



Central Land Council delegates met in Tennant Creek for their first council meeting of 2024.

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL URGES ACTION AGAINST DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Council members talked about the urgent issue of domestic and family violence and put out a statement. They highlighted the high number of domestic and family violence-related deaths in the Northern Territory, mainly affecting Aboriginal women.

The council called for funding based on evidence and need rather than just population. They also stressed the importance of solutions led by Aboriginal communities, as well as the need for education and support programs for men and culturally relevant initiatives to ensure the safety of women and

children. While they welcomed the recent announcement of \$925 million to address domestic and family violence, they urged the Australian and NT governments to provide funding based on need, support the Closing the Gap national agreement targets, invest in men's healing programs, and support community-led initiatives. They highlighted that domestic and family violence is a national crisis that affects all communities and pledged to continue engaging with members to take strong action on this problem.

NT TREATY UPDATE:

Chansey Paech, the new Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, has promised to re-start the treaty process this year. Council members will re-engage with the treaty process following the NT government's inadequate response to the *Treaty Commission Final Report* in 2022. They are pushing

for a second memorandum of understanding to jointly manage the next phase. This formal agreement should include long-term commitments such as funding for truth-telling. Two symposiums have been held by the NT government this year to further talks on treaty.



CEO Les Turner read out the council's statement with contributions by Ronald Brown, Patrick Oliver, Warren Williams and Matthew Palmer.

NEW PROGRAM TO REPLACE CDP

The government has introduced the Remote Jobs and Economic Development Program and will spend \$707 million to create about 3,000 jobs in remote areas to replace the failed Community Development Program.

The new program allows communities to choose the jobs they want and provides funding for local organisations and governments to hire locals. Minister Burney created

the First Nations Reference Group to make sure the program is effective. Given its high CDP caseload and significant employment gap, council members asked for a strong focus on remote areas in the Northern Territory. They also stressed the need for ongoing commitment and real partnership from the government to address concerns and reduce the employment gap in remote Australia.

WHAT NEXT FROM THE VOICE?

The voice referendum might be over but the CLC will work harder than ever to make sure the voices of our members are heard across the priority policy areas of the council by seeking their views on water, housing, CDP reform and real jobs, treaty and more. The CLC are holding the NT and Australian governments to account on Closing the Gap and working to develop a

new tripartite agreement on the \$4 billion remote housing partnership agreement to make sure Aboriginal organisations are genuinely part of the decision making process. The CLC will also keep looking for new ways for Aboriginal people in remote areas to have a say on policies that affect their lives.



Barbara Shaw demonstrated to the council how treaties work and their importance.

HOUSING AND HOMELANDS

The Australian and Northern Territory governments recently announced a \$4 billion investment over ten years for remote housing. As well as \$120 million over three years for homelands from the Australian government.

The remote housing plan aims to build up to 270 new houses every year, reduce overcrowding by half, and give more funds for repairs and maintenance. From 2024 to 2034, the NT government, Australian government, NT land councils, and Aboriginal Housing NT will work together through a joint steering

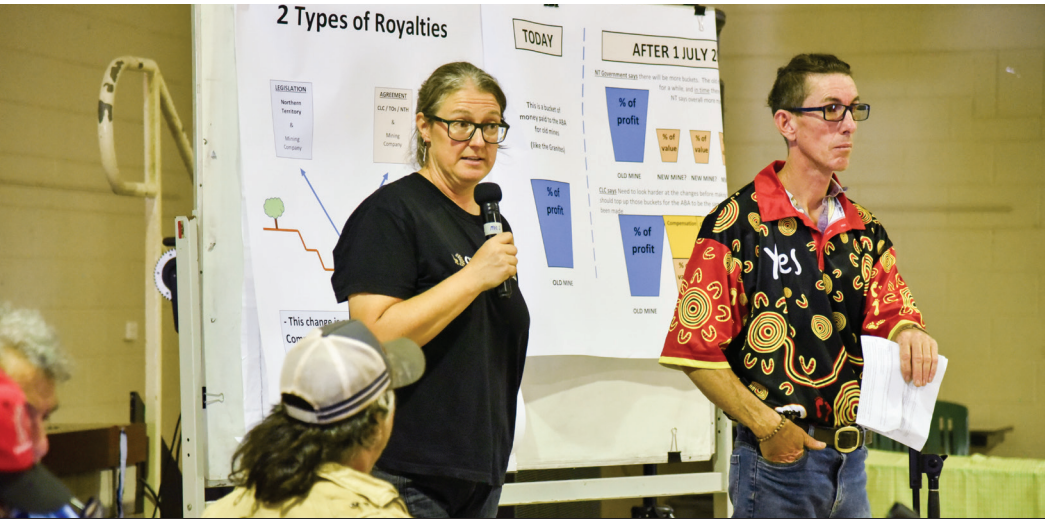
committee. The new deal aligns with the national agreement on Closing the Gap. It emphasises shared decision-making and a sustainable Aboriginal community-controlled housing sector.

The \$120 million funding for homelands will prioritise housing improvements and essential infrastructure upgrades, with the CLC region to receive \$15 million every year for three years. Talks are ongoing between the NT and Australian governments to find a long-term approach to investing in new houses on homelands.



Leah Leaman commented on Daguragu’s housing issues.

CHANGES TO NT MINERAL ROYALTY SCHEME



Kate O'Brien and Shaun O'Connor explained the upcoming changes to the mineral royalty scheme.

The Northern Territory plans to change how mining companies pay royalties to the government, aiming to attract more mining activity. This will not change royalties paid to traditional owners and native title holders under agreements. However, this change could impact the money going into the Aboriginals Benefit Account, which supports various Aboriginal groups and community projects.

The proposed reform involves moving to a new system based on the value of minerals extracted, potentially reducing the payments to the ABA. However, concerns have been raised about the

limited consultation and access to important information. The legislation is expected to be discussed in May and could take effect on 1 July 2024.



Peter Turner spoke up for his region.

POWER STRATEGY

Council members are worried about the Northern Territory government’s plan for generating power in remote communities.

The plan wants to use more renewable energy, like solar power, by 2030. Council delegates shared their concerns. They said the government didn’t talk enough

with them before making the plan. They also asked for the plan to include ways to reduce power costs for residents. The council asked to be more involved in making decisions about the plan. The council said they will only support the plan if they agree with its goals and trust that the government will stick to those goals.

YOUR VOTE IN THE NT ELECTION MATTERS

The Northern Territory election is this August. The council heard from Minister Chansey Paech of the Australian Labor Party, Mr Steve Edgington of the Country

Liberal Party, and Asta Hill, the NT Greens candidate for Braitling. Your vote matters – enrol now to use your power.

www.aec.gov.au/enrol



Council elected Jimmy Frank as a temporary acting director for the Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC).

CLC TURNS 50

The Central Land Council will celebrate its 50th anniversary on 5 October 2024 at the Bungalow/ Telegraph Station in Mparntwe. The celebration will honour the CLC’s achievements over the past 50 years, pay tribute to land rights heroes and heroines, and raise awareness about the CLC’s history and current role. The event will feature guest speakers, music, kids activities, and awards, all under the theme ‘Keep our fire burning’.





CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

Save the date to celebrate

5 October 2024

COUNCIL MEETINGS 2024

16–18 July, Watarrka
7–9 October, Ross River



Council makes decisions in the best interests of Aboriginal people in our region and to keep the CLC strong. Its meeting rules support strong governance.

To read these rules and the council minutes at our Alice Springs office please contact our strategy and performance manager on 8951 6211 .