kalkaringi
Regen Co Pty Ltd	Umbeara and Mulga Park PPLs/Yankunytjara Matutjara AC RNTBC	Clean energy project
<b>Mining</b>		
Mineral lease 32553	Mount Riddock/Tywele AC RNTBC	Mining
Ammaroo phosphate project	Ammaroo PPL/Kaytetye Alyawarr Awenyerraperte Ingkerr-wenh AC RNTBC	Mining
Chandler Project	Maryvale PPL/Rodinga AC RNTBC	Mining and waste management
Nolan Project (ILUA variation)	Aileron and Napperby PPLs/Kwaty AC RNTBC, Irretyepwenty Ywentent Pwerrt AC RNTBC and Alherramp Illewerr Mamp Arrangkey Tywerl AC RNTBC	Mining

**Table 32. Assistance delivered to prescribed bodies corporate 2023–24**

Aboriginal corporation	Area	Type of assistance
Akwerrperl Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC <sup>1</sup>	Bushy Park PPL	Assisted RNTBC to hold AGM and directors' meeting. Assisted corporation to pass resolution to change rule book and submit to ORIC.
Alherramp Ilewerr Mamp Arrangkey Tywerl Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Napperby PPL	Assisted RNTBC to hold AGM. Assisted corporation to undertake consultation with members regarding required rule book changes. ORIC rule book workshop to be held after June 2024.
Eynewantheyne Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Stirling and Neutral Junction PPLs	Assisted RNTBC to undertake consultations with native title holders and negotiate exploration agreement over Stirling and Neutral Junction pastoral leases. Assisted RNTBC to hold a directors' meeting to enter into agreement and sign certificate of consultation and consent.
Huckitta Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Huckitta PPL	Assisted corporation to register as RNTBC and supported the corporation to hold a directors' meeting.
Ingkekure Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Jinka and Jervois PPLs	Assisted RNTBC to hold AGM and directors' meeting. Assisted corporation to pass resolution to change rule book and submit to ORIC.
Inmarentye Aboriginal Corporation	Ambalindum and The Garden PPLs	Assisted RNTBC to hold AGM. Assisted corporation to pass resolution to change rule book and submit to ORIC.
Ilperrelhelam Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Lake Nash and Georgina Downs PPLs	Assisted RNTBC to undertake consultations with members and native title holders in regard to the Austral Downs native title application.
Iytwelepenty Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Davenport Murchison Ranges National Park and Hatches Creek	Assisted RNTBC to hold AGM. Assisted corporation to pass resolution to change rule book and submit to ORIC. Amended rule book accepted by ORIC on 15 December 2023.
Kaytetye Tywerate Arengge Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Neutral Junction and Crawford PPLs	Assisted RNTBC to undertake consultations with native title holders and negotiate exploration agreement over Stirling and Neutral Junction (Crawford Range) pastoral leases. Assisted RNTBC to hold a directors' meeting to enter into agreement and sign certificate of consultation and consent.
Kwaty Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Aileron (Noland Bore) PPL	Assisted RNTBC to hold a general meeting to pass resolution to change rule book and submit to ORIC. Amended rule book accepted by ORIC on 5 March 2024.
Mitata Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Kurundi PPL	Assisted RNTBC to hold AGM and directors' meeting. Assisted corporation to pass resolution to change rule book and submit to ORIC. Amended rule book accepted by ORIC on 15 December 2023.
Mpwerempwer Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Singleton PPL	Assisted RNTBC to hold AGM and directors' meeting. Assisted corporation to pass resolution to change rule book and submit to ORIC. Amended rule book accepted by ORIC on 15 December 2023.
Ngaliya Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Mt Doreen PPL	Assisted RNTBC to hold AGM and directors' meeting. Assisted corporation to pass resolution to change rule book and submit to ORIC. Amended rule book accepted by ORIC on 25 July 2023.
Ngurramarla Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Tennant Creek PPL	Assisted RNTBC to hold AGM. Assisted corporation to pass resolution to change rule book and submit to ORIC. Amended rule book accepted by ORIC on 15 December 2023.
Ooratippra Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Ooratippra PPL	Assisted RNTBC to hold AGM and four directors' meetings. Assisted corporation to pass resolution to change rule book and submit to ORIC. Amended rule book accepted by ORIC 223 October 2023. Assisted corporation to enter into and monitor grazing licence with third party. Supported directors to understand the corporation's financials. Provided assistance and legal advice to the corporation in relation to a dispute with a former sublessee.
Patta Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Tennant Creek township	Assisted RNTBC to hold information meeting, AGM and six directors' meetings. Supported directors to engage with third parties to monitor and comply with ILUAs.
Pine Hill West Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Pine Hill West	Assisted RNTBC to hold AGM. Assisted corporation to pass resolution to change rule book and submit to ORIC. Amended rule book accepted by ORIC on 19 September 2023.

<sup>1</sup> When a prescribed body corporate is registered, it becomes a 'registered native title body corporate' (RNTBC), but are commonly referred to as PBCs.



Table 32 continued

Aboriginal corporation	Area	Type of assistance
Rodinga Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Maryvale PPL	Assisted RNTBC to hold AGM and directors' meeting. Assisted corporation to pass resolution to change rule book and submit to ORIC. Amended rule book accepted by ORIC on 25 July 2023.
Twenga Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Henbury PPL	Assisted RNTBC to hold two directors' meetings to provide information and obtain instructions regarding the site damage on Henbury Station and plan the Twenga AC Keeping Strong Connections to Country trip. Assisted RNTBC to facilitate a four-day country trip.
Tywele Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Mt Riddock PPL	Assisted directors undertake a meeting to sign a consultation and consent certificate in relation to a negotiated mining agreement. Assisted RNTBC to hold AGM and pass a resolution to change rule book and submit to ORIC.
Wura Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Rainbow Valley PPL	Assisted RNTBC to hold AGM. Assisted corporation to pass resolution to change rule book and submit to ORIC. Amended rule book accepted by ORIC on 15 December 2023.
Yankuntjara Matutjara Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC	Mt Cavenagh, Victory Downs, Umbeara and Mulga Park PPLs	Assisted RNTBC to hold AGM and directors' meeting. Assisted corporation to pass resolution to change rule book and submit to ORIC. Amended rule book accepted by ORIC on 22 December 2023.

## Prescribed bodies corporate reporting obligations

Under the CATSI Act, PBCs are required to lodge reports with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC). All PBCs supported by the CLC have met their reporting obligations for the 2023–24 financial year. Sixteen annual general meetings were held by PBCs in the CLC region, and 22 PBC directors' meetings were held during the reporting period.

## Resource production

During the reporting period, the PBC support unit engaged developed two booklets: *How to Claim Native Title and Native Title and Mining*. These new editions are part of the CLC's *Native Title Story* series, publications in easy English that help people to understand native title and CLC processes. The CLC also developed easy English booklets to inform directors and members of CATSI corporations and to increase their knowledge of corporation governance. The booklets will be incorporated into a forthcoming *Governance Story* series to be developed with the ORIC. The first two publications in this series of eight booklets will be *Learning About Governance for Aboriginal Corporations* and *Running Good Meetings for Aboriginal Corporations*.

In March 2023, the CLC facilitated a two-day consultation with PBC directors to provide feedback on the draft booklets. The booklets will be published in 2024.

The booklets will also be released as audio recordings in 10 Central Australian languages — Alyawarr, Anmatyerr, Eastern

and Central Arrernte, Gurindji Kriol, Kaytetye, Pintupi-Luritja, Pitjantjatjara, Warlpiri, Warumungu and Western Arrarnta — and also in English. These recordings will be available on the PBCmob app.

## Keeping Strong Connections to Country

The CLC assisted Twenga Aboriginal Corporation, the PBC for native title holders of country on Henbury Station, to run the first country trip for the Keeping Strong Connections to Country project. The purpose of the trip was to support native title holders to enjoy their native title rights, to facilitate intergenerational knowledge transfer and learning on country, and to increase PBC membership and participation. CLC staff, including the Tjuwanpa Rangers, supported approximately 25 native title holders to make the four-day trip. The PBC support unit will continue the program in the 2024–25 financial year.

## Dispute resolution

There were no disputes relating to native title claims during the reporting period.

## Alternative procedure agreements

The CLC did not enter into alternative procedure agreements in 2023–24.

TOP: Comet Fishhook (left), consultant Luke Kelly (right) and CLC staff Alex Ramasco and Henry O'Loughlin undertook claim research on Coniston Station.



BOTTOM: A native title claim to Lilla Creek Station is currently being prepared. A group of claimants visited the area in the southeast of the CLC's region in May 2024.





John Little, who is providing information to a native title claim over Waterloo Station, caught a turtle during a claim research trip.



## Performance review

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) engaged the Nous Group to conduct independent reviews of 13 native title representative bodies and service providers to assess their performance in delivering native title outcomes under the Native Title Act during the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022.

Nous commenced its review of the CLC in March 2023. It delivered its final draft report in May 2024 and the CLC welcomed the review. Analysing such reviews is good practice and an opportunity to identify improvements.

The review methodology has enabled a comparative and transparent assessment of each of the bodies and providers. The consultants collected quantitative data on the progress of claims, future acts and Indigenous land use agreements, performance against milestones, budgetary performance, staffing, and broader social and geographical factors that impact performance. This information was complemented by interviews with selected constituents, native title holders, CLC staff and council members, and representatives of the Federal Court, the NT Government and other organisations across the NT.

## Native title advocacy

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 council since its inception in 2005.

The CLC contributed to the NNTC's discussions on the reform of the native title future acts regime, native title compensation matters, PBC reform activities and — as a member of the Heritage Protection Alliance — the reform of national heritage legislation.

CLC's native title manager serves as a director on the NNTC. Directors sit on the council for two years. She takes part in national lobbying efforts of the council.

## Native title conferences and workshops

Tables 33 and 34 describe the native title conferences and workshops that CLC staff attended in the reporting period.



**Table 33. Native title conferences attended by CLC staff 2023–24**

Date and place	Conference	About	Organiser	CLC attendance
28 November – 1 December 2023, Macquarie University, Sydney	Australian Anthropology Society Conference	Conference for anthropologists to learn about new research, concepts and ideas, and to network	Australian Anthropology Society	Five staff. (The native title unit supported two staff.)
8–9 February 2024, Lincoln College, North Adelaide	Centre for Native Title Anthropology Conference	The centre provides professional development to anthropologists working in the native title area	Centre for Native Title Anthropology	Three staff. (The native title unit funded two staff.) Presenters: Ian Sweeney (community development program).
3–7 June 2024, Melbourne	Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Summit 2024	A forum for Indigenous Australians and other academics, stakeholders, legal experts, the galleries, libraries, archives, and museums sector and government representatives to collaborate on important First Nations issues	Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies	Cross section of CLC staff. Presenters: Francine McCarthy and Scarlett Cheesman (native title unit); Mary Grimwade, Aysia Rodgers and Jamie Gorman (community development program).

**Table 34. Native title workshops attended by CLC staff 2023–24**

Date and place	Workshop/Training	About	Organiser	CLC attendance
29–31 August 2023, Adelaide	NTRB legal workshop	A workshop for in-house lawyers of native title representative bodies/native title service providers and PBCs to share their knowledge of native title issues	AIATSIS	Various legal staff. (The native title unit supported three staff.)
28 February – 1 March 2024, Darwin	Joint CLC and NLC legal workshop	Professional development opportunity for lawyers working in NT land councils on Aboriginal land rights and native title matters	CLC and NLC	Nine staff. (The native title unit supported three staff.)
28–29 February 2024, Darwin	Joint CLC and NLC anthropology workshop	Professional development opportunity for anthropologists working in NT land councils on Aboriginal land rights and native title matters	Centre for Native Title Anthropology	Eight staff. (The native title unit supported three staff.)
18 March 2024, Alice Springs	Corporate governance training	Workshop to share understanding of legislative framework applicable to native title representative bodies/native title service providers	Shane Carroll and Associates	Cross section of CLC staff.
19 March 2024, Alice Springs	Contract management training	Workshop designed for native title environment to increase knowledge of contracts	Shane Carroll and Associates	Cross section of CLC staff.
20 March 2024, Alice Springs	Directors' training: corporate governance for PBCs	Workshop to provide PBC directors with an understanding of necessary corporate governance requirements	Shane Carroll and Associates	Native title unit and Aboriginal associations management centre staff.
26 March 2024, Alice Springs	Grant-writing workshop	Workshop to assist staff to write successful grant applications	Hula Collective	Cross-section of CLC staff.

# CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

## Overview

### Management and accountability

The corporate management team is responsible for:

- 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, and to promote Indigenous business
- compliance with all statutory regulatory requirements including privacy considerations
- providing compliance, secretarial and financial reporting for numerous Aboriginal corporations
- staff recruitment, training and development opportunities.

### Financial management

#### ESTIMATES AND REVIEW

The CLC submits estimates of administrative expenditure annually to the Minister for Indigenous Australians. Estimates for essential additional resources are submitted only as required. Estimates approved by the minister fund the CLC's operational expenses, salaries and wages, and capital expenditure. The minister approved \$41.4 million funding from the ABA for the 2023–24 financial year, and subsequently approved variations totalling \$5.8 million.

#### REPORTING

A half-yearly performance and operations report was submitted to the minister in February 2024 in accordance with the funding agreement and legislative obligations. The Australian National Audit Office performs an annual audit of the financial statements to determine compliance and that the statements present fairly the financial position, performance and cash flows of the CLC. The audit opinion for 2023–24 indicates that the statements are free from material misstatement.

### Finance system

The CLC upgraded its finance software package for financial management control in March 2024 to Dynamics 365 Business Central. It replaced Microsoft NAV.

### Financial risk and fraud and corruption control

The Commonwealth's fraud and corruption control framework informs the CLC's risk management and fraud and corruption control framework. The accountable authority takes all reasonable measures to prevent, detect and deal with fraud and corruption, 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 Commonwealth 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.

During 2023–24 a full fraud and corruption risk assessment was carried out by PKF Integrity. The assessment was undertaken with 50 of the CLC's staff from all sections. These employees identified the top 10 fraud and corruption risks they collectively believed were serious risks to the CLC. The risk analysis is now included in the CLC's overall risk matrix.

PKF Integrity also carried out a fraud risk assessment of procurement practices in the CLC's fleet management, capital projects and community development units.

A code of conduct prescribes workplace personal and professional behaviour.

#### RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Section 16 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) (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. The CLC also completed a plan to review and revitalise the risk management system and presented it to the audit and risk committee in June 2024. The CLC uses the Comcover annual best-practice benchmarking as the basis for continuous risk management improvement.

#### AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

The CLC's audit and risk committee has four independent members, as recommended for Commonwealth entity audit committees by the PGPA Rule. The committee is Bruce Walker (chair), Beverley Russ (deputy chair), Danny Masters (lawyer) and

Neil McLeod (chartered accountant). Members are entitled to a fee of \$1,385 per meeting, with the chair entitled to a fee of \$1,660 per meeting (fees effective at June 2024). Members are also entitled to a fee for travel, dependent on distance.

The committee oversees an agreed work plan and audit charter and reports annually to the accountable authority. It met four times during the 2023–24 financial year.

#### CLC AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE CHARTER

The charter determining the functions of the CLC's audit and risk committee can be found at: <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 for legal practitioners by the Law Society Northern Territory.

#### Judicial decisions and reviews by outside bodies

There were no judicial decisions or decisions of administrative tribunals in the 2023–24 financial year.

Table 35. Audit and risk committee 2023–24

Member	Qualifications and experience	Number of meetings attended	Total number of meetings held	Total annual remuneration	Role on committee
Bruce Walker AM	Dr 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. He holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons 1) and a PhD. He is a fellow of both the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and of the Australian College of Educators and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.	4	4	\$8,805	Chair
Danny Masters	Mr Masters formerly practised as a solicitor and barrister, including extensive experience in the NT. He holds a Bachelor of Laws (UTA), Bachelor of Economics (UQ) and a Master of Business Administration (Deakin), and was a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (1988–2008).	4	4	\$6,385	Member
Neil McLeod	Mr McLeod has specialist knowledge of audit committee and Commonwealth entity audit requirements. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Accounting) and is a Fellow of the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand.	4	4	\$5,760	Member
Beverly Russ	Ms Russ is a chartered certified accountant with qualifications in accounting and auditing. She holds a Bachelor of Business (Accounting), a Master of Business Administration, is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.	3	4	\$3,885	Deputy chair



## Consultant expenditure

During the reporting period, the CLC engaged consultants to carry out work in relation to the council's statutory functions and exercise its powers under the Land Rights Act and as required under section 37(8) of the Native Title Act.

**Table 36. Consultants: expenditure greater than \$25,000, 2023–24**

Anthropos Consulting Pty Ltd	\$276,953
Hula Collective Pty Ltd	\$144,332
MLCS Corporate	\$137,500
KPMG Chartered Accountants	\$126,207
La Trobe University	\$111,583
Jodie Hummerston Literacy Solutions	\$111,500
OneDot61	\$92,500
Comhar Group	\$90,060
Petronella Vaarzon-Morel	\$70,600
Mercer Consulting Group	\$69,300
Australian National University	\$68,395
PKF Integrity Services (BMNS) Pty Ltd	\$65,976
AKA Consulting	\$63,000
Social Ventures Australia Ltd	\$62,543
Maor Lambert	\$58,825
Luke James Kelly	\$56,400
Atyenhenge-Atherre Aboriginal Corporation	\$53,588
S2 Consulting Samantha Togni	\$52,250
Catherine Wohlan	\$52,200
Siller Systems Administration	\$48,391
Henry Bloomfield Contracting	\$45,785
Hal Bisset WBCC Pty Ltd	\$44,199
Redmond McCarthy Consulting Pty Ltd	\$40,500
Gareth Lewis	\$39,750
Anna Meltzer	\$39,600
Keeping Culture Pty Ltd	\$36,250
Geoffrey Bagshaw	\$34,600
Inyer Pocket Software Pty Ltd	\$33,600
Bentleys (SA) Pty Ltd	\$32,815
Ethnotracking	\$30,400
Range Assist	\$29,945
List A Barristers	\$29,106
Griffith University	\$28,800
Tapaya Edwards	\$27,922
Jaja Dare – Decolonise	\$25,325
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,332,723</b>

Nelson Tex, Nick Ashburner, Madeleine Dixon, Enid Gallagher, Lee Wayne and Boyd Elston came together to farewell Nick Ashburner after 10 years with the CLC.



## Human resources

The CLC's human resources section oversees work health and safety, staff training, payroll and human resources — each of which has experienced its own successes and challenges during this reporting period.

The past year has been transformative for the human resources department, with a comprehensive review of its internal systems and processes. The six-month review recommended consolidating a number of separate systems into a single, integrated human resources information system. After thorough consultation, ELMO — specialised human resources software — was selected as the new system which, at 30 June 2024, was being implemented.

The CLC is committed to continuous improvement and this year some human resources policies were updated to meet current standards, and to comply with the *Fair Work Act 2009* and other governance requirements. The human resources section continues to work on policies and consult with staff.

The CLC has not been immune to recent nationwide labour shortages, and it has a further challenge of a small pool of local NT candidates. Despite this, it continues to recruit skilled employees by networking and collaborating with educational institutions and other Aboriginal organisations. Over the past 12 months the CLC has:

- hosted three workplace visits for Alice Springs high school and interstate university students
- promoted job opportunities and employment pathways at three local community events
- supported Years 11 and 12 Aboriginal leadership awards, presented at the Centralian Senior College's Year 12 presentation night in 2023.

## Remuneration

Under the Fair Work Act, the CLC's enterprise agreement (2017–20) establishes employment terms, conditions and entitlements, and remains the CLC's key industrial instrument. It was due for renewal in March 2021, but CLC staff voted to align annual increases with the wage price index (WPI) determined by the Australian Public Service Commission (Public Sector Workplace Policy 2020). In December 2023, staff received a 3.6 per cent WPI increase, the final increase under this agreement. The CLC will begin bargaining for a new agreement in the second half of 2024. Mercer reviewed every role within the CLC; the CLC will use insights from that review to identify undervalued staff roles and consider potential reclassifications. This process will commence after the completion of the new round of enterprise bargaining.

## Workplace health and safety

The CLC met its obligations under the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011* (WHS Act) during 2023–24. It focussed on compliance with mandatory training, CLC policies and a holistic approach to maintaining a strong work health and safety culture. The work health and safety committee met twice in the reporting period, providing formal consultation between the workers and senior management. It informed staff about events and incidents in order to improve controls to mitigate hazards in the workplace.

Mischa Cartwright (below right) exemplifies the success of the CLC's cadetship and workforce development program. In 1995 Ms Cartwright was in the CLC's first intake of cadets (below left) and in 2024 she became general manager for regional and development services.



#### REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE *WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT 2011*

Two notifiable incidents were reported to Comcare under section 38 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (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 section 90 (provisional improvement notices), section 191 (improvement notices), section 195 (prohibition notices), or section 198 (non-disturbance notices).

#### WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITMENT

The CLC has a primary duty of care to all workers as defined in the WHS Act, section 7. It provides a safe workplace for all employees, constituents, interns, contractors and visitors at all locations at which the CLC works. In 2023–24, the CLC demonstrated its commitment by:

- implementing safe work systems that meet legislative requirements (our responsibilities and system framework are outlined in the work health and safety management arrangements published 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 any risks as far as practicable
- encouraging safety leadership throughout the organisation and celebrating workplace safety achievements
- working closely with Comcare and participating in the Regional Engagement Plan 2023–24 and the work health and safety forum/network for NT-based organisations
- providing a range of training to reduce the risk of staff vulnerability
- encouraging, where needed, engagement with the Employee Assistance Program for mental health assistance.

#### Workforce development

The CLC cultivates future leaders and fosters a diverse and inclusive workforce. It works with local employment services to create employment pathways and opportunities within the CLC.

This year the CLC welcomed two new general managers. Its executive management team is now 75 per cent staffed by Aboriginal people.

During the reporting period, the CLC also expanded its collaborations with educational institutions and other Aboriginal organisations to increase its cadetships, traineeships and work experience programs. This year, it formalised 16 new study contracts with staff undertaking tertiary studies, and seven Aboriginal cadets completed tertiary education.

#### Staff training

The CLC continues to support and ensure staff undertake necessary compliance training, as well as specialist courses ranging from anti-discrimination to conflict management, and leadership and management courses.

#### CADETSHIPS

The CLC cadetship program provides students with practical on-the-job exposure and financial support as they complete their degrees. During this year the CLC supported eight cadets, and one trainee. They work in a number of sections, including the communications, finance, anthropology, information services, policy, human resources, legal and technical services teams. This year the CLC celebrated the graduation of one cadet.

#### ABORIGINAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

In 2023, the Aboriginal leadership program, previously known as the Aboriginal development group, was redesigned. A pilot program commenced in February 2024, with 11 staff members participating from across the organisation. The program provides participants with one-on-one coaching support, leadership and awareness, and resilience and wellbeing training. At 30 June 2024, participants had each undertaken 13.5 days of professional development.



## Employee profile

Table 37. Fulltime and parttime staff expressed as fulltime equivalent 2023–24

Classification	Fulltime equivalent	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Female	Male	Non-binary
CL 1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CL 2	41.5	41.5	0.0	9.0	32.5	0.0
CL 3	8.7	8.7	0.0	2.8	5.9	0.0
CL 4	23.8	16.2	7.6	9.0	14.8	0.0
CL 5	41.4	16.0	25.4	20.4	21.0	0.0
CL 6	93.8	26.0	67.8	44.00	48.8	1.0
SO C	50.0	10.0	40.0	28.7	21.3	0.0
SO B	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
SO A	22.3	2.9	19.4	14.7	7.6	0.0
EM	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SES1	3.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	1.0	0.0
SES2	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>286.5</b>	<b>124.3</b>	<b>162.2</b>	<b>130.6</b>	<b>154.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>

Table 38. Fulltime and parttime staff (headcount) at 30 June 2024

Classification	Headcount	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Female	Male	Non-binary
CL 1	0	0	0	0	0	0
CL 2	54	54	0	14	40	0
CL 3	10	10	0	3	7	0
CL 4	24	16	8	9	15	0
CL 5	43	17	26	21	22	0
CL 6	99	26	73	46	52	1
SO C	51	10	41	29	22	0
SO B	1	0	1	0	1	0
SO A	23	3	20	15	8	0
EM	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES1	3	2	1	2	1	0
SES2	1	1	0	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>1</b>

Table 39. Ongoing and non-ongoing staff (excluding casuals) 2023–24

Classification	Male			Female			Non-binary	Total
	Fulltime	Parttime	Total	Fulltime	Parttime	Total		
Ongoing	67	5	72	50	9	59	0	131
Non-ongoing	53	43	96	62	19	81	1	178
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>309</b>

Table 40. Casual staff paid fulltime equivalent 2023–24

Classification	Total	Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal	Female	Male
CL 1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CL 2	22	22	0.0	11.9	10.1
CL 3	4.4	4.4	0.0	4.4	0.0
CL 4	9.6	9.6	0.0	0.0	9.6
CL 5	2.5	1.4	1.1	2.5	0.0
CL 6	5.4	0.1	5.3	3.8	1.6
SO C	4.4	0.0	4.4	1.5	2.9
SO B	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SO A	0.9	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.9
Total	49.2	37.5	11.7	24.1	25.1

Table 41. All ongoing employees 2023–24

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Fulltime	Parttime	Total	Fulltime	Parttime	Total	Fulltime	Parttime	Total	Fulltime	Parttime	Total	Fulltime	Parttime	Total	
NSW	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Qld	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SA	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tas	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Vic	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
WA	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
ACT	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NT	67	5	72	50	9	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	131
External Territories	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Overseas	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>131</b>

Table 42. All non-ongoing employees 2023–24

	Man/Male			Woman/Female			Non-binary			Prefers not to answer			Uses a different term			Total
	Fulltime	Parttime	Total	Fulltime	Parttime	Total	Fulltime	Parttime	Total	Fulltime	Parttime	Total	Fulltime	Parttime	Total	
NSW	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Qld	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
SA	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tas	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Vic	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
WA	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
ACT	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
NT	53	43	96	62	19	81	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	178
External Territories	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Overseas	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>178</b>

## Senior executive remuneration policies and practices

Senior executives are offered a three-year contract. The CLC appoints the chief executive officer after consultation with the Minister for Indigenous Australians. 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 fulltime position and the incumbent is a member of the accountable authority. The chair is a member of the CLC's key management personnel and receives an allowance determined by the Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal.

In 2023–24, the CLC employed no staff who fell within the 'remuneration of other highly paid staff' category.



Table 43. Remuneration of key management personnel 2023–24

Name	Position title	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
		Base salary <sup>1</sup>	Bonuses	Other benefits and allowances <sup>2</sup>	Superannuation contributions	Long service leave	Other long-term benefits		
Mr Matthew Palmer	Chair	\$213,441	\$0	\$0	\$23,479	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$236,920
Mr Lesley Turner	Chief executive officer	\$307,501	\$0	\$6,892	\$48,577	\$10,511	\$0	\$0	\$373,480
Mr Robert Cairney	General manager corporate/Chief financial officer	\$244,635	\$0	\$4,577	\$34,950	\$8,965	\$0	\$0	\$293,127
Dr Josephine Douglas	General manager professional services	\$249,429	\$0	\$6,183	\$35,125	\$3,499	\$0	\$0	\$294,235
Ms Mischa Cartwright	General manager regional and development services	\$210,415	\$0	\$6,481	\$30,176	\$5,745	\$0	\$0	\$252,818

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

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

Table 44. Remuneration of senior executives 2023–24

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	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	1	\$198,308	\$0	\$8,010	\$28,154	\$23,715	\$0	\$0	\$258,187
\$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

Note: 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.

Skye Emmott and Emma Beverley of CLC's computer services keep CLC staff connected.



## Computer services

The computer services team delivers high quality, robust and reliable information and communication technology and geographic information systems (GIS) services to the CLC.

The team maintains a fully networked, standardised information technology (IT) environment that provides computer access to all staff, whether working from the CLC's regional offices or remotely — local, interstate and overseas. It ensures the integrity and security of electronic data by using rigorous authentication and well-established authorisation processes, system activity monitoring and comprehensive backups. It develops and implements systems that improve access to information and communication.

The computer services unit includes the geospatial services team which provides comprehensive GIS services to the organisation. Specialised staff gather extensive geographical information and create data sets to produce customised detailed maps, including online maps, and reports that all staff can access.

Projects completed during 2023–24 include:

- implementation of a board management platform for the CLC's executive
- migration of the CLC's finance system to Dynamics 365 Business Central
- introduction of additional security measures, including a security information and event management platform,

endpoint detection and response system, a network detection and response system, and an internal system and software compliance tool.

Key ongoing projects and planned projects are:

- organisation-wide migration to Microsoft 365, Azure and Amazon Web Services–hosted infrastructure
- upgrade of the CLC's business systems, including for minerals and energy contract management, permit applications, human resources information system migration, and leasing agreements
- migration to Starlink satellite data services at remote offices
- development of a comprehensive IT policy.

Additionally, as part of the computer services unit's day-to-day operations in 2023–24 the team:

- responded to more than 2,700 support requests (up 14 per cent)
- responded to more than 500 email 'potential threat' reports from staff (up 57 per cent)
- created 140 new user accounts (up 35 per cent)
- deployed 246 computers (up 55 per cent)
- fielded more than 650 map requests in the geospatial services team.

## Information services

### Information management and governance

The business systems and information governance committee meets regularly to develop policies that guide information and systems development.

### Library

The library was a hive of activity in the last weeks of the reporting period as staff rearranged the space to create zones for quiet reflection, reading and working. New furniture purchased for the new zones includes a couch and vibrant eco-friendly bean bags filled with sustainable materials.

### Archives digitisation project

The CLC digitisation project is a five-year project, begun in 2022–23, to digitise the organisation's paper-based, audiovisual and archive of maps. The collection covers 1976 until 2016, when an electronic archive system was established.

The CLC's digital archive, which can be accessed by all CLC constituents and external customers, moved from the communications section to the information services section in 2023. Exchange and consolidation of, and access to, archival materials is now more easily managed.

#### PILOT DIGITISATION CONSIGNMENT

The digitisation project commenced with the dispatch of a pilot consignment of archive material to a digitisation service provider. The consignment comprised 60 boxes of native title claim documents: a total of 655 document folders with an estimated 69,921 pages, ranging in size from A4 to A0.

The CLC has received the completed digital files — digitised to National Archives of Australia's preservation standards — and the physical documents are scheduled for return in July 2024. Quality control checks of the digital files will be conducted in July 2024 in two concurrent phases: phase one examines the quality of scans, particularly image clarity and legibility, de-skewness and orientation; and phase two evaluates data integrity.

#### FUTURE DIGITISATION CONSIGNMENTS

While the pilot consignment was being digitised, information services staff designed a detailed project workflow including timelines, milestones and deliverables. It will ensure the judicious allocation of resources to capture and register records, and to prepare and dispatch documents for digitisation.

The work of sorting, culling duplicate documents, and creating detailed inventories of records has continued. Despite some unsorted materials with no inventory, the team sorted and



Birgit Nielsen, manager of Information Services.

prepared for digitisation 106 archival boxes containing almost 90,000 pages.

Lessons learned and experiences gained from the pilot consignment have informed not only the CLC's inhouse workflow but also improved the instructions to, and communication with, the digitisation service provider.

#### AUDIO-VISUAL PRESERVATION

A priority of the digitisation project is to meet its 'Deadline 2025' to digitise at-risk magnetic media. Although some material is still to be identified, the majority of the CLC's archival tapes are now digitally preserved for the future.



Information services officer Sarah Larsen returned books to their shelves in the CLC's library.



## Training and education

During the reporting period the information services team delivered a range of training and outreach sessions:

- The information services training month in early 2024 delivered sessions on a number of topics. In 2023–24, more than 260 staff attended electronic document and records management system (eDIS) training and information literacy training sessions. Some training sessions are now available on-demand due to staff requests.
- The information services team have created many instructive eDIS HelpVids (videos) and 'Quick Tips' which staff can access on the intranet.
- Information services staff visited the Akityarre Rangers office at Harts Range with various library resources for the rangers to view and borrow. Staff outlined the library's services and gathered valuable information about the needs of rangers.
- It provided consultation and support to teams seeking to reorganise their electronic records management. Trials of a number of proposed solutions are now underway.

## Technical services

The technical services unit manages the CLC's vehicles, buildings and property and oversees the regional logistics services team that manages the logistics of hosting remote meetings.

To better co-ordinate, manage and schedule tasks, such as property inspections, condition reports and other maintenance tasks, in 2023–24 the unit subscribed to Pinnacle asset management software. The platform's capabilities will benefit the whole team and can assist with everything from managing property condition inspections and workflows for repair, to stock, inventory, and equipment servicing to reservations. It will also deliver efficiencies to the logistics team when menu planning and ordering for remote trips. Implementing the system will continue into 2024–25.

### Fleet management

The CLC manages a substantial and growing fleet of vehicles, including four-wheel drives, all-terrain vehicles, trailers and trucks. The fleet has grown significantly in recent years, and comprises new equipment acquired by the land management team. The CLC's fleet management strategy ensures vehicles are modified with the safety, tracking, communication and recovery equipment needed for safe remote travel.

The CLC replaces its vehicles every three years to ensure safe driving in remote conditions, and to maintain resale value. Since mid-2021, however, there have been significant delays in new vehicle deliveries, with waiting times of up to two years. Despite some improvement in 2023–24, to meet demand some vehicles were sourced from outside Alice Springs. Safety and other modifications were sourced through local service providers. The backlog of vehicles was reduced from 70 to 41. The CLC's fleet at 30 June 2024 is 137 vehicles, including four electric vehicles for town use.

### Land and buildings management

Renovation of the CLC's reception area at the Alice Springs headquarters commenced this year. The lift to the reception area was replaced, and staff seating has been rearranged to place experienced staff members close to the area to support junior staff who often work front-of-house.

Elsewhere in the CLC's main office, renovations were completed in the south wing to better accommodate the executive team: noise was reduced and the number of open-plan desks was increased. Work to increase seating capacity, natural light and improve noise attenuation in the east wing has also commenced.



An extension to the CLC's main Alice Springs office building, on an adjacent block, was progressed in 2023–24. A working group with representation from all sections of the CLC attended a number of workshops which contributed to and shaped a concept design. The completed concept design was included in a funding submission to the minister for the construction of the new building. An exceptional development permit was also submitted to the NT Government.

Due to a growing need for accommodation for staff, contractors and consultants, the CLC purchased a housing complex of 28 units in Alice Springs. These are in addition to eight existing units held by the CLC elsewhere in the town. The new units reached approximately 80 per cent occupancy and are creating immediate financial benefits through a reduction in the organisation's accommodation costs.

The CLC vehicle fleet has outgrown the headquarters at Stuart Highway and a large number of vehicles are stored at the CLC's Cameron Street depot. A planning project is assessing the Cameron Street site for its potential to meet vehicle, trailer, equipment and other needs of the CLC over the next 10 years; for example, providing improved kitchen cold storage and food preparation areas for the regional logistics services team, and storage of bulky items.

In the CLC's remote and regional areas, major works undertaken in 2023–24 included:

- renovation of two accommodation duplexes in Tennant Creek; the duplexes can now accommodate three permanent staff and provide short-term accommodation for visiting staff

- completion of renovations of the regional services officer's house in Kalkaringi, including bathroom and kitchen upgrades and internal painting
- installation of additional temporary staff accommodation at the Arlparra office at Utopia in anticipation of forthcoming new accommodation works
- completion of the Walungurru Rangers hub at Kintore, which includes an office, shed and workshop, shaded meeting area, ablutions block and co-ordinator accommodation
- a major upgrade of the Muru-warinyi Ankkul Rangers facility in Tennant Creek, including a large insulated shed with storage, office and training spaces, and improved amenities
- major works at Mutitjulu, including a new office, a shaded meeting area, visiting staff accommodation units, a shed for the Tjakuṛa Rangers and an ablutions block including shower and laundry.

## Regional logistics services

In March 2023, the regional logistics services team moved from its previous reporting line within the CLC's regional services unit to sit more effectively under the umbrella of the technical services section. The team provides practical support to all sections of the organisation that host and conduct remote meetings. In just over 12 months since the team was established, it has identified improvements to processes and equipment, including a kitchen shipping container, a tilt tray truck and two medium-rigid trucks with lifting mechanisms for heavy equipment to replace the existing prime mover. These items are scheduled for delivery in 2024–25.



# CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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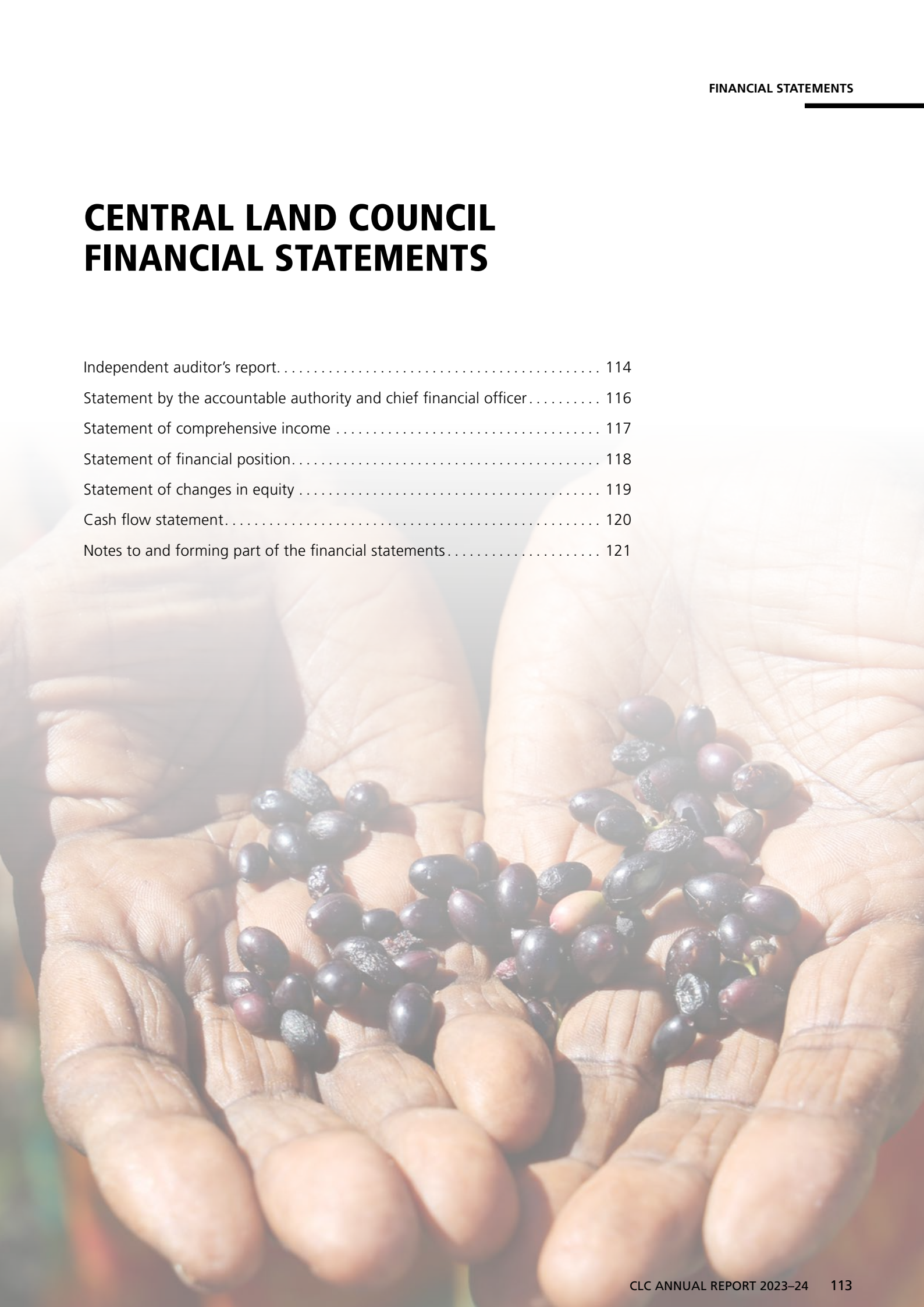
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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### 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 2024:

- (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 2024 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 2024 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 material accounting policy information 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 their 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

26 August 2024



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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**STATEMENT BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 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: 23/8/24

Signed 

Mr. Matthew Palmer  
Chair  
Accountable Authority

Date: 23/8/24

Signed 

Mr. Robert Cairney OAM FCPA  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 23/8/24

# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

## FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	NOTES	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>NET COST OF SERVICES</b>			
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employees and council members benefits	3(a)	35,767	31,131
Suppliers	3(b)	30,606	34,692
Finance costs		29	8
Depreciation and amortisation	7(a)	3,273	3,147
Impairment of assets/receivables	3(c)	98	236
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>69,773</b>	<b>69,215</b>
<b>OWN-SOURCE INCOME</b>			
<b>Own-source revenue</b>			
Revenue from contracts with customers	4(a)	4,414	3,676
Interest	4(b)	3,242	2,464
Lease and Rental Income		94	85
Other revenue	4(c)	2,735	2,708
<b>Total own-source revenue</b>		<b>10,485</b>	<b>8,933</b>
<b>Gains</b>			
Gain/(loss) from disposal of assets	4(d)	325	(18)
<b>Total gains/(losses)</b>		<b>325</b>	<b>(18)</b>
<b>Total own-source income</b>		<b>10,810</b>	<b>8,915</b>
<b>Net cost of services</b>		<b>58,963</b>	<b>60,299</b>
Revenue from Government	4(e)	67,077	55,078
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) on continuing operations</b>		<b>8,114</b>	<b>(5,222)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
<b>Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services</b>			
Change in asset revaluation reserve	7(a)		
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss)</b>		<b>8,114</b>	<b>(5,222)</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	NOTES	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6(a)	58,354	60,455
Trade and other receivables	6(b)	1,421	1,751
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>59,775</b>	<b>62,206</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>			
Land and buildings	7(a)	41,506	32,525
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	7(a)	10,910	7,794
Investment property	7(b)	550	550
Inventories		1	26
Other non-financial assets	7(c)	515	145
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>53,482</b>	<b>41,040</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>113,257</b>	<b>103,246</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
Suppliers	8(a)	9,881	8,329
Other Payables	8(b)	401	353
<b>Total payables</b>		<b>10,282</b>	<b>8,682</b>
<b>Interest bearing liabilities</b>			
Leases	9	1,268	1,664
<b>Total interest bearing liabilities</b>		<b>1,268</b>	<b>1,664</b>
<b>Provisions</b>			
Employee provisions	10(a)	5,543	4,850
<b>Total provisions</b>		<b>5,543</b>	<b>4,850</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>17,093</b>	<b>15,196</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>96,164</b>	<b>88,050</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Asset revaluation reserve		7,480	7,480
Retained surplus		88,684	80,570
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>96,164</b>	<b>88,050</b>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

### FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Retained Surplus		Asset revaluation reserve		TOTAL EQUITY	
	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>80,570</b>	85,792	<b>7,480</b>	7,480	<b>88,050</b>	93,272
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>						
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	<b>8,114</b>	(5,222)	–	–	<b>8,114</b>	(5,222)
<b>Total Comprehensive income</b>	<b>8,114</b>	(5,222)	–	–	<b>8,114</b>	(5,222)
of which:						
Attributable to the Australian Government	<b>8,114</b>	(5,222)	–	–	<b>8,114</b>	(5,222)
<b>Transactions with owners</b>	–	–	–	–	–	–
Transfer between equity components	–	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>88,684</b>	80,570	<b>7,480</b>	7,480	<b>96,164</b>	88,050

### 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 2023–24 the Central Land Council (CLC) did not make any contributions to owners (2022–23 \$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 2024

	Notes	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Operating activities</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Sales of goods and rendering of services		7,560	5,456
Receipts from Government		69,299	57,142
Rental income		56	48
Net GST received from ATO		(59)	(237)
Interest		3,242	2,464
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>80,098</b>	<b>64,873</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Employees		35,029	30,858
Suppliers		31,738	36,221
Interest payments on lease liabilities		29	8
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>66,796</b>	<b>67,087</b>
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>		<b>13,302</b>	<b>(2,214)</b>
<b>Investing activities</b>			
<b>Cash received</b>			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		744	492
Rental income on investment property		39	37
<b>Total cash received</b>		<b>783</b>	<b>529</b>
<b>Cash used</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	7(a)	15,591	7,227
<b>Total cash used</b>		<b>15,591</b>	<b>7,227</b>
<b>Net cash (used by) investing activities</b>		<b>(14,808)</b>	<b>(6,698)</b>
<b>Financing activities</b>			
<b>Cash used</b>			
Principal payment of lease liabilities		593	568
<b>Net cash (used by) financing activities</b>		<b>(593)</b>	<b>(568)</b>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>(2,101)</b>	<b>(9,480)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		60,455	69,935
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	6(a)	<b>58,354</b>	<b>60,455</b>

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 2024

### 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 and languages
- support economic development and effective land income management
- support Aboriginal peoples' development of strong communities and outstations
- support strong and sustainable ranger programs, providing work on country and 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 fulfil 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 programs.

### 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.

### NOTE 2: NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

None of the new, revised, amending standards, and/or interpretations issued prior to the sign-off date applicable to the current reporting period had a material impact on CLC's financial statements.

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the applicable dates as stated in the standard.

### TAXATION

CLC is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

### EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

CLC is not aware of any event occurring after balance date that would materially affect the financial statements.



## CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### NOTE 3: EXPENSES

##### NOTE 3(A): EMPLOYEE AND COUNCIL MEMBER BENEFITS

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Wages and salaries	29,539	26,562
Superannuation (accumulated contribution plans)	4,204	3,318
Leave and other entitlements	965	206
Other employee benefits	1,059	1,045
<b>Total employee benefits</b>	<b>35,767</b>	<b>31,131</b>

All employee payments and benefits are within the terms of the 2017–2020 CLC Enterprise Agreement. All Council member benefits are within the terms of Remuneration Tribunal Determinations as issued from time to time.

The CLC pays compulsory Professional Indemnity Insurance to the 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.

##### NOTE 3(B): SUPPLIERS

###### Goods and services supplied or rendered

Accounting and audit <sup>1</sup>	400	214
Consultants	2,430	1,962
Contractors	792	809
Travel, motor vehicle and meeting expenses	5,889	6,030
Accommodation and utilities	4,798	4,530
Grants <sup>2</sup>	7,808	14,167
Other operating expenses	4,396	3,518
Community Project expenses (refer Note 4(c))	3,473	2,838
<b>Total goods and services supplied or rendered</b>	<b>29,986</b>	<b>34,068</b>
<b>Other supplier expenses</b>		
Low-value and short-term leases <sup>3</sup>	66	174
Workers Compensation & Professional Indemnity Insurance premium	554	450
<b>Total other supplier expenses</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>624</b>
<b>Total supplier expenses</b>	<b>30,606</b>	<b>34,692</b>

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 represents funding provided to support Indigenous businesses, jobs and economic development within the CLC region.

3. CLC had short-term and low-value lease commitments of \$0.070m as at 30 June 2024 (2023: \$0.086m). The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with accompanying notes 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

Impairment of assets/trade and other receivables	98	236
<b>Total Impairment of assets</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>236</b>

Refer to Note 6(b) for details of the Impairment on trade and other receivables.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### NOTE 4: INCOME – OWN SOURCE REVENUE

##### NOTE 4(A): REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Rendering of services	4,414	3,676
<b>Total Revenue from contracts with customers</b>	<b>4,414</b>	<b>3,676</b>
<b>Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers</b>		
Type of customer:		
Australian Government entities (related parties)	430	267
State and Territory Governments	69	16
Non-government entities	3,915	3,393
	<b>4,414</b>	<b>3,676</b>

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.

##### NOTE 4(B): INTEREST

Interest from cash and short-term deposits	3,242	2,464
<b>Total interest</b>	<b>3,242</b>	<b>2,464</b>

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

##### NOTE 4(C): OTHER REVENUE/GAINS

Community Project income	2,735	2,708
<b>Total other gains</b>	<b>2,735</b>	<b>2,708</b>

#### 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.

# CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

### NOTE 4(D): GAIN/(LOSS) FROM DISPOSAL OF ASSETS

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Motor vehicles, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale	1,402	492
Carrying value of assets sold	(446)	(159)
<b>Net gain from sale of motor vehicles, plant and equipment</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>333</b>

#### Sale of assets

Gains from disposal of assets are recognised when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

#### Loss from disposal of buildings

##### Buildings

Proceeds from sale	(657)	–
Carrying value of assets disposed	26	(351)
<b>Net loss from disposal of buildings</b>	<b>(631)</b>	<b>(351)</b>

During 2023–24 CLC capitalised office improvements as part of a renovation project at 27 Stuart Highway from Works in Progress, with the accounting treatment determined from Resource Management Guide (RMG) 113 *Accounting for subsequent expenditure on property, plant and equipment*.

#### Net Gain/(Loss) from asset sales and disposals

Proceeds from sale	745	492
Carrying value of assets disposed	(420)	(510)
<b>Net Gain/(Loss) from asset sales and disposals</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>(18)</b>

### NOTE 4(E): REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT

From Government – ABA s.64(1)	47,249	37,428
From Government – Special Purpose Contracts	19,828	17,650
<b>Total revenue from Government</b>	<b>67,077</b>	<b>55,078</b>

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 \$47.249m for the year ended 30 June 2024, refer to Note 5 for further detail.

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 2024, \$36.578m of the total \$36.700m had been contractually committed to specific Indigenous businesses and projects, with \$26.827m 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 2024–25 with expenditure continuing into 2025–26.

Funding received or receivable from non-corporate Commonwealth entities is recognised as Revenue from Government unless it is in the nature of an equity injection or a loan. Government (both federal and state) funding in the form of special purpose grants with specific performance obligations is recognised as revenue in accordance with AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*. Where specific performance obligations have not yet been met, revenue is deferred and recorded as a Contract Liability (refer Note 8(a)). Where the grant is not 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.



## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### NOTE 5: STATEMENT OF BUDGET VS ACTUAL ABORIGINALS BENEFIT ACCOUNT APPROPRIATIONS

	ABA Approved Estimates 2023–24 \$'000	ABA Actual 2023–24 \$'000	Variance 2023–24 \$'000
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Salaries and related expenses	23,864	23,179	685
Operational expenses	18,452	15,884	2,568
Total recurrent expenditure	42,316	39,063	3,253
Capital	9,753	8,723	1,030
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>52,069</b>	<b>47,786</b>	<b>4,283</b>
<b>Income</b>			
ABA sec.64(1)	47,249	47,249	–
Administration fees	2,280	2,046	(234)
Interest	1,800	2,995	1,195
Sale of assets	–	(178)	(178)
Recoveries	640	1,608	968
Other	100	343	243
<b>Total income</b>	<b>52,069</b>	<b>54,063</b>	<b>1,994</b>
<b>ABA surplus at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>6,277</b>	<b>6,277</b>

The net surplus of \$6.246m is accounted for as follows:

	2023–24 \$'000
<b>ABA surplus at 30 June 2024:</b>	<b>6,277</b>
<b>Less:</b>	
(i) Community Development Matched Funds	2,908
(ii) Committed CAPEX	2,565
(iii) Committed Strategic Initiatives – Digitisation and MS365	1,060
<b>ABA deficit after commitments as at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>(254)</b>

#### Notes:

- (i) Community Development matched funds initiative experienced delays due to the process from engaging communities on proposed projects to finalising project plans with project partners and projects being finalised before expenditure occurs.
- (ii) Committed CAPEX funds for building works relating to FY2023/2024: some projects delayed due to prior year CAPEX projects being finalised.
- (iii) Committed funds for Strategic Initiatives relating to Digitisation and MS365: some delays with project partners and finalising project plans.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### NOTE 6: FINANCIAL ASSETS

##### NOTE 6(A): CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Cash on hand or on deposit	58,354	60,455
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>58,354</b>	<b>60,455</b>

##### 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.

##### NOTE 6(B): TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

###### Goods and services receivables

Goods and services	1,540	1,863
<b>Total receivables for goods and services</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>1,863</b>

###### Other receivables

GST receivable from Australian Taxation Office	295	237
<b>Total other receivables</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>237</b>
<b>Total trade and other receivables (gross)</b>	<b>1,835</b>	<b>2,100</b>

###### Less: Impairment allowance account

Goods and services	(414)	(349)
<b>Total trade and other receivables (net)</b>	<b>1,421</b>	<b>1,751</b>

All receivables are current assets. Debtors are recognised at their nominal amounts due less provision for impairment, if any, refer note 3(c). 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 (2023: 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 2024

## NOTE 7: NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

### NOTE 7(A): ANALYSIS OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

**Table (A): Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment 2023–24**

	Land and buildings <sup>†</sup> \$'000	Motor vehicles <sup>^</sup> \$'000	Plant and equipment <sup>^</sup> \$'000	Library <sup>^</sup> \$'000	Computer equipment and software <sup>^</sup> \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
As at 1 July 2023						
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)
<b>Net book value 1 July 2023</b>	<b>32,525</b>	<b>4,881</b>	<b>2,192</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>40,319</b>
Additions						
By purchase	10,236	4,901	212	50	192	15,591
Right of Use assets	199	–	–	–	–	199
Depreciation and amortisation	(893)	(1,399)	(334)	–	(60)	(2,686)
Depreciation on right of use assets	(587)	–	–	–	–	(587)
Disposals – Gross value	–	(1,937)	–	–	–	(1,937)
Disposals – Accumulated depreciation	26	1,491	–	–	–	1,517
<b>Change in Net book value 30 June 2024</b>	<b>8,981</b>	<b>3,056</b>	<b>(122)</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>12,097</b>
<b>Net book value as of 30 June 2024 represented by</b>						
Gross book value*	50,120	13,904	5,190	525	3,102	72,841
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(8,614)	(5,967)	(3,120)	–	(2,724)	(20,425)
<b>Net book value 30 June 2024</b>	<b>41,506</b>	<b>7,937</b>	<b>2,070</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>52,416</b>
<b>Carrying amount of right-of-use assets</b>	<b>1,255</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1,255</b>
<b>Work in progress</b>	<b>5,812</b>	<b>1,761</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>7,609</b>

† Land and Buildings includes current 'Right of Use assets' (leased Lots and premises) with a recognised 'acquisition' cost of \$5.812m and carrying value of \$1.255m as shown above.

\* Gross book value as at 30 June 2024 includes works in progress of \$7.609m (2023: \$4.496m)

^ 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. Overall a decrease in value of \$0.532m was recognised, and debited to the Asset Revaluation Reserve in equity. 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.

No Land or Buildings are currently held for sale or are expected to be sold or disposed of in the next 12 months.

Motor vehicles are recognised at cost and the majority are depreciated to expected residual value over a period of 4 years or 100,000km, 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 2024. CLC replaces the majority of its motor vehicles after the later of 3 years or approximately 100,000km driven.

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 2024 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.



## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### 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 less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. 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 at 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.

##### 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.

##### Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment assets (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.

	2024	2023
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.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

### 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 2024, 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 assets comprise an Electronic Documents and a Records Management System (EDRMS). This asset is included in computer equipment and software and is 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.

### NOTE 7(B): INVESTMENT PROPERTY

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
As at 1 July 2023	550	550
<b>Total as at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>550</b>

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 \$0.550m, with the \$0.045m increase recorded in profit and loss. Refer to Note 17 for details of 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 loss on disposals of an investment property are recognised in profit or loss in the year of disposal.

### NOTE 7(C): OTHER NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

Prepaid supplies and services	515	145
<b>Total Other Non-financial assets</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>145</b>

## NOTE 8: PAYABLES

### NOTE 8(A): SUPPLIERS

Trade payables	2,739	1,154
Sundry payables and accruals	630	39
Contract liabilities from contracts with customers	6,512	7,136
<b>Total supplier payables</b>	<b>9,881</b>	<b>8,329</b>

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.

# CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

### NOTE 8(B): OTHER PAYABLES

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Salaries and Wages – year end accrual	277	232
Accrued superannuation	124	121
<b>Total Other Payables</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>353</b>

Accrued salary and wages are earned but not yet paid as at 30 June 2024 (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.

### NOTE 9: INTEREST BEARING LIABILITIES

Lease liabilities	1,268	1,664
<b>Total interest bearing liabilities</b>	<b>1,268</b>	<b>1,664</b>

Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2024 was \$0.681m (2023: \$0.608m).

#### Maturity analysis – contractual undiscounted cash flows

Within 1 year	542	570
Between 1 to 5 years	615	1,042
More than 5 years	111	52
<b>Total leases</b>	<b>1,268</b>	<b>1,664</b>

Lease liabilities relate to Land and/or Buildings leased by the CLC which are recognised as Right of Use assets (refer Note 7(a)). Some leases are in communities on 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) 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 2024

#### NOTE 10: PROVISIONS

##### NOTE 10(A): EMPLOYEE PROVISIONS

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Leave	5,543	4,850
<b>Total Employee Provisions</b>	<b>5,543</b>	<b>4,850</b>

Long Service Leave liabilities were calculated using the shorthand method as at 30 June 2024 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 15.4% (13.5% year ended 30 June 2023) 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 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 is 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 in 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 2024

#### NOTE 12: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL REMUNERATION

Key management personnel (KMP) 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 the Chief Financial Officer. General Manager Corporate Services, General Manager Professional Services and General Manager Regional & Development Services are also included as KMPs for the purpose of executive remuneration reporting.

Key Management Personnel remuneration is reported in the table below.

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits	1,250	748
Post-employment benefits	172	90
Other long-term benefits	29	29
<b>Total key management personnel remuneration expenses</b>	<b>1,451</b>	<b>867</b>

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. (2023: five).

The above key management personnel remuneration excludes the remuneration and other benefits of the Portfolio Minister. The Portfolio Minister's remuneration and other benefits are set by the Remuneration Tribunal and are not paid by the entity

#### Prior Period Error

Prior year adjustment has been made to Key Management Personnel remuneration due to overstatement of long-term and short-term benefits. The adjustment doesn't impact the financial statements other than note 12 as shown below.

	Before Adjustment 2023 \$'000	After Adjustment 2023 \$'000	Net Movement
Short-term employee benefits	762	748	14
Post-employment benefits	90	90	–
Other long-term benefits	66	29	37
<b>Total key management personnel remuneration expenses</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>51</b>

#### NOTE 13: REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

Remuneration to auditors for the reporting period are as follows:

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) – statutory audit	62	57
Crowe Australia – acquittal of grants	32	30
PriceWaterhouseCoopers for auditing the accounts of Aboriginal Corporations to whom CLC provides administrative services	115	139
	<b>209</b>	<b>226</b>

No other audit services were provided by the ANAO during the reporting period.

The CLC incurs the cost of an audit of each of the Aboriginal Corporations, trusts and companies 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.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### NOTE 14: LAND USE TRUST ACCOUNT

CLC maintains a Land Use Trust Account. Monies received on behalf of 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.

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>44,603</b>	<b>37,578</b>
Add receipts		
Subsection 64 (3) statutory royalty equivalents	36,741	37,996
Section 42,43,44,46,48a & 48d negotiated monies	36,911	35,280
Section 15,16,19 & 20 rental and lease monies	13,651	10,691
Other monies	3,028	3,582
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>90,331</b>	<b>87,549</b>
Deduct payments		
Section 35(2) statutory royalty equivalents	36,645	38,002
Section 35(3) negotiated payments	35,490	33,708
Section 35(4) rental and lease monies	11,733	7,102
Northern Territory – National Emergency Response Act 2007	121	84
Other payments	1,734	1,628
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>85,723</b>	<b>80,524</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>49,211</b>	<b>44,603</b>
Cash at bank and term deposits	49,211	44,603

#### NOTE 14(A) – DETAILS OF AMOUNTS PAID – S35(2)

Details of amounts paid as required by Section 37(4) ALRA:

Ngurratjuta Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation	1,585	2,015
Granites Mine Affected Areas Aboriginal Corporation	36,645	35,981
	<b>38,230</b>	<b>37,996</b>

#### Determinations under s42

Previously noted s42 Determinations expired early in 2022–23. No s42 Determinations were issued during 2023–24. As at 30 June 2024 there were no active s42 Determinations.

#### 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

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara	32
Casa Leisure	406
Centre Funerals	14
Grant Family Funeral and Transfer Services	5
Ingkerreke Aboriginal Corp Outstations	15
Jen Clarsen	315
Kings Narrative Pty Ltd	44
NPY Women's Council Aboriginal Corporation	242
Rattlepod Landscapes Pty Ltd	28
Yangkuntjatjara Kutu Aboriginal Corporation	1,187
	<b>2,288</b>



## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

## NOTE 15: FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

### NOTE 15(A): CATEGORIES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
Financial assets at amortised cost:		
Cash on hand or on deposit	58,354	60,455
Trade and other receivables – net of impairment losses	1,125	1,515
<b>Total financial assets at amortised cost</b>	<b>59,479</b>	<b>61,970</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:		
Trade Creditors	2,739	1,154
Contract liabilities	6,512	7,136
Other Payables	401	353
Sundry creditors and accruals	630	39
<b>Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost</b>	<b>10,282</b>	<b>8,682</b>

### Accounting Policy

#### Financial assets

In accordance with AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*, the CLC classifies its financial assets into the following categories:

- (a) financial assets at fair value through profit or loss;
- (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-month 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).

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### NOTE 15(B): NET GAINS OR LOSSES ON FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Financial assets at amortised cost</b>		
Interest revenue (refer note 4(b))	3,242	2,464
<b>Net gain on financial assets at amortised cost</b>	<b>3,242</b>	<b>2,464</b>
<b>Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost</b>		
Interest expense	29	8
<b>Net (loss) on financial assets at amortised cost</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>8</b>

#### NOTE 16: CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

At 30 June 2024, the CLC had no significant contingent assets and liabilities (2023: \$0). In particular, there are no significant legal claims or matters in progress involving CLC.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

#### 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 discloses the fair value at 30 June 2024 and the valuation techniques used to derived its fair value:

Fair value measurement – Valuation technique				
	Category	Valuation Technique	2024 Fair value \$'000	2023 Fair value \$'000
<b>Non-financial assets – Recurring Fair Value Measurement</b>				
<b>Land and Buildings</b>				
Freehold land	Level 2	– Market based valuation on direct comparatives	7,294	5,920
Building on freehold land	Level 2	– Market based valuation on direct comparatives	16,514	13,491
Building on leasehold land	Level 3	– Depreciated replacement cost	11,350	8,590
<b>Investment Property</b>				
Land and Buildings	Level 2	– Market based valuation on direct comparatives	550	550
<b>Other property, plant &amp; equipment</b>				
Library	Level 3	– Depreciated replacement cost	525	475
<b>Total Non-financial Assets</b>			<b>36,233</b>	<b>29,026</b>

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 the 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 Levels 1 and 2 (land, all but \$117k which was Level 3) and Levels 1, 2 and 3 (buildings) based on the valuation technique noted above.

Key inputs used for Level 1 valuations were selling prices from purchases during 2023–24

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 2024

#### NOTE 18: CURRENT/NON-CURRENT DISTINCTION FOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Assets expected to be recovered in:</b>		
<b>No more than 12 months</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	58,354	60,455
Trade and other receivables	1,421	1,751
Inventory	1	26
Other non-financial assets	515	145
<b>Total no more than 12 months</b>	<b>60,291</b>	<b>62,377</b>
<b>More than 12 months</b>		
Land and buildings	41,506	32,525
Investment property	550	550
Infrastructure, plant and equipment	10,910	7,794
<b>Total more than 12 months</b>	<b>52,966</b>	<b>40,869</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>113,257</b>	<b>103,246</b>
<b>Liabilities expected to be settled in:</b>		
<b>No more than 12 months</b>		
Suppliers	9,881	8,329
Other payables	401	353
Leases	542	570
Employee Provisions	3,169	2,740
<b>Total no more than 12 months</b>	<b>13,993</b>	<b>11,992</b>
<b>More than 12 months</b>		
Leases	726	1,094
Employee provisions	2,374	2,110
<b>Total more than 12 months</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>3,204</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>17,093</b>	<b>15,196</b>

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

**NOTE 19: NATIVE TITLE****NOTE 19(A): NATIONAL INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS AGENCY: NATIVE TITLE – OPERATIONAL**

	Approved Budget 2023–24 \$'000	Actual 2023–24 \$'000
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Other Project Income</b>		
Bank Interest	20	76
Vehicle Trade-in	205	192
Activity generated income – cost recovery	10	65
2022–23 funds c/fwd	1,469	1,469
<b>Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet funding</b>		
Capital	208	–
Operational	3,092	3,426
Variations	900	900
	<b>5,904</b>	<b>6,128</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Capital</b>		
Vehicles	413	361
IT Equipment	–	–
	<b>413</b>	<b>361</b>
<b>Operational</b>		
<b>Salaries</b>		
Chief Executive Officer/General Manager or equivalents	170	170
Corporate staff	373	358
Project staff	2,695	2,101
<b>Services</b>		
Accommodation	150	181
Motor Vehicles – Corporate	25	36
Motor Vehicles – Attributable	130	105
Repair and Maintenance – Equipment	14	(1)
Repair and Maintenance – Buildings	–	25
Bank Charges	–	0
Audit Fees	6	6
Consultants – Corporate	25	–
Consultants – Attributable	1,082	725
Communications, Telephones, Fax and IT	–	85
Insurance – Workers compensation	14	20
Insurance – Assets	–	19
Insurance – Professional Indemnity	18	20
Corporate HR / Finance / Property Serv / library	100	101
<b>Training &amp; Development</b>		
Governing Committee	6	–
Staff	18	54

# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Approved Budget 2023–24 \$'000	Actual 2023–24 \$'000
<b>Meetings</b>		
Governing Committee	–	12
Attributable Other meetings expenses	126	173
Regional PBC Meetings	40	–
PBC Mapping	78	–
Interpreting	70	–
<b>Travel &amp; Allowances</b>		
Chairperson	4	–
Other Governing Committee members	4	7
Members (Travel)	–	–
Claimants (Travel)	91	148
PBC Director (Travel) – Training	10	–
Staff (Travel) Corporate	37	45
Staff (Travel) Attributable	89	92
<b>Supplies &amp; Consumables</b>		
Corporate Office Sup / office misc.	17	9
IT Equipment	15	–
Other Supplies – Attributable	84	–
	<b>5,491</b>	<b>4,491</b>
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1,276</b>

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.



**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

**NOTE 19(B): NON FINANCIAL ASSETS – NATIVE TITLE****Analysis of Plant and Equipment****Table (A): Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of plant and equipment 2023–24**

	<b>Motor Vehicles \$'000</b>	<b>TOTAL \$'000</b>
As at 1 July 2023		
Gross book value	703	703
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(343)	(343)
<b>Net book value as at 1 July 2023</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>360</b>
Additions		
By purchase	361	361
<b>Adjustment Opening Gross Value</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Adjustment Opening Accum Depreciation</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
Depreciation and amortisation	(164)	(164)
Disposals – Gross Value	(131)	(131)
Disposals – Accumulated Depreciation	105	105
<b>Net book value as at 30 June 2024 represented by</b>		
Gross book value	933	933
Accumulated depreciation and amortisation	(402)	(402)
<b>Closing net book value 30 June 2024</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>531</b>

# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX A. ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY MEASURES

### Environment protection and biodiversity

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* legislates that Commonwealth authorities report on their organisations' environmental measures. Environmental measures are part of the CLC's land and natural resource management work (Output 1.2) and its advocacy services (outputs 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3). Environmental initiatives are also a focus of its corporate services.

The CLC undertook significant activities towards ecological sustainability for its constituents during this reporting period through its representation on the advisory committee for the development of the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy. This is a priority under the National Energy Transformation Partnership, agreed to by all Australian energy ministers (see page 65). It also made a number of submissions to important proposed developments in the region, particularly involving water, see Table 19, page 57. CLC staff were part of a weeds advisory committee that has helped declare buffel grass a weed of national significance and will help decrease its spread (see page 28).

Reporting of the recommended environmental measures for Commonwealth entities complies with new emissions reporting requirements (see tables 44 and 45); please note the following caveats:

- A portion of electricity data was unable to be separated from the Director of National Park's data.
- Not all electricity or solid waste data was available at the time of the report, and amendments to data may be required in future reports. The quality of data is expected to improve over time as emissions reporting matures.
- Fleet data was calculated for some vehicles based on the amount paid for fuel, as itemised invoices including amount of fuel purchased were not available. It was assumed one litre of fuel was purchased for every \$3 spent.
- Emissions from electricity consumed by electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles has only been reported for electricity the CLC directly purchased. Emissions associated with electricity consumption from public charging stations has not been reported for 2023–24.
- Emissions from hire cars for 2023–24 have been sourced from third party providers and may be incomplete. The quality of data is expected to improve over time as emissions reporting matures.
- Accommodation data was unavailable at the time of the report and amendments to data may be required in future reports. The quality of data is expected to improve over time as emissions reporting matures.

**Table 44. Greenhouse gas emissions inventory – location based method 2023–24**

Emission Source	Scope 1 t CO <sub>2</sub> -e	Scope 2 t CO <sub>2</sub> -e	Scope 3 t CO <sub>2</sub> -e	Total t CO <sub>2</sub> -e
Electricity (Location Based Approach)	N/A	250.322	31.920	282.242
Natural Gas	0.238	N/A	0.018	0.256
Solid Waste*	N/A	N/A	121.536	121.536
Refrigerants*†	0.000	N/A	N/A	0.000
Fleet and Other Vehicles	995.203	N/A	244.575	1,239.778
Domestic Commercial Flights	N/A	N/A	115.805	115.805
Domestic Hire Car*	N/A	N/A	0.000	0.000
Domestic Travel Accommodation*	N/A	N/A	0.000	0.000
Other Energy	0.000	N/A	0.000	0.000
<b>Total t CO<sub>2</sub>-e</b>	<b>995.440</b>	<b>250.322</b>	<b>513.855</b>	<b>1,759.617</b>

Note: the table above presents emissions related to electricity usage using the location-based accounting method. CO<sub>2</sub>-e = Carbon Dioxide Equivalent.

\* indicates emission sources collected for the first time in 2023–24. The quality of data is expected to improve over time as emissions reporting matures.

† indicates optional emission source for 2023–24 emissions reporting.

Table 45. Electricity greenhouse gas emissions 2023–24

Emission Source	Scope 2 t CO <sub>2</sub> -e	Scope 3 t CO <sub>2</sub> -e	Total t CO <sub>2</sub> -e	Percentage of electricity use
Electricity (Location Based Approach)	250.322	31.920	282.242	100%
Market-based electricity emissions	307.241	37.931	345.172	81.28%
Total renewable electricity	–	–	–	18.72%
Mandatory renewables <sup>1</sup>	–	–	–	18.72%
Voluntary renewables <sup>2</sup>	–	–	–	0.00%

Note: the table above presents emissions related to electricity usage using both the location-based and the market-based accounting methods.

CO<sub>2</sub>-e = Carbon Dioxide Equivalent.

1 Mandatory renewables are the portion of electricity consumed from the grid that is generated by renewable sources. This includes the renewable power percentage.

2 Voluntary renewables reflect the eligible carbon credit units surrendered by the entity. This may include purchased large-scale generation certificates, power purchasing agreements, GreenPower and the jurisdictional renewable power percentage (ACT only).

Table 46. Performance against Commonwealth-recommended environmental measures 2019–24

Theme	Indicator(s)	Measure	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Energy efficiency	Electricity purchased	\$	194,023.0	142,803.0	153,295.0	133,961	133,873.000
	Electricity consumed	kWh	708,348.0	537,987.0	616,510.0	500,462	507,957.000
	Gas purchased	\$	19,837.0	18,430.0	14,628.0	19,978	21,646.000
	Other fuels purchased/consumed	L	398,970.0	568,896.0	451,187.0	539,524	502,104.000
	Fuels purchased	\$	754,053.0	910,234.0	947,493.0	1,230,115	1,114,671.000
	Air travel distances	km	967,434.0	484,809.0	530,424.0	410,843	1,145,197.000
	Air travel CO <sub>2</sub>	t	75.0	56.0	54.0	43	115.800
	Electricity CO <sub>2</sub>	t	864.0	660.0	752.0	611	282.000
	Gas CO <sub>2</sub>	t	19.2	17.0	18.0	18	0.256
	Other fuels CO <sub>2</sub>	t	1,077.0	1,536.0	1,190.0	1,457	1,320.000
	Electricity used per employee	kWh p/e	2,719.0	2,881.0	2,634.0	2,148	1,776.000
	Gas used per employee	Gj p/e	46.2	40.9	49.0	1	0.000
	Other fuels per employee	L p/e	1,535.0	2,188.0	1,928.0	2,315	1,756.000
Renewable energy	Electricity produced	kWh	97,146.0	210,740.0	213,392.0	156,451	359,024.000
	Savings	\$	22,341.0	48,470.0	49,080.0	35,942	82,576.000
	CO <sub>2</sub> savings	t	67.0	145.0	147.0	107	248.000
	Renewable electricity	% kWh	13.7	39.0	26.0	24	46
Waste	Amount going to landfills	m <sup>3</sup>	460.0	420.0	217.0	263	211.000
	Amount going to recycling facilities	m <sup>3</sup>	240.0	78.0	129.0	135	99.000
	Amount of waste per employee	m <sup>3</sup>	1.8	1.6	0.8	1	1.000
Water	Water consumption	kL	7,870.0	7,683.0	10,726.0	15,033	17,722.000
	Relative water consumption – water use	kL p/e	30.0	30.0	45.0	65	62.000
CO <sub>2</sub> offsets	Camels removed by muster	number	1,264.0	1,491.0	–	93	–
	Camels removed by muster – CO <sub>2</sub> emission savings	t	–	62,554.0	–	–	–
	Horses removed by joint management	t	1,728.0	352.0	–	–	–
	Horses removed by joint management – CO <sub>2</sub> emission savings	t	1,659.0	454.0	–	–	–



## Appendix B. 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)	11	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)	6–7, 11, 13	The purposes of the entity as included in the entity's corporate plan for the reporting period	Mandatory
17BE(c)	11	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)	11	Directions given to the entity by the Minister under an Act or instrument during the reporting period	Mandatory
17BE(e)	11	Any government policy order that applied in relation to the entity during the reporting period under section 22 of the <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> (the Act)	Mandatory
17BE(f)	–	Particulars of non-compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a direction given to the entity by the Minister under an Act or instrument during the reporting period; or</li> <li>• a government policy order that applied in relation to the entity during the reporting period under section 22 of the Act</li> </ul>	n/a
17BE(g)	19–24	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)	18	Outline of the organisational structure of the entity (including any subsidiaries of the entity)	Mandatory
17BE(ka)	104–106	Statistics on the entity's employees on an ongoing and non-ongoing basis, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• statistics on full time employees;</li> <li>• statistics on part time employees;</li> <li>• statistics on gender;</li> <li>• statistics on staff location</li> </ul>	Mandatory
17BE(l)	6, 111–12	Outline of the location (whether or not in Australia) of major activities or facilities of the entity	Mandatory
17BE(m)	11, 13, 99–100	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): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>	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)	100	Particulars of judicial decisions or decisions of administrative tribunals that may have a significant effect on the operations of the entity	Mandatory

PGPA Rule reference	Page no.	Description	Requirement
17BE(r)	100	Particulars of any reports on the entity given by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Auditor-General (other than a report under section 43 of the Act); or</li> <li>a Parliamentary Committee; or</li> <li>the Commonwealth Ombudsman; or</li> <li>the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner</li> </ul>	nil 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)	100	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)	Mandatory
17BE(taa)	99–100	The following information about the audit committee for the entity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a direct electronic address of the charter determining the functions of the audit committee;</li> <li>the name of each member of the audit committee;</li> <li>the qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience of each member of the audit committee;</li> <li>information about each member's attendance at meetings of the audit committee;</li> <li>the remuneration of each member of the audit committee</li> </ul>	Mandatory
17BE(ta)	106–107	Information about executive remuneration	Mandatory

The following table sets out the location of reporting requirements as listed in the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* 'Section 37: Additional Land Council reporting requirements'

Section reference	Description		Location in this report
37(2)	Fees	Fees relating to Part IV (Mining)	The CLC received \$539,334 in deed administration fees relating to Part IV (Mining).
		Sections 33A and 33B	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))	No determinations
		By the Minister (subsection 35(6))	No determinations
37(4)	Amounts paid	Section 35(2) Section 35(4A)	p 133 (refer Note 14(A)) p 133 (refer Note 14(B))
37(5)	Amounts held in trust	Section 35(2)–(4), and 35(6B), (8) or (9)	p 133
37(5A)	Details of approved entities	Section 19A	n/a
37(7)	Committees	Section 29A	p 13
37(8)	Consultants	Section 37(8)	p 122 (refer Note 3(B)), pp 138–139 (refer Note (19))

The following table sets out the location of reporting requirements listed under other legislation.

Legislation		Location in this report
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act	Section 516A(1)	pp 141–142
Work, Health and Safety Act	Schedule 2, Part 4, 4 Annual reports	pp 102–103
Freedom of Information Act	Reporting requirements	p 11

# GLOSSARY

AAMC	Aboriginal Associations Management Centre
AAPA	Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
ABA	Aboriginals Benefit Account receives funds equivalent to the royalties from mines located on Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory. The funds are used to benefit Aboriginal people living in the NT, including through grants, which are managed by the NTAIC, except for the ABA homelands project which is managed by the NIAA.
Aboriginal land	As defined in the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i> (Cth), Aboriginal land means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• land held by a land trust for an estate in fee simple; or</li> <li>• land the subject of a deed of grant held in escrow by a land council.</li> </ul>
AC	Aboriginal corporation
ACVS	Aboriginal Community Veterinary Services
AIATSIS	Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
AHNT	Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory
ALT	Aboriginal land trust
AMSANT	Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT
Anangu	Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara-speaking 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
CLC	Central Land Council
CLC council	the CLC's 90-member governing council, referred to in this report to as the council
community living area	small Aboriginal living area excised from a pastoral lease
corporate governance	the process by which agencies are directed and controlled, encompassing authority, accountability, stewardship, leadership, direction and control
Cth	Commonwealth
Dilin Duwa	Centre for Indigenous Business Leadership at The University of Melbourne
DITT	Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade
eDIS	electronic document information system
ELA	exploration licence application
EPA	exploration permit application
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.
FNRG	First Nations Reference Group for RJED
FTE	fulltime equivalent
GIS	geographic information system
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
GSA	Geoscience Australia
GST	Goods and Services Tax — unless otherwise stated (as in Output 4.4), all figures exclude GST
HAC	Huckitta Aboriginal Corporation
HHIP	Homelands Housing and Infrastructure Program
IES	Indigenous Essential Services, a not-for-profit subsidiary of the NT's Power and Water corporation
ILSC	Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation
ILUA	Indigenous land use agreement: an agreement between native title holders and other people or bodies about the use and management of areas of land and/or waters; they are binding when registered with the National Native Title Tribunal.
IPA	Indigenous protected area
Kurra	Kurra Aboriginal Corporation



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>
land trust	a land trust established under the Land Rights Act to hold land on behalf of traditional owners
native title	recognition of the rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in land and waters according to their traditional laws and customs
Native Title Act	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth)
native title determination	a decision by the Federal Court of Australia as to whether or not native title exists in relation to a particular area of land or water
NAAJA	North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Agency
NLC	Northern Land Council
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
NPRHNT	National Partnership for Remote Housing Northern Territory
NT	Northern Territory
NTAIC	Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation: established in November 2022 to manage ABA grants
NTECCA	NT Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs, which monitors Closing the Gap outcomes
NTEPA	NT Environment Protection Authority
NTIBN	Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network
NTRAI	NT and Commonwealth governments Joint Steering Committee on NT Remote Aboriginal Investment
NTRB	native title representative body
OAC	Ooratippra Aboriginal Corporation
ORIC	Office of Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
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
PAW Media	Pintubi Amatjerre Warlpiri Media
PBC	prescribed bodies corporate; see RNTBC
PGPA Act	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i> (Cth)
PGPA Rule	Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014 (Cth)
PPL	perpetual pastoral lease (cattle station)
PWCNT	Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory
RJED	Remote Jobs and Economic Development program
RNTBC	registered native title bodies corporate, commonly known as 'prescribed bodies corporate'; corporations that protect and manage determined native title on behalf of the native title holders
SA	South Australia
sacred site	An area 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
TNRM	Territory Natural Resource Management
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.
UKTNP	Uluru – Kata Tjuta National Park
Warlpiri triangle	a professional network of educators and community members from four Warlpiri-speaking communities: Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Willowra and Nyirripi
WETT	Warlpiri Education and Training Trust
Yapa	Warlpiri-speaking people



Muru-warinyi Ankkul Ranger Jeffrey Curtis took part in a prescribed burn near Tennant Creek.





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FRONT COVER: In May 2024, Justice Halley of the Federal Court handed down a determination that recognises the native title rights of a group of claimants over Huckitta pastoral lease. Successful claimant Raymond Webb addressed the crowd at the hearing held on Huckitta station.

BACK COVER: Sam Kendal, Andrina Williams and Maria Ross took part in a cultural survey.