



Council members wore their new CLC hoodies and T shirts at the Kalkaringi council meeting in August.

CLC MEMBERS LAUNCH WATER RIGHTS PUSH

Members endorsed a list of principles to guide the Central Land Council's water advocacy.

Robert Hoosan (Pitjantjatjara), Warren Williams (Warlpiri) and Lynda and Carleen Lechleitner (Arrernte) presented the list in their first languages, and Georgie Stewart presented it in English.

The council called on the NT Government to fund water tanks for all new houses, to install water filters in all houses with poor water quality and to stop changing water laws bit by bit, without consulting and negotiating with Aboriginal Territorians.

It wants the government to stick to the new Closing the Gap agreement that commits governments to work with Aboriginal people on laws and policies that affect them.

Water reform affects residents of remote Aboriginal communities in fundamental ways.

The delegates want the government to:

- design water policies and laws with Aboriginal people
- protect safe drinking water and water infrastructure in all remote communities
- strengthen water planning across the NT
- make the water regulator independent from the government
- secure water for Aboriginal businesses
- reduce water use in over-committed water systems
- protect Aboriginal water sites, rights and interests in water planning and decision making
- be open and transparent, for example by bringing back the NT Legislative Scrutiny Committee

The delegates also decided to form a water committee to push these reforms through.

SINGLETON STATION WATER LICENCE REVIEW

Members called on NT Water Security Minister Eva Lawler to stop the 40,000 megalitre, 30-year Singleton Station water licence.

They heard that around 80 traditional owners, native title holders and remote community residents had helped an independent anthropologist to identify sacred water sites in the draw-down area around the station.

Anthropologist Susan Dale Donaldson found 40 sites that would be threatened by the water licence.

The CLC will present her report at the review of the licence decision, as well as the report of an independent water scientist it hired to check how the NT Government's model (guesswork) about how the licence will affect groundwater in the region.

Dr Ryan Vogwill found the government's model ignores the impact of climate change on groundwater.

He said that even if the government's guesswork is only a little bit wrong sacred water sites and remote community drinking water could be at risk.

NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Region Four delegates chose Warren Williams to represent them on the CLC executive, replacing the late Jakamarra

Nelson.

Former chair Francis Kelly will be the alternate members for the region.



Carleen Lechleitner (right) presented a list of water advocacy principles in Anmatyerr.



New executive member Warren Williams got his second Pfizer jab from the Katherine West Health Board team at the council meeting.

HOUSING TRIAL AGREED

Members supported a 10-year trial in one or two communities to test the CLC's community housing model which aims to put Aboriginal housing in Aboriginal hands.

The council asked staff to invite one or two regional Aboriginal community housing providers and communities to take part in a two-year preparation project.

The project will assess housing needs and housing conditions,

carry out repairs and use that information to develop a business plan for the 10-year trial.

The council wants the NT and Australian governments to fund the trial through remote housing partnership agreements.

Members agreed that it is important to check the state of community houses before an Aboriginal organisation takes them on.

THE VINCENT LINGIARI DELEGATES CHOICE AWARD GOES TO ...

The delegates voted for their favourite entry in the 2021 Vincent Lingiari Art Award.

Lingiari family representatives Rosie Smiler and Debra Victor announced the winner, Leah Leaman.

Ms Leaman's painting *Following the Waterways* was on display around the camp site, along with

the other shortlisted artworks.

It tells the story of a couple, "the last of their kind", who "followed the waterways by foot all the way from here to the coast ... with their beloved dogs, billycan, hook spear and rolled-up little calico swag, never getting lost."

The award's theme was *Ngawa, Ngapa, Kapi, Kwatja, Water*.



Debra Victor and Rosie Smiler with Leah Leaman's winning painting *Following the Waterways* at the CLC council meeting.

NEW ABA BODY ELECTION SOON

The council heard about a new body that will make decisions about the Aboriginals Benefit Account grants in the future.

The body will have a board with 12 directors (two elected from each land council, and four independent directors) that will

sign off on ABA grants.

The board will also replace the ABA advisory committee.

CLC members will get an update about the body before electing their two representatives on its board.

STRONGER FUTURES - SHOW US THE MONEY STORY

Next year some of the laws that came in during the NT Intervention and were continued under the name Stronger Futures will expire (finish up).

They are laws about alcohol restrictions, community store licensing and land reform.

Stronger Futures spent \$3.4 billion for police in communities and to help children and families,

but the Australian Government did not publish reports about this spending and therefore little is known about where the money went.

The CLC and the Northern Land Council have asked the National Indigenous Australians Agency to talk with them about Stronger Futures and the money story.

MEMBERS BACK REMOTE JOBS PLAN

The council resolved to back the *Fair Work Strong Communities* proposal as the starting point for co-designing a new remote jobs program with governments.

It also wants the CLC to work with the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT and

the national Coalition of Peaks to negotiate a decision making process about the new remote jobs program that is open and transparent, is in line with the Closing the Gap Agreement, and protects employment and social security rights.



Josie Douglas updated members about the reform of the government's failed work for the dole scheme, the CDP.

CLOSING THE GAP EXPLAINED

Dr Josie Douglas explained the new Closing the Gap agreement between the national Coalition of Peaks and governments.

The agreement has important new targets and reform areas, but even more importantly, it is about a new way of sharing decision making with governments.

The agreement aims to strengthen Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and improve mainstream services for Aboriginal people.

The Australian Government is putting one billion dollars into the agreement, after cutting a lot of Aboriginal programs in recent years.

Some of this money is compensation for members of the stolen generation.

The CLC and the other members of the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT will hold the governments to account about Closing the Gap.

MURNKURRUMURNKURRU AND KUNPULU RANGERS

The Murnkurrumurnkurru Rangers, from Daguragu, presented about their work and how they are mentoring the next generation, the Kunpulu Rangers.

The junior rangers attend grades 7 and 8 at the Kalkaringi school

and take part in two-way learning activities, such as camping trips and excursions with elders.

The Kunpulu Rangers are an initiative of the local traditional owner ranger advisory committee.



Kunpulu Junior Rangers Leon Smiler and Anika King met the CLC delegates.

CLC MEETINGS

Council: 2 - 4 November at Alpururulam

Executive: 8 - 9 December at Alice Springs