



NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL



Northern Land Council

ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014

Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life



*Northern Land
Council Annual
Report 2013-14*





Our Vision:

A Territory in which the land rights of traditional owners are legally recognised, and Aboriginal people benefit economically, socially and culturally from the secure possession of our lands and seas.

Our Values:

Our values are informed by the values of the Aboriginal people of our region and are consistent with Commonwealth standards.

Our Objective:

To achieve enhanced social, political and economic participation and equity for Aboriginal people through the promotion, protection and advancements of our land rights, other rights and interests.

Measuring Our Performance

Outcomes Framework

The Northern Land Council (NLC), along with the other Northern Territory (NT) land councils, has adopted a consistent approach to measuring and reporting on performance. This reporting approach assists stakeholders to benchmark the NLC's performance and to gain an understanding of the similarities and differences between the Land Councils.

The NLC is working to achieve enhanced social, political and economic participation and equity for Aboriginal people in its jurisdiction as a result of the promotion, protection and advancements of our land rights, other rights and interests.

Strategic Plan

The NLC engaged consultants OTS Management to undertake strategic planning workshops with the Full Council during 2011- 2012. The Full Council provided direction to hold separate workshops with each of the seven Regional Councils; this resulted in an Executive Summary. The draft strategic plan now requires further editing and consultation with staff. It is anticipated that an updated version will be completed and presented to a Full Council Meeting in December 2014 for endorsement.

Throughout this financial reporting year, apart from our core legislative provisions the 2007-2011 Strategic Plan remains the guiding document that set out our organisation's principal objectives.

The new plan will build upon the achievements and describes its goals and vision for the future. The plan provides the framework for the continuing strategic management of the NLC and reflects the outcomes and outputs framework agreed with the Minister.

Throughout the life of the plan, the NLC intends to deliver its services by focusing on the key result areas of providing high quality professional advice, based on strong relationships with our clients, using highly skilled people and strategic partnerships.

The NLC's strategic plan can be downloaded from the website at www.nlc.org.au.

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Cover image: Caroline Dhamarrandji paints the NLC water serpent logo in readiness for a protest against Northern Territory Government's (NTG) water allocation plans, Katherine May 2014 (see page 24).

Corporate Plan

The NLC's Corporate Plan describes how, in discharging its responsibilities under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (ALRA)*, *Native Title Act 1993 (NTA)* and other relevant legislation, the NLC will set priorities, manage resources and achieve results for the traditional Aboriginal owners and affected Aboriginal people within our region.

The Corporate Plan describes:

- » Who we are
- » What we do
- » Our vision
- » Our values
- » Our operating environment
- » Our Outcomes and Key Result Areas
- » Our Key Priorities and Programmes

- » How we will measure our performance, and
- » The factors that are critical to our success

To assist with the implementation of the Strategic and Corporate Plans the NLC has developed an integrated planning and performance framework.

The framework ensures that the strategic directions and performance requirements outlined in its Strategic and Corporate plans cascade into the lower level Output Group and Program plans. All subsidiary plans now have direct links with the Strategic Plan and provide progressively increasing levels of detail on the implementation of strategies and actions across the NLC's output areas.

The planning framework that NLC reports on has been accepted as best practice and useful in satisfying performance audits of the NLC. The NLC acknowledges that policies and procedures should be reviewed in line with strategic directions of the organisation.

Below: Children at 2013 Garma Festival at Gulkula, north east Arnhem Land. Photograph, Yothu Yindi Foundation



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About This Report

The Northern Land Council Annual Report 2013-2014 provides a comprehensive account of the Council's performance from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013.

The Northern Land Council's Annual report 2013-2014 provides a comprehensive account of the Council's performance from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

The NLC continues to be guided by principles outlined in the 2007-11 Strategic Plan. The new Full Council, elected in November 2013, will continue to provide invaluable input to lead the organisation over their new three-year term.

The NLC's Strategic Plan 2014-2019 will be presented to the December 2014 full council meeting for endorsement.

The Strategic Plan describes our vision, key objectives and strategies and should be read in conjunction with the overarching legislation, the ALRA and NTA.

The NLC continues an ambitious program of actions aligned to key strategic directions: enhanced social, political and economic participation and equity for Aboriginal people in the NLC's jurisdiction through the promotion, protection and advancements of their land and water rights, human rights and interests.

The Annual Report highlights achievements and identifies future directions and attempts

to foresee challenges to minimise risks in achieving outcomes throughout the year.

As a Commonwealth Statutory Authority, the NLC submits this report to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs for tabling in the Australian Parliament. The report aims to inform local, national and Australian government policy, constituents, staff, stakeholders, students, news media and the wider community.

Contact Us

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Katherine

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Katherine NT 0850

Bulman

Mimal Ranger Station
Weemol NT 0822

Ngukurr

Balamurra Street
Ngukurr NT 0852

Borroloola / Barkly

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Mara Mara Camp
Borroloola NT 0854

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12 January 2015

Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion
Minister for Indigenous Affairs
PO Box 6100
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANNBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, the *Native Title Act 1993* and the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, I am pleased to submit the 2013-2014 Annual Report for the Northern Land Council.

I am authorised by the Full Council of the Northern Land Council to state that the Directors are responsible under section 9 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* for the preparation and content of the report in accordance with the *Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011*. The Audit Advisory Committee and the 170th Executive Council Meeting approved the financial audit report on the 9th and 10th January 2015 respectively.

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

I commend the report to you for presentation to the Australian Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

Samuel Bush-Blanasi
CHAIRMAN

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Fast Facts

80.2%

*of the NT Indigenous population resides in regional and remote areas of the Territory, the highest proportion of any State or Territory.**

More than

68,850

*Indigenous people reside in the Northern Territory, representing 29.8% of the Northern Territory population.**

More than
\$8M

received from land use
agreements.
(refer page 135)

119

agreements ratified by
Full Council meetings
under s19 of the **ALRA**
(refer page 104)

501

applications approved out of
the **Funerals and Ceremony**
fund (refer page 127)

The Northern Land Council: Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life

There is nothing more fundamental to the Aboriginal understanding of self and society than our relationship with the land and the sea.

Below: The former Prime Minister the Hon Kevin Rudd MP attends the ceremony at Yirrkala in July 2013 to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Presentation of the Bark Petitions

Below right: Mr Rudd with Mr Wali Wunungmurra, NLC Chairman

History

In 1973 the Australian Parliament appointed Justice Ted Woodward to conduct a Commission of Inquiry into the appropriate way to recognise Aboriginal Land Rights in the Northern Territory. The parliament was responding to growing calls from Aboriginal people, especially in the Northern Territory, for the recognition of their land rights.

In 1963, the Yolngu people of east Arnhem Land presented the Commonwealth Parliament with a bark petition, protesting about plans to use a great swathe of their land for bauxite mining. The petition remains

on display at Parliament House, Canberra.

The immediate-past Chairman of the NLC, Mr Wali Wunungmurra, was a signatory to, and one of the artists of, that petition. He was present in July 2013 at a celebration which marked the 50th anniversary of its presentation at Rika Park, Yirrkala.

Rumblings for recognition of land rights were rising across the Top End during the 1960s. In 1966, Gurindji stockmen and their families walked off the Wave Hill Station. What began as a dispute over pay and conditions escalated into a demand for land rights. Thousands of Aboriginal people elsewhere took up those causes: marches for land rights, freedom rides and the Aboriginal tent embassy happened across the country.

By 1967, all sorts of pressures led to an historic national referendum, where 91% of the people of Australia voted to



give the Australian Parliament the power to make laws with respect to Aboriginal people.

The Northern Land Council was established in the second half of 1973 in response to Justice Woodward's first report. Initially, its role was to assist the Commission by ascertaining the views of Aboriginal people and advocating for our interests.

Following the enactment of the *ALRA*, the NLC became an independent statutory authority responsible for assisting Aboriginal people in the northern region of the Northern Territory to acquire and manage traditional lands and seas.

The establishment and ongoing support of the four Land Councils in the NT are an important manifestation of Parliament's commitment to reconciliation with the Aboriginal peoples of the Territory.

Nearly 40 years on, the NLC remains an important body through which the Aboriginal people of the Top End make their voices heard on the whole range of issues which impact on our lands, seas and communities. The *ALRA* continues to be a strong foundation on which to build social, cultural and economic growth for traditional owners.

The NLC is also the representative body for the purposes of the *NTA*, and in this capacity the NLC also represents Aboriginal people living on the Tiwi Islands and on Groote Eylandt.

Our Region and its constituents

The NLC is an independent statutory authority of the Commonwealth, responsible for assisting Aboriginal peoples to acquire and manage their traditional lands and seas.

Since the enactment of the *ALRA* and the *NTA*, approximately 50% of land in the Northern Territory has become legally Aboriginal-owned, including 85% of the Territory's coastline. A large proportion of the remaining land mass is subject to Native Title interests.

The NLC's key constituents are the traditional owners within its region. About 30,000 Aboriginal people live in the region, and 80 percent live in regional and remote areas – in nearly 200 communities ranging in size from small family outstations to communities with populations around 3000.

The majority of Aboriginal peoples in the NLC region speak an Aboriginal language as their first language. Many are multi-lingual, and English is often way down the list of languages in everyday use.



Above: One of the 1963 Bark Petitions presented to the Australian Parliament

Customary law continues to be practised in many communities within the region and continues to be recognised and accommodated by the Territory's justice system (although with overriding limitations because of Commonwealth legislation enacted at the time of the 2007 Federal Intervention.)

Many major resource developments are taking place on Aboriginal land and land subject to Native Title. These developments have included the construction of the Alice Springs-Darwin railway line, gas pipelines, Army training areas, national parks and pastoral activities. Mining and petroleum exploration and development projects continue to be growing business for the NLC to process and approve on behalf of traditional owners.

The challenge for the NLC is to ensure that social, economic and cultural benefits flow to Aboriginal people from these developments. Aboriginal people are keen to participate in planning and development activities while at the same time seeking to protect their cultural integrity.

Enhanced social, political and economic participation

The NLC is committed to 'enhancing Aboriginal people's social, political and economic participation' and this is reflected through the policies and decisions of the Full Council.

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 opinions, build capacity, encourage leadership and develop equitable and balanced outcomes. We undertake to adopt best practice and precautionary principles.

The mechanisms for achieving this are the promotion, protection and advancement of Aboriginal peoples' rights and interests through strong leadership and good governance.

The NLC continues to show that it is ideally placed to manage the increasing demands of governments, private enterprise and Aboriginal people themselves to establish services and business enterprises on Aboriginal lands.

In partnership with the Australian and Northern Territory governments and many others, the NLC continues to enhance Aboriginal participation and equity in major developments.

Aboriginal people are diverse and culturally rich, our lands and waters are resource rich and a major contributor to the NT economy.

The NLC continues to be a relevant and essential driver of Aboriginal affairs in the Northern Territory.

A Word From Our Chairman, Mr Samuel Bush-Blanasi

I am honoured to have been elected Chairman of the Northern Land Council at the meeting of the new Full Council in November 2013, and I pay tribute to my predecessor, Mr Wali Wunungmurra, for his dedicated service over two, three-year terms, often during difficult times.



With my able Deputy Chairman, Mr John Daly, and the new Executive Council, I am committed to leading the NLC, to reform its operations and improve its financial position, and to develop a stronger relationship with our constituents, many of whom live in very remote parts of the Northern Territory.

I wish to record my appreciation of the service rendered by Mr Robert Graham as acting Chief Executive Officer following the resignation of Mr Kim Hill in October 2012. Mr Graham was drafted from his substantive job as Manager Anthropology branch to fill in as Chief Executive until Mr Joe Morrison took up the job permanently in February 2014.

Mr Morrison was previously Chief Executive of the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA). His appointment to the top job at the NLC was the culmination of an exhaustive recruitment process, and I am delighted to report that we have already established a close and productive working relationship.

It has been a busy year for NLC staff, who have worked hard to respond to and deal with important policy issues which have confronted the organisation.

The renewed push to develop northern Australia offers both opportunities and challenges. The NLC, in various submissions and media releases, has argued forcibly for Aboriginal people to have a central role in formulating policies related to economic development and to share in the benefits derived from our lands and waters. Around 50% of the Northern Territory land mass and 80% of the coastline is Aboriginal-owned, and Native Title interests extend over much more of the Northern Territory.

Regrettably, there seems to have been limited recognition of our calls for Aboriginal participation and cooperation - yet, economic development on Aboriginal lands will continue to necessitate consultation with, and input from, Aboriginal people well into the future

I repeat the pledge of my predecessor - that is, 'The NLC is committed to *'enhancing Aboriginal peoples' social, political and economic participation'*.

Economic development is a basic aspiration of all peoples and is being cumulatively achieved across the NLC region under the aegis of ALRA.

The NLC Full Council, at its two meetings during the year under review, approved 119 land use agreements under section 19 of ALRA.

The Full Council Meeting in Katherine in May approved a 99-year lease for a house at Banyala; and an Aboriginal-owned mining company was granted approval to explore for bauxite on Aboriginal land on the Dhupuma Plateau in eastern Arnhem Land.

Native Title claims in the NLC region have continued to be settled, mostly by consent and en masse in the case of claims over pastoral leases. The latter process has been recognised by approval of the Federal Court, which has praised the NLC for its efficiency.

Aboriginal people are committed to economic development as a means to improving our lives and laying a foundation for the betterment of our future generations. At the same time, and there is no contradiction here, we want to preserve our cultural integrity and maintain our hard-fought-for land rights.

Too much of the debate about economic development has focused on land tenure: the *ALRA* and the *NTA* are held by many commentators to be an impediment to development. I reject that assertion, and under my chairmanship the NLC

will continue to challenge any attempts to diminish Aboriginal property rights.

In that context, Ord Stage 3 looms as a contentious issue in the coming year, given the proliferation of sacred sites across the Northern Territory land earmarked for that development. Traditional owners on the Northern Territory side have already voiced fundamental opposition to the Stage 3 extension into land over which they have Native Title interests.

The Commonwealth government's plans to secure 99-year leases over Aboriginal communities, under section 19A of *ALRA* will also continue to exercise the NLC over the coming year. The NLC has a statutory responsibility to ensure that traditional owners fully understand the implications of entering into a lease with the Executive Director of Township

Leasing, and that Aboriginal people will have given free, prior and informed consent.

Looking forward, the NLC is already making plans to commemorate the 40th anniversary in 2016 of the passage of the *ALRA* by the Commonwealth Parliament. Aboriginal people continue to prize the intertidal sea rights and land ownership which the Act has delivered. The 2016 anniversary will be a time for us to celebrate, and to reflect on how those rights secured under the Act can be leveraged for the enduring benefit of our future generations.



Samuel Bush Blanasi
Chairman



A Word From Our Chief Executive Officer, Joe Morrison

I took up the CEO's position in February 2014 with some trepidation, given my recognition that the Northern Land Council is a pre-eminent statutory body of unique importance in the Northern Territory that plays a profoundly important role in the national body politic of Aboriginal affairs. I am pleased to state that my short experience in the job has been exciting and immensely rewarding.

My new mission has several aims: I want to reach out to the NLC's constituent membership, in some places to re-establish neglected relationships; I want to improve our presence in regional offices and to empower the NLC's regional councils; I want to encourage the Executive and Full Councils to direct their attentions to long-term strategy and planning, including opportunities for economic development; and, with the help of managers and the elected Executive Council, I want to improve efficiencies within the NLC's administration and to improve its financial position in a climate of diminishing budgets.

Managers and staff have been of immense help as I've adjusted to the job. The organisation is lucky to have a loyal and dedicated workforce (217 permanent employees, 124 of them Indigenous.) Negotiations towards a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (to be

effective from 1 July 2014) have been conducted cordially, but it will be impossible to satisfy demands for wage increases which would bring NLC pay scales up to parity with Australian and Northern Territory public service (and, Central Land Council) pay scales, without an increase in our ABA budget.

In early June, I attended Federal Court hearings in Melbourne and Tennant Creek which dealt with the NLC's decision in 2007 to recommend a site in the Muckaty Aboriginal Land Trust for a Australian government nuclear waste disposal facility.

Having heard the opening addresses in Melbourne and evidence in Tennant Creek from Aboriginal objectors, I formed the view that the NLC should accept an offer from the objectors to settle the case. I thought that too much (self) damage was being inflicted on families within the Land Trust.



It remains my hope that after the matter of a waste dump at Muckaty is finally decided one way or another that it will be possible to achieve a lasting reconciliation among members of the Land Trust and turn our attention towards assisting traditional Aboriginal owners with other important matters relating to Aboriginal well-being and country.

From the NLC's viewpoint, the growing emphasis on northern development since the last election has dominated the policy landscape. As it affects the NLC, much of the debate has tended to focus on an argument that land tenure (read, the ALRA and the NTA) is an impediment to economic development. It's an argument which I have dissected and rejected during

many news media and public speaking engagements during my short tenure as CEO, and which will continue to spark debate into the future.

The NLC's record over recent years of processing and approving hundreds of land use agreements, under s19 of *ALRA*, is a good measure of ever-evolving development on Aboriginal lands. At its two meetings during this reporting year, the NLC's Full Council approved 119 land use agreements. Processing a large number of agreements has also placed considerable strain on our human and financial resources.

I came to this job as founding CEO of NAILSMA, an organisation which has been at the forefront of Indigenous thinking about water policy and planning, regional marine planning, climate change and Carbon opportunities and research on the northern Indigenous estate.

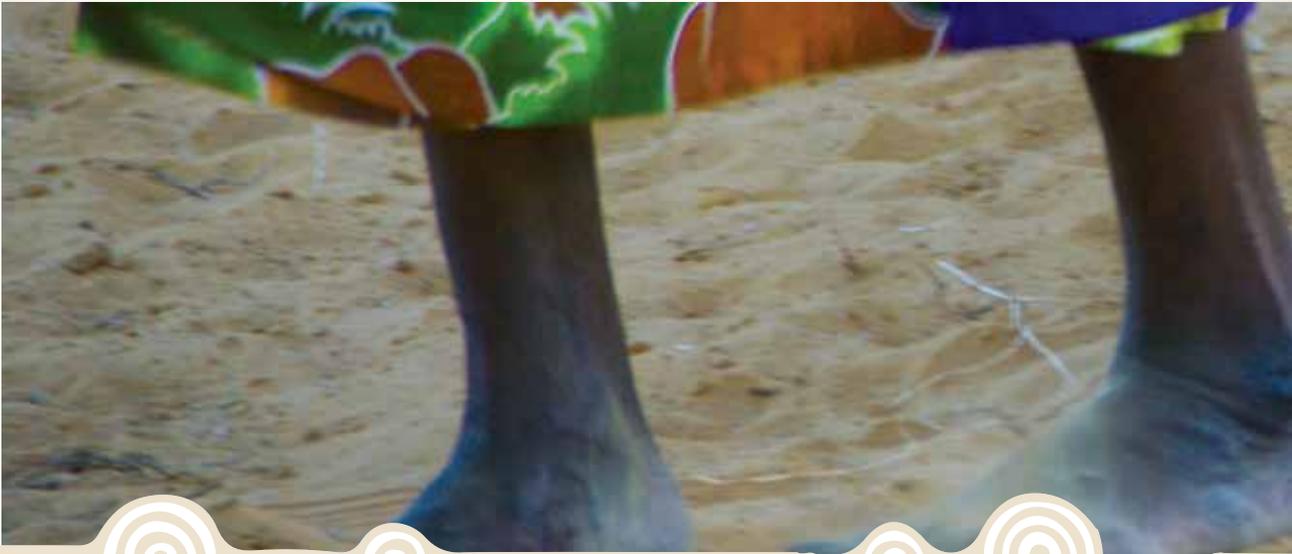
The NLC is a member of NAILSMA, and in the reporting year the NLC has itself focused on water policy, particularly allocations granted by the NTG in the NLC region – unfortunately not to Aboriginal people.

Concerned about over-allocation of water extraction licences

and the NTG's abandonment of plans for Strategic Indigenous (water) Reserves, the NLC's Full Council, meeting in Katherine in May, called for an inquiry into water allocations and planning. In addition, all 83 members of the Full Council prepared placards and banners, and marched in protest against the NTG's water policies.

Communicating NLC policies is an important part of my role, and I have managed to raise the NLC's public profile through frequent news media appearances and speeches.

Many challenges lie ahead. Our constituents have high expectations of the NLC and, although sometimes those



expectations are beyond our range of responsibilities, the organisation must continue to reach out to its members. I have tried to take every opportunity to travel to all the NLC's outposts in order to take soundings from staff and meet local Aboriginal people about communities' aspirations for their futures.

Managing external expectations about northern development and the prospect of township leasing deals by the Australian government within the NLC region will continue to call for our close attention to ensure that traditional owners make free, prior and informed consent decisions that are evidence-based.

Internally, I have expanded the senior management team, which used to include just branch managers, into a more widely-based group which now also includes other senior staff who have hands-on responsibility for important operations. This new leadership group meets weekly and provides advice on all matters affecting the NLC.

Having settled into the job, I can now look forward to working with staff and the elected arms to improve the NLC's operations and performance, so as to better serve the interests of Aboriginal people.

Those who know me understand my approach as pragmatic, Aboriginal people must be engaged in northern development including public policy design and implementation that places Aboriginal people front and centre in the development of our lands and waters. We have all had enough of the despair, but we must be in control of our futures.



Joe Morrison
Chief Executive Officer





*The Year
in Review*

Highlights

New CEO

Joe Morrison took up his duties as CEO in February 2014. He had been the founding CEO of NAILSMA.

Robert Graham (substantive position, Manager Anthropology) acted in the CEO's job for 16 months, after the resignation of Kim Hill in October 2012.

Joe Morrison has worked expeditiously to raise the NLC's public profile.



Native Title Consent Determinations

The NLC's role in the efficient resolution, by consent, of native title claims over huge swathes of country held under pastoral lease was acknowledged by two Federal Court judges during on-country sittings.

During special sittings at Mataranka and Minyerri on October 2013, Justice John Mansfield singled out the hard work of NLC officers in helping to bring native title determinations (16 pastoral leases south-west of Mataranka, and two pastoral leases south of the Alawa Land Trust area) to a head.

And during another court ceremony at Tingkarli, near Tennant Creek in March 2014, Justice Darryl Rahniah, said: "I know how hard the Northern Land Council has worked to bring this to a head."



Top: NLC CEO Joe Morrison has lifted the profile of the organisation with his willingness to engage with the media

Above: Native title holders with the Hon Justice Mansfield AM (far right) at the ceremony at Minyerri in 2013

Muckaty

In mid-June, the NLC and the Commonwealth agreed to settle the legal challenge in the Federal Court to the nomination of a site within the Muckaty Land Trust for a nuclear waste storage facility.

The settlement was offered by opponents of the nomination, and was accepted by the NLC without admission of any liability.

Chief Executive Joe Morrison said the decision to settle was driven by divisions with the clan groups which comprise the Land Trust.



Above:
Muckaty Station

Water

The NTG's water allocation plans continued to concern the NLC membership, after the government abandoned the commitment of its predecessor to create a Strategic Indigenous Reserve. The reserve would have allowed the development of water-based economies by traditional owners.

Frustration with the government's water policies and allocations spilled over at a Full Council meeting in Katherine in May, when members marched with placards and banners to a meeting in town being addressed by the Environment Minister, Hon Willem Westra van Holte MLA.

Below: Lazarus Murray, NLC Senior Project Officer (Katherine), leads the protestors in Katherine



Development Approvals

The NLC continued to process and approve numerous applications for leases on Aboriginal land under section 19 of the *ALRA*. The 108th Full Council meeting in May 2014 approved a 99-year lease for a private residential development at Banyala, the first such lease in the NLC region.

Also, an Aboriginal-owned mining company, Gulkula Mining (a subsidiary of the Gumatj Corporation), was granted approval to explore for bauxite across 69sq km of Aboriginal land south of the Rio Tinto Alcan Gove mining tenement on the Dhupuma Plateau.

The proponents say the agreement will deliver financial and social benefits, including employment, training and contract opportunities.

Summary of Financial Performance

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 an estimates and justification basis.

The NLC is also a Native Title Representative Body under the NTA, and received funding for native title matters.

In addition to its core funding under the ABA and Native Title, the NLC receives funding under a number of separate grants.

The NLC is required to prepare audited financial statements for two separate accounting entities under two Acts of Parliament – the ALRA and the NTA. The NLC auditor is the Australian National Audit Office.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders and Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period. The full audited statements are reproduced at the end of this report at page 145.

A short summary of the NLC's overall financial performance for 2013-2014 is shown below.

External Funding

NLC receives additional grant based funding from a number of sources, the major external funding sources include:

- » Jobs and Career Services funding (ie mining companies)
- » Working on Country funding for ranger groups (Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities)
- » Real Jobs funding for ranger groups (Indigenous Land Corporation)

Challenges

- » Uncertainty of grant funding arrangements for ranger salaries and ongoing operational funding after new policy directions by the current government.
- » Competing demands for limited financial resources
- » Compliance with Management Plan and Estimates 2013-2014, financial accounting and procedures manual
- » Turnaround time of the cost recovery processes
- » Depleted and aged vehicle pool

The Year at a Glance

Operating Surplus/ Deficit (before capital investment)

The NLC's operating surplus [or deficit] is variable and dependent on external factors such as grant cycles and capital investment in infrastructure in particular financial years. "Operating surplus" is an accounting term and is not unexpended funds. The NLC is currently reviewing its financial policies and procedures which will lead to more effective and efficient work flows and improved fiscal management and responsibility.

Table 1: Financial Performance over Five Years

	2009/10 \$,000	2010/11 \$,000	2011/12 \$,000	2012/13 \$,000	2013/14 \$,000
Revenue	36,497	42,628	37,021	35,419	36,869
Expenses	34,598	34,719	40,904	48,780	43,700
Operating Surplus/ Deficit (before capital investment)	1,899	7,909	(3,883)	(13,361)	(6,831)
Assets	23,210	31,116	27,955	15,629	11,295
Liabilities	5,549	5,546	6,236	7,492	8,020
Asset revaluation reserve	265	265	265	44	1,973
Cash held	11,599	12,965	19,427	4,577	2,545
Net increase/ decrease in cash held	4,335	8,965	6,462	(14,850)	(2,032)

Royalty Amounts

The following *Royalty Amounts* were paid by the NLC over the past 5 years:

	2009/10 \$,000	2010/11 \$,000	2011/12 \$,000	2012/13 \$,000	2013/14 \$,000
Total Royalties paid (refer Note 18 Annual Financial Statements 2013-2014)	22,588	31,330	35,144	33,964	61,688

Mining Royalty Equivalents Held In Trust

As of 30 June, the following mining royalty equivalents have not been paid and are being held in trust:

	2009/10 \$,000	2010/11 \$,000	2011/12 \$,000	2012/13 \$,000	2013/14
Section 64 (3) payments (Refer Note 18 Annual Financial Statements 2013-2014)	49	587	941	666	0

Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011 Compliance

Report of Operations

As a Commonwealth Authority, the NLC is subject to annual reporting orders issued by the Finance Minister under s28 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 (CAC Act)* that stipulates that the NLC recover costs regarding the provision of products or services where it is efficient to do so.

Fees

In accordance with subsection 37(2) of the *ALRA*, fees received for services by the NLC can be found at Note 4(a) of the Financial Statements (refer page 166).

Significant events

There were no significant events pursuant to section 16(a) of the Annual Reporting Orders to report this financial year.

Key Changes

There were no key changes to the state of affairs or principal activities of the Northern Land Council pursuant to section 16(c) of the Annual Reporting Orders to report this financial year.

Amendments to Enabling Legislation

There were no amendments to the enabling legislation pursuant to section 16(d) of the Annual Reporting Orders to report this financial year.

External Scrutiny

There were no judicial decisions, no ministerial directions and general policies or decisions of administrative tribunals pursuant to s17(a) Annual Reporting Orders this financial year.

Strategic Plan

Left: NLC Executive members with Prime Minister the Hon Tony Abbott MP, at Parliament House, February 2014. From left Bill Risk, Mr Abbott, Leonard Norman (rear) and Chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi



Shaping the NLC Region's Future

The NLC's strategic direction addresses the changing social, political and economic and environmental landscape of our region, and the opportunities and challenges it presents. The 2007-2011 Strategic Plan identified a number of objectives as key focus areas. The next Strategic Plan will further develop and build on those successes.

The outcomes are a measure of impacts on the community against NLC's objectives.

Caring for Country and Natural Resources

Objective:

Access to Aboriginal Land is managed effectively and efficiently.

Outcomes:

- » Permits issued are in accordance with Traditional Aboriginal Owner wishes.
- » Communities know who is entering their communities and for what purpose.
- » The number of permits issued is not negatively impacting landowners and residents.
- » Average number of days taken to process and issue a permit meet the target.
- » Areas are closed for ceremonial reasons and visitors are notified quickly.
- » Complaints are dealt with efficiently.

Objective:

Traditional owners are assisted to manage their land, sea and natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Outcomes:

- » Traditional owners are consulted early with expressions of interest to carry out activities on land or water.
- » Increasing the number of community driven initiatives.
- » Provide support to land and sea management programmes on country.
- » Monitoring the compliance of land use agreement.
- » Ensuring the ecologically sustainable use of wildlife and resources.
- » Cultural assets are conserved and protected appropriately.

Land Claims and Acquisition Support Services

Objective: To assist Aboriginal people to obtain or acquire property rights over traditional land and seas.

Outcomes:

- » Identify claimable land.
- » Engage, identify and consult with appropriate people.
- » Lodge and settle land claims and native title claims.
- » Finalise outstanding or long running land claims.

Economic Development and Commercial Services

Objective: To secure economic, social and cultural benefits for traditional owners from developments taking place on Aboriginal land.

Outcomes:

- » Negotiate strong agreements that provide benefits.
- » Complete consultations and execute agreements in a timely manner.
- » Ensure that incomes derived from agreements is distributed according to traditional owners' directions.
- » Facilitate decision making processes that consider and integrate short and long term economic, environmental, social and equitable values.

Objective:

Develop employment and training plans in partnership with industry and government stakeholders, and facilitate the implementation of these plans.

Outcomes:

- » Generate training and employment jobs through agreements or partnerships.
- » Increase the percentage of training opportunities into real jobs.

Objective:

Efficiently process exploration and mining licence applications and provide accurate advice on potential environmental impacts and benefits.

Outcomes:

- » Maintain the average number of consultations regarding applications to explore and mine.
- » Efficiently carry out the scheduled number of consultation meetings with key stakeholders.
- » Provide best practice advice and use precautionary principle where science not known.

Objective:

Empower Aboriginal people to carry out commercial activities and build sustainable enterprises.

Outcomes:

- » Actively support the establishment of Aboriginal owned businesses, commercial entities and governance structures.
- » Negotiate Aboriginal involvement in commercial section 19 land use agreements and maintain current engagement and benefits from industry sectors – e.g., crocodile, pastoral.
- » Increase the percentage of s19 land use agreements held by Aboriginal interests.

Advocacy Services

Objective:

Advocate on behalf of Aboriginal people and express their views.

Outcomes:

- » Lobby and advocate industry, governments, business and other stakeholders.
- » Provide information through the Land Rights News and other publications.
- » Maintain readership of Land Rights News and promote website views.

Objective:

Raise public awareness of the NLC's work and the views of Aboriginal people.

Outcomes:

- » Maintain profile through media releases, press conferences and building networks.
- » Invite visitors to attend and present at Council Meetings.
- » Respond to documents released by government for public comment.
- » Maintain alliance with North Australian Indigenous Land & Sea Management Alliance.
- » Maintain alliance with Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APO NT).

Objective:

Supporting Aboriginal people to maintain and protect their sacred sites and cultural heritage.

Outcomes:

- » Assist Aboriginal people with cultural mapping, site clearances and site registrations.
- » Provide Land Interest References as requested by staff.
- » Create maps for project consultations and formal land use and mining agreements.

- » Process funeral and ceremony applications in a timely manner in accordance with policy.
- » Liaise with Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority in relation to site protection.
- » Support Aboriginal people to enjoy, practise and maintain their cultural activities.
- » Repatriation of sacred objects and human remains.

Objective:

Help Aboriginal people achieve development potential by facilitating access to leadership and governance programs, and resources, infrastructure and government services.

Outcomes:

- » Develop and promote policy to achieve skilled and gender representation on external boards, forums and committees.
- » Provide induction to new members, facilitate leadership and governance training (hands on and formal) sessions.
- » Encourage and support Council Members to attend forums and present.

Administration and Support Services

Objective:

Receive and distribute statutory and other payments to Aboriginal people.

Outcomes:

- » Distribute negotiated payments to the relevant traditional owners and/or royalty-receiving associations.
- » Strictly comply with the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976* and *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 (CAC Act)* provisions.

Objective:

Assist Land Trusts to act appropriately and in accordance with the *ALRA*.

Outcomes:

- » Assist with the administration of existing Aboriginal Land Trusts and affix the seal of the relevant Land Trust at the direction of the Full Council.
- » Ensure membership is up to date and in compliance with the *ALRA*.
- » Nominate members who will carry out their role as Land Trust Members appropriately.

Objective:

Support traditional owners to manage and resolve disputes.

Outcomes:

- » Ensure that Full Council resolutions directing Aboriginal Land Trusts to enter into binding land use agreements will not be subject to legal challenge.
- » Facilitate information and meetings where Traditional Owner decisions are made in accordance with their traditional decision making process.
- » Encourage cultural integrity and mediate disputes according to traditional laws, customs and practices to avoid adverse decisions.

The Year Ahead

Development Prospectus

The NLC is planning to produce a prospectus that will articulate how and where development opportunities can be realised on Aboriginal-owned land within its region. It will provide a template for traditional owners and communities wanting to develop Aboriginal-owned lands and waters.

Below: (Foreground) Traditional Owner Bobby Nungumajbarr with NT Chief Minister Hon Adam Giles MLA at the opening of Western Desert Resources iron ore mine, December 2013

This ambitious approach would consider economic, social and cultural development as equal objectives to drive a new paradigm for development in northern Australia. It would seek to partner with business, industry and ethical investors to ensure that free, prior and informed consent provisions enhance Aboriginal prosperity.

The NLC's proposal has been met with enthusiasm by the Commonwealth Indigenous Affairs Minister, the NT Chief Minister and NLC council members.

Community Development Program

The NLC plans to create a Community Development Unit similar to that of the Central Land Council.

The main objective of the CLC program, which the NLC hopes to mirror, is to maximise opportunities for Aboriginal engagement, ownership and control of their own resources, in order to generate social, cultural and economic benefits using royalty and other monies to invest back into communities, to secure opportunities for Aboriginal people.



Ord 3 Expansion

Traditional owners, custodians and native title holders in the Northern Territory continue to maintain their strong opposition to the Ord Stage 3 expansion, which would extend the Ord River irrigation scheme over the Western Australian border into Territory lands.

Aboriginal people on the NT side have already expressed concerns about the detrimental impact of Stage 3 on sacred sites and dreaming tracks, and the NLC will continue to consult and represent their interests.

However, the NLC is waiting for the NTG to present a formal proposal to take to traditional owners and to ensure the independent Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority can assess, with independence and integrity, the impacts that may arise on sacred sites.

Water Allocation Plans

The NLC will continue to monitor the NTG's water management plans and to press the government to reconsider its rejection of a Strategic Indigenous Reserve (SIR) within its water-planning framework.

Over six years, and after extensive consultation, NAILSMA developed a comprehensively-researched policy whereby reserves from the consumptive pool of water would be specifically set aside for activities that contribute to Indigenous economic development.

The current government rejected this policy, which has caused extreme disappointment to NLC members because the poorest and most marginal of the NT's population are denied an opportunity to participate in northern development.

There is evidence that the government has already made allocations beyond safe limits from some aquifers, even without allowing for an SIR.

Employment

The downturn in the world market for iron ore and some other commodities is continuing to have a serious impact on mines in the Northern Land Council region.

The NLC's Jobs and Career Service Unit (JACS) has been responsible for training and negotiating employment for Aboriginal workers at these mines, and will need to seek alternative employment opportunities if their jobs are at risk because of market conditions.

The NLC is committed to assisting in mentoring and providing training and employment for Aboriginal people in a range of industries across the Top End.

McArthur River Mine

The NLC will continue to advocate at government and company levels for traditional Aboriginal owners in the Gulf region who are concerned about adverse environmental impacts of the McArthur River lead and zinc mine near Borroloola.

A waste dump at the mine is expected to keep burning for some time, and traditional owners are concerned about

heavy metals leaching into waterways around the mine site especially over the wet season.

The NLC will continue to work with traditional owners and native title holders to ensure that Aboriginal interests are heard consulted about remedies to rectify current and future adverse impacts.

Blue Mud Bay

The NLC will continue to review its approach to delivering outcomes that meet social, economic and cultural aspirations of traditional owners and the wider community through the Blue Mud Bay decision.

The NLC believes that long term outcomes can continue to provide access for non-Indigenous people, and at the same time empower

Below: The smouldering waste dump at McArthur River Mine near Borroloola, August 2014



Aboriginal people to be front and centre in the management and development (where appropriate) in the inter-tidal zone of the NLC region.

Administration

In the coming year the NLC will implement new measures to improve financial management and compliance, to ensure that the best outcomes for our constituents can be delivered.

A new Senior Policy Advisor, Ms Leanne Liddle, has been appointed, after an extensive recruitment and selection process. She will take up duties in mid-October 2014, replacing Mr Syd Stirling who resigned in January 2014. Leanne has traditional Aboriginal ties to Central Australia and her appointment has been welcomed by the CEO and Executive of the NLC.

Under the CEO and Executive, the NLC will continue to refine its functions under the Aboriginal Land Rights and Native Title Acts and to ensure that policy development can be achieved on an informed basis.

40th Anniversary of ALRA

The year 2016 will mark 40 years since *ALRA* was passed through the Commonwealth Parliament. The enactment of the *ALRA* recognised communal property rights held by Aboriginal people and recognised decision-making processes that other Indigenous people around the world would cherish.

The NLC will collaborate with other NT Land Councils to ensure that this historic moment will duly recognise the many people who fought

for equality and recognition of the unique rights of Aboriginal people of the Northern Territory.

This occasion will be a reminder of those challenges and a celebration of the enormous successes that have been won under the Act. It will also be a reminder of the hard work that lies ahead to ensure that Aboriginal people can enjoy the same life expectancy as non-Aboriginal people and build on our property rights.



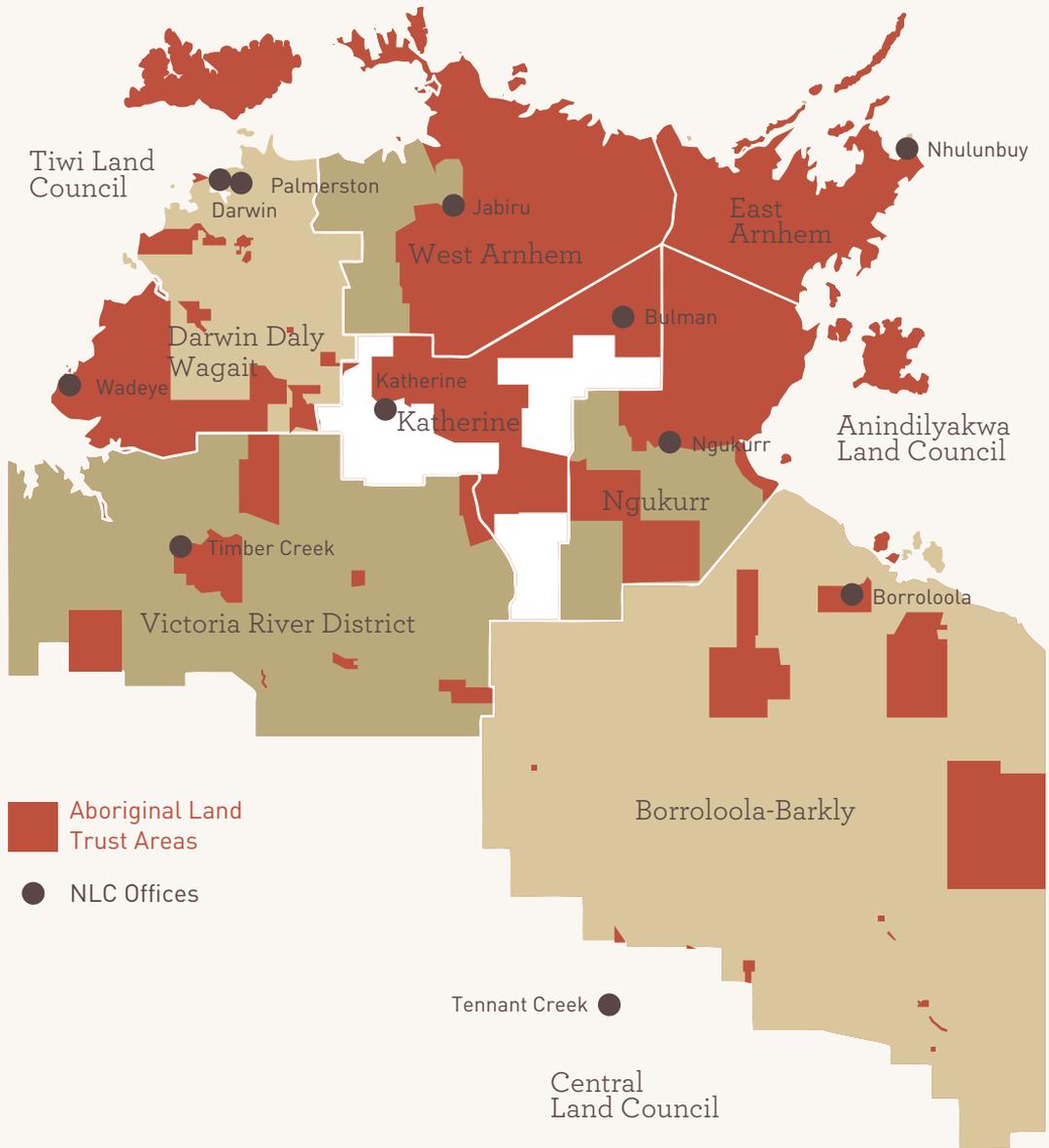
Council Information





NLC Full Council meets at Katherine, May 2014

Regional Map



Our Council

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

The Minister has nominated the 52 community areas in the NLC region that members can be nominated to represent. Seventy eight members, plus five co-opted women positions, make up the NLC Full Council. Members are nominated for a three-year term.

The term of the previous Full Council expired late 2013. A nomination process for new members was widely publicised and nominations closed on 31 August 2013. Where positions were contested, NLC staff supervised ballots across the region.

The NLC is considering engaging the Australian Electoral Commission for future elections.

Members who were successful in the elections attended the first meeting of the new Full Council in Darwin in November 2013. All positions were declared vacant, and a

new Chairman and Deputy Chairman were elected. With a member nominated from each of the seven regions, the new Chairman and Deputy comprise the NLC's nine-member Executive Council.

The Chair is an executive director and an employee of the Northern Land Council. The Deputy is a non-executive director who becomes an executive director during the Chairman's absence.

Individual members have an important role in keeping the Full Council informed of the opinions and priorities of their Aboriginal constituents. The Full Council shapes the policy and strategic direction of the NLC administration.

The Full Council's powers under the ALRA include responsibility for endorsing exploration and petroleum licence applications, and section 19 land use

agreements tabled at Full Council meetings. The Full Council has delegated some of its decision-making powers to the Executive and Regional Councils. For example, the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer can approve land use agreements valued up to \$100,000 or leases up to two years duration, and can make recommendations for Full Council consideration.

The Executive Council is responsible for managing business between Full Council meetings. Each Full Council, Executive and Regional Council meeting receives operational and financial reports from NLC branch managers, to provide direction for staff to meet performance objectives and targets.

Induction and training sessions are provided to all new and returning council members. The sessions extend to members' roles on boards and committees. Capacity building also occurs during council meetings when reports are delivered by branch managers and when various experts are invited to deliver special presentations.

Our Executive Council Members



Katherine Region

Samuel Bush Blanasi Chairman

Samuel Bush-Blanasi is a Mayili man and resident of the Wugularr (Beswick) community in the Katherine region. He was educated in his own community before completing his studies at Kormilda College in Darwin.

Mr Blanasi thanks his father (the late Mr David Blanasi) for his education, and says his father instilled in him strong cultural and traditional values.

Mr Blanasi is a prolific artist who brings a wealth of administrative and social experience to the NLC.

This is Mr Blanasi's fifth term at the NLC. He is the immediate-past Deputy Chairman, and was previously an NLC member during the 1990s.

Mr Blanasi is also a board member of the Aboriginal Investment Group, and has a long record of service on boards of several other Aboriginal bodies.

Darwin/Daly/ Wagait Region

John Daly Deputy Chairman

John Daly was born in Darwin at the old Darwin hospital. He was raised and bred on the Daly River where he's lived and worked all his life. John was Chairman of the NLC from 2005-2007 and he is passionate in his views on what he wants to achieve for his people.

"What we want is independence from the government bureaucratic machine to run our lands and our financial affairs so we can make good sound decisions for our people. We just want our countrymen to achieve the best that they can via jobs and business opportunities on Aboriginal land. You've got to be passionate for these things otherwise there's no point in being in organisations such as ours. You have got to have it to live it."

Borroloola/Barkly Region

Leonard Norman Executive Member

Leonard Norman has been a member of the Northern Land Council since the mid-1990s. This is his second term as Executive Member of the Borroloola/Barkly region.

He grew up in Borroloola and was educated in his home town, and at St John's College, Darwin.

He is a Yanyula elder who lives in Borroloola and works as a sea ranger with the Lianhawirriyarra sea ranger unit.

Leonard has also served on community bodies, as deputy chairman of Gulf Health and as a member of the Mawurli and Wirriwangkuma Aboriginal Corporation.

He holds strong views on the need to educate young people about the vision of the Northern Land Council and the work it does for traditional owners across the Top End.



Darwin/Daly/ Wagait Region

Bill Risk Executive Member

Bill Risk was born and educated in Darwin and is a member of the Larrakia language group.

Bill is a director of Imparja Television, and NAAC, and chairman of Darran Darra Aboriginal Corporation.

He is also a committee member of Buffalos Football Club.

Bill says his long experience as an executive member has given him the opportunity to represent his region and be part of the processes that affect Aboriginal peoples' lives, and lands and seas.

East Arnhem Region

David Djalangi Executive Member

David Djalangi was born at Milingimbi and was educated at the mission at Elcho Island.

After schooling, David joined his Dad in the fishing industry and spent three years working the seas, after which he turned his hand to mechanics.

As an elected member of the NLC Executive, David is passionate for his people's voice to be heard. He strongly believes in his culture and his family's land.

West Arnhem Region

John Christophersen Executive Member

John Christophersen, a member of the Murran Group, Cobourg Peninsula, was born in Darwin. He has family ties into Kakadu. He is a former NLC staff member, and a long-term council member from the mid-1980s to the early 2000s.

He has devoted most of his work to marine and coastal policy issues.

He remains a vocal advocate for the rights of Indigenous peoples in local, national and international forums.



Katherine Region

Helen Lee Executive Member

Helen Lee is affiliated with the Ngalkban clan and lives at Barunga.

She was elected to the Full Council in 2003.

Helen has a strong administrative background, having worked with the Jawoyn Association, Burridj Aboriginal Group Training, and the Barunga Community government Council.

She is currently an electoral officer for the Member for Arnhem in the NT Legislative Assembly.

Helen is keen to promote women's issues and wants to assist Aboriginal people develop economic enterprises on homelands.

Ngukurr

Virginia Nundhirribala Executive Member

Virginia was born and bred at Ngukurr, her grandfather's country, and was schooled at Numbulwar. She has been involved with the NLC since 2010 and is one of two women on the Executive, something she is proud of. "This is good because as a woman we're just as strong as the men; we've got to have a voice for our people, too." Virginia has strong views on what she hopes to achieve as an Executive Member.

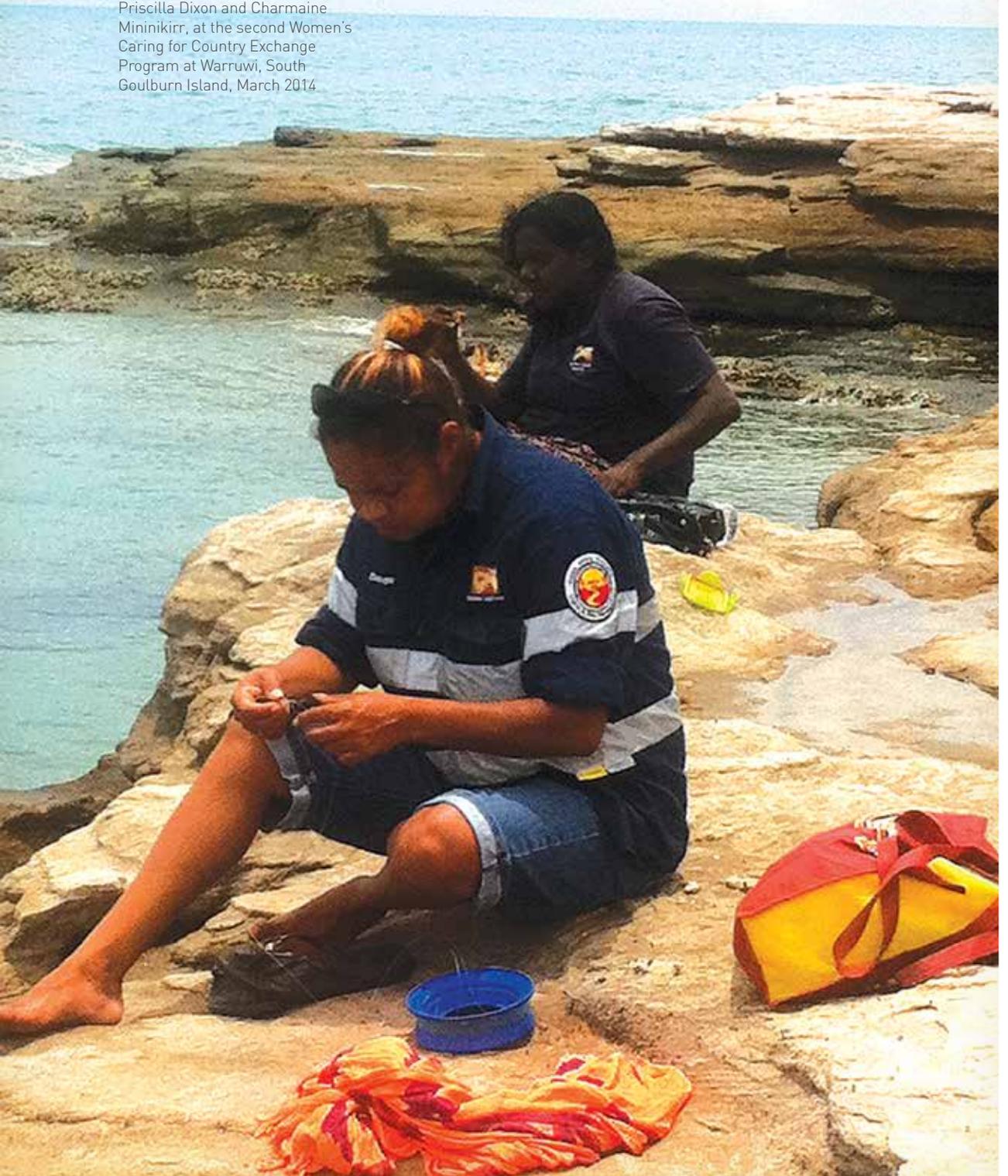
"I want to help my people to live a better way, to save our country and to work with government. "Making a strong community and through our culture to make it strong so that culture can live. The NLC is a part of that, and it is helping us with our culture and the land and to look after it properly. That's very important to me."

Victoria River District

Raymond Hector Executive Member

Born in Darwin in 1970, Raymond Hector was schooled at Kormilda College. He was a health worker for 15 years at home in Pigeon Hole. As an elected member of the NLC Executive, Raymond, from the Billarna people, said his position on the Council has given him the confidence that he is representing his people in the best possible way. He has vowed to keep working hard to help his people in the care and control of land.

Priscilla Dixon and Charmaine Mininikirr, at the second Women's Caring for Country Exchange Program at Warruwi, South Goulburn Island, March 2014



Our Full Council Members

DARWIN/DALY/WAGAIT (15) WARD

John Daly (<i>Deputy Chairman</i>)	Daly River South
Bill Risk (<i>Executive</i>)	Darwin
Bill Danks	Darwin
David Kenyon	Darwin East
James Sing	Darwin West
Les Waters	Darwin South
Margaret Daiyi	Darwin South West
Donna Sullivan	Daly River
Matthew Shields	Daly River North
John Sullivan	Daly River West
Elizabeth Sullivan	Pine Creek
John Wilson	Peppimenarti
Wally Minjin	Palumpa
Cyril Ninnal	Port Keats
Leslie Smiler	Port Keats North

WEST ARNHEM (12) WARD

John Christophersen (<i>Executive</i>)	Cobourg
Bunug Galaminda	Waruwi
Jenny Inmulugulu	Waruwi
Jonathan Nadji	Kakadu
Otto Dann	Gunbalanya
Dean Yibarbuk	Gunbalanya
Wayne Wauchope	Gunbalanya
Matthew Ryan	Maningrida
Julius Kernan (Clint)	Maningrida
Dene Herreen	Maningrida
Helen Williams	Maningrida
Matthew Ngarlbin (Cooper)	Minjilang

BORROLOOLA/BARKLY (13 + 2 Co-opted) WARD

Leonard Norman (<i>Executive</i>)	Borroloola
Jack Green	Borroloola
Keith Rory	Borroloola
Garrick George	Nicholson River
Richard Dixon	Robinson River
David Harvey	North Barkly
Shannon Dixon	Murrnaji
Brian Limerick	Alexandria
David Cutta	Brunette Downs
Elaine Sandy	Elliott
Gordon Noonan	Rockhampton Downs
John Finlay	Wombaya
Jason Bill	Muckaty
Hazel Shadforth *	Borroloola
Vacant *	Barkly

NGUKURR (9) WARD

Virginia Nundhirraba (<i>Executive</i>)	Numbulwar
Faye Mangurra	Numbulwar
Timothy Wurramara	Numbulwar
Peter Lansen	Nutwood/Cox River
Keith Farrell	Hodgson Downs
Gordon Nawundulpi	Ngukurr
Gregory Daniels	Ngukurr
Walter Rogers	Ngukurr
Grace Daniels	Urapunga

**VICTORIA RIVER DISTRICT
(6 + 2 Co-opted)**

WARD	WARD
Raymond Hector <i>(Executive)</i>	Pigeon Hole
George King	Yingawunarri
George Campbell	Yarralin
Jack Little	Bulla
Shadrack Retchford	Amanbidji
Larry Johns	Timber Creek
Elaine Watts *	VRD
Vacant *	VRD

**EAST ARNHEM
(16 + 1 Co-opted)**

WARD	WARD
David Djalangi (Executive)	Galiwinku
Don Wininba	Galiwinku
Jason Guyula	Galiwinku
Kenny Djekurr Guyula	Galiwinku
Banambi Wunungmurra	Yirrkala
Dhuwarrwarr Marika	Yirrkala
Yananyumul Mununggurr	Yirrkala
Jonathon Nungumajbarr	Blue Mud Bay
Jabani Lalara	Blue Mud Bay
Wesley Bandi Bandi	Gapuwiyak
Bobby Wunungmurra	Gapuwiyak
David Marpiyawuy	Milingimbi
Richard Dadarr Barakal	Milingimbi
David Rumba Rumba	Ramingining
David Warraya	Ramingining
Djawa Yunupingu	Ski Beach
Caroline Dhamarrandji *	East Arnhem

KATHERINE (7)

WARD	WARD
Samuel Bush-Blanasi <i>(Chairman)</i>	Beswick
Helen Lee <i>(Executive)</i>	Barunga
Bill Harney	Katherine
Lisa Mumbin	Katherine
Desmond Lindsay	Weemol
Lloyd Murray	Bulman
Clive Roberts	Mataranka/Djimbra

* Co-opted Women's Positions

Council Meetings

Full Council

MEETING	DATES	LOCATION
107th	18th – 22nd November 2013	Rydges Darwin Airport Resort, Darwin
108th	12th – 16th May 2014	YMCA, Katherine

DARWIN/DALY/ WAGAIT	PROXY 107th	PROXY 108th	BORROLOOLA/ BARKLY	PROXY 107th	PROXY 108th
John Daly <i>(Deputy Chairman)</i>	/	/	Leonard Norman <i>(Executive)</i>	/	/
Bill Risk <i>(Executive)</i>	/	/	Jack Green	/	/
Bill Danks	/	/	Keith Rory	/	/
David Kenyon	/	Graham Kenyon	Garrick George	/	Timothy Lansen
James Sing	/	/	Richard Dixon	/	/
Les Waters	Tue – Fri	Calvin Deveraux	David Harvey	/	Mon - Tue
Margaret Daiyi	/	/	Shannon Dixon	/	/
Donna Sullivan	absent	/	Brian Limerick	/	/
Matthew Shields	/	/	David Cutta	/	/
John Sullivan	/	/	Elaine Sandy	/	/
Elizabeth Sullivan	/	/	Gordon Noonan	/	Claudette Albert
John Wilson	/	absent	John Finlay	/	/
Wally Minjin	/	/	Jason Bill	/	/
Cyril Ninnal	absent	/	Hazel Shadforth	/	/
Leslie Smiler	/	/	Vacant	Womens - Barkly	

WEST ARNHEM	PROXY 107th	PROXY 108th
John Christophersen <i>(Executive)</i>	/	/
Bunug Galaminda	/	/
Jenny Inmulugulu	/	Apology
Jonathan Nadji	/	Absent
Otto Dann	vacant	/
Dean Yibarbuk	/	Kevin Buliwana
Wayne Wauchope	/	/
Matthew Ryan	/	/
Julius Kernan (Clint)	/	/
Dene Herreen	/	Apology
Helen Williams	/	Shane Namanurki
Matthew Ngarlbin (Cooper)	/	/

NGUKURR	PROXY 107th	PROXY 108th
Virginia Nundhirrbala <i>(Executive)</i>	/	/
Faye Mangurra	/	/
Timothy Wurramara	/	/
Peter Lansen	/	/
Keith Farrell	/	/
Gordon Nawundulpi	/	/
Gregory Daniels	/	/
Walter Rogers	/	/
Grace Daniels	/	/

VRD	PROXY 107th	PROXY 108th
Raymond Hector <i>(Executive)</i>	/	/
George King	/	Mon only
George Campbell	/	Apology
Jack Little	/	Apology
Shadrack Retchford	/	Mon - Tue
Larry Johns	/	/

Elaine Watts	/	/
Vacant	Womens Position	

EAST ARNHEM	PROXY 107th	PROXY 108th
David Djalangi <i>(Executive)</i>	/	/
Don Wininba	/	/
Jason Guyula	/	/
Kenny Djekurr Guyula	/	/
Banambi Wunungmurra	/	Colin Yunupingu
Dhuwarrwarr Marika	/	Absent
Yananymul Mununggurr	/	/
Jonathon Nunggumajbarr	/	/
Jabani Lalara	/	/
Wesley Bandi Bandi	/	/
Bobby Wunungmurra	/	/
David Marpiyawuy	/	/
Richard Dadarr Barakal	/	/
David Rumba Rumba	/	/
David Warraya	/	Apology
Djawa Yunupingu	/	/
Caroline Dhamarrandji	-	/

KATHERINE	PROXY 107th	PROXY 108th
Samuel Bush-Blanasi <i>(Chairman)</i>	/	/
Helen Lee <i>(Executive)</i>	Wed - Fri	/
Bill Harney	/	/
Lisa Mumbin	Tue - Fri	Tue - Fri
Desmond Lindsay	/	/
Lloyd Murray	/	/
Clive Roberts	/	/

Executive Council Meetings

Table 2: Executive Council Meeting dates and attendance record during 2013-14

MEETING	DATE	LOCATION	ATTENDEES	APOLOGIES
158th	04.09.13 – 05.09.13	NLC Office 45 Mitchell Street Darwin	Wali Wunungmurra, Samuel Bush-Blanasi, Bill Risk, Bunug Galaminda, Dhuwarrwarr Marika, George King, Peter Lansen, Leonard Norman, Helen Lee	
159th	06.11.13 – 07.11.13	NLC Office 45 Mitchell Street Darwin	Wali Wunungmurra, Samuel Bush-Blanasi, Bill Risk, Bunug Galaminda, Dhuwarrwarr Marika, Peter Lansen, Helen Lee	George King, Leonard Norman
160th	11.12.13	Double Tree Hotel Alice Springs	Samuel Bush-Blanasi, John Daly, Bill Risk, John Christophersen, Raymond Hector, Virginia Nundhirribala, Helen Lee, Leonard Norman	David Djalangi
161st	03.02.14 – 05.02.14	Rydges Darwin Airport Hotel Darwin	Samuel Bush-Blanasi, John Daly, Bill Risk, John Christophersen, Raymond Hector, Virginia Nundhirribala, Helen Lee, Leonard Norman, David Djalangi	
162nd	03.04.14 – 04.04.14	Crocodile Hotel Jabiru	Samuel Bush-Blanasi, John Daly, Bill Risk, John Christophersen, Raymond Hector, Virginia Nundhirribala, Helen Lee, Leonard Norman, David Djalangi	John Daly (on NLC business from 1.30pm 3rd April)
163rd	11.05.14	NLC Office Katherine	Samuel Bush-Blanasi, John Daly, Bill Risk, John Christophersen, Raymond Hector, Virginia Nundhirribala, Helen Lee, Leonard Norman, David Djalangi	John Christophersen (from 3.30pm)
164th	07.06.14 – 08.06.14	Barunga	Samuel Bush-Blanasi, Bill Risk, Raymond Hector, John Christophersen, Virginia Nundhirribala, Helen Lee	David Djalangi, Leonard Norman, John Daly
165th	19.06.14 – 20.06.14	Rum Jungle Motor Inn Bachelor	Samuel Bush-Blanasi, Bill Risk, Helen Lee, John Christophersen, John Daly, Virginia Nundhirribala, Raymond Hector (Day 2)	David Djalangi, Leonard Norman, Raymond Hector (Day 1)

Right: Meeting at NLC headquarters to mark the Bombing of Darwin Anniversary, 19 February 2014. From left: Marine Colonel Matt Puglisi, NLC CEO Joe Morrison, NLC Chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi and US Ambassador John Berry

Regional Council Meetings

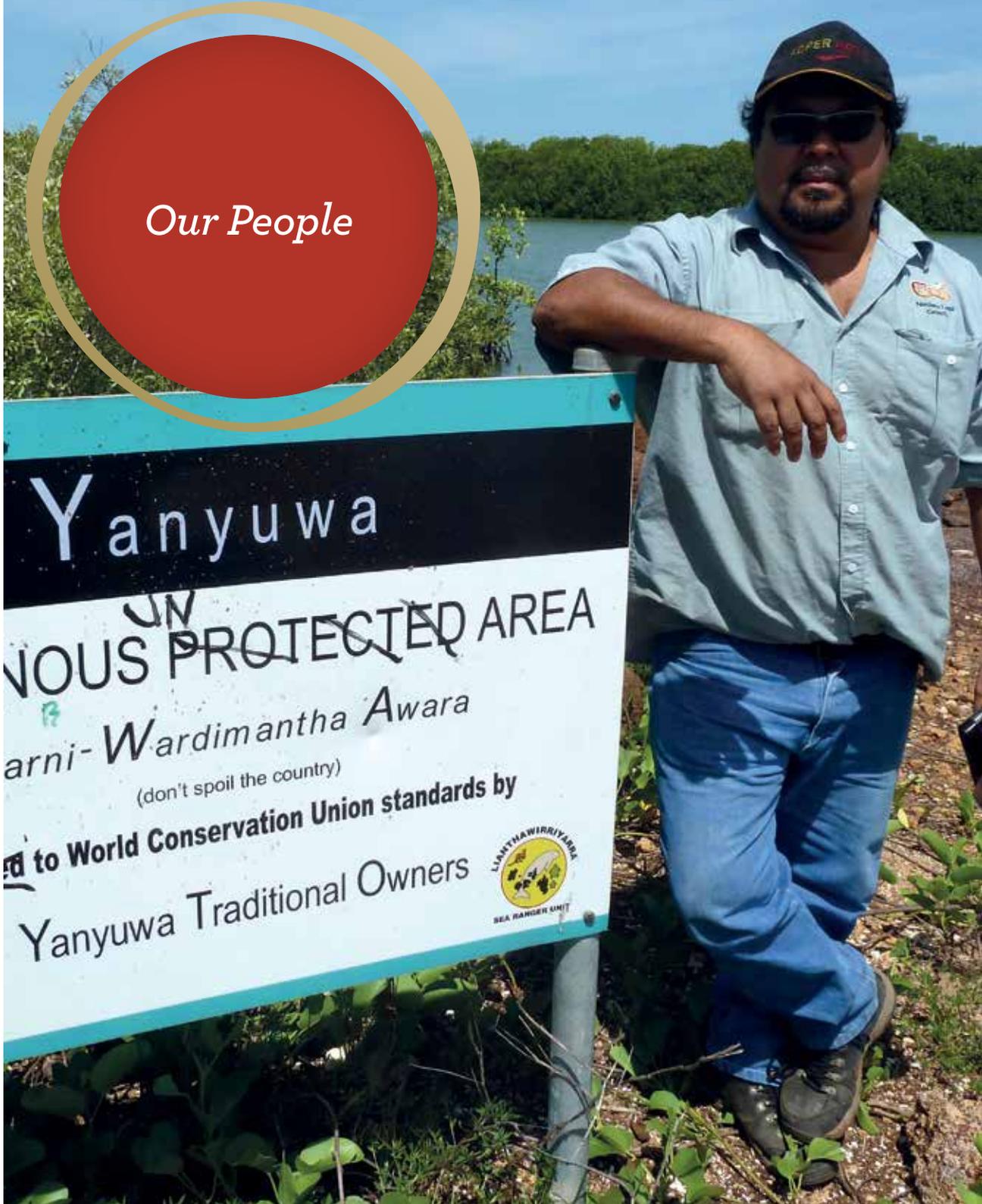
Table 3: Regional Council Meeting dates and venue during 2013-14

REGION	DATE	LOCATION
Borroloola/Barkly	16th – 17th October 2014	NLC Office Tennant Creek
	20th – 21st March 2014	NLC Office Katherine
Darwin/Daly/Wagait	20th – 22nd August 2014	Mary River Resort
	26th – 27th March 2014	Rum Jungle Motor Inn Bachelor
East Arnhem	8th – 19th September 2014	Walkabout Hotel Nhulunbuy
	9th – 10th April 2014	Walkabout Hotel Nhulunbuy
Katherine	1st – 3rd October 2013 *	Katherine Cultural Centre
	5th – 6th March 2014	NLC Office Katherine
Ngukurr	1st – 3rd October 2013 *	Katherine Cultural Centre
	18th – 19th March 2014	NLC Office Katherine
VRD	1st – 3rd October 2013 *	Katherine Cultural Centre
	4th – 5th March 2014	NLC Office Katherine
West Arnhem	10th – 11th September 2013	Hilton Hotel Darwin
	13th – 14th March 2014	Aurora Resort South Alligator

*refers to combined Katherine/Ngukurr/VRD Regional Council Meeting



Our People



Our values are informed by the values of the Aboriginal people of our region and are consistent with Commonwealth standards. We try and act in accordance with these values at all times.

With those values in mind, the diversity of skills and experience of staff helps to build strong relationships and effective partnerships and undertake to:

- » Consult with and act with the informed consent of traditional owners in accordance with the ALRA.
- » Communicate clearly with Aboriginal people taking into account the linguistic diversity of the region.
- » Respect Aboriginal law and tradition.
- » Be responsive to Aboriginal peoples' needs and effectively advocate for their interests.
- » Be accountable to the people we represent.
- » Behave in a manner that is appropriate and sensitive to cultural differences.
- » Act with integrity, honesty and fairness.
- » Uphold the principles and values of social justice.
- » Treat our stakeholders with respect.

Organisation Administration

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the day-to-day administrative operations of the Northern Land Council, in close consultation with the Chairman and Leadership Group. The Chief Executive Officer is also responsible for the leadership and management of the organisation, implementing the decisions of the Full Council concerning the strategic direction and priorities and driving organisational performance to achieve results. The position is accountable to the Chair, the Executive and the Full Council for the efficient management and governance of the organisation.

The Chief Executive Officer is supported by branch Managers. These officers comprise the Leadership Group, and provide positive and visible leadership and stewardship. The group is accountable to the Chief Executive Officer for ensuring the highest standards of corporate governance for the NLC.

The Leadership Group is the principal mechanism for information sharing and co-ordination between branches of the Northern Land Council. This group meets regularly or as required to address strategic, complex or urgent and significant issues.

The Chief Executive Officer's accountability is further supported through internal committees and structures which help to ensure all legislative and statutory requirements are complied with and that the NLC performance outcomes are organised and managed in an effective manner.

Left: Daniel Mulholland, NLC Senior Project Officer, Borrooloola, beside a graffitied sign near Bing Bong Port

Organisational Structure

Traditional Aboriginal Owners

Full Council

Regional Council

Executive Council

Women's Sub Committee

Other Key Stakeholders

- » Australian Government
- » Northern Territory Government
- » Local Government Shires
- » Industries—Mining, Pastoral, Tourism, Fishing
- » Businesses
- » Non Government Organisations

Chairperson

CEO



Branch Overview

Anthropology

Robert Graham Branch Manager

Robert Graham returned to the Anthropology Branch Manager in January 2014 after completing his Acting Chief Executive Officer period following the commencement of the newly-appointed Chief Executive Officer, Joe Morrison.

This branch predominately employs regional anthropologists, mapping experts and administrative staff.

A key objective of NLC is to assist Aboriginal people to obtain and or acquire property rights. This branch meets elements of those outcomes based around performing land claims, native title claims and other acquisition support.

Cultural heritage, site clearances and geographic information services and mapping tools are essential elements to hold appropriate consultations. However, it is the Land Interest Reference Register that informs staff whom they need to consult.

The Full Council takes advice from this branch whether decisions made were well informed and made in accordance with traditional decision making processes.

Corporate Services

Steven Lawrence Acting General Manager Corporate Compliance

This branch provides the financial administration and operational funding to meet strategic plan outcomes.

This branch includes sections known as finance, royalties, human resources, information technology, property management and information management.

This branch oversees the corporate compliance of the organisation.

The branch includes the following sections:

Minerals and Energy

Rhonda Sarmardin Manager

Rhonda Sarmardin has been Branch Manager since 2013. This branch receives and processes exploration and petroleum applications, manages environmental and rehabilitation matters relating to granted tenements.

Caring for Country

Justine Yanner Manager

Justine Yanner has been the Branch Manager since 2006; this branch includes Parks and Caring for Country rangers.

Regional Development

Jonathan McLeod Manager

Jonathan joined the NLC in September 2011 and manages the regional office network, Indigenous pastoral program and the s19 land use agreement section.

Legal

Ron Levy Principal Legal Officer

The Legal branch provides legal advice and representation to the Northern Land Council, traditional owners and Aboriginal corporations, including in relation to agreements, litigation and law reform.

Secretariat

Trish Rigby Acting Manager

Trish Rigby began Acting Senior Policy Advisor from January 2014 following the resignation of Syd Stirling.

The Secretariat branch works closely with the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer.

The core services that lead to strategic plan outcomes are provided through advocacy services on behalf of Aboriginal people that raise the public image and awareness of the NLC.

Secretariat provides administrative support and co-ordinates all council meetings, provides close council member liaisons, networks with external media and leads the organisation in research and policy development. The jobs and career services unit is part of the Secretariat branch.

Management of Human Resources

Figure 1: Staff Profile includes ABA, Native Title and Grant funded positions

BRANCH	STAFF NUMBERS	INDIGENOUS OFFICERS
SECRETARIAT	13	9
CORPORATE SERVICES	39	22
MINERALS AND ENERGY	9	2
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT	40	25
CARING FOR COUNTRY	22	6
WOC Rangers	41	41
ILC Rangers	11	11
ANTHROPOLOGY	26	5
LEGAL	16	4
TOTALS	217	124

Figure 2: 5 Year Trend - Full Time Employment Statistics



Enterprise Agreement Negotiations

Negotiations continue between NLC staff, the Community and Public Sector Union (on behalf of members) and NLC management on a new NLC Enterprise Agreement.

Learning and Development

In conjunction with Human Resources, Biznorth Pty Ltd has been engaged to undertake a review of the staff development and training strategy. This involves an audit of the training function; developing a skills matrix for each role; undertaking a staff skills gap analysis; identifying mandatory training and its cycle; reviewing the performance appraisal system to include mandatory training; review the training recording systems; development training calendar and training policy and procedures.

The outcome will result in a fully functioning cost effective approach to training that is measurable and can be adequately maintained.

An extension of the strategy will include the exploration of options in governance training for Council members.

School Based Trainee Program

NLC's pilot school based trainee program for young Indigenous youth has been successful with student (Lei-Lairne Waldock) from Palmerston High School achieving a Certificate II in Business. Lei-Lani has continued with NLC progressing to Certificate III in Business which she is currently working in the Finance section.

NLC aims to continue to have more school based trainees as part of workforce planning.

Workforce planning

The leadership group completes workforce planning through the management plan and estimates processes at the beginning of each calendar year in preparation for estimates bids for the next financial year.

The NLC employs 217 people on continuous or fixed term employment. Casual employees are also engaged on an ad-hoc basis. During the dry season, April to November, remote field work increases and the workforce can increase to over 500 employees.

Safe Work Environment

The NLC is determined to provide a safe and healthy workplace for all workers and stakeholders and is firmly committed to the continuous improvement process outlined in the *Work Health Safety Act 2011* through effective WHS plans, policies and procedures.

NLC appointed a WHS Co-ordinator to work in the head office in Mitchell Street to assist with the development, implementation and continuous improvement of WHS strategies, policies and procedures and to assist in ensuring the NLC is compliant with the regulator's audit requirements.

A WHS Officer was also appointed to work in the Smith Street office. Key deliverables include increasing capacity across the Working on Country program, including the land & sea management section. The officer promotes work health and safety compliance and awareness, and monitor safety related functions - including risk assessments and training at relevant remote locations in liaison with the WHS Co-ordinator.

As at June 2014 the NLC has one current Comcare claim in progress. There was one quad bike incident reported, which represented a significant reduction from the previous year. The number of workplace incidents and accidents remains low. NLC workers carry out their duties in remote and inhospitable environments and the low number of claims is testimony to the employees' skill and workplace safety awareness.

The WHS committee meets regularly, has implemented new policies and procedures and continues to promote a safe work culture within the NLC.

Work Health & Safety Initiatives

Initiatives include:

- » Employment of two WHS workers.
- » Workplace WHS inspections have commenced.
- » Hazard identification and risk analysis commenced.
- » Existing policies and procedures are being reviewed and updated to comply with relevant legislation.
- » WHS manual, audit plan and WHS management systems have been drafted

- » WHS safety handbook developed for regional ranger groups.
- » WHS information, safety bulletins and contact details now available on the NLC intranet.

The proposed upgrade of the NLC vehicle fleet is ongoing. All NLC vehicles are now equipped with a GPS tracking system to enable assistance in an emergency.

NLC will provide initial and ongoing training for Health and Safety Representatives, the WHS committee, emergency wardens and first aid officers.

Simon Ashley from Beswick competes in the spear-throwing contest, Barunga Festival, June 2014



Performance against the National Disability Strategy

Since 1994, Commonwealth departments and agencies have reported on their performance as policy adviser, purchaser, employer, regulator and provider under the Commonwealth Disability Strategy. In 2007-08, reporting on the employer role was transferred to the Australian Public Service Commission's State of the Service Report and

the APS Statistical Bulletin. These reports are available at www.apsc.gov.au. From 2010-11, departments and agencies are no longer required to report on these functions.

The Commonwealth Disability Strategy has been overtaken by the National Disability Strategy 2010-2020, which sets out a ten year national policy framework to improve the lives of people with disability, promote

participation and create a more inclusive society. A high level two-yearly report will track progress against each of the six outcome areas of the Strategy and present a picture of how people with disability are faring. The first of these reports will be available in late 2014, and can be found at www.dss.gov.au.





Performance



Northern Land
Council

Permits

Objective:

Access to Aboriginal land is managed effectively and efficiently.

The *ALRA* made Aboriginal land private land and regulated the entry of persons without estates or interests in the land or traditional rights in the land. Amendments to the *ALRA* that took effect in 2008 removed the need for certain people to obtain permits in certain circumstances.

Permits are no longer required for anyone in “common areas” within “community land”. “Community land” refers to the 5-year lease boundaries drawn around each of the communities prescribed in the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER).

Permits are no longer required for anyone entering communities by aircraft or boat so long as the landing place (i.e., airstrip or boat ramp) is not part of a private lease and so long as there are roads that provide access from the landing place to the community common areas.

The NT Police have the power to fine and remove people in violation of permit requirements. No prosecutions may take place without the authorisation of the Northern Land Council.

In addition to opening specified areas to the public, the new legislation allows certain government workers to enter and remain on Aboriginal land. These changes did not lapse at the conclusion of the five year NTER period.

This statutory protection from prosecution should not be confused with a right to enter and remain on Aboriginal land without a permit – work permits should still be sought in all circumstances. The NLC still wants the permit system to be reinstated, while ensuring that government agents and journalists working in a professional capacity (for example, in order to attend court sessions) can enter Aboriginal land without a permit.

However, government employees and contractors engaged in extracurricular activities without a permit (like hunting or motor biking) may still be prosecuted.

The NLC encourages all members of the public to obtain permits, as movement records can be useful in the event of an emergency, or notification of road closures.

Achievements:

The NLC continues to provide information about permit requirements and efficiently processes applications.

Permits can be made available for collection from regional offices. Special arrangements are possible if permits can't be collected in person.

In terms of the Blue Mud Bay decision, it is encouraging that individuals continue to apply on-line for permits which are issued automatically. Separate access consultations continue to be focussed on the high recreation and commercial fishing areas of intertidal zone adjoining Aboriginal Land Trusts.

Outcome:

A significant amount of work has been achieved in gaining approvals from relevant Traditional Owner(s) or permit delegates across all regions. Work-related permits are dealt with as a priority and it is pleasing that an increased number of government, contractors and other agencies wishing to access Aboriginal land are applying for permits.

More than 63% of permit applications are processed within a 10-day timeframe. Complex research and media applications may require legal, media and anthropological input and take longer.

A new permit information management system has been developed internally and progressively trialled. It will be fully operational in the latter half of 2014.

Indigenous Pastoral Program 2013 – 2014

The Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP) is a multi-agency partnership that includes the Northern Land Council, Central Land Council (CLC), Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association (NTCA), Department of Resources, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), and the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC).

The Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP) continued throughout the year to provide support to developing Indigenous pastoral enterprises across the Northern Land Council Region to six properties.

Support has included engaging consultants to carry out Natural Resource Audits on three properties and include the establishment of Rangeland Monitoring Points to monitor and evaluate long term changes in land condition. Training via the Annual IPP Indigenous Cattlemen's Workshop in animal husbandry and colt breaking for Indigenous

pastoralists in the Gulf Region was delivered during May 2014. The workshop was regarded as successful and strongly supported with expert trainers and local attendance, 32 participants achieved 98 training outcomes during the workshop.

Under the Strategic Plan, program support is identified for funding infrastructure development on four properties to support Indigenous pastoralists achieving increase efficiencies and improving operational capacity. Infrastructure projects commenced during the reporting period across the NLC region include a new cattle yard with a 2000-head operational capacity. The new yard will have greatly improved Work Health Safety and Animal Welfare outcomes and will have the scope to be used as a training facility for local Indigenous pastoralists.

Other infrastructure projects throughout the region include new and or improved stock water facilities, new fencing to further develop areas

for grazing to improve land management and sustainability outcomes. Land management funding has been provided to manage feral animals, support noxious weed control and assist with managing soil erosion.

The IPP Strategic Plan also supports the NLC's development of new section 19 agreements to enhance Indigenous pastoral development and industry participation.

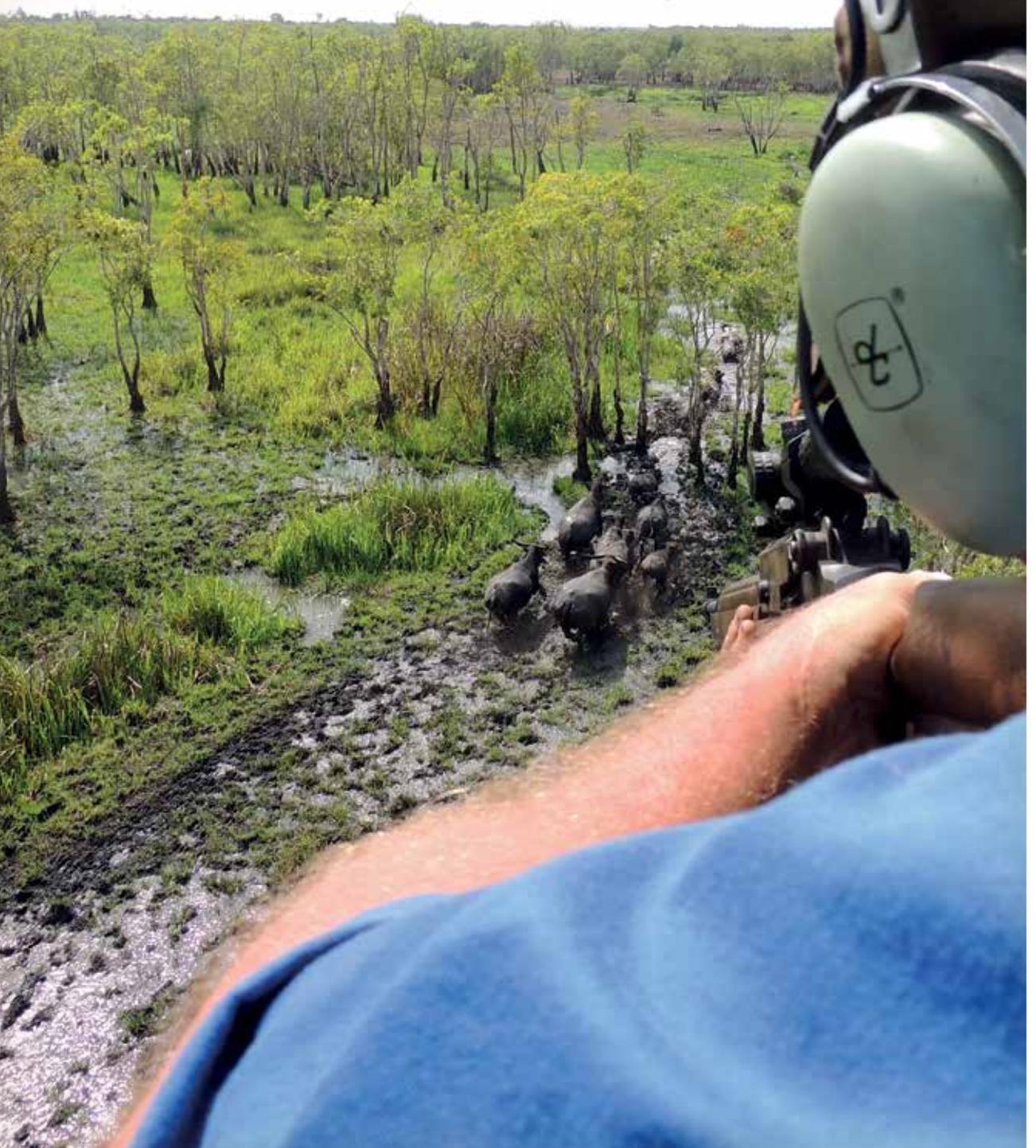
IPP has committed to the Business Management Advisory Project (BMAP) to work with two Indigenous pastoral businesses to develop improved administration, herd management and land management outcomes. The project will continue throughout the 2014-2015 period with regular contact and business mentoring.

The IPP partner agencies working group meets twice yearly to plan and prioritise Indigenous pastoral support activities and coordinate agency support across the NLC and Central Land Council regions.



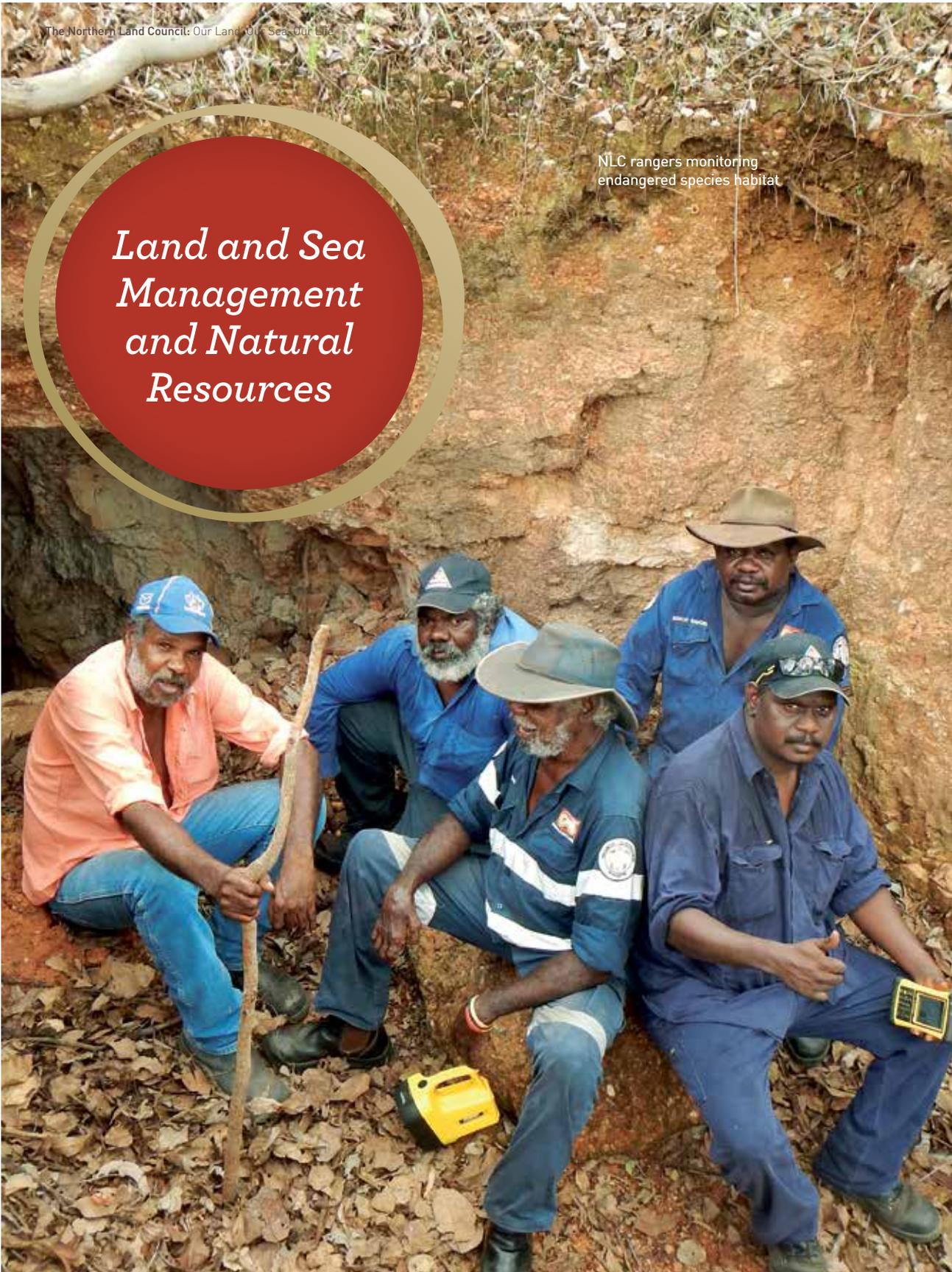
Indigenous students receive instruction on animal husbandry techniques from a vet at Robinson River in May 2014

Buffalo culling, Arnhem Land



NLC rangers monitoring
endangered species habitat

*Land and Sea
Management
and Natural
Resources*



Caring for Country

Traditional owners are assisted to manage land, sea and natural resources in a sustainable manner. The capacity of ranger groups is developed to facilitate long term viability.

Working in Partnerships

The NLC actively supports and facilitates the work of Aboriginal people in the maintenance of cultural responsibilities and obligations to care for each other, and land, waters and seas within Indigenous estates.

The work of the NLC ranger teams is guided by the values and aspirations of the custodians of Indigenous law and culture (the traditional owners), and in facilitating the implementation of those aspirations, the NLC has developed a suite of local, regional, Territory and national partnerships.

Providing environmental and support services across 210,000sq km of Northern Territory land and 2,702sq km of water, the NLC Caring for Country team engages in an extensive regime of planning, implementation, and reporting.

The lands and waters of the Northern Territory are some of the most intact and biologically diverse land and seascapes in Australia. The values which the rangers work to protect and enhance are described by the traditional owners in the planning sessions. Cultural, historic and environmental values demand a range of protective and pro-active measures as mitigation against the threats posed by invasive

plant and animal species, and by a range of land use activities and pressures. NLC rangers utilise traditional and modern management practices to assist traditional owners in their ongoing struggle to protect biodiversity and conserve cultural heritage.

ALRA and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognise that Indigenous people are intrinsically entwined with water and land. This principle underpins the Caring for Country program, which actively supports traditional owners in establishing grass-roots land and sea management initiatives across the network of remote homelands, and in community centres.

The Caring for Country program prioritises cultural law and traditional knowledge, skills and practices, and encourages interaction with



NLC rangers clearing stray cattle which have damaged a billabong

western science research, theory, and practices in an effort to maintain Northern Territory biodiversity and the sustainable use of wildlife. The land and sea managers also provide important environmental services for partner organisations where appropriate. The NLC has actively bridged relationships in order that traditional owners can engage in cost recovery contracts as a step along the path to economic wellbeing.

The NLC has also provided leadership and support in the area of fire management for remote communities. In partnership with other ranger groups, and with the Central Land Council, the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, and a number of NGOs and government agencies, the NLC is engaged in extensive carbon abatement and carbon sequestration work.

Through the collective efforts of rangers and partner agencies, and with the growing support of Northern Territory pastoralists, a significant reduction in wildfire activity has been achieved. Additionally the establishment of a diversity of plant community age ranges, created through planned early burning regimes, provides optimal conditions for species biodiversity.

The development of early burning continues with a growing number of community-led traditional burning patrols along ancient trails, which provide an opportunity for community members of all ages to spend valuable time on

country with rangers.

The NLC also provides leadership in, and facilitation of, the humane management of invasive vertebrates such as buffalo and pigs. Current work in the Finniss Catchment and at the Arafura Swamp in partnership with TerritoryNRM, is mapping infestations with a view to culls where significant environmental damage is documented.

The NLC has working toward the establishment and declaration of Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs). The IPA work requires extensive consultation and research work in collaboration with consultants, scientists, government agencies and field NGOs. Bush Heritage Australia, the Australian National University, and the Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation have all been influential and hard-working partners of the NLC in the progression of the IPA consultations and plans of management.

Community land and sea managers continue their working relationships with the NTG agencies of Fisheries, Bushfires, Weeds, Police, and Marine Services. Additional working partnerships are active with Commonwealth agencies such as Customs, the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries Biosecurity, and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). Research and field monitoring work has been supported by

TerritoryNRM, Charles Darwin University, the Australian National University, and Bush Heritage Australia.

Yugul Mangi women rangers continued their intensive monitoring work in partnership with the ANU's Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, and the Wagiman ranger group continued fish surveys in the Daly River.

NT Fisheries branch provided a river vessel for the Malak Malak ranger group and this partnership has not only extended the capacity for the ranger group to increase access to riparian weed infestations, but has strengthened the capacity of NT Fisheries to monitor activity on the river.

The Garawa / Waanyi Garawa ranger group have undertaken their annual burning program in partnership with the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, providing a well-structured regional approach to the Gulf and savannah land management issues. Additionally, the Garawa / Waanyi Garawa ranger group have undertaken research and activities in partnership with the Nature Conservancy and with Bush Heritage Australia.

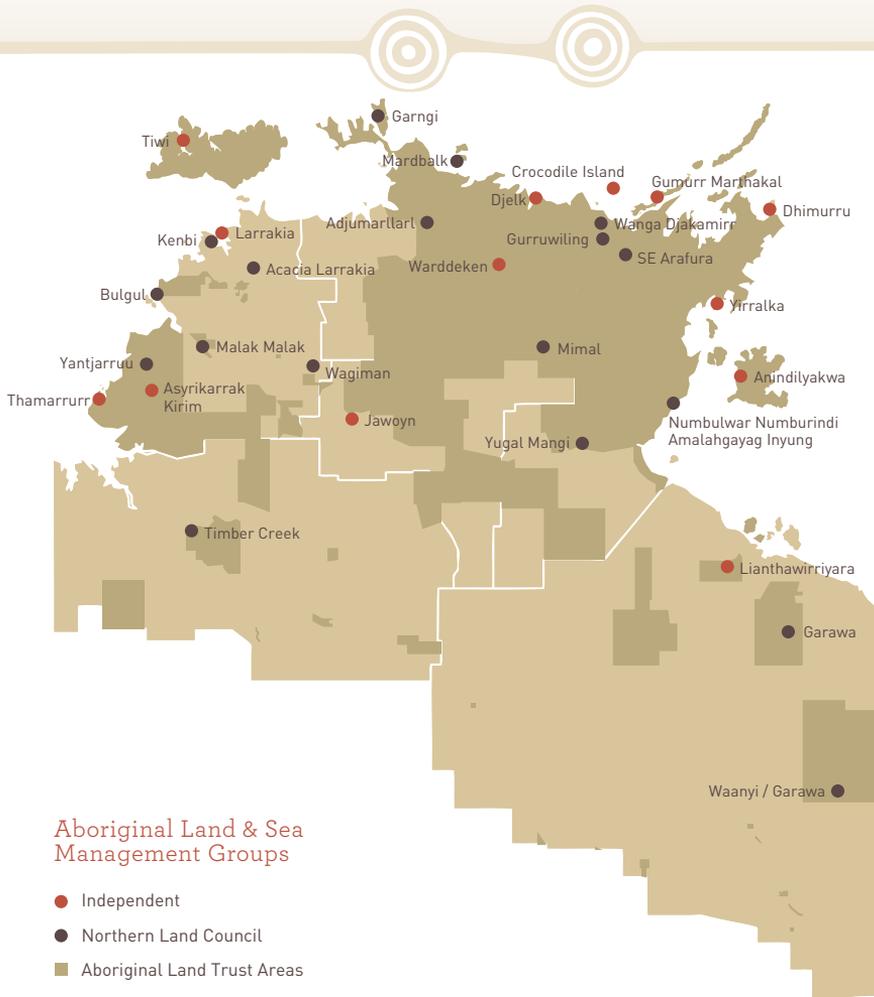
Strong financial support is provided for NLC land and sea management programs by funding partners including the Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet through its Environmental Management Division, the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC), Department of

Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries Biosecurity, and the Natural Resource Management Board (TerritoryNRM). The Australian government further supports land and sea management activities through the IPA program.

A major strategic direction by the NLC is the empowerment of traditional owners in leadership and decision making, and support of good governance structures through training and support.

The land and sea management program network reaches beyond Territory boundaries. Seventeen community land and sea ranger groups were directly supported by the NLC during the past twelve months, through negotiating funding agreements, planning and implementing management activities, developing regional partnerships, coordination of training and career development and provision of human, financial and technological resources.

The NLC has progressively lobbied for positive policy change including the co-ordination and consolidation of funds, the securing of long-term funding arrangements and the streamlining of reporting requirements. This has been achieved in part through strong partnerships, monitoring, evaluating and reporting outcomes, and raising the profile of community land and sea managers.





Achievements

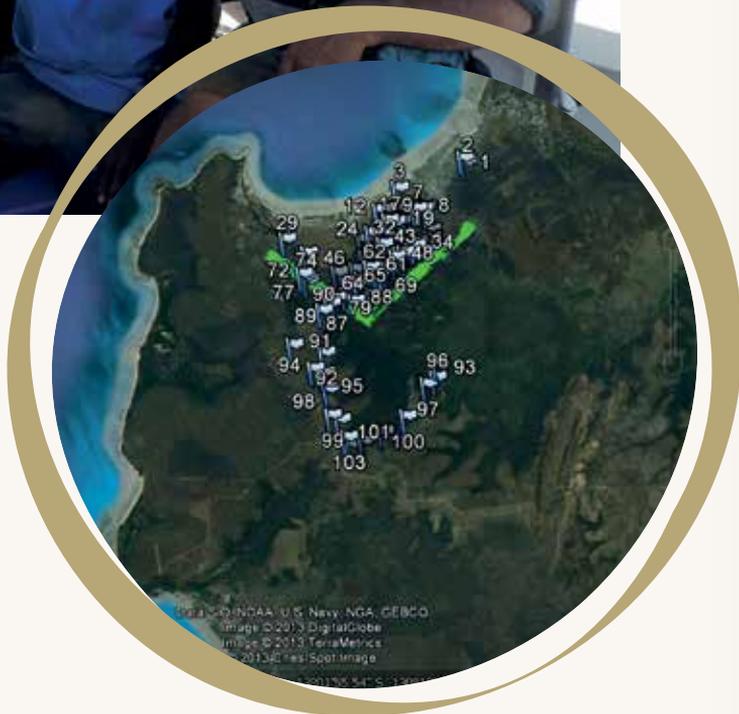
The NLC administered 17 land and sea ranger groups employing 78 full-time equivalent rangers during 2013-2014, with 16 ranger group coordinators, and a head office support team of program coordinators and project officers. Wages and operational funding was provided through the Working on Country (WoC) program and the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) program.

Casual rangers are an important part of field work, especially for burning and weeding work, and the casual work provides supplementary income and training for local communities. The NLC has built a network of casual contracted Indigenous workers

throughout the Northern Territory, and all ranger teams have found that the supplement of casual workers has allowed significant productivity increases during peak work times.

Cultural and Natural Resource Management

Facilitation of traditional cultural pursuits is an important component of Indigenous land and sea management. People on





Above left: NLC Bulgul rangers on sea patrol in partnership with Kenbi rangers

Left: Malak Malak ranger weeding waypoints using Google Earth and NLC ToolBox

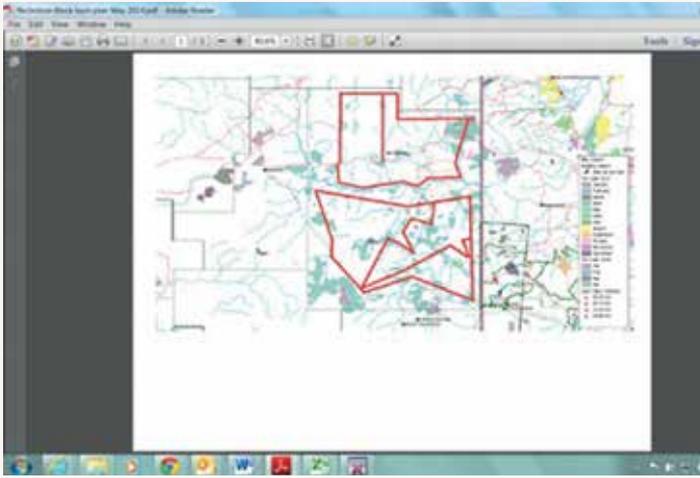
Above: NLC rangers using Cybertracker to document field information

country are the eyes and ears of the NLC in its endeavours to protect environmental values and conserve biodiversity. All planning and work is led by traditional owners who authorise work in accordance with agreed work plans, and whose aspirations are the core focus of planning and implementation. As such, the cultural imperatives of traditional owners are at the centre of the values we protect.

The cultural imperatives of traditional owners guide the remote Indigenous ranger groups, and detailed planning targets the most cost effective way of managing threatening processes. Significant weed and animal invasions, and human activities such as mining, infrastructure building, and recreational activities, can cause great damage to

significant ceremonial and custodial sites. Billabongs, rivers, riparian and swamp lands, coasts, grasslands, remnant rainforest pockets, and fragile stone country are typical areas where delicate environmental balances have been established over millennia and where landscape scale planning and management is necessary to conserve values.

Key NLC ranger activities within a cultural perspective include invasive species management (plant and animal), fire management, sacred site protection, coastal zone surveillance, bio-security, marine species monitoring, marine debris management, fauna relocations, research, visitor and commercial activity patrolling, and resource-based enterprise development.



Research and planning organisations such as the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR), the CSIRO, the Nature Conservancy, Bush Heritage, and the Charles Darwin University, actively engage with ranger groups in the field to broaden the data base so that the NLC can make informed management recommendations to traditional owners.

Information Technology - Data Collection, Mapping and Reporting

An essential part of the rangers everyday work is field data collection.

Rangers are using GPS cameras, handheld GPS, Cyber Tracker units and Android tablets to collect data. The data collected by rangers in the field are taken back to the ranger base where it is uploaded into GIS software for viewing and analysis. Data are shared with partner agencies as appropriate.

Above left: NLC burn track plan overlaid on NAFI fire scar map

Centre left: NLC rangers planning burns with Bushfires NT

Below left: NLC rangers undertaking protective burning around infrastructure

Above right: NLC rangers installing Land Trust information sign

Below right: NLC rangers field work planning sheet

Rangers utilise the Northern Australian Fire Information maps available on the internet. They inform rangers and traditional owners about past burns and fire scars in order to properly plan burns.

Some of the data will be taken out in the field for future work.

The maps created by the rangers play an essential role in planning, and in reporting to stakeholders, partner organisations, traditional owners and the local community.

The Land and Sea section provides ongoing training and support to all ranger groups including:

- » General IT support (visiting groups and providing remote support)
- » On field data collection (visiting groups and providing training workshops)
- » GIS Software (visiting groups and providing training workshops)
- » Reporting (visiting groups, providing remote support, and providing training workshops)

The Land and Sea IT/GIS Support Officer visits each group at least twice a year and is in contact with the rangers on a daily basis for ongoing support.

A week-long data collection and mapping workshop is organised once a year for all sea management ranger groups.



The Land and Sea section is developing a Cloud-based GIS data framework called the Land and Sea ToolBox. This in-house software allows an efficient method of information storage, management, viewing, and generation reports irrespective of literacy levels. Once the ToolBox is fully developed and loaded, data collected by the rangers can be shared and backed in the field and in central office.

Training in the system has commenced, and the data framework will be rolled out in 2014-2015. To accommodate the increased levels of information management, the NLC will upgrade ranger base computers to facilitate appropriate software.

Increasing efficiency of land management in the Arafura Swamp

The three ranger groups which comprise the Arafura Swamp rangers have been working in conjunction with the support staff to improve efficiency of and management activities. to improve efficiency of land management activities.

The Arafura Swamp is a large freshwater basin, around 700sq km, on the northern coast of Arnhem Land. It occupies the broad floodplain of the Goyder and Gulbuwangay rivers and abuts the tidally influenced coastal plain of Castlereagh Bay in the north.

The permanent swamps support a diverse range of extensive, intact wetland habitats. Much of the coverage is open paperbark forest and woodland.

Because helicopter ferry and operation costs are high, the rangers and support staff have decided to acquire two amphibian all-terrain vehicles, which will greatly increase rangers' access to critical areas across all seasons.

Many areas of the Arafura Swamp are inaccessible when rains have rendered the terrain too soft and marshy for normal land vehicles, and there is insufficient water for access by boat or clear terrain for access by air boat.

Access to invasive plant and animal species will be greatly enhanced, and management productivity increased. Monitoring programs will also be extended.

The amphibian vehicles will team with quad bikes, utes and boats to give maximum access to the Arafura Swamp biosphere for the rangers.

The vehicles have eight-wheel drive, utilising a skid-steer steering mechanism on land, and a hand-tiller operated small outboard motor in water. They can be rowed and poled in tight work areas, and have winch capacity for mud traversing and recovery. They are wider and heavier than quad bikes and offer more stability and load capacity.

They are able to be worked into areas where boats cannot go and have tiller steerage superior to air boats. They are also safer than air boats, though slower through the water.

On land they are powerful and create low impact with their soft tyres. They have speed and immediate turning capacity when required for pursuit, escape, recovery, and haulage.

Below: Amphibian ATV with crocodile protection cage



Amphibian ATV crossing Murwangi billabong during the test drive with five persons in the Arafura Swamp



Purchase of the amphibian vehicles will produce productivity increases in:

MONITORING AND PLANNING

- » Monitoring of native species (crocodiles, goannas, snakes, birds, marine species)
- » Monitoring of invasive species (buffalos, pigs, *Olive hymenachne*, *Mimosa pigra*, Para grass, candle bush).
- » Monitoring of sites being observed for salinity levels and encroachment into creeks and buffalo channels, and for documenting of animal and weed damage.

WEED MANAGEMENT

- » Provide greater access to enhance management of critical invasions such as the Olive Hymenachne at the swamp sources and *Mimosa pigra* on the eastern side of the swamp.
- » More timely access will be facilitated to ensure that plants are controlled at the most appropriate times when other vehicle access is not always available, such as on the Gattji and Balinga floodplains
- » Candle bush control can also be implemented once amphibian vehicles access is available.
- » Reduction in expensive aerial surveys and control time of the *Mimosa pigra*.

FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

- » Pig and buffalo control is essential to preserve the integrity of the biosphere. The amphibian vehicles will increase access to difficult areas in all seasons.
- » Rangers' capacity to control buffalos as part of the 5 year Management Plan will be enhanced.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

- » Greater access will be available to remote outstations around the Arafura Swamp fringes and creeks, for fire management, including access to burning areas and transport of traditional owners for planning and leadership.

ILC Groups

The NLC continues to manage four community ranger groups which operated with wage support from the ILC's Real Job Programme. These groups (Kenbi, Yantjarrwu, Timber Creek and Bagala) performed a range of cultural and natural resource management works, as well as cost recovery and fee-for-service work. Aside from land management activities such as fire, weed and feral animal management, groups have also been involved in the protection of culturally significant sites, and participated in community, cultural and social events.

Two groups (Kenbi and Timber Creek) have been successful at pursuing economic activities, using the income to supplement their operational costs. Both these groups have established reputations as professional deliverers of land management services.

The majority of the Timber Creek rangers' activities have been noxious weed control work on pastoral properties that are part of traditional lands. The group continues to be in demand from numerous landholders and managers in the Victoria River region.

Kenbi rangers have undertaken a variety of economic activities including the maintenance and security of the old Radio Australia site, environmental management of Telstra installations and marine mammal monitoring for the INPEX Gas project (see accompanying story, page 77).

Securing steady coordination inhibited some groups achieving their full potential. A difficult issue has been the ability to secure accommodation for ranger coordinators.

All four groups have worked with a small number of core staff (3-6 contracted rangers) and engaged additional casual staff to meet their obligations during periods of increased workload (for example, early dry season burning).

The groups continue to have productive relationships with other agencies and organisations with interests in their operations – importantly, the NTG Weed Management branch, TerritoryNRM Board and Bushfires NT.

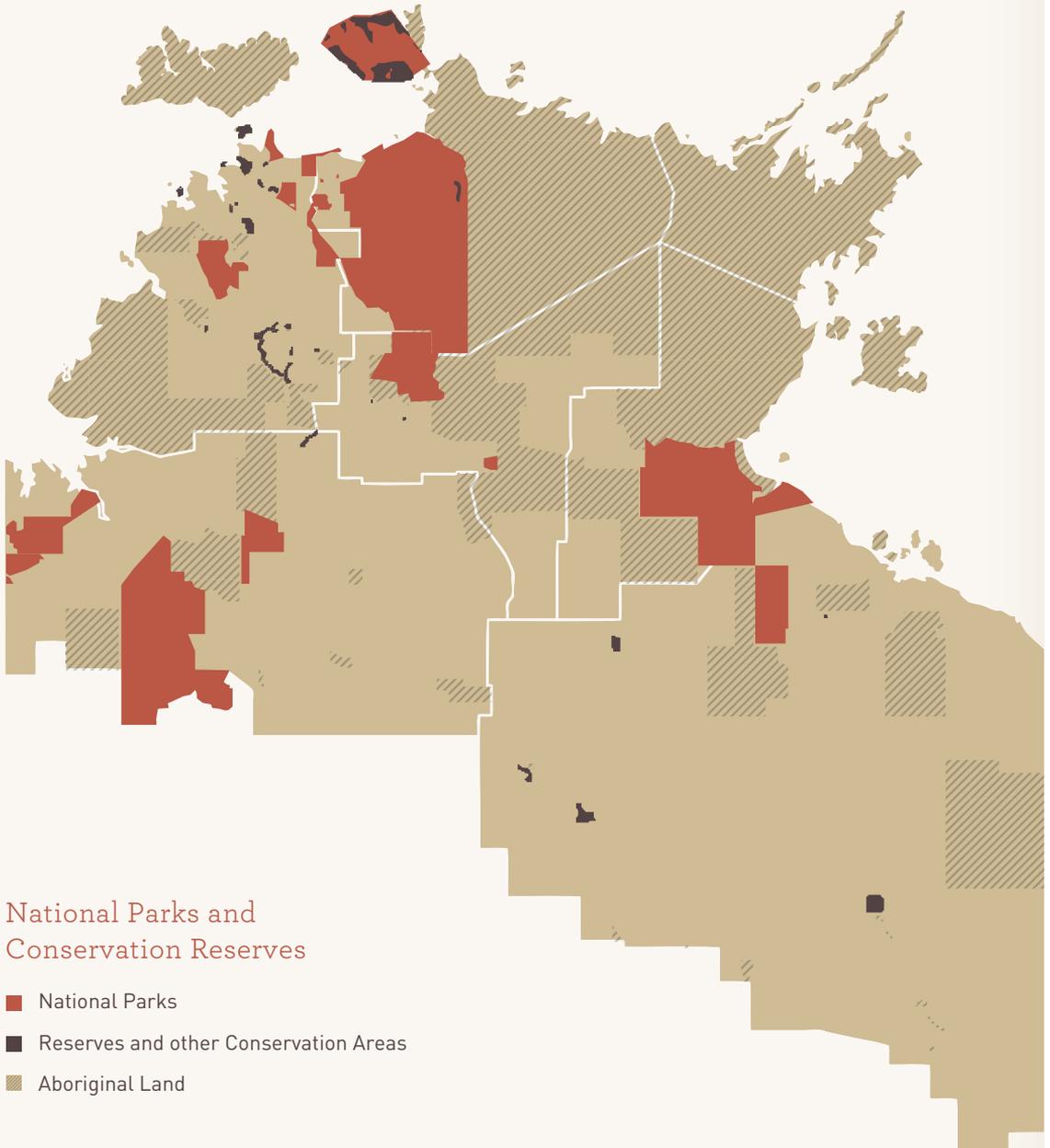
Below: Timber Creek rangers preparing to head out from their camp at dawn



Early dry season aerial burning conducted in the Yantjarrwu/Wudicapaldiyerr area with guidance and instruction from traditional owners

Parks and Reserves

Joint Management



National Parks and Conservation Reserves

- National Parks
- Reserves and other Conservation Areas
- Aboriginal Land

The Northern Land Council has a statutory responsibility to protect and advocate for the interests of traditional owners of land and sea within its jurisdiction. This also includes estates leased by the NT and Australian governments and included in the national reserve estate for conservation of natural and cultural values and tourism purposes. Approximately 44.6% of the NT's national parks and conservation reserves in the NLC region is Aboriginal owned.

The NLC works closely with traditional owners and the NT Parks and Wildlife Commission and Parks Australia to support and develop joint management objectives, strategy and planning. Collectively, jointly managed parks represent a major resource for the Territory and traditional owners. Potential opportunities and achievements in joint management are significant and require adequate resources.

Traditional owners continue to build relationships and partnerships with governments and community and industry stakeholders through jointly managed parks and conservation reserves. Joint management agreements are embedded in either NT and or federal legislation. Such agreements for parks and reserves in the NLC region include: Kakadu National Park (Commonwealth), Nitmiluk National Park, Garig Gunak Barlu National Park (Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary and Marine Park), Judbarra

(Gregory) National Park, Mary River National Park, Adelaide River Conservation Reserves, Giwining (Flora) River Reserve and Baranyi National Park. NLC joint management staff are also involved with the informal joint management in Umbrawarra Gorge and Tjywaliyn Hot Springs. Wardaman Indigenous Protected Area which was declared in June 2014 is also supported by the NLC.

The NLC works together with traditional owners, building on ecological knowledge and developing new capacities to effectively participate in joint management of parks and reserves. The NLC is instrumental in assisting traditional owners to:

- » Engage in a more equitable manner with Parks and Wildlife Commission NT and Parks Australia by providing third party technical advice, support and advocacy.
- » Make informed decisions relating to natural and cultural resource use and management proposals.
- » Assess the social, cultural, environmental and economic implications of legislation and proposals affecting parks and reserves.
- » Protect and enhance traditional law and cultural practices.
- » Pursue employment and business development opportunities.
- » Manage and resolve disputes.

Judbarra / Gregory National Park

The Judbarra/Gregory National Park Joint Management Committee has met once this year, in early March. The joint management partners have entered a challenging period with changes to the structure of joint management funding. The partners are still focused on employment opportunities for traditional owners on the Park but the challenge is to create these opportunities in a more conservative funding environment.

The partners are working together to come up with a park-specific logo for Judbarra / Gregory National Park and this was a key focus of the Paperbark Yard Country Camp held in June this year. The camp also focused on connecting younger and older generations of women on country to share stories and songs. Two young



women also collected bush medicine and made a video on bush medicine soap making.

The traditional owners of Judbarra / Gregory National Park have entered into early planning discussions about using rent money generated from the Park, on community development projects to benefit communities. The NLC is working closely with the CLC's Community Development team for this project.

Giwining / Flora River Nature Reserve & Wardaman Indigenous Protected Area

The Giwining / Flora joint management partners met in August 2013. Indigenous employment on the Reserve has dropped from previous years but the Joint Management Committee remains focused on working together and are satisfied with

the current work program on the Reserve.

The other main focus for Giwining / Flora traditional owners has again been the Wardaman Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). Stage One of the IPA was dedicated by the Australian government in June 2014. Stage One of the IPA covers part of Menggen Aboriginal Land Trust, Yubulyawuyn Aboriginal Land Trust, Djarrung Community Living Area and Wurkleni Community Living Area. Stage Two of the IPA will potentially include a section of eastern Judbarra /Gregory National Park, Flora River Nature Reserve, and two commercial grazing licence areas over part of Menggen Aboriginal Land Trust and Dillinya Aboriginal Land Trust. Further work on developing relationships will take place prior to dedication of Stage Two.

The dedication of Stage One of the IPA is the culmination of many years of work on the Wardaman IPA Management Plan and the formation of Wardaman Indigenous Protected Area Aboriginal Corporation (WIPAAC), which has Directors from each of the 11 clan groups that make up the Wardaman language group. The Wardaman traditional owners are focusing on developing strong governance and creating a ranger group to manage their IPA lands.

Tjuwaliyn / Douglas Hot Springs

Joint management negotiations for Tjuwaliyn / Douglas Hot Springs have again been delayed. However, NLC is planning to meet with all Wagiman traditional owners and re-start discussions on a Joint Management Agreement for the Hot Springs in July 2014.

Below left: Judbarra (Gregory) Joint Management Committee – (Back Row) Chris Griffiths, Basil Murrimal, Reggie Ryan, Larry Johns, Roy Roberts, Kevin Bishop, Smiler Largut, Riley Young, John McCartney, Lorraine Jones, Susan Jones, Agnes Bishop, Crystella Roberts, Neva McCartney, Cerise Young, (Front Row) Sally Winbirr, Queenie Morgan

Below right: Cerise and Angelina Young making a video on how to make bush medicine soap



Adelaide River Parks

The Adelaide River joint management partners have focused on more efficient use of resources whilst also providing opportunity for community groups. Two memorandums of understanding (MOU) have been developed in collaboration with hunting groups of shared interests, the Field and Game NT and the Conservation and Pest Management Branch of the Sporting Shooters. These partnerships are mutually beneficial, providing effective resource management, community education opportunities and building community relationships.

The joint management committee is now awaiting the parliamentary endorsement of its joint management plan.

Mary River National Park

The Mary River joint management partners have been focused on business opportunities and business development. Several delegates attended the Indigenous Economic Forum in Alice Springs in November 2013. The Uwynmil traditional owners are looking at developing tourism opportunities to add value to existing operations. The Limilngan traditional owners are pursuing equity interests in the Wildman Wilderness Lodge, with negotiations continuing through the Aboriginal Investment Group and Indigenous Business Australia.

The park is currently staffed at 75% Aboriginal rangers. Annual culture camps are the highlight of the year for the families, occurring through the mid-year school holidays. These are a time to focus on families and culture while also providing some time to complete and communicate other business to the greater group of traditional owners.

Outcome

The restructure to funding and Indigenous employment programs with Parks and Wildlife NT is taking time to settle in. The NLC and Parks Australia staff continue to negotiate to have an NLC officer dedicated to supporting traditional owners and joint management in Kakadu. Work has continued to ensure outcomes for traditional



Back row (left to right): Byron Cooper, Henry Yates, Leo Goodman, William Goodman, Darryl Tambling, front row Victor Cooper, Phillip Goodman, Andrew Henda, Graham Kenyon at Wildman Wilderness Lodge

owners in joint management. The Indigenous Employment Strategy for Parks and Wildlife NT was endorsed by the NTG in late 2013. Parks and Wildlife NT is working together with the Northern and Central Land Councils to develop and support a joint management forum. The forum will comprise nominated traditional owners from across the jointly managed parks estate, who will be represented at the highest level ensuring a higher degree of equity with relevant partners in government.

Below: (left to right) Darryl Tambling, Robbie Dalton and Valarie Tambling at the Indigenous Economic Forum in Alice Springs.



Right: Kenbi rangers Rex Edmunds and Rex Sing with Dr Isabel Beasley

Kenbi Rangers Marine Mammal Monitoring – Bynoe Harbour – March 2014

Kenbi rangers participated in the Marine Mammal Monitoring Program funded by INPEX through the NTG over 9 days at Bynoe Harbour. The NTG also did monitoring work in Darwin Harbour during the same period.

Participating Kenbi rangers were Rex Sing, Rex Edmunds and Co-ordinator Steven Brown. They used two 6 metre dinghies and a mother ship.

Dolphins sighted were Bottlenose, Humpback and a very rarely seen Snubfin. All sightings were photographed, GPS points recorded, and water sampling done.

Rangers were also assigned position as observers, and as the traditional owners, ensuring others involved in the monitoring program were aware of sacred sites in Bynoe Harbour.

Kenbi ranger Rex Sing was announced as the overall number one dolphin spotter for Darwin and Bynoe Harbours as well as leading spotter for Bynoe Harbour. Rex had 14 sightings in the 9 days in Bynoe Harbour.

Below: Snubfin Dolphins





*Land Claims
and Acquisitions
Support Services*



Land Claims

Many land claims were successfully prosecuted by the NLC in past years. Now only a small number remain, largely to small areas including beds and banks of several rivers. The most recent land claims prosecuted by the NLC include Urapunga Station (2001) and most recently the Vernon Islands (2008).

The Anthropology branch has embarked on a research program aimed at preparing formal anthropological documentation (consisting of anthropological reports, genealogical material site and dreaming maps) to some ten claims. These are largely to the south and west of Darwin including in the Legune, Gregory, Victoria and Fitzmaurice Rivers region of the Victoria River District.

The branch engaged Mr Jeffrey Stead OAM, (former branch manager and CEO of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority) to assist the more recently employed staff in preparing their research and required products. To date Mr Stead has provided both formal training and 'one on one' assistance. The work will include both 'desk top' research as well as a significant field component. The latter will significantly add to the Land Council's documentation of some remote, but significant areas of the Territory. This includes country visited by the Gregory Expedition in 1855-1856 where staff will be able to use the expedition's early accounts alongside contemporary traditional owners.

The coming financial year is expected to see this work completed.

Left: The Federal Court sits at Mataranka: the Hon Justice John Mansfield AM hands down a Native Title consent determination over 16 pastoral leases south west of Mataranka, October 2013

Support Services

Anthropology Branch Region Statistics

The NLC's Anthropology branch divides its regional responsibilities differently from the NLC's administrative

regions, in order to capture regions of ethnographic similarity, thus keeping the regional anthropologist's focus within a more uniform ontological framework, and to evenly distribute the workload of the branch.

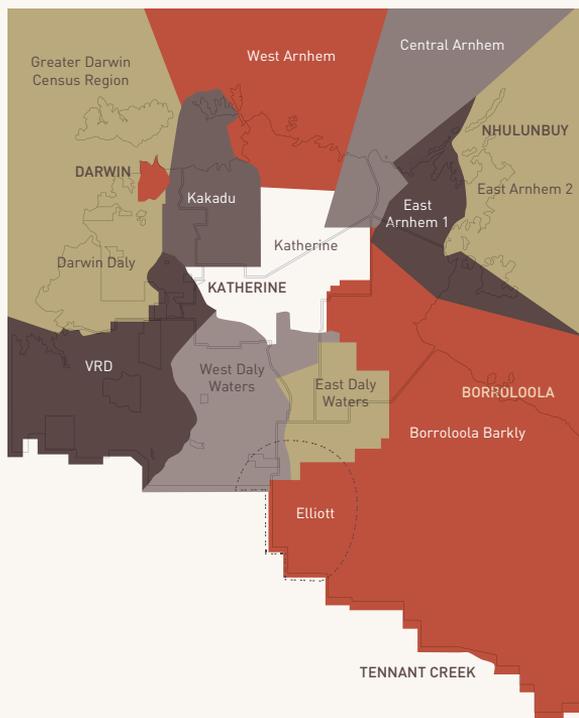
The following figures show the basic demographic characterisation of each NLC anthropology region in terms of geographic areas, population and land tenure.

Table 4: Distribution of Aboriginal living areas across NLC anthropology regions

Region	Major	Minor	Town Camp	Family Outstation	Grand Total
Borroloola Barkly	2	3	6	68	79
Central Arnhem	2	3		50	55
Darwin Daly	8	2	7	47	64
East Arnhem 1	5	2		43	50
East Arnhem 2	2	6		39	47
East Daly Waters	1	1		1	3
Kakadu			1	20	21
Katherine	3	2	2	10	17
VRD	2	5	2	15	24
West Arnhem	4	1		47	52
West Daly Waters		1	1	6	8
Grand Total	29	26	19	346	420



Figure 3: Estimated populations across NLC's region



Region	Estimated population
Greater Darwin Census Region	11,101
West Arnhem	1877
Central Arnhem	2577
East Arnhem 1	3457
East Arnhem 2	1928
Katherine	2934
Kakadu	2515
Darwin Daly	4244
VRD	1488
West Daly Waters	1414
East Daly Waters	993
Borroloola Barkly	2968
Elliott	304

Table 5: Aboriginal owned land and native title interests

REGION	ALRA Land Trust (ALT) %	Native Title Interests (NT) %	Other %
Borroloola Barkly	17.79	75.77	6.44
Central Arnhem	100.00	0.00	0.00
Darwin Daly	45.78	23.79	30.43
East Arnhem 1	100.00	0.00	0.00
East Arnhem 2	100.00	0.00	0.74
East Daly Waters	25.88	73.37	0.74
Kakadu	29.22	17.72	53.06
Katherine	68.08	21.01	10.91
Elliott	9.18	87.99	2.83
VRD	26.68	54.04	19.28
West Arnhem	100.00	0.00	0.00
West Daly Waters	13.96	76.51	9.53

Below: The NLC's key role in negotiations for the Alice Springs – Darwin railway line was remembered at the 10th Anniversary celebrations in January 2014 to mark the completion of the line. Left Executive Member Bill Risk with former NT Transport Minister Barry Coulter, at the celebrations at Berrimah



A Selection of Anthropology Region Profiles

Darwin Daly Wagait Port Keats Region

The land tenure of this anthropology region is largely Aboriginal Land Trusts administered under the *ALRA*, in particular the:

- » Daly River Port Keats
- » Malak Malak
- » Upper Daly
- » Wagiman No.1 & No.2
- » Finniss River
- » Delissaville, Wagait Larrakia
- » Gurundju Aboriginal Land Trusts.

Pastoral and native title land interests make up approximately forty percent of the area.

A wide range of activities other than government services is currently being undertaken in this region, including crocodile egg collecting on several of the Land Trusts; working towards

the divestment of Fish River property to traditional owners; Native Title authorisation meetings for gold exploration in the Pine Creek region; working on joint management for Tjuwaliyn Douglas Hot Springs, and a mustering agreement on Benung for Wagiman.

Consultations over a diverse range of activities included finalising arrangements for the new Peppimenarti Store and manager's house construction to begin this dry season; NTG Mineral Extraction Agreement setting a standard price for gravel and sand, and the realignment, lifting, widening and sealing of a section of the Port Keats Road between Chalanyi Creek and the Little Moyle River; ongoing Blue Mud Bay consultations over the intertidal areas that adjoin Aboriginal land; and, a combined site survey with the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority on Cox Peninsula as part of the settlement of the Kenbi Land Claim.

Ngukurr & Borroloola Barkly Region

Mineral and petroleum exploration work has been steadily rising in this anthropology region and the NLC has consulted with traditional owners for Bing Bong Port, Gum Creek, Ngukurr, Minyerri, Mittiebah, Lorella, Beetaloo, McArthur River, Spring Creek, Manangoora, Greenbank, Kiana, and Billengarrah.

The NLC has been involved in leasing agreements for the Heartbreak Hotel, grazing on the Mambaliya Rhumburriya Wuyaliya Aboriginal Land Trust (Balbarini), Carpentaria Highway Corridor changes as well as negotiating gravel pits for the upgrading of the road for Balbarini and Narwinbi Aboriginal Land Trusts and a new ranger base at Black Rock outside Borroloola and Barranyi National Park.

Below: NLC lawyer Bob Gosford in Borroloola with Balbarini and Narwinbi traditional owners, March 2014



The NLC has been talking with families from Anthony Lagoon and the progression of the families' push for a Community Living Area.

The NLC has assisted Telstra with the setting up of two towers in the Garawa Land Trust near Robinson River township. Talks are underway with the NTG for proposed bridges across the Wilton and Roper Rivers which will allow almost year-round access to Ngukurr, effectively meaning wet-season closures of longer than a week should not occur.

The NLC has also been involved with contracts for buffalo mustering north of Ngukurr and these talks are ongoing.

West Arnhem Land Region

The West Arnhem Land anthropology region covers the western part of the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Land Trust, extending from the border of the Kakadu National Park in the west to east of the Liverpool and Mann Rivers, including the islands of Croker, South and North Goulburn. Its major communities are Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Minjilang and Waruwi, and there are many family outstations across the region, mainly located along the rivers or parts of the coast.

The traditional ownership of this region consists of nearly 90 patrilineal local descent or 'clan' groups (*kunmokrurrkurr* in Kunwinjku), which each own one or, through succession, more estates defined by big names, places (*kunred*) and

sacred sites (*djang*) affiliated to the group. However affiliations to country are very complex and besides the land owning clan group with primary rights there can be many other groups or individuals with interests in a particular country through certain kinship connections, company and ceremonial relationships.

A major part of consultation work in the region concerns mining exploration activity. In this financial year the regular yearly meetings were conducted for about 15 tenements, at which traditional owners approve the company's work program for the coming dry season. At these meetings traditional owners also give instructions to the NLC on how they would like to have the royalties distributed, which were paid by the companies for the previous year's work.

There were also nine consultations regarding new exploration licence applications (ELAs). At the request of traditional owners, some ELAs will involve NLC to facilitate site surveys with knowledgeable traditional owners to identify and map sacred sites within the tenements before a final meeting can be held.

Such cultural site surveys are an important part of anthropological work in the region. Not only do they enable traditional owners to identify exact areas to be protected and excluded from exploration licences, but also they enable cultural knowledge to be preserved and passed on to the

younger generations. In this financial year there was one extensive site survey conducted by a consultant and the NLC regional anthropologist with traditional owners.

Consultations regarding leases over lots in the communities have continued over the last financial year and led to many new ALRA section 19 land use agreements being given to governmental institutions, private entities and Aboriginal corporations.

At Waruwi, traditional owners decided to lease eight lots to the Yagbani Aboriginal Corporation amongst others for the purposes of accommodation, training, a women's centre and arts centre. Traditional owners of Maningrida have established the Dhukurrdji Development Corporation as a response to the Northern Territory Emergency Response compensation payments to realise business opportunities and support community development.

Other continuing land use activities in this region are the harvesting of crocodile eggs carried out by five different companies throughout the region and a high number of tourist activities, such as cultural tours from Kakadu National Park, including the Injalak Art Centre in Gunbalanya, rock art tours to Injalak Hill and visits to Mikinj Valley. There is also recreational fishing in Mountnorris and Malay Bays, as well as at Liverpool and

Tomkinson Rivers, and safari hunting operations around Coopers Creek, Murganella River and Mann River.

Sustainable land and sea management continues to be carried out by Aboriginal ranger groups throughout the region, including fire management under the long established West Arnhem Land Fire Abatement (WALFA) project. A new opportunity for this project has arisen with the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011* which enables recognised offset entities (ROE) to earn carbon credits under the initiative. This financial year NLC has undertaken and nearly finished extensive consultations with traditional owners of the WALFA project area (which includes large areas of the West, Central and East Arnhem Land, and Katherine anthropology regions) on the newly formed company WALFA Ltd and the Jawoyn Association to represent the different ranger groups as such ROEs under the carbon farming initiative. The benefits of the earned credits from the rangers' fire abatement work will go back to support the ranger programs.

Central Arnhem Land Region

The Central Arnhem Land anthropology region overlaps both the East Arnhem and West Arnhem NLC regions. The major communities within Central Arnhem Land are Milingimbi and Ramingining, with many outstations along the Blyth and Cadell Rivers and the

Arafura Wetlands.

The Katherine Regional Office, East Arnhem Regional Office and West Arnhem Regional Office all provide support to the Central Arnhem anthropology region.

The past year has been dominated by work on the proposed Rio Tinto Katherine to Gove gas pipeline, which the company has now decided against progressing. Much hard work was undertaken by the NLC and traditional owners to assist Rio Tinto in finding a safe route for the proposed pipeline and it is hoped that Rio Tinto will soon visit traditional owners to explain their decision in person, and thank traditional owners for their contribution to the process.

Consultations and subsequent Land Use Agreements for the extraction of gravel have allowed a major upgrade of the Ramingining barge landing road, which should be accessible year round. This will help keep food on the shelves of the local shop and the power station running!

The Goyder River Bridge and the Donydji Crossing Bridge are nearing completion and everybody is looking forward to being able to use them in the wet season.

The NLC has been able to complete consultations for crocodile egg collection land use agreements in the Arafura Wetlands, which will ensure an income for traditional owners over the next ten years. The Arafura Wetlands remains one of the largest producers of crocodile eggs in the Territory.

The NLC's work within the beautiful country encompassed by the Central Arnhem Land region remains as busy and diverse as ever.

Below: Dhabilla Barge Landing Road

Far below: A major upgrade to the Ramingining Barge Landing Road should ensure it is accessible all year round



North East Arnhem Land Region

The East Arnhem anthropology region takes up the majority of the East Arnhem NLC region, and the northernmost parts of the Ngukurr NLC region. Traditional owners for East Arnhem are mainly Yolngu people, with some Nunggubuyu clans in the southern parts. The region includes such areas of cultural significance as Blue Mud Bay, Gove Peninsula, Mitchell Ranges and Elcho Island.

Oil and gas extraction through hydraulic fracturing continues to be one of the driving issues in East Arnhem Land. Work continues on the approval process for a large tenement that covers much of the region. Consultations have revealed a wide range of opinions on this process from Traditional Owner groups in the region, with much discussion about the need to protect water, such as rivers and aquifers, which is of great importance to Yolngu people. This project has required a tremendous amount of work by NLC staff and consultants. Follow-ups and final meetings will be required over the coming months before the consultation process can be said to be completed.

This financial year has witnessed the grant of two tenements for mineral exploration on Elcho and Howard Islands, a process which has taken more than ten years. This has been a joint effort between the NLC, traditional owners, and the

mining company, and has been a positive experience for all involved.

In addition to specific projects, every financial year involves ongoing work for granted tenements, including work program meetings in which the mining company's proposed works for the year are scrutinised and approved by Traditional owners, and distribution of royalties that have accrued for the tenement over the previous year.

One of the major projects in the past twelve months has been the distribution of Northern Territory Emergency Response compensation payments for land in major communities. While in some places the distribution has now been completed, it is still an ongoing process in others where amounts have been larger, and traditional owners are taking more time to consider options.

Over the past year there have been a record number of lease agreements facilitated by the NLC between traditional Aboriginal owners and proponents who wish to occupy lots in communities. These include government, shires, health centres and businesses. In some cases traditional owners have had to decide between multiple proponents who are requesting leases over the same lots.

There have been a number of smaller scale projects taking place this financial year. These include meetings with traditional owners to discuss

the Galiwinku Town Plan with the NTG. Crocodile harvesting takes place across Arnhem Land, and a new agreement for crocodile egg harvesting was negotiated for Buckingham Bay, Hapgood River, Kurla and Slippery Creek. Further meetings took place with traditional owners for Caledon Bay and Yirrkala to discuss remains and artefacts held by museums that need to be returned to country as part of a joint project between the NLC and the Australia Museum.

Katherine Region

The area for the Katherine anthropology region covers the southwest portion of the Arnhem Aboriginal Land Trust, and also encompasses the whole of Beswick, Jawoyn, Manyallaluk and Mangarrayi Aboriginal Land Trusts. In the east, the region extends over pastoral lease tenure, including Goondooloo, Moroak, Mountain Valley, Flying Fox and Mainorou. It is bordered on the far west side by the Stuart Highway and Pine Creek, while Katherine township itself straddles both the West Daly Waters and Katherine anthropology regions. Communities include Barunga, Manyallaluk, Beswick, Jilkminggan, Bulman and Weemol, while there are a number of outstations dotted throughout the region. Language groups include, in the centre and to the west, Jawoyn, Dagoman, Wardaman, Yangman; in the south, Mangarrayi, and further north and east, Dalabon, Ngalkbon and Rembarrnga.

The bulk of consultations this year in the region has been on various *ALRA* section 19 agreements, including many lot leases by the government, gravel pit leasing to roads, store proposals for Bulman/Weemol, Beswick and Barunga, and Elsey Station matters within the Mangarrayi Aboriginal Land Trust including pastoral lease proposals and meat works infrastructure.

Other consultations included site visits to inspect the environmental impact on Melkjarlumbu (Beswick Waterfall) by the annual festival event, Walking with Spirits. Melkjarlumbu is situated on the Waterhouse River, 100km southeast of Katherine and

11kms northeast of Wugularr (Beswick) community. In recent years traditional owners have been concerned about the increase in numbers generated by the festival and the impacts on the land through visitation to the site. An environmental assessment has been undertaken by the NLC.

The technical analysis was conducted with assistance of cultural knowledge from traditional owners, giving people the chance to explain the importance of their spiritual connection to the site, and the use of the land to forage and fish.

Right: Bush cucumber at Melkjarlumbu



Crystal Bulumbara at Melkjarlumbu

Native Title Report



The Hon Justice John Mansfield AM with native title holders after a Federal Court sitting at Minyerni, October 2013



About The Native Title Act

Since its formation in the mid 1970s the NLC has worked to promote Aboriginal land rights through the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976. However, with the passage of the Native Title Act 1993, the NLC has sought recognition for Aboriginal people for our rights in land and water across a wider area including pastoral leases and townships.

In 1992 the High Court of Australia for the first time gave legal recognition to the common law native title land rights of Australia's Indigenous peoples (Mabo No 2). The NTA introduced a statutory scheme for the recognition of native title in those areas where Aboriginal groups have been able to maintain a traditional connection to land and where the actions of governments have not otherwise extinguished their prior title. The Act provided for the recognition of pre-existing

rights to land and waters, the making of future acts and the resolution of claims for compensation.

Native title as it is codified in the NTA differs from western forms of title in three significant ways. Firstly, it is premised on the group or communal ownership of land, rather than on private property rights; secondly, it is a recognition and registration of rights and interests in relation to areas of land which pre-date British sovereignty, rather than a formal grant of title by

government; thirdly, it may coexist with forms of granted statutory title, such as pastoral leases, over the same tracts of land.

Native title thus exists in a complex legal, administrative and cultural environment of intersecting and sometimes conflicting interests. The NLC is committed to resolving native title claims through negotiation and mediation, rather than litigation, where possible and since 2010 has been part of a Federal Court initiative aimed at settlement of native title determination applications over Northern Territory pastoral leases and townships.

Below: Attendees at a Native Title consent determination ceremony at Mataranka, October 2013



Native Title Quick Facts

- » Native title is a set of rights and interests in relation to land or waters.
- » Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) are agreements between groups claiming native title and others about the management and use of land and waters. They can be made before or after a determination that native title exists or where there is no native title application at all.
- » The NLC is the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for the Territory's northern region, covering approximately 570,000 square kilometres of land, including the Tiwi Islands and Groote Eylandt.
- » As an NTRB under the *NTA*, the NLC's key statutory functions include to facilitate and assist native title holders to make native title applications, respond to proposed future acts and negotiate ILUAs or other agreements according to the consultation and consent provisions under the Act, and to assist to resolve disputes between constituents about native title applications, future acts, ILUAs or other native title matters.
- » The NLC combines its native title functions with its other statutory functions to increase administrative efficiency and flexibility.
- » The NLC's work with claimant groups to settle native title determination applications over the Territory's townships and pastoral leases is an intensive, accelerated process that has resulted in 49 successful consent determinations since 2010 including 25 consent determinations in the reporting period.
- » This adds to the 8 successful determinations in the NLC region from 1998 to 2009.

Native Title Determination Applications

The NLC has lodged claims over most of the available areas in the Northern Territory.

Native Title Applications Statistics 2013-14

Table 6: Statistics relating to native title claims processes

Active Claimant Applications	As at 1 July 2013	131
	As at 30 June 2014	142
New Claimant Applications	Filed 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014	11
Compensation Applications	Filed 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014	0
Non-Claimant Applications	Filed 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014	0
Determinations of Native Title	1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014	25

Update on Continuing Claims Work

Pastoral Consent Determinations

A significant part of the NLC’s native title claims workload comes via the Federal Court ordered Pastoral Consent Determination Schedule which requires in excess of 110 pastoral lease areas to be progressed to consent determination via a “short form” consent determination process as part of the Federal Court initiative to settle native title determination applications in the NLC region. The NLC region Federal Court ordered Pastoral Consent Determination Schedule is one of the country’s largest and most ambitious Federal Court native title backlog projects.

In late 2009 the legal representatives of the Northern

Territory, the Commonwealth, the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association and the NLC came together under the auspices of the Federal Court to explore options to resolve the native title status of pastoral leases in the NLC region. At that juncture each claim was taking upwards of five years to determine, meaning that it was likely some of the existing claims would outlive most living claimants, party representatives and court officers.

In 2010 the parties agreed to resolve all future pastoral claims on the basis of a short form approach to the provision of:

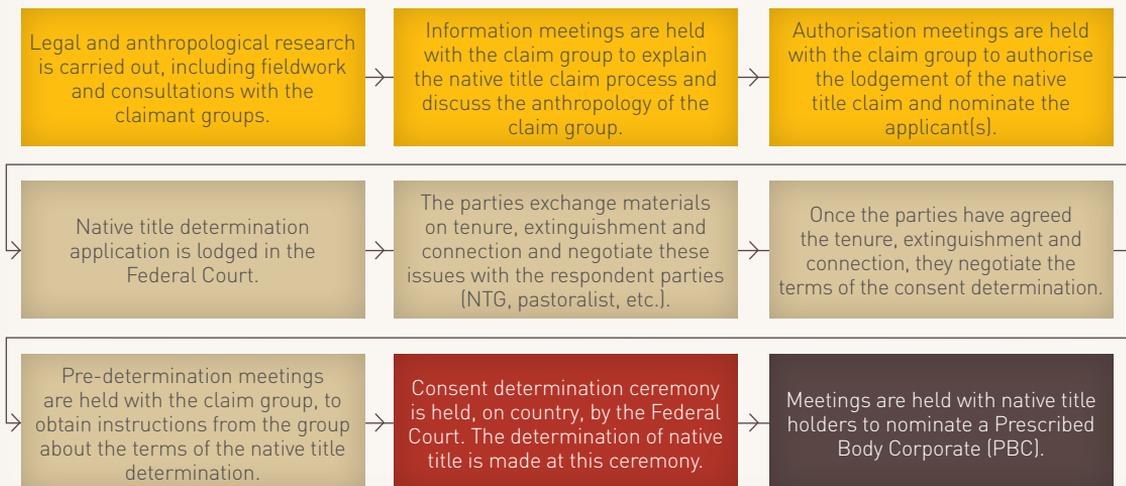
- » anthropological evidence in support of the native title claim group’s connection to the relevant pastoral lease; and
- » evidence of the construction or establishment of public works and pastoral improvements on that lease.

In addition, it was agreed that a fresh native title claim is lodged over each individual pastoral lease and earlier claims lodged over the same lease are removed.

Pastoral leases are grouped into 13 clusters of claims according to general geographical groupings and staggered for progressive completion year by year. The NLC implements an annual program of research and consultations with claimants across large and remote geographic areas. This work requires the preparation of connection and tenure materials by NLC staff and anthropological and legal consultants and a series of meetings with the claimant group as shown in the diagram below.

The NLC’s native title pastoral consent determination process

Figure 4: NLC’s pastoral consent determination process



Pursuant to this schedule, an unprecedented number of native title claims were determined in the reporting period – see “Determinations of Native Title”, page 91. In addition, in the reporting period anthropological research was finalised, and information and authorisation meetings were undertaken, for pastoral leases in Group 1 (Mallapunyah/Cresswell Matters) and Group 9 (Mallapunyah/Cresswell – Gulf Country), including 17 information meetings and 20 authorisation meetings. In respect of all but two of the proposed claims the NLC received instructions to lodge a new native title claim and provide the Northern Territory and the pastoralist respondents with a short-form anthropological report. In some instances, further anthropological research and follow up consultations were required. Consultant anthropologists have also carried out research and fieldwork for 9 of the 12 of the Group 2 (Dalmore Downs Matters) pastoral leases.

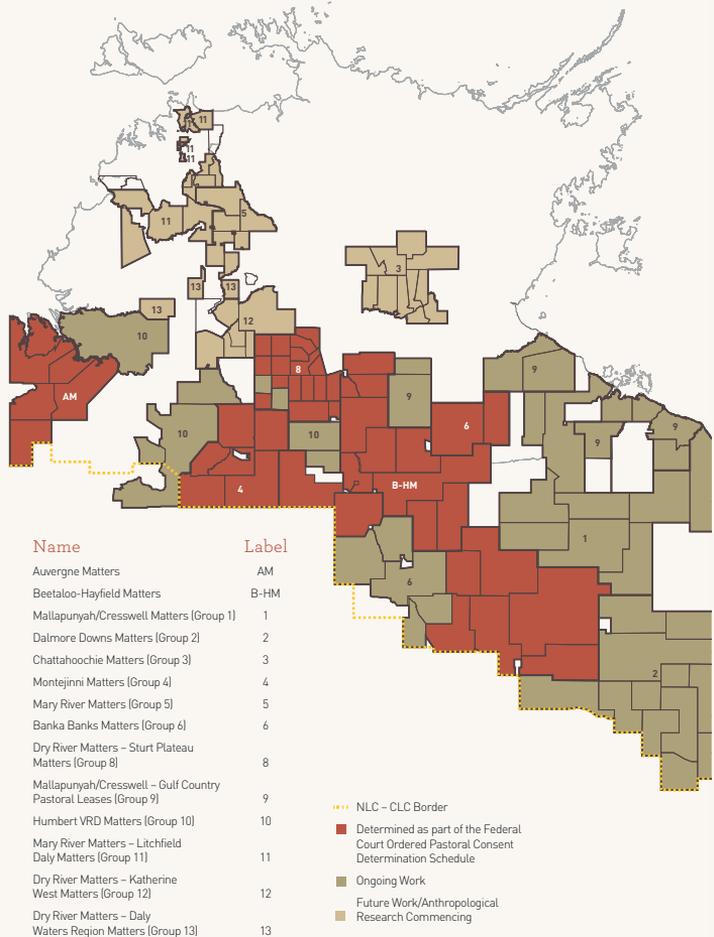
In the coming reporting period, the NLC is required to continue to progress claims over the 30 pastoral leases in Group 1, Group 2 and Group 9 in accordance with the Federal Court ordered Pastoral Consent Determination Schedule. The NLC expects to also continue work on the Group 10 (Humbert VRD Matters) pastoral leases.

While the Federal Court-ordered Pastoral Consent Determination Schedule

has resulted in a significant acceleration of the rate at which claims are resolved, this work continues to require the NLC to commit significant resources to the progression of these claims, the short form work process being no less complex than longer-term claims work and far more intensive.

The NLC acknowledges the strength, support and patience of traditional owners as we work with the Northern Territory, pastoralists and other parties to settle native title across the NLC region.

Figure 5: Status of work on the Federal Court ordered Pastoral Consent Determination Schedule for the NLC region as of June 2014



Township Consent Determinations

The NLC also undertakes intensive work on township native title claims as part of the Federal Court initiative to settle native title determination applications in the NLC region via consent determination.

In the reporting period, the NLC continued meetings with claimants and anthropological research for the Katherine Township Native Title Claim and finalised and submitted anthropological materials for the Borroloola Township Native Title Claim.

Below: Attendees at a native title authorisation meeting in Borroloola, October 2013



Native Title Claims Litigation

The NLC continues to work on native title determination applications subject to litigation.

In April 2013 a trial was heard before Justice John Mansfield of the Federal Court into the long-running Jabiru native title determination application. Judgment in this matter is yet to be determined.

However, subsequent to the trial, in August 2013 two of the three portions of land surrounding the Northern Territory town of Jabiru and which are subject to the Jabiru native title determination application were granted as Aboriginal land under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* to the Kakadu Aboriginal Land Trust and leased back to the Director of National Parks as part of the implementation of settlement arrangements for the Jabiru native title claim.

Below: NLC Borroloola regional officers, Daniel Mulholland and Tahnee Mawson with consultant anthropologist Jitendra Kumarage and NLC lawyer Alexandra Gibson at a native title authorisation meeting in Borroloola, October 2013.



The pursuit of settlement discussions with regard to the remaining portion of land subject to the native title determination application continues.

Native Title Sea Claims

See "Advocacy Services – Cultural and Heritage Support – Sea Rights, page 133".

Determinations of Native Title

Pursuant to the Federal Court Ordered Pastoral Consent Determination Schedule, an unprecedented number of native title claims were determined in the reporting period including 18 claims over pastoral leases in Group 6 (Banka Banka Matters) and Group 8 (Dry River / Sturt Plateau Matters) in October 2013 and a further 7 claims over pastoral leases in Group 6 in March 2014.

At a special sitting of the Federal Court at Mataranka on 29 October 2013, Justice John Mansfield made consent determinations over the 16 Group 8 pastoral leases of Avago, Bloodwood Downs, Birdum Creek, Cow Creek, Dry River, Gorrie, Lakefield, Larrizona, Margaret Downs, Middle Creek, Nenen, Providence, Sunday Creek, Tarlee, Western Creek and Wyworrie. The 16 pastoral leases cover an area of more than 11,000 square kilometres of land south-west of the Northern Territory town of Mataranka.

Justice Mansfield then made consent determinations at a special sitting of the Federal Court at Minyerri on 31 October 2013 over the 2 Group 6 pastoral leases of Tanumbirini and Broadmere which extend over 7600 square kilometres of land east of the Northern Territory town of Daly Waters.

At a special sitting of the Federal Court at Lake Mary Ann near the Northern Territory town of Tennant Creek on 6 March 2014, Justice Darryl Rangiah made consent determinations over seven of the Group 6 pastoral leases of Alroy Downs, Anthony Lagoon, Brunchilly, Brunette Downs, Eva Downs, Rockhampton Downs and Tandyidgee. The seven pastoral leases cover an area of more than 36,000 square kilometres of land in the Northern Territory's Barkly region.

These successful consent determinations in the reporting period follow previous successful consent determinations relevant to the Federal Court Ordered Pastoral Consent Determination Schedule and township consent determinations, as follows:

- » The Beetaloo-Hayfield Matters, consisting of the 10 pastoral leases of Amungee Mungee,

Beetaloo, Forrest Hill, Hayfield, Kalala, Maryfield, Mungabroom, Shenandoah, Ucharonidge and Vermelha and the Town of Daly Waters, determined on 27 June 2012.

- » The Town of Mataranka, determined on 21 March 2012.
- » The Group 4 Montejinni Matters, consisting of the 6 pastoral leases of Birrimba, Camfield, Dungowan, Killarney, Montejinni East and Montejinni West, determined on 2 June 2011.
- » The Auvergne Matters, consisting of the 6 pastoral leases of Auvergne, Bullo River, Legune, Newry, Rosewood and Spirit Hills, determined on 31 May 2011.

Below: NLC lawyer Jonathan Kneebone speaking with PBC nomination consultation attendees at Elliott, April 2014



Staff Perspective

Kylie Burn

I have worked at the NLC for 5 years, two years of which I have worked as the Administration Assistant for Native Title in the NLC's Anthropology branch. In October 2013, I attended a native title consent determination ceremony at Mataranka with the NLC's Acting Anthropology branch Manager Carol Christophersen, Administration Assistant Kirsty Kassman and Senior GIS Officer Simon Watkinson. We met the native title claimants, watched the ceremony and had lunch with claimants and staff members. It was interesting to observe the ceremony and how it operated, and gave me a better understanding of the processes of native title. To see the final outcome gave me a better perspective of the hard work of the anthropologists, lawyers and regional staff that made it happen. It was also rewarding to know that I also had assisted in this outcome through the duties in my position at the NLC. I work in the Darwin office so it was great to meet claimants as well as NLC staff that I work closely with and put faces to the names. I feel very privileged to be a part of native title work.



Above right: NLC Anthropology branch Administration Assistant for Native Title, Kylie Burn

Below right: Kylie Burn, NLC Acting Anthropology branch Manager Carol Christophersen and NLC Administration Assistant Kirsty Kassman at a native title consent determination ceremony at Mataranka, October 2013

Nomination of a Prescribed Body Corporate

After a determination of native title is made, the native title holders must nominate a Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) to manage their native title rights as required under the NTA. A PBC is a corporation that holds or manages native title for the whole native title group. A PBC's primary role is to give legal force to native title rights and interests held by the group, especially by enabling binding agreements about land to be executed. Proponents, such as governments and companies, must deal with the nominated PBC.

Below: Bunggul at Garma Festival 2013 at Gulkula. Photo Yothu Yindi Foundation

The NLC has developed a corporation called the Top End Default PBC which can be used by native title holders as a PBC where there has been a successful native title claim. The members of the Top End Default PBC are the members from time to time of the NLC Executive Council. If native title holders choose, the Top End Default PBC will perform the PBC role – which is primarily executing agreements on the instructions and directions of native title holders. The Top End Default PBC will not receive money or royalties from those agreements.

The Top End Default PBC is merely an option for native title holders who have had their native title determined. There is no obligation on native title holders to “opt in” to the Top End Default PBC, and they can “opt out” and form a new PBC at any time.

Update on Continuing PBC Nomination Work

In the reporting period, consultations were carried out with native title holders on the nomination of a PBC for 22 native title determinations, including for the Auvergne, Bullo River, Legune, Newry, Rosewood and Spirit Hills pastoral lease areas in October 2013, the Birrimba, Camfield, Dungowan, Killarney, Montejinni East and Montejinni West pastoral lease areas in December 2013 and for the Alroy Downs, Anthony Lagoon, Brunchilly, Brunette Downs, Eva Downs, Rockhampton Downs, Tandyidgee, Newcastle Waters and Murraraji pastoral lease areas and the Town of Elliott in April 2014. The Top End Default PBC was nominated as the PBC in respect of 14 of those determinations. Consultations are ongoing with respect to the other eight determinations.



Compensation Applications

In 2011 a compensation application for the loss and impairment of native title was lodged over the Town of Timber Creek.

On 19 March 2014 Justice John Mansfield of the Federal Court delivered a preliminary judgement in the case on the preliminary issue of apportioning liability for compensation between the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory. The key issue of ascertaining the value of the loss and impairment of native title will likely proceed to trial in the next financial year.

Notifications

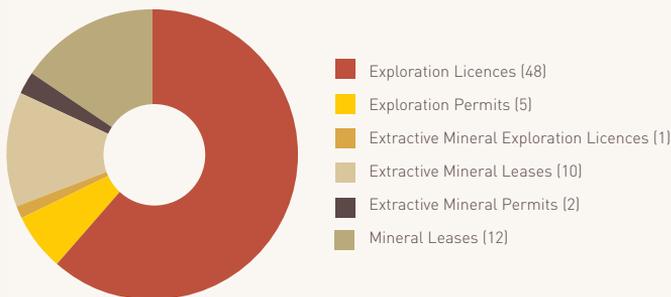
It is important for the NLC to ensure that Future Act Notices are brought to the attention of any person who holds or may hold native title interests in the area affected by the notice. The NLC must ensure that they are advised of the timeframes for responding to the notice. Strict timeframes

exist for responding to notices and these commence from the notification date given in the notice.

Future Act Notices

During the reporting period, the NLC was notified of 78 future acts related to mineral and petroleum exploration or production. The notification of future acts development proposals would potentially affect the rights and interests of native title holders within its region. Thirty-five notifications were withdrawn by the Department of Mines and Energy. Under the existing Northern Territory Minerals Titles Acts 2010, Mineral Claims (MCNs) are non-compliant mineral tenure and are likely to be converted to an appropriate title in the near future.

Figure 6: Future Act Notifications by Tenement Type in the NLC Region



Agreement Making

There are various agreements negotiated with native title holders and external parties for proposed resource development on native title lands. Technically, mineral and petroleum-related agreements did not give rise to ILUAs being registered under the *NTA*. The NLC relies on its own research and the *NT Sacred Sites Act* to ensure the protection of cultural heritage and sensitive areas.

The NLC facilitates the negotiation of agreements to ensure the native title holders are, in most cases, provided with a package that offers economic and employment opportunities. Agreement making requires the allocation of considerable resources. The NLC is ordinarily responsible under agreements for the distribution of benefits. Many agreements require NLC support to enable the native title parties to take advantage of employment, training and business opportunities which may occur when a project proceeds.

During the life of the agreement, the NLC often works for many years to secure the benefits of the agreement for native title holders to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions.

Other Functions

Staff Training and Development

Senior First Aid

Two in-house sessions for Senior First Aid training were held by Remote Area First Aid in July 2013 and March 2014. Twenty one NLC staff members completed the training.

4WD Training

Eight Anthropology branch staff members completed a 2 day Defensive 4x4 Training Course in April 2014. Training was provided by SMART-NT. Staff acquired skills and knowledge that can be applied in the field, which is essential to NLC work.

Below: NLC Anthropology branch staff and SMART-NT trainer at 4WD training

Certificate IV Work, Health and Safety

Three Anthropology branch staff members completed a Certificate IV in Work, Health and Safety under the NT Labour Force funding. Training was provided by Alana Kaye Education and Employment Specialists.

The Aurora Project – Introduction to Native Title Anthropology

Two Anthropology branch staff members attended the Aurora Project's Introduction to Native Title Anthropology course in Perth in January 2014.

AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference – Breaking Barriers in Indigenous Research and Thinking

Seven Anthropology branch staff members attended the AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference in Canberra in March 2014.

The Aurora Project – Foundations of Native Title (FoNT)

Two Anthropology branch staff members attended the FoNT program held in Perth in March 2014.

Australian Ground Water School

One staff member from the GIS section of the Anthropology branch attended an introductory course to Groundwater Science and Management held by the Australian Ground Water School in Perth in December 2013.

Short Talks

During this financial year the Anthropology branch was privileged to receive a series of short talks from distinguished anthropologists and other guests.



- » Stephen Bennetts, Consultant Anthropologist – March 2014
Presentation on undertaking anthropological work on native title claims
- » Philip Clarke, Anthropologist – June 2014
Presentation on Ethnoastronomy of Aboriginal Australia
- » Jeffrey Stead, Consultant Anthropologist – June 2014
Presentation on how to do Land Claim and Native Title Claim research
- » Professor (University of Queensland) Nancy Williams, Anthropologist – June 2014
Presentation on the review of Native Title Claim connection materials
- » Jay Arthur, Curator National Museum of Australia – June 2014
Presentation on the upcoming 'Encounters' exhibition to be held at the National Museum of Australia in 2015

Aurora Internships

The Aurora Native Title Internship Program places law, anthropology and social science students with Native Title Representative Bodies. This year the Northern Land Council supported two interns, Aysia Rodgers and Sandra Boswell. They thoroughly enjoyed immersing themselves in NLC work including learning about Native Title and its processes.

Sandra Boswell

I am a Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology and Archaeology) student at James Cook University. I did a five- week Aurora Internship at the Northern Land Council, commencing in November 2013. I was placed in the Anthropology branch where I did a variety of jobs, including photocopying, scanning/digitising, and retyping old documents to upload to the Land Interest Reference database. I also assisted anthropologists researching various locations of sacred sites. The research varied in finding the locations, which clans were associated with the sites, typing up their locations in Excel so that the GIS (mapping) team can plot them and researching the stories behind the sites. The research led me through the NLC database and their filing system, the NLC library, the NT library and the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.

Additionally, I assisted with royalty distribution and other administrative tasks. My willingness to learn and these tasks led to the privilege of being invited on two field trips to Milingimbi and Wadeye.

My experience and seeing people do their jobs gave me insight into many issues in Indigenous affairs, as well as skills that I will require for my future career. The five weeks also opened the door for more socialising and networking times. I am normally the sort of person who is initially a bit shy and does not socialise at all. This was a good opportunity to get over that shyness and lack of socialising, as you really need to be able to communicate (and understand other communication techniques) with workmates, traditional owners and other people right from the beginning.

Aysia Rodgers

After completing a Bachelor of Arts, I happened upon the Aurora Project whilst wondering where my major in anthropology could possibly take me in life. The Aurora Project offers anthropology, law and some social sciences students and graduates the opportunity to undertake internships in Native Title Representative Bodies, as well as a range of other organisations. I put in an application for the internship program eager to put aside the books for a little while and gain some practical experience in the field. I hoped to learn more about anthropology in the native title process and get an insight into the working life of anthropologists in this area.

I was not disappointed. My six-week placement with the Northern Land Council in Darwin was an invaluable learning experience.

The tasks I undertook whilst on my internship were varied and genuinely interesting. I was introduced to the NLC's Land Interest Reference, and assisted with data entry and completing Land Interest Requests with anthropology staff.

I can now say I feel competent navigating the complexity of Aboriginal kinship systems and more greatly understand and appreciate the traditions, dreamings and historical events I read about. I also assisted anthropology staff with research for native title claims. I found this a good learning experience to deeply understand the native title process, and the anthropological and legal processes involved. I also had the opportunity to join other happenings on the anthropology floor. I sat in on a regional workshop, which brings together NLC staff from Darwin as well as its regional officers. I also attended both legal and anthropology workshops covering the history of native title claims in the NLC and the current process required in writing connection reports.

The highlights of my time with the NLC were the opportunities I had to get out and travel. I went to Borroloola with one of the senior consultant anthropologists working on a connection report for a pastoral lease in the area. Reading through a fair few connection reports in the office gave me the chance to witness the process of how they are put together in the field. In my final week I once again had the opportunity to get out and about – this time to the Katherine area, visiting Manyallaluk and Barunga. Travelling with one of the regional anthropologists, this trip gave me an insight into NLC's day-to-day work, and the consultation process. Overall it was a real privilege to be able to get out and experience the amazing landscape, and to be able to meet traditional owners, hear about country and stories.

I took a lot away from my time at the NLC. Being involved with the Anthropology branch there has given me the opportunity to apply myself to an area of work which is relevant to my studies and interests, and is sure to evolve in interesting ways. I would recommend an Aurora Project internship for later year students or graduates looking to gain some solid work experience and meet some remarkable people.



Left: Intern Aysia Rodgers at a consultation at Barunga

*Economic
Development
and Commercial
Services*



Land Use Agreements

Objective:

To secure economic, social and cultural benefits for traditional owners from developments taking place on Aboriginal land.

Aboriginal lands and sea in remote Australia are rich in biodiversity and other natural resources and have the potential to deliver economic opportunities and outcomes. A major function of the NLC is to express the wishes of traditional Aboriginal owners. In terms of economic development, this is carried out through section 19 ALRA land use agreements.

The NLC carries out consultations and negotiations on behalf of traditional owners with those who seek commercial activities on Aboriginal land. The NLC must ensure that any land use proposal is reasonable, and that the appropriate landowning group is given the opportunity to make an informed decision in accordance with its traditional decision making processes. Affected Aboriginal people are also given an opportunity to express their views about a particular land use agreement.

Once informed consent is reached, the NLC considers the land use proposal and may direct the appropriate Aboriginal Land Trust to

enter into a licence or lease agreement with the proponent.

Prior to taking land use proposals to the traditional owners for consideration, multi-disciplinary teams within the NLC, comprising regional office staff, lawyers, anthropologist and external experts, undertake a rigorous assessment.

Business and economic development in remote parts of the NT can be impeded by a number of factors. Some proposals may provide insufficient detail about the proposed operational area. Land use proposals may cover more than one group's traditional lands and therefore consultations and logistics of bringing the decision makers together can be complex. Seasonal factors dictate when and where community consultations can be held. The majority occur during the dry season (April to October). However, this window of opportunity puts pressure on both NLC staff and constituents in relation to planning and holding meetings as well as meeting legislative timeframes.

The NLC operates an electronic database called the Land Information Management System (LIMS) to record expressions of interest for land use agreements. LIMS ensures each expression of interest is entered into the data base when received, and allows the NLC to monitor the progress of applications and provide accurate statistics for performance reports. LIMS is designed to monitor compliance information with negotiated land use agreements.

The range of micro-enterprises, private businesses, government and community development initiatives continues to increase and the NLC is strategically focused on aiding development of enterprises on Aboriginal land.

The benefits for Aboriginal owners, community members and stakeholders of securing s19 ALRA leases, facilitated by the NLC in accordance with the requirements of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, include:

- » Secure tenure – for traditional owners, public housing tenants, proponents (government and commercial) and investors (financial institutions).
- » Secure rental returns administered by the NLC and subject to the protections in the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, with rates

typically determined by the Valuer-General by reference to the unimproved capital value of the land.

- » A consistent approach to leasing on Aboriginal land, whereby proponents are familiar with NLC forms and procedures, providing certainty for investment.

With the increased interest in use of Aboriginal land and sea in northern Australia for commercial and government purposes, the NLC has demonstrated its ability, drawing on its long institutional experience, to ably and efficiently respond for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Achievements:

Since 1 July 2013 the Full Council has endorsed 119 land use agreements under s19 of ALRA. This figure comprised 60 agreements endorsed at the 107th Full Council meeting in Darwin on November 2013 and 59 agreements at the 108th meeting in Katherine in May 2014.

A large percentage of these agreements were s19 ALRA leases obtained for parcels of land in Aboriginal communities that were affected by the compulsory five-year leases introduced by the Australian government through the Northern Territory Emergency Response.

The income generated through these lease agreements will stimulate economies in Top End communities and produce a range of economic, cultural and social benefits for traditional owners.

Major agreements

The Commonwealth's compulsory 5-year leases over Aboriginal land expired in August 2012; all property not underpinned by a lease arrangement revert back to the Aboriginal Land Trust. It is now the policy of both Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments that assets on Aboriginal land be underpinned by secure tenure arrangements.

Government policy on appropriate tenure arrangements has paved the way for the approval of a large number of s19 ALRA agreements in Aboriginal communities in the NLC region. Leasing arrangements have included public housing, schools, education and training facilities, police stations, health centres, crèches, safe houses, essential services infrastructure, government employee housing, work premises, ranger stations, residential housing, commercial operations and residential development.

The increasing number of s19 ALRA land use agreements in Aboriginal communities will generate significant revenue from rental income for traditional Aboriginal owners.

Challenges

The increasing number of lease agreements over the last 2 years requires greater resources and efficient and effective business processes to properly monitor the compliance aspects of these contracts and assist traditional owners to harness economic development opportunities.

System development with a centralised LIMS data base continues to be critical with the organisation managing a significant workload and a rapidly growing property management portfolio.

Outcome:

This year, 119 s19 ALRA land use agreements were presented and ratified at NLC Full Council Meetings.

The generated income, \$8,347,000 benefits local economies on Aboriginal land.

Whilst the economics are easily quantifiable, the social and cultural benefits are not.

Commercial Development

Objective:

Empower Aboriginal people to carry out commercial activities and build sustainable enterprises.

Economic development provides the foundation for genuine opportunities for Aboriginal people. Section 23(1) (ea) of the *ALRA* empowers the NLC to assist Aboriginal people in the area of the NLC to carry out commercial activities, provided that the NLC itself does not profit from the activities.

Presently Aboriginal people in the NLC region suffer high levels of disadvantage, a position which is not likely to change without long term strategic investment.

The NLC is a key agency in facilitating economic development on Aboriginal lands, holding statutory responsibility for facilitating economic activity on more than 210,000km² of the land mass of the NT, and approximately 85% of the coastline. Through its economic development program, the NLC assists interested traditional owners to use land assets to create investments, businesses and employment opportunities. This is a lengthy and challenging task, requiring a sustained effort and a strong commitment that

assists traditional owners to make decisions about land and waters.

The NLC faces many challenges in building sustainable enterprises on Aboriginal land. Most former reserve land and land obtained under the *ALRA* has low commercial productivity for purposes other than mining due to geographic remoteness from major trading centres, poor essential service infrastructure and/or poor soils and rainfall. The main exceptions are areas on which minerals have been found, and increasingly, where scenic or experiential tourism can exist.

Despite this, economic opportunities do exist for Aboriginal people on Aboriginal land. As populations increase, small to mid-size food and retail operators increasingly see Aboriginal communities as attractive revenue bases. Tourism operators are also becoming increasingly interested in accessing Aboriginal land, as is a range of industries from horticulture to agri-forestry and pastoral. The growing conservation industry also provides real opportunities

for Aboriginal enterprises. With the High Court decision of Blue Mud Bay, entry into the commercial fishing industry presents many commercial and economic opportunities.

The long-term focus is on developing the capacity of traditional owners:

- » To participate in the mainstream economy.
- » To take advantage of commercial opportunities arising from developments on Aboriginal land.
- » To develop long-term sustainable Aboriginal enterprises.

The existing cattle stations, timber works, aquaculture projects, feral animal harvesting, CO² abatement programmes, mining operations, railways, pipelines, gas and major infrastructure facilities throughout the NT are proof that the NLC is making progress in this important area.

The additional funding has enabled the organisation to deliver long-term targeted commercial assistance programmes. At the same time the funding has had a significant impact upon the success of Australian government and NTG initiatives in the key area of economic and commercial development.

Regional Office Network

The regional office network is often the first point of contact for people accessing NLC services, especially for Aboriginal people in rural and remote areas. The unit has 40 positions with staff working across 11 sites and includes the following;

- » 29 Regional based officers in Katherine, Bulman, Timber Creek, Ngukurr, Borroloola, Jabiru, Nhulunbuy, Tennant Creek, Wadeye, and Palmerston.
- » A Defence Liaison position based at Timber Creek and funded by the Department of Defence to assist with the implementation and monitoring of the Bradshaw ILUA.
- » A Telstra Liaison position funded by Telstra to assist with the leasing and management of Telstra Infrastructure.
- » Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP) – a position funded by the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) to assist in the implementation of the IPP Operational Plan.
- » A support network of 9 officers based in Darwin to directly assist Regional Offices and the coordination of activities.
- » Progressing expressions of interest for land use agreements and licences.
- » Monitoring agreement compliance.
- » Processing permits & burial / funeral applications.
- » Supporting both the Regional Council and Full Council.

A key part of the regional office network team is to support on country projects and consultations, including:

- » Assisting the coordination and completion of consultations.

Approximately 70% of all staff employed in the regional office network support team are Indigenous and a high percentage of these employees are locals residents. The Regional Office Network also facilitates up to 20 local Aboriginal casual employees throughout the year to assist with projects on a needs basis.



Some of the new vehicles purchased in 2013 and put into service

Achievements

NLC vehicles operate in harsh environments and regularly travel on poorly maintained, unsealed roads. As a result, maintenance and repair costs increase significantly as vehicles age. Sub-standard vehicles, equipment and safety procedures pose a significant WHS risk to the organisation.

A successful ABA supplementary submission late in the 2012/13 fiscal year provided funds to the value of \$853,000 and allowed NLC to replace a number of antiquated vehicles to enhance comfort and safety levels of passengers commuting to and from meetings.

As a result, the NLC purchased 10 new Toyota troop carriers and an Isuzu four wheel drive bus built to high level safety specifications. All vehicles have been put into service and are located at regional offices outside of Darwin.

Challenges

Up to 70% of the Indigenous population in the NLC region live in a rural or remote area outside of Darwin. NLC office and support infrastructure where most Aboriginal people access the service are very basic and essentially provide limited opportunity for growth.

As a result up to 80% of all staff outside the land & sea program are permanently based in the greater Darwin area. A serious challenge for the organisation is to strengthen the service to Aboriginal people in remote locations and the development of regional service hubs.



Employment, Education and Training

Objective:

Develop employment and training plans in partnership with industry and government stakeholders, and facilitate the implementation of these plans.

The NLC assists Aboriginal people to use our rights to land and seas to buy into the future of the NT and to secure long term sustainable jobs and careers pathways.

The NLC's Jobs and Careers Service Unit (JACS) was designed to maximise jobs and careers for Aboriginal people on major projects on Aboriginal land or where there are native title interests in land. JACS first priority is to negotiate job commitments from all major projects.

JACS achieves results through its strategic focus on the key industry sectors and its successful employment model. JACS aims to provide Aboriginal people with qualifications, skills and experiences that are recognised Australia wide through direct referral and on the job training and or pre-employment training.

JACS endeavours to:

- a) assist in negotiating maximum job commitments from major projects subject to Indigenous Land Use Agreements;

- b) ensure that employment commitments made by employers are met; and
- c) provide on-going mentoring to employees and employers.

JACS has delivered employment and training outcomes through the 5Ps model, that is: provision of jobs via land use agreements, partnership formation, preparation of work, planning for training and mentoring workers and project management. Over the past year, the two JACS' staff members have concentrated their work efforts on three mine sites in NLC's jurisdiction.

The future of JACS will be determined by a new strategic direction. Terms of reference were developed to review the 2007-2011 Jobs and Careers Service Strategy and to develop a new three-year year Agreement Compliance strategy. Ganamarr Consultants Pty Ltd was engaged in June 2014 for eight weeks to complete the job.

Western Desert Resources – Haul Truck Project

HR Links is the employment subsidiary of Rusca Bros, an Aboriginal-owned company, which is a second-tier contractor under Theiss on the Western Desert Resources project. NLC has worked co-operatively with Western Desert and Rusca Bros staff to negotiate training and employment outcomes for Aboriginal people from the Ngukurr region.

Outcomes:

Twelve trainees commenced the haul truck program (four intakes of three people at a time) between April and July 2014. NLC provides advice, logistical support for trainees to attend inductions and medicals, and ongoing mentoring.

- All 12 trainees (100%) completed certificates of competency – RIIMP0338D Conduct rigid haul truck operations – which is part of the competencies RII30113 Certificate 111 in Surface Extraction Operations.
- Five of our first six trainees reached the 13 week outcome stage (85%) and four of these are still employed (66%) and expected to reach the 26 week outcome. Two have ceased employment.

- Three of the remaining six (50%) are expected to reach the 13 week and 26 week outcome with one set to resume employment shortly. Two have ceased employment.
- It is expected that eight trainees (66%) will reach the 26-week outcome.

Territory Iron – Frances Creek Project

The Frances Creek Project has a 15% Indigenous employment target. As at June 2014, the project employed 320 people, of whom 48 were Indigenous.

About 15 were local people living in or near Pine Creek, mostly employed in the production area, operating dump trucks, water trucks and graders.

The working relationship between the NLC and Territory Iron continues to gather momentum with 20 candidates taking part in a five-week pre-employment vocational course.

The course was delivered by the registered training organisation, ECB training at the Pine Creek Community Hall.

Of the 20 candidates, 15 have graduated and have been offered contracts with Territory Iron to begin work at Frances Creek Mine. The 15 graduates are all from the Pine Creek-Katherine area.

Under the agreement the NLC will continue to support and mentor the trainees for the duration of their employment.

The trainees will begin their Certificate II Surface Extraction Operations traineeships at Frances Creek Mine in July.

Below: The 2014 Frances Creek Mine graduates and support crew, at the Pine Creek Training Centre



Minerals and Energy

Objective:

Efficiently process mineral and energy applications and provide accurate advice on potential environmental impacts and benefits.

The exploration and production of minerals, hydrocarbons and other forms of energy are considered to be significant contributors to the financial and economic growth of the NT. In the NT, the mineral and energy resource-based proposals are administered and regulated by NT legislation, the *Minerals Titles Act 2010*, the *Petroleum Act 2011*, the *Geothermal Energy Act 2009* and the *Mining Management Act 2013*.

The proposals for resource-based agreements may carry risks to the natural environment and to Aboriginal culture. These risks may impact on traditional owners' spirituality and cultural

connections to land (or places), and our cultural and social activities. The responsibility to protect culturally sensitive areas from desecration of sensitive areas is significant not only to traditional owners, but also to the NLC. The rights and interests of traditional owners are protected by land tenure and are recognised by the Commonwealth of Australia as freehold land granted under *ALRA*, or through a continuous cultural connectivity to the land demonstrated in accordance with the requirements of the *NTA*.

The Northern Territory continues to receive many applications to explore for mineral and energy resources over land governed by the above Acts. More than 90% of the NLC region is now covered by applications to explore for minerals, petroleum (oil and gas) and geothermal energy.

The NLC is the statutory representative with responsibility for advocacy on behalf of traditional owners to ensure where possible, any likely impacts on the environment and culture are negated or at least minimised. This is done through the negotiation of resource-based agreements and provision of advice:

- » Response to formal applications from the minerals and energy sector in relation to access to Aboriginal freehold land.
- » Response to NTG notices of proposed "future acts" pursuant to the *NTA*.

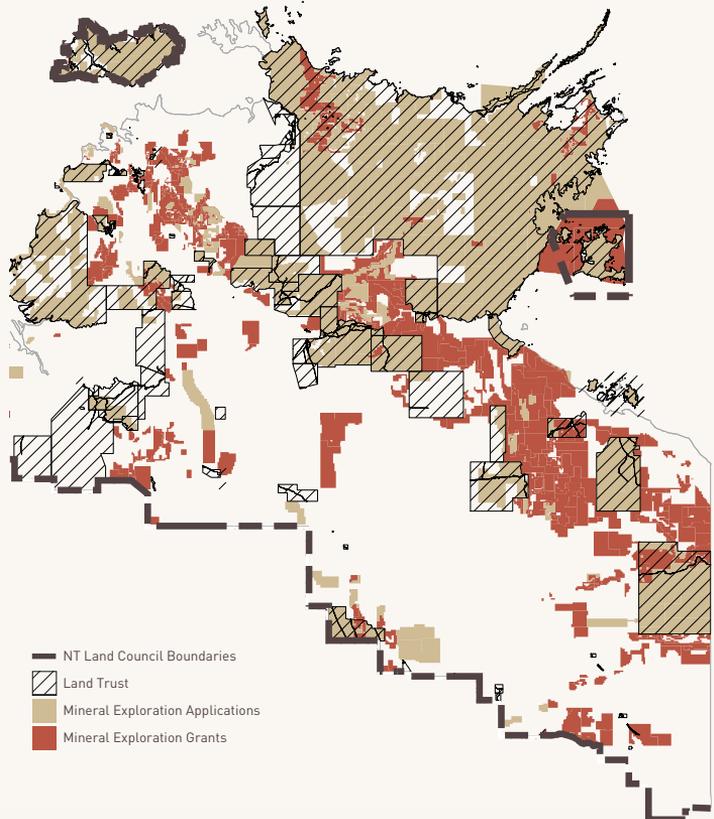


- » Consultation, negotiation and delivery of equitable agreements on behalf of traditional owners.
- » Assessment of the potential impacts of approved minerals and energy projects, low level exploration activities and industrial projects.
- » Assessment and distribution of benefits to traditional owners.

A key requirement for processing resource-based agreements is to ensure that the free, prior and informed consent of traditional owners is obtained. This requires the NLC to maintain a high level of technical expertise, knowledge and skills across a number of fields, the key elements of which are:

- » Identification of the correct traditional owners, estate groups and affected people for land within an area of proposed development.
- » Organisation of on-country consultations either on or near the proposed project area.
- » Arranging consultations on or near the proposed project area (on-country).
- » Review, synthesis and effective communications of the technical nature of a proposed resource development project, its timeframes, commercial opportunities, and environmental and social risks, costs and benefits.
- » Ensuring that all relevant information is presented in a balanced and fair manner.
- » Negotiation of agreements suited to specific resource projects and their proponents, traditional owners, estate groups, target minerals or hydrocarbon and other factors.

Figure 7: Mineral Exploration in NLC Region



Far left: Native title holders' Water Ceremony at Legune Station

Left: Well inspection at Legune Station

- » Planning and management of the relationships between stakeholders which develop during the lifetime of a project.
- » Establishing whether the traditional owners have given free, prior and informed consent to exploration and production and have approved the negotiated access agreement.

Many resource-based proposals contain complex technical information regarding project development and operations. The NLC has an advocacy responsibility to ensure that the transfer of technical information about such projects is communicated appropriately to traditional owners.

The capacity to advocate and to transfer technical information is an important role that the NLC fulfils to ensure that the traditional owners and other affected people understand the nature and purpose of a proposed project; and to provide an opportunity for traditional owners and affected people to communicate concerns back to the proponent, regulators and the NLC.

Effective advocacy ensures that free, prior and informed consent is obtained during the decision-making process and that traditional owners are effectively represented. It is also fundamental to understanding the impacts that resource-based projects may have on the environment and more importantly on Aboriginal culture.

Exploration Licences: Part IV ALRA

Under *ALRA*, the Northern Territory Minister for Mines and Energy cannot approve a project unless the traditional owners have given their free, prior and informed consent. This requires the NLC to present all information relevant to the project, and to determine if consent has or has not been given and if the decision can be legally defended.

The Northern Land Council's statutory obligations start once an explorer lodges an application for consent under section 41 of Part IV of *ALRA*. These obligations remain in place until such time as the application is finalised or withdrawn.

Below: John Laurence (left) with Native Title Representatives and Beach Energy agents at Legune Station



Each year the NLC manages and progresses a large number of mineral applications for exploration licences (ELs) and petroleum exploration permits (EPs). As a core responsibility under Part IV of *ALRA*, the NLC facilitates the annual exploration activities for granted exploration licences or petroleum exploration permits once annual work program documentation have been submitted by the mineral or petroleum companies (refer to Figure 9). To achieve these outcomes, the NLC uses a four-step consultation process:

- 1 Initial on-country consultations to establish if traditional owners wish to reject the application or if they wish to enter into negotiation of an agreement.
- 2 On-country surveys of sacred sites and clan boundaries, combined with defined areas that need to be protected under the Northern Territory *Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1978*. This is usually done in conjunction with negotiations about the contents of a draft legal agreement applicable to the land that may be made available for exploration.
- 3 Final on-country consultations to allow traditional owners to consider and formally accept or refuse the application and its associated agreement.
- 4 If consented, delivery of a ministerially approved, executed agreement and formal notifications necessary for grant of the exploration licence or exploration permit.

Once the agreement has been executed and upon grant of the exploration licence or petroleum exploration permit by the NTG, the proponent company is then obliged to present its proposed exploration activities to traditional owners at a specially convened work program meeting. These meetings are a contractual obligation and occur annually, although additional meetings would be required if significant changes are made to the work program.

Below: Pete Moorhouse from Alligator Energy and Traditional Owner Kenneth Mangiru inspecting a drill rig on country with the NLC



Aboriginal land exploration licences backlog and the new negotiating period

At the end of the 2013-2014 reporting period, the NLC carried a backlog of 162 (see Table 6, page 115) uncompleted exploration applications (includes both mineral and energy applications) on Aboriginal freehold land. As a reflection of the global share market, there appears to be slight increases in the number of applications received and simultaneously a large number of applications withdrawn during the reporting period. In light of this projection it is likely that more time was allowed to finalise more applications given the number of applications received and withdrawn by explorers this year.

Figure 8: Mineral Exploration Licence Applications in the Northern Territory

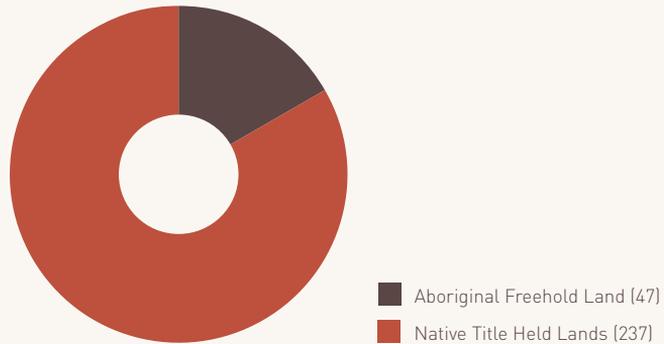
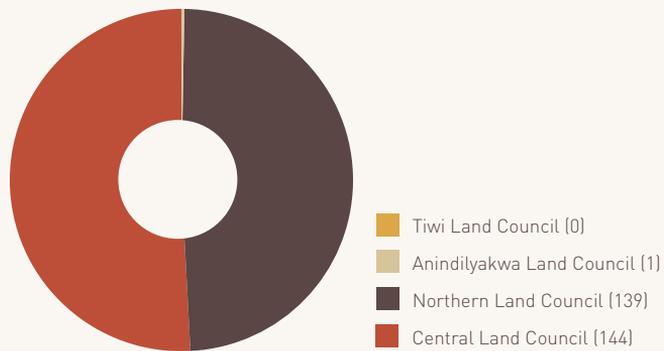


Figure 9: Exploration Licence Applications by Land Council Region



Western Desert Resources operations

Table 7: ALRA PART IV Minerals and Energy Workload

Five Year Trend	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14
Applications that were already being processed on 1 July	153	164	142	164	141
add Applications received during this reporting period	49	44	64	32	48
subtract Applications explorers withdrew during the reporting period	21	20	34	40	15
subtract Applications finalised during the reporting period	17	46	8	15	12
TOTAL Applications still requiring NLC processing on 30 June	164	142	164	141	162

Over the course of the reporting period, a total of 68 on-country consultations related to resource development proposals on Aboriginal freehold land. Again, this represents significant inroads into the backlog of applications due largely to the NLC focusing its resources on facilitating the on-country consultations with traditional owners to enable consideration of the proposals for mineral and petroleum projects including exploration, exploration agreements and the annual exploration activities of granted exploration licences or petroleum exploration permits. The statistics themselves do not reflect the complexity and vastness of some exploration proposals and the resources required to conduct such a large number of on-country consultations.

Exploration Licences: Native Title Act

The NLC is a native title representative body under the provisions of the *NTA*. As a part of its responsibility, the NLC deals with applications for minerals and energy exploration and granted tenements on land over which native title applies.

Many of the applications for mineral exploration are considered by the NTG to have minimal environmental and social impact and are quickly granted under an expedited procedure. In these cases, an agreement is normally negotiated only if the explorer finds an economically viable mineral deposit and an application for a mineral lease (ML) is then lodged with the NTG. However, applications such as those lodged by petroleum companies are likely to have significant environmental and social impacts which automatically

attract the procedural right to negotiate an exploration agreement. Many of the applications for petroleum exploration and granted petroleum exploration permits pose significant logistical problems as they cover vast tracts of land and are in remote locations of the NT. A licence area (or boundary) of a petroleum exploration permit application or a granted petroleum exploration permit can exist simultaneously within mining tenure administered by Northern Territory legislation: the *Minerals Titles Act 2010*, the *Petroleum Act 2011*, the *Geothermal Energy Act 2009*.

The NLC held about 144 on-country consultations related to both mineral and energy exploration on native title land this year. Table 7 below provides a breakdown by type and number of consultations held under the *ALRA* and *NTA* provisions.

**Table 8: Resources and Energy
Consultations On-Country 2013-14**

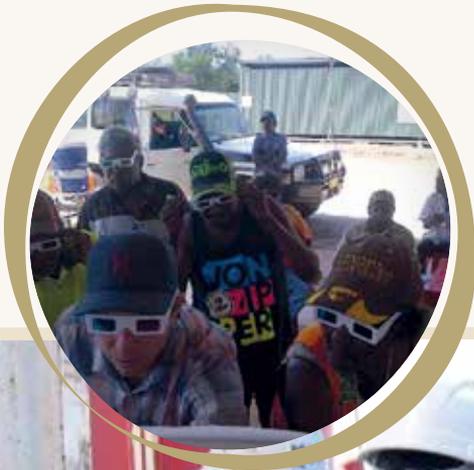
Applications for Exploration Licences - Aboriginal land	51
39 Stage 1 Initial consultations	
12 Stage 3 Final consultations	
Granted Exploration Licences - Aboriginal land	17
17 Contract management consultations, mainly dealing with an explorer's annual work plan for exploration	
Surrendered Exploration Licences - Aboriginal land	2
To bring an exploration agreement to an end following the explorer's departure, these consultations confirm satisfactory ground rehabilitation, deal with final payments, and resolve contractual and other loose ends	
Other Energy & Resources Projects (including mineral and energy applications on native title land)	144
Consultations not involving exploration licences on Aboriginal land or consultations to advance proposals to open, to re-open or to expand a mine.	
31 consultations regarding operating mines (ongoing contractual, social and environmental arrangements)	
21 consultations on mine closure and rehabilitation planning at Rum Jungle, Woodcutters, Redbank and Ranger Uranium Mines.	
92 Native title consultations for access or similar arrangements to facilitate exploration (future acts, work programs, surveys excludes major projects)	
Total: All Energy & Resources Consultations	213

Negotiating Manageable Resources, Energy and Infrastructure Agreements

The NLC continues to identify and address Aboriginal disadvantage through positive financial and social outcomes negotiated in resource development and infrastructure agreements. Over the past five years, there has been a focus on securing longer lasting benefits such as local infrastructure, and employment and business development opportunities. These benefits have been generally welcomed by resource companies and traditional owners.

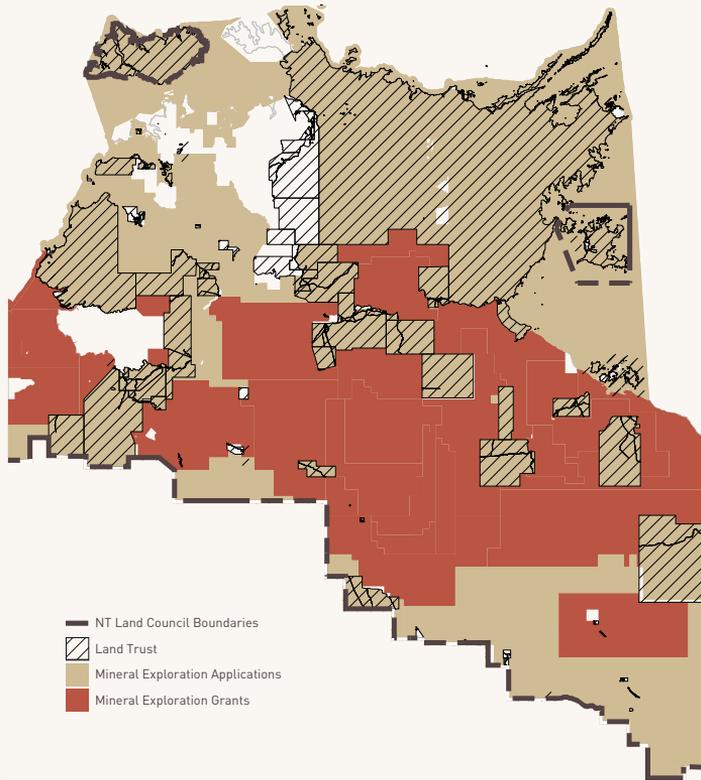
During the 2013-14 reporting period four agreements were executed for petroleum exploration applications. The high volume of work by the branch is attributed to processing a large number of petroleum exploration applications and the high level of petroleum exploration activity conducted on granted petroleum exploration permits in the NLC region. The benefits that flow from these negotiated agreements include:

- » Traditional Owner participation in the exploration works planning and approvals process – annual reporting, on-country consultations and sacred sites surveys.
- » Oil and gas companies working together with Aboriginal cultural monitors to protect sacred sites during exploration activities.



Native Title representatives and Beach Energy Well Inspection at Legune Station

Figure 10: On-shore & Off-shore Petroleum Exploration in NLC's region



- » Local employment and the provision of training programs.
- » Committing companies to high-level environmental and cultural considerations with penalties for non-compliance in serious cases.
- » The provision for exploration compensation payments, and more.

Contract Management: Implementation of Resource Related Agreements

Negotiated agreements are binding legal documents and carry contractual obligations. By law, the NLC assumes responsibilities and commitments on behalf of the traditional owners or native title parties to ensure companies meet their contractual obligations. During 2013-2014, the NLC facilitated a high proportion of its on-country consultations with traditional owners (native title parties) related to

annual exploration activities under mineral licences and petroleum exploration permits. Wherever possible, the NLC sought to secure opportunities under these contracts to facilitate seasonal and long-term employment for Aboriginal people.

In the 2013-2014 reporting period, some of the more significant contract-based environmental and social impact works undertaken by the NLC included:

- » On-going participation in cultural heritage management, mineral exploration and auditing activities on a number of granted licences held by DPG Resources, Alligator Energy, BHP Billiton, Cameco and Rio Tinto Exploration in Arnhem Land.
- » Participation in petroleum exploration and planning activities associated with Falcon Oil & Gas, Sasol and Origin Energy joint venture, and proposed exploration work in the Elliott region.
- » Participation in petroleum exploration and planning activities associated with Pangaea Resources in the Timber Creek and Mataranka regions.
- » Participation in petroleum exploration and planning activities associated with Beach Energy in the Timber Creek region.
- » Participation in petroleum exploration and planning activities associated with Santos Limited near Daly Waters.

- » Participation in petroleum exploration and planning activities associated with Armour Energy near Borroloola.
- » Participation in petroleum activities associated with the Jacaranda Alliance over tenements near Mataranka and in the Barkly Tablelands.
- » Participation in petroleum exploration associated with Imperial Oil and Gas in the Ngukurr region.
- » On-going discussions with the NTG, representative bodies and oil and gas companies to optimise business development outcomes and training opportunities for Aboriginal people.

There is an expectation that the on-shore oil and gas industry will continue to grow under the NTG's initiative to release petroleum acreage in the Northern Territory. The NLC anticipates an increase in the volume and variety of work, hence the need to address the proposals for resource-based projects as infrastructure develops.

Operating Mines and Infrastructure

The five operational mines in NLC's region are:

- » Rio Tinto Alcan Gove – which mines bauxite and produces alumina near Nhulunbuy in north-east Arnhem Land.
- » ERA Ranger Uranium Mine – which mines and produces uranium oxide near Jabiru in close to western Arnhem Land.
- » OM (Manganese) Limited Bootu Creek Mine – which mines and produces manganese near Tennant Creek.
- » Glencore Xtrata McArthur River Mine - which mines a complex silver-lead-zinc ore near Borroloola.
- » Western Desert Resources Roper Bar Iron Ore Project – which mines and produces iron ore near the Roper River.

Additionally, the NLC represents traditional owners affected by a number of smaller mines at various stages of operation. These include:

- » Merlin – which produces diamonds near Borroloola.
- » Redbank – which is aiming to produce copper on Wollogorang Station near the NT/QLD border. Redbank is currently non-operational.
- » Frances Creek – which produces iron ore near Pine Creek.
- » Sherwin Iron - which produced iron ore under a Bulk Sampling project in the Roper River region. Sherwin Iron's mine site is currently non-operational.
- » Numerous gold producing mines operating around Pine Creek.



Right: NLC Mining Officer Pascale Taplin with Keith Rory, NLC Council member, at the Redbank mine site

Far right: NLC officers Greg McDonald and Pascale Taplin at the Redbank mine site

Stakeholder Meeting between the Native Title Holders and Northern Territory Ministers at the Redbank Mine Site



In addition to its statutory function, the NLC assumes a responsibility to represent traditional owners affected by the operations of each mining project. The degree of representation will vary according to the relevant agreement and the level or scale of the operations undertaken by the company. Through the reporting period, the discharge of responsibility was extended to:

- » Continued representation of Mirarr people through the membership of Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee (ARRTC) and the Alligator Rivers Region Advisory Committee (ARRAC).
- » Continued representation of Mirarr people on the Ranger and Jabiluka Mine Site Technical Committees pursuant to the Australian

and NTG Memorandum of Understanding on Uranium Regulations (2005).

- » On-going participation in environmental auditing activities associated with the various smaller mines around the Top End of the Northern Territory.
- » On-going participation in cultural heritage management and auditing activities at OM (Manganese) Limited manganese mine at Bootu Creek.
- » On-going participation in environmental auditing activities associated with the Wadeye to Ban-Ban Springs Bonaparte gas pipeline.
- » Environmental assessment and on-country consultations for Pacific Aluminium's Katherine to Gove Gas Pipeline (KGGP) proposal that was withdrawn during the reporting period.

Mine Closure and Rehabilitation

There is an expectation that the post-operational project environment will be stable and sustainable to permit future generations of Aboriginal people to access and utilise traditional lands long after any minerals or energy projects have ended. History shows that this has not always been the case, making high quality outcomes for mine closure and rehabilitation projects an important aim of the NLC's mining agreements.

Environmental and social impact clauses within NLC's agreements help to ensure that land affected by mining is rehabilitated to the highest possible standard before its return to traditional owners, native title parties and the general public. As part of its Aboriginal economic development strategy, the NLC seeks outcomes that provide

for the active participation of Traditional Owner-generated businesses and land management programs that operate not only throughout the life of the mine, but well beyond closure.

In the 2013-2014 reporting period, the NLC and traditional owners participated in a number of initiatives related to the closure and rehabilitation of mines, these include:

- » Promoting the interests of the Mirarr people in the development of future closure criteria for the Ranger Uranium Mine through ongoing technical meetings with Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) and government representative bodies.
- » Promoting the interests of the Finnis River Aboriginal Land Trust and the Kungarakany and Warai traditional owners throughout the closure of Newmont base metals mine.
- » Promoting the interests of the Finnis River Aboriginal Land Trust and the Kungarakany and Warai traditional owners as part of the National Partnership Agreement between the Northern Territory and the Australian government in respect of the former Rum Jungle Uranium Mine.

Environmental Advice and Representation

Under ALRA and the NTA, the NLC has a responsibility to represent and support Aboriginal people with any

matters associated with environmental and land management. The NLC provides technical and environmental advice about all mineral and petroleum exploration and production activities which may impact on their land. The NLC's responsibilities include liaising among project developers, Governmental agencies and traditional owners. The NLC may initiate its own environmental research or investigations in order to ensure best practice and the observance of precautionary principles.

Over the course of this reporting period, the NLC represented the traditional owners and native title parties at a number of scientific and technical forums listed below. A number of the traditional owners (or their associations) also participated on these committees:

- » The Alligator Rivers Region Technical Committee (ARRTC).
- » The Alligator Rivers Region Advisory Committee (ARRAC).
- » The Ranger, Jabiluka and Nabarlek Mine Site Technical Committees (MTCs).
- » Ranger Uranium Mine - A Technical Working Group set up to implement findings of An Independent Surface Water Report (2012) which investigated specific aspects of surface water monitoring at the Ranger Uranium Mine.
- » Ranger Uranium Mine – Proposed 3 Deeps Underground Mine.

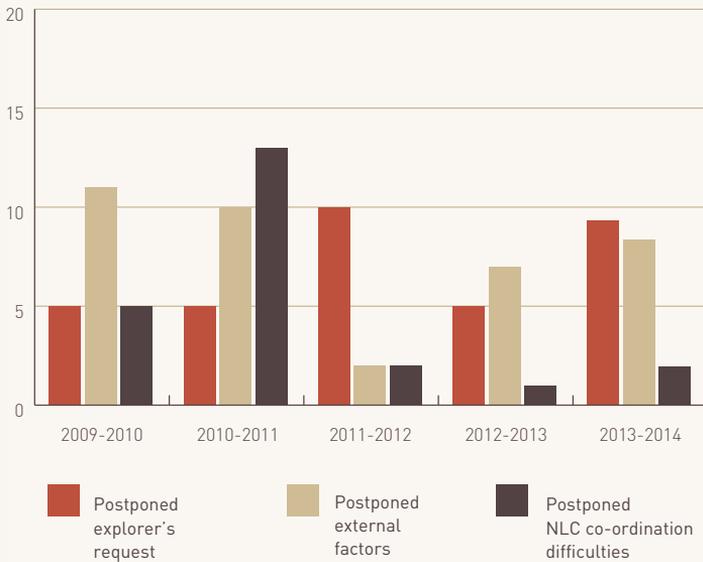
- » Ranger Uranium Mine – Ranger Taskforce Leach Tank Failure.
- » The Rum Jungle Working Group Committee (including Aboriginal representatives of the Liaison Committee).
- » The Woodcutters Mine Closure Liaison Committee.
- » The Bootu Creek Manganese Mine Liaison Committee.
- » Western Desert Resources Roper Bar Iron Ore Project Liaison Committee.
- » Sherwin Iron Regional Liaison Committee.
- » Redbank Working Group Committee.

The NLC also provided traditional owners and native title parties with environmental advice, representation or formal submission in response to publically available documents in relation to the following proposed major developments and inquiries:

- » Vista Gold Mt Todd Gold Mine near Katherine.
- » Sherwin Iron "Area C" (Gum Creek) Bulk Sampling Project in the Roper River region.
- » Northern Territory Public Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing.

In May this year, the NTG announced a Public Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing. 'Hydraulic fracturing,' or 'fracking', is an unconventional drilling technique to recover hydrocarbons (oil and gas).

Figure 11: 5 year trend 2009-2014: Consultations substantially arranged but postponed 2009-2014

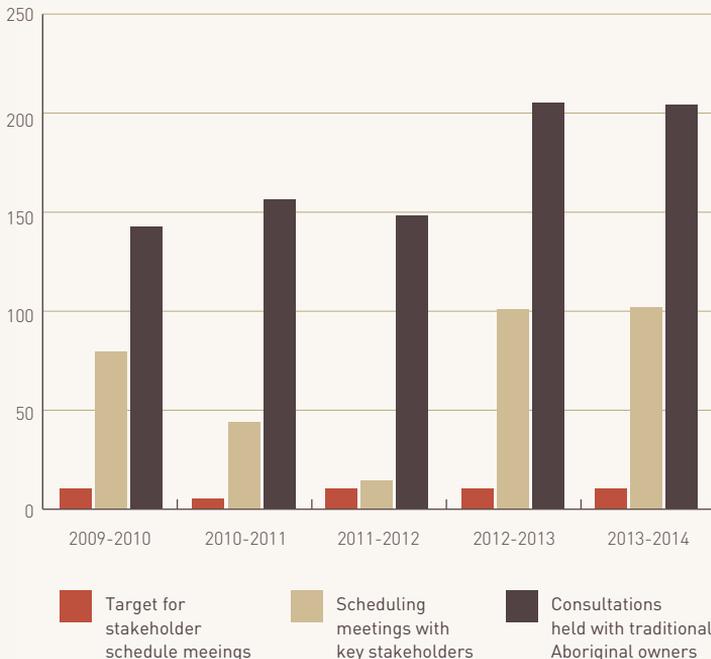


Traditional owners (and, indeed, sections of the wider community) harbour concerns about the environmental risks of the integrity of petroleum wells and certification, and the monitoring of such wells to ensure the highest level of protection of water sources. On 30 June 2014, the NLC provided comments on the terms of reference for the Public Inquiry.

The NLC continues to refine information associated with petroleum exploration in order for traditional owners to make an 'informed decision' about petroleum applications presented to them.

The NLC continues to liaise with government, industry representative groups and non-governmental organisations for strong and effective regulation of the petroleum industry.

Figure 12: 5 year trend 2009-13: Measuring our progress against the 20 meetings target



Right: Welcome to country by Maureen Timothy at Redbank Mine site, April 2014



Industry Conferences and Professional Training

The NLC continues to participate in conferences and forums associated with the minerals and energy sector while dealing with the development of resource-based proposals and infrastructure received by mineral and petroleum companies.

Although quality industry training is expensive, the NLC aims to maintain a competitive edge by acquiring a thorough understanding of industry developments and by investing in the professional development and training of relevant staff. Participation at industry conferences and targeted training through related networks are positive investments towards achieving the NLC's objectives and outcomes.

Staff attended the following industry forums and training seminars to establish networks with project developers and the NTG:

- » The 2014 AusIMM International Uranium Conference.
- » Petroleum exploration presentation by Santos Limited - including representatives of the NT Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority.
- » "Environmental Law in the Northern Territory" seminar.
- » Conflict Resolution.

The NLC continues to develop an understanding of the resources and infrastructure

industries, particularly those activities related to on-shore oil and gas and related infrastructure developments.

Challenges:

The branch continued to confront various challenges, including:

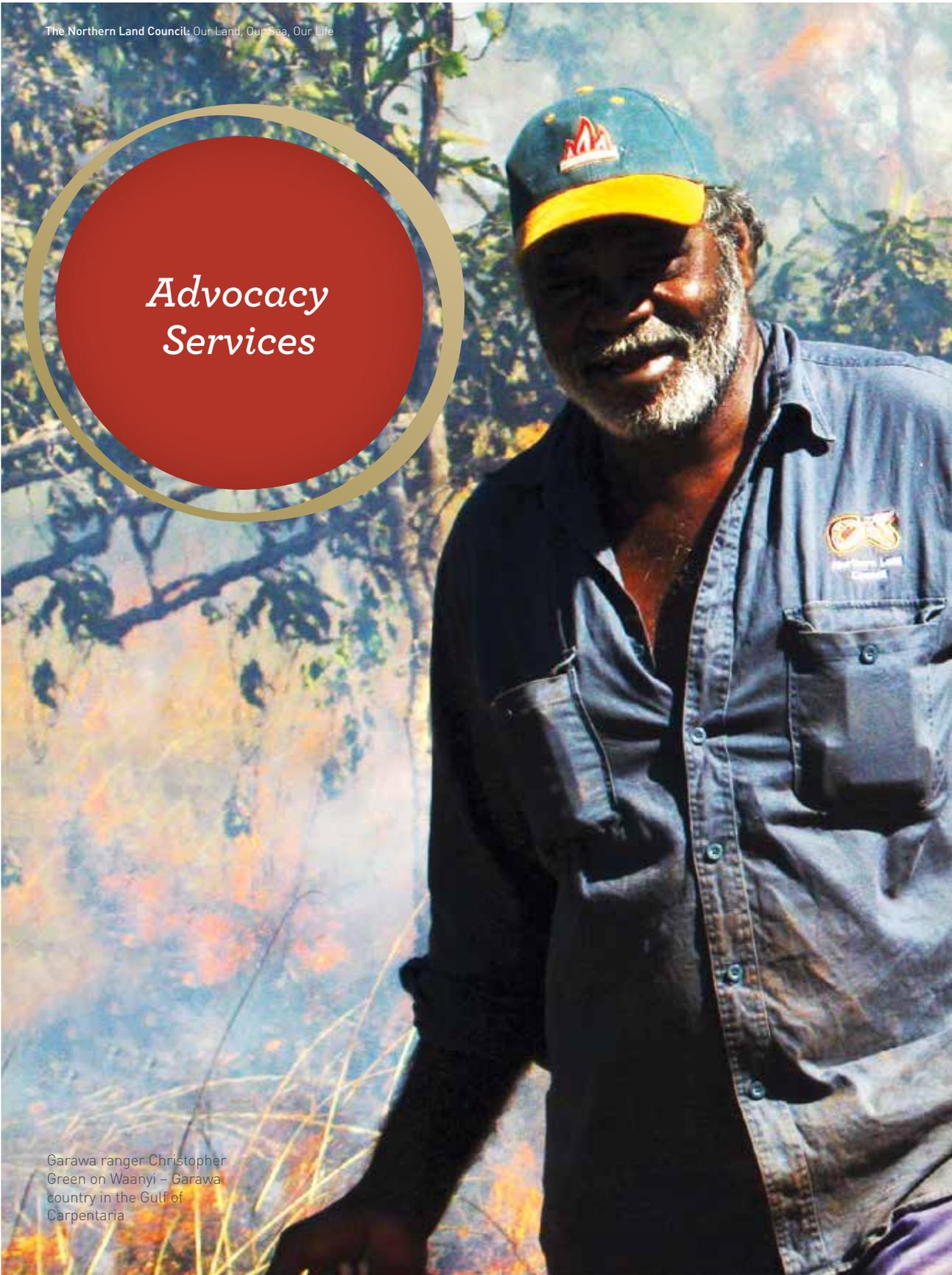
- » Tasks with competing priorities
- » Departure of key staff
- » Recruitment and induction of new project staff
- » Availability of consultants during peak work periods
- » Risks associated with undertaking on-country consultations simultaneously where numerous resource, exploration or development projects are to be discussed
- » Disputes within or between landholding groups
- » Localised weather conditions and the inability to access country

Outcome:

The number of postponed meetings was the same as the last reporting period. Although meetings cancelled by a company or the NLC reduced significantly, external factors were the main reasons for postponements. Measuring progress against the target of 20 meetings due mainly to rationalisation of finances and priorities within the resources sector.



*Advocacy
Services*



Garawa ranger Christopher
Green on Waanyi – Garawa
country in the Gulf of
Carpentaria



Public Awareness and Education

Objective:

Advocate on behalf of Aboriginal people and express their views.

Furthering public awareness of the work and policies of the NLC and promoting the views of Aboriginal people in its region is a core responsibility.

The NLC produces a wide range of information and educational resources.

The media unit deals with a large number of enquiries from local, national and international news media, and also produces *Land Rights News – Northern Edition*.

Land Rights News was first published in 1977 and is Australia's longest-running Aboriginal newspaper.

Four editions, each of 24 pages, were produced during the reporting year: July and October 2013, and January and April 2014.

In January 2014, the print run was slightly reduced, and financial savings were applied to cover the costs of printing *Land Rights News* on better quality paper. The look has much improved, and photographs better reproduced.

Land Rights News has a big subscription list (mostly from libraries and Aboriginal institutions) and is distributed free to Aboriginal communities across the NLC region.

The media unit also produces a monthly newsletter for staff.

The arrival in the New Year of Mr Joe Morrison as CEO has strengthened the NLC's public profile. Mr Morrison has made himself readily available for a much increased number of interview requests across a wide range of news media outlets.

The NLC's media unit also released several media statements, which are posted on the NLC's website. They covered a broad spectrum of subjects: NLC organisational and electoral matters, constitutional reform, mining and hydraulic fracturing ('fracking'), support for the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority, the need for better roading infrastructure, the emerging buffalo live-export industry, and the need for morgue services in remote communities.

Northern development and NTG water allocation policies were also extensively covered in media releases and interviews. The decision in June 2014 to settle the Federal Court Muckaty case attracted widespread interest from national and international news media.

The media unit has established a good record in responding promptly to requests for information and interviews.

The unit has represented the organisation at various festivals and NAIDOC events. The distribution at these events of a range of corporate branded merchandise (caps, bags, writing materials, footballs, etc.) has helped to raise the NLC's profile, especially among young people.

This year the media unit has joined the world of social media. The NLC now has a presence on Facebook and Twitter, and is planning a major upgrade of its website to give it a more modern look and make it more accessible.

There continued to be a steady interest from news media in travelling to remote communities, which usually requires the issuance of a special media permit. For major events, like the funeral of the late Dr Yunupingu in east Arnhem Land, traditional owners gave a waiver of permits, to allow news media ready access.

Permission to film and photograph landscapes and interview members of local communities is considered by traditional owners, and where these engagements are commercial in nature, a special agreement is negotiated.

The media unit has already started to lay plans for marking the 40th anniversary in 2016 of the passage of the *ALRA*.

Funeral and Ceremonial Fund

The NLC administers a Funeral and Ceremonial Assistance project grant funded by the Aboriginals Benefit Account which is now under the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio. The Full Council recognises the increasing costs of charters, freight and coffin costs and the funeral and ceremonial policy enables traditional owners to apply for assistance to conduct funerals and ceremonies on country. This is an integral aspect of cultural and heritage protection in the NLC's region.

The NLC maintains its policy of no cash payments. No cigarettes, no alcohol or personal items can be purchased.

The table right provides a breakdown by region of the number of approved applications for the funeral and ceremonial assistance.

Table 9: Funeral and ceremonial assistance, approved applications

	Burial	Ceremony	Total per Region
Borroloola Barkly	33	12	45
Darwin Daly/Wagait	132	5	137
East Arnhem	79	8	87
Katherine	55	4	59
Ngukurr Numbulwar	43	6	49
Tennant Creek	6	10	16
Victoria River District	25	3	28
West Arnhem	75	5	80
	448	53	501

The total figure across all regions of 501 approved applications compares with 358 for the 2012-2013 reporting year.

The total number of burial applications rose from 288 in 2012-2013 to 448; ceremony applications decreased from 70 in 2012-2013 to 53.

Because of budget and policy changes no assistance was provided for ceremonies relating to an actual burial.

Outcome

After an investigation in 2012 by the NT Ombudman, and reports by the NT Co-Ordinator General for Remote Services (2010-2012), the NLC continues to lobby both the Northern Territory and Australian governments to take responsibility for supply and ongoing maintenance of morgue facilities in remote areas of the Northern Territory.

Outcomes from an audit commissioned by NT Minister for Community Services in early 2014 are yet to be published.

The NLC strictly adheres to policy guidelines whilst assisting grieving families in need and by liaising sensitively with funeral parlours, hospital, coroners and service providers.

Cultural and Heritage Support

Objective:

Supporting Aboriginal people to maintain and protect sacred sites and cultural heritage.

The granting of land rights to Aboriginal people not only recognised the justice of prior claims to ownership, it also recognised the validity of Aboriginal traditional law and cultural values.

Aboriginal law is an integral and inseparable part of Aboriginal culture. It is as important to Aboriginal people as our traditional lands and heritage. Despite public perception, it is not primarily about criminal punishment or the rights of individuals. According to Justice Blackburn, who heard the Gove Land Rights case in 1971, it is:

"A subtle and elaborate system highly adapted to the country in which the people lead their lives, which provided a stable order of society and was remarkably free from the vagaries of personal whim or influence ... a government of laws, and not of men"

[Justice Blackburn, Gove Land Rights Case, 1971.]

Aboriginal law derives its authenticity from the actual social practices of Aboriginal communities and owes nothing to the reasoning of lawyers, the decisions of parliament, or the rulings of courts. The fact of life for many Aboriginal people in the NT, and for all

Aboriginal people in Aboriginal communities, is that traditional law is the governing force of our daily lives.

Among other things these laws include those involving traditional land ownership and norms governing land use.

Not surprisingly, supporting Aboriginal law and associated cultural values is considered to be among the most important roles of the NLC. The documentation for sacred sites, dreaming sites and significant places such as painted shelters and rock engraving sites is one of the major works undertaken by the Anthropology branch each year and involves a coordinated approach by professional, regional, logistic and mapping GIS staff. Over the past year there have been a number of major projects of this nature.

Formal Advice on Traditional ownership

The identity and nature of any traditional Aboriginal land owning group is contained within Aboriginal Law. The ALRA makes the effort to capture this when it defines traditional Aboriginal owners as being "a local descent group" of Aboriginal people who have common affiliations

to a site(s) on or near the land that gives the particular group the "primary spiritual responsibility" for the site(s) and associated land. In addition they are the group that, by Aboriginal tradition, are entitled to forage, "as a right" over it. The definition can be found in section 3 (1) of the ALRA. The NTA in its section 223 discusses the concept of a native title holder, being Aboriginal people who by "laws and customs" have a connection with some particular land or waters.

Because the requirement to identify the appropriate people and groups for some country is basic to both traditional Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal law, the NLC seeks at all times to be thorough and professional in its research to identify and document this information. This is central to the Anthropology branch's work.

The branch has a number of trained anthropologists each of who cover a specific region. These have been chosen to reflect underlying Aboriginal societies and cultural regions and a number of branch staff members are based in regions and work from a local office. All of the staff are experienced in anthropological fieldwork and recording. Other duties cover office logistics, mapping G.I.S. and curating, support anthropology staff. As required from time to time consultant anthropologists are engaged. These are usually highly qualified persons with a good

deal of experience with an area and group of people including formal publications. Often they are academics whose knowledge and background affords learning and training opportunities to staff. Most give presentations to the NLC on their work.

The advice prepared by the regional anthropologists that identifies traditional owners and released to the other branches is used for a wide variety of purposes including land and native title claims, consultations with clients for mining, other projects and section 19 ALRA proposals and developments.

Land Interest Reference Report

Land Interest References (LIRs) are registered each year for those with an interest in using any Aboriginal land or waters. All requests are recorded and processed, and the table below provides a breakdown of activities.

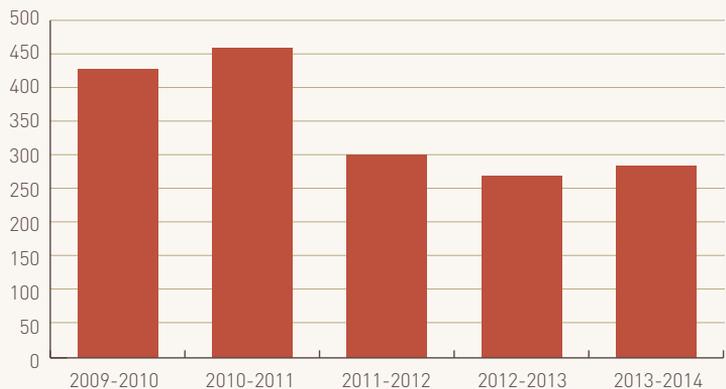
Table 10: Registered LIRs released by activity

ACTIVITY PROPOSAL	NUMBER OF REQUESTS
Communities	39
Indigenous Protection Areas (IPA)	3
Land Claims	2
Media	5
Mining	99
National Parks	4
Native Title - Land	16
Native Title - Sea	8
Pastoral; Land, Sea & Natural Resources Management	61
Research	5
Tourism	10
Utilities	22
Other	10
TOTAL	284

Outcome:

A total of 284 requests were lodged, with 220 significant releases completed this financial year. Although this is a decrease in the number of releases, it does not represent the complexity of the research required in compiling the LIRs.

Figure 13: 5 year trend 2009-14: Total annual LIR requests





Waanyi/Garawa advisor Jack Green and ranger Robert O'Keefe undertake controlled burning

LIR Database Report

Since 2006 the Anthropology branch has designed and implemented enterprise database management systems to support growing demand on research outputs. Central to this has been the development solution that stores documents and maps electronically, with a full text index on the documents stored within it.

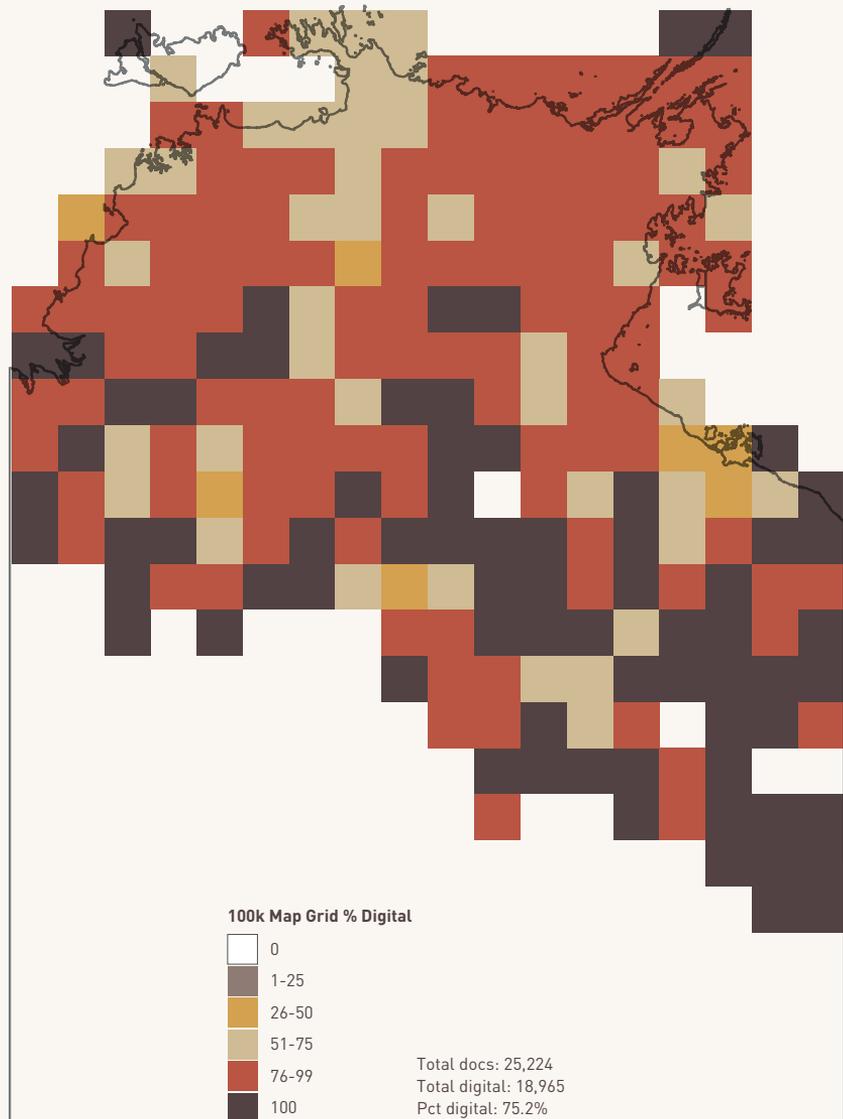
A major obstacle is that many documents are held as hardcopies, resulting in an ongoing task over the last few years to scan and recognise text of hardcopy documents.

There are a total of 24789 documents held in the LIR, of which 18237 now exist in electronic format, with a total of 2497 documents digitised in this financial year.

During this reporting period 1,041 new documents were submitted to the LIR, each requiring geographic and ethnographic indexing, which has placed a considerable administration overhead for the branch.

Land Interest References

Figure 14: The LIR is geographically referenced by the 1:100,00 scale topographic map sheet, which provides quick direction to relevant ethnographic material



GIS Section

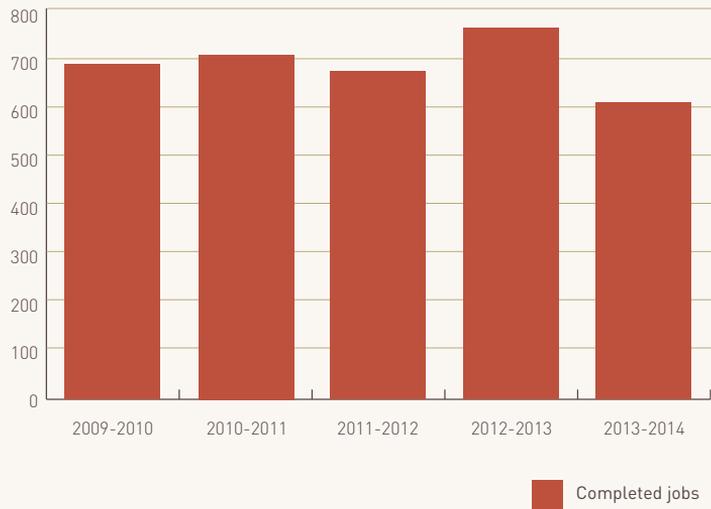
The NLC has a four-person team running a Geographic Information System (GIS). The GIS is computer based, using ESRI ArcGIS desktop software as well as server technology which provide mapping technology to NLC staff via the NLC intranet.

The primary outputs of the NLC GIS are cartographic (map production). The workload is managed using database technology with a web interface for making map requests and managing jobs.

While the GIS section is part of the Anthropology branch, it provides a services to the whole organisation.

As well as maintaining momentum with native title claim mapping, the GIS section has put a focus on database development this year, and has made progress compiling geographic data for section 19 agreements, gravel pit extraction areas, legal agreements and mining tenements.

Figure 15: 5 year trend 2009-2014: GIS mapping workload



Other Projects: Bringing Historical Data Back to Life – Aboriginal Populations Register

During the 1960s and 1970s, the Welfare Branch of the Northern Territory compiled data from the Aboriginal Population Records onto mainframe computer tapes. This database was used in conjunction with COBOL punch cards to interpret and manipulate the data. For some decades the data tapes and punch cards have been in

the custody of Professor Len Smith. The NLC’s Anthropology branch contacted Professor Smith to negotiate the translation of this tape data into a readable format.

This data were translated and have now been incorporated into a relational database system. The database has 36,850 records of Indigenous people including geographic tags (such as current location, location of birth and death), and as such represents a significant and useful research tool for the NLC.

Sea Rights

Although called the Northern Land Council, the NLC has, since its early days known that many Aboriginal people in our region consider 'country' to include islands, reefs, sand banks and even associated sea beds and tides as well. The possibility of pursuing sea rights however had to await the passage of the *NTA* in 1993. Among the first made on behalf of Aboriginal people by the NLC was *Yamirr vs The Northern Territory* (decision in 2001) involving sea country in the Arafura Sea near Croker Island. The court found that the applicants held non-exclusive native title in the area. The Wellesley Island Native Title

application by Lardil people in Queensland not far from the Territory border produced essentially the same result.

In 2002 the NLC began *Gumana vs The Northern Territory*, now commonly called the 'Blue Mud Bay case' that, while eventually successful through appeals in 2008, was restricted in application to the intertidal zone and tidal rivers overlying Aboriginal land. The traditional owners and the NLC have maintained an interim access regime while extensive and detailed consultations and discussions between the NTG and land owners have taken place.

Significant anthropological studies have been carried out for these matters, and the NLC now has detailed ethnographic data on clans, boundaries, sites, dreamings and song lines in the sea. While similar to work on land in many ways, working on the sea where boats, tides and weather are all important has been a challenge. Over the past year the NLC has continued to engage with colleagues from the Anindilyakwa Land Council on the progression of anthropological research and the lodging of an application for the recognition of native title rights in sea country in the Numbulwar-Groote Eylandt region.



Dhimurru ranger Milika Marika, hunting in his home country in east Arnhem Land during a visit to record an episode of the television series, *Move it Mob Style*.

*Administration
and Support
Services*



Northern Land Council

45



Distributions

The NLC maintains a royalty trust account that receives monies on behalf of associations of Aboriginal people and individuals in accordance with section 35 of the ALRA. The monies are disbursed in accordance with the terms of the Trust. The NLC makes distributions of rents, payments and royalties payable to traditional owners and royalty receiving associations.

Table 10: Breakdown of Royalty Distribution Payments

	\$'000
S35(2) Statutory Royalties	8,352
S35(3) Negotiated Payments	20,614
S35(4) Rental and Lease Monies	31,659
Other	1,064
	61,689

The NLC also administers the Ceremonial Purposes Fund on behalf of the Aboriginals Benefit Account (refer to page 191).

Taking instructions and the distribution of royalties and payments is a resource intensive process. The primary responsibility for the co-ordination of meetings of Aboriginal landowners to determine distributions lies

with regional office staff and anthropologists. The NLC also assists groups to resolve disputes over distributions.

Outcome:

Under Ss15, 16 and 19 of the ALRA, income of \$8,346,000 was generated from Aboriginal land and or native title holdings this year.

Subject to Traditional Owner instructions there are distributions made outside the statutory six months period. However, according to traditional decision making processes, a total of 9,330 royalty payments were made during the course of the financial year.

Administering Aboriginal Land Trusts

Objective:

Assist Aboriginal Land Trusts to act appropriately and in accordance with the Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976.

Land Trusts are statutory bodies corporate that hold title to Aboriginal land under the ALRA for the benefit of the Aboriginal people concerned, including traditional owners and Aboriginal persons who are entitled by tradition to use or occupy the land, whether or

not that entitlement is qualified by place, time, circumstance, purpose or permission.

Where land is granted in a deed of grant held in escrow by a Land Council, a Land Trust may acquire the estates and interests of other persons with a view of gaining the delivery of the title to the Land Trust. A Land Trust cannot exercise its functions in relation to land except in accordance with a direction given by the Land Council.

Land Trusts consist of a Chairman and not less than three members who hold office for periods not exceeding five years. Land Trust members are usually traditional owners of the land held in trust.

The NLC assists the Land Trusts in a number of ways including the secure storage of Deeds of Grant and Common Seals, administering and negotiating leases, receiving and distributing monies such as rents and royalty payments and the resolution and management of disputes.

Outcome:

There are 58 Aboriginal Land Trusts within the NLC's jurisdiction. The membership of six trusts expired during the reporting period and require renewal.

Mediation and Dispute Resolution

Objective:

Support traditional owners to manage and resolve disputes.

With its favourable environment and relatively abundant water resources, the northern region of the NT has always had a large Traditional Owner population. Its position has also tended to attract much of the Territory's non-Aboriginal population and subsequent development. The Territory's capital for example is sited in Darwin. Considered along with the coast (which has many unique issues) and such things as farming, the uranium resources and large towns, the Top End's Traditional Owner population is confronted with numerous and often contentious issues. Not unnaturally there can be widely differing opinions held that result in tensions within and between groups with regard to some issue such as a proposed development.

In addition there are those that arise with regard to traditional ownership. These may be boundary disputes between groups, or they may be intra-group disputes regarding membership, or some combination.

The NLC's functions include, under s25 of the *ALRA*, a duty to 'attempt [the] conciliation of disputes'. "Where a Land Council is informed that there is, or there may arise, a dispute with respect to land in the area of the Council between persons to whom this section applies, the Land Council shall use its best endeavours by way of conciliation for the settlement or prevention, as the case may be, of that dispute."

The NLC is also the arbiter for the identification of the traditional owners of *ALRA*. Consequently the need arises for investigations of disputes, mediation and for formal findings by the land council in some cases. The NLC takes this work seriously and works through them appropriately and professionally.

Outcome:

No directions to Aboriginal Land Trust to enter into land use agreement were subject to legal challenges.

Corporate Governance

Objective:

Our corporate governance philosophy is underpinned by principles of accountability, transparency and openness, integrity, leadership and commitment.

The enabling legislation of the Northern Land Council is the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*. The responsible Minister for the 2013-14 reporting period is Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs. For the period 1 July 2013 to 18 September 2013 the former Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP was the responsible Minister.

The performance of Directors is informally reviewed by their peers, fellow regional council members, executive members and respective communities that have nominated them as their representative. NLC staff provide corporate governance training and advice when required.

Exemptions Granted by Finance Minister

There were no exemptions granted by Finance Minister in regard to reporting requirements in 2013/2014.

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. Legal practitioners are covered by compulsory professional indemnity as required by the NT Law Society.

Risk Management and Ethics

The elected Northern Land Council members are responsible for setting the policy and oversight of the risk management framework that integrates the process for managing risk into the organisations overall governance, strategy and planning, management, reporting processes, policies, values and culture to comply with the Australian/New Zealand Risk Management Standard (AS/ ANZ ISO 31000:2009).

The leadership group, including the Chief Executive Officer, is responsible for ensuring that systems, processes and controls are in place to minimise the uncertainty of risks and impacts on the organisation's strategic objectives and operational outcomes.

The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing

and monitoring the risk management processes and in conjunction with the leadership group are expected to make recommendations about compliance and how to improve performance.

The framework is a fluid document and is expected to be updated along with the Strategic Plan.

The Audit Committee Charter sets out the role and purpose of the Audit Committee who act as an advisory body on the operation and financial management controls and reporting responsibilities of the organisation, oversee internal and external audit functions, and provide independent and objective assurance that the systems, processes and risk management strategies of the NLC are robust and comply with acceptable standards and government requirements.

The Audit Committee is independently chaired by Ms Suzanne Archbold (Deloitte), attended by John Christophersen (West Arnhem Region Executive Council Member), Helen Lee (Katherine Region Executive Council Member). The General Manager Corporate Compliance of the NLC attends Audit Committee meetings, but is not a member of the committee. Mr Matthew Kennon of Merit Partners also has a standing invitation to attend meetings on behalf of the Australian National Audit Office.

The NLC's Code of Conduct Policy and Council Member's Handbook

outlines ethical behaviour standards at both personal and professional levels expected within the workplace. The NLC workplaces include an office environment and or remote field environments. Each staff member is made aware of and has access to the Code of Conduct on commencement, via the intranet and during reviews. Similarly the Full Council Members receive an induction and copy of the handbook, as well as knowledge of appropriate behaviour.

Related Entity Transaction

The Full Council is made up of 83 council members representing 7 regions in NLC's jurisdiction; it is the Full Council that makes decisions about any grant transactions.

Freedom of Information

NLC is exempt from reporting under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and suggests readers visit the Information Publication Scheme website <http://www.oaic.gov.au/ips/> for more information.

Consultant Procedures, Competitive Tendering and Contract Management

The procurement policy is consistent with the Commonwealth procurement principles. During the reporting period the NLC engaged the following list of consultants to do work in relation to the Council's functions and exercise of powers under *ALRA*, as required under s.37(8) of *ALRA*.

CONSULTANT EXPENDITURE 2013/2014

Contracts over \$100,000	5
Total Consultants Expenditure	\$1,900,566

Consultants - Aboriginal

DAVID LEE	\$3,672
MABUNJI ABORIGINAL RESOURCE ASSN INC	\$5,616
LENORE DEMBSKI PAPERBARK WOMAN	\$5,886
	\$15,174

Consultants - Anthropologists

FRANK MCKEOWN- MCKEOWN YGOA & ASSOCIATES PTY LTD	\$219,692
PATRICIA F PUIG	\$6,096
JEFFREY STEAD ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONSULTANT	\$37,667
ANTHROPOS CONSULTING	\$48,242
PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES INSTITUTE AUSTRALIA	\$20,595
WALTER ZUKOWSKI	\$96,255
ANNA NOLAN	\$31,179
MICK REYNOLDS	\$109,133
BENNETTS ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONSULTANCIES	\$85,431
IAN WHITE	\$16,829
CHRIS HAYNES	\$40,284
JOHN DYMOCK	\$4,500
APPLEBY CONSULTING	\$58,397
BRENDAN CORRIGAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL SERVICES	\$17,885
DR PHILIP CLARKE	\$12,402
SIX SEASONS	\$3,570
GAY ENGLISH CONSULTING	\$23,282
JITENDRA KUMARAGE	\$39,020
PAUL MEMMOTT & ASSOCIATES	\$4,000
	\$874,461

Consultants - Legal

SLM CORPORATE PTY LTD	\$30,000
STURT GLACKEN	\$176,283
CHRIS HORAN	\$5,125
KEELY T.P.	\$167,082
PETER WILLIS	\$250,335
GIRGENTI LAWYERS	\$49,300
MEGAN BRAYNE	\$36,506
SUE MEAGHAN	\$36,165
JAMIE DALZIEL	\$4,102
	\$754,898

Consultants - Other

ENDEAVOUR CONSULTING GROUP	\$22,260
DR HOWARD SMITH	\$15,250
DELOITTE (Brisbane)	\$15,463
OTS MANAGEMENT PTY LTD	\$16,357
MARIA WOODGATE	\$3,110
ABRUS CONSULTING PTY LTD	\$34,581
GREENLEIGH CONSULTING SERVICES PTY LIMITED	\$3,194
TALLAGANDRA RURAL CONSULTING PTY LTD	\$2,344
DOYLE CONTRACTING PTY LTS	\$6,120
NIC GAMBOLD	\$19,262
LEIGH TWINE	\$280
SAVVY COMMUNITY DEVT CONSULT	\$15,145
GANAMARR CONSULTANTS PTY LTD	\$39,400
ABS SCROFA (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	\$18,000
SAVANNA SOLUTIONS PTY LTD	\$29,585
GRAHAM KENYON T/AS PUDAKUL ABORIGINAL CULTURAL TOURS	\$82
COLLIERS INTERNATIONAL (NT) PTY LTD	\$6,000
PALADIN FIREARM SOLUTIONS PTY LTD	\$9,600
	\$256,032

Advertising and Market Research

The Northern Land Council advertised during normal recruitment campaigns, released a number of media releases and published the Land Rights Newspaper. Northern Land Council attended the Barunga Festival to promote community awareness of its role and achievements. No market research, polling or direct mail activities were undertaken this financial year.

Environmental Performance

The key principles of ecologically sustainability development are considered in the key objectives of NLC's strategic plan 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 at both Traditional Owner and Full Council levels. This includes the precautionary principle, and monitoring and compliance of environmental impacts of exploration and mining on the natural and cultural resources.

The Northern Land Council leases the buildings it occupies. Therefore, there are limitations in terms of influencing environmental management saving initiatives such as grey water recycling systems, solar systems.

However, practices to reduce waste management issues and conserve energy through efficiencies of lighting, electrical compliances and refrigeration are always considered and where appropriate have been implemented.

In particular community based land management rangers are at the forefront of reducing the carbon footprint through on-ground savannah fire management systems including the sustainable use of wildlife resources, evasive species management and maintaining and conserving biodiversity. These activities are demonstrated in the land and sea management section of this report.

Formalising reporting against ecological sustainable development principles will be further considered during the development of the new NLC Strategic Plan.

Information Management

In consultation with the NLC, the National Archives of Australia (NAA) developed a *Records Authority 2010/00643150* which sets out the requirements for keeping or destroying records. This represented a significant commitment on NLC's behalf to understand, create and manage the records of its activities.

The Authority is based on the identification and analysis of NLC's business by taking into account the legal and organisational records, management requirements and the interests of stakeholders and NAA.

The Authority also sets out those records that need to be retained at NAA and specifies the minimum length of time that temporary records need to be kept. Under the *Archives Act (Cth) 1983* the Authority permits the destruction of temporary records after the retention period has expired.

*Policy Statement:
Preserving the Past –
Protecting the Present –
Planning for the Future*

All information, both electronic and physical records, provide evidence of NLC's business functions, activities and transactions. True and accurate records are vital to the achievement of current and future objectives, legal process and the corporate and cultural history of the organisation.

NLC information management practices must comply with all relevant legislation, standards, Australian government policies and guidelines and the Commonwealth Protection Security Manual.

No officer employed by NLC has the right to destroy records unless it is in accordance with the *Archive Act*, which means an *Authority to Destroy* processed through the Information Management Unit and approved by the Chief Executive Officer or delegate.

Annual assessments of information management are required and reported to the NAA and this year we achieved a compliance rating of 70.3%, a slight reduction from the previous year as can be seen in the table on page 141. The main focus for the year has been to commence data conversion of various old media formats ie VHS, films, audio, photos, slides and negatives into a digital environment for long term preservation.

Table 11: Aggregated Performance Indices

	Performance indices (scale of 0-100)				
	NLC 2013	NLC 2012	NLC 2011	Medium agencies	All agencies
Overall performance index	70.3	71.8	70.4	64.2	66.9
Strategy index	74.5	74.5	72.7	64.1	67.2
Practice index	66.0	69.0	68.0	64.2	66.7
Digital records management index	57.1	57.1	51.4	57.7	61.3

Information Communication and Technology

The Information Communication and Technology section has done a tremendous job to deliver the same standard of services in spite of additional workloads and a limited budget.

The major IT system upgrade in the 2013-2014 year was the upgrade of the NLC domain controller operating system to Windows 2012, email system to Exchange 2013, desktop operating system to Windows 7 and Office 2010 application.

Work also continued throughout the reporting period to improve the NLC's Information Technology system. This included:

- » Purchase of a new storage device to meet increasing data demand.
- » Purchase of a new server to replace the domain controller in NLC Darwin and regional offices.

- » Implementation of disk to disk backup solution to improve backup and disaster recovery.
- » Replacement of desktop and laptop computers to improve performance and meet the demand of business applications.
- » Installation of an Opmanager network monitoring tool to provide real time reporting of network system performance.

During the reporting year, the Information Communication and Technology section also continued to develop the NLC's Permits management system to provide better outputs on reporting to effectively manage permit applications.

Fleet and Property Management

The NLC maintains a fleet of more than 100 vehicles including a range of four wheel drives, sedans, trailers and buses.

The ranger program requires specialised vehicles like quads and boats; the entire fleet is maintained to roadworthy standards. The fleet is funded from different sources including ABA, native title or grant funding.

All 4WD fleet vehicles are suitably fitted out to travel to local and remote communities and to endure the harsh environment.

NLC maintains a number of remote offices and properties including ranger outposts. Offices occupied by the NLC in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine, Jabiru, Nhulunbuy, Tennant Creek are rental properties.

Committees

Delegations

There were no delegations made in accordance with s28 ALRA.

Committee

There were no committees appointed in accordance with s29A ALRA.

Audit Advisory Committee

The Northern Land Council has an established Audit Committee in accordance with section 32 of the CAC Act.

The Audit Committee plays a key role in assisting the Council in its governance framework and risk management practices. The functions of the audit committee include:

- a) Assist the Council and its directors to comply with obligations under the CAC Act
- b) Provide a forum for communication between the Council, leadership group and external Auditors

The objective of the Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance and advice to Council and leadership group on the Council's financial data, control processes, risk/compliance framework and accounting responsibilities.

Table 12: Audit advisory committee attendance

Name	Attended	No. of Meetings Held
Galaminda ¹	1	1
Suzanne Archbold ²	3	3
Helen Lee ³	2	2
John Christophersen ³	2	2

1. Executive Member until November 2013

2. Independent member (Deloitte) & Interim Chair

3. Executive Member from November 2013

Work Health and Safety Committee

This committee was re-established during the year after not meeting the required Comcare standards previously. The newly formed committee now has eight members including both the WHS co-ordinator and WHS officer who were seconded to the committee when they were recruited into the NLC. The committee is now active and meets regularly.

The role and responsibilities of the committee are articulated in the *Work Health Safety Act 2011* and the present committee is now effectively operating under the legislative guidelines contained in the Act. The committee has been active in assisting with the introduction of new policies and procedures previously lacking in the workplace but required under the statutory obligations. The committee is now in a position to provide timely advice to the CEO on WHS matters and is working to improve the safety standards for all workers to ensure a safe workplace, compliant under the legislation.

Enterprise Agreement Committee

A new committee consisting of staff and management will be formed to commence negotiating following the expiration of the 2011-2013 Enterprise Agreement. On behalf of its members, the Community and Public Sector Union will also contribute to this process.

Land Claim Committee

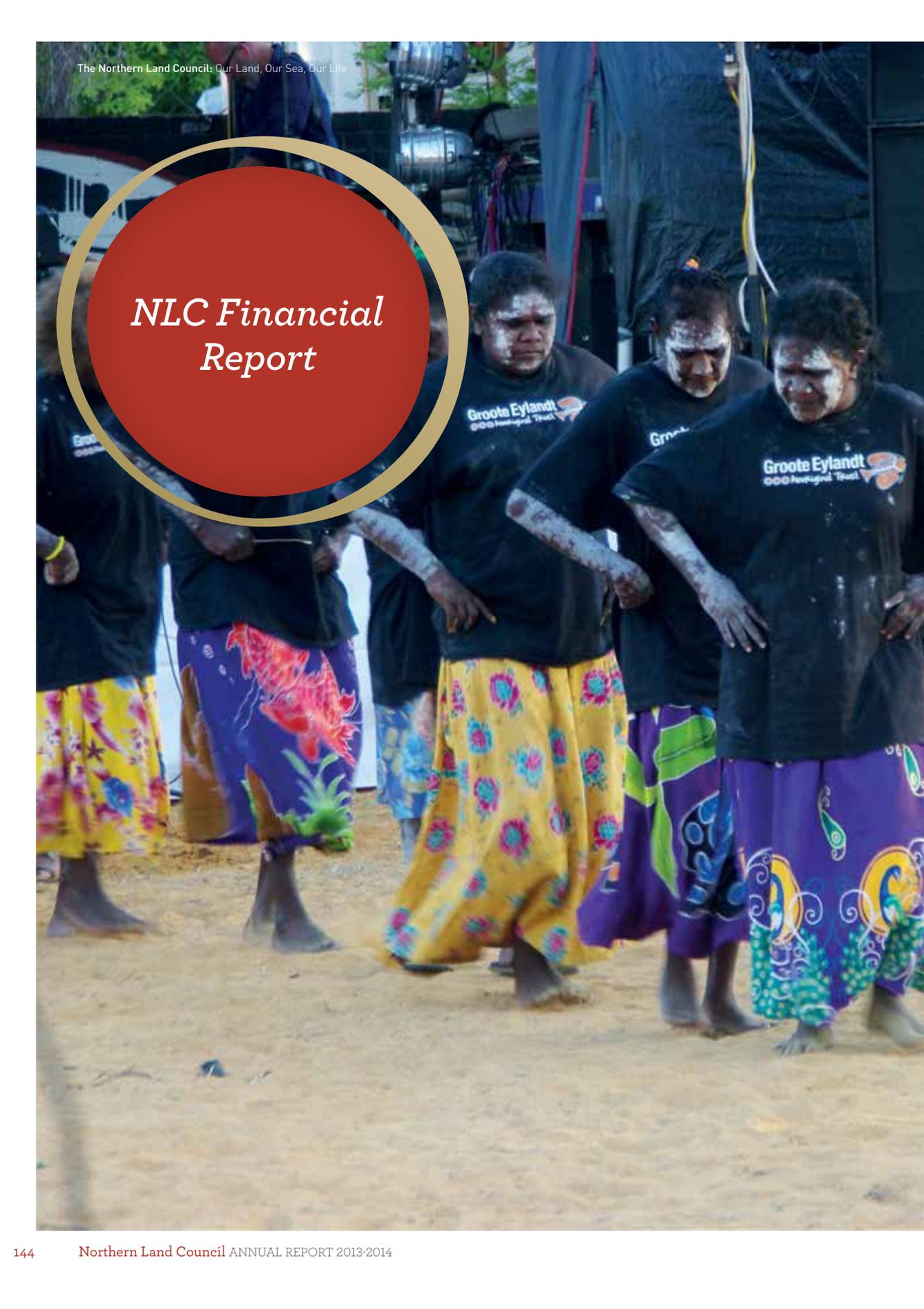
The Land Claim Committee comprises lawyers, anthropologists and regional office staff who meet as required and co-ordinate the preparation of land claims.

Native Title Committee

This Committee monitors the NLC's performance of its native title functions, including expenditure against budget estimates and progress towards operational milestones. Members include NLC lawyers, anthropologists, finance and mining staff as required.

Committee Appointments

COMMITTEE/ GROUP	REPRESENTATIVE	COMMITTEE/ GROUP	REPRESENTATIVE
Internal Governance		External Governance	
Audit Advisory Committee	Suzanne Archbold, (Deloitte), Interim Chair	Aboriginals Benefit Account	
Tenure ended Nov 2013	Bunug Galaminda (Executive Member)	July 2013-Nov 2013	Wali Wunungmurra Lisa Mumbin Leonard Norman George King Andy Ganarradj Peter Lansen Donna Sullivan
Nominated Nov 2013	John Christophersen (Executive Member)		
Nominated Nov 2013	Helen Lee (Executive Member)		
		Nov 2013-June 2014	Grace Daniels Lisa Mumbin Wayne Wauchope James Sing Djava Yunupingu
WH&S Committee	Steven Lawrence (Chair)		
Replaced March 2014	Greg McDonald	Replaced May 2014	David Harvey
Joined March 2014	Ruiha Maskovich Kirsty Kassman Jeffrey Yoelu Brooke Watson	Replaced by	Keith Rory
		Resigned May 2014	Shadrack Retchford
Joined May 2014	Cindy Hoban	Replaced by	Elaine Watts
Joined May 2014	Ian Amy Hidayat Nurslanis	Aboriginal Investment Group	
		July 2013-Nov 2013	Wali Wunungmurra Samuel Bush-Blanas Leonard Norman Galaminda George King Bill Risk Peter Lansen Helen Lee Dhuwarrarr Marika
Enterprise Agreement Committee July 2013 Management	Steven Lawrence Cindy Hoban Tamara Cole Garrett Smith Kirsty Howey		
CPSU and Staff	Rebecca Sirilas Joy Cardona Adam Thompson	Nov 2013-June 2014	Samuel Bush-Blanas Leonard Norman John Christophersen Raymond Hector Bill Risk Virginia Nundhirribala Helen Lee David Djalangi John Daly
		Imparja Board	Bill Risk



*NLC Financial
Report*



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Northern Land Council for the year ended 30 June 2014, which comprise: a Statement by the Directors, Chief Executive and General Manager, Corporate Compliance; the Statement of Comprehensive Income; Statement of Financial Position; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; Schedule of Contingencies; and Notes comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The directors of the Northern Land Council are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to Northern Land Council's preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view 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 Northern Land Council's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Northern Land Council:

- (a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders including Northern Land Council's financial position as at 30 June 2014 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Ron Wah
Audit Principal

Delegate of the Auditor General

Canberra
12 January 2015

Northern Land Council 2013/2014 Annual Financial Statement

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (CAC) Act

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STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTORS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND GENERAL MANAGER, CORPORATE COMPLIANCE

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2014 are based on properly maintained financial records and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Ministers Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* as amended.

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

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

Signed: .....
Samuel Bush-Blanasi
Chairperson

Signed: .....
John Daly
Deputy Chairperson

Signed: .....
Joe Morrison
Chief Executive Officer

Signed: .....
Steven Lawrence
Acting General Manager Corporate Compliance

10 January 2015

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the year ended 30 June 2014

NET COST OF SERVICES	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
EXPENSES			
Employee benefits	3A	20,851	20,252
Suppliers	3B	17,408	19,561
Depreciation and amortisation	3C	680	1,357
Write-down and impairment of assets	3D	434	741
Loss on disposal of assets	3E	-	273
Other expenses	3F	4,287	6,596
Total Expenses		43,660	48,780
OWN-SOURCE INCOME			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4A	4,393	4,119
Interest	4B	163	631
Total own-source revenue		4,556	4,750
Gains			
Gain from sale of assets	4C	310	10
Reversals of previous asset write-downs and impairments	4D	410	234
Total gains		720	244
Total own-source income		5,276	4,994
Net cost of services		38,384	43,786
Revenue from Government- DPMC	4E	4,999	5,008
Revenue from ABA S64 (1)	4F	17,569	18,597
Revenue from Government-Special Purpose Grant	4G	9,025	6,820
Total revenue from Government		31,593	30,425
(Deficit) attributable to the Australian Government		(6,791)	(13,361)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Change in asset revaluation surplus		1,929	(221)
Total other comprehensive income		1,929	(221)
Total comprehensive (loss) attributable to the Australian Government		(4,862)	(13,582)

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 30 June 2014

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7A	2,545	4,577
Trade and other receivables	7B	1,546	6,642
Total financial assets		4,091	11,219
Non-Financial Assets			
Land and buildings	8A	3,417	3,209
Property, plant and equipment	8B	3,694	1,062
Other non-financial assets	8C	92	139
Total non-financial assets		7,203	4,410
Total Assets		11,294	15,629
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	9A	2,997	2,829
Other payables	9B	1,160	1,397
Total payables		4,157	4,226
Provisions			
Employee provisions	10	3,862	3,266
Total provisions		3,862	3,266
Total Liabilities		8,019	7,492
Net Assets		3,275	8,137
EQUITY			
Asset Revaluation Reserves		1,973	44
Retained surplus		1,302	8,093
Total Equity		3,275	8,137

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the year 30 June 2014

	Retained Earnings		Asset Revaluation Reserve		Total Equity	
	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Opening balance						
Balance carried forward from previous period	8,093	21,454	44	265	8,137	21,719
Adjusted opening balance	8,093	21,454	44	265	8,137	21,719
Comprehensive Income	-	-	1,929	(221)	1,929	(221)
Other comprehensive Income	(6,791)	(13,361)	-	-	(6,791)	(13,361)
Surplus (Deficit) for the period	(6,791)	(13,361)	1,929	(221)	(4,862)	(13,582)
Total Comprehensive Income						
Closing balance as at 30 June attributable to the Australian Government	1,302	8,093	1,973	44	3,275	8,137

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

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 30 June 2014

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Sales of goods and rendering of services		5,397	3,812
Receipts from Government		36,883	29,365
Interest		163	631
Total cash received		42,443	33,808
Cash used			
Employees		(20,384)	(19,715)
Suppliers		(19,031)	(20,245)
Distribution of old S64(1) Funding		(4,287)	(7,096)
Net GST paid		508	(936)
Total cash used		(43,194)	(47,992)
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	11	(751)	(14,184)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment	4C	377	44
Total cash received		377	44
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	8C	(1,658)	(710)
Total cash used		(1,658)	(710)
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities		(1,281)	(666)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(2,032)	(14,850)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		4,577	19,427
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	11	2,545	4,577

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

SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2014

BY TYPE	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Commitments Receivable		
Net GST recoverable on commitments	(476)	(584)
Total Commitments Receivable	(476)	(584)
Other commitments		
Operating leases ¹	4,904	5,694
Operational Commitments	337	726
Total other commitments	5,241	6,420
Net commitments by type	4,765	5,836
BY MATURITY		
Commitments receivable		
Operating lease income		
One year or less	(202)	(210)
From one to five years	(242)	(350)
Over five years	(33)	(24)
Total operating lease income	(477)	(584)
Commitments payable		
Operating Lease Commitments		
One year or less	1,879	1,588
From one to five years	2,664	3,855
Over five years	361	251
Total Operating Lease Commitments	4,904	5,694
Operational Commitments		
One year or less	337	726
Total Operational Commitments	337	726
Total Commitments payable	5,241	6,420
Net Commitments by Maturity	4,765	5,836

Note: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

The nature of operating leases relates to the leases for office accommodation and office equipment.

¹ Lease payments are subject to annual increases in accordance with upwards movements in the Consumer Price Index. The initial periods of office accommodation leases are still current and each may be renewed for up to ten years at the Northern Land Council's option, following a once-off adjustment of rentals to current market levels.

Operational Commitments are various goods & services ordered and not yet received.

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

SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES

as at 30 June 2014

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Contingent liabilities		
Claim for damages or costs	160	208
Total contingent liabilities	160	208

Details of each class of contingent liabilities and contingent assets listed above are disclosed in Note 12, along with information on significant remote contingencies and contingencies that cannot be quantified.

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

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Objective of Northern Land Council

The Northern Land Council is a statutory authority formed within the provision of Section 21 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (ALRA)*. The Northern Land Council receives appropriations from the Aboriginal Benefit Account (ABA) pursuant to ministerially approved estimates prepared in accordance with Section 34 of the Act and made available under Section 64 of the Act. The Northern Land Council in its present form with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing appropriations. It is a not for profit entity. The Council 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 seas.

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 Northern Land Council 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 Affairs.

1.2 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements and are required by clause 1(b) of Schedule 1 to the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- » Finance Ministers Orders (FMO's) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2011; and
- » Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

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

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

Unless an alternative treatment is specifically required by an Accounting Standard or the FMO's, assets and liabilities are recognised in the statement of financial position when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the organisation 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. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the schedule of commitments or the schedule of contingencies.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, income and expenses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when, and only when, the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes the Northern Land Council will be able to meet its liabilities and obligations as and when they fall due in the normal course of business.

1.3 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

No 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 accounting period.

1.4 New Australian Accounting Standards

Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard.

New standards/revised standards/interpretations/amending statements that were issued prior to the sign-off date and are applicable to the current reporting period did not have a financial impact, and are not expected to have a future financial impact on the Northern Land Council.

Future Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

New standards that were issued prior to the sign-off date and are applicable to future reporting periods are not expected to have a material future financial impact on the Northern Land Council.

1.5 Revenue

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:

- a) the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
- b) the Northern Land Council retains no managerial involvement or effective control over the goods;
- c) the revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- d) it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the entity.

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date. The revenue is recognised when:

- a) the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- b) the probable economic benefits with the transaction will flow to the entity.

The stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date is determined by reference to the proportion that costs incurred to date bear to the estimated total costs of the transaction.

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.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: recognition and Measurement*.

Revenues from Government

Funding received or receivable from agencies are recognised as Revenue from Government when the entity gains control of the appropriation, except for certain amounts that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it is earned.

Appropriations receivable are recognised at their nominal amounts.

1.6 Gains

Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as gains when, and only when, a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as gains at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another Government agency or authority as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements.

Sale of Assets

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

1.7 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. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of the Northern Land Council is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that applied at the time the leave is taken, including the Northern Land Council's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The estimate of the present value of the long service leave liability takes into attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and Redundancy

Provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. The Northern Land Council recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

Superannuation

The majority of Northern Land Council's staff are members of the MLC Superannuation Scheme and MLC Limited plan for casual employees. The Northern Land Council complies with the requirements of the superannuation choice legislation. All superannuation contributions are to defined contribution plans. The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions.

1.8 Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases and operating leases. Finance leases effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of leased assets. An operating lease is a lease that is not a finance lease. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a straight line basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

1.9 Fair Value Measurement

The Land Council deems any transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy to have occurred at the end of the reporting period.

1.10 Cash

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 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

1.11 Financial Assets

The Northern Land Council classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- a) 'loans and receivables'.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon trade date.

Loans and Receivables

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

Effective Interest Method

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset, or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis except for financial assets that are recognised at fair value through profit or loss.

Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at each reporting period.

Financial assets held at amortised cost - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for loans and receivables or held to maturity investments held at amortised cost, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount is reduced by way of an allowance account. The loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

Available for sale financial assets - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss on an available for sale financial asset has been incurred, the amount of the difference between its cost, less principal repayments and amortisation, and its current fair value, less any impairment loss previously recognised in expenses, is transferred from equity to the statement of comprehensive income.

Financial assets held at cost - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred the amount of the impairment loss is the difference between the carrying amount of the asset and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the current market rate for similar assets.

1.12 Financial Liabilities

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

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.

Supplier 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).

1.13 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are reported in the relevant schedules and 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.

1.14 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 Northern Land Council's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

1.15 Property, Plant and Equipment

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, 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 a group of similar items which are significant in total). The capitalisation thresholds values are:

Land	\$20,000
Buildings	\$20,000
Leasehold Improvements	\$5,000
Furniture and Equipment	\$5,000
Information Technology (Hardware)	\$5,000
Information Technology (Software)	\$5,000
Motor Vehicles	\$10,000

Revaluations

Fair values for each class of asset are determined as shown below:

Asset Class	Fair value measurement
Land	Market selling price
Buildings excluding Leasehold Improvements	Market selling price
Leasehold Improvements	Depreciated replacement cost
Other Property Plant and Equipment	Market selling price

Following initial recognition at cost, property plant and equipment are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. 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.

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.

Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the Northern Land Council 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:

	2014	2013
Buildings on Freehold Land	10 - 40 years	10 - 40 years
Leasehold Improvements	Lease term	Lease term
Office Furniture & Equipment	3 to 5 years	3 to 5 years
Motor Vehicles	3 years	3 years
Plant & Equipment	3 years	3 years

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2014. Where indications of impairment exist, the assets' recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs of disposal and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the Northern Land Council were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

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.

1.16 Intangibles

The Northern Land Council's intangibles comprise commercial and internally developed software for internal use. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life. The useful life of the Council's software is 3 years. All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2014.

1.17 Taxation / Competitive Neutrality

The Northern Land Council 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 GST except:

- where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- for receivables and payables.

Competitive Neutrality

The Northern Land Council does not provide services on a profit basis. Therefore the Land Council is not required to make Australian Income Tax Equivalent payments to the Government.

1.18 Going Concern

The Northern Land Council recorded a deficit of \$6,791,000 on continuing operations as at 30 June 2014, (2013: deficit \$13,361,000). The Land Council had a working capital deficiency of \$2,946,000; (2013: positive \$4,498,000), being an excess of current liabilities over current assets. The Land Council also incurred negative cash flows from operations of \$751,000; (2013: negative \$14,184,000)

Notwithstanding the above, Management are confident that the Land Council will be able to continue as a going concern having regard to the following:

- » During the year the Land Council carried operational costs of the Ranger Program of \$1,343,000. Discussions are being held with Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet to fund these costs incurred and continued ongoing future funding. On the 10th December 2014 funding of \$2,155,466 was approved by the Minister for Indigenous Affairs for the period 01 July 2013 to 30 June 2015, with \$1,325,610 for 2013/2014.
- » Current employee provisions of \$2,880,000 are expensed in the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, but are technically not funded by funding bodies until the leave is taken or paid out. Discussions have been held with the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet to fund these liabilities and is addressing how these liabilities are funded into the future.
- » Management has reviewed its operations, and adopted strategies to increase efficiencies and associated cost savings in regards to the following areas:
 - » Fleet Management
 - » Travel
 - » Implementation of cost recovery policy
- » Muckaty litigation – a submission has been made to the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet and is currently being assessed by departmental staff.

Note 2: Events after the Reporting Period

There are no subsequent events that had the potential to significantly affect the ongoing structure and Financial Activities of the entity.

Note 3: Expenses

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 3A: Employee Benefits		
Wages and salaries	17,574	17,250
Superannuation:		
Defined contribution plans	2,119	1,990
Leave and other entitlements	1,158	1,012
Total employee benefits	20,851	20,252
Note 3B: Suppliers		
Goods and services supplied or rendered		
Consultants	2,508	2,515
Stationery	367	373
Travel	4,198	4,429
Vehicle Expenses	2,008	2,081
Office Accommodation	940	868
IT/Communications	1,379	1,260
Payment to Grant Partners	739	1,682
Other	2,980	4,223
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	15,119	17,431
Goods and services in connection with:		
Provision of goods – external parties	5,328	6,754
Rendering of services – external parties	9,791	10,677
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	15,119	17,431
Other suppliers		
Operating lease rentals in connection with		
Related parties		
Minimum lease payments	-	-
External parties		
Minimum lease payments	1,851	1,784
Workers compensation expenses	438	346
Total other suppliers	2,289	2,130
Total suppliers	17,408	19,561

Note 3: Expenses (cont'd)

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 3C: Depreciation and amortisation		
Depreciation:		
Property, plant and equipment	477	864
Buildings and leasehold	203	222
Total depreciation	680	1,086
Amortisation:		
Intangibles:		
Computer Software	-	271
Total amortisation	-	271
Total depreciation and amortisation	680	1,357
Note 3D: Write-Down and Impairment of Assets		
Impairment on Financial Instruments	434	708
Impairment of Property, plant and equipment	-	33
Total write-down and impairment of assets	434	741
Note 3E: Loss on disposal of Assets		
Intangibles		
Proceeds from sale	-	-
Carrying value of assets disposed	-	273
Total loss from assets sales	-	273
Note 3F: Other Expenses		
Distribution of old S64(1) Funding - related entities	4,287	6,596
Total Other Expenses	4,287	6,596

Note 4: Own-Source Income

OWN-SOURCE REVENUE	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 4A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services		
Rendering of services in connection with		
Related entities	179	559
External parties	4,214	3,560
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	4,393	4,119
Note 4B: Interest		
Deposits	163	631
Total interest	163	631
GAINS		
Note 4C: Gains from Sale of Assets		
Infrastructure, plant and equipment		
Proceeds from sale	377	44
Carrying value of assets sold	(67)	(34)
Total gain from sale of assets	310	10
Note 4D: Reversals of Previous Asset write-downs and Impairments		
Reversal of Impairment losses	410	234
Total Reversals of previous asset write-downs and impairments	410	234
REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT		
Note 4E: Revenue from Government		
Native Title Program	4,499	3,666
Revenue from ABA S64 (4)	-	870
Others	500	472
Total	4,999	5,008

Note 4: Own-Source Income (cont'd)

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 4F: ABA S64 (1)		
DPMC - Revenue from ABA S64 (1)	17,569	18,597
	17,569	18,597
Note 4G: Revenue from Government-Special Purpose Grants		
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet	5,566	3,405
Indigenous Land Corporation	1,160	1,749
Department of Defence	168	153
Department of Resource NT	-	200
Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries	180	-
Department of Land Resource Management	1,425	-
Others	526	1,313
	9,025	6,820

Note 5: Income tax expense (Competitive neutrality)

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

Note 6: Fair Value Measurements

The following tables provide an analysis of assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value

The different levels of fair value hierarchy are defined below.

Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at measurement date

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly

Level 3: Unobservable inputs for the asset or liability

Note 6A: Fair Value Measurements

Fair value measurement at the end of the reporting period by hierarchy for assets and liabilities in 2014

	Fair value \$'000	Fair value measurements at the end of the reporting period using		
		Level 1 inputs \$'000	Level 2 inputs \$'000	Level 3 inputs \$'000
Non-financial assets				
Land	200	-	200	-
Buildings	2,060	-	2,060	-
Leasehold improvements	1,157	-	1,157	-
Property, plant and equipment	3,694	-	3,694	-
Total non-financial assets	7,111	-	7,111	-
Total fair value measurements in the statement of financial position	7,111	-	7,111	-

Fair value measurements - highest and best use differs from current use of non-financial assets (NFA's)

The highest and best use of all non-financial assets are the same as their current use.

Note 6B: Valuation Technique and Inputs for Level 2 and Level 3 Fair Value Measurements

Level 2 and 3 fair value measurements - valuation technique and the inputs used for assets and liabilities in 2014

	Category (Level 2 or Level 3)	Fair value \$'000	Valuation technique ¹	Inputs Used	Range (weighted average) ²
Non-financial assets					
Land	Level 2	200	Market comparables	Observable prices or recent market transactions	NA
Buildings	Level 2	2,060	Market comparables	Observable prices or recent market transactions	NA
Leasehold improvements	Level 2	1,157	Market comparables	Observable prices or recent market transactions	NA
Property, plant and equipment	Level 2	3,694	Market comparables	Observable prices or recent market transactions	NA

1. No change in valuation technique occurred during the period

2. Significant unobservable inputs only. Not applicable for assets or liabilities in the Level 2 category.

Note 7: Financial Assets

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 7A: Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	2,545	4,577
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,545	4,577
Note 7B: Trade and other receivables		
Goods and Services receivables in connection with:		
External parties	1,641	2,153
Total goods and services receivable	1,641	2,153
Grant receivables		
Grant receivables	641	2,977
ABA S64(1) Release	-	1,552
Total Grant receivables	641	4,529
Total Trade Receivables	2,282	6,682
Other receivables		
GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	407	1,078
Total other receivables	407	1,078
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	2,689	7,760
Less impairment allowance		
Goods and services	(1,143)	(1,118)
Total impairment allowance	(1,143)	(1,118)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	1,546	6,642
Trade and other receivable are expected to be recovered in:		
No more than 12 months	1,546	6,642
More than 12 months	-	-
Total trade and other receivables (net)	1,546	6,642
Receivables are aged as follows:		
Not overdue	980	5,742
Overdue by:		
0 to 30 days	234	408
31 to 60 days	9	1
61 to 90 days	168	212
More than 90 days	1,298	1,397
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	2,689	7,760
Impairment allowance aged as follows:		
Not overdue	-	-
Overdue by:		
0 to 30 days	-	-
31 to 60 days	-	-
61 to 90 days	-	-
More than 90 days	(1,143)	(1,118)
Total impairment allowance	(1,143)	(1,118)

Note 7: Financial Assets (cont'd)

Note 7B: Trade and other receivables (cont'd)

Reconciliation of the impairment allowance:

	Goods and services	Other receivables (GST)	Total
	2014	2014	2014
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Movements in relation to 2014			
Opening balance	1,118	-	1,118
Amounts written off	-	-	-
Amounts recovered and reversed	(410)	-	(410)
Increase/(decrease) recognised in cost of services	434	-	434
Closing balance	1,142	-	1,142
	Goods and services	Other receivables (GST)	Total
	2013	2013	2013
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Movements in relation to 2013			
Opening balance	645	271	916
Amounts written off	(1)	(271)	(272)
Amounts recovered and reversed	(234)	-	(234)
Increase/(decrease) recognised in cost of services	708	-	708
Closing balance	1,118	-	1,118

Note 8: Non-Financial Assets

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 8A: Land and buildings		
Land at fair value	200	182
Total Land	200	182
Buildings on leasehold land:		
– fair value	2,060	1,944
– accumulated depreciation	-	(22)
Total buildings on leasehold land	2,060	1,922
Leasehold improvements		
– fair value	1,157	2,084
– accumulated depreciation	-	(979)
Total leasehold improvements	1,157	1,105
Total land and buildings	3,417	3,209

Revaluations of non-financial assets

All revaluations are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1. On 30 June 2014, an independent valuer conducted the revaluations.

No indicators of impairment were found for land and buildings and leasehold improvements.

No land, buildings or leasehold improvements are expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Note 8B: Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment:		
– fair value	3,694	1,062
– accumulated depreciation	-	-
Total Property, plant and equipment	3,694	1,062

Revaluations of non-financial assets

All revaluations are conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 1. On 30 June 2014, an independent valuer conducted the revaluations.

No indicators of impairment were found for property, plant and equipment.

No property, plant and equipment is expected to be sold or disposed of within the next 12 months.

Note 8: Non-Financial Assets

Note 8C: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balance of property, plant and equipment for 2014

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Leasehold Improvements \$'000	Other PP & E \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2013					
Gross book value	182	1,944	2,084	1,062	5,272
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(22)	(979)	-	(1,001)
Total as at 1 July 2013	182	1,922	1,105	1,062	4,271
Additions by purchase	-	-	40	1,618	1,658
Revaluation and Impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	18	203	150	1,558	1,929
Depreciation	-	(65)	(138)	(477)	(680)
Disposals - other	-	-	-	(67)	(67)
Total as at 30 June 2014	200	2,060	1,157	3,694	7,111
Total as at 30 June 2014 represented by:					
Gross book value	200	2,060	1,157	3,694	7,111
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Total as at 30 June 2014 represented by:	200	2,060	1,157	3,694	7,111

Note 8: Non-Financial Assets

Note 8C: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balance of property, plant and equipment for 2013

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Leasehold Improvements \$'000	Other PP & E \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2012					
Gross book value	272	2,079	1,885	7,195	11,431
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(129)	(831)	(5,535)	(6,495)
Total as at 1 July 2012	272	1,950	1,054	1,660	4,936
Additions by purchase	-	227	199	284	710
Revaluation and Impairments recognised in other comprehensive income	(57)	(180)		16	(221)
Impairment recognised in net cost of services	(33)				(33)
Depreciation Expenses		(74)	(148)	(864)	(1,086)
Disposals				(34)	(34)
Total as at 30 June 2013	182	1,923	1,105	1,062	4,272
Total as at 30 June 2013 represented by:					
Gross book value	182	1,944	2,084	1,063	5,273
Accumulated depreciation	-	(22)	(979)	-	(1,001)
	182	1,922	1,105	1,063	4,272

Note 8D: Other Non-Financial assets

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Other	5	4
Prepayments	87	135
Total other non-financial assets	92	139

Note 9: Payables

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 9A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors and accruals	2,997	2,829
Total suppliers	2,997	2,829
Suppliers expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	2,997	2,829
More than 12 months	-	-
Total suppliers	2,997	2,829
Suppliers in connection with		
External parties	2,997	2,829
Related entities	-	-
Total suppliers	2,997	2,829
Settlement was usually made within 30 days.		
Note 9B: Other Payables		
Salaries and wages	537	599
Superannuation	280	347
Other	343	451
Total other payables	1,160	1,397
Total other payables expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	1,160	1,397
Total other payables	1,160	1,397

Note 10: Provisions

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 10: Employee provisions		
Leave	3,862	3,266
Total employee provisions	3,862	3,266
Employee provisions expected to be settled		
No more than 12 months	2,880	2,495
More than 12 months	982	771
Total employee provisions	3,862	3,266

Note 11: Cash flow reconciliation

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per Statement of Financial Position to Cash Flow Statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per:		
Cash Flow Statement	2,545	4,577
Statement of financial position	2,545	4,577
Discrepancy	-	-
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from/(used by) operating activities:		
Net cost of services	(38,384)	(43,786)
Revenue from Government	31,594	30,425
Adjustments for non-cash items		
Depreciation /amortisation	680	1,357
(Gain) / Loss on disposal of assets	(310)	263
Impairment of PPE	-	33
Movements in assets and liabilities		
Assets		
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	4,424	(2,506)
(Increase) / decrease in GST receivables	671	(1,105)
(Increase) / decrease in other assets	47	(122)
Liabilities		
Increase / (decrease) in other payables	(237)	779
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	596	209
Increase / (decrease) in supplier payables	169	269
Net cash from operating activities	(751)	(14,184)

Note 12: Contingent Assets and Liabilities

	Claims for damages or costs	
	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Contingent Liabilities		
Balance from previous period	208	208
New contingent liabilities recognised	160	-
Liability expired	(208)	-
Total contingent liabilities	160	208

Quantifiable Contingencies

The schedule of contingencies contains \$160,000 of contingent liabilities disclosed in respect to claims for damages/costs (2013: \$208,000). The amount represents an estimate of the Northern Land Council's liability based on precedent cases. The Council is defending the claims.

The nature of decisions of the Northern Land Council mean that at times the decisions are subject to dispute and judicial review. Specific information about legal matters is not disclosed where the information would be prejudicial to the Land Council.

Note 13: Directors Remuneration

Note 13A: Non-executive directors remuneration

	2014 No.	2013 No.
\$0 to \$29,999	13	7
\$60,000 to \$89,999	1	1
\$90,000 to \$119,999	1	1
Total number of non-executive directors	15	9
	\$	\$
Total remuneration received or due and receivable by non-executive directors of the entity	349,544	359,013

Remuneration of executive directors is included in Note 15: Senior-Executive Remuneration.

Note 14: Related Party Disclosures

The Council Executive Members who held office during the year ended 30 June 2014 were:

Samuel Bush-Blanasi	Chairperson
John Daly Deputy	Chairperson
Helen Lee	Executive
Bill Risk	Executive
John Christopherson	Executive
Raymond Hector	Executive
Leonard Norman	Executive
Virginia Nundhirribala	Executive
David Djalangi	Executive
Wali Wunungmurra	Chairperson
Samuel Bush-Blanasi	Deputy Chairperson
Dhuwarrwarr Marika	Executive
Peter Lansen	Executive
Jeffrey Dixon	Executive
Bunug Galaminda	Executive
George King	Executive

Full Council elections were held in November 2013. The elections are held every three years to elect a new Full Council and Executive Council. The next call for nominations will be held in November 2016.

There were no loans made to directors or other transactions with Directors or Director - Related Entities during the year.

Note 15: Senior Executive Remuneration

Note 15A: Senior Executive Remuneration Expenses for the Reporting Period

	2014 \$	2013 \$
Short-term employee benefits		
Salary	731,476	831,324
Total short-term employee benefits	731,476	831,324
Post-employment benefits		
Superannuation	95,358	106,192
Total post-employment benefits	95,358	106,192
Other long-term employee benefits		
Annual Leave Accrued	31,525	8,590
Long-service leave	23,078	(3,399)
Total other long-term employee benefits	54,603	5,191
Total senior executive remuneration expenses	881,437	942,707

Notes:

- Note 15A was prepared on an accrual basis.
- Note 15A excludes acting arrangements and part-year service where remuneration expensed as a senior executive was less than \$195,000.

Note 15: Senior Executive Remuneration (cont'd)

Note 15B: Average Annual Reportable Remuneration Paid to Substantive Senior Executives during the Reporting Period

Average annual reportable remuneration paid to substantive senior executives in 2014

Average annual reportable remuneration ¹	Substantive Senior Executives No.	Reportable Salary ² \$	Contributed Super ³ \$	Reportable Allowances ⁴ \$	Bonus paid ⁵ \$	Total reportable remuneration \$
Total reportable remuneration (including part-time arrangements):						
Less than \$195,000	3	145,479	16,849	-	-	162,328
\$195,000 - \$224,999	1	177,529	31,862	-	-	209,391
Total number of substantive senior executives	4					

Average annual reportable remuneration paid to substantive senior executives in 2013

Average annual reportable remuneration ¹	Substantive Senior Executives No.	Reportable Salary ² \$	Contributed Super ³ \$	Reportable Allowances ⁴ \$	Bonus paid ⁵ \$	Total reportable remuneration \$
Total reportable remuneration (including part-time arrangements):						
Less than \$195,000	4	125,984	18,489	-	-	144,473
\$195,000 - \$224,999	1	180,893	20,869	-	-	201,762
\$325,000 - \$354,999	1	313,401	35,622	1,102	-	350,125
Total number of substantive senior executives	6					

Notes:

- This table reports on substantive senior executives who received remuneration during the reporting period. Each row is an averaged figure based on headcount for individuals in the band.
- 'Reportable salary' includes the following:
 - Gross payments (less any bonus paid, which are separated out and disclosed in the 'bonus paid' column);
 - Reportable fringe benefits (at the net amount prior to 'grossing up' to account for tax benefits); and
 - Reportable employer superannuation contribution; and
 - Exempt foreign employment income
- The 'contributed superannuation' amount is the average cost to the entity for the provision of superannuation benefit to substantive senior executives in that reportable remuneration band during the reporting period.
- 'Reportable allowances' are the average actual allowances paid as per the 'total allowances' line on individuals' payment summaries.
- 'Bonus paid' represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period in that reportable remuneration band. The 'bonus paid' within a particular band may vary between financial years due to various factors such as individuals commencing with or leaving the council during the financial year.

Note 15: Senior Executive Remuneration (cont'd)

Note 15C: Average Annual Reportable Remuneration Paid to Other Highly Paid Staff during the Reporting Period

Average annual reportable remuneration paid to other highly paid staff in 2014

Average annual reportable remuneration ¹	Other highly paid staff No.	Reportable Salary ² \$	Contributed Super ³ \$	Reportable Allowances ⁴ \$	Bonus paid ⁵ \$	Total reportable remuneration \$
Total reportable remuneration (including part-time arrangements):						
\$195,000 - \$224,999	2	190,119	21,282	-	-	211,401
Total number of other highly paid staff	2					

There were no other highly paid staff in 2013

Notes:

1. This table reports staff:
 - a) who were employed by the Northern Land Council during the reporting period;
 - b) whose reportable remuneration was \$195,000 or more for the reporting period; and
 - c) were not required to be disclosed in Table B or director disclosures.
 Each row is an averaged figure based on headcount for the individuals in the band
2. 'Reportable salary' includes the following:
 - a) Gross payments (less any bonuses paid, which are separated out and disclosed in the 'bonus paid' column);
 - b) Reportable fringe benefits (at the net amount prior to 'grossing up' for tax purposes);
 - c) Reportable employer superannuation contributions; and
 - d) Exempt foreign employment income.
3. The 'contributed superannuation' amount is the average cost to the Northern Land Council for the provision of superannuation benefits to other highly paid staff in that reportable remuneration band during the reporting period.
4. 'Reportable allowances' are the average actual allowances paid as per the 'total allowances' line on individuals' payment summaries.
5. 'Bonus paid' represents average actual bonuses paid during the reporting period in that reportable remuneration band. The 'bonus paid' within a particular band may vary between financial years due to various factors such as individuals commencing with or leaving the council during the financial year.

Note 16: Remuneration of Auditors

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Remuneration to auditors for the reporting period are as follows:		
Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) - Statutory audit	63	62
Merit Partners - Grant Audits	12	23
	75	85

The audit fees above report the costs associated with auditing each financial year.

No other services were provided by the Australian National Audit Office.

Note 17: Financial Instruments

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
17A Categories of financial instruments		
Financial Assets		
Loans and receivables		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,545	4,577
Trade and Other Receivables	1,139	5,564
Total Loan and Receivables	3,684	10,141
Total financial assets	3,684	10,141
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Suppliers	2,997	2,829
Other payables	1,160	1,397
Total financial liabilities at amortised cost	4,157	4,226
Total financial liabilities	4,157	4,226
17B Net gain or losses on financial assets		
Loans and receivables		
Interest revenue	163	631
Net gain/(losses) on loans and receivables	163	631

16C Fair value of financial instruments

The carrying amount of the financial assets and liabilities is a reasonable approximation of fair value due to their short term nature.

Note 17: Financial Instruments (cont'd)

17D Credit risk

The Council is exposed to minimal credit risk as loans and receivables are cash and trade receivables. The maximum exposure to credit risk was the risk that arises from potential default of a debtor. This amount was equal to the total amount of trade receivables (2014: \$2,688,558 and 2013: \$7,760,097). The council has assessed the risk of the default on payment and had allocated \$1,143,215 in 2014 (2013: \$1,118,677) to an impairment allowance account.

The Council only trades with recognised, creditworthy third parties. Exposure to credit risk is monitored by management on an ongoing basis. The Council holds no collateral to mitigate against credit risk.

Credit quality of financial instruments not past due or individually determined as impaired

	Not Past Due Nor Impaired 2014 \$'000	Not Past Due Nor Impaired 0 \$'000	Past due or impaired 2014 \$'000	Past due or impaired 2013 \$'000
Cash and cash equivalents	2,545	4,577	-	-
Receivables for good and services	573	4,664	1,709	2,018
Total	3,119	9,241	1,709	2,018

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2014

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+ days \$'000	Total \$'000
Receivables for good and services	234	9	168	155	565
Total	234	9	168	155	565

Ageing of financial assets that were past due but not impaired for 2013

	0 to 30 days \$'000	31 to 60 days \$'000	61 to 90 days \$'000	90+ days \$'000	Total \$'000
Receivables for good and services	408	1	212	279	900
Total	408	1	212	279	900

Note 17: Financial Instruments (cont'd)

17E Liquidity risk

The Northern Land Council's financial liabilities were payables. The exposure to liquidity risk was based on the notion that the Northern Land Council will encounter difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with financial liabilities. This is highly unlikely due to grants and government funding available to the council and internal policies and procedures put in place to ensure there were appropriate resources to meet its financial obligations.

The Council had no derivative financial liabilities in either the current or prior year.

Maturities for non-derivative financial liabilities

	2014 with in 1 year \$'000	2013 with in 1 year 2014
Trade creditors	2,997	2,829
Other payables	1,160	1,397

17F Market Risk

The Council held basic financial instruments that did not expose the Council to certain market risks, such as 'Currency risk' and 'Other price risk'.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in interest rates. The Council is exposed to interest rate risk primarily from cash at bank and short term deposits. The Council manages its interest rate risk by maintaining floating rate cash.

17G: Financial Assets Reconciliation

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Total financial assets as per statement of financial position		4,091	11,219
Less: Non-financial instrument components			
Other Receivables	7B	407	1,078
Total non-financial instrument components		407	1,078
Total financial assets as per financial instruments note		3,685	10,141

Note 18 : Royalty Assets Held in Trust

Monetary Assets

The Northern Land Council maintains a Royalty Trust Account. Monies received on behalf of Associations of Aboriginal people and individuals, in accordance with Section 35 of the Aboriginal Land Rights(NT) Act [ALR(NT) Act], are held in the royalty trust account, and are distributed in accordance with the requirements of the ALR(NT) Act. These monies are not available for other purposes of the Northern Land Council, and are not recognised in the financial statement.

Non-monetary Assets

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

Royalty Trust Account - Monetary Asset

	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000
Total amount held at the beginning of the reporting period	57,025	20,237
Add		
RECEIPTS		
ABA Section 64 (3) Royalty Equivalents	7,666	6,783
Section 15, 16 & 19	8,347	38,500
Section 42, 43 and 44 mining Exploration	21,063	18,542
Section 12 Park Lease, Entry and Camping Fees	2,633	2,582
Native Title	1,340	3,478
Other	(218)	(10)
Interest Received less Fees & Charges	1,247	878
Total Receipts	42,078	70,752
Less:		
PAYMENTS		
Royalties Distribution Payments	-	33,964
ABA Section 64 (3) Royalty Equivalents	8,352	-
Section 15, 16 & 19	29,754	-
Section 42, 43 and 44 mining Exploration	20,614	-
Section 12 Park Lease, Entry and Camping Fees	1,905	-
Native Title	1,064	-
	61,688	33,964
Total amount held at the end of the reporting period	37,415	57,025

The reporting requirements of the ALR(NT) Act 1976 are detailed in section 37 (3) - (5), and refer to the application of monies received by the Northern Land Council under various sections of the Act, in particular under sub-section 64(3).

Note 18 : Royalty Assets Held in Trust (cont'd)

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Receipts under section 64(3), as referred in section 35(3):		
Opening balance	666	941
Funds received	7,666	6,783
<i>Funds distributed to the following associations:</i>		
Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation	(3,158)	(2,085)
Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation Incorporated	(978)	(642)
Laynhapuy Homelands Association Incorporated	(733)	(738)
Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation	(2,701)	(3,593)
Guyanggan Aboriginal Corp	(763)	-
Funds awaiting distribution	-	(666)
Closing balance	-	-

Note 19: Aboriginals Benefit Account Appropriations

Note 19A: Aboriginals Benefit Account Appropriations

	ABA Approved Estimates 2013/2014	ABA Actual 2013/2014	ABA Variance 2013/2014
	\$000's	\$000's	\$000's
Surplus/(Deficit) as at 30 June 2013		(1,868)	
Balance carried forward	853	853	
Income			
ABA			
S64(1)	17,569	17,569	100%
Total ABA income	17,569	17,569	100%
Other			
Recoveries	1,780	2,769	156%
Other Activity Generated Income	-	264	0%
Interest	80	43	54%
Sale of Equipment	257	341	133%
Total Other	2,117	3,417	161%
Total Income	20,539	20,986	102%
Expenditure			
Salaries	10,940	11,552	106%
Operating	8,358	10,908	131%
Capital	1,241	1,247	101%
Total expenditure	20,539	23,707	115%
ABA surplus/(deficit) for the year		(2,721)	
ABA surplus/(deficit) as at 30 June 2014		(3,736)	

Note 19B: ABA Special Purpose Grant: Funeral and Ceremonial Activities

	2010/11 Actual \$	2011/12 Actual \$	2012/13 Actual \$	2013/14 Actual \$	Total Actual \$
Income					
Aboriginals Benefit Account	-	500,000	500,000	500,000	1,500,000
Recoveries	1,231	-	2,980	-	4,211
Total Income	1,231	500,000	502,980	500,000	1,504,211
Expenditure					
Borrooloola/Barkly Region	5,126	40,933	64,429	26,295	136,783
Darwin/Daly Region	16,039	131,425	212,689	110,203	470,356
Jabiru Region	15,304	118,418	182,395	82,057	398,174
Katherine Region	19,542	97,477	80,050	65,739	262,807
Ngukurr Region	7,964	45,551	29,091	44,477	127,083
Nhulunbuy Region	16,443	154,743	135,477	77,804	384,468
Tennant Creek	2,054	13,325	33,747	11,826	60,953
Timber Creek (VRD) Region	6,706	28,932	33,962	14,545	84,145
Administration	77	1,833	3,653	(1,682)	3,881
Total Expenditure	89,255	632,637	775,493	431,265	1,928,650
Commitments -					
Surplus (Deficit)	(88,024)	(132,637)	(272,513)	68,735	(424,439)

Note 19C: ABA Top End Land and Sea Management Program - S64

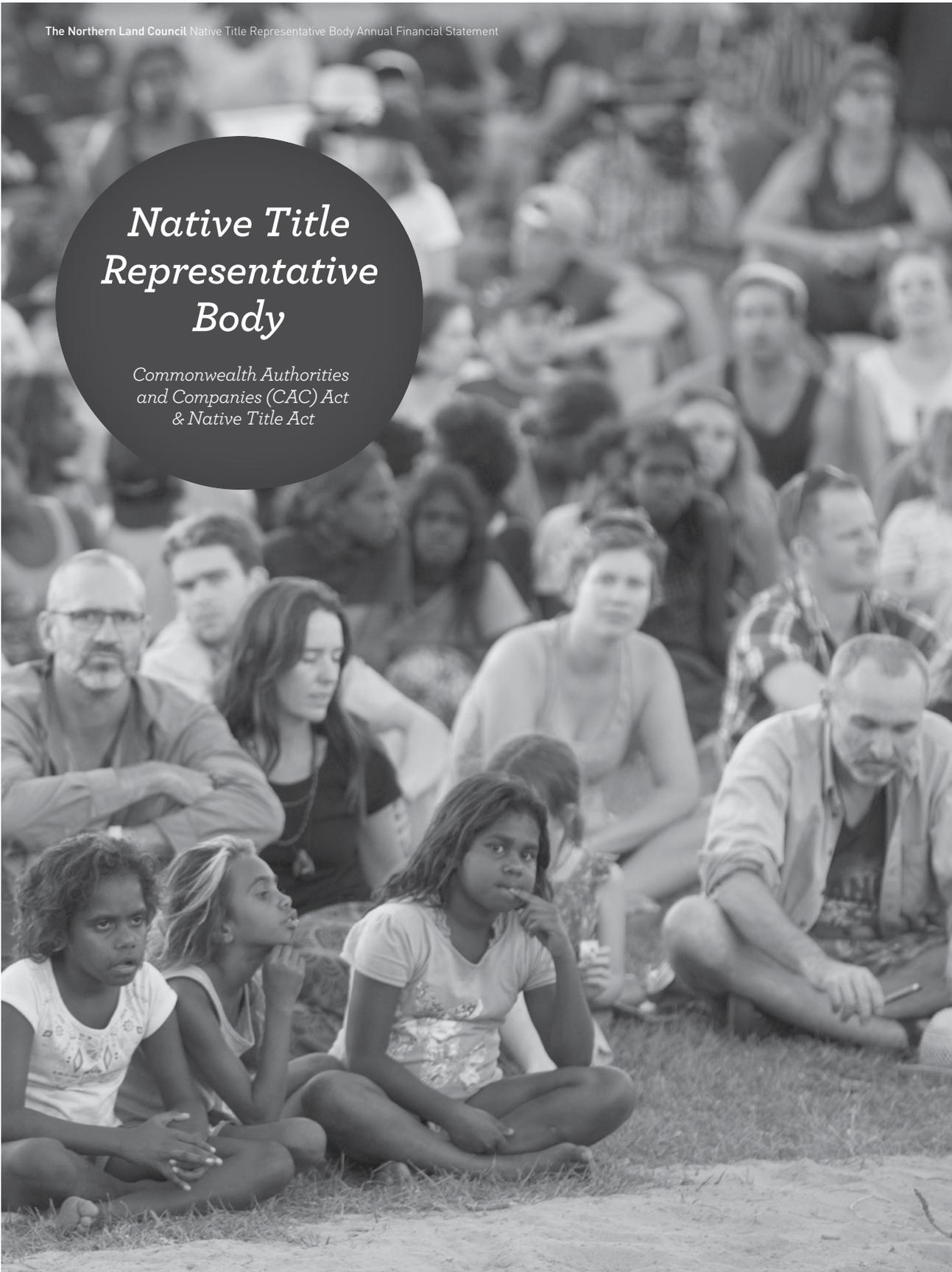
	Approved Budget		2009/2010 Actual \$	2010/2011 Actual \$	2011/2012 Actual \$	2012/2013 Actual \$	2013/2014 Actual \$	Total Actual \$
	Operating \$	Capital \$						
Income								
Income	3,565,584	2,995,416	2,278,812	1,286,772	-	870,000	-	4,435,584
Recoveries	-	-	-	6,600	37,270	-	-	43,870
Total Income	3,565,584	2,995,416	2,278,812	1,293,372	37,270	870,000	-	4,479,454
Expenditure								
Acacia Larrakia Ranger Group	123,760	-	45,425	49,571	21,153	-	-	116,149
Adjumarlart Ranger Group	113,010	-	17,376	55,656	39,851	-	-	112,883
SE Arafura/Gurrwiling Ranger Group	300,000	-	50,877	141,455	16,306	-	-	208,637
Asyrikarrak Kirim Ranger Group	107,360	-	44,165	42,881	72,282	-	-	159,328
Warramunburr Ranger Group	61,865	-	984	57,709	706	-	-	59,400
Bulgul Ranger Group	176,735	-	70,282	50,259	43,200	-	-	163,741
Garawa & Waanyi Ranger Group	195,365	-	62,374	113,846	65,109	-	-	241,329
Garrngi Ranger Group	173,675	-	58,638	43,463	34,032	-	-	136,133
Malak Malak Ranger Group	105,264	-	53,949	13,735	15,618	-	-	83,302
Mardbalk Ranger Group	210,395	-	150,050	31,916	17,443	-	-	199,409
Gumurr Marthakal Ranger Group	234,645	-	161,536	30,225	-	-	-	191,761
Mimal Ranger Group	147,045	-	34,944	59,590	63,569	-	-	158,103
Numbulwar Ranger Group	149,790	-	2,461	19,186	2,3137	-	-	44,784
Timber Creek Ranger Group	122,200	-	25,885	56,723	34,438	-	-	117,045
Wagiman Guwardagun Ranger Group	214,755	-	89,875	50,748	25,264	-	-	165,887
Wanga Djakamirr Ranger Group	121,585	-	46,652	22,667	50,246	-	-	119,566
Weret Ranger Group	76,838	-	51,292	20,897	1,118	-	-	73,308
Wudcupildiyerr Ranger Group	180,260	-	50,973	47,946	29,905	-	-	128,824
Yugal Mangi Ranger Group	272,313	-	113,062	98,994	66,357	-	-	278,414
Infrastructure Budget	-	2,995,416	-	-	422,018	-	-	422,018
Kenbi (Belyuen)	100,000	-	-	-	18,168	275,954	73,107	367,228
Bagala	200,000	-	-	-	124,803	-	-	124,803
Administration/Project Mgmt - NLC	178,724	-	20,809	172,546	491,146	-	-	684,501
Total Expenditure	3,565,584	2,995,416	1,151,608	1,180,013	1,675,870	275,954	73,107	4,356,553
Commitments								
Surplus (Deficit)	-	-	1,127,204	113,359	(1,638,600)	594,046	(73,107)	122,901

Note 19D: ABA - Construct a Cultural Display Tjuwaliyn (Douglas) Hot Springs

	2012/2013 Actual \$	2013/2014 Actual \$	Total Actual \$
Income			
Income	10,000	35,000	45,000
Total Income	10,000	35,000	45,000
Expenditure			
Motor Vehicle Expenses	-	273	273
Audit & Acct. Fees	800	-	800
Consultants Other	7,000	-	7,000
Total Expenditure	7,800	273	8,073
Surplus (Deficit)	2,200	34,727	36,927

Native Title Representative Body

*Commonwealth Authorities
and Companies (CAC) Act
& Native Title Act*





INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Northern Land Council – Native Title Representative Body for the year ended 30 June 2014, which comprise: a Statement by the Directors, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer; the Statement of Comprehensive Income; Statement of Financial Position; Statement of Changes in Equity; Cash Flow Statement; Schedule of Commitments; Schedule of Contingencies; and Notes comprising a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory information.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The directors of the Northern Land Council – Native Title Representative Body are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I have conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Northern Land Council – Native Title Representative Body's preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view 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 Northern Land Council – Native Title Representative Body's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate the requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Northern Land Council – Native Title Representative Body:

- (a) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, including the Australian Accounting Standards; and
- (b) give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders including Northern Land Council – Native Title Representative Body's financial position as at 30 June 2014 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office



Ron Wah
Audit Principal

Delegate of the Auditor General

Canberra
12 January 2015

Northern Land Council Native Title Representative Body 2013/2014 Annual Financial Report

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies (CAC) Act & Native Title Act

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NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL - NATIVE TITLE REPRESENTATIVE BODY STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTORS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Northern Land Council (NLC) is a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) as prescribed in the Native Title Act 1993 and a land council under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976. Since being recognised as an NTRB, the NLC has performed the functions of the NTRB in association with other NLC functions.

While separate books and records are not maintained by the NLC for the NTRB, the revenue and expenditure is recorded as separate cost centres within the NLC financial books and records for the current year and assets and liabilities have been able to be separately identified as detailed in note 1.

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2014 are based on properly maintained financial records accurately extracted from the NLC financial information and give a true and fair view of the matters required by the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* as amended.

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

This Statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

Signed: 

Samuel Bush-Blanasi
Chairperson

Signed: 

John Daly
Deputy Chairperson

Signed: 

Joe Morrison
Chief Executive Officer

Signed: 

Steven Lawrence
Acting General Manager Corporate Compliance

10 January 2015

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the period ended 30 June 2014

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES			
EXPENSES			
Employee benefits	3A	3,243	2,809
Suppliers	3B	2,333	2,397
Write down and impairment of assets	3C	167	329
Total Expenses		5,743	5,535
OWN-SOURCE INCOME			
Own-source revenue			
Sale of goods and rendering of services	4A	1,125	1,308
Interest	4B	19	49
Total own-source revenue		1,144	1,357
Gains			
Reversal of previous asset write downs and impairments	4D	393	-
Total gains		393	-
Total own source income		1,537	1,357
Net cost of services		4,206	4,178
Revenue from Government	4C	4,499	3,666
Surplus/(Deficit) attributable to the Australian Government		293	(512)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Total other comprehensive income (loss)	-	-	
Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to the Australian Government		293	(512)

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

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2014

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
ASSETS			
Financial Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5A	1,312	924
Trade and other receivables	5B	256	88
Total financial assets		1,568	1,012
Total Assets		1,568	1,012
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Inter-entity payable	6A	570	420
Other payable	6B	155	88
Total payables		725	508
Provisions			
Employee provisions	7A	451	405
Total provisions		451	405
Total Liabilities		1,176	913
Net Assets		392	99
EQUITY			
Retained surplus/(accumulated deficit)		392	99
Total Equity		392	99

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the period ended 30 June 2014

	Retained Earnings		Total Equity	
	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Opening balance				
Balance carried forward from previous period	99	611	99	611
Comprehensive Income				
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	293	(512)	293	(512)
Total comprehensive income	293	(512)	293	(512)
Closing Balance as at 30 June	392	99	392	99

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

CASH FLOW STATEMENT*for the period ended 30 June 2014*

	Notes	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Receipts from Government		4,949	4,033
Sales of goods and rendering of services		1,257	1,232
Interest		19	49
Total cash received		6,225	5,314
Cash used			
Employees		(3,154)	(2,663)
Suppliers		(2,331)	(2,696)
Net GST paid		(352)	(259)
Total cash used		(5,837)	(5,618)
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	8	388	(304)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held			
Cash and cash equivalent at the beginning of the reporting period		924	1,228
Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the reporting period	5A	1,312	924

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

SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS

as at 30 June 2014

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
BY TYPE		
Commitments Receivable		
Net GST recoverable on commitments	-	(26)
Total commitments receivable	-	(26)
Commitment Payable		
Other commitments		
Operational commitments	2	287
Total other commitments	2	287
Net commitments by type	2	261
BY MATURITY		
Commitments receivable		
Other commitments receivable		
Within 1 year	-	(26)
Total other commitments receivable	-	(26)
Commitments payable		
Other commitments		
Within 1 year	2	287
Total other commitments	2	287
Net Commitments by maturity	2	261

Note: Commitments are GST inclusive where relevant.

The nature of operational commitments are various goods & services ordered and not yet received.

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

SCHEDULE OF CONTINGENCIES

as at 30 June 2014

There are no contingent liabilities for the 2013/14 year. (No contingent liabilities in 2012/13).

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1.1 Overview

The Northern Land Council (NLC) is a Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) as prescribed in the *Native Title Amendment Act 1998* and a Land Council under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*. Since being recognised as an NTRB, the NLC has performed the functions of the NTRB in association with other NLC functions. The NLC has reporting requirements specified in the *Native Title Amendment Act 1998*, Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 (schedule 1) and Finance Minister's Orders. It is a not-for-profit entity.

The NTRB is dependent on the continued release of these funds for its continued existence and ability to carry out its normal activities. The funding conditions of the NTRB are laid down by the Native Title Act, and any special purpose grant guidelines. Accounting for monies received from the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet (PMC) is subject to conditions approved by the Land Rights Branch.

1.2 Basis of Preparation of the Financial Statements

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements and are required by clause 1 (b) of schedule 1 to the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997 and Section 203DC (4) of the *Native Title Amendment Act 1998*.

The statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- » Finance Minister's Orders (FMO's) for reporting periods ending on or after 1 July 2011
- » Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The NLC has prepared the statement of comprehensive income, statement of financial position and cash flow statement applicable to the NTRB operation and function. All NTRB account balances have been identified from within the NLC financial information system and accurately extracted from the NLC accounts, representing the completeness and existence of all assets and liabilities of the NTRB. The NLC maintains an NTRB revenue and expenditure cost centre and the statement of comprehensive income is a complete and accurate record of NTRB revenue and expenditure.

The NTRB 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 prices on the results or the financial position.

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 FMO's, assets and liabilities are recognised in the NTRB statement of financial position when and only when it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity 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 executor contracts are not recognised unless required by an accounting standard. Liabilities and assets that are unrecognised are reported in the schedule of commitments and the schedule of contingencies.

Unless alternative treatment is specifically required by an accounting standard, income and expenses are recognised in the NTRB statement of Comprehensive Income when and only when the flow, consumption or loss of economic benefits has occurred and can be reliably measured.

1.3 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

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

1.4 New Accounting Standards

Adoption of New Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard.

New standards, revised standards, interpretations, amending statements that were issued prior to the sign-off date and are applicable to the current reporting period did not have a financial impact, are not expected to have a future financial impact on the Northern Land Council as a NTRB.

Future Australian Accounting Standard Requirements

New standards, revised standards, interpretations, amending standards that were issued prior to the sign-off date and are applicable to the future reporting period are not expected to have a future financial impact on the entity.

1.5 Revenue

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when:

- a) the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer;
- b) the Northern Land Council as an NTRB retains no managerial involvement or effective control over the goods;
- c) the revenue and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- d) it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the NTRB.

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date. The revenue is recognised when:

- a) the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured; and
- b) the probable economic benefits with the transaction will flow to the entity.

The stage of completion of contracts at the reporting date is determined by reference to the proportion that costs incurred to date bear to the estimated total costs of the transaction.

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.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method as set out in AASB 139 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*.

Revenues from Government

Funding received or receivable are recognised as Revenue from Government when the entity gains control of the appropriation, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it is earned.

1.6 Gains

Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as gains when, and only when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense.

Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as gains at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another Government entity as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements.

Sale of Assets

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

1.7 Employee Benefits

Liabilities for 'short-term employee benefits' (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) and termination benefits expected within twelve months of the end 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 provisions for annual leave and long service leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of the NTRB is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick 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 NTRB's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The estimate of the present value of the long service leave liability takes into attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and Redundancy

Provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. The NTRB recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

Superannuation

The majority of NTRB's staff are members of the MLC Superannuation Scheme and MLC Limited plan for casual employees. The NLC/NTRB complies with the requirements of the superannuation choice legislation. All superannuation contributions are to defined contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions for the final fortnight of the year.

1.8 Leases

A distinction is made between finance leases and operating leases. Finance leases effectively transfer from the lessor to the lessee substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of leased assets. An operating lease is a lease that is not a finance lease. In operating leases, the lessor effectively retains substantially all such risks and benefits.

Operating lease payments are expensed on a straight-line basis which is representative of the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

1.9 Cash

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

- a) cash on hand; and
- b) demand deposits in bank accounts with an original maturity of 3 months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

NTRB cash is received into the NTRB bank account. All payments are made from the NLC operating account. On a regular basis the funds are transferred from the NTRB bank account to the NLC operating account for the value of payments on behalf of the NTRB.

1.10 Financial Assets

The NTRB classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- a) 'loans and receivables'.

The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised and derecognised upon trade date.

Loans and Receivables

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'loans and receivables'. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Interest is recognised by applying the effective interest rate.

Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at each reporting period.

Financial assets held at amortised cost - if there is objective evidence that an impairment loss has been incurred for loans and receivables or held to maturity investments held at amortised cost, the amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. The carrying amount is reduced by way of an allowance account. The loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

1.11 Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities.

Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

Other financial liabilities

Other 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 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.

Supplier 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).

1.12 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are reported in the relevant schedules and 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.

1.13 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 transferor's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

1.14 Property (Land, Buildings and Infrastructure), Plant and Equipment

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the statement of financial position, except for purchases costing less than the capitalisation threshold, which are expensed in the year of acquisition. The capitalisation thresholds values are:

Furniture and equipment	\$5,000
Information technology (hardware)	\$5,000
Information technology (software)	\$5,000
Motor vehicles	\$10,000

Revaluations

Fair values for each class of asset are determined as shown below:

Asset Class	Fair value measurement
Other Property Plant and Equipment	Market selling price

Following initial recognition at cost, property plant and equipment were carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations were conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets did not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depended upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments were made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment was credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reversed a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets were recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reversed 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 devalued amount.

Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the NTRB using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual value 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:

	2014	2013
Furniture & equipment	3 - 5 years	3 - 5 years
Motor vehicles & other plant	3 - 5 years	3 - 5 years

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2014. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the NTRB were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

1.15 Intangibles

The NTRB's intangibles comprise internally developed software for internal use. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life. The useful life of NTRB's software is 3 years.

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2014.

1.16 Taxation / Competitive Neutrality

The NTRB 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 GST except:

- » where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office; and
- » for receivables and payables.

Competitive Neutrality

The NTRB does not provide any services on a for-profit basis. Under Competitive Neutrality arrangements, the NTRB is not required to make Australian Income Tax Equivalent payments to the Government.

Note 2: Events after the Reporting Period

There are no events that have occurred after reporting date that have been brought to account in the 2013/14 Financial Report.

Note 3: Expenses

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 3A: Employee Benefits		
Wages and salaries	2,748	2,356
Superannuation	319	256
Leave and other entitlements	176	197
Total employee benefits	3,243	2,809
Note 3B: Suppliers		
Goods and services		
Consultants	661	1,017
Stationery	20	33
Travel	892	617
Vehicle	257	156
Training	31	46
IT/Communications	89	89
Other	248	360
Total goods & services	2,198	2,318
Goods & services supplied in connection with:		
Provision of goods – external parties	499	316
Rendering of services – external parties	1,699	2,002
Total goods & services	2,198	2,318
Other suppliers		
Operating lease rentals:		
Minimum lease payments	71	69
Workers compensation expense	64	10
Total other supplier expenses	135	79
Total supplier expenses	2,333	2,397
Note 3C: Write-Down and Impairment of Assets		
Impairment on financial instruments	167	329
Total write-down and impairment of assets	167	329

Note 4: Income

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
OWN SOURCE REVENUE		
Note 4A: Sale of Goods and Rendering of Services		
Rendering of services - external parties	1,125	1,308
Total sale of goods and rendering of services	1,125	1,308
Note 4B: Interest		
Deposits	19	49
Total interest	19	49
REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT		
Note 4C: Revenue from Government		
Revenue from Government:		
Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet Grant	4,499	3,666
Total revenue from Government	4,499	3,666
Note 4D: Reversal of previous Asset write-downs and impairments		
Reversal of impairment losses	393	-
	393	

Note 5: Financial Assets

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 5A: Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash on deposit	1,312	924
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,312	924
Note 5B: Trade and Other Receivables		
Goods and Services		
Goods and services - external parties	429	487
Total receivables for goods and services	429	487
Less impairment allowance:		
Goods and services	(173)	(399)
Total impairment allowance	(173)	(399)
Total trade and other receivables (net)	256	88
Trade and other receivables (net) are expected to be recovered:		
No more than 12 months	256	88
More than 12 months	-	-
Total trade and other receivables (net)	256	88
Trade and other receivables (gross) are aged as follows:		
Not overdue	63	74
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	56	-
30 to 60 days	-	-
61 to 90 days	-	-
More than 90 days	310	413
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	429	487
Impairment allowance aged as follows:		
Not overdue	(7)	(61)
Overdue by:		
Less than 30 days	(57)	-
30 to 60 days	-	-
61 to 90 days	-	-
More than 90 days	(109)	(338)
Total impairment allowance	(173)	(399)

Note 5: Financial Assets (cont'd)

Note 5B: Trade and other receivables (cont'd)

Reconciliation of the Impairment Allowance:

Movements in relation to 2014

	Goods and services 2014 \$'000	Total 2014 \$'000
Opening balance	399	399
Amounts recovered and reversed	(393)	(393)
Impairment allowance	167	167
Closing balance	173	173

Movements in relation to 2013

	Goods and services 2013 \$'000	Total 2013 \$'000
Opening balance	70	70
Impairment allowance	329	329
Closing balance	399	399

Note 6: Payables

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 6A: Inter-entity Payable		
Payable to Northern Land Council	570	420
Note 6B: Other Payables		
Trade Payables	77	5
Salary and wages	74	53
Accruals	4	30
	155	88
Total payables	725	508
Inter-entity and other payables are expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	725	508
More than 12 months	-	-
Inter-entity and other payables	725	508
Payables in connection with		
Related parties	570	420
External parties	155	88
	725	508

Settlement was usually made within 30 days.

Note 7: Provisions

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 7A: Employee Provisions		
Annual leave	277	242
Long service leave	174	163
Other	-	-
Total employee provisions	451	405
Employee provisions are expected to be settled in:		
No more than 12 months	317	261
More than 12 months	134	144
Total employee provisions	451	405

Note 8: Cash Flow Reconciliation

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Note 8A: Cash Flow Reconciliation		
Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents as per Statement of Financial Position to Cash Flow Statement		
Cash and cash equivalents as per:		
Cash Flow Statement	1,312	924
Statement of financial position	1,312	924
Difference	-	-
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash from operating activities:		
Net cost of services	(4,206)	(4,178)
Add revenue from Government	4,499	3,666
Movement in assets and liabilities		
(Increase) / decrease in net receivables	(168)	122
Increase / (decrease) in employee provisions	46	156
Increase / (decrease) in inter-entity payables	150	(81)
Increase / (decrease) in other payables	67	11
Net cash from (used by) operating activities	388	(304)

Note 9: Contingent Assets & Liabilities

Quantifiable Contingencies

The Northern Land Council as NTRB has undertaken an assessment of the reasonable potential liability arising out of litigation to which the NTRB is a party. As at 30 June 2014 the potential liability has been assessed as nil (no contingent liabilities in 2012/13).

Note 10: Directors and Senior Executive Remuneration

There were no director or executive remuneration payments made during the period with NTRB monies.

Note 11: Remuneration of Auditors

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
Financial statement audit services provided to the Northern Land Council in regard to NTRB by the Australian National Audit Office:		
Fair value of the Services provided		
Financial statement audit services	9	9
Total	9	9

No other services were provided by the Auditor of the financial Statements.

Note 12: Average Staffing Levels

	2014	2013
The average staffing levels for the Authority during the year were:	24	27

Note 13: Financial Instruments

	2014 \$'000	2013 \$'000
13A Categories of Financial Instruments		
Financial Assets		
Loans and receivables:		
Cash on deposit	1,312	924
Trade and other receivables	256	88
Total financial assets	1,568	1,012
Financial Liabilities		
Amortised Cost:		
Inter-entity payable	570	420
Other payables	155	88
Total Carrying amount of financial liabilities	725	508
13B Gains or losses on Financial Assets		
Loans and receivables		
Interest revenue (see note 4B)	19	49
Net gain/(loss) loans and receivables	19	49

13C Fair Values of Financial Instruments

The carrying amount of the financial instruments are reasonable approximation of fair value due to their short term nature.

13D Credit Risk

The NTRB was exposed to minimal credit risk as loans and receivables were cash and trade receivables.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the NTRB's maximum exposure to credit risk.

The NTRB only trades with recognised, creditworthy third parties. Exposure to credit risk is monitored by management on an ongoing basis.

The NTRB held no collateral to mitigate against credit risk.

13E Liquidity risk

The NTRB's financial liabilities were payables. The exposure to liquidity risk was based on the notion that the NTRB will encounter difficulty in meeting its obligations associated with financial liabilities. This was highly unlikely due to government funding and mechanisms available to the entity and internal policies and procedures put in place to ensure there were appropriate resources to meet its financial obligations.

13F Market risk

The NTRB held basic financial instruments that did not expose the entity to certain market risks, such as Currency Risk' and Other Price Risks.

Note 14: Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet (PM&C) Grant: Native Title Representative Services

	2013/14 Approved Budget \$	2013/14 Actual \$	2013/14 Actual vs. Budget \$	2013/14 Actual vs. Budget %
Income				
PM&C Funding - Operational	4,498,958	4,498,958	-	100%
Other Project Income	659,066	1,125,480	(466,414)	171%
Interest Income	55,000	18,794	36,206	34%
Prior year commitments brought forward	-	260,977	(260,977)	0%
Total Income	5,213,024	5,904,209	(691,185)	113%
Expenditure				
Operational				
Salaries				
Corporate Staff (eg Accounting admin.)	87,081	-	(87,081)	
Project Staff (eg Legal, Anthropologists, field)	2,310,728	3,310,171	999,443	143%
Services				
Accommodation	70,806	70,806	-	100%
Motor Vehicles - Corporate	106,209	67,769	(38,440)	64%
Repair and Maintenance - Equipment	9,454	9,454	-	100%
Repair and Maintenance - Buildings	9,454	9,454	-	100%
Bank Charges	12,237	-	(12,237)	
Audit Fees	12,751	12,000	(751)	94%
Consultants - Attributable	863,235	534,433	(328,802)	62%
Communications, Telephones, Fax and IT	89,477	86,331	(3,146)	96%
Insurance	9,122	9,122	-	100%
Training and Development				
Governing Committee	8,872	-	(8,872)	
Staff	85,666	92,556	6,890	108%
Meeting Expenses				
Claimants	178,367	317,047	138,680	178%
Travel and Allowances				
Claimants	107,364	213,080	105,716	198%
Staff Travel - Corporate	19,286	602	(18,684)	3%
Staff Travel - Attributable	331,757	756,969	425,212	228%
Supplies and Consumables				
Office supplies & Consumables - Corporate	26,867	18,653	(8,214)	69%
Other Operational				
Recruitment & Relocation	16,993	4,830	(12,163)	28%
Security	4,411	4,411	-	100%
Equipment	29,129	7,924	(21,205)	27%
Policy & Liaison	30,900	441	(30,459)	1%
Educational Resources - Land Rights	30,900	3,672	(27,228)	12%
Other				
NNTC Contribution	20,000	-	(20,000)	
Contested Litigation - Timber Creek	-	-	-	
Consent Determinations	-	-	-	
Total Expenditure	4,471,066	5,529,725	1,058,659	124%
Carried forward to 2014/15	741,958	741,958	-	100%
	5,213,024	6,271,683	1,058,659	120%
Surplus/(Deficit)	-	(367,474)	(367,474)	-

Glossary of Terms

Agreements:

Land Use Agreements are generally leases or licences for the use of or to carry out activities on Aboriginal land issued in accordance with s19 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*.

Indigenous Land Use Agreements are Native Title agreements about the management and use of lands and waters between Native Title Claimants/ Holders and other parties. Agreements reached through the Native Title negotiations process either before or after a Native title determination is made.

Part IV Mining Agreements Exploration and mining agreements are entered into in accordance with the Part of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory) 1976*.

Acronyms:

ABA Aboriginals Benefit Account

Aboriginal Land means land held by a Land Trust for an estate in fee simple; or land the subject of a deed of grant held in escrow by a Land Council. Aboriginal Land Trust established under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*. Section 5 sets out the functions of Land Trusts. Section 7 deals with membership of Land Trusts

ALRA means the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*.

APO NT is the Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory which is an alliance between Northern Land Council (NLC), Central Land Council (CLC), North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA), Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT (AMSANT), Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service (CAALAS)

CAC Act *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*

CFI Carbon Farming Initiative

CLC Central Land Council established under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory) 1976*.

CSIRO Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

DEEWR Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

FaHCSIA The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

GIS The Northern Land Council's in-house Geographic Information System

IBA Indigenous Business Australia

ILC	Indigenous Land Corporation
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement (for definition, see page 91)
IPP	Indigenous Pastoral Program (for definition, see page 60)
JACS	The NLC's Jobs and Careers Service Unit
Land Council	means an Aboriginal Land Council established in accordance with the Aboriginal
LIMS	The Northern Land Council's Land Information Management System (see page 103)
LIR	Land Interest Reference
Mining Act	<i>Minerals Titles Act 2010</i>
NAA	National Archives of Australia
NAIDOC	National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee
NAILSMA	a cross-jurisdictional alliance delivering initiatives across northern Australia including Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland.
NLC	Northern Land Council established under the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory) 1976</i> .
NRETAS	Northern Territory Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts
NTRB	Native Title Representative Body (for definition, see page 91)
PBC	Prescribed Body Corporate (for definition, see page 103)
SIR	Strategic Indigenous Reserve, an amount of water set aside in a water allocation plan for Indigenous people in a water allocation plan area to support future water trading and economic development.
SEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities
Traditional Owners	same meaning as traditional Aboriginal owner—a local descent group of Aboriginals who have common spiritual affiliations to a site on the land, being affiliations that place the group under a primary spiritual responsibility for that site and for the land; and are entitled by Aboriginal tradition to forage as or right over that land.
WoC	Working on Country funding initiative of SEWPaC

Compliance Index

Compliance Index of *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (CAC Act)

Requirement	Commonwealth Authorities (Annual Reporting) Orders 2011	Page Number(s)
Approval by Directors	Clause 6	148; 198
Details of exemptions granted by Finance Minister in regard to reporting requirements	Clause 7	137
Enabling legislation	Clause 10	137
Responsible Minister	Clause 11	137
Ministerial Directions	Clause 12	27
General Policy Orders	Clause 12	27
Work Health and Safety	Clause 12	55-57; 142
Advertising and Market Research	Clause 12	139
Disability Reporting Mechanisms	Clause 12	57
Ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance	Clause 12	139-140
Information about Directors	Clause 13	39-49
Organisational Structure	Clause 14	52
Board Committees and their main responsibilities	Clause 14	39-48; 137-138; 142-143
Main corporate governance practices (i.e. risk management, ethics, education and performance review for directors)	Clause 14	137
Related Entity Transaction	Clause 15	138
Significant events under section 15 of the <i>CAC Act</i>	Clause 16 (a)	27
Operational and financial results	Clause 16 (b)	26
Key changes to the authority's state of affairs or principal activities	Clause 16 (c)	27
Amendments to authority's enabling legislation	Clause 16 (d)	27
Significant judicial or administrative tribunal decisions	Clause 17 (a)	27
Reports made about the authority	Clause 17 (b)	Nil
Obtaining information from subsidiaries	Clause 18	Nil
Indemnities and insurance premiums	Clause 19	137

Compliance Index of *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*

	Reference	Page Number(s)
<p>Fees:</p> <p>Specify the total fees received for services provided by the land council:</p> <p>a) under Part IV (Mining); and</p> <p>b) under 33A for services prescribed by the regulations that it provides in performing any of its functions, whether in the reporting year or the previous year.</p> <p>Specify total fees received under s33B (other fees charged to the Commonwealth).</p>	s37(2)	27; 166
<p>Section 35 Determinations</p> <p>Include details of payments by the Council under Sec. 35 (2) or (3) and any determinations made by the Minister under Sec. 35 (6) made during the reporting year.</p> <p>Details of payments made by determination or otherwise under 35(2), 35(6), 35(4), 35(4B), 35(11), and 67B (6) 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.</p>	s37(3) s37(4)	188
<p>Details of amounts held in trust</p> <p>In respect of amounts paid to the Council and held in trust at the end of the year; provide details of the amount paid to Council and the year it was paid, the amount held in trust, and the mining operation concerned.</p>	s37(5)	26; 135
<p>Delegations</p> <p>If there is a delegation under s28, particulars of activities during the year related to any delegated functions or activities must be provided.</p>	s37(6)	142
<p>Committees</p> <p>If a committee has been appointed under s29A to assist the Council 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.</p>	s37(7)	137; 142-143
<p>Consultants</p> <p>Specify each consultant engaged by council during the year and the amount paid to each consultant. In order for comprehensive information to be reported details of the nature of work undertaken the total cost of the consultancy and the reasons why a consultant was required could be included in addition to the details required by this provision.</p>	s37(8)	138-139

<p>Environment</p> <p>Commonwealth authorities must under s516A of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>, include a report on environmental matters.</p>	<p>S516A, <i>EPBC Act</i></p>	<p>29-31; 63-77; 139</p>
<p>Work Health and Safety</p> <p>Commonwealth authorities must include information set out in sub-item 4(2) of the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</i>.</p>	<p>Item 4, Schedule 2 <i>WH&S Act</i></p>	<p>55-57; 142</p>



NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL



Our Land, Our Sea, Our Life