



**NORTHERN
LAND COUNCIL**

Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23



Australian Government



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CREATIVE COMMONS LICENCE

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OUR VISION, OUR MISSION, OUR VALUES.

OUR VISION

For the rights and responsibilities of every Traditional Owner in the NLC region to be recognised and respected.
For Aboriginal people to benefit economically, socially and culturally from the secure possession of their lands, seas, waters and intellectual property.

OUR MISSION

To ensure Aboriginal people in the seven regions of the NLC acquire and manage their traditional lands, seas and waters, through strong leadership, advocacy and management.

OUR VALUES

The Northern Land Council (NLC) will:

CONSULT

- With Traditional Owners
- Present and explain options to Traditional Owners to enable them to make decisions and choices with free, prior and informed consent
- Engage in two-way communication to actively listen and explain meaning.

RESPECT

- Aboriginal law, culture and tradition
- Our stakeholders and those who we work with
- Act with integrity, honesty and fairness
- Act in a manner that is appropriate and sensitive to cultural differences.

BE RESPONSIVE

- To Aboriginal people's needs and effectively advocate for their rights and interests
- Provide effective services to the people we represent and other stakeholders
- Complete actions and tasks in a timely way, be accountable to the people we represent.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Promote the rights and participation of Aboriginal people to achieve equity, fairness and opportunity
- Demonstrate strong leadership and advocate on behalf of Traditional Owners.



Introduction

About this report

The NLC's Annual Report 2022–23 provides a comprehensive account of its performance from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 in accordance with its obligations under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth), the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), the *Aboriginal Land Act 1978* (NT) and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) (referred to throughout this document as the *Land Rights Act*, the *Native Title Act*, the *Aboriginal Land Act* and the *PGPA Act*, respectively).

The Annual Report 2022–23 is divided into five parts:

- About Us: Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life.
- The Year in Review: Our achievements and challenges for the reporting year.
- Corporate Governance and Management.
- Financial Statements: Details on income and expenses for the NLC as a Commonwealth entity, its subsidiaries and as a native title representative body.
- Appendices and references.

The NLC submits this report to the Minister for Indigenous Australians for tabling in the Australian Parliament.

CONTACT US

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F: +61 (8) 8945 2633

www.nlc.org.au

Northern Land Council
GPO Box 1222, Darwin NT 0801

TABLE 1: PHYSICAL LOCATION OF THE NLC OFFICES FOLLOWING STREET NAMES:

REGION	LOCATION	ADDRESS	PHONE	FAX
DARWIN/DALY/ WAGAIT	Darwin	45 Mitchell Street Darwin NT 0801	(08) 8920 5100	(08) 8920 5255
	Wadeye	Lot 776 Murin Air Terminal Wadeye NT 0822	(08) 8980 1917	(08) 8918 8027
WEST ARNHEM	Jabiru	3 Government Building Flinders Street Jabiru NT 0886	(08) 8938 3000	(08) 8918 8014
	Maningrida	Lot 735 Maningrida NT 0822	(08) 8920 5170	(08) 8918 8028
EAST ARNHEM	Nhulunbuy	Arnhem House Shop 6, Level 1 85 Chesterfield Circuit Nhulunbuy NT 0880	(08) 8986 8500	(08) 8918 8112
	Galiwin'ku	Lot 78 Nurruwurrnhan Road Galiwin'ku NT 0822	(08) 8970 5025	(08) 8918 8046
KATHERINE	Katherine	144 Victoria Highway Katherine NT 0850	(08) 8971 9899	(08) 8918 8003
NGUKURR	Ngukurr	Lot 379 Balamurra Street Ngukurr NT 0852	(08) 8977 2500	(08) 891 8090
VICTORIA RIVER DISTRICT	Timber Creek	35 Wilson Street Timber Creek NT 0852	(08) 8974 5600	(08) 8918 8048
BORROLOOLA BARKLY	Borrooloola	Lot 25 Mara Mara Camp Robinson Road Borrooloola NT 0854	(08) 8975 7500	(08) 8918 8042
	Tennant Creek	178 Paterson Street Tennant Creek NT 0860	(08) 8963 3500	(08) 8918 8069
	Elliott (Kulumindini)	25 Ijibarda St Elliott NT 0862	(08) 8963 3555	

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

12 October 2023

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

Dear Minister


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

The Accountable Authority under Section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* is responsible for the preparation and content of this report in accordance with the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014.

This report reviews the Northern Land Council's performance and illustrates the commitment and achievement of the Council and our staff throughout the year.

I commend the report to you for presentation to the House of Representatives, Parliament House.

Yours sincerely


Dr Samuel Bush-Blanasi
CHAIR


Joe Martin-Jard
Chief Executive Officer

NLC'S ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY



CHAIR

DR SAMUEL BUSH-BLANASI

Dr Bush-Blanasi's mother was a Yolngu woman from the Blue Mud Bay region, and the man who raised him was a Mayili man from Wugularr (Beswick) community in the Katherine region. Dr Bush-Blanasi has spent his life advocating for the interests of Aboriginal people in remote communities and the advancement of women and youths. Currently serving his ninth term as a member of the Northern Land Council and his fourth term as NLC Chair, Dr Bush-Blanasi has

served on numerous boards and committees, including the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Ltd, Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory Aboriginal Corporation, Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory, Imparja Television, Aboriginal Investment Group, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and the Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

JOE MARTIN-JARD

Joe Martin-Jard was appointed Acting CEO of the Northern Land Council on 16 July 2021 and then appointed the CEO on 22 December 2021. Prior to joining the NLC, Mr Martin-Jard was the CEO of the Central Land Council (CLC).

Born and raised in the Northern Territory, his family ties are to the Kamilaroi people of southern Queensland.

Mr Martin-Jard has extensive qualifications in education and business management, including a Bachelor of Teaching and a Masters in International Management, both from Charles Darwin University.

Prior to joining the CLC in February 2019, Mr Martin-Jard was with the National Indigenous Australians Agency in Alice Springs. From 2015 to 2018 he was the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's Regional Manager Arnhem Land and Groote Eylandt, where his work focused on Aboriginal employment, economic development and community services. Earlier in his career, he was also the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission's Regional Manager in Tennant Creek, where he oversaw major housing and infrastructure projects between 2000 and 2004.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The NLC is primarily funded through the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA), an account into which the Australian Government pays an amount of money equal to the royalties paid from mining on Aboriginal land. These payments are made on the basis of yearly estimates and justification made by the NLC just before the start of the year.

The NLC is also a Native Title Representative Body under the *Native Title Act 1993* and receives funding for native title matters.

In addition to its core funding under the ABA and the *Native Title Act*, the NLC receives funding from government and non-government agencies under grant agreements.

The NLC is required to prepare audited financial statements in accordance with the PGPA (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015, Finance Minister's Orders and Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations - Simplified Disclosures issued by the Australian Accounting Standard Board that apply for the reporting period.

The NLC's auditor is the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO).

The full audited statements are reproduced in Part 4: Financial Statements from page 113

EXTERNAL FUNDING

The NLC receives additional grant-based funding from a number of sources. The major external funding sources include:

- Indigenous Rangers – Jobs, Land and Economy Programme – National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).
- Real Jobs Program – Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC).
- Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) – National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

COMPLIANCE SUMMARY

As a Corporate Commonwealth Entity, the NLC is subject to annual reporting orders issued by the Finance minister under the PGPA, which stipulates that the NLC recovers costs regarding the provision of products or services where it is efficient to do so.

FEES

In accordance with subsection 37(2) of the Land Rights Act, fees received for services by the NLC, please refer to Part 5: Appendices page 192.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2022-23

The Northern Land Council (NLC) recorded a deficit of \$21.7M in 2022-23, of which \$15.5M deficit was sustained due to deconsolidation of the subsidiaries, resulting in a net \$6.2M deficit. In comparison, in 2021-22 there was a \$2.7M surplus. The majority of the deficit was due to payments made as part of the NT Economic Stimulus Package to Indigenous organisations in the Northern Territory.

In 2022-23 the NLC operating result is \$1.7M favourable compared with the annual forecast, with an actual deficit of \$6.2M compared with a budgeted deficit of \$7.9M. The variance is due to income relating to various funding carried forward to the next financial year (originally budgeted for in 2022-23). Similarly, expenditure related to that funding was not incurred this year.

TABLE 2: COMPARISON TO PREVIOUS YEAR AND BUDGET

	ACTUAL 2022-23 \$M	ACTUAL 2021-22 \$M	VARIANCE \$M	BUDGET 2022-23 \$M	VARIANCE \$M
Income	89.7	88.9	0.8	117.3	-27.6
Expenses	95.9	86.2	9.7	125.2	-29.3
Surplus/Deficit	-6.2	2.7	-8.9	-7.9	1.7

NET RESULT

INCOME

In 2022-23 there was an overall increase in funding by \$0.8M (0.9%) compared with 2021-22. Funding can vary significantly from year to year depending on a number of factors such as the number of projects being undertaken, litigation matters and the availability of funds in general from various sources.

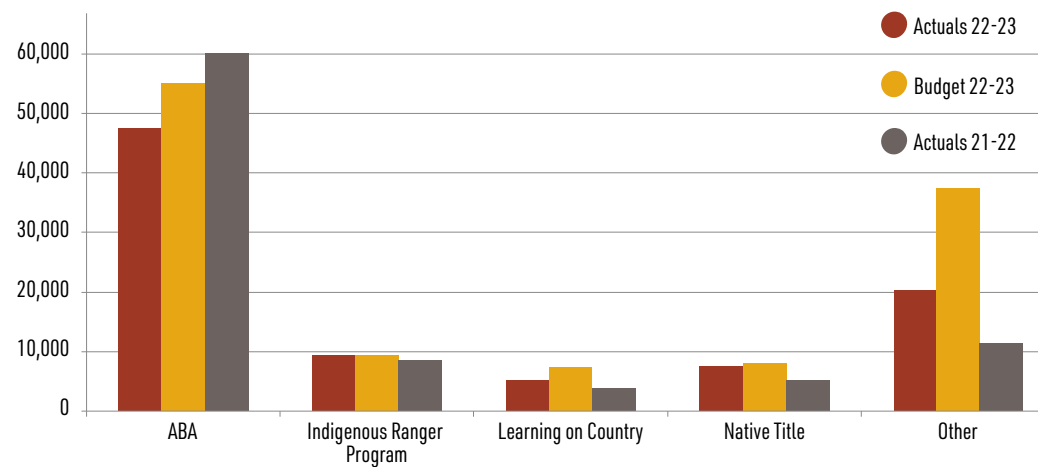
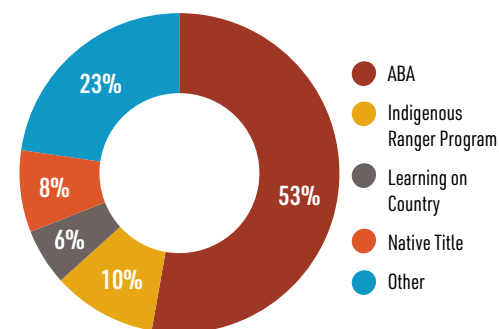


FIGURE 1: INCOME: 2021-22 ACTUAL VS 2022-23 ACTUAL AND BUDGET

In 2022-23, 53% of NLC's income was via ABA funding (67% in 2021-22), Native Title percentage has increased to 8% (6% in 2021-22) while Indigenous Ranger Program percentage remained the same in both the years at 10%. The Learning on Country funding stream has grown to 6% in 2022-23 (4% in 2021-22). Other funding (which include grants for numerous projects, recoverable works and minor sundry incomes) has gone up to 23% (13% in 2021-22).

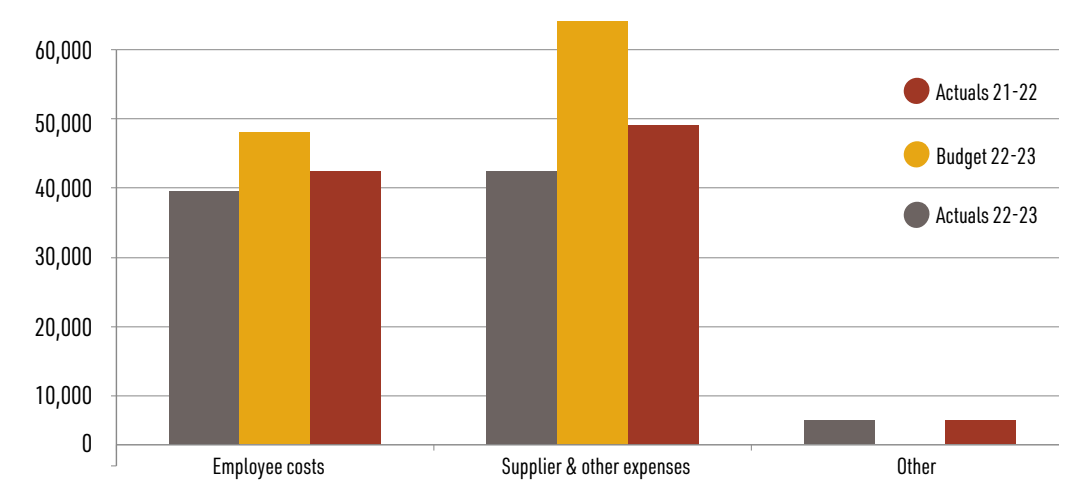
FIGURE 2: SOURCES OF REVENUE 2022-23



EXPENSES

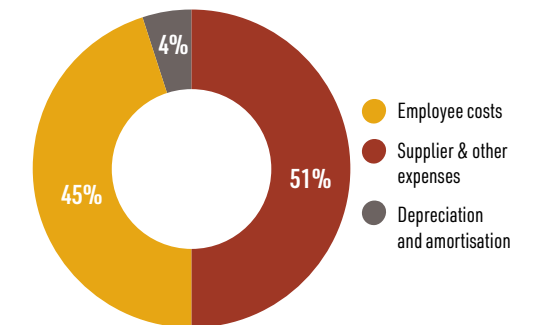
Total expenses increased by \$9.7M in 2022-23 compared with 2021-22, the majority of which is due to payments made as part of the NT Economic Stimulus Package. Figure 3 shows the change in expenses from 2021-22 to 2022-23 and the actual and budgeted results for 2022-23, whilst Figure 4 shows the 2022-23 expenditure in percentage terms.

FIGURE 3: EXPENSES: 2021-22 ACTUAL VS 2022-23 ACTUAL AND BUDGET



In 2022-23, the NLC's employee costs accounted for 45% of total expenditure (compared with 46% in 2021-22). Supplier and other expenses increased to 51% in 2021-22 (up from 50% in the previous year) and other expenses (which includes depreciation and amortisation) remained the same as last year at 4%.

FIGURE 4: EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN 2022-23



From the Chair

DR SAMUEL BUSH-BLANASI



I am pleased to deliver the Chair's Message for the 2022-2023 reporting period.

With the easing of COVID restrictions, election of a new Full Council, the Indigenous Voice to Parliament and the continued struggles and successes of our Council and constituents, the past year has demonstrated the capability and strength of this organisation.

Yunupingu's passing in April 2023 created great sadness. He was a mighty warrior, diplomat and leader who has had a profound impact on the history of this nation and its relationship with First Nations peoples. His passing provided a time to reflect on his immense contribution to the Northern Land Council (NLC).

The NLC is committed to continuing his legacy and will always honour his achievements and leadership. I have no doubt about the shoulders I stand on today and acknowledge Yunupingu and all those leaders who have gone before. This was at the forefront in my mind as I received an honorary doctorate from Charles Darwin University in May, a great privilege and one I share with all NLC members and families.

In August 2022, the NLC celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Learning on Country Program. I am a strong advocate of this program which supports children in remote areas to attend school and remain in education. This program helps children be strong in traditional and European learning systems and develop into leaders for the future.

In December 2022, a newly elected Council took up the leadership of the NLC. I would like to thank members who finished their terms for their service to their regions. I look forward to working with returning and new Council members for the next term.

The incoming Council has had a significant agenda – setting a new strategic plan which will take the organisation through to 2027.

During the past financial year, Council members and the NLC's senior leadership team have turned our minds to considering what the next 50 years may look like. This has resulted in our new strategic direction – Activating Land and Sea Rights – that will guide us over the next four years as we support the economic, social and cultural aspirations of traditional custodians while honouring the immense legacy and foresight of Yunupingu, our longest-serving Chair, who coined the title.

Over the 2022–23 financial year the NLC, led by the Council members, has shown full support for a Yes vote in the referendum. In 2022, the NLC Full Council gathered at Kalkaringi, and together with the Central, Anindilyakwa and Tiwi land councils, provided a statement supporting implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full and changing the Australian Constitution to enshrine a Voice to Parliament.

In June 2023 the Northern, Central, Tiwi and Anindilyakwa land councils gathered in Barunga and presented the 2023 Barunga Voice Declaration to the Minister for Indigenous Australians, Hon Linda Burney. In the same month, I travelled to Canberra with representatives of each NT land council to deliver the Barunga Voice Declaration directly to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

This Declaration invites all Australians to 'right the wrongs of the past and deal with the serious issues impacting First Nations peoples ... and unite our country'. Our 2023 Barunga Voice Declaration builds on the Barunga Statement presented 35 years ago by Chair Yunupingu to Prime Minister Hawke, asking the government to recognise the rights of Aboriginal Australians, and much of the past 12 months has been devoted to discussion, dialogue and diplomacy to see that the Voice referendum is carried when put to Australian voters later this year.

It is the time for us to be recognised.

My thanks go to our Council members, staff and other stakeholders for continuing to support our constituents and ensuring that Aboriginal voices are heard throughout the Top End and beyond. My commitment as the elected Chairperson is unwavering and I look forward to successfully administering the functions of the NLC into the coming year.

Dr Samuel Bush-Blansi
CHAIR



From the CEO

JOE MARTIN-JARD



It has been an extremely busy 12 months for the Northern Land Council (NLC).

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the passing of our former Chair, Yunupingu. As the longest serving Chair of the NLC, his leadership and wisdom has and will continue to play a significant role in our organisation's history.

The relaxing of COVID restrictions in 2022 enabled a renewed focus on our organisational strategy. We considered how to best position the NLC as we make the transition from an era where land claims and acquiring land for Traditional Owners was a primary role to now supporting Traditional Owners who have achieved land ownership to 'activate' social, cultural and economic benefit from land holdings.

At its first meeting in December 2022, the new Full Council endorsed a strategy which will guide the NLC through to 2027. The strategy is known as Activating Land and Sea Rights, a phrase borrowed from Yunupingu.

This strategic shift recognises that our business will benefit from having appropriate resourcing across our regions. This means having both facilities and staff based across the NLC footprint to serve our constituents. During 2022-23 we opened a regional office in Kulumindini (Elliott). This year we have also finalised plans for the development of contemporary operational hubs in Katherine and Nhulunbuy. As two of the NLC's busiest regional locations, it is crucial the organisation strengthens its ability to assist

residents in Katherine and East Arnhem to realise land and sea country aspirations.

At Christmas 2022, after recovering from the pandemic, some of our constituents had to battle nature as they faced widespread and in many areas unprecedented Wet Season flooding. I would like to recognise the enormity of these weather events and their impact across the NLC region. Also, it is important to thank the many NLC members and staff who generously supported emergency efforts over the holiday period to ensure families within the NLC region were safe, and their continued assistance to families and communities in the months that followed. Their efforts were selfless and are a fantastic example of the community values which run through this organisation.

As we look forward to the 2023-24 financial year we will mark the NLC's 50-year anniversary by commemorating those that have come before us, celebrating our successes and looking towards the next 50 years of supporting Aboriginal custodians to fulfil their rights and aspirations and thrive on their country. The last 50 years have seen many challenges and heartbreak for Aboriginal Territorians who have struggled to reclaim their traditional lands and waters. There have also been momentous achievements and victories – built on the unfailing strength of Traditional Owners and the advocacy of land councils. The commemoration looks to reflect and learn from the breadth of these experiences.

In closing, I would like to recognise our Chair, Dr Bush-Blanas, for two acknowledgements he received during 2022-23: being awarded the NT Australian of the Year and receiving an honorary doctorate from Charles Darwin University. His tireless advocacy on behalf of Aboriginal people of the Northern Territory is admirable, and it was wonderful to have this recognised through institutional awards. I would also like to thank our Council members for their ongoing work throughout the year, and the NLC staff for their ongoing efforts to provide assistance and services to our constituents.

Joe Martin-Jard
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Part 1 About Us

HISTORY

The NLC is a Corporate Commonwealth Entity, established pursuant to the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (the Land Rights Act), Commonwealth legislation that marked a fundamental shift in the treatment of Aboriginal people's interests in land.

The NLC is a representative body under the *Native Title Act 1993* of the Commonwealth and has responsibilities for the lodgement and prosecution of claims by native title custodians under that legislation (including for the Tiwi Islands and Groote Eylandt).

Under the Land Rights Act, the NLC is responsible for assisting Aboriginal peoples in the Top End of the Northern Territory (NT) to acquire and manage their traditional lands, waters and seas.

Since the Land Rights Act was passed, more than half the land in the NT has become Aboriginal land, as has approximately 85% of the coastline following the High Court of Australia's decision in the Blue Mud Bay case. A large proportion of the remaining land and seas are subject to Land Rights Act and native title land claims.

THE JOURNEY

1963

March – The Commonwealth Government excises over 390 km² of land from the Arnhem Land reserve and Nabalco Pty Ltd begins work on a bauxite mine.

August – Yolngu people from north-east Arnhem Land present the Commonwealth Parliament with a Bark Petition demanding that the excision be reversed and their land rights be respected.

October – A parliamentary committee of inquiry acknowledges the rights of the Yolngu and recommends the payment of compensation for loss of livelihood, the protection of sacred sites and the ongoing monitoring of the mining project by a parliamentary committee.

1966

Aboriginal stock workers begin a series of strikes over wages, working conditions and land rights. Strikes occur at many stations including Newcastle Waters, Mount Sandford, Victoria River Downs and Wave Hill.

August – At Wave Hill Station, Vincent Jurlama Lingiari leads a walk-off of more than 200 Gurindji, Ngarinyman, Mudburra, Bilinarra and Warlpiri people. They set up a camp at Wattie Creek and waited nine years before successfully obtaining title to their traditional lands.

1967

May – A constitutional referendum sees a record 91% of Australians vote 'yes' to amend the Constitution, giving the federal government constitutional power to make special laws in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Voters also overwhelmingly support a 'full citizenship' referendum question, giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the right to be counted as part of the Australian population.

The Commonwealth Government establishes the Office of Aboriginal Affairs.

1968

The Yolngu people seek an injunction against the Commonwealth in an attempt to stop the lease of their traditional lands to the Nabalco mine. The case, (*Milirrpum v Nabalco Pty Ltd and the Commonwealth (1971) FLR 141*), known as the Gove Land Rights Case, was Australia's first case based on customary rights to land and ongoing occupation and spiritual connection to land. The NLC future Chair, Yunupingu, acts as an interpreter for the Yolngu elders during the case.

**1971**

Handing down his decision in *Milirrpum v Nabalco*, Justice Blackburn accepts the evidence that Yolngu people had been living at Yirrkala for tens of thousands of years and that their law was based on intricate relations to land, but finds these relations to be religious rather than property rights. The case fails and the mine proceeds.

1972

January – A 'Tent Embassy' is established on the lawns outside Parliament House in Canberra to highlight Aboriginal land rights and other issues.

1973

The Whitlam government sets up the Aboriginal Land Rights Commission and appoints Justice Edward Woodward to run the inquiry.

July – An interim report recommends that two land councils, one for central and the other for northern NT, be established to present the views of Aboriginal people.

September – The Northern Land Council (NLC) holds its first meeting in Darwin and subsequently makes detailed submissions to the Woodward Royal Commission.

1974

April – The second report produced by the commission proposes land rights legislation and procedures for claiming land and conditions of tenure, including:

- Aboriginal land being granted as freehold title subject to special controls and procedures in the event of it being leased, mortgaged or disposed of in any way; and
- Aboriginal landowners being provided rights to control access to their lands and to veto mining and other unwanted development.

December – The Whitlam government sets up the Aboriginal Land Fund for organisations to buy back traditional lands that were owned by private interests. The Northern Land Council becomes incorporated in order to receive funding.

1975

August – The Aboriginal Land Fund purchases land from Wave Hill Station, enabling the handover of the Daguragu Station lease to the Gurindji Traditional Owners.

Justice Woodward is appointed Interim Aboriginal Land Commissioner and begins hearing claims to land.

November – The Whitlam government introduces the Aboriginal Land (Northern Territory) Bill 1975 into parliament based primarily on Justice Woodward's recommendations

1976

The *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth), the Land Rights Act, is passed by the Parliament of Australia under Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser with bipartisan support.

1977

January – The *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) comes into force. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon R I Viner, opens the first formal meeting of the Northern Land Council at Batchelor. Mr Silas Roberts is announced as Chair.

July – The Borroloola Land Claim is the first claim in the NLC's area to be heard by the Land Commissioner.

1978

November – The Ranger Uranium Mining Agreement is signed. The first agreement negotiated by the NLC, it provides for environmental protection and the payment of mining royalties to Traditional Owners (TOs).

1982

August – The Executives of the Central and Northern land councils hold their first joint meeting at Alekarenge

1988

June – Central Land Council (CLC) Chair Wenten Rubuntja and NLC Chair Yunupingu present Prime Minister Bob Hawke with the Barunga Statement, a petition detailing the principles of self-determination and sovereignty that seeks government recognition of Aboriginal prior ownership of Australia and calls for a treaty.

1992

June – The High Court of Australia overturns the doctrine of terra nullius and recognises the existence of native title in the case of *Eddie Mabo and Others v the State of Queensland*. It rules the Meriam people were 'entitled as against the whole world to possession, occupation, use and enjoyment of (most of) the lands of the Murray Islands'.

December – Prime Minister Paul Keating launches International Year of Indigenous People with a speech in Redfern Park, Sydney, stating, 'Mabo is an historic decision – we can make it an historic turning point, the basis of a new relationship between Indigenous and non-Aboriginal Australians.'

1993

December – The *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) is passed after months of intense lobbying and exhaustive debate by strong Aboriginal leaders, including NLC Chair Yunupingu. The Act establishes a process for claiming and recognising native title over lands and waters in Australia.

1996

June – NLC women council members meet in Darwin to discuss women's roles within the land council and to clarify and expand on members' knowledge of the NLC's operations and the Land Rights Act.

2001

The High Court rules on *Yarmirr v Northern Territory* – a native title application led by the NLC's Mary Yarmirr and Croker Island clan groups regarding seas and sea-beds. The case, which established that TOs have native title of the sea and sea-bed with only non-exclusive native title over the sea, is subject to appeals over the following years.

2008

July – Following appeals, the High Court rules that TOs of Aboriginal-owned Northern Territory coastline have exclusive access rights to the tidal waters overlying their land. This decision was widely seen as the most significant ruling for Aboriginal land rights since the Mabo decision.

2017

May – The first reading of the Uluru Statement from the Heart is given following the appointment of a Referendum Council and a period of extensive consultations in preceding years. The statement calls for a constitutionally entrenched First Nations Voice to Parliament, and a Makarrata Commission to oversee a process of treaty-making and truth-telling.

The Referendum Council hands down its final report to the Australian Government, endorsing the Uluru Statement from the Heart and its calling for Voice, Treaty and Truth.

2022

May – Prime Minister Anthony Albanese wins the federal election and commits the Labor government to implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full, including progressing a referendum to enshrine a Voice to Parliament in the Constitution.

August – The four land councils of the Northern Territory meet on Gurindji country and pass a combined resolution in support of a referendum for a First Nations Voice to Parliament in the current term of the Australian Government.

2023

March – Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announces the proposed question Australians will be asked in the 2023 referendum and the draft constitutional amendment that would enable a First Nations Voice to Parliament.

September – The Northern Land Council celebrates its 50th anniversary since the inaugural meeting of the first Full Council.

Fifty years on from its establishment, the NLC remains a fundamentally important agency body through which Aboriginal people of the Top End can have their voices heard on a range of issues impacting on their lands, seas and communities.

OUR LOGO

The NLC logo is derived from a painting by a deceased Kunwinjku artist, Curly Bardkadubbu, who was born in 1924 of the Kamarrang subsection of the Naborn clan of the Marrkolidjban estate on the Liverpool River. He passed away in 1987.

Bardkadubbu rose to prominence as a painter in the late 1970s. He was tutored by Yirawala in the early 1970s when they shared outstations at Table Hill and Marrkolidjban, which both men had helped to establish. Later he moved to Namokardabu, also in the Liverpool River region.

The use of the painting as the NLC logo and a small change in the design to make production easier were approved by the artist and a copyright fee paid. The painting is a western Kunwinjku depiction of the Rainbow Serpent.

**OUR ROLE**

The NLC is a Corporate Commonwealth Entity responsible for assisting Aboriginal peoples to acquire and manage their traditional lands, waters and seas.

The NLC region is unique, and the organisation continues to focus on supporting and fostering new and innovative projects and developments that underpin prosperity in remote Aboriginal communities. To enhance Aboriginal peoples' participation, we must be responsive to opinion, build capacity, encourage leadership and develop equitable and balanced outcomes. The NLC applies free, prior and informed consent principles and precautionary principles guided by best practice. The mechanisms for achieving this are promoting, protecting and advancing Aboriginal peoples' rights and interests through strong leadership and good governance.

The NLC has demonstrated time and again that it is in the best position to handle the growing needs of governments, the private sector, and Aboriginal people to create services and commercial businesses on Aboriginal land. The NLC keeps improving Aboriginal involvement and equity in significant developments.

Aboriginal people have a diverse and rich culture and language, as with their lands and waters. The NLC is a significant contributor to Aboriginal affairs and is a major employer in the Northern Territory economy. The NLC will collaborate with Aboriginal corporations to seize opportunities for economic growth and wealth creation by activating land and sea rights.

NLC'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The role and purpose of the NLC is driven by enabling legislation (the Land Rights Act and the *Native Title Act*) and the views of our stakeholders. A full explanation of our legislative obligations and how these are being addressed is provided in the NLC's Corporate Plan 2022-23.

Visit the NLC's website at www.nlc.org.au

WHOM WE SERVE

The NLC has a rich history of standing up for land rights, fiercely supporting Aboriginal people and maintaining independence. The NLC will build on this solid basis, established over the past 50 years, as it moves from an era focused on the fight for land rights to one focused on enacting those hard-won rights and interests in land, freshwater and sea country.

The NLC provides services to more than 51,000 Aboriginal people across the NLC region. Constituents live in about 200 communities, ranging from small family groups to 3,000 people. Since the passage of the Land Rights Act, 91.5% of the coastline and 37.5% of the land in the NLC region has been granted to Aboriginal people as freehold lands. Over 30.6% of the area is under native title in the NLC region.

Most Aboriginal people in the NLC region speak an Aboriginal language as their first language. Many are multilingual and English is often way down the list of everyday languages. Customary law continues to practice in many communities within the region.

The NLC advocates for more substantial rights for native title holders through legislative reform and other means. The NLC has statutory

functions and powers under the Land Rights Act and *Native Title Act*, which it carries out daily.

Many significant resource developments are taking place on Aboriginal and native title lands. These developments have included the construction of gas pipelines, Army training areas, national parks and pastoral activities. Mining and petroleum exploration and development projects continue to increase business.

THE NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL

Section 29 of the Land Rights Act provides that an Aboriginal person who is a Traditional Owner or a resident living within the NLC region may nominate for membership of the NLC Full Council. The responsible Commonwealth minister approves the method of choosing members of the NLC, including the community and/or outstation area represented.

There are 78 elected members and five co-opted women representing the NLC's seven regions, equating to 83 NLC Full Council members.

At the second Full Council meeting following elections, the Chair appoints five co-opted women on advice from the Executive and Regional Council members to improve female representation.

The Women's Advisory Group is made up of the female members of the Full Council. The group meets prior to Full Council meetings to discuss women's business and other matters affecting women in the NLC region.

The Council membership and attendance register for Full and Executive Council meetings are available in Part 5: Appendices 1, Council Meeting Attendance.

The Full Council sets the policy and strategic direction of the NLC. The Full Council, which meets twice a year, has delegated most of its powers to approve exploration and petroleum licence applications and section 19 land use agreements under the Land Rights Act to the Executive Council and regional councils.

The positions of Chair and Deputy Chair were elected at the first meeting of the current Full Council in Katherine, in December 2022.

There are 14 members of the NLC Executive Council. This is made up of two members from each NLC region, including the Chair and Deputy Chair.

The Chair is a full-time public official and is one-half of the NLC's Accountable Authority.

The Deputy Chair is a part-time public official and a member of the Executive Council who can fulfil duties in the Chair's absence.

Individual members have an important role in keeping the Full Council informed of the opinions and priorities of their Aboriginal constituents.

The Executive Council meets at least six times a year and is responsible for managing business between Full Council meetings.

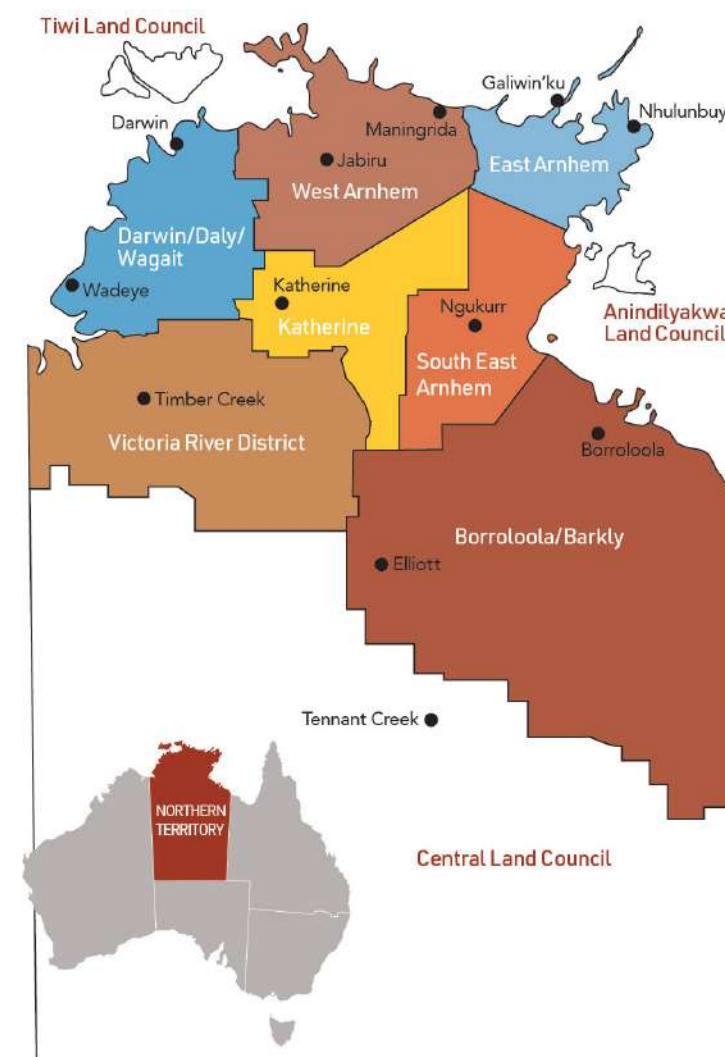
Full, Executive and regional council meetings receive operational and financial reports from the NLC's CEO and general managers to provide updates on the progress of activities and projects. Governance inductions are provided to all new and returning Council members with refresher training provided during council meetings.

NLC REGIONS

The NLC is divided into seven regions: Darwin/Daly/Wagait; West Arnhem; East Arnhem; Katherine; Victoria River District; South East Arnhem; and Borrooloola/Barkly, each represented by a regional council. Two members from each region are elected to sit on the NLC's Executive Council.

The NLC has 12 offices in total, which are located in Darwin, Katherine, Jabiru, Nhulunbuy, Timber Creek, Tennant Creek, Ngukurr, Borrooloola, Wadeye, Maningrida, Galiwin'ku and Elliott.

NLC REGIONS AND REGIONAL OFFICES



NLC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

A new Executive Council was elected at the Full Council meeting in Katherine in December 2022. The members listed below served on the Executive Council during the reporting period.



CHAIR

DR SAMUEL BUSH-BLANASI

Chair December 2022 – Current

Dr Bush-Blanasi's mother was a Yolngu woman from the Blue Mud Bay region, and the man who raised him was a Mayili man from Wugularr (Beswick) community in the Katherine region. Dr Bush-Blanasi has spent his life advocating for the interests of Aboriginal people in remote communities and the advancement of women and youths. Currently serving his ninth term as a member of the Northern Land Council and his fourth term as NLC Chair, Dr Bush-Blanasi has served on numerous boards and committees, including the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Ltd, Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory Aboriginal Corporation, Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory, Imparja Television, Aboriginal Investment Group, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and the Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee.



DEPUTY CHAIR

CALVIN DEVERAUX

Deputy Chair December 2022 – Current

Calvin Deveraux is a Rak Mak Mak Marranungu man from the Finnis River area and lives on Twin Hill Station. He was first elected to the Northern Land Council in 2005, serving consecutive terms to 2010. He returned in 2019 as the representative for the Darwin South West (Litchfield) ward. He is the current Chair of the Aboriginal Sea Company. This is Calvin's second time elected as Deputy Chair of the Northern Land Council.



DEPUTY CHAIR

RICHARD DIXON

Deputy Chair December 2020 – December 2022

Richard Dixon is a Garawa man from Robinson River and is the senior Traditional Owner for the community area lease. He was recently elected and appointed as the Deputy Chair in December 2020. He is a member and former director of the Gulf Savannah NT Aboriginal Corporation, whose principal function is to provide community development program services to the Gulf region. He is also a member and former Chair of the Mungoorbada Aboriginal Corporation, which delivers a range of essential services to Robinson River residents, including through its community store. His vision is to help his people and the government to work together.



DARWIN/DALY/WAGAIT REGION

BILL DANKS

Executive Council Member December 2022 – Current

Bill Danks is a Larrakia man and lives in Darwin. He was first elected to the Northern Land Council in 1998, serving consecutive terms to 2013. In 2019, he returned to the NLC as a representative of the Darwin ward. Mr Danks is a passionate advocate for Larrakia people and was involved (with his family) in the Kenbi Land Claim, Australia's longest-running Aboriginal land claim. In his position as a Council member, Mr Danks wants to be a voice for Larrakia people and all Aboriginal people in the Darwin/Daly/Wagait Region.



BORROLOOLA/BARKLY REGION

CHRISTOPHER NEADE

Executive Council Member December 2022 – Current

Christopher Neade is a Waanyi man from the Barkly Tablelands and lives in Elliott. He was elected to the Council in 2016. This is his third term as an NLC member representing the Elliott ward and his second term as an Executive Member. Mr Neade studied in Mount Isa before starting work on cattle stations throughout the Barkly region. He joined the NLC to ensure that the concerns of his communities are taken seriously. Mr Neade is an advocate for development opportunities in the Barkly and to ensure Aboriginal people are treated with fairness and respect.



BORROLOOLA/BARKLY REGION

JOY PRIEST

Executive Council Member December 2022 – Current

Joy Priest is a Yanyuwa/Garrwa/Gurdanji/Wambaya woman from Lorella. This is her first term as an Executive Member. Ms Priest is a passionate spokesperson for the North Barkly region and has spent significant time throughout her life working with young people to ensure they receive an education and are provided with opportunities. As a member of the NLC, Ms Priest is focused on developing homelands, allowing access to health services and strengthening the next generation.



EAST ARNHEM REGION

DJAWA YUNUPINGU

Executive Council Member December 2022 – Current

Djawa Yunupingu is a Gumatj man and is a respected community elder in the East Arnhem region. He joined the NLC in February 2019 and is serving his second term as an Executive Member. Mr Yunupingu currently sits on the Gumatj Board and the Yothu Yindi Foundation Board. He was one of the founding members of the Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation, which is responsible for looking after the land and seas environment of north-east Arnhem Land. Since 2008, Mr Yunupingu has led the work of Marngarr Resource Centre, which is a local resource agency that provides training, employment and work. Mr Yunupingu acts to represent the issues of his people and the East Arnhem region.



EAST ARNHEM REGION

YANANYMUL MUNUNGGURR

Executive Council Member December 2022 – Current

Yananymul Mununggurr is a member of the Djapu clan. She has been a NLC member since 2013 and a member of the NLC Executive Council since 2021. Ms Mununggurr is a passionate supporter of homelands across the Yolngu lands of East Arnhem Land and has had a long-standing interest in Yolngu affairs, particularly land-related issues, wellbeing, education, and law and culture. She wants to see the NLC help Yolngu get greater control over their land and seas and to manage their own affairs.



KATHERINE REGION

HELEN LEE

Executive Council Member December 2022 – Current

Helen Lee is affiliated with the Dalabon/Jawoyn peoples. She was first elected to the Full Council in 2003, and as a Council Member represents the Bagala Traditional Owners of Barunga/Wugularr. Ms Lee is the Deputy Mayor of the Roper Gulf Regional Council, Director of the Aboriginal Investment Group and a Chair of the newly established Barunga/Wugularr Law Culture and Justice group. She is passionate about supporting young people to reach their full potential and a strong advocate for mentoring to assist people in finding their path in life.



SOUTH EAST ARNHEM (NGUKURR) REGION

PETER LANSEN

Executive Council Member December 2022 – Current

Peter Lansen is an Alawa man from Cox River/Nutwood Downs. He was elected to the Full Council in 2003. This is his fourth non-consecutive term as a member of the Executive Council. Mr Lansen has held positions with the Alawa Aboriginal Corporation and Sunrise Health Service Aboriginal Corporation. Mr Lansen wants to create more economic partnership and development opportunities for his community. He aspires to listen to people and assist his community with their needs.



VIRGINIA NUNDHIRRIBALA

Executive Council Member December 2022 – Current

Virginia Nundhirribala is a Nundhirribala woman from Numbulwar. She was elected to the Full Council in 2011 and is serving her second non-consecutive term as an Executive Member. Ms Nundhirribala has previously held positions with Numbulwar School and Roper Gulf Regional Council. She currently supports Caring for Country work as a cultural advisor. As a member of the NLC, Ms Nundhirribala wants to ensure that her community remain strong in culture and continue to develop.



DR GRACE DANIELS

Executive Council Member December 2019 – December 2022

Dr Grace Daniels is a member of the Mara clan and is a respected community elder in the Ngukurr region. She was first elected to the Council in 2002 and is a representative for Ngukurr outstations. Grace is committed to seeing real change on the ground. She is an advocate for improving infrastructure in remote communities through investment in roads, bridges, outstations and housing.



CLIFFORD DUNCAN

Executive Council Member December 2019 – December 2022

Clifford Duncan has been a member of the Northern Land Council since 2016 and was elected as an Executive Council representative for Ngukurr in 2021. He currently lives in the Urupunga community. He is passionate about education, previously holding positions with the Jilkminggan education department and Kormilda College. Clifford also has experience working with local construction organisations. As the elected member for Ngukurr, he hopes to strengthen the availability of cultural education for young people and ensure that the Ngukurr region actively aligns itself with the aspirations of the NLC.



VICTORIA RIVER DISTRICT

RAYMOND HECTOR

Executive Council Member December 2022 – Current

Raymond Hector is a Billarna man from Nitjpurru (Pigeon Hole). This is his second non-consecutive term as a member of the Executive Council. Mr Lansen has previously held positions with the Katherine West Health Board and Territory Health Service. Mr Hector has also worked as a ringer throughout the VRD region. As a member of the NLC, Mr Hector wants to highlight his communities' needs in health and education, and wants to be a role model for younger generations.



LORRAINE JONES

Executive Council Member December 2022 – Current

Lorraine Jones has Ngaliwurru/Nungali heritage and lives in Timber Creek. She was elected to the Full Council in 2019 and the Executive Council in 2022. Ms Jones spent a significant portion of her career as a Senior Aboriginal Community Police Officer and has been a board member for the Ngaliwurru-Wuli Association. She is the Chair of the Bradshaw Liaison Committee. As a member of the NLC she wants to be a voice for her people and see them develop in health and economically.



BRIAN PEDWELL

Executive Council Member December 2019 – December 2022

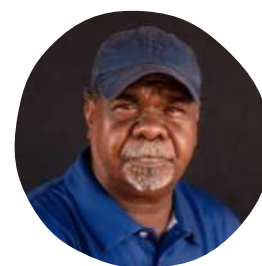
Brian Pedwell is Ngarinman from his grandfather's side and Gurindji from his grandmother's side. He grew up on the Victoria River Downs Station and in Yarralin, moving around the region to Kalkarindji. Brian completed his studies at Kormilda College. He has a diverse background, having worked in essential services and as an Aboriginal health practitioner for more than 15 years. Brian was an executive member of the Katherine West Health Board and is the Mayor of the Victoria Daly Regional Council. As a member of the NLC, he hopes to build on the legacy of leaders before him and continue to fight for the interests of Aboriginal people in his region.



DEBORAH JONES

Executive Council Member December 2019 – December 2022

Deborah Jones has Ngaliwurru/Nungali heritage and has been the NLC member for Timber Creek in the Victoria River District since 2020 and a member of the NLC Executive Council since 2021. Since 2012, Deborah has worked as a registered Aboriginal Health Practitioner with the Katherine West Health Board and has worked in communities across the Victoria River District and the Katherine West Health Board's area. In 2022 she commenced work as an Assistant Teacher at the Timber Creek Primary School. Deborah wants to see more employment opportunities for younger people and for them to take on operational and managerial roles with the Northern Land Council and other agencies and organisations operating on Aboriginal land and communities. Deborah and her family work tirelessly to reduce the impact of domestic violence in Aboriginal communities.



WEST ARNHEN REGION

JULIUS (CLINT) KERNAN

Executive Council Member December 2022 – Current

Julius Kernan is affiliated with the Manakarerrben clan and currently lives in Maningrida. He has been a member of the Northern Land Council since 2013 and was elected as an Executive Council representative for West Arnhem in 2021. He has extensive experience in management and leadership through his appointments with the following organisations: West Arnhem Shire, Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory, Aboriginal Sea Company and the Maningrida Community Safety Patrol. Mr Kernan is passionate about representing the West Arnhem region to ensure the balanda system is flexible with the cultural obligations of countrymen and women, that Aboriginal people understand the two pathways of balanda and Yolngu life, and to advocate for more opportunities for homeland learning.



MATTHEW RYAN

Executive Council Member December 2022 – Current

Matthew Ryan is of Bararrba, Wurrparn and Gurindji descent and speaks Kune, Rembarrnga and Dalabon languages. He is a resident of Maningrida. He was elected to the NLC in 2004 and is serving his second non-consecutive term as an Executive Member. Mr Ryan has previously worked as an Aboriginal Community Police Officer in the Northern Territory Police Force and as a Djelk Community Ranger with Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation (BAC). He was elected to the board of BAC before serving as their Chairperson for two terms. Mr Ryan is a long-serving councillor of the West Arnhem Regional Council and is currently serving his second term as Council Mayor. He sits on the boards of the Aboriginal Investment Group and Aboriginal Housing NT.



MATTHEW NAGARLBIN

Executive Council Member December 2019 – December 2022

Matthew Nagarlbins has been a member of the Northern Land Council since 2016 and was elected as an Executive Council representative for West Arnhem in 2021. He currently lives in Minjilang and is affiliated with the Mangalara clan. He is an active community member, currently holding positions with West Arnhem Shire Council, Red Lily Health Board and TEABBA Broadcasting. He is passionate about moving the West Arnhem and broader Aboriginal communities forward towards self-determination.

NLC FULL COUNCIL MEMBERS

A new Full Council was elected at its Full Council meeting in Katherine in December 2022. The members listed below served on the Full Council during the reporting period.

TABLE 3: BORROLLOOLA / BARKLY REGION (13 MEMBERS)

NAME	ROLE	WARD	SERVICE DURING 2022-23
Brian Limerick	Full Council Member	Alexandria	July 2022 – Current
David Harvey	Full Council Member	Borroloola	July 2022 – Current
Shaun Evans	Full Council Member	Borroloola	July 2022 – Current
Keith Rory	Full Council Member	Borroloola – Outstations	July 2022 – Sept 2022
Maria Pyro	Full Council Member	Borroloola – Outstations	Dec 2022 – Current
Jack Green	Full Council Member	Brunette Downs	July 2022 – Current
Christopher Neade	Executive Council Member	Elliott	July 2022 – Current
Jason Bill	Full Council Member	Muckaty	July 2022 – Current
Jeffrey Dixon	Full Council Member	Murranji	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Jeremy Jackson	Full Council Member	Murranji	Dec 2022 – Current
Maxine Wallace	Full Council Member	Nicholson River	July 2022 – Current
Timothy Lansen	Full Council Member	Nicholson River	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Joy Priest	Full Council Member	North Barkly	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Joy Priest	Executive Council Member	North Barkly	Dec 2022 – Current
Richard Dixon	Deputy Chair	Robinson River	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Tony Jack	Full Council Member	Robinson River	Dec 2022 – Current
Gordon Noonan	Full Council Member	Rockhampton Downs	July 2022 – Current
John Finlay	Full Council Member	Wombaya	July 2022 – Current

TABLE 4: DARWIN / DALY / WAGAIT REGION (15 MEMBERS)

NAME	ROLE	WARD	SERVICE DURING 2022-23
Joy Cardona	Full Council Member	Daly River	July 2022 – Current
Matthew Shields	Full Council Member	Daly River North (Woolianna)	July 2022 – Current
Norman Miller	Full Council Member	Daly River South (Upper Daly)	July 2022 – Current
John Sullivan	Full Council Member	Daly River West (Woodycupaldiya)	July 2022 – Current
Bill Danks	Executive Council Member	Darwin	July 2022 – Current
Christine Jenner	Full Council Member	Darwin	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Christine Fejo King			Dec 2022 – June 2023
Vacant			June 2023 – Current
Graham Kenyon	Full Council Member	Darwin East (Humpty Doo)	July 2022 – Current
Margaret Daiyi	Full Council Member	Darwin South (Adelaide River)	Dec 2019 – Current
Phillip Goodman			Dec 2022 – Current
Calvin Deveraux	Full Council Member	Darwin South West (Litchfield)	July 2022 – Dec 2022
	Deputy Chairman	Darwin South West (Litchfield)	Dec 2022 – Current
Rex Edmunds	Full Council Member	Darwin West (Belyuen)	July 2022 – Current
Roger Wodidj	Full Council Member	Palumpa	July 2022 – Current
John Wilson	Full Council Member	Peppimenarti	July 2022 – Current
Mona Liddy	Full Council Member	Pine Creek	July 2022 – Current
Vacant	Full Council Member	Wadeye	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Steven Pultchen			Dec 2022 – Current
Mark Tunmuck-Smith	Full Council Member	Wadeye (North)	July 2022 – Current

TABLE 5: EAST ARNHEM REGION (16 MEMBERS)

NAME	ROLE	WARD	SERVICE DURING 2022-23
Bandarr (Michael) Wirrpanda	Full Council Member	Blue Mud Bay – Outstations	July 2022 – Current
Makugun (Brendan) Marika	Full Council Member	Blue Mud Bay – Outstations	July 2022 – Current
Jason Guyula	Full Council Member	Galiwinku	July 2022 – Current
Johnny Burrawanga	Full Council Member	Galiwinku – Outstations	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Vacant			Dec 2022 – Current
Kenny Guyula	Full Council Member	Galiwinku – Outstations	July 2022 – Current
Peter Yawunydjurr	Full Council Member	Galiwinku	July 2022 – Current
Bobby Wunungmurra	Full Council Member	Gapuwiyak	July 2022 – Current
Jason R Butjala	Full Council Member	Gapuwiyak	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Vacant			Dec 2022 – Current
George Milaypuma	Full Council Member	Milingimbi	July 2022 – Current
Michael Ali	Full Council Member	Milingimbi	July 2022 – Current
Vacant	Full Council Member	Ramingining	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Peter Gambung			Dec 2022 – Current
David Warraya	Full Council Member	Ramingining	July 2022 – Current
Djawa Yunupingu	Executive Council Member	Ski Beach	July 2022 – Current
Djawa Murrurrna	Full Council Member	Yirrkala	July 2022 – Current
Burarrwanga			
Witiyana Marika	Full Council Member	Yirrkala	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Ishmael Marika			Dec 2022 – Current
Yananymul	Executive Council Member	Yirrkala	July 2022 – Current
Mununggurr			

TABLE 6: KATHERINE REGION (7 MEMBERS)

NAME	ROLE	WARD	SERVICE DURING 2022-23
Helen Lee	Executive Council Member	Barunga	July 2022 – Current
Samantha Lindsay Vacant Irene Jungawanga	Full Council Member	Bulman	July 2022 – Dec 2022 Dec 2022 – June 2023 June 2023 – Current
Dwayne Rosas Adrian McDonald	Full Council Member	Katherine	July 2022 – Dec 2022 Dec 2022 – Current
Lisa Mumbin	Full Council Member	Katherine	July 2022 – Current
Ossie Daylight Timothy Baker JNR	Full Council Member	Mataranka/Djimbra (Jilkminggan)	July 2022 – Dec 2022 Dec 2022 – Current
John Dalywater	Full Council Member	Weemol	July 2022 – Current
Samuel Bush-Blanasi	NLC Chair	Wugularr	July 2022 – Current

TABLE 7: SOUTH EAST ARNHEM (NGUKURR) REGION (9 MEMBERS)

NAME	ROLE	WARD	SERVICE DURING 2022-23
Sheila Hall Joshua Darryn Farrell	Full Council Member	Minyerri	July 2022 – Dec 2022 Dec 2022 – Current
Dr Grace Daniels Dr Grace Daniels	Executive Council Member Full Council Member	Ngukurr – Outstations	July 2022 – Dec 2022 Dec 2022 – Current
Vacant Bobby Nunggumajbar	Full Council Member	Ngukurr – Outstations	July 2022 – Dec 2022 Dec 2022 – Current
Walter Rogers	Full Council Member	Ngukurr – Outstations	July 2022 – Current
Ernest Numamurdirdi David Murrungun	Full Council Member	Numbulwar – Outstations	July 2022 – Dec 2022 Dec 2022 – Current
Hubert (Rami) Nunggumajbarr	Full Council Member	Numbulwar – Outstations	July 2022 – Current
Virginia Nundhirribala	Full Council Member	Numbulwar – Outstations	July 2022 – Dec 2022 Dec 2022 – Current
Peter Lansen	Full Council Member Executive Member	Nutwood/Cox River	July 2022 – Dec 2022 Dec 2022 – Current
Clifford Duncan	Executive Council Member Full Council member	Urapunga	July 2022 – Dec 2022 Dec 2022 – Current

TABLE 8: VICTORIA RIVER DISTRICT (6 MEMBERS)

NAME	ROLE	WARD	SERVICE DURING 2022-23
Kenivan Anthony Anthea Anthony	Full Council Member	Amanbidji	July 2022 – Dec 2022 Dec 2022 – Current
Shadrack Retchford	Full Council Member	Bulla	July 2022 – Current
Raymond Hector	Full Council Member Executive Council Member	Pigeon Hole Pigeon Hole	July 2022 – Dec 2022 Dec 2022 – Current
Lorraine Jones	Full Council Member Executive Council Member	Timber Creek	July 2022 – Dec 2022 Dec 2022 – Current
Brian Pedwell Wesley Campbell	Executive Council Member Full Council Member	Yarralin	July 2022 – Dec 2022 Dec 2022 – Current
Charlie Newry Shauna King	Full Council Member	Yingawunari	July 2022 – Dec 2022 Dec 2022 – Current

TABLE 9: WEST ARNHEM REGION (12 MEMBERS)

NAME	ROLE	WARD	SERVICE DURING 2022-23
June Fejo	Full Council Member	Cobourg	July 2022 – Current
Otto Dann	Full Council Member	Gunbalanya	July 2022 – Current
Timothy Nabegeyo	Full Council Member	Gunbalanya - Outstations	July 2022 – Current
Wayne Wauchope	Full Council Member	Gunbalanya - Outstations	July 2022 – Current
Vacant	Full Council Member	Kakadu	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Joanne Christophersen			Dec 2022 – Current
Wayne Kala-Kala	Full Council Member	Maningrida	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Jacqueline Phillips			Dec 2022 – June 2023
Reggie Wurdijal			June 2023 – Current
Valda Bokmarray	Full Council Member	Maningrida	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Vacant			Dec 2022 – June 2023
Reggie Wurdijal			June 2023 – Current
Julius (Clint) Kernan	Executive Council Member	Maningrida - Outstations	July 2022 – Current
Vacant	Full Council Member	Maningrida - Outstations	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Matthew Ryan	Executive Member		Dec 2022 – Current
Matthew Nagarlbin	Executive Council Member	Minjilang	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Matthew Nagarlbin	Full Council Member		Dec 2022 – Current
Bunug Galaminda	Full Council Member	Waruwi - Outstations	July 2022 – Current
Jenny Inmulugulu	Full Council Member	Waruwi - Outstations	July 2022 – Current



CO-OPTED WOMEN (5 MEMBERS) – CO-OPTED AT THE JUNE FULL COUNCIL MEETING 2023.

TABLE 10:

NAME	REGION	MEMBERSHIP STATUS
Caroline Dhammarandji	East Arnhem	June 2023 – Current
Dela Mununggurr	East Arnhem	June 2023 – Current
Judy Gapugurwuy	East Arnhem	June 2023 – Current
Charlane Bulumbara	Katherine	June 2023 – Current
Melinda Thompson	South East Arnhem	June 2023 – Current

CO-OPTED WOMEN (5 MEMBERS) – APPOINTMENT TERMS ENDED DECEMBER 2022.

TABLE 11:

NAME	REGION	MEMBERSHIP STATUS
Caroline Dhammarandji	East Arnhem	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Rose Wurggu-Wurggu	East Arnhem	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Deborah Jones	Victoria River District	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Joy Campbell	Victoria River District	July 2022 – Dec 2022
Noeleen Martin	Victoria River District	July 2022 – Dec 2022

NLC ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Executive Council appoints the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who has day-to-day responsibility for operations of the NLC. The CEO works closely with the Chair and the Executive Council, and is responsible for the leadership and management of the organisation, with the delegation to manage staff, implement Council decisions, drive the NLC's strategic direction, set priorities and enforce sound corporate governance.

The NLC is structured to ensure that services are delivered efficiently across our seven regions.

The CEO is supported by the Deputy CEO and three general managers who are responsible for managing operations within their departments (listed below).

The Deputy CEO manages a range of NLC divisions including Regional Development, Policy and Strategy, and Information Communication Technology and Project Management. Regional Development comprises the Regional Office Network that provides our regional and remote constituents access to NLC services, and coordinates a high percentage of the planning and delivery of meeting logistics for on-country consultations. The regional offices manage the processing of permit, funeral and ceremony applications plus managing local regional stakeholder engagement activities. Regional Development also includes the section 19 Land Use Management team that coordinates the proposal and assessment approval process across the regions, the Permits, Agreements and Compliance Team, Economic Development and Regionalisation. The Policy and Strategy division is split into four business units that include Policy Advice and Advocacy, Economic Strategy, Strategic HR, and Media and Communications. The Information Communication Technology and Project Management team manages all information management, communications, cyber security, and systems maintenance and development.

Land and Law: The Land and Law division comprises the Legal, Anthropology, Resources and Energy, and Community Planning and Development branches. The division identifies and consults with Traditional Owners to secure and protect their rights and interests in land and sea. The team provides legal advice to the NLC and Traditional Owners, conducts land rights and native title claims, negotiates agreements and pursues litigation where appropriate. It also provides advice and oversight of the NLC's obligations regarding mineral and petroleum exploration, production and associated activities as they relate to the Land Rights Act and the *Native Title Act*. The Community Planning and Development branch supports Aboriginal land-owning groups to use payments from land use agreements to drive their own development and secure lasting benefits from their land, waters and seas.

Land and Sea Management: Traditional Owners in the NLC region have responsibility for some of the most intact, biologically diverse and culturally rich savanna landscapes and sea country areas in the world. Land and Sea Management includes the Caring for Country, Learning on Country, and Partnerships and Enterprise Development Unit, which includes Parks and Joint Management and savanna fire management carbon project development. Caring for Country hosts and provides administrative and operational support to 13 land and sea ranger groups across the NLC region; policy support and advice on land and sea

management issues; and contract management for 18 high schools with Learning on Country programs in the NLC region. The Partnerships and Enterprise Development Unit supports joint management partnerships in the NT, including Kakadu and NT parks and reserves; captures opportunities in the carbon industry through improved fire management across the landscape; and increases our rangers' capacity in reporting and managing incidents of local and national significance, such as trespass and biosecurity. Recently, the Sea Country Unit has moved into this group, focused on negotiating access agreements and long-term planning and management of the vast and important coastal and marine areas of the NT. Land and Sea Management is focused on helping Traditional Owners plan for the future health of their land and sea country and report on the effectiveness of their efforts.

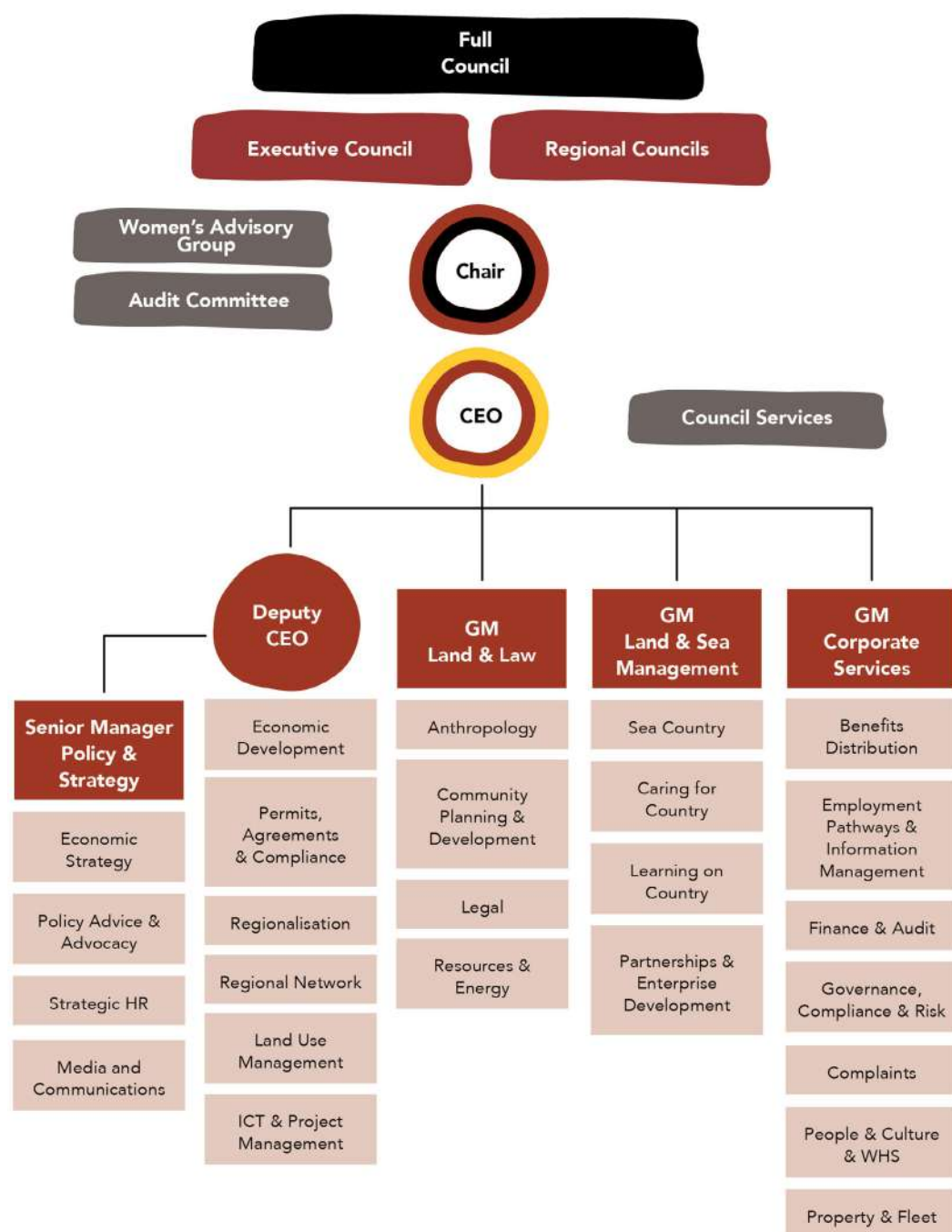
Corporate Services: Corporate Services provides the NLC with essential, professional and accountable customer services across its teams: Financial Management; Governance; Compliance and Risk; Benefit Distribution Unit; People and Culture; Education and Employment Pathways; and Fleet and Property.

Areas within Corporate Services are enabling functions – they enable the work of the NLC, providing services externally and internally to NLC staff and workplaces so that the NLC can achieve organisational strategic goals and endeavour to effectively comply with the statutory requirements.



NLC ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

FIGURE 5: NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



NLC SUBSIDIARIES STRUCTURE

The NLC and the Aboriginal Investment Group have mutually agreed upon a divestment process which resulted in the NLC ceasing to control the Northern Aboriginal Investment Corporation Pty Limited (NAIC) and its controlled entities from 1 July 2022.

Part 2 Program Highlights and Achievements

INTRODUCTION

This year has been another big year for the NLC, with significant events and achievements taking place throughout the NLC region. This section highlights only some of those moments and programs. A full assessment of the NLC's performance against our objectives is available in Part 3 - Corporate Management and Reporting of this annual report.

Joy Cardona was involved in the development of the Aboriginal Community Police Officer program in the 1990's

NLC GIVES VALUABLE TRAINING TO NEW NT POLICE

New NT Police recruits and the NLC are moving towards improved cultural engagement with Aboriginal communities thanks to the Community and Cultural Engagement program, writes NLC Cultural Consultant and former NT Police Aboriginal Liaison Officer Joy Cardona.

Over the last 12 months, NLC councillors and staff have been attending the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) College to brief new police recruit squads on how they can work together to improve cross-cultural engagement with remote Aboriginal Territorians.

Community and Cultural Engagement is an official training program for all recruits of the Northern Territory Police. Several recruits will become Aboriginal Community Police Officers (ACPOs) and it is essential for them to have a strong understanding of how life and law works in remote areas. The NLC must continue to educate the new recruits about cross-cultural communication and legislation that affects Aboriginal land tenure and management.

Many of the recruits are young and come from interstate. Experiences in major towns can be very different to remote communities. Issues



'This program empowers the newest Police recruits to have greater cultural vision and understanding of the diverse Aboriginal culture, traditions and beliefs when walking in the two worlds of cultural and western compliance.'

Carmen Taylor, NLC Incident Management and Support

with grog, drugs and violence might challenge them, so they need to be equipped with culturally appropriate communication tools.

An Aboriginal language unit, such as Warlpiri and Kriol, is part of the recruits' training. They are required to research remote community development, learn some basic local language and then present this to their peers.

It is wonderful watching the recruits' multimedia presentations, but it's about more than what's on the screen. The recruits are learning how to conduct themselves in community and engage in a friendly and meaningful way.

Learning to say the most basic things like 'hello', 'goodbye' and 'good' in local language goes a long way in community. The NLC can assist this learning process by teaching the recruits how to communicate with important community members such as Traditional Owners, Jungi (loremen), elders and seniors.

The NLC and NT Police are bound by a lot of legislation. The NLC's presentations at the NTPFES recruit cultural awareness training sessions enable the recruits to gain a better understanding of cultural and Western law.

They are educated about the NLC structure, roles and legislation such as the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, the *Aboriginal Land Act 1978* and the *Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989*.

For the NLC, the Land Rights Act is the most important piece of legislation. If the NLC can continue to educate the recruits about things like commercial lease agreements and permits under the Land Rights Act, it will lead to a stronger mutual understanding.

While we have seen a positive shift in police seeking education on cultural understanding and inclusion, it is important for the NLC to walk side-by-side with NT Police to properly enforce the responsibilities of the Land Rights Act and *Aboriginal Land Act*.

'These sessions provide an invaluable opportunity to introduce new NT Police officers and Auxiliaries to the unique system of Aboriginal land tenure in the Northern Territory. Often interactions between the NLC and NTPFES staff occur in the context of urgent issues which are not conducive to a thorough explanation of the uniqueness of Aboriginal land management in our area. We hope that this training equips those officers with a basic understanding which is of assistance when responding to these urgent issues when they arise.'

Alex Clunies-Ross, NLC Senior Lawyer

'These recruits will be out there working in communities in the NLC area and they need an appreciation of all the challenges that exist and today's session with NLC elected members and staff is a great start. "Building partnerships and relationships and appreciating the importance of connecting with the community and with the Northern Land Council will be something that I hope all of these recruits will carry with them right through their careers. We look forward to the NLC delivering similar sessions for future recruit squads.'

Matthew Allen, NT Police Senior Sergeant



Senior Traditional Owner Heather Wilson



Borroloola/Barkly Regional Council member Jack Green

A VOICE FOR THE PEOPLE OF KULUMINDINI" – A NEW NLC REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE BARKLY REGION.

Traditional Owners and custodians for the Barkly Tableland regional centre of Kulumindini (also known as Elliott) came together to celebrate the opening of the new Northern Land Council office in the suburb of Gurungu.

Kulumindini Traditional Owner Heather Wilson welcomed everyone to her homeland and recognised that the new building represented a great opportunity for landowners and community members to realise their long-held ambitions for their town and country.

NLC Chair Samuel Bush-Blanasi told the meeting that Kulumindini had been all but forgotten by governments for too long. 'But now this office can provide a voice for the people of Kulumindini. An important thing about this office is that it is built on Aboriginal land – the Gurungu Aboriginal Land Trust.'

NLC CEO, Joe Martin-Jard told the meeting that the NLC could see a lot of economic opportunities coming up around Kulumindini, including more resource companies and tourism, and the NLC is working hard to get support for Traditional

Owners to explore those opportunities.

Member for Lingiari and former NLC CEO Marion Scrymgour talked about the history of the area. 'What people often forget is that the first walk-off of Aboriginal stockmen and women actually occurred at Newcastle Waters station just up the road. This country is a very important part of the history of the Northern Land Council.'

Jack Green, a member of the NLC's Borroloola Barkly Regional Council, also reflected on local history. 'I was really young when I first came through here, probably 16 or 17, and we saw all the old people living in tents. They had come in from Anthony Lagoon and Cresswell stations after they got kicked off of there. It means a lot to me, this place.'

Rosanna De Santis, the NLC's Regionalisation Project Manager who ran the refurbishment project recognised the significance of the new building.

Ms De Santis told *Land Rights News* 'There will be three NLC divisions that will operate from here – the Caring for Country mob, our Regional Development branch and also our Minerals and Resources team, who will all have a focus on employment and economic development.'



Garngi Rangers Sabrina Wauchope and Katrin Marranbya installing signage at the Timor Springs turn off

GARNGI RANGERS

The Northern Land Council's Garngi ranger group operates out of Minjilang on Croker Island, 200km north-east of Darwin, and manages the land and coastal waters around Croker Island.

The rangers carry out regular boat patrols in the region to look out for any illegal or suspicious fishing activities. Like many of the ranger groups operating across the northern coast of Australia, they are the eyes and ears for regulators and law enforcement in this area. The rangers also look for marine litter including ghost nets.

On a recent patrol they set out to investigate a reported infestation of an invasive weed, *Mimosa pigra* which was spotted by the North Australian Quarantine Strategy while conducting an animal survey by helicopter.

Like all of the NLC ranger groups, the Garngi rangers work closely with their neighbouring ranger groups and a variety of Territory and Federal agencies, including Quarantine, the NT Police and NT Fisheries.



Garngi Ranger Group Coordinator Bryan Macdonald and Charles Darwin University researcher Natalie Robinson

Near Cape Croker the Garngi patrol spotted a vessel anchored close to mouth of the creek near the lighthouse and the rangers were concerned that this vessel was anchored above a sacred site. The vessel was a large guided fishing operator with three small tenders.

On this day, the Garngi patrol was unsuccessful in initiating any further investigation for the alleged transgression on the sacred site but were able to use this event to assess how they could do better next time.

Since that event, they have started working more closely with the NT Water Police, NT Fisheries and the NLC's Caring for Country compliance team, to gather the right type of evidence that could support a prosecution in the future.

With the assistance of the Caring for Country compliance team the Garngi rangers designed and installed a number of information signs around Croker Island and the adjacent outer islands that will put fishers on notice as to where they can go and what areas they should avoid.

WAGIMAN RANGERS – A BURNING AMBITION TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF THE WAGIMAN AND UPPER DALY ABORIGINAL LAND TRUSTS

Since 2021, the Northern Land Council's Wagiman rangers have been working closer with their communities, neighbouring ranger groups, local non-Aboriginal land managers and land-owners and external consultants and scientists to establish a sustainable fire and land management regime throughout their traditional lands.

Like many Aboriginal land managers across the Top End of the NT the Wagiman rangers take responsibility and care, not just for land that may be within an Aboriginal Land Trust established under the Land Rights Act or that may be subject to a native title determination, but all land within their traditional country.

In 2020 the Wagiman rangers and communities started work on the Wagiman/Upper Daly savanna fire/carbon project. Many delays have slowed progress, particularly by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Wagiman are determined and look forward to finalisation of this project in the coming months.

The motivation for the project came from a community desire to change the destructive pattern of wildfires that have torn across the land trusts and neighbouring land in recent years, changing them from frequent late Dry Season hot fires, to earlier cooler and patcher burns.

Similar projects exist in Arnhem Land through the Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (ALFA) project, and closer with projects that the Thamarrurr and Jawoyn rangers had developed. It is hoped that eventually an ALFA-type program will be established in the Darwin Daly region.

Another important factor is to continue to build bridges with pastoral leases to enhance effective fire management – a sore point in the past, as noncommunicating neighbours have tended to point the finger over the fence when late Dry Season wildfires rage across the landscape.

The Wagiman community, which represents Traditional Owners on the Wagiman and Upper Daly Aboriginal Land Trusts, is keen to participate in initiatives that will promote the employment of young Aboriginal people and create opportunities for self-sustainability and long-term self-governance so that Wagiman people can get back onto country and look after it.

The Wagiman community realised that improved fire management could lead to the empowerment of the groups and communities they represent. Wagiman rangers are proud to be part of this movement.



A Wagiman Ranger undertaking land management through controlled burning



Smoke rises from a controlled burn



Yugul Mangi Ranger Coordinator Andrew Vocke, Senior Numbulwar Ranger Clive Nunggarrgalu and Yugul Mangi elder and cultural advisor Winston Thompson

TOs HEAD FOR THE STARS!

The NLC is proud to support the involvement of Traditional Owners in the NT's space industry, which reached an historic milestone in late June with Australia's first commercial space launch.

NLC Chair Samuel Bush-Blanasi said the Council has supported Traditional Owners' involvement in the space launch project since day one.

'There were some people who said it would never happen. But we stuck by Traditional Owners and proved the sceptics wrong,' Dr Bush-Blanasi said.

'Championing new approaches to creating economic opportunities for Traditional Owners is a priority of the NLC.'

Dr Bush-Blanasi said the NLC played a key role in facilitating negotiations between Equatorial Launch Australia (ELA) and local contractor Gumatj Corporation, which has undertaken a significant proportion of the works for the construction of the facility.

'I am very proud the Northern Land Council was able to support the Gumatj people on this new industry for the Northern Territory.'



Image courtesy of NASA

NLC CEO Joe Martin-Jard travelled to north-east Arnhem Land to witness ELA's launch on behalf of their client NASA.

Mr Martin-Jard said that irrespective of the economic activity Traditional Owners choose to undertake, the NLC will always assist and ensure decisions are made on a free, prior and informed basis.

Whether it's mining, carbon farming or sending rockets into space, the NLC is here to support Traditional Owners and make certain there is always free, prior and informed consent.

'With most land claims now finalised, we are shifting our focus to projects like this. This is about realising the benefits of Aboriginal rights and interests in land.'



NLC CHAIR ANNOUNCED NT AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR

The Northern Land Council congratulates its Chair, Samuel Bush-Blanasi, for his award as the 2023 Northern Territory Australian of the Year.

Northern Territory Chief Minister, Hon Natasha Fyles, made the announcement at the awards ceremony held at the Darwin Convention Centre on Monday 31 October 2022.

'All Members and staff of the Northern Land Council can be proud of his achievement,' NLC CEO Joe Martin-Jard said following the announcement. 'The award recognises a significant contribution to the Australian community and nation, an inspirational role model, someone who has done the hard yards and whose challenges and triumphs are manifested in their life experience and personal

journey. The Chair is all of these things and this award is richly deserved.'

In accepting the award, Samuel spoke about the importance of Learning on Country, the NLC's flagship program connecting school students to work on country with NLC Ranger groups, increasing secondary school participation and retention rates and benefiting families and communities across the NLC region.

Samuel also spoke with pride about the High Court's Blue Mud Bay decision and the personal significance of Blue Mud Bay in Arnhem Land as his mother's country. As a result of this decision, Traditional Owners now have ownership of more than 80% of the NT's coastline. Earlier this year the Aboriginal Sea Company was established to help deliver jobs and opportunities for Aboriginal people in the Top End.

When asked about constitutional recognition and the referendum, Samuel said, 'It means a lot to us Indigenous people in Australia because we need to be included in the Constitution.'

The referendum is about including us into the Constitution so we can have a greater say and share the country we call Australia.'

'We will get there in the end if we all work together.'

The Chair also acknowledged the NLC Executive Council and members of the NLC Full Council for their hard work and commitment to improving outcomes for Aboriginal people across the NLC's seven regions.

The Chair thanked his family and dedicated the award to NLC staff and to his severely disabled granddaughter, who provides him inspiration and strength. The winner of the national Australian of the Year award for 2023 was announced in Canberra on 25 January 2023, drawn from the finalists across all states and territories.

We wish Samuel all the best!



Middle and senior school students and teachers celebrating 10 years of the Learning on Country Program.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL TWO-WAY EDUCATION

More than a hundred remote middle and senior school students, teachers, principals, rangers and coordinators from across the Northern Territory came together from 9 to 11 August at Nitmiluk National Park to celebrate 10 years of the Learning on Country Program.

The Learning on Country Program is a joint initiative between Aboriginal ranger groups and remote community schools that integrates 'both ways learning'. Since its inception in 2012, the Learning on Country Program footprint has grown from four to 15 sites across the Top End of the Northern Territory.

Highlights on day one of the three-day event included presentations by the 15 sites, activities with the Jawoyn rangers, Nitmiluk cultural boat tours and activities with the Banatjarl Strongbala Wimun Grup.

On day two, members came together to attend the 49th Learning on Country Steering Committee meeting, while younger delegates come together for the Learning on Country Youth

Forum. On day three, members participated in a feedback yarning circle, a separate men's and women's session to explore Aboriginal leadership and a final dinner to celebrate the Learning on Country Program's 10th birthday.

At the opening ceremony, NLC Chair Dr Samuel Bush-Blanasi welcomed the announcement from the Minister for Indigenous Australians, Hon Linda Burney, that the NIAA funding for the Learning on Country Program will be extended for six years to 2028.

'The Northern Land Council is proud to administer the Learning on Country Program, which has gone from strength to strength over the last 10 years,' Dr Bush-Blanasi said.

'This funding will help ensure that more remote Indigenous students have access to an education pathway that supports them to walk strong in our culture and balanda culture.

'Our children are the future and I want to see them get the right education and go on to live healthy and fulfilling lives and care for their families, community and country – this program creates that pathway for them.'

NLC CHAIR AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATE

The Northern Land Council congratulates Dr Samuel Bush-Blanasi on the awarding of his well-deserved Honorary Doctor of Letters (honoris causa).

This award acknowledges a lifetime of hard work and the commitment of Dr Bush-Blanasi to the empowerment and rights of Aboriginal peoples.

Dr Bush-Blanasi grew up in Wugularr (Beswick) community in the Katherine region and is a proud Yolngu man through his mother, who was from the Blue Mud Bay region in East Arnhem.

For over three decades, Samuel has been an active member of the NLC, serving nine terms, including three terms as Deputy Chair. He is currently serving his fourth consecutive term as NLC Chair. Samuel has experience in representational and governance roles.

He was an elected ATSIC representative and founding member of the Association of Northern, Kimberley and Arnhem Aboriginal Artists (ANKAAA); and more recently was instrumental in the establishment of the Aboriginal Sea Company. In 2022 he was appointed co-Chair of the interim board to establish the Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation. He is a long-serving board member of the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance, a member of Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory Aboriginal Corporation and a member of the Governing Group of the Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory.

Dr Bush-Blanasi was awarded his doctorate from Charles Darwin University in a graduation ceremony on 18 May 2023 attended by his family, friends, colleagues and fellow graduates.

'With my role as NLC Chair I walk in both worlds acting on behalf of TO's as I work with stakeholders and government. This recognition is supported by that traditional authority and it is a privilege to accept this honorary doctorate that acknowledges my place in the two worlds that have contributed to it,' said Dr Bush-Blanasi.

Dr Bush-Blanasi was recognised earlier this year for his commitment to the empowerment of Aboriginal People, when he was named 2023 Northern Territory Australian of the Year.

Dr Samuel Bush-Blanasi accepting his Honorary Doctor of Letters (honoris causa).





L-R Nikita Baker, Lizzie Hogan, Summer Jeffrey, May Bury, Teresa Burrurr, Jamalia Irwin, Tedisha Bush, Jenna Wilkes, Cindy Paterson, Nathalia Wauchope.

NLC WOMEN JOIN NATIONAL SUMMIT

More than 900 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, sister-girls, non-Aboriginal women and non-binary people from across Australia attended the inaugural Wiyi Yani U Thangani Summit on Ngannawal and Ngambri Country (Canberra).

WIYI Yani U Thangani means 'women's voices' in the Bunuba language from Western Australia's Kimberley region.

The three-day national gathering enabled First Nations women to speak on their own terms to government, policymakers and service providers about issues affecting them, their children and communities.

Attendees heard from a range of speakers, young and old, on topics such as the Voice to Parliament, education, employment, law and order, violence, deaths in custody, child removal, early childhood and much more.

The NLC sponsored a number of female First Nations staff to attend including Nikita Baker, Lizzie Hogan, May Bury, Jamalia Irwin, Summer Jeffrey, Nathalia Wauchope, Tedisha Bush, Jenna Wilkes, Teresa Burrurr and Cindy Paterson.



Tedisha Bush, Jamalia Irwin and Nathalia Wauchope

Three members of the NLC delegation attended as youth representatives, taking part in a youth led forum on day one.

'Being around young women who wanted our voices to be heard made me feel like I was at the right place at the right time, never having to feel ashamed for sharing our worries and thoughts about wanting a change,' Tedisha said.

'We are the embodiment of planting seeds and nurturing trees for the next generation. It was a privilege having the opportunity to connect and listen to old and young women who were passionate about sharing their empowering stories and knowledge,' Tedisha said.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS AT YIRRKALA BILINGUAL SCHOOL

Students, families, Dhimurru rangers and community members attended the recent graduation ceremony at Yirrkala Bilingual School.

Yirrkala School Co-Principal Merrkiyawy Ganambarr said it was a very proud day for the school and the whole community.

The school celebrated and recognised the achievements of Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET) graduate Mayatili Mungunggur and Certificate II Conservation and Ecosystem Management graduates Galpawiri Munungiritj, Djamut Brian and Mithili Wanambi, all students of the Learning on Country Program.

Yirrkala Bilingual School is one of the foundation schools of the Learning on Country program. The school teaches all classes in both English and Yolngu and is seeing great success in participation and engagement from students and parents.

'Today was a special day for Mayatili, she was the only child of this age in Yirrkala and she graduated by herself. She worked very hard, she was committed and studied very hard by herself to graduate today. To be able to see that was wonderful, and I am so proud.'

Merrkiyawy Ganambarr,
Yirrkala School Co-Principal

L-R Co-Principals Katrina Hudson and Merrkiyawy Ganambarr, Mayatili Mungunggur Galpawiri Munungiritj and LoC Coordinator Dan McLaren



2023 BARUNGA VOICE DECLARATION

On 15 June, the four Northern Territory Aboriginal land councils signed the Barunga Voice Declaration that addresses all Australians and urges them to support a Voice to Parliament.

More than 200 representatives of the Northern, Central, Tiwi and Anindilyakwa land councils gathered on the traditional lands of the Bagala (Jawoyn) group at Barunga, south-east of Katherine, for the significant occasion.

Land council members signed five copies of the declaration, one for each land council and a copy that was presented to the Minister for Indigenous Australians, Hon Linda Burney MP.

In the following weeks, representatives of the four land councils travelled to Canberra to formally deliver the declaration to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

The 2023 Barunga Voice Declaration calls 'for the recognition of our peoples in our still young constitution by enshrining our voice to the parliament and executive government, never to be rendered silent with the stroke of a pen again'.

It invites all Australians to 'right the wrongs of the past and deal with the serious issues impacting First Nations people ... and unite our country'.

Together, the land council members speak with the authority as the elected representatives of tens of thousands of grass roots residents of remote communities, homelands, town camps and towns across the Territory.

The 2023 Barunga Voice Declaration is a strong and heartfelt call 'from the bush' asking all Australians to support First Nations people 'for a better future'.

The declaration pays homage to the original Barunga Statement design and honours the cultural leaders who created it in 1988 (listed below), including sole survivor, pre-eminent artist Mr Djambawa Marawilli AM.

1988 Barunga Statement artwork was created by:

- Yunupingu AM, 1948-2023, Gumatj
- M Marawili, c.1937-2018, Madarrpa
- B Marawili, 1944-2002, Madarrpa
- D Marawili AM, 1953, Madarrpa
- D Ngurruwuthun, 1936-2001, Munyuku
- D Ngurruwuthun, c. 1940-2001, Munyuku
- W Rubuntja AM, c. 1926-2005, Arrernte
- L Turner Jampijinpa, 1951-2009, Warlpiri
- D Williams Japanangka, 1948-2013, Warlpiri

The original Barunga Statement was presented to Prime Minister Bob Hawke at the 1988 Barunga Festival by the Northern and Central land councils as a declaration of the aspirations of 'the Indigenous owners and occupiers of Australia' and a request to the Australian Government and people to 'recognise our rights'.

We are still waiting.

The Barunga Declaration

We, members of the four Northern Territory Aboriginal land councils, acknowledging our elders and old people, have gathered again at Barunga, the site of the historic Barunga Statement in 1988 and the Barunga Agreement in 2018, with pride in our own laws, cultures and ceremonies, looking to the future.

We, who have been dispossessed and subjected to punitive controls by governments, who have never ceded sovereignty over our lands and waters, resolve with one heart our determined support for the implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full.

We must right the wrongs of the past and deal with the serious issues impacting First Nations peoples, empower First Nations peoples and unite our country.

We call for the recognition of First Nations peoples in our still young constitution by enshrining our voice to the parliament and executive government, never to be rendered silent with the stroke of a pen again.

We need to be heard and urge our fellow Australians to stand with us and vote 'YES' in the forthcoming referendum, for the sake of a better future for all of us.



LEARNING ON COUNTRY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONFIRMED!

Learning on Country partnership with the NT Department of Education will be continued for another six years!

The Northern Land Council's CEO Joe Martin-Jard and the NT Department of Education's Deputy Chief Executive Saeed Amin signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) this week, a significant partnership agreement to support the Learning on Country Program for another six-years. This agreement will support and strengthen the delivery of the LoC Program across the 17 remote sites.

'We are looking forward to a great partnership that will benefit young people participating in the LoC program,' said NLC CEO Joe Martin-Jard.

Joe Martin-Jard and the NT Department of Education's Deputy Chief Executive Saeed Amin



WARDAMAN RANGERS SPEAK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF WIYAN (WATER)

In June representatives of the Wardaman rangers attended the 2023 Freshwater Sciences Conference in Brisbane.

Presenting their work on water monitoring, the rangers discussed the importance of water and country and how they are intrinsically connected.

The three-day conference was hosted by the Society for Freshwater Science, an organisation made up of freshwater science societies from North America, New Zealand and Australia, with the Brisbane conference being the first time the annual event has been held outside of North America.

The conference provided the rangers a unique opportunity to build friendships and collaborate with international delegates, identifying common challenges and sharing stories and science to advance their understanding of freshwater systems.

Throughout their presentation, Wardaman rangers Basil Murrimal, Jason Raymond and

Tracey Rainger spoke about the importance of their freshwater country and the water monitoring work the rangers have been doing over the past three years called the Wardaman Wiyan (Water) Project.

The group presented a video demonstrating how the rangers conduct their water monitoring on Wunggayajawin Country and showing why water monitoring is so important to Traditional Owners (TOs) in keeping traditions and culture alive for future generations.

'We shared our experiences with other Indigenous peoples from around the world and the freshwater science community. It was a great opportunity for us to attend and talk about Wiyan,' said Wardaman ranger and Wunggayajawin TO Tracey Rainger.

The Wardaman rangers operate on the Wardaman Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), which covers over 224,000 hectares of country within the Victoria River and Upper Daly catchments.

Wardaman Rangers Basil Murrimal, Jason Raymond and Tracey Rainger



L-R Joelle Rabot-Honore (ENL Foundation Mauritius), Gillian Snowball (Littlewell), Garrutju Jane Gandangu, Helen Gandangu, Kath Boyne (ALPA), Sarah Bentley and May Bury



Dr Samuel Bush-Blanasi speaking during the conference

WORLD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2023

Across three days in June the Darwin Convention Centre hosted the World Community Development Conference 2023.

With a central theme of 'from the edge', the conference examined the influence of Culture, Connection and Community in the field of community development.

Traditional Owners and Native Title Holders, along with the NLC's Community Projects team played a significant role during the conference by presenting six sessions across three days.

Highlights from the conference included:

- Helen and Jane Gandangu, sisters and TOs for Galawarra on the eastern side of Galiwin'ku, captivated attendees with their presentation on local community development work. They shared achievements and valuable lessons learned through their community development journey. So affected by the presentation, at the conclusion of the presentation attendees gave a standing ovation and danced with the presenters.
- Dray Smiler, who recently completed a work placement at the NLC with the Community Projects team, lent his voiceover talents to the new Community Projects video. Receiving it's premiers at the conference, the video complemented a keynote speech delivered by Dr Samuel Bush-Balansi.
- Thomas Cameron, a proud member of the Wattandee tribe from Littlewell, Western Australia, passionately shared his personal story and advocated for the preservation of land.

NLC's Montana Ahwon celebrated 'a safe place for First Nations people to come together from around the world without feeling judged, to talk about where we come from, our differences and similarities, our passions and what we can do to better improve ourselves.

'We were able to draft up a map of the countries we came from including Australia and New Zealand, we pointed out where we all came from and our family connections. We had very inspiring and creative conversations,' she said



McArthur River Project

THE MCARTHUR RIVER PROJECT COMPENSATION CLAIM GOES TO TRIAL

Over three weeks, from 5 to 23 June this year, Justice Banks-Smith of the Federal Court of Australia oversaw the long-awaited trial in the McArthur River Project Compensation Claim.

In this important case, Gudanji, Yanyuwa and Yanyuwa-Mara groups claim compensation for the negative impacts of the McArthur River Project on their native title rights and interests. The claim is brought against the Northern Territory. The Commonwealth Attorney-General is also participating.

The first week of the trial was held on country at significant places on or near the area of the

McArthur River Project. The Federal Court was taken to the McArthur River Mine site and the Bing Bong Port, where Aboriginal witnesses were able to show the judge the impact of the McArthur River Project first hand.

The rest of the trial was held in Darwin, where expert evidence was given by anthropologists, valuers, environmental experts and economists. A number of native title holders travelled up from Borroloola to attend parts of the trial in Darwin.

The trial is the culmination of a long series of battles by native title holders to seek reparations for the impacts of the McArthur River Mine, the Bing Bong Port and other developments associated with the McArthur River Project.

They key legal events that the native title holders refer to in their compensation claim are the granting and re-granting of mineral leases and other interests in the McArthur River Project area by the Northern Territory Government. These grants were enabled by the McArthur River Project Agreement Ratification Act 1992 (NT), which attempted to override the rights of native title holders to negotiate an agreement in relation to the project.

Because of this, the native title holders now argue that they should receive an award of compensation that includes an amount which is equivalent to what they would have received under an agreement had they been allowed to make one in 1993. The native title holders also claim compensation for the terrible cultural loss caused by the McArthur River Project, which has involved the diversion of the McArthur River, and the transformation of the project from an underground operation into one of the largest open-cut zinc and lead mines in the world.

The trial has been adjourned and will begin again in November 2023, when lawyers for the parties will be asked to make their closing submissions. Once the trial is over, Justice Banks-Smith will consider all the evidence and legal submissions, and arrive at a decision. The earliest time by which a judgment is likely to be handed down is the second half of 2024

McArthur River Project



McArthur River Project





Information book for visitors to South East Arnhem Land, NT

WELKAM LA MELABAT KANTRI! WELCOME TO OUR COUNTRY!

The South East Arnhem Land Indigenous Protected Area (SEAL IPA) Advisory Committee recently produced and published a cultural visitor information booklet for visitors.

Called 'Welkam la Melabat Kantri', the book uses the Kriol phrase meaning 'Welcome to our Country'.

The SEAL IPA Advisory Committee, in collaboration with the NLC's Community Projects team, funded the project through carbon credits.

The Yugul Mangi and Numbulwar Numburindi rangers in south-east Arnhem Land regularly perform fire management work on the western edge of the Gulf of Carpentaria as part of the South East Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (SEALFA) project.

The fire management work generates carbon credits, which generate funds for the fire work in

the following year. Additionally, the funds can support other ranger activities as well as environmental, education, and community projects.

This booklet serves as a resource for individuals visiting south-east Arnhem Land, providing detailed information about community, culture, language, history, wildlife, as well as the Indigenous Protected Area and cultural exclusion zones.

Representatives from each of the eight traditional tribal groups in the region which include Virginia Nundhirribala, Eva Nunggumajbarr, Jana Daniels, Julie Roy, and Winston Thompson, form the SEAL IPA Advisory Committee.

The SEAL IPA group actively funds various projects to foster community strength, growth and support for young people, and a sense of pride in community.



Part 3

Corporate Management and Reporting



STRATEGIC THINKING

The enabling legislation of the NLC is the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*. The responsible minister for the 2022–23 reporting period is Hon Linda Burney MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians.

The minister gave no directions to the NLC during the reporting year.

The NLC's strategic direction takes into account the changing social, political, cultural, economic and environmental landscape of our region, and the opportunities it presents. Our planning framework incorporates:

- Strategic Plan – a four-year overview of our vision, goals, values and objectives;
- Corporate Plan – a four-year plan of our high-level initiatives to achieve our strategic goals and objectives; and
- Business Plans – annual plans that outline activities and actions in each branch of the NLC that will deliver our goals and objectives.

These plans are reviewed regularly and may be amended as required to reflect changing strategic priorities.

The planning framework enables the Chief Executive Officer, managers, Full Council members and the Executive and regional councils and staff to be regularly informed on progress and performance to achieve our strategic goals and objectives and, where necessary, take corrective action to ensure initiatives are on track.

CORPORATE PLAN 2022-23 TO 2025-26

The Corporate Plan 2022-23 presents the NLC's goals and objectives for the next four years, based on the organisation's legislative responsibilities under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* and the *Native Title Act 1993* and our identified vision.

The Full Council approved a new NLC Strategic Plan in December 2022. The notable changes to the new strategic plan are strategic goal 1, changed to goal 4 and strategic goal 4, 'Proactively manage country,' changing to number 1. The Corporate Plan 2023-24 includes the new strategic plan. The corporate plan is the vehicle to achieve the NLC's corporate mission: to have an experienced and capable organisation that effectively serves Aboriginal people's interests in the Northern Territory's land, waters and seas, one that is focused and committed to achieving our strategic objectives.

The corporate plan details key activities, measures and targets describing how the NLC will achieve its goals and objectives over the next four years.

The NLC's strategic goals are:

1. Advocate – Be a voice for Aboriginal people.
2. Opportunity and Empower – Create real opportunities for Aboriginal people and Traditional Owners.
3. A strong NLC – Be a culturally rich and trusted organisation that gets things done and our community can be proud of.
4. Proactively manage country – Acquire, manage and protect traditional lands and waters in accordance with statutory functions.

EXEMPTIONS GRANTED BY FINANCE MINISTER

No exemptions were granted by the Minister for Finance during the reporting period 2022-23.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Aboriginal land councils and land trusts are listed in Part I of Schedule 2 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth). Pursuant to section 7, the NLC is not subject to freedom of information requests.

CONSULTANT EXPENDITURE

During the reporting period, the NLC engaged consultants to do work in relation to the Council's functions and exercise of powers under the Land Rights Act, and as required under section 37(8) and under the *Native Title Act*.

TABLE 12: CONSULTANTS' EXPENDITURE

CONSULTANTS EXPENDITURE GREATER THAN \$25,000	TOTAL
Devers List Pty Ltd T/A Devers List	\$ 895,826.00
Midena Lawyers	\$ 529,592.00
MPS Law Pty Ltd	\$ 423,700.00
Ashurst Australia	\$ 291,433.00
Bowden McCormack	\$ 230,414.00
Chaman's List Barristers Pty Ltd (LIST C)	\$ 214,490.00
Susan Jane O'Sullivan	\$ 203,062.00
John Robinson Consulting Services Pty Ltd	\$ 184,283.00
Associated Advertising & Promotions Pty Ltd	\$ 170,730.00
JBS&G Australia Pty Ltd	\$ 156,657.00
James Cook University	\$ 150,989.00
Conservation Management Pty Ltd	\$ 150,492.00
Houston Kemp Pty Ltd	\$ 133,234.00
Environmental And Cultural Services	\$ 128,631.00
List A Barristers Pty Ltd	\$ 105,265.00
Isentia Pty Limited	\$ 77,832.00
Integrated Valuation Services Pty Ltd	\$ 71,163.00
Dr Philip Clarke	\$ 71,000.00
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	\$ 70,306.00
Gareth David James Lewis	\$ 67,494.00
SLM Corporate Pty Ltd	\$ 65,000.00
DR Gavin Mudd	\$ 62,000.00
Geoffrey Lye	\$ 62,000.00
Campaign Edge Sprout Pty Ltd	\$ 61,600.00
List G Barristers	\$ 60,871.00
JoyBell's Consultancy Service	\$ 56,950.00
Comhar Group Pty Limited	\$ 55,383.00

CONSULTANTS EXPENDITURE GREATER THAN \$25,000	TOTAL
Stephen Paul Johnson	\$ 51,700.00
Fogarty & Associates Pty Ltd	\$ 50,000.00
Pollination Capital Partners Pty Limited	\$ 50,000.00
Frank McKeown-Mckeown Ygoa & Associates Pty Ltd	\$ 48,192.00
David S Trigger and Associates	\$ 44,215.00
Applied Anthropological Service	\$ 44,209.00
Roe Legal Services (WA) Pty Ltd	\$ 44,118.00
Justin Edwards	\$ 43,778.00
Anthropos Consulting	\$ 42,500.00
Frank Weisenberger	\$ 41,887.00
Nic Gambold	\$ 41,446.00
Mojo Collective Pty Ltd	\$ 40,000.00
ABS Scrofa (AUST) Pty Ltd	\$ 37,520.00
Cloudstreet Consulting Pty Ltd	\$ 36,800.00
Craig Elliott	\$ 32,400.00
Northern Anthropology Pty Ltd (Dr Andrew McWilliam)	\$ 31,460.00
Marrawah Law Pty Ltd	\$ 30,796.00
Monash University	\$ 28,372.00
Jackson McDonald	\$ 28,000.00
Brendan Corrigan Anthropological Services	\$ 27,939.00
E Ignjic & T J Mahney TA Ground Up Planning & Ecology Support	\$ 27,044.00
MLCS Corporate Pty Ltd	\$ 27,000.00
Foley's List Pty Ltd	\$ 26,690.00
Cobey I Taggart	\$ 26,100.00
Total	\$ 5,652,563.00

INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR OFFICERS

No indemnity against liability has been given by agreement or other means to a current or former member of staff. Comcover provides general liability and professional indemnity insurance for NLC directors and officers, and legal practitioners are covered by compulsory professional indemnity as required by the Northern Territory Law Society.

RELATED ENTITY TRANSACTIONS

Related Entity Transactions can be found at Note 14 of the Financial Statements.

ABORIGINAL LAND INCOME DISTRIBUTION

For many years the NLC has maintained a Royalty Trust Account, which receives mining royalty equivalents under section 64(3) of the Land Rights Act, but also increasing lease, contract and other kinds of Aboriginal land income. In 2021-22, that other income was around three times the amount of mining royalty equivalents. To respond to this, in December 2021 the NLC established a dedicated 15-person Benefits Distribution Unit (BDU) within the Corporate Services department.

Taking instructions and the distribution of royalties and other income is an intensive process. The BDU is assuming primary responsibility for consulting Traditional Owners about routine distributions in place of anthropologists and regional office staff.

The NLC continues, usually under longstanding arrangements, to pay mining royalty equivalents to royalty-receiving associations under section 35(2).

Focusing on the non-royalty types of income which must be distributed under section 35(3) and (4) of the Land Rights Act, the BDU is developing new ways to ascertain the interests of Traditional Owners. These include annual money meetings with a Traditional Owner group regarding that groups' accumulated funds, but also regarding all its expected future annual income. The BDU seeks a groups' approval of a forward annual budget encompassing all expected sources of income. This will reduce the need for future ad hoc meetings and empowers the group to plan for its future more effectively.

OUTCOME

Under the Land Rights Act, income of \$58,299,517 was generated from Aboriginal land during 2022-23. A total of 7,504 payments were made during the course of the financial year, totalling \$52,410,503. Most lease, contract and other non-royalty equivalent income is received pursuant to section 15, 16 and 19 of the Land Rights Act. Distribution of these kinds of income had increased by 20% in 2021-22 on the previous year, and this increase was maintained during 2022-23 with \$35,368,745 distributed.

ADMINISTERING ABORIGINAL LAND TRUST

Aboriginal land is owned and controlled by the Traditional Owners who hold it under inalienable freehold title. This communal form of title is vested with Aboriginal land trusts created under the Land Rights Act.

Land trusts in the NLC region can only act at the direction of the NLC, their trustee. They cannot act independently and therefore do not have any functions or powers to hold meetings or conduct any other type of business.

When someone wants to use Aboriginal land for an activity such as a shop, mining or tourism, the NLC has a legal responsibility to:

- consult with and have regard to the interests of Traditional Owners;
- ensure that Traditional Owners understand any proposal;
- ensure any affected Aboriginal community has expressed its views;

- comply with traditional decision-making processes; and
- not give a direction to the relevant land trust without the consent of Traditional Owners.

Members of a land trust are Aboriginal people living in the NLC's region appointed by the Commonwealth Minister for Indigenous Australians upon nomination by the NLC. They hold office for up to five years and are eligible for re-appointment. Land trust members sign land use agreements that their land trust has been directed to execute by the NLC.

The NLC is responsible for the administration of land trusts, including storing their deeds of grant and common seals, maintaining land trust membership, administering and negotiating agreements on their behalf, and receiving and distributing monies such as rent and statutory royalties.

JUDICIAL DECISIONS AND REVIEWS BY OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no significant judicial decisions during the reporting period.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND ETHICS

In accordance with section 16 of the PGPA Act, the NLC is committed to having robust risk management practices in place to enable risks to be proactively managed in order to optimise success of, and minimise threats to, meeting its strategic goals.

The Governance, Compliance and Risk unit was established to strengthen and embed risk management practices, and minimise risks and their impacts on the organisation's strategic objectives.

The NLC Audit Committee oversees internal and external audit functions, and the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) and BDO Australia in Darwin have a standing invitation to attend all meetings. Each year the Audit Committee reports to the Accountable Authority on the appropriateness of the NLC's systems of controls.

The Audit Committee's role and objectives are outlined in the Committee Charter. In addition to overseeing internal and external audit functions, the Audit Committee also serves as an advisory body on operational and financial management controls and reporting obligations. It also provides independent and objective assurance that the NLC's systems, processes, and risk management strategies are effective and adhere to acceptable standards and legal requirements.

The Chief Financial Officer attends Audit Committee meetings but is not a member of the committee.

The NLC's Code of Conduct policy and Council Members' Handbook outlines ethical behaviour standards at personal and professional levels expected within the workplace.

Each staff member is made aware of and has access to the Code of Conduct on commencement via the intranet and during reviews. Similarly, Council members receive an induction and copy of the Council Members' Handbook, as well as a clear understanding of appropriate and acceptable behaviour.

COMMITTEES

NLC AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Northern Land Council established an Audit Committee (the Committee), in compliance with section 45 of the PGPA Act and under the PGPA Rule (section 17[L]) the Accountable Authority of the NLC has determined the charter of the Audit Committee.

The Committee provides independent advice and assistance to the Council.

The Audit Committee Charter sets out the Committee’s role, authority, responsibilities, composition and tenure, reporting and administrative arrangements.

The Charter can be found on the NLC website at <https://www.nlc.org.au/media-publications/audit-committee-charter>. Details of the Committee membership are at table below.

TABLE 13: AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MEMBER NAME	QUALIFICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE (INCLUDE FORMAL AND INFORMAL AS RELEVANT)	NUMBER OF MEETINGS ATTENDED / TOTAL NUMBER OF MEETINGS	TOTAL ANNUAL REMUNERATION (GST INC.)	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Aswin Kumar (Chair)	CA, CIA, CISA	3 / 3	\$2,362.00	
Bala Donepudi	CPA	2 / 3	\$1,040.00	
Richard Dixon*	Council member	0 / 3	\$0.00	*Resigned on 05 September 2022
Clarissa Phillips	Lawyer	1 / 3	\$520.00	

OTHER COMMITTEE

The Full Council of the Northern Land Council makes appointments to the boards of the below entities as at the last council election, held in December 2022 (they are not committees of the NLC):

NORTHERN TERRITORY ABORIGINAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION (2 POSITIONS)

TABLE 14: NORTHERN TERRITORY ABORIGINAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION

MEMBER NAME	REGION	MEMBERSHIP STATUS
Joy Cardona	Darwin/Daly/Wagait	December 2022 – Current
Graham Kenyon	Darwin/Daly/Wagait	December 2022 – Current

NORTHERN TERRITORY ABORIGINAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION GRANTS COMMITTEE (2 POSITIONS)

TABLE 15: NORTHERN TERRITORY ABORIGINAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION GRANTS COMMITTEE

MEMBER NAME	REGION	MEMBERSHIP STATUS
Wayne Wauchope	West Arnhem	December 2022 – Current
Bobby Nunggumajbarr	South East Arnhem	December 2022 – Current

ABORIGINAL SEA COMPANY (3 POSITIONS)

TABLE 16: ABORIGINAL SEA COMPANY

MEMBER NAME	REGION	MEMBERSHIP STATUS
Calvin Deveraux	Darwin/Daly/Wagait	Current
Julius (Clint) Kernan	West Arnhem	Current
Djawa Yunupingu	East Arnhem	Current

WORK HEALTH SAFETY (WHS) COMMITTEE AND HEALTH AND SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES (HSR)

The WHS Committee met four times during the reporting period. The committee's focus is to improve safety standards, ensure proper consultation with workers and monitor compliance with WHS legislation.

Key outcomes as a result of WHS Committee input over the period were:

- NLC revised risk assessment form, mitigation and reporting processes;
- NLC reviewed and consolidated all NLC COVID-19 information;
- NLC in consultation process to increase number of HSRs.

The NLC currently has three nominated HSRs. These representatives contribute to the WHS Committee. One member represents rangers from the Caring for Country branch and two members represent the Darwin office workers.

NEW INITIATIVES

1. Mental health continues to be an important focus for the NLC, and the Council embarked on a mission to provide face-to-face Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid (AMHFA) across the workforce for staff willing to take the opportunity to be more aware and informed. This first aid training course is designed to empower and educate our staff to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults who are developing a mental health problem, experiencing worsening of an existing mental health problem or are in a mental health crisis until appropriate professional treatment is received or the crisis resolves. The AMHFA

is an evidence-based training program conducted by accredited mental health first aid instructors. Regions where the program was delivered this reporting year included Jabiru, Katherine, Ngukurr, Numbulwar, Borroloola, Timber Creek and Nhulunbuy.

The Learning and Development team have also contributed to raising awareness on mental health in the workplace and have made various online mental health-related training modules available, such as 'Approaching an Employee You're Concerned About' and 'Managing Mental Health Risks at Work'.

2. An increased focus on workplace ergonomics was actioned with a transition from stationary office desks to electric height-adjustable desks. This transition allows the workplace to support staff to work in a manner which provides for flexibility, and supports physical safety and optimal options for posture and movement to individuals so they may work in a manner that is comfortable for them.
3. With the support of the Learning and Development team, the committee reviewed and improved the content and the culture around safety due to new WHS induction and onboarding processes. New staff now have access to a broader range of support to understand their obligations under WHS legislation and be clear about NLC safety culture and associated protocols.

ONGOING WHS ACTIVITIES

As we adjust to our new normal post COVID-19, the NLC continues to monitor the situation and remain vigilant. Development, review and updating of WHS policies, procedures and safe work practice are continuing across the organisation. The NLC WHS team maintains close links with the Regulator and other WHS organisations to benchmark the best practice. Comcare inspectors visited the Katherine regional offices in November 2022 to look at NLC work practices and general safety. They were satisfied with compliance and made a few minor recommendations.

The NLC also continues to provide employees with flu vaccinations, the Employee Assistance Program, WHS-related training programs and injury early intervention schemes.

OUTCOMES

The NLC continued to experience low injury rates and minimal workdays lost because of workplace injuries.

- Reported injuries resulting in lost workdays: 3
- Total lost workdays across NLC: 5
- Reported injuries without lost work days: 10

NOTICES UNDER PART 10 OF THE WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT 2011

There were no investigations conducted or notices for non-compliance issued by the Regulator.

NOTIFIABLE INCIDENTS

There were three incidents reported as notifiable incidents during the reporting period, none of which resulted in any significant injury. Comcare investigated two of the incident reports. The NLC was not found to be at fault in either incident.

TRENDS

Minor vehicle related incidents are the predominant type of workplace incident reported.

ENVIRONMENT REPORTING

Section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) requires Commonwealth entities to report on environmental matters. The principles of ecologically sustainable development are considered in the objectives of the NLC's corporate and strategic plans and are addressed throughout consultations and negotiations of land use proposals. In particular, the economic, environmental, cultural and political impacts are considered during all decision-making processes. This includes the precautionary principle and monitoring and compliance of environmental impacts on natural and cultural resources of exploration and mining. The table below illustrates the NLC's performance against Commonwealth environmental measures.

TABLE 17: NLC'S PERFORMANCE AGAINST COMMONWEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES

THEME	INDICATORS	MEASURES	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
ENERGY EFFICIENCY	Electricity purchased	\$	220,234	286,591	266,868
	Electricity consumed	kWh	705,101	1,678,268	1,292,966
	Other fuels purchased / consumed	L	677,322	256,261	475,566
	Fuels purchased	\$	953,466	713,031	1,052,137
	Air travel distances	km	856,015	1,078,008	1,904,045
GREENHOUSE EMISSION	Air travel (CO2)	tonnes	231	270	per sheet
	Electricity (CO2)	tonnes	395	2047	per sheet
	Other fuels (CO2)	tonnes	1788	677	per sheet
ENERGY USE PER EMPLOYEE	Electricity used	kWh	2117	4879	3,883
	Other fuels	L	2034	745	1,428
WASTE	Amount going to landfills	cubic metres	194.4	287.36	326.96
	Amount going to recycling facilities	cubic metres	48.72	38.16	67.44
	Amount of waste per employee	cubic metres	1.03	0.95	1.18
WATER	Water consumption	kL	11,678	15,051	17,206
	Relative water consumption - water use	kL p/e	35	44	52

APS NET ZERO EMISSIONS REPORTING

In addition to the EPBC reporting, the NLC is required to publicly report on the emissions from operations within the organisation in line with the government’s APS Net Zero 2023 policy.

TABLE 18: NLC'S PERFORMANCE AGAINST COMMONWEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES

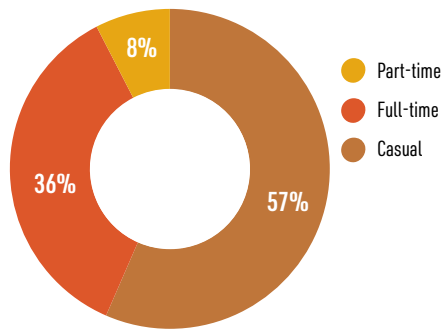
EMISSION SOURCE	SCOPE 1 KG CO2-E	SCOPE 2 KG CO2-E	SCOPE 3 KG CO2-E	TOTAL KG CO2-E
Electricity (Location Based Approach)	N/A	698,207	90,510	788,717
Natural Gas	-	N/A	-	-
Fleet Vehicles	1,280,856	N/A	315,261	1,596,116
Domestic Flights	N/A	N/A	18,525	18,525
Other Energy	-	N/A	-	-
Total kg CO2-e	1,280,856	698,207	424,296	2,403,358

ABOUT OUR WORKFORCE

NLC EMPLOYEES STATISTICS 2022-23

The NLC has remained relatively stable during the 2022-23 year with the permanent workforce decreasing slight by approximately 4% from 347 to 333 full-time or part-time employees. The NLC continues to engage a significant number of casual employees to support seasonal workloads in the Dry Season.

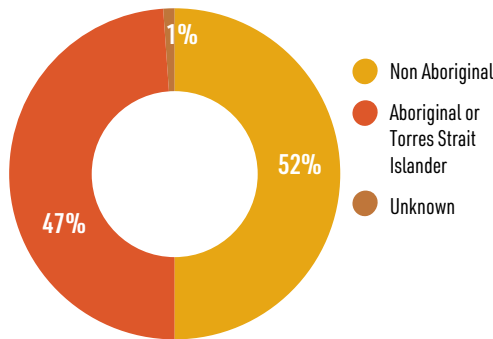
FIGURE 6: EMPLOYEE STATUS (HEADCOUNT) 2022-2023



WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

Approximately 47% of the NLC Workforce identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

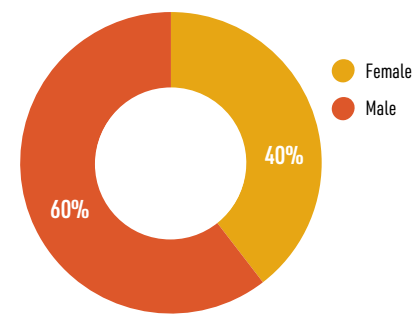
FIGURE 7: ABORIGINAL EMPLOYEES 2022-23



GENDER

The NLC has reasonable gender parity across the organisation. There was a slight reduction in female representation.

FIGURE 8: NLC EMPLOYEES - GENDER DIVERSITY 2022-23



WORKFORCE COMPOSITION BY LOCATION

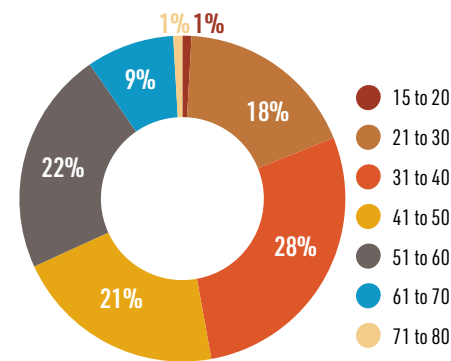
TABLE 19: NLC WORKFORCE COMPOSITION BY LOCATION 2022-23

LOCATION	NO OF FT/PT EMPLOYEES
Belyuen	8
Borroloola	14
Bulgul	8
Croker Island	7
Daly River	7
Darwin	221
Elliott	1
Goulburn Island	7
Jabiru	7
Katherine	18
Kununurra	1
Maningrida	1
Ngukurr	6
Nhulunbuy	7
Numbulwar	5
Pine Creek	5
Tennant Creek	3
Timber Creek	3
Winnellie	4
TOTAL	333

GENERATIONAL DIVERSITY

The NLC has an appropriate balance of age diversity.

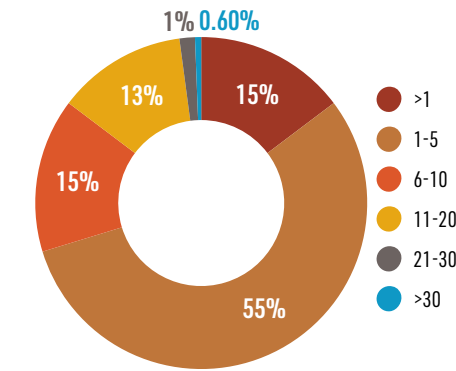
FIGURE 9: NLC EMPLOYEES - AGE OF WORKFORCE 2022-23



EMPLOYEE LENGTH OF SERVICE

The NLC continues to have a significant group of long-serving employees, with 15% of the NLC workforce having six or more years of service.

FIGURE 10: NLC EMPLOYEE LENGTH OF SERVICE - 2022-23



REMUNERATION

The NLC remunerates employees either in accordance with the Northern Land Council Enterprise Agreement 2018 (the Agreement) or via negotiated common law contracts. Common law contracts are set in consultation with the Remuneration Committee to ensure fairness and parity.

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

The committee is responsible for ensuring pay rates and allowances paid under the prevailing Enterprise Agreement are correct and meet pay rate minimums as set in the Australian Government Industry Award 2016. The committee is also responsible for assessing and making recommendations on Common Law Contract remuneration packages which are fair and competitive within the market and other relativities.

INFORMATION ABOUT REMUNERATION FOR KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Except for the CEO, whose remuneration is covered in the below noted information, the positions of the NLC Chair and Executive Council members are all remunerated in accordance with the Remuneration Tribunal – full-time office holder and part-time office holder (determinations). Information about determinations of the Remuneration Tribunal is available at www.remtribunal.gov.au.

During the reporting period ended 30 June 2023, the Northern Land Council had 21 executives who met the definition of key management personnel.

TABLE 20: REMUNERATION FOR KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL 2022-23

NAME	POSITION TITLE	SHORT-TERM BENEFITS			POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	OTHER LONG-TERM BENEFITS		TERMINATION BENEFITS	TOTAL REMUNERATION
		BASE SALARY	BONUSES	OTHER BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES	SUPERANNUATION CONTRIBUTIONS	LONG SERVICE LEAVE	OTHER LONG-TERM BENEFITS		
Joe Martin-Jard	Chief Executive Officer - NLC	376,394	0	29,330	46,414	8,473	0	0	460,611
Samuel Bush Blanasi	Chairperson	177,745	0	61,522	17,452	0	0	0	256,719
Peter Lansen	Executive Member	6,736	0	0	754	0	0	0	7,490
Grace (Riley) Daniels	Executive Member	8,580	0	0	1,158	0	0	0	9,738
Helen Lee	Executive Member	11,887	0	0	1,435	0	0	0	13,322
Matthew Nagarlbin Cooper	Executive Member	8,580	0	0	1,158	0	0	0	9,738
Matthew Ryan	Executive Member	7,207	0	0	804	0	0	0	8,011
Djawa Yunupingu	Executive Member	9,633	0	0	1,230	0	0	0	10,863
Virginia Nundhirribala	Executive Member	7,678	0	0	853	0	0	0	8,531
Richard Dixon (Deputy Chair)	Executive Member	10,140	0	0	1,369	0	0	0	11,509
Raymond Hector	Executive Member	7,207	0	0	804	0	0	0	8,011
Julius Kernan	Executive Member	11,094	0	0	1,399	0	0	0	12,493
Calvin Deveraux (Deputy Chair)	Executive Member	13,434	0	0	1,715	0	0	0	15,149

Yananymul Mununggurr	Executive Member	11,318	0	0	1,344	0	0	0	12,662
Christopher Neade	Executive Member	17,025	0	0	2,185	0	0	0	19,210
Clifford Duncan	Executive Member	8,320	0	0	1,123	0	0	0	9,443
Joy Priest	Executive Member	7,628	0	0	832	0	0	0	8,460
Brian Pedwell	Executive Member	11,440	0	0	1,544	0	0	0	12,984
Lorraine Jones	Executive Member	7,678	0	0	853	0	0	0	8,531
William (Bill) Danks	Executive Member	15,787	0	0	1,962	0	0	0	17,749
Deborah Jones	Executive Member	7,020	0	0	948	0	0	0	7,968
Totals		742,531	0	90,852	87,336	8,473	0	0	929,192

Footnotes:

1. Base Salary is total salary paid and includes AL paid plus AL movement.
2. Other Benefits and Allowances includes MV Benefit & FBT Tax paid.
3. Superannuation contributions is actual super paid.
4. Any AL and LSL paid on Termination is not included as per PGPA Rule.
5. Totals are calculated using non-rounded actuals.

INFORMATION ABOUT REMUNERATION FOR OTHER HIGHLY PAID STAFF

The Northern Land Council has no other highly paid staff to report in accordance with the PGPA Rule.

INFORMATION ABOUT REMUNERATION FOR SENIOR EXECUTIVE

The majority of the NLC workforce is engaged under the NLC Enterprise Agreement 2018 with the remaining staff engaged under negotiated common law contracts.

TABLE 21: REMUNERATION FOR SENIOR EXECUTIVE 2022-23

TOTAL REMUNERATION BAND	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	7	105,676	0	6,928	15,984	2,659	0	21,203	152,450
\$220,001 - \$245,000	1	199,242	0	0	27,400	5,119	0	0	231,761
\$245,001 - \$270,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$270,001 - \$295,000	2	222,205	0	21,848	32,712	5,732	0	0	282,497
\$295,001 - \$320,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$320,001 - \$345,000	1	287,761	0	13,817	35,508	5,271	0	0	342,357
\$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	1	342,405	0	29,504	41,732	7,422	0	0	421,063
\$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



NLC Annual Performance Statement 2022–23

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

We, Dr Samuel Bush-Blanasi and Joe Martin-Jard, as the Accountable Authority of the Northern Land Council (NLC), present the 2022–23 Annual Performance Statements of the Northern Land Council, as required under section 39(1)(a) of the PGPA Act. In our opinion, these Annual Performance Statements are based on properly maintained records, accurately reflect the performance of the entity, and comply with section 39(2) of the PGPA Act.

ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE

This section summarises the NLC's performance during the reporting period.

After two years of disruptions due to COVID-19, restrictions have eased, enabling a renewed focus on the NLC's organisational strategy.

Strategic direction

In December 2022, a new Full Council was nominated in accordance with the method of choice. The Council endorsed a new strategic plan for the NLC. With a renewed focus and commitment to implement the Activating Land and Sea Rights project, outlining the transition from an era of land claims to now supporting Traditional Owners who have achieved land rights to maximise social, cultural and economic benefits.

Supporting the Uluru Statement

The four NT land councils gathered in August 2022 and delivered a unified statement supporting the implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full, including support for changing the Australian Constitution to enshrine a Voice to Parliament. In June 2023, the Northern, Central, Tiwi and Anindilyakwa land councils gathered in Barunga and presented the 2023 Barunga Voice Declaration to the Minister for Indigenous Australians, Hon Linda Burney. In the same month, representatives from each NT land council delivered the Barunga Voice Declaration directly to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. The Barunga Voice Declaration invites all Australians to 'right the wrongs of the past and deal with the serious issues impacting First Nations peoples ... and unite our country'.

Consultation, agreement and permit statistics

The NLC held 385 community consultations involving more than 8,000 Traditional Owners and affected people at 112 locations, a significant increase from the previous period due to easing of COVID restrictions.

As at 30 June 2023, the NLC has 946 active section 19 land use agreements. There are 240 (25%) section 19 land use agreements with 87 unique Aboriginal proponents. There were 60 agreements approved during the reporting period.

The NLC received 295 new section 19 land use proposals from 141 proponents, with 13% being Aboriginal. At the end of June 2023, there were 824 section 19 land use proposals being progressed, of which 27% were from an Aboriginal proponent.

The NLC issued over 13 900 permits during 2022-23, with 70% of permits processed within 10 business days.

Regionalisation

In October 2022 the NLC officially opened the new Kulumindini (Elliott Office). In late March 2023, the Minister for Indigenous Australians approved funds to build a fit-for-purpose facility in Nhulunbuy, due to be completed by 2025. The NLC's Regionalisation Strategy continues progressing with the successful tenderer for the project management and design of the new Katherine purpose-built facility commencing in April 2023.

Other program highlights

The NLC continues to pursue resolution to the remaining land claims. As at 30 June there are 10 land claims before the Aboriginal Land Commissioner.

The Learning on Country program celebrated its 10th anniversary at an event in Nitmiluk National Park in August 2022 with over 250 attendees. The program also secured NIAA funding and approved 17 individual contracts with communities to facilitate and deliver the LoC program for the next six years.

The NLC Ranger Program has steadily progressed implementing the Project Environmental and Cultural Information Management System (PECIMS), a system that integrates hardware and software solutions. Three ranger teams have operationalised Healthy Country Plans and lead the effort to implement the PECIMS. Their progress is an exciting step towards linking inputs and outputs to show the benefits and inputs of our ranger teams.

The Assessment of Performance Section explains in detail the NLC's performance against the performance measures set out in the NLC Corporate Plan 2022-23.



Dr Samuel Bush-Blansi
CHAIR



Joe Martin-Jard
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE

The NLC Corporate Plan 2022–23 outlined priorities and measures of success for the 2022–23 financial year. This section assesses the NLC's performance in achieving its objectives throughout the reporting period.

NLC ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT 2022–23

GOAL ONE: ADVOCATE: BE A VOICE FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

OBJECTIVE	MEASURE / TARGET		OUTCOMES	CP REF PP
1.1 Facilitate and enable full participation by council members	a. Measure: 100% Council Agenda papers distributed on schedule. b. Complete: Review of standing agenda items. c. Count: Council meetings held per year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two (2) Full Council meetings Six (6) Executive Council meetings 13 regional council meetings d. Complete: Publish updated Council Members' Handbook. e. Measure: 100% of Council members received induction and governance training.		a. 100% of the council agenda papers were distributed before Full Council, Executive Council and regional council meetings. b. Review of standing agenda items was reviewed in consultation with the Executive Council members and senior managers and completed in July 2023. c. There were two Full Council meetings, six Executive Council meetings and 15 regional council meetings during the reporting period. d. As of 30 June 2023, the updated Council Members' Handbook is still in draft. Following consultations with the executive and regional councils, a summary of the feedback will be presented to the Full Council for consideration by December 2023. e. All members who attended the first meeting of the new Full Council in December 2022 received governance and induction training. During the reporting period, 100% of all members received governance and induction training at seven regional, two executive and one Full Council meeting.	
1.2 Engage with governments, proponents and relevant stakeholders to promote Traditional Owner aspirations for activities on their lands and proposed land use proposals or programs	a. Count: Total land use requests received. b. Count: Total consultations associated with land use requests (as defined above). c. Count: Total number of estate groups supported to undertake and direct comprehensive land use planning. d. Count: Total Traditional Owners and affected people consulted by the NLC. e. Count: Group Estates consulted at meetings. f. Economic value: Estimated benefits generated for Traditional Owners through new land use agreements.		a. Over the 2022–23 financial year, the NLC received 295 new section 19 land use proposals from 141 proponents, with 13% being Aboriginal. b. Overall, 385 community consultations involving 8,212 Traditional Owners and affected Aboriginal people from 792 clan groups at 112 different locations. There were 72 community consultations specific to section 19 land use agreements. c. The Land and Sea Management department has received funding from NIAA to design and implement a project environmental and cultural information management system (PECIMS). This monitoring and evaluation framework will streamline land use planning approaches using Indigenous ranger groups and Indigenous Protected Areas as pilot sites. d. During the reporting period, 8,212 Traditional Owners and affected Aboriginal peoples participated in NLC consultations. e. An overall of 792 estate groups participated during the reporting period. f. This year, the NLC received \$58,299,517 in royalties from activities on Aboriginal land to disburse to Traditional Owners. The total economic benefits from activities on Aboriginal Land are far more than just financial. The NLC has created an Economic Development Unit to understand better the actual economic, social and cultural benefits of activities undertaken on Aboriginal Land.	

1.3 Raise awareness of the interests of Aboriginal people through effective communications

- a. Measure: Quarterly publication of Land Rights News.
- b. Measure: Quarterly readership of Land Rights News.
- c. Measure: Weekly publish
 - > Five (5) social media and
 - > Five (5) promotional pieces
- d. Measure: number of NLC supported events held in each region
- e. Measure: negotiations turned into government / private sector interests

- a. During the reporting period, three editions of Land Rights News were published.
- b. 1,372 subscribers receive an electronic copy of the Land Rights News.
- c. The NLC published 370 social media and promotional items during the period. The Learning on Country (LoC) Program also manages additional social media accounts to share updates about the program. The LoC Program Facebook page regularly updates LoC activities, news and updates. The Page has more than 1500 followers with a growing audience. During 2022-23, the LoC program completed the filming of promotional videos and is due to commence post-production work. Discussions between the NLC LoC program and SBS/NITV are underway, with a potential addition of two new videos.
- d. The NLC supports several public events across the NLC region. This year, the NLC attended and supported 24 community events.
 - Katherine: 7
 - VRD: 2
 - DDW: 6
 - West Arnhem: 2
 - East Arnhem: 3
 - South East Arnhem: 1
 - Borroloola/Barkly: 3
- e. The NLC regularly engages with external stakeholders on behalf of constituents to influence public policy.

1.4 Advocate for legislative and policy reform pathways to ensure improved outcomes and equity for NLC constituents

- a. Measure: Report to Full Council the statistics on leading public health concerns and policy issues that affect Aboriginal people in the NLC regions
- b. Count: Number of policy reform engagements attended by NLC
- c. Count: Number of formal policy submissions by the NLC

- a. The Full Council received reports on the key policy issues that affect Aboriginal peoples in the NLC region. During the 2022-23 reporting period, the reports addressed the Voice to Parliament, water policy, the Sacred Sites Act review, and an overview of all other submissions submitted by the NLC.
- b. The NLC attended more than 52 policy reform engagements.
- c. The NLC made over 16 formal policy submissions through commonwealth and NT government processes.

1.5 Monitor progress and support implementation of:

- Treaty model
- First Nations Voice and
- Makarrata Commission

- a. Measure: Report to each Full Council on the status of
 - referendum question and responses
 - Voice to Parliament and
 - the Makarrata Commission

- a. In June 2023, the Full Council received a report on the Voice to Parliament. The report included information on the upcoming referendum question and process. Work by the Commonwealth Government on the Makarrata Commission has yet to progress. In line with government time frames, the Full Council will receive regular updates on the progress and any subsequent outcomes.

GOAL TWO: OPPORTUNITY AND EMPOWER: CREATE REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

2.1 Support Aboriginal groups to identify their own goals and advocacy needs to strengthen their project, financial and economic management skills

- a. Measure: > 100 Aboriginal people developing in strategic planning, project management and engaging with on country programs
- b. Count: Number of Aboriginal groups assisted to apply for grant applications per region
- c. Economic value: Total investment in community development programs made by Traditional Owners
- d. Count: Number of executed land use agreements to Aboriginal proponents
- e. Percentage: Land use agreements executed to Aboriginal Enterprise
- f. Economic value: Estimated benefits to be generated for Traditional Owners through these new agreements from Aboriginal proponents

- a. Across all NLC regions, more than 461 Aboriginal people have been actively involved in the Community Planning and Development program, learning skills in visioning, planning, budgeting and managing projects (reporting period).
- b. Total of five groups assisted with grants: (reporting period)
 - Darwin Daly Wagait: 1
 - Katherine: 2
 - South East Arnhem: 1
 - Victoria River District: 1
- c. Aboriginal groups have invested close to \$12.5 million in community projects. These investments derive from payments from land use agreements, including township leasing, mining, agriculture, fishing, tourism and gravel extraction agreements. Many groups have committed to investing future income streams in community projects.
- d. The NLC received 37 land use expressions of interest from 22 Aboriginal proponents during the reporting period.
- e. As of 30 June 2022, there are 240 (25%) active land use agreements with Aboriginal proponents.
- f. The estimated economic benefit to Traditional Owners is reported in goal 1.2 measure (f).

2.2 Advance skills and development opportunities in a culturally safe and inclusive environment for Aboriginal people, in particular youth

- a. Measure: number of participants engaged in NLC programs related to learning on country, training and education programs
- b. Measure: >10 Aboriginal Employees complete Certificate III or higher qualifications
- c. Measure: Aboriginal employees participating in emerging leaders program
- d. Measure: % of agreements with employment clauses, % of agreements employing Aboriginal people and number of employees
- e. Measure: % of agreements with training clauses, % agreements delivering training outcomes
- f. Gap analysis of training needs for all rangers
- g. 100% ranger groups to have active annual training plans in place

- a. 399 staff engaged in formal training during the reporting period.
- b. Five Aboriginal employees completed a Certificate III.
- c. As at 30 June 2023 the nominations program for the emerging leaders program is under development.
- d. 95% of land use agreements include clauses that require the proponent to provide Aboriginal employment and training and preference Aboriginal businesses.
- e. Either: See (d) above or 95% of land use agreements include clauses that require the proponent to provide Aboriginal employment and training and preference Aboriginal businesses.
- f and g. New ranger training program has been developed following a skills gap analysis and it is now completed.

<p>2.3 Empower Traditional Owners and Aboriginal constituents to exercise informed and participatory decision making about managing Indigenous Land Use Agreements</p>	<p>a. Measure: Number of Aboriginal Groups with standing instructions held for benefit distribution per region</p> <p>b. Measure: 100% of all statutory functions performed in accordance with the principle of free, prior and informed consent</p> <p>c. Measure: 100% of negotiations for large-scale benefit agreements involve active and meaningful participation of beneficiaries in the negotiation process</p> <p>d. Measure: 100% of all contractual meeting obligations delivered on time in accordance with free, prior and informed consent and the NLC Resources and Energy Policy</p> <p>e. Measure: Number of consultations with Traditional Owners associated with current contracts</p> <p>f. Measure: Number of land use agreements that require regular meetings with Traditional Owners associated with current contracts</p>		<p>a. The NLC received 326 Aboriginal groups with standing instructions. Please refer to table in other Additional Data Tables Relevant to Performance Statements.</p> <p>b. NLC staff are required to obtain decisions from Traditional Owners that meet the standards of free, prior and informed consent. Staff receive ongoing training and instruction on how to ensure these standards are met.</p> <p>c. There are Traditional Owners negotiation teams for all large-scale land use agreements currently being negotiated in the NLC regions.</p> <p>d. The NLC conducts annual work program meetings with the Traditional Owners of mineral and energy resource projects in accordance with their contractual obligations.</p> <p>e. The total number of consultations is recorded in key activity 1.2.</p> <p>f. The NLC meets with Traditional Owners about land use agreements for several reasons including for work program meetings, compliance issues, the distribution of land use payments and requests for consent to install improvements or agreement variations. The frequency of these meetings is dependent upon the actions of agreement proponents and contractual obligations.</p>
<p>2.4 Ensure that Aboriginal culture, lore and customs are strengthened, celebrated and respected throughout the course of all NLC activitiesd respected throughout the course of all NLC activities</p>	<p>a. Number of community development projects where Aboriginal people can share and learn about their languages and culture</p> <p>b. Aboriginal peoples given access to new and/or improved infrastructure as a result of community projects supported by the community planning and development program</p> <p>c. Complete the NLC History Project</p>		<p>a. There are 8 Community development programs where Aboriginal people can share and learn language and culture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legune, Djarrany-Djarrany cultural tourism and arts project • Mambali Ngubayin (Johns) Flower fund • Mambali Ngubayin (Johns) Music equipment • Dhukurrdji Interpretive signage • Galiwin'ku Crocodile Islands Raypirri camp • Djarran Djarrany Outstation planning project • Galiwin'ku Homelands Raypirri Project • Wadeye Diminin bush camps <p>The NLC's Learning on Country program and the Caring for Country program, through its ranger and Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) programs, strengthen Aboriginal culture, lore and customs. Every ranger group and IPA program provides opportunities through culture camps and back-to-country trips for Aboriginal people to share and learn about language and culture.</p> <p>b. Three new and improved infrastructures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dhukurrdji Interpretive signage • Galiwin'ku Galiwin'ku Homelands Raypirri Project • Budal Milwarapara Ngukurr airstrip and waiting area upgrade construction <p>c. NLC history project is currently underway, intending to be completed by 2024-25.</p>

2.5 Royalties to be collected in full and on time and fulfil native title payments	<p>a. Measure: By end of financial year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">100% Land Rights Act royalty distributions made within six (6) months <p>b. Change: Increase % disbursement flow by the use of standing instruction from previous year</p> <p>c. Complete: Terms of reference that defines and explain legal obligations</p> <p>d. All groups with significant land use agreement income (>\$100,000 per annum) provided with option to participate in community development program</p> <p>e. Refine and implement the NLC Section 35(4) Payments Policy and Native Title Payments Policy.</p>		<p>a. Of all income paid during 2022–23, 77% was distributed within six months of receipt as required under the Land Rights Act.</p> <p>b. Payments made under sub-section (3) and (4) of the Land Rights Act approximately doubled during 2022–23. Significant data collection over the next reporting period will enhance the accuracy of this measure for the following annual report.</p> <p>c. Internal consultations for a revised payments policy commenced in 2022, and a completed full formal redraft in January 2024.</p> <p>d. During 2022–23, 27 groups made decisions regarding the distribution of more than \$100,000. Of the 27 groups, 23 received offers to participate in Community Planning and Development projects.</p> <p>e. Drafting has commenced and due to be completed by January 2024.</p>	
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GOAL THREE: A STRONG NLC: BE CULTURALLY RICH AND TRUSTED BY OUR COMMUNITIES BY GETTING THINGS DONE

3.1 Implement effective project management to progress the NLC Regionalisation Strategy

- a. Evaluate: Implementation of NLC Regionalisation Strategy in line with project plan
- b. Measure: % of staff based in regions
- c. Measure: % increase in staff and visiting office accommodation

a. In August 2022, the NLC opened the new Elliott Office to assist with an increasingly large workload in the local community and the Barkly region. A locally based Project Officer manages this office. Establishing the Elliott Community Office is part of the NLC's Regionalisation Strategy to strengthen its presence and services in the bush. Delays in developing the visiting office quarters in Elliott resulted from the lot needing to be deemed suitable. The NLC is exploring three alternative land parcels as potential locations.

In December 2022, the NLC relocated the office, which included rangers and logistics operations, to an office at 114 Victoria Highway in Katherine. The new office has more space for staff with a larger administrative area, shed and undercover parking facilities and an 8,000m² yard. The NLC will remain in this office until the end of 2025, at which point the office will relocate to a purpose-built facility on Chardon Street in the industrial and business area on the east side of Katherine.

The successful tenderer for the Project Management and Design consultants for the Katherine purpose-built facility commenced in late April 2023; at the end of June, we were near the 60% design review stage. A lot of work had gone into the concept design work in previous years, which greatly assisted with accelerating the project's design phase. A tender for the construction of the new office is due to be released in late 2023 to complete construction and occupy by December 2024.

In late March 2023, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs approved funds to develop a purpose-built facility in Nhulunbuy. Early discussions have taken place with local Aboriginal corporations and mining company Rio Tinto about the proposed development for the township. The planning stage will commence in the first six months of the next financial year. A new NLC office with more staff is timely as the Nhulunbuy and the East Arnhem region look to strengthen support with developing a post-mining economy with the proposed mine closure around 2030. The three-year funding submission for 2023–24 through 2025–26 placed funding bids across three years to address the following in priority order: 1. Staff Housing - Borroloola, Tennant Creek, and Timber Creek to address immediate staff housing needs. 2. Office and Staff Accommodation at Wadeye and Maningrida. 3. Staff Accommodation at Waruwu, Ngukurr, Numbulwar and office and staff accommodation at Galiwinku. The NLC is waiting on the outcome of those submissions.

b. 333 employees are working for the NLC, and the percentage of employees based in Darwin is 70% compared to 30% in regions outside Darwin.

c. There are two visiting accommodation quarters: Jabiru and Nhulunbuy. From September 2023, the Jabiru accommodation will close, leaving only one in Nhulunbuy.

<p>3.2 Provide responsive customer service to NLC constituents and the general public across the NLC regions</p>	<p>a. Staff are appropriately inducted within three (3) months and staff development continues with ongoing training and learning opportunities</p> <p>b. Change: reduce customer service complaints received</p> <p>c. Quarterly external complaints issues tabled with CEO, managers and Executive Council</p> <p>d. Complete: Develop council member customer service survey and complete annually</p> <p>e. Evaluate: Support and maintain NLC websites including the NLC Permit system</p>		<p>a. Staff inductions are scheduled and delivered once a month. Managers must review and complete their PEP with their staff, which will provide training or enhancement opportunities for staff.</p> <p>b. The external complaints policy was approved in March 2023. The NLC is enhancing its complaints procedures and reporting requirements to align with the Commonwealth Ombudsman Better Practice Complaint Handling Guide.</p> <p>c. Complaints reporting is regularly provided to management and council. The NLC is improving reporting practices to align with the Commonwealth Ombudsman's Better Practice Complaint Handling Guide.</p> <p>d. Council members regularly provide feedback on issues and community expectations, mostly during council meetings. Action steps are developed and implemented by senior managers to improve community performance.</p> <p>e. The NLC website and permit system were operational and maintained a consistent uptime of 100% during the reporting period.</p>
<p>3.3 Embed good governance practices through policy, monitoring, reporting, and sound contract and compliance management</p>	<p>a. Measure: 100% of NLC corporate policies current</p> <p>b. Percentage: Contracts with unresolved aged debts</p> <p>c. Percentage: Contracts with resolved aged debts within financial year</p> <p>d. Measure: 100% PGPA compliance requirements</p> <p>e. Count: Completed internal audits</p> <p>f. Measure: % of progressed agreed audit recommendations</p> <p>g. Complete: Digitisation of contract obligations into the LUMAR system and contract compliance reporting dashboard</p>		<p>a. NLC Corporate Policies are reviewed bi-annually to ensure compliance and currency. As of 30 June 2023, 38% of corporate policies are under review.</p> <p>b. As of 30 June 2023, there are 13.46% of agreements with unresolved bad debts which the NLC is managing.</p> <p>c. The NLC seeks to resolve bad debts under its Debt Management Policy.</p> <p>d. During the year, the NLC met key compliance deadlines, including on-time submission of the corporate plan and annual report. The NLC implements a system of internal controls to ensure compliance with the PGPA. The Australian National Audit Office is conducting a performance audit to assess the effectiveness of NLC Governance arrangements under the Land Rights Act, <i>Native Title Act</i> and the PGPA. The report was published and tabled in August 2023.</p> <p>e. The NLC completed two internal audit projects within the reporting period. The NLC prioritised full cooperation with the performance audit conducted by the Australian National Audit Office during the period.</p> <p>f. The NLC Implementation of any recommendations identified in the ANAO performance audit will be tracked and regularly reported to the Audit Committee and Council.</p> <p>g. Improving contract management and digitisation is important for activating land and sea rights. The NLC ICT Strategic Roadmap prioritises integrating the CRM with our financial system, contract management system and legal contract database. The integration aims to prevent duplication of contracts across multiple systems.</p>

3.4 Create an employee experience, cultural competency framework and 'walking in two worlds' training, that is culturally safe and inclusive for all workers

- a. Complete: Roll out of HR21 system to all employees
- b. Complete: Employee engagement survey
- c. Complete: Recruitment personal portal training
- d. Measure: 50% of position descriptions reviewed
- e. Complete: Centralise organisational learning and development model
- f. Complete: 100% Performance Enhancement Program (PEP) submitted on time
- g. Complete: Systemised training plans
- h. Complete: Develop programs to support staff to walk in two worlds

- a. Due to significant delays, NLC's Human Resource system, HR21, is yet to be rolled out to all employees.
- b. Employee engagement survey is delayed due to structural changes and is yet to be completed.
- c. On demand, ongoing training is provided so new managers and supervisors fully comprehend the procedures and have the skills to use the recruitment portal.
- d. Most position descriptions have been evaluated to create a baseline for consistency throughout the organisation as part of ongoing improvements to People and Culture processes. Depending on each business unit and the role it has to play, a portion of this activity will also demand alteration. The job description is, therefore, evaluated concurrently with any recruitment efforts.
- e. The NLC has developed a centralised learning and development training model within the Dhukarr portal. Staff members can now readily access various online training and planning, requests, logistics, delivery and record-keeping for all training.
- f. The NLC developed and implemented procedures to help all staff complete their Performance Enhancement Program. The Performance Enhancement Program is conducted annually as part of the employee evaluation process and an opportunity for professional development.
- g. The NLC completed all scheduled systemised training plans during the reporting period.
- h. The NLC developed and implemented an in-depth training portal, Dhukarr Marngidhinyamirri Learning Path, to provide staff with a roadmap for skill development and performance improvement. The portal also includes cross-cultural communication training delivered four times a year to support staff members stepping into two different worlds.

3.5 Deliver efficient and well supported corporate services systems

- a. Measure: 100% grant acquittals submitted on time
- b. Measure: 100% FBT & GST returns lodged with ATO on time
- c. Measure: Quarterly financial reports presented to Council members and CEO
- d. Evaluate: Satisfaction with IT helpdesk services provided
- e. Count: Hours and time to resolve IT system downtime across each office location
- f. Evaluate: Deliver the Land Use Management and Royalties project in accordance with the project plan and deliverables

- a. 95% of grant acquittals submitted on time.
- b. 83% FBT and GST returns lodged before due dates.
- c. 100% quarterly financial reports presented to Council.
- d. 7,155 requests were received during the reporting period, with 429 satisfaction surveys received; 93% responded with good ratings.
- e. No instances of ICT system-related downtime have been experienced across our offices. However, unrecorded downtime cases have occurred due to power outages.
- f. In collaboration with Ernst and Young, the NLC undertook an ICT assessment between August and December 2022. Following the review's findings suggested exploring the feasibility of utilising Sage CRM. Subsequently, in 2023, a testing environment was effectively established, encompassing the essential functionalities outlined in the LUMAR project requirements. Progress to date is in line with the ICT roadmap.

3.6 Management and application of funeral and ceremonial fund

- a. Count: Funeral and ceremony applications approved
- b. Percentage: Funeral applications processed within five (5) working days

- a. The NLC provides financial assistance to Aboriginal families from the NLC region to help with funeral costs for the passing of a loved one and to continue ceremonies on country. Payments are made directly to suppliers. During the 2022–23 reporting period, the programme assisted 316 Aboriginal families in burying a loved one and also helped with the cost of holding 36 Aboriginal ceremonies.
 - b. The number of funerals that NLC supported increased significantly from the previous year, with overall numbers rising by 19% more than last year's total of 266. Within five days of receipt, 81% of applications are processed and funds are released.
- Delays in processing the applications are due to the following reasons:
- Applicants fail to provide all required information to complete an assessment
 - Administrative delays
 - Family disputes.
- As a result of the increased support to hold more funerals and ceremonies, the expenditure across this programme was above \$980,000.
- The performance statements include statistical data in data tables.

GOAL FOUR: PROACTIVELY MANAGE COUNTRY: ACQUIRE, MANAGE AND PROTECT TRADITIONAL LANDS AND WATERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

4.1 Provide coordination and support in partnership with the Northern Territory Government and Kakadu Joint Management Parks

- a. Count: Number of committee meetings participated in
b. Complete: Development of the joint fire carbon project by December 22

a. The NLC participated in nine Joint Management Committee meetings over the reporting period. The NLC facilitates a Traditional Owner day before the formal Park meeting to support Traditional Owner committee members in preparing for and participating in the Parks meetings. NLC enabled four of these meetings held on-country and provided meeting summaries to members afterwards.

The NLC also coordinated more than 10 consultations with Traditional Owners for specific matters relating to park management, such as permits, commercial ventures, mustering agreements, Aboriginal carbon projects and negotiations about future joint management arrangements. Staff ensure appropriate legal, anthropological, pastoral and land management advice is available to inform Traditional Owners in decision-making.

The NLC work closely with Parks and Wildlife staff to foster cooperation and transparency in joint management business to improve the quality of relationships, meetings and decision-making processes.

The NLC also organised training for joint management partners – including cultural training for Parks staff and panel selection training for Traditional Owners. The panel selection training enables Traditional Owners to participate in recruitment and have a say about who is working on country.

The NLC coordinated a joint management forum bringing together more than 70 joint management partners (Traditional Owners and Parks staff) to reflect on the current state of joint management and discuss the NT Parks Masterplan.

The NLC provided two submissions to the 2023–53 NT Parks Masterplan consultation (a 30-year vision for the Parks estate) based on feedback from Traditional Owners. The NLC continues to advocate for Traditional Owners to have a strong role in implementing the Parks Masterplan.

b. The NLC undertook initial activities (including a funding agreement executed and a steering committee established) to develop a joint fire carbon project, which will continue through 2023.

Carbon policy advice

- Funding agreement between project partners for Gregory National Park complete, and creation of appropriate by-law to enable the project.
- A project steering committee of Traditional Owners established in 2023.
- NLC staff work closely with project partners to deliver the project's operational and Traditional Owner governance components.
- NLC coordinated two multi-day meetings in July 2022 and one in February 2023 to improve inclusivity in planning processes and increase awareness of partners' roles and responsibilities in the carbon project on Gregory National Park.
- This project is partially completed.

4.2 Deliver an integrated Aboriginal Land Trust management system.

- a. Measure: Number of Ranger groups supported
- b. Measure: Quarterly reporting to Council on the status of Aboriginal land trusts integrated land and sea management system:
- Regional Permit statistics
 - Compliance
 - Financial revenue
 - Number of benefits fulfilled
 - Percentage of detriments recorded
 - Percentage of integrated land and sea use plans
- c. Count: number of permits issued per region
- d. Percentage: % of contracts that engage cultural managers
- e. Count: Aboriginal Benefits Account (ABA) or Indigenous Ranger Programs (IRP) Resource and Energy (R&E) submission prepared and submitted on time

- a. The Caring for Country program currently administers 13 Indigenous ranger groups (Kenbi, Malak Malak, Bulgul, Wagiman, Timber Creek, Gajerrong, Kulumindini, Mardbalk, Garngi, Yugul Mangi, Numbulwar, Waanyi Garawa, Garawa and Marthakal), 3 Indigenous Protected Areas (Wardaman IPA, SEAL IPA and the Ganalanga Mindibirina IPA) and is undertaking consultations to support the establishment of an additional Sea East Arnhem Marine Indigenous Protected Area. Advisory committees govern ranger groups and IPAs and set the direction for ranger groups and IPA annual work plans. A range of informal consultation mechanisms to ensure principles of free-prior-informed-consent take centre stage in delivering ranger and IPA-based land and sea management programs complement formal governance structures of Ranger groups and IPA.
- b. The NLC provides regular updates to regional councils, including information about activities on land trust. Updates generally include contract management or compliance issues or updates on the status of applications in a particular region.
- The NLC recently established a Permits, Applications and Compliance team (PACT) to monitor compliance and investigate complaints.
 - Detailed financial reports presented to Executive Council members, Full Council members and regional council members, including financial revenue from Aboriginal land trust.
 - 53% of Healthy Country Plans are complete, four are in process, and three are yet to start. The Northern Territory Government have caused delays to the development and implementation of Sea Country Management Plans.
- c. Please refer to additional data tables relevant to performance statements present statistical data for permits issued by type and region for 2022-23. The NLC issued 13,916 access permits in 2022-23, with 70% processed within 10 days.
- d. The NLC facilitated and assisted the engagement of Cultural Managers across 28 Resources and Energy projects. Each project employed at least two Cultural Managers at a time for periods ranging from one day to two weeks.
- e. The NLC has achieved 95% compliance regarding narrative reports submitted on time and 50% for other reports submitted on time for the Indigenous ranger program.

4.3 Secure and protect native title and land rights and provide accurate anthropological advice to the NLC

- a. Count: Determined land claims
- b. Count: Unresolved land claims
- c. Count: Determined native title claims
- d. Count: Unresolved native title claims
- e. Count: Litigations performed
- f. Count: Future acts and land use proposals responded to
- g. Measure: % of land use agreements with identified compliance issues
- h. Land interest register
- i. Median: Number of days to complete LIR requests
- j. Measure: Number of LIR's completed
- k. Measure: Number of GIS requests completed

- a. Three land claims resolved by way of settlement with the Northern Territory Government.
- b. Ten land claims progressed before the Aboriginal Land Commissioner.
- c. One native title determination application resolved by way of consent determination.
- d. 26 native title claims to land or compensation in the NLC region before the Federal Court facilitated by the NLC
- e. Seven litigation proceedings relating to the interpretation of provisions in the Land Rights Act and *Native Title Act* (in addition to the above claims measure).
- f. The number of future acts responded to included:
 - 14 objections lodged with the National Native Title Tribunal to the application of the expedited procedure to mineral exploration licences
 - 13 submissions lodged in response to land-clearing applications
 - two submissions lodged in response to water extraction licence applications
 - two submissions lodged in response to non-pastoral use applications
 - one heritage agreement.
- g. The NLC recently established the Permits, Applications and Compliance team to collect data on compliance issues.
- h. There were 415 new requests for release from the LIR during the reporting period. In total, 378 releases were made from the LIR during the reporting period. The complete release count includes releases that were received in the previous year.
- i. The median period of completion is 37 days.
- j. 378 LIRs were completed.
- k. Approximately 1500 GIS requests completed.

4.4 Deliver the Blue Mud Bay (BMB) Implementation Action Plan and support the Aboriginal Sea Company (ASC)

- a. Economic value: Benefits to be generated for Traditional Owners through these new agreements from Aboriginal proponents
- b. Count: Traditional Owners and constituents consulted
- c. Count: Clan estate groups consulted

- a. As of 30 June 2023, no new agreements with Aboriginal proponents have been executed.
- b & c. The NLC consulted with Traditional Owners regarding access arrangements to Aboriginal waters for fishing until the project's completion in December 2022. Over the next several years, consultations with TOs will start again to obtain guidance on management, access, and land use agreements for Aboriginal waters, particularly regarding section 19 expressions of interest for commercial fisheries, fishing tour operators, and recreational fishing.

ADDITIONAL DATA TABLES RELEVANT TO PERFORMANCE STATEMENTS

GOAL 2.3 NUMBER OF ABORIGINAL GROUPS WITH STANDING INSTRUCTIONS HELD FOR BENEFIT DISTRIBUTION PER REGION

NO	REGION	NUMBER OF GROUPS PAID UNDER SI
1	Borroloola Barkly	33
2	Darwin / Daly	62
3	Ngukurr	9
4	West Arnhem	98
5	VRD	26
6	Katherine	45
7	East Arnhem	53

GOAL 3.6 MANAGEMENT AND APPLICATION OF FUNERAL AND CEREMONIAL FUNDS

FUNERALS					
REGION	APPLICATIONS	APPROVED	DECLINED	PENDING	TOTAL \$
Borroloola Barkly	31	28	1	2	\$76,415
Darwin Daly Wagait	75	75	0	0	\$219,436
East Arnhem	76	76	0	0	\$224,355
Katherine	47	45	0	2	\$135,621
South East Arnhem	39	39	0	0	\$108,000
Victoria River District	7	7	0	0	\$21,000
West Arnhem	47	46	0	1	\$134,105
Total	322	316	1	5	\$918,932

CEREMONY					
REGION	APPLICATIONS	APPROVED	DECLINED	PENDING	TOTAL \$
Borroloola Barkly	25	22	3	0	\$13,000
Darwin Daly Wagait	0	0	0	0	\$0
East Arnhem	3	3	0	0	\$3,000
Katherine	0	0	0	0	\$0
South East Arnhem	2	2	0	0	\$0
Victoria River District	0	0	0	0	\$1,000
West Arnhem	9	9	0	0	\$9,000
Total	39	36	3	0	\$26,000

GOAL 4.2 DELIVER AND INTEGRATED ABORIGINAL LAND TRUST MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

PERMIT ISSUED BY REGION

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER
Borroloola Barkly	606
Darwin Daly Wagait	1,335
East Arnhem	2,391
Katherine	2,690
South East Arnhem	710
VRD	116
West Arnhem	5,718
Tidal Water Access Area	237
Fishing Multi-Regional	4
All Region	109
Total	13,916

PERMIT ISSUED BY TYPES

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER
Blue Mud Bay	237
Fishing	588
Recreation	1,852
Residential	127
Transit	2,114
Visitor	1,430
Work	7,568
Total	13,916



Financial Statements

NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL
ANNUAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

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Part 4 Financial Statements

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Indigenous Australians

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Northern Land Council and its subsidiaries (together the Consolidated Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2023:

- comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and
- present fairly the financial position of the Consolidated Entity as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Consolidated Entity, which I have audited, comprise the following as at 30 June 2023 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Accountable Authority and Chief Financial Officer;
- Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Consolidated Statement of Financial Position;
- Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Consolidated Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to and forming part of the financial statements comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Consolidated Entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements for financial statement audits conducted by the Auditor-General and his delegates. These include the relevant independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) to the extent that they are not in conflict with the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Other information

The Accountable Authority is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023 but does not include the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

GPO Box 707, Canberra ACT 2601
38 Sydney Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603
Phone (02) 6203 7300

Accountable Authority's responsibility for the financial statements

As the Accountable Authority of the Consolidated Entity, the Chairman and 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 Chairman and Chief Executive Officer are also responsible for such internal control as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer determine 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 Chairman and Chief Executive Officer are responsible for assessing the ability of the Consolidated 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 Chairman and 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.

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 Consolidated 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 Consolidated 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 Consolidated Entity to cease to continue as a going concern;
- 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; and
- obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Consolidated Entity to express an opinion on the financial report. I am responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Consolidated Entity audit. I remain solely responsible for my audit opinion.

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
29 September 2023

STATEMENT BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 comply with subsection 42(2) of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsection 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Group will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Executive Council.



Dr Samuel Bush-Blanasi
Chair / Accountable Authority

29 September 2023



Mr Joe Martin-Jard
Chief Executive Officer /
Accountable Authority

29 September 2023



Mr Irfan Bhat
Chief Financial Officer

29 September 2023

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	NOTE	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits	3A	42,782	39,711
Suppliers	3B	48,418	42,820
Depreciation and amortisation	3C	4,123	3,558
Finance costs	3D	163	80
Impairment loss on financial instruments	3E	425	1
Loss of control over former subsidiaries	1.9	15,505	-
Total expenses		111,416	86,170
Own-Source Income			
Own-Source Revenue			
Revenue from contracts with customers	4A	7,877	5,540
Interest	4B	2,049	127
Total own-source revenue		9,926	5,667
Gains			
Gains from sale of assets	4C	619	556
Total gains		619	556
Total own-source income		10,545	6,223
Net cost of services		100,871	79,947
Revenue from government	4D	79,216	82,691
(Deficit) / Surplus on continuing operations		(21,655)	2,744
Net result from discontinued operations	1.8	-	(1,148)
		-	(1,148)
(Deficit) / surplus for the year		(21,655)	1,596
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not subject to subsequent reclassification to net cost of services			
Changes in asset revaluation reserve		-	3,710
Total comprehensive (loss) / income		(21,655)	5,306

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

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	NOTE	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6A	59,243	64,405
Trade and other receivables	6B	864	577
Total financial assets		60,107	64,982
Non-financial assets			
Land, buildings and leasehold improvements^	7A	10,716	8,042
Motor vehicle and boats^	7A	9,424	8,832
Plant and equipment^	7A	743	472
Other non-financial assets	7B	1,090	868
Total non-financial assets		21,973	18,214
Assets of disposal groups classified as held for sale	1.6	-	18,281
Total assets		82,080	101,477
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	8A	5,691	4,581
Other payables	8B	2,070	1,134
Total payables		7,761	5,715
Interest bearing liabilities			
Leases	8C	3,227	1,390
Total interest bearing liabilities		3,227	1,390
Unearned revenue			
Advanced payments	9	25,245	24,075
Total unearned revenue		25,245	24,075
Provisions			
Employee provisions	10	6,538	6,342
Total provisions		6,538	6,342
Liabilities of disposal groups classified as held for sale	1.7	-	2,776
Total liabilities		42,771	40,298
Net assets		39,309	61,179
Equity			
Asset revaluation reserve		3,808	9,403
Retained surplus		35,501	51,776
Total equity		39,309	61,179

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

^ Right-of-use assets are included in land, buildings, leasehold improvements, motor vehicle, and plant and equipment.

The distinction between current and non-current assets and liabilities is included in Note 18.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	NOTE	RETAINED SURPLUS \$'000	ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE \$'000	TOTAL EQUITY \$'000
Balance at 1 July 2021		50,180	5,693	55,873
Other comprehensive loss		-	3,710	3,710
Surplus for the year		1,596	-	1,596
Balance at 30 June 2022		51,776	9,403	61,179
Changes in asset revaluation reserve - deconsolidation of subsidiaries		3,060	(3,060)	-
Changes in retained earnings - deconsolidation of subsidiaries		(215)	-	(215)
Transfer of asset revaluation reserve on derecognition of assets - previous years		1,513	(1,513)	-
Transfer of asset revaluation reserve on derecognition of assets - current year		1,022	(1,022)	-
Deficit for the year		(21,655)	-	(21,655)
Closing balance as at 30 June 2023		35,501	3,808	39,309

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

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	NOTE	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Receipts from government		82,221	87,002
Rendering of services		8,064	8,567
GST received		-	1,486
Interest		2,049	127
Total cash received		92,334	97,182
Cash used			
Employees		42,586	41,186
Suppliers		49,329	49,832
GST paid		6	-
Interest payments on lease liabilities		163	80
Interest payments on borrowings		-	42
Total cash used		92,084	91,140
Net cash from operating activities		250	6,042
Net cash from discontinued operations	1.8	-	210
Net cash from continuing operating activities		250	5,832
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		882	671
Total cash received		882	671
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		4,733	6,372
Total cash used		4,733	6,372
Net cash used by investing activities		(3,851)	(5,701)
Net cash used by investing activities - discontinued operations	1.8	-	(310)
Net cash used by continuing investing activities		(3,851)	(5,391)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Borrowings		-	300
Total cash received		-	300

Cash used			
Principal payments of lease liabilities		1,561	669
Repayment of borrowings		-	250
Total cash used		1,561	919
Net cash used by financing activities		(1,561)	(619)
Net cash from financing activities - discontinued operations	1.8	-	50
Net cash used by continuing financing activities		(1,561)	(669)
Net decrease in cash held		(5,162)	(278)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		64,405	66,340
Transfer of cash and cash equivalents to disposal groups		-	(1,657)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	6A	59,243	64,405
Non-cash financing and investing activities			
Acquisition of right-of-use assets	7A	1,376	131

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

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1. OVERVIEW

The Northern Land Council (NLC) is a representative body with statutory authority under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (ALRA). It also has responsibilities under the *Native Title Act 1993* (NT Act) and the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*. The NLC is domiciled in Australia and its registered address is at 45 Mitchell Street Darwin NT 0800. It is a not-for-profit Corporate Commonwealth entity.

The financial statements were approved by the Executive Council on 28 September 2023 and authorised for issue on 29 September 2023.

The objectives of the NLC are to:

- Advocate, protect and acquire Aboriginal property rights and interest in our traditional lands, water and seas through land claims and the native title process.
- Ensure the sustainable use and management of natural and cultural resources on Aboriginal lands.
- Protect Aboriginal sacred sites, places and objects of significant cultural heritage.
- Support Aboriginal people to maintain sustainable communities, outstations and healthy lives.
- Facilitate economic opportunities that lead to viable and sustainable regional commercial activities and development in the regions.
- Advocate on behalf of Aboriginal people to raise broader community awareness of the role and vision of the NLC.

- Operate in accordance with best practice and reporting standards and obligations.

The NLC is a statutory authority formed within the provision of Section 21 of the ALRA. The NLC receives appropriations from the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) pursuant to ministerially approved estimates prepared in accordance with section 34 of the ALRA and made available under section 64 of the ALRA.

The NLC is structured to meet the following outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Access to Aboriginal land is managed effectively and efficiently.
- Outcome 2: Traditional Owners are assisted to manage their land, sea and natural resources in a sustainable manner.
- Outcome 3: To assist Aboriginal people to obtain or acquire property rights over their traditional land and sea.
- Outcome 4: To secure economic, social and cultural benefits for traditional owners from developments taking place on Aboriginal land.
- Outcome 5: Develop employment and training plans in partnership with industry and government stakeholders, and facilitate the implementation of these plans.
- Outcome 6: Efficiently process exploration and mining license applications and provide accurate advice on potential environmental impacts and benefits.
- Outcome 7: Empower Aboriginal people to carry out commercial activities and build sustainable enterprises.
- Outcome 8: Advocate on behalf of Aboriginal people and express their views.
- Outcome 9: Raise public awareness

of the NLC's work and the views of Aboriginal people.

- Outcome 10: Supporting Aboriginal people to maintain and protect their sacred sites and cultural heritage.
- Outcome 11: Help Aboriginal people achieve their development potential by facilitating access to leadership and governance programs, resources, infrastructure and government services.
- Outcome 12: Receive and distribute statutory and other payments for Aboriginal people.
- Outcome 13: Assist Land Trusts' to act appropriately and in accordance with the ALRA.
- Outcome 14: Support traditional owners to manage and resolve disputes.

The funding conditions of the NLC are laid down by the ALRA, and any special purpose grant guidelines. Accounting for monies received from the ABA is subject to conditions approved by the Minister for Indigenous Australians.

The continued existence of the NLC in its present form with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing funding by Parliament for the NLC's administration and programs.

Events during the year that impacted the NLC:

S 64(1) Funding for Northern Territory (NT) Indigenous Economic Stimulus Package

In November 2020 the Minister for Indigenous Australians announced an NT Indigenous Economic Stimulus Package to assist Aboriginal businesses to recover from the impact of COVID-19, with a focus on creating and sustaining jobs through economic, social and infrastructure projects.

The funding is intended to assist Indigenous businesses in the NLC region, create jobs and stimulate economic recovery. Money will flow

through targeted investments connecting Aboriginal people to help businesses prepare for an expected surge in domestic tourism over the coming period.

NLC received \$22 million in 2020-21 and \$14.7 million in the 2021-22 financial years. The amounts were recognised as income during the years ended 30 June 2021 and 30 June 2022 respectively. However, the unspent amount \$7,313,492 (2022: \$15,947,473) will be expended in the year 2023-24 with no corresponding income recognised in 2023-24. Refer Note 20 for further information.

1.2. BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements are required by section 42 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015* (FRR); and
- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations - including simplified disclosures for Tier 2 entities under AASB 1060 issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements are the general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing policies on the results or the financial position of the NLC.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified.

Unless an alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard or the FRR, assets and liabilities along with income and expenses are recognised in the statement of financial position and comprehensive income, when and only when, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the NLC or a future sacrifice of economic benefits will be required and the amounts of the assets or liabilities can be reliably measured. However, assets and liabilities arising under executory contracts are not recognised unless required by an accounting standard.

1.3. BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of the NLC, and the entities controlled by NLC. Current year amounts are for NLC only whereas comparative amounts represent for NLC and controlled entities. Control is achieved when the NLC:

- has power over the investee;
- is exposed, or has rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the investee; and
- has the ability to use its power to affect its returns.

The NLC reassesses whether or not it controls an investee if facts and circumstances indicate that there are changes to one or more of the three elements of control as per AASB 10 *Consolidated Financial Statements*. When the NLC has less than a majority of the voting rights of an investee, it has power over the investee when the voting rights are sufficient to give it the practical ability to direct the relevant activities of the investee unilaterally. The NLC considers all relevant facts and circumstances in assessing whether or not the NLC's voting rights in an investee are

sufficient to give it power, including:

- the size of the NLC's holding of voting rights relative to the size and dispersion of holdings of the other vote holders;
- potential voting rights held by the NLC, other vote holders or other parties;
- rights arising from other contractual arrangements; and
- any additional facts and circumstances that indicate that the NLC has, or does not have, the current ability to direct the relevant activities at the time that decisions need to be made, including voting patterns at previous shareholders' meetings of North Australia Aboriginal Corporation (NAAC) and Northern Aboriginal Investment Corporation Pty Ltd (NAIC) as trustee for Northern Australian Aboriginal Charitable Trust (NAACT).

Income and expenses of a subsidiary, acquired or disposed of during the year, are included in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income from the date the NLC gains control until the date when the NLC ceases to control the subsidiary.

Profit or loss and each component of other comprehensive income are attributed to the owners of the NLC. Total comprehensive income of subsidiaries is attributed to the owners of the NLC.

When necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring their accounting policies into line with the NLC's accounting policies.

All intragroup assets and liabilities, equity, income, expenses and cash flows relating to transactions between members of the Group are eliminated in full on consolidation.

Changes in the NLC's ownership interests in existing subsidiaries

Changes in the NLC's ownership interests in subsidiaries that do not result in the NLC losing control over the subsidiaries are accounted for as equity transactions. The carrying amounts of the NLC's interests and the non-controlling interests are adjusted to reflect the changes in their relative interests in the subsidiaries. Any difference between the amount by which the non-controlling interests are adjusted and the fair value of the consideration paid or received is recognised directly in equity and attributed to owners of the NLC.

When the NLC loses control of a subsidiary, a gain or loss is recognised in profit or loss and is calculated as the difference between (i) the aggregate of the fair value of the consideration received and the fair value of any retained interest and (ii) the previous carrying amount of the assets (including goodwill), and liabilities of the subsidiary. All amounts previously recognised in other comprehensive income in relation to that subsidiary are accounted for as if the NLC had directly disposed of the related assets or liabilities of the subsidiary (i.e. reclassified to profit or loss or transferred to another category of equity as specified/ permitted by applicable AASBs). The fair value of any investment retained in the former subsidiary at the date when control is lost is regarded as the fair value on initial recognition for subsequent accounting under AASB 9, when applicable, the cost on initial recognition of an investment in an associate or a joint venture.

Consolidation reflects 100% of the assets, liabilities, revenue, expenses and cash flows of the material subsidiaries controlled by the Group. Note 1.4 states other subsidiaries which are considered immaterial to the Group and hence not consolidated.

1.4. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the NLC's accounting policies, which are described in Note 1.9, the directors are required to make judgements (other than those involving estimations) that have a significant impact on the amounts recognised and to make estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical judgements in applying the Groups' accounting policies

The following are the critical judgements, apart from those involving estimations (which are presented separately below), that the directors have made in the process of applying the NLC's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in financial statements.

Control over North Australia Aboriginal Corporation - For Comparatives Only

Note 11 describes that North Australia Aboriginal Corporation (NAAC) was a subsidiary of the NLC and that the NLC had control over NAAC in accordance with AASB 10 *Consolidated Financial Statements*. NAAC is incorporated in 1991 under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*.

Control over Northern Aboriginal Investment Corporation Pty Ltd - For Comparatives Only

Note 11 describes that Northern Aboriginal Investment Corporation Pty Ltd (NAIC) was a subsidiary of the NLC and that the NLC had 100% of the ownership interest and voting rights of the company. The company is the corporate trustee of the NAACT and acting as trustee is its sole function. The trustee company had no other assets or liabilities and had no operations other than in its capacity as trustee.

The NLC held 100% of the shares in NAIC, it had been a historic practice to appoint members of the NLC Executive Council to be directors of NAIC, and all of the NAIC directors were from the NLC Executive Council. The Executive Council members were the boards of NAIC only by virtue of their role in the Executive Council. Additionally, NAIC was established by the NLC in 1987.

NLC made the assessment that NLC had 'power' over NAIC. This assessment also considered the NLC's ability to use its power over NAIC to affect the extent to which broader social policy objectives were achieved ('returns').

Control over Northern Australian Aboriginal Charitable Trust - For Comparatives Only

Note 11 describes that Northern Australian Aboriginal Charitable Trust (NAACT) was a subsidiary of the Group, by virtue of its trustee, NAIC, being controlled by NLC. Under the Deed of Settlement of Trust, NAIC has full powers to manage the activities of NAACT at its discretion. Accordingly, NAIC does have 'power' over the NAACT.

The NLC made the assessment that NLC had 'power' over NAACT (arising from its control over the trustee). This assessment also considered the NLC's ability to use its power over NAACT to affect the extent to which broader social policy objectives were achieved ('returns').

NAACT also holds shares in the following companies that have not been considered separately as subsidiaries as they are immaterial to the Group, and hence are not consolidated as part of the Group:

- Wirib Tourism Park Pty Ltd (90% shares and voting rights)
- Northern Australia Aboriginal Development Corporation Pty Ltd (100% shares and voting rights)
- Create Housing and Construction Pty Ltd (100% shares and voting rights)
- Aboriginal Solar Rollout Pty Ltd (100% shares and voting rights)

NAACT was first established as a charitable trust on 13 May 1988 with a vesting date of 13 May 2009, despite the fact that at law, a charitable trust need not have a vesting date. Subsequently, a new deed of settlement was entered into on 7 March 2018 to re-establish the trust. This action formalised that the trust property would continue to be used charitably for the Aboriginal people of Northern Australia (for whose benefit the original trust was established).

1.5 DISPOSAL GROUPS CLASSIFIED AS HELD FOR SALE

Accounting Policy

Disposal groups classified as held for sale

Assets of disposal groups are classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continued use. They are measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs of disposal. For assets of disposal groups to be classified as held for sale, they must be available for immediate sale in their present condition and their sale must be highly probable.

An impairment loss is recognised for any initial or subsequent write down of the assets of disposal groups to fair value less costs of its disposal. A gain is recognised for any subsequent increases in fair value less costs of disposal and assets of disposal groups, but not in excess of any cumulative impairment loss previously recognised.

The assets of disposal groups classified as held for sale are presented separately on the face of the consolidated statement of financial position. The liabilities of disposal groups classified as held for sale are presented separately on the face of the consolidated statement of financial position.

1.6 ASSETS OF DISPOSAL GROUPS CLASSIFIED AS HELD FOR SALE

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	-	1,657
Trade and other receivables	-	338
Land, buildings and leasehold improvements	-	14,148
Property plant and equipment	-	304
Other non-financial assets	-	94
Investment property	-	1,740
	-	18,281

1.7 LIABILITIES OF DISPOSAL GROUPS CLASSIFIED AS HELD FOR SALE

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Trade creditors and accruals	-	296
Borrowings	-	2,099
Advance payments	-	294
Employee provisions	-	87
		2,776

1.8 DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

On 1 July 2022 NLC and its subsidiaries executed its restructuring plan to split the NLC and its subsidiaries.

At balance sheet date, the assets and liabilities of NLC's subsidiaries (NAAC, NAIC and NAACT) were remeasured at lower of carrying amounts and fair value less costs of disposal and the effects of remeasurement of disposal groups that constitute the discontinued operations was \$NIL.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Operating activities of discontinued operations		
Revenue	-	2,047
Employee benefit expenses	-	(1,650)
Depreciation	-	(291)
Other expenses	-	(1,254)
Net operating results from discontinued operations	-	(1,148)
Net result from discontinued operations	-	(1,148)
Cash flow information		
Net cash from operating activities	-	210
Net cash used in investing activities	-	(310)
Net cash from / (used in) financing activities	-	50
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents from discontinued operations	-	(50)

1.9 LOSS OF CONTROL OVER FORMER SUBSIDIARIES

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Assets	18,281	-
Liabilities	(2,776)	-
	15,505	-

In previous periods, the NLC, due to control over its former subsidiaries as disclosed in Note 1.3 and 1.4, had to consolidate its former subsidiaries. On 1 July 2022 the restructuring plan resulted in the NLC ceasing to have control over the former subsidiaries and is no longer required to prepare consolidated financial statements.

1.10 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATES

The NLC has made the following judgements and estimates that has the most impact on the amounts recorded in the financial statements:

- Impairment loss allowance of \$424,610 (2022: \$62,000) has been recorded for doubtful debts in the current year.
- Lease term: whether the NLC is reasonably certain to exercise extension options.
- In the year 2022 assets of disposal group classified as held for sale: Management estimate of fair value less cost to dispose equals to the carrying value of the assets of disposal groups.

No other accounting assumptions or estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

1.11 NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

The NLC has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (the AASB) that are relevant to its operations and effective for an accounting period that begins on or after 1 July 2022. The following new and revised Standards did not have a material effect on the financial statements as at 30 June 2023.

STANDARD / INTERPRETATION	NATURE OF CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICY AND ADJUSTMENT TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current (AASB 2020-1)	This Standard amends AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements to clarify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non-current. The amendments clarify that a liability is classified as current if an entity does not have the right at the end of the reporting period to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting period. The amendments specify that the entity's right to defer settlement of a liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period must have substance and must exist at the end of the reporting period. AASB 2022-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Non-current liabilities with Covenants defers application of AASB 2020-1 to annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024.
AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates (AASB 2021-2)	<i>This Standard amends a number of AASBs to improve accounting policy disclosures and to distinguish changes in accounting estimates from changes in accounting policies. This Standard amends:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AASB 7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures to clarify that information about measurement bases for financial instruments is expected to be material to an entity's financial statements; AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements to require entities to disclose their material accounting policy information rather than their significant accounting policies. Accounting policy information is expected to be material if users of an entity's financial statements would need it to understand other material information in the financial statements; AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors to clarify how entities should differentiate a change in an accounting policy from a change in an accounting estimate. The new definition provides that accounting estimates are monetary amounts in financial statements that are subject to measurement uncertainty. The amendments explain that the effects on an accounting estimate of a change in an input or a change in a measurement technique are changes in accounting estimates unless they result from the correction of prior period errors; AASB 134 Interim Financial Reporting to identify material accounting policy information as a component of a complete set of financial statements; and AASB Practice Statement 2 Making Materiality Judgements to provide guidance on how to apply the concept of materiality to accounting policy disclosures. <p><i>This Standard applies to annual periods beginning on or after 1 July 2023.</i></p>

NOTE 2. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

Purchase of land

The NLC entered into a standard contract of sale for the purchase of land on 1 September 2021. The contract of sale was still conditional upon the satisfactory completion of sub-division of the land and issue of separate title under the *Planning Act 1999 (NT)* as at 30 June 2023.

On 8 September 2023 the contract became unconditional and the NLC acquired the land on 15 September 2023 in Northcrest Berrimah, Northern Territory for a consideration of \$8,514,000 inclusive of GST.

Other than the above there are no other subsequent events that have the potential to significantly affect the ongoing structure and financial activities of the NLC.

NOTE 3. EXPENSES

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
3A: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		
Wages and salaries	36,224	33,822
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	5,017	4,183
Leave and other entitlements	1,541	1,706
Total employee benefits	42,782	39,711

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Accounting policies for employee related expenses is contained in Note 10.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
3B: SUPPLIERS		
Goods and services supplied or rendered		
Consultants	7,040	4,680
Stationery	834	805
Travel	5,552	3,094
Vehicle expenses	2,248	1,866
Office accommodation	1,389	1,208
IT/Communications	4,072	3,110
Meeting costs	1,581	1,043
Financial and legal services	1,686	2,241
Payment to grant partners#	18,722	20,221

Training costs	701	562
Funeral and ceremonial costs	991	694
Equipment hire and minor purchases	981	1,448
Other	1,074	1,133
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	46,871	42,105
Goods supplied	5,887	5,363
Services rendered	40,984	36,742
	46,871	42,105
Other suppliers		
Lease rentals for short-term and low value leases*	735	141
Workers compensation expenses	812	574
Total other suppliers	1,547	715
Total suppliers	48,418	42,820

Includes payment of NT Economic Stimulus Packages to Indigenous organisations and payment to various schools under learning on country program. Expense is recognised on the payment made.

*The NLC has short-term lease commitments of \$342,157 as at 30 June 2023 (2022: \$356,578).

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 3D, 7 and 8C.

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The NLC has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for short-term leases of assets that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets (less than \$10,000). The NLC recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
3C: DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION		
Motor vehicle and boats	2,104	1,475
Plant and equipment	143	363
Buildings and leasehold improvements	1,876	1,720
Total depreciation and amortisation	4,123	3,558

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
3D: FINANCE COSTS		
Interest on lease liabilities	163	80
Total finance costs	163	80

The above lease disclosure should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 3B, 7 and 8C.

ACCOUNTING POLICY

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
3E: IMPAIRMENT LOSS ON FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS		
Impairment on trade and other receivables	425	1
Total Impairment loss on financial instruments	425	1

NOTE 4. OWN-SOURCE REVENUE AND GAINS

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
4A: REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS		
Rendering of services		
Government departments	1,741	1,011
External parties	6,136	4,529
Total revenue from contracts with customers	7,877	5,540
Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers		
Type of customers:		
Australian Government entities	1,263	192
State and Territory Governments	478	819
Non-government entities	6,136	4,529
	7,877	5,540
Timing of transfer of goods and services	5,806	3,375
Over time	2,071	2,165
Point in time	7,877	5,540

The principal activities associated with revenue from contracts with customers relate to fees for service and fees for administrative support.

ACCOUNTING POLICY

When a contract is within scope of AASB 15 (which is an enforceable contract, with sufficiently specific performance obligations) the NLC determines when these obligations have been satisfied.

The following is a description of principal activities from which the NLC generates its revenue:

Revenue from rendering of services: The NLC receives grant funding to fulfil specific performance obligations per the underlying contract. For these specific contracts, revenue is either recognised over time as the costs are incurred for these contracts or at a point in time in accordance with the underlying contract.

The transaction price is the total amount of consideration to which the NLC expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring promised goods or services to a customer. The consideration promised in a contract with a customer may include fixed amounts, variable amounts, or both.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed as at the end of the reporting period. Allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

Project income is recognised under AASB 15 for not-for-profit entities when a contract includes enforceable rights and obligations as well as deliverables which are sufficiently specific. For a contract to include enforceable rights and obligations, the customer has the final authority over the use of the money, and whether it is required to be repaid or to be approved for alternate use.

Where funds are received in advance of the services being provided then these funds are recognised as a contract liability on receipt, and the revenue is recognised over time as performance obligations are met.

Where funds are received after the services have been provided, a contract asset is recognised and the revenue is recognised as and when performance obligations are met.

Performance obligations are based on the measurable services defined in the contract, and revenue is recognised as the service is provided using input method.

The NLC recognises revenue from economic development services over the time because the NLC's performance creates an asset with no alternative use and it has an enforceable right to payment for performance completed to date.

The Funding Body simultaneously receives and consumes the benefits provided to them and they control the asset as it is being created. The NLC uses an input method in measuring progress of delivery of the economic development services because there is a direct relationship between the NLC's effort based on achievement of milestones and the transfer of service to the Funding Body. The NLC recognises revenue on the basis of the costs incurred relating to the total expected costs incurred to complete the service.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
4B: INTEREST		
Deposits	2,049	127
Total interest	2,049	127

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB 9 Financial Instruments.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
4C: GAINS FROM SALE OF ASSETS		
Proceeds from sale	882	597
Carrying value of assets disposed	(263)	(41)
Total gains from sale of assets	619	556

ACCOUNTING POLICY

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

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
4D: REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT		
National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)		
Native Title Program	7,420	5,082
Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) s 64(1)	47,376	59,884
Total NIAA	54,796	64,966
Special Purpose Grants		
NIAA	20,045	13,874
Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation	1,306	1,770
Department of Defence	17	105
Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (NT) Limited	200	125
APT Pipelines (NT) Pty Ltd	39	-
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (NTG)	868	510
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	539	-
Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (NTG)	643	259
Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade - Fisheries (NTG)	120	520
North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance	141	43
Project Sea Dragon Pty Ltd (Seafarms)	235	94
Charles Darwin University	10	104
Director of National Parks (NTG)	245	123
Bush Heritage Australia	44	-
Gapuwiyak School	-	51
Other - Return of unused funds	(32)	147
Total special purpose grants	24,420	17,725
Total revenue from government	79,216	82,691

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Funding received in accordance with ABA s 64(1) is recognised immediately in accordance with AASB 1058. Special purpose grants with sufficient specific performance obligations are recognised in accordance with AASB 15. Contracts with no specific performance obligations are recognised in accordance with AASB 1058.

NOTE 5. INCOME TAX EXPENSE

NLC has been approved as a Public Benevolent Institution. The services of the Council are provided on a "not-for-profit" basis. Therefore, NLC is not subject to the Australian Government's Competitive Neutrality policy.

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Taxation

NLC is exempt from all forms of taxation except fringe benefits tax (FBT) and the goods and services tax (GST).

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of the GST except:

- a) where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO); and
- b) for receivables and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

The NLC does not provide services on a for-profit basis. Therefore, the NLC is not required to make Australian Income Tax Equivalent payments to the Government.

NOTE 6. FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
6A: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash on hand or on deposit	59,243	64,405
Total cash and cash equivalents	59,243	64,405

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents include:

- a) cash on hand
- b) demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

The closing balance of cash does not include amounts held in trust. Refer Note 22 'Royalty Assets Held in Trust' for further information.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
6B: TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Goods and services receivables		
Goods and services receivables	1,318	349
Total goods and services receivables	1,318	349
Grant receivables		
External parties	33	271
Government entities	-	19
Total grant receivables	33	290
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	1,351	639
Less impairment loss allowance		
Goods and services	(487)	(62)
Total impairment loss allowance	(487)	(62)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	864	577

Credit terms for goods and services were within 30 days (2022: 30 days).

Management has decided to provide for outstanding debts for more than 91 days.

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Financial assets

Trade receivables 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.

NOTE 7. NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

NOTE 7A: RECONCILIATION OF THE OPENING AND CLOSING BALANCES OF LAND, BUILDINGS, LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS, MOTOR VEHICLE AND BOATS, AND PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	LAND \$'000	BUILDINGS \$'000	LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS \$'000	MOTOR VEHICLE AND BOATS \$'000	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
Balance as at 1 July 2022						
Gross book value	1,083	6,556	3,720	14,228	1,007	26,594
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	(1,288)	(2,029)	(5,396)	(535)	(9,248)
Total as at 1 July 2022	1,083	5,268	1,691	8,832	472	17,346
Additions by purchase	65	1,356	119	2,761	432	4,733
Addition by right-of-use assets	-	1,198	-	178	-	1,376
Depreciation and amortisation	-	(52)	(254)	(2,031)	(153)	(2,490)
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	-	(1,570)	-	(53)	(8)	(1,631)
Recognition of assets on deconsolidation	-	1,812	-	-	-	1,812
Disposals	-	-	-	(263)	-	(263)
Total as at 30 June 2023	1,148	8,012	1,556	9,424	743	20,883
Total as at 30 June 2023 represented by						
Gross book value	1,148	13,562	1,873	12,636	1,439	30,658
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	-	(5,550)	(317)	(3,212)	(696)	(9,775)
Total as at 30 June 2023 represented by	1,148	8,012	1,556	9,424	743	20,883
Carrying amount of right-of-use assets	-	2,594	-	125	7	2,726

Revaluations of non-financial assets

During 2022-23 NLC engaged Herron Todd White to conduct a desktop review of a fair value assessment on the land and building including leasehold improvements as at 30 June 2023. After the assessment Herron Todd White was of the opinion that the carrying value of the land & building represent their fair value as at 30 June 2023.

An internal assessment was performed by the directors for motor vehicles, boats and plant and equipment, using the market value of similar assets and no significant differences were noted in the carrying value as at 30 June 2023.

All land, building, leasehold improvement, motor vehicle and boats and plant and equipment of the NLC, except right of use assets, were subject to revaluation as per NLC's accounting policy and were independently revalued by Herron Todd White in the 2022 financial year resulting to revaluation increment of \$2,924,940 credited to asset revaluation reserve (2021: \$NIL). Herron Todd White is a independent valuer not related to the NLC. They have the appropriate qualifications and recent experience in the fair value measurement of properties in the relevant locations. The valuation conforms to International Valuation Standards and was based on recent market transactions on arm's length terms for similar properties.

The best suitable approach was adopted based on the classification of assets as specialised or non-specialised and operational or non-operational.

Specialised operational assets, by their nature, lack market evidence on which to base a market value assessment and accordingly, these require a replacement cost valuation methodology. Consequently, such assets are sub-categorised as replacement cost based assets and the market value is derived by using the Depreciated Replacement Cost approach.

Operational assets are those which are utilised in the operation of the entity and are held for the continued use or service potential for the near future.

Non-operational assets are those which are not integral to the operation of the entity and are valued on a realisable value basis. That is, the amount that could be achieved if the assets were offered to the market separate to the operational assets of the entity.

The valuer considered the three main approaches to value (income, market and cost approaches) and the methods that comprise these approaches. Based on the nature of the assets and information available, the valuer concluded on the approaches that were most appropriate to value the subject assets.

The subject assets have been considered to be a combination of specialised operational and non-operational assets. As such a combination of market and cost approach to value the subject assets was adopted.

These notes are for comparatives only

An independent valuation of the property at 32 Dripstone Road, Casuarina NT was conducted by Integrated Valuer Services as at 30 June 2022. 32 Dripstone Road, Casuarina NT was valued at \$5,500,000. Integrated Valuer Services is a independent valuer not related to the Group. They have the appropriate qualifications and recent experience in the fair value measurement of properties in the relevant locations. The valuation conforms to International Valuation Standards and was based on recent market transactions on arm's length terms for similar properties. The fair value was determined using the market approach using observable market data for similar properties and relevant cash flows and the input used was net income per square metre; market capitalisation rates.

An internal calculation of the property at 45 Mitchell Street, Darwin NT was conducted by the directors as at 30 June 2022. The property was valued at \$7,200,000. The fair value was determined using the market approach using observable market data for similar properties and relevant cash flows determined by Director Valuation and the input used was net income per square metre; market capitalisation rates. The lease expired on 31 August 2021. It was further negotiated and renewed for three years with an option to terminate with effect from the second anniversary of the commencement date. The annual rent for the lease for the building at 45 Mitchell Street Darwin NT was increased by 6.2%.

An internal calculation of the properties at Katherine Terrace, Katherine, and Scheelite Crescent, Tennant Creek NT, was conducted by the directors as at 30 June 2022. The properties were valued at \$950,000. The fair value was determined using the market approach using observable market data for similar properties and relevant cash flows determined by Director Valuation and the input used was net income per square metre; market capitalisation rates. Further, the NAAC had put into market the commercial property located in Scheelite Crescent, Tennant Creek NT amounting to \$320,000 during the year. Accordingly, such property were reclassified as assets held for sale in the statement of financial position as at and for the year ended 30 June 2022.

The assets of the subsidiaries were recognised as disposal groups classified as held for sale in accordance with AASB 5 *Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations* as at 30 June 2022. Refer to Notes 1.5-1.8.

These notes are for current year

No indicators of impairment were found for the NLC's land, buildings, leasehold improvements, motor vehicle and boats and plant and equipment at the year end.

The contractual commitments for the purchase of the land, buildings, leasehold improvements, motor vehicle and boats and plant and equipment of the NLC is \$3,810,755 in 2023 (2022: \$944,220) amounts are inclusive of GST.

ACCOUNTING POLICY**Acquisition of Assets**

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below. The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transfer of the NLC's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of land, buildings, leasehold improvements, motor vehicle and boats and plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the statement of financial position, except for purchases below the capitalisation threshold, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of similar items which are significant in total). The capitalisation thresholds values are:

Land	\$1
Buildings	\$25,000
Leasehold improvements	\$10,000
Motor vehicle and boats	\$10,000
Plant and equipment	\$10,000

Revaluations

Fair values for each class of asset (except right of use asset) are determined as shown below:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Fair Value Measurement</u>
Land	Market selling price
Buildings	Market selling price
Leasehold improvements	Depreciated replacement cost
Motor vehicle and boats	Market selling price
Plant and equipment	Market selling price

Following initial recognition at cost, land, buildings, leasehold improvements, motor vehicle and boats and plant and equipment (excluding ROU assets) are carried at fair value. Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets do not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

The fair value of the land, buildings, motor vehicle and boats and plant and equipment was determined based on the market approach that reflects the active market for an asset. This approach primarily involves comparison of the asset with recent sales of other similar assets to ascertain the fair market value of the subject asset. Where appropriate, valuation techniques such as summation and capitalisation of net rental value have been used to refine this approach.

The fair value of the leasehold improvements was determined using the cost approach that reflects the cost to a market participant to construct assets of comparable utility and age, adjusted for obsolescence/other methods. This approach involves the identification of current reproduction or replacement cost estimates for the applicable assets using the either a direct or indirect (trending) method.

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 the 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 restated to the revalued amount.

Leased Right-of-use (ROU) Assets

Leased ROU assets are capitalised at the commencement date of the lease and comprise of the initial lease liability amount, initial direct costs incurred when entering into the lease less any lease incentives received. These assets are accounted for by Commonwealth lessees as separate asset classes to corresponding assets owned outright but included in the same column as where the corresponding underlying assets would be presented if they were owned.

Subsequent to initial recognition, 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. Leased ROU assets continue to be measured at cost after initial recognition in the financial statements.

Depreciation

Depreciable buildings, leasehold improvements, motor vehicle and boats and plant and equipment are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the NLC using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable asset are based on the following useful lives:

	2023	2022
Buildings on leasehold land	40 years	40 years
Leasehold improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Motor vehicle and boats	2-20 years	2-20 years
Plant and equipment	2-20 years	2-20 years

The depreciation rates for ROU assets are based on the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the ROU asset or the end of the lease term.

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.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
7B: OTHER NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Deposits	43	15
GST receivable from the ATO	477	513
Other	44	-
Prepayments	526	340
Total other non-financial assets	1,090	868

Other non-financial assets to be recovered

All other non-financial assets are expected to be recovered in no more than 12 months.

No indicators of impairment were found for other non-financial assets.

NOTE 8. PAYABLES

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
8A: SUPPLIERS		
Trade creditors and accruals	5,691	4,581
Total suppliers	5,691	4,581

Suppliers expected to be settled

All suppliers are expected to be settled in no more than 12 months.

Settlement is usually made within 30 days (2022: 30 days).

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
8B: OTHER PAYABLES		
Salaries and wages	1,642	798
Superannuation	397	365
Other	31	(29)
Total other payables	2,070	1,134

Other payables expected to be settled

All other payables are expected to be settled in no more than 12 months.

ACCOUNTING POLICY**Financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are classified as other financial liabilities.

Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. Other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective yield basis.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and of allocating interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability, or (where appropriate) a shorter period, to the net carrying amount on initial recognition.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

The NLC derecognises financial liabilities when, and only when, the NLC's obligations are discharged, cancelled or they expire. The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability derecognised and the consideration paid and payable is recognised in profit or loss.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
8C: LEASES		
Lease liability for buildings	3,094	1,375
Lease liability for motor vehicle and boats	127	-
Lease liability for property, plant and equipment	6	15
Total leases	3,227	1,390
Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2023 was \$1,723,192 (2022: \$241,338).		
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Within 1 year	1,935	629
Between 1 to 5 years	3,106	750
More than 5 years	64	48
Total leases	5,105	1,427

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 3B, 3D and 7.

ACCOUNTING POLICY

For all new contracts entered into, the NLC 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 NLC's incremental borrowing rate as at 30 June 2023.

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be 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.

NOTE 9. UNEARNED REVENUE

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Advanced payments	25,245	24,075
Total unearned revenue	25,245	24,075
Australian Government Entities	17,148	16,516
State and Territory Governments	2,146	2,093
Non-government entities	5,951	5,466
Total unearned revenue	25,245	24,075

Unearned revenue expected to be settled

All unearned revenue is expected to be settled in no more than 12 months. Unearned revenue is made up of various special purpose grants and projects, which will be used as per grant agreements.

NOTE 10. EMPLOYEE PROVISIONS

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Leave	6,538	6,342
Total employee provisions	6,538	6,342

ACCOUNTING POLICY**Employee Benefits**

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 Employee Benefits) and termination benefits due within twelve months of the end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

The nominal amount is calculated with regard to the rates expected to be paid on settlement of the liability.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave. The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time the leave is taken, including the NLC's employer superannuation contribution rates, to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

Liabilities for employee benefits expected to be settled within twelve months of the end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

Termination benefits

A liability for a termination benefit is recognised at the earlier of when the NLC can no longer withdraw the offer of the termination benefit and when the NLC recognises any related restructuring costs.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution superannuation plans are recognised as an expense when employees have rendered service entitling them to the contributions. NLC staff can choose their own super fund with most members being with Australian Super. The NLC makes employer-contributions to the employees' defined benefit superannuation scheme, at rates determined by the enterprise agreement and *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993*. The liability of superannuation recognised as at 30 June 2023 represents outstanding contributions for the last month of the year.

NOTE 11. SUBSIDIARIES

Details of the Group's material subsidiaries at the end of the reporting period are as follows:

NAME OF SUBSIDIARY	PROPORTION OF OWNERSHIP AND VOTING POWER HELD BY THE GROUP	
	2023	2022
North Australia Aboriginal Corporation (i)	-	100%
Northern Aboriginal Investment Corporation Pty Ltd (ii)	-	100%
Northern Australian Aboriginal Charitable trust (iii)	-	100%

- (i) NLC has the power to control NAAC by virtue of having the right to appoint Executive Council members to the board of NAAC.
- (ii) NAIC was incorporated in Australia in 1987 and is the corporate trustee for NAACT. The trustee company has no other assets or liabilities and has no operations other than in its capacity as trustee.
- (iii) Per (ii) above, the NLC effectively fully controls and holds 100% of the voting rights of NAIC and therefore the ownership and voting power held by the Group in NAACT is 100%.

Refer to note 1.4 for the list of subsidiaries that are not consolidated as part of the Group's financial statements as at 30 June 2023 as they are immaterial to the Group.

On 1 July 2022 NLC and its subsidiaries executed its restructuring plan to split NLC and its subsidiaries, refer to Notes 1.5 to 1.9 for more details.

NOTE 12. PARENT ENTITY INFORMATION

The accounting policies of the parent entity, which have been applied in determining the financial information shown below, are the same as those applied in the consolidated financial statements except as set out below. Refer to Note 1 for a summary of the significant accounting policies relating to the Group.

Investments in subsidiaries

Investments in subsidiaries are accounted for at cost.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Financial Position		
Assets		
Financial assets	60,107	65,337
Non-financial assets	21,973	19,159
Total assets	82,080	84,496
Liabilities		
Payables*	7,761	6,543
Lease liabilities	3,227	3,412
Unearned revenue	25,245	24,075
Provisions	6,538	5,009
Total liabilities	42,771	39,039
Net assets	39,309	45,457
Equity		
Equity	39,309	45,457
Total Equity	39,309	45,457
Financial Performance		
(Deficit) / surplus for the year	(21,655)	1,663
Other comprehensive income	-	2,925
Total comprehensive income	(21,655)	4,588
Contingent assets and liabilities of the parent entity		
Contingent liabilities	618	60
Total contingent liabilities	618	60

* Payables include borrowings, other payables and suppliers.

Commitments for the acquisition of land, buildings, leasehold improvements, motor vehicle and boats and plant and equipment by the parent entity

The contractual commitments for the purchase of the land, buildings, leasehold improvements, motor vehicle and boats, and plant and equipment of the parent entity is \$3,810,755 in 2023 (2022: \$944,220), amounts are inclusive of GST.

NOTE 13. CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES OR COSTS	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Contingent Liabilities		
Balance from previous period	60	-
New contingent liabilities recognised	618	60
Obligations expired	(60)	-
Total contingent liabilities	618	60

Quantifiable contingencies

The above table contains no contingent liabilities disclosed in respect to claims for damages/costs. The amount represents an estimate of the NLC's liability based on precedent cases.

ACCOUNTING POLICY

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are disclosed in notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

NOTE 14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

The Northern Land Council (NLC) is a statutory authority of the Commonwealth of Australia, under the Minister for Indigenous Australians (the Portfolio Minister). The NLC's supreme body is the Full Council, made up of 83 members – 78 members plus 5 co-opted women positions, elected once every three years from across 7 NLC regions, with the next election scheduled to be held in December 2025. Full Council elections were last held on 6 December 2022.

The Portfolio Minister approves the method of choosing members of the NLC. Section 29 of the ALRA, states that an Aboriginal person who is a traditional owner or a resident living within the NLC region may nominate for membership of the NLC.

The Chair and the Deputy Chair are elected at the first meeting of the Full Council, along with members nominated from each of the NLC's 7 regions as Executive Council members. The Chair and the Deputy Chair comprise the NLC's fourteen-member Executive Council. Being a member of the NLC Executive Council is a prerequisite to serve on the boards of all NLC's subsidiaries.

Key management personnel of the NLC are considered related parties to the NLC.

The NLC Council Executive Members, who held office during and for the year ended 30 June 2023:

NLC (EXECUTIVE COUNCIL)		
NAME	POSITION	TERM
Samuel Bush-Blansi	Chairperson	Full year
Richard Dixon	Deputy Chairperson	Part year to 05/12/2022
Calvin Deveraux	Executive Member	Part year to 06/12/2022
	Deputy Chairperson	Part year from 06/12/2022
Helen Lee	Executive Member	Full year
Christopher Neade	Executive Member	Full year
Peter Lansen	Executive Member	Part year from 06/12/2022
Virginia Nundhirribala	Executive Member	Part year from 06/12/2022
Lorraine Jones	Executive Member	Part year from 06/12/2022
Raymond Hector	Executive Member	Part year from 06/12/2022
Matthew Ryan	Executive Member	Part year from 06/12/2022
Joy Priest	Executive Member	Part year from 06/12/2022
Grace (Riley) Daniels	Executive Member	Part year to 05/12/2022
Brian Pedwell	Executive Member	Part year to 05/12/2022
William (Bill) Danks	Executive Member	Full year
Djawa Yunupingu	Executive Member	Full year
Deborah Jones	Executive Member	Part year to 05/12/2022
Julius Kernan	Executive Member	Full year
Matthew Nagarlbin	Executive Member	Part year to 05/12/2022
Yananymul Mununggurr	Executive Member	Full year
Clifford Duncan	Executive Member	Part year to 05/12/2022

The NLC Chief Executive, who held office over the 2022/23 financial year, was as follows:

NAME	TERM
Joe Martin-Jard	Full Year

AMOUNTS OWED BY RELATED PARTIES		
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Loans to Directors		
Loans to other related parties: Directors loans	14	26
Total	14	26

The loan relates to recovery of outstanding debt from Directors. There were no other transactions with Directors, or any other entities controlled by common Directors.

NOTE 15. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL REMUNERATION

Key management personnel (KMP) are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the NLC, directly or indirectly, including any of the directors of the NLC.

The NLC has determined the KMP to be the Minister for Indigenous Australians, NLC Executive Council members and the Chief Executive Officers of the NLC.

The KMP remuneration is reported in the table below:

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits:		
Short-term employee benefits	833	1,010
Post-employment benefits	88	127
Other long-term employee benefits	8	4
Termination benefits	-	173
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses	929	1,314

The total number of key management personnel that are included in the above table are 21 (2022: 18).

NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL

No other services were provided by the ANAO and BDO Australia.

Financial Statements

The classification depends on the NLC's business model for managing the financial assets and contractual cash flow characteristics at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised when the NLC 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 rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are transferred upon trade date.

Financial Assets at Amortised Cost

Financial assets included in this category need to meet two criteria:

1. the financial asset is held in order to collect the contractual cash flows; and
2. the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI) on the principal outstanding amount.

Amortised cost is determined using the effective interest method.

Effective Interest Method

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 simplified 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 lease 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 gross carrying amount of the financial asset.

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost

Financial liabilities, including borrowings, 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.

Suppliers and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

NOTE 18. CURRENT/NON-CURRENT DISTINCTION FOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	NOTE	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:			
No more than 12 months			
Cash and cash equivalents		59,243	64,405
Trade and other receivables		864	577
Other non-financial assets		1,090	868
Assets of disposal groups classified as held for sale	Note 1.6	-	18,281
Total no more than 12 months		61,197	84,131
More than 12 months			
Land, buildings and leasehold improvements		10,716	8,042
Motor vehicle and boats		9,424	8,848
Property, plant and equipment		743	456
Total more than 12 months		20,883	17,346
Total assets		82,080	101,477
Liabilities expected to be settled in:			
No more than 12 months			
Suppliers		5,691	4,581
Other payables		2,070	1,134
Leases		1,547	532
Advanced payments		25,245	16,578
Employee provisions		4,993	5,010
Liabilities of disposal groups classified as held for sale	Note 1.7	-	2,776
Total no more than 12 months		39,546	30,611
More than 12 months			
Leases		1,680	858
Advanced payments		-	7,497
Employee provisions		1,545	1,332
Total more than 12 months		3,225	9,687
Total liabilities		42,771	40,298

NOTE 19. ABA - CAPITAL WORKS/INFRASTRUCTURE

The Caring for Country Branch of the NLC manages various infrastructure construction and repairs and maintenance projects involving ranger groups from across the NLC regions, in order to address some of their long-term ranger program capacity needs and also ensure that NLC fulfils its Workplace Health and Safety obligations. The funding for this work was sourced from the ABA, NT Aboriginal Ranger Grants and the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) Indigenous Ranger Grants programs.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Income		
Grant income*	-	-
Carry forward funds from previous year	9	26
Grant income	9	26
Expenditure		
Travel related expenses	-	8
Consultants	-	9
Total expenditure	-	17
Surplus	9	9

* Grant income to the value of \$1,823,000 relating to ABA capital works was received in FY2017-18. Unspent amount is carried forward to subsequent years.

NOTE 20. S64(1) FUNDING

s 64(1) Funding for COVID-19 Support

In April 2020 the Minister for Indigenous Australians approved a one-off payment of \$4 million under section 64(1) of the ALRA to assist residents of Aboriginal communities impacted by restrictions to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
Income:					
Grant income	-	-	-	4,000	4,000
Grant income	-	-	-	4,000	4,000
Expenses:					
Fuel and power	13	5	369	24	411
Administration and freight	-	1	212	6	219
Minor equipment	5	300	2,042	164	2,511
Food	-	-	293	39	332
Repairs and maintenance houses	7	-	44	-	51
Essential services - capital works	-	-	295	-	295
Trailers	-	-	-	33	33
Payment to grant partners	-	20	-	-	20
Total expenses	25	326	3,255	266	3,872
Surplus / (Deficit)	(25)	(326)	(3,255)	3,734	128

The COVID-19 payment of \$4 million was recognised as income in accordance with AASB 1058 in the 2019-20 financial year.

As at 30 June 2023, funds to the value of \$127,819 remain unspent and will be expended in 2023-24.

s.64(1) Funding for Northern Territory (NT) Indigenous Economic Stimulus Package

In November 2020 the Minister for Indigenous Australians announced a NT Indigenous Economic Stimulus Package to assist Indigenous businesses recover from the impact of COVID-19, with a focus on creating and sustaining jobs through economic, social and infrastructure projects.

The NLC was allocated \$36.7 million. The NT Indigenous economic stimulus package was delivered over two financial years with \$22 million in the year 2020-21 and \$14.7 million in the year 2020-21.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000	TOTAL \$'000
Income:				
Grant income	-	14,700	22,000	36,700
Grant income	-	14,700	22,000	36,700
Expenses:				
Stimulus packages to Indigenous BUSINESS AND HOMELAND COMMUNITIES	8,634	15,190	5,563	29,387
Total expenses	8,634	15,190	5,563	29,387
Surplus / (Deficit)	(8,634)	(490)	16,437	7,313

NLC received \$22 million in 2020-21 and \$14.7 million in 2021-22 financial years. The amounts were recognised as income during the years ended 30 June 2021 and 30 June 2022 respectively. However, the total unspent amount \$7.3 million will be expended in the year 2023-24 with no corresponding income to be recognised in 2023-24.

NOTE 21. NATIVE TITLE

The NLC is a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) under the Native Title Act. Since being recognised as an NTRB, the NLC has performed the functions of the NTRB in association with other NLC functions.

In the 2017-18 financial year, Native Title income and expenditure was audited and reported separately. As from the 2018-19 financial year, as per the new agreement, between the Department of Finance and NLC, a set of comprehensive financial statements is not required to acquit the NLC's NTRB program funding, and the note disclosure in the NLC's financial statements was considered appropriate.

	2023 APPROVED BUDGET \$'000	2023 ACTUAL \$'000	2023 ACTUAL VS BUDGET	
Income				
Income 2021/2022 brought forward	3,592	3,592	-	100%
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet funding - Operational	4,878	4,878	-	100%
Prescribed Bodies Corporate support funding	500	500	-	100%
Interest income	119	119	-	100%
Total income	9,089	9,089	-	100%
Capital expenditure				
Vehicles	53	-	53	0%
Operational salaries				
Corporate staff (e.g. Accounting admin)	388	378	10	97%
Project staff (e.g. Legal, anthropologists, field)	2,906	2,688	218	92%
Services				
Accommodation	120	117	3	98%
Motor vehicles - corporate	129	121	8	94%
Consultants - attributable	2,786	2,692	94	97%
Communications, telephones, fax and information technology	210	207	3	99%
Insurance	11	14	(3)	127%
Energy and water	29	30	(1)	103%

	2023 APPROVED BUDGET \$'000	2023 ACTUAL \$'000	2023 ACTUAL VS BUDGET	
Training and development				
Staff	22	18	4	82%
Meeting expenses				
Claimants	129	125	4	97%
Travel and allowances				
Claimants	125	120	5	96%
Staff travel - corporate	24	25	(1)	104%
Staff travel - attributable	326	261	65	80%
Supplies and consumables				
Office supplies and consumables - corporate	20	21	(1)	105%
Other operational				
Recruitment and relocation	16	12	4	75%
Equipment	12	10	2	83%
Field expenses	5	5	0	100%
Other				
National Native Title Council contribution	25	27	(2)	108%
Prescribed Bodies Corporate support funding	1,753	668	1,085	38%
Total expenses	9,089	7,539	1,550	83%
Surplus	-	1,550	1,550	

NOTE 22. ROYALTY ASSETS HELD IN TRUST

Monetary Assets

The NLC maintains a Royalty Trust Account. The money in the Royalty Account mainly comes from government agencies, mining and exploration companies and various commercial operators under agreements made pursuant to the ALRA and NT Act. The NLC is required to distribute this money in accordance with the ALRA and NT Act. These monies are not available for other purposes and are not recognised in the financial statements of the NLC.

Non-monetary Assets

The NLC had no non-monetary assets held in trust in both the current and prior reporting periods.

Royalty Trust Account - Monetary Asset

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Cash held at the beginning of the reporting period	47,638	42,839
Receipts		
ALRA section 64(3) royalty equivalents	13,187	15,295
ALRA sections 15, 16 & 19 rental and lease monies	42,199	41,682
ALRA sections 42, 43 and 44 mining exploration negotiated monies	2,914	2,839
Native Title	2,225	6,760
Contract administration	666	803
Other monies	1,425	91
Total receipts	62,616	67,470
Payments		
ALRA section 35(2) royalty equivalents	(14,130)	(14,352)
ALRA section 35(3) mining exploration negotiated monies	(2,912)	(1,538)
ALRA section 35(4) rental and lease monies	(35,369)	(36,779)
Native Title	(3,932)	(3,860)
Contract administration	(633)	(805)
Other monies	(663)	(2,001)
Total payments	(57,639)	(59,335)
GST paid to ATO	(3,758)	(3,336)
Total amount held at the end of the reporting period	48,857	47,638
Cash at bank	48,857	47,638

The reporting requirements of the ALRA are detailed in sections 37(3) - (5) and refer to the application of monies received by the NLC under various sections of the ALRA, in particular under sub-section 64(3).

Receipts under section 64(3), as referred in section 35(2):

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Opening balance	943	-
Funds received	13,187	15,295
Funds distributed to the following associations:		
Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation	(8,542)	(9,188)
Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation	(2,509)	(2,749)
Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation	(1,882)	(2,062)
Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation	(1,197)	(353)
Closing balance	-	943

Determination Pursuant to section 35(2) *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*

Gove Rio Alcan project royalty equivalents received pursuant to section 64(3).

The Full Council resolves that it determines pursuant to sub-section 35(2) that for the next five years (subject to any further determination within that period) amounts equal to all monies received under section 64(3) with respect to the Rio Tinto Alcan Gove Bauxite Mining Projects are to be apportioned and paid as follows:

Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation	65%
Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation	20%
Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation	15%

Resolution number: C122/4878

Date of Resolution: 07/12/2020

Determination Pursuant to section 35(2) *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*

Gulkula bauxite mining project royalty equivalents received pursuant to Section 64(3).

The Full Council resolves that it determines pursuant to section 35(2) that for the next 5 years (subject to any further determination within that period) amounts equal to all monies received under section 64(3) with respect to the Gulkula bauxite mining project be paid to Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation.

Resolution number: C122/4879

Date of Resolution: 07/12/2020

Determination Pursuant to section 35(2) *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*

Ranger Project royalty equivalents received pursuant to section 64(3).

The Full Council resolves to determine pursuant to section 35(2) of the Land Rights Act that mining royalty equivalents received by the NLC under section 64(3) of the Land Rights Act and corresponding interest amount with respect to the Ranger Uranium Mine since 09 December 2021, and for a 4 year period commencing on 09 December 2021 to be paid to Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation.

Resolution Number: C124/4904

Date of Resolution: 07/12/2022

NOTE 23. COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

The NLC's Community Planning and Development (CP&D) Program, endorsed by the NLC Full Council in November 2016 and commenced in the financial year 2017-18, supports groups of Aboriginal people to plan and implement projects that bring lasting community benefit (social, cultural, economic, environmental), using income that they receive from land use agreements. It is a voluntary, consent-based approach based on the principles of self-determination and participation, with Aboriginal people control and decision-making at every step. Approved CP&D Program designated funds are held on trust by the NLC for community benefit purposes, and then applied in accordance with the consultation and planning processes set out in the CP&D Program. Where there is a decision by Traditional Owners to set aside monies from payments in respect of Aboriginal land for community development projects, the NLC and its CP&D Program administer those funds in accordance with its obligations under the ALRA.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Cash held at the beginning of the reporting period	6,031	5,245
Receipts		
Bootu Creek	1,029	-
Malak Malak	79	20
Wadeye	200	-
Rak Panngal	384	14
Gapuwiyak	103	92
Galiwinku	271	420
Katherine - Mangarrayi	-	50
Matched funds program	800	-
Ngukurr	150	-
Guyal Ambulya	87	28
Guyal Muynmin	106	98
Mambali Ngubayin (Johns)	176	125
Mambali Ngubayin (Watsons)	87	28
Mambali Walangara	156	91
Budal Riley	135	76
PSD DjarraDjarrany	-	25
West Arnhemland	-	160
Other	230	10
Total receipts	3,993	1,237
Payments		
Bootu Creek	(1,029)	-
Malak Malak	(5)	(25)
Rak Panngal	(1)	(3)
Gapuwiyak	(102)	(41)
Galiwinku	(240)	(270)
Ngukurr	(132)	(84)
Seal IPA	(43)	(17)
Mambali Ngubayin (Johns)	(17)	-
Marralam Outstation	-	(3)
PSD DjarraDjarrany	(35)	(8)
Total payments	(1,604)	(451)
Total amount held at the end of the reporting period	8,420	6,031
Cash at bank	8,420	6,031

Part 5 Appendices

FULL COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE

Two meetings of the Full Council were held in 2022-23:

124th FCM Katherine, 05 – 09 December 2022

125th FCM Barunga, 05 – 09 June 2023.

KEY:	
✓ = Member was in attendance	A = Member was an apology
* = Where a member was not present a proxy attended	- = Absent without notice
V = Vacant Position	

The following tables presents the Full Council members meeting attendance of the 124th Full Council Meeting held in Katherine from 05 – 09 December 2022.

BORROLOOLA/ BARKLY	POSITION	WARD	05/12 AM	05/12 PM	06/12 AM	06/12 PM	07/12 AM	07/12 PM	08/12 AM	08/12 PM	09/12 AM	09/12 PM
Brian Limerick	Member	Alexandria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
David Harvey	Member	Borroloola	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Shaun Evans	Member	Borroloola	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Vacant	Member	Borroloola - Outstation	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Jack Green	Member	Brunette Downs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Christopher Neade	Executive	Elliott	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jason Bill	Member	Muckaty	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jeremy Jackson	Member	Murranji	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maxine Wallace	Member	Nicholson River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joy Priest	Executive	North Barkly	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tony Jack	Member	Robinson River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Gordon Noonan	Member	Rockhampton Downs	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Finlay	Member	Wombaya	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

DARWIN / DALY / WAGAIT	POSITION	WARD	05/12 AM	05/12 PM	06/12 AM	06/12 PM	07/12 AM	07/12 PM	08/12 AM	08/12 PM	09/12 AM	09/12 PM
Joy Cardona	Member	Daly River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Matthew Shields	Member	Daly River North (Woolianna)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Norman Miller	Member	Daly River South (Upper Daly)	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	A	A	A	A
John Sullivan	Member	Daly River West (Woodycupildiya)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bill Danks	Executive	Darwin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Karen Christine Fejo-King	Member	Darwin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Phillip Goodman	Member	Darwin South (Adelaide River)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Graham Kenyon	Member	Darwin East (Humpty Doo)	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	A	A
Calvin Deveraux	Deputy Chair	Darwin South West (Litchfield)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rex Edmunds	Member	Darwin West (Belyuen)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vacant	Member	Palumpa	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
John Wilson	Member	Peppimenarti	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mona Liddy	Member	Pine Creek	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Steven Pultchen	Member	Wadeye	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mark Tunmuck-Smith	Member	Wadeye (North)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

EAST ARNHEM	POSITION	WARD	05/12 AM	05/12 PM	06/12 AM	06/12 PM	07/12 AM	07/12 PM	08/12 AM	08/12 PM	09/12 AM	09/12 PM
Bandarr (Michael) Wirrpanda	Member	Blue Mud Bay - Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓
Makungun (Brendan) Marika	Member	Blue Mud Bay - Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	A	A
Peter Yawunydjurr	Member	Galiwinku	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	A
Jason Guyula	Member	Galiwinku	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kenny Guyula	Member	Galiwinku - Outstations	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Vacant	Member	Galiwinku - Outstations	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Bobby Wunungmurra	Member	Gapuwiyak	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vacant	Member	Gapuwiyak	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
George Milaypuma	Member	Milingimbi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michael Ali	Member	Milingimbi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	A
David Warraya	Member	Ramingining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Peter Gambung	Member	Ramingining	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Djawa Yunupingu	Executive	Ski Beach	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Djawa "Timmy" Murrmurra	Member	Yirrkala	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Yananymul Mununggurr	Member	Yirrkala	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	A	A	A	A
Ishmael Marika	Member	Yirrkala	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

KATHERINE	POSITION	WARD	05/12 AM	05/12 PM	06/12 AM	06/12 PM	07/12 AM	07/12 PM	08/12 AM	08/12 PM	09/12 AM	09/12 PM
Helen Lee	Executive	Barunga	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Vacant	Member	Bulman	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Lisa Mumbin	Member	Katherine	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Adrian McDonald	Member	Katherine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Timothy Baker JNR	Member	Mataranka / Djimbra (Jilkminggan)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Dalywater	Member	Weemol	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Samuel Bush-Blanasi	Chair	Wugularr	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

SOUTH EAST ARNHEM (NGUKURR) REGION	POSITION	WARD	05/12 AM	05/12 PM	06/12 AM	06/12 PM	07/12 AM	07/12 PM	08/12 AM	08/12 PM	09/12 AM	09/12 PM
Darryn Farell	Member	Minyerri	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Walter Rogers	Member	Ngukurr & Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grace Daniels	Member	Ngukurr & Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bobby Nunggumajbarr	Member	Ngukurr & Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hubert Nunggumajbarr	Member	Numbulwar & Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Virginia Nundhirribala	Executive	Numbulwar & Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
David Murrungun	Member	Numbulwar & Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓
Peter Lansen	Executive	Nutwood/Cox River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clifford Duncan	Member	Urapunga	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

VICTORIA RIVER DISTRICT	POSITION	WARD	05/12 AM	05/12 PM	06/12 AM	06/12 PM	07/12 AM	07/12 PM	08/12 AM	08/12 PM	09/12 AM	09/12 PM
Shadrack Retchford	Member	Bulla	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	A	A
Raymond Hector	Executive	Pigeon Hole	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shauna King	Member	Yingawunari	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wesley Campbell	Member	Yarralin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anthea Anthony	Member	Amanbidji	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lorraine Jones	Executive	Timber Creek	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

WEST ARNHEM	POSITION	WARD	05/12 AM	05/12 PM	06/12 AM	06/12 PM	07/12 AM	07/12 PM	08/12 AM	08/12 PM	09/12 AM	09/12 PM
June Fejo	Member	Cobourg	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Otto Dann	Member	Gunbalanya	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Timothy Nabegeyo	Member	Gunbalanya - Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wayne Wauchope	Member	Gunbalanya - Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joanne Christophersen	Member	Kakadu	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jaqueline Phillips	Member	Maningrida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vacant	Member	Maningrida	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Matthew Ryan	Executive	Maningrida - Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Julius Kernan	Executive	Maningrida - Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Matthew Nagarlbin	Member	Minjilang	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bunug Galaminda	Member	Waruwi - Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jenny Inmulugulu	Member	Waruwi - Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



The following tables presents the Full Council members meeting attendance of the 125th Full Council Meeting held in Barunga from 05 – 09 June 2023.

BORROLOOLA/ BARKLY	POSITION	WARD	05/06 AM	05/06 PM	06/06 AM	06/06 PM	07/06 AM	07/06 PM	08/06 AM	08/06 PM	09/06 AM	09/06 PM
Brian Limerick	Member	Alexandria	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
David Harvey	Member	Borrooloola	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Shaun Evans	Member	Borrooloola	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Maria Pyro	Member	Borrooloola - Outstation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jack Green	Member	Brunette Downs	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Christopher Neade	Executive	Elliott	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Jason Bill	Member	Muckaty	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jeremy Jackson	Member	Murranji	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Maxine Wallace	Member	Nicholson River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joy Priest	Executive	North Barkly	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tony Jack	Member	Robinson River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Gordon Noonan	Member	Rockhampton Downs	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Finlay	Member	Wombaya	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

DARWIN / DALY / WAGAIT	POSITION	WARD	05/06 AM	05/06 PM	06/06 AM	06/06 PM	07/06 AM	07/06 PM	08/06 AM	08/06 PM	09/06 AM	09/06 PM
Joy Cardona	Member	Daly River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Matthew Shields	Member	Daly River North (Woolianna)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Norman Miller	Member	Daly River South (Upper Daly)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Sullivan	Member	Daly River West (Woodycupildiya)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bill Danks	Executive	Darwin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vacant	Member	Darwin	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Phillip Goodman	Member	Darwin South (Adelaide River)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Graham Kenyon	Member	Darwin East (Humpty Doo)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Calvin Deveraux	Deputy Chair	Darwin South West (Litchfield)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Rex Edmunds	Member	Darwin West (Belyuen)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Roger Wodidj	Member	Palumpa	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
John Wilson	Member	Peppimenarti	A	A	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mona Liddy	Member	Pine Creek	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Steven Pultchen	Member	Wadeye	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Mark Tunmuck-Smith	Member	Wadeye (North)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A

EAST ARNHEM	POSITION	WARD	05/06 AM	05/06 PM	06/06 AM	06/06 PM	07/06 AM	07/06 PM	08/06 AM	08/06 PM	09/06 AM	09/06 PM
Bandarr (Michael) Wirrpanda	Member	Blue Mud Bay - Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Makungun (Brendan) Marika	Member	Blue Mud Bay - Outstations	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Peter Yawunydjurr	Member	Galiwinku	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Jason Guyula	Member	Galiwinku	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kenny Guyula	Member	Galiwinku - Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vacant	Member	Galiwinku - Outstations	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Bobby Wunungmurra	Member	Gapuwiyak	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vacant	Member	Gapuwiyak	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
George Milaypuma	Member	Milingimbi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Michael Ali	Member	Milingimbi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
David Warraya	Member	Ramingining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Peter Gambung	Member	Ramingining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Djawa Yunupingu	Executive	Ski Beach	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Djawa "Timmy" Murrurrna	Member	Yirrkala	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Yananymul Mununggurr	Member	Yirrkala	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ishmael Marika	Member	Yirrkala	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Caroline Dhamarrandji	Co-Opted	Ski Beach	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dela Mununggurr	Co-Opted	Yirrkala	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Judy Gapugurawuy	Co-Opted	Ramingining	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

KATHERINE	POSITION	WARD	05/06 AM	05/06 PM	06/06 AM	06/06 PM	07/06 AM	07/06 PM	08/06 AM	08/06 PM	09/06 AM	09/06 PM
Helen Lee	Executive	Barunga	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Irene Jungawanga	Member	Bulman	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lisa Mumbin	Member	Katherine	✓	✓	*	*	*	*	*	*	✓	✓
Adrian McDonald	Member	Katherine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Timothy Baker JNR	Member	Mataranka / Djimbra (Jilkminggan)	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
John Dalywater	Member	Weemol	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Samuel Bush-Blanasi	Chair	Wugularr	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Charlane Bulumbara	Co-Opted	Barunga	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

SOUTH EAST ARNHEM (NGUKURR) REGION	POSITION	WARD	05/06 AM	05/06 PM	06/06 AM	06/06 PM	07/06 AM	07/06 PM	08/06 AM	08/06 PM	09/06 AM	09/06 PM
Darryn Farell	Member	Minyerri	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Walter Rogers	Member	Ngukurr & Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grace Daniels	Member	Ngukurr & Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bobby Nunggumajbarr	Member	Ngukurr & Outstations	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Hubert Nunggumajbarr	Member	Numbulwar & Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Virginia Nundhirribala	Executive	Numbulwar & Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
David Murrungun	Member	Numbulwar & Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Peter Lansen	Executive	Nutwood/Cox River	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Clifford Duncan	Member	Urapunga	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Melinda Thompson	Co-Opted	Ngukurr	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

VICTORIA RIVER DISTRICT	POSITION	WARD	05/06 AM	05/06 PM	06/06 AM	06/06 PM	07/06 AM	07/06 PM	08/06 AM	08/06 PM	09/06 AM	09/06 PM
Shadrack Retchford	Member	Bulla	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Raymond Hector	Executive	Pigeon Hole	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shauna King	Member	Yingawunari	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wesley Campbell	Member	Yarralin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Anthea Anthony	Member	Amanbidji	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Lorraine Jones	Executive	Timber Creek	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

WEST ARNHEM	POSITION	WARD	05/06 AM	05/06 PM	06/06 AM	06/06 PM	07/06 AM	07/06 PM	08/06 AM	08/06 PM	09/06 AM	09/06 PM
June Fejo	Member	Cobourg	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Otto Dann	Member	Gunbalanya	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Timothy Nabegeyo	Member	Gunbalanya - Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wayne Wauchope	Member	Gunbalanya - Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Joanne Christophersen	Member	Kakadu	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jaqueline Phillips	Member	Maningrida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vacant	Member	Maningrida	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Matthew Ryan	Executive	Maningrida - Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Julius Kernan	Executive	Maningrida - Outstations	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
Matthew Nagarlbin	Member	Minjilang	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bunug Galaminda	Member	Waruwi - Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Jenny Inmulugulu	Member	Waruwi - Outstations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE

Six meetings of the Executive Council were held in 2022-23:

220th ECM Katherine, 12 – 14 July 2022.

221st ECM Kalkaringi, 23 – 26 August 2022.

222nd ECM Wurrumiyanga, 07 – 09 September 2022.

223rd ECM Teleconference, 28 September 2022.

224th ECM Darwin, 21 – 23 November 2022.

225th ECM Nhulunbuy, 27 – 30 March 2023.

KEY:

✓ = Member was in attendance

A = Member was an apology

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS MEETING ATTENDANCE FOR 2022-23

NAME	REGION	220TH ECM 12-14 JUL 2022	221ST ECM 23-26 AUG 2022	222ND ECM 07-09 SEP 2022	223RD ECM 28 SEP 2022	224TH ECM 21-23 NOV 2022	225TH ECM 27-30 MAR 2023
Samuel Bush-Blanasi	Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Calvin Deveraux	Executive/ Deputy Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bill Danks	Darwin Daly Wagait	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Christopher Neade	Borrooloola Barkly	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Richard Dixon	Borrooloola Barkly	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NA
Djawa Yunupingu	East Arnhem	A	A	✓	A	✓	A
Yananymul Mununggurr	East Arnhem	✓	✓	A	A	A	✓
Helen Lee	Katherine	✓	A	A	A	✓	✓
Grace Daniels	Ngukurr	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NA
Clifford Duncan	Ngukurr	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	NA
Matthew Nagarlbin	West Arnhem	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NA
Julius Kernan	West Arnhem	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Brian Pedwell	VRD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NA
Deborah Jones	VRD	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	NA
Matthew Ryan	WA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	✓
Virginia Nundhirribala	SEA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	✓
Peter Lansen	SEA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	✓
Joy Priest	BB	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	✓

GLOSSARY

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT GLOSSARY

ABA	Aboriginals Benefit Account
Aboriginal land	(a) land held by a land trust for an estate in fee simple; or (b) land the subject of a deed of grant held in escrow by a land council until a specific event or condition takes place
ACPO	Aboriginal Community Police Officer
AMHFA	Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid
AL	annual leave
ANKAAA	Association of Northern, Kimberley and Arnhem Aboriginal Artists
ALFA	Arnhem Land Fire Abatement
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
ASC	Aboriginal Sea Company
BDO Australia	Binder Dijker Otte Australia – adviser to clients seeking audit, tax and advisory services
BDU	Benefits Distribution Unit
BMB	Blue Mud Bay

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CLC	Central Land Council
Cth	Commonwealth
ECM	Executive Council Meeting
ELA	Equatorial Launch Australia
EPBC	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
FBT	fringe benefit tax
FCM	Full Council Meeting
GIS	Geographic Information System
GST	Goods and Services Tax
HSR	Health and Safety Representatives
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IPA	Indigenous Protected Areas
LIR	Land Interest Register
LoC	Learning on Country
LSL	long service leave
LUMAR	Land Use Management and Royalties
MOU	memorandum of understanding
MV	motor vehicle

NAIC	Northern Aboriginal Investment Corporation Pty Ltd
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Agency
NLC	Northern Land Council
NT	Northern Territory
NTCET	Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training
NTPFES	Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services
PACT	Permits Applications and Compliance team
PECIMS	Project Environmental and Cultural Information Management System

PEP	Performance Enhancement Program
PGPA	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i>
R&E	Resource and Energy
s 19	section 19
SEALFA	South East Arnhem Land Fire Abatement
SEAL IPA	South East Arnhem Land Indigenous Protected Area
TO	Traditional Owner
WHS	Work Health and Safety

COMPLIANCE INDEX

COMPLIANCE INDEX OF PUBLIC GOVERNANCE, PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RULE 2014 (PGPA RULE) REQUIREMENTS FOR CORPORATE COMMONWEALTH ENTITIES.

PGPA RULE REFERENCE	PART OF REPORT	DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENT
17BE	Contents of annual report		
17BE(a)	History	Details of the legislation establishing the body	Mandatory
17BE(b)(i)	Part One – About Us: Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life	A summary of the objects and functions of the entity as set out in legislation	Mandatory
17BE(b)(ii)	Corporate Plan 2022 – 23 to 2025–26	The purposes of the entity as included in the entity's corporate plan for the reporting period	Mandatory
17BE(c)	Strategic Thinking	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)	Strategic Thinking	Directions given to the entity by the Minister under an Act or instrument during the reporting period	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(e)	Strategic Thinking	Any government policy order that applied in relation to the entity during the reporting period under section 22 of the Act	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(f)	Not Applicable	Particulars of non-compliance with: (a) a direction given to the entity by the Minister under an Act or instrument during the reporting period; or (b) a government policy order that applied in relation to the entity during the reporting period under section 22 of the Act	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(g)	Annual Performance Statement	Annual performance statements in accordance with paragraph 39(1)(b) of the Act and section 16F of the rule	Mandatory

PGPA RULE REFERENCE	PART OF REPORT	DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENT
17BE(h), 17BE(i)	Financial Performance Summary	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	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(j)	Accountable Authority	Information on the accountable authority, or each member of the accountable authority, of the entity during the reporting period	Mandatory
17BE(k)	NLC Organisational Structure	Outline of the organisational structure of the entity (including any subsidiaries of the entity)	Mandatory
17BE(ka)	About our workforce	Statistics on the entity's employees on an ongoing and non-ongoing basis, including the following: (a) statistics on full-time employees; (b) statistics on part-time employees; (c) statistics on gender; (d) statistics on staff location	Mandatory
17BE(l)	Contact Us	Outline of the location (whether or not in Australia) of major activities or facilities of the entity	Mandatory
17BE(m)	Part three – Corporate Management and Reporting	Information relating to the main corporate governance practices used by the entity during the reporting period	Mandatory
17BE(n), 17BE(o)	Consultant Expenditure	For transactions with a related Commonwealth entity or related company where the value of the transaction, or if there is more than one transaction, the aggregate of those transactions, is more than \$10,000 (inclusive of GST): (a) the decision-making process undertaken by the accountable authority to approve the entity paying for a good or service from, or providing a grant to, the related Commonwealth entity or related company; and (b) the value of the transaction, or if there is more than one transaction, the number of transactions and the aggregate of value of the transactions	If applicable, mandatory

PGPA RULE REFERENCE	PART OF REPORT	DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENT
17BE(p)	Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policy	Any significant activities and changes that affected the operation or structure of the entity during the reporting period	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(q)	Judicial Decisions and Reviews by Outside Bodies	Particulars of judicial decisions or decisions of administrative tribunals that may have a significant effect on the operations of the entity	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(r)	Not Applicable	Particulars of any reports on the entity given by: (a) the Auditor-General (other than a report under section 43 of the Act); or (b) a Parliamentary Committee; or (c) the Commonwealth Ombudsman; or the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(s)	Note 11. Subsidiaries	An explanation of information not obtained from a subsidiary of the entity and the effect of not having the information on the annual report	If applicable, mandatory
17BE(t)	Insurance premiums for officers	Details of any indemnity that applied during the reporting period to the accountable authority, any member of the accountable authority or officer of the entity against a liability (including premiums paid, or agreed to be paid, for insurance against the authority, member or officer's liability for legal costs)	If applicable, mandatory

PGPA RULE REFERENCE	PART OF REPORT	DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENT
17BE(taa)	Committee	The following information about the audit committee for the entity: (a) a direct electronic address of the charter determining the functions of the audit committee; (b) the name of each member of the audit committee; (c) the qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience of each member of the audit committee; (d) information about each member's attendance at meetings of the audit committee; (e) the remuneration of each member of the audit committee	
17BE(ta)	Remuneration	Information about executive remuneration	Mandatory

REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE *ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS (NORTHERN TERRITORY) ACT 1976*

REQUIREMENT	ALRA SECTION	PAGE(S) NLC
FEES Specify the total fees received for services provided by the NLC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under s 33A of Land Rights Act for services provided under Part IV (Mining); and Under s 33A for services prescribed by the regulations that it provides in performing any of its functions, whether in the reporting year of the previous year. Specify total fees received under s 33B (other fees charged to the Commonwealth). 	s 37(2), Part IV, s 33A and s 33B. No fee types prescribed under s 33A and no fees were requested under s 33B.	Note 4.

REQUIREMENT	ALRA SECTION	PAGE(S) NLC
SECTIONS 35 DETERMINATIONS Include details of payments by the NLC under s 35(2) or (3) and any determinations made by the Minister under s 35(6) made during the reporting year. Details of payments made by determination or otherwise under s 35(2), s 35(6), s 35(4), s 35(4b), s 35(11) and s 67(b) must be provided and include, the recipient of the amount; the subsection under which the amount was paid; and the total of the amount paid.	s 35	Note 22.
DETAILS OF AMOUNTS HELD IN TRUST Include details of payments by the NLC under s 35(2) or (3) and any determination made by the Minister under s 35(6) made during the reporting year. Details of payments made by determination or otherwise under s 35(2), 35(4), 35(6), 35(4B), 35(11) and 67(B) must be provided and include, the recipient of the amount; the subsection under which the amount was paid; and the total of the amount paid.	s 37(5)	Note 22.
COMMITTEES If a committee has been appointed under s 29A to assist the NLC in relation to the performance of any of its functions or the exercise of any of its powers, detailed information of its activities must be included.	s 37(7)	Committees
CONSULTANTS Specify consultants engaged by the NLC during the year and the amount paid to each consultant.	s 37(8)	Consultants Expenditure

OTHER REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

OTHER REPORTING OBLIGATIONS	REFERENCES	REFERENCE
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	s 516A	Environment reporting
APS Net Zero Emission Reporting	APS Net Zero 2023 Policy	Environment reporting
Work Health and Safety Act	Part 3 & 4 of Schedule 2	Work Health Safety (WHS) Committee and Health and Safety Representatives (HSR)
Freedom of Information Act	Part 1 of Schedule 2 s 7	Freedom of Information





**NORTHERN
LAND COUNCIL**

Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life

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