

Wakaya-Alyawarre land claim timeline

The Wakaya-Alyawarre Repeat Land Claim No. 130 is a significant Aboriginal land claim under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976. It is the second-last land claim in the CLC region, the southern half of the Northern Territory. After more than four decades of legal proceedings, negotiations, and consultations, and the Australian Parliament settled the claim last November, and the land will be granted to the Wakaya-Alyawarre Aboriginal Land Trust on 16 April, near the remote community of Canteen Creek.

The Wakaya and Alyawarre traditional owners have inalienable rights to their lands forever, to collectively manage, protect and develop as they see fit.



1980

The CLC lodges the Wakaya-Alyawarre Land Claim No. 42 with the Aboriginal Land Commissioner.

1990

The commissioner finds that traditional owners exist for two of the three land parcels claimed. The Governor-General grants them as Aboriginal freehold land, while the CLC lodges Repeat Land Claim No. 130 over the remaining third parcel.

2007

At a hearing with the commissioner traditional owners and anthropologists provide further evidence. He says if a full inquiry were conducted, he would likely recommend the land for grant.

2008

The Territory government offers to settle the claim through an Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

2009-2017

The CLC consults traditional owners and residents about the Canteen Creek ILUA terms. It conducts detailed negotiations with those groups and the Territory government about future land tenure and decision-making within the community. The government surveys the community land.

In September 2017 the CLC withdraws the community from the repeat land claim.

2017

Traditional owners consent to the ILUA at a meeting in Ampilawatja. The agreement allows ordinary freehold title to some parts of the community to be granted an Aboriginal land hold body.

2019

The CLC certifies and executes the ILUA, followed by the Territory government.

2020

Chief Minister Michael Gunner tells the CLC and the Minister for Indigenous Australians that he supports the grant of the land.

2020-2023

The National Indigenous Australians Agency surveys the claim area.

2024

The Minister for Indigenous Australians, Malarndirri McCarthy, introduces a bill to the Australian Parliament to grant the land, and establishes the Wakaya-Alyawarre Aboriginal Land Trust. The bill becomes law on 30 November 2024.

2025

The Governor-General executes the deed of grant.