

NOTICE OF FILING

Details of Filing

Document Lodged: Affidavit - Form 59 - Rule 29.02(1)
Court of Filing: FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA (FCA)
Date of Lodgment: 24/03/2025 8:57:36 AM ACST
Date Accepted for Filing: 24/03/2025 8:57:41 AM ACST
File Number: NTD17/2024
File Title: LESLEY TURNER v JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE
Registry: NORTHERN TERRITORY REGISTRY - FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Registrar

Important Information

This Notice has been inserted as the first page of the document which has been accepted for electronic filing. It is now taken to be part of that document for the purposes of the proceeding in the Court and contains important information for all parties to that proceeding. It must be included in the document served on each of those parties.

The date of the filing of the document is determined pursuant to the Court's Rules.

Affidavit

No. **NTD 17 of 2024**

Federal Court of Australia
District Registry: Northern Territory
Division: General

LESLEY TURNER

Applicant

JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE

Respondent


Affidavit of: **Vasilios Kalantzis**
Address: **55 Stanley Street, East Sydney, NSW, 2010**
Occupation: **Solicitor**
Date: **21 March 2025**

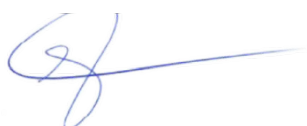
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5	Annexure “VK-4” being redacted copy of the document stating that Mr Palmer moved a motion to dismiss the CEO Lesley Turner on 18 July 2024.	18	4
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Filed on behalf of (name & role of party) **Respondent**
Prepared by (name of person/lawyer) **Vasilios Kalantzis**
Law firm (if applicable) **Kalantzis Lawyers**
Tel **[REDACTED]** Fax **[REDACTED]**
Email **[REDACTED]**
Address for service **55 Stanley Street EAST SYDNEY NSW 2010**
(include state and postcode)

I Vasilios Kalantzis say on oath:

1. I am the solicitor for the Respondent and have day to day carriage of this matter.
2. I was first instructed in this matter on 29 July 2024 when the Respondent forwarded to me by email a copy of the letter from Blackbay Lawyers which was identified as a Concerns Notice (*the Concerns Notice*).
3. Annexed hereto and marked “VK-1” is a copy of the Concerns Notice.
4. Upon receipt of the Concerns Notice I telephoned the Respondent and sought further instructions.
5. On 29 July 2024 the Respondent sent by email the following documents:
 - (a) The email from Tess O’Loughlin to Rebekah Hart forwarded at 11:20 am on 22 July 2024 being annexure “RLH-15” to the affidavit of Rebekah Lea Hart sworn on 28 February 2025 in these proceedings.
 - (b) The file note prepared by Rebekah Hart of her telephone call with Tess O’Loughlin to Rebekah Hart forwarded at 12:19 pm on 22 July 2024 being annexure “RLH-18” to the affidavit of Rebekah Lea Hart sworn on 28 February 2025 in these proceedings; and
 - (c) The email from Rebekah Hart to Tess O’Loughlin forwarded at 12:41 pm on 22 July 2024 being annexure “RLH-20” to the affidavit of Rebekah Lea Hart sworn on 28 February 2025 in these proceedings; and
6. Having read those emails, I understood that Ms Hart and the Respondent were awaiting any information from Ms Tess O’Loughlin which would substantiate the claim by the CLC that the Media Release issued by the Respondent on 21 July 2024 was “factually inaccurate” as to whether a motion had been moved at the 18 July meeting.
7. .
8. On 29 July 2024 the Respondent also forwarded by text message a copy of the document entitled “DRAFT RESOLUTIONS THURSDAY 18TH JULY 2024” being annexure “RLH-1” to the affidavit of Rebekah Lea Hart sworn on 28 February 2025 in these proceedings.



9. Over the next several days I had a number of telephone discussions with the Respondent seeking further instructions.
10. I also sought contact details to speak with the Central Land Council (CLC) Chairman Mr Matthew Palmer (**Mr Palmer**).
11. On 14 August 2024 I received an email from the Respondent providing a copy of a letter from the CLC to Mr Palmer dated 9 August 2024 with attachments. Annexed hereto and marked “**VK-2**” is a copy of that letter and the attachments thereto.
12. On 15 August 2024 I received an email from the Respondent providing a copy of a letter dated 9 August 2024 from the CLC to the Board of Directors of Ingkerreke Services Aboriginal Corporation concerning the conduct of their representative Mr Palmer. Among other documents the letter attached the “CLC Executive Committee Meeting Resolution No: EX2024.05.211” dated 7 August 2024. Annexed hereto and marked “**VK-3**” is a copy of that letter and the attachments thereto.
13. The CLC Executive Committee Meeting Resolution No: EX2024.05.211 contained various unattributed assertions with respect to the events that occurred during the CLC Council meeting on 18 July 2024 at Watarrka, including assertions that no motion about the CEO was “put” or “moved” at the meeting. Those assertions appeared to me to be inconsistent with the account contained in Mr Palmer’s media release of 20 July 2024, as found in each of annexures “RLH-20”, “VK-2” and “VK-3”.
14. I was of the view that it would be prudent to obtain further details of the events surrounding the CLC Council meeting on 18 July 2024.
15. I understood from the documents provided that the CLC proposed to take action against Mr Palmer to remove him from his position as Chairman of the CLC, at a special Council meeting likely to take place on 28 August 2024. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].
16. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].
17. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

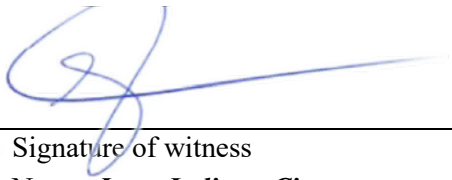
- 18. [REDACTED]
- 19. On 2 September 2024 I had a telephone discussion with the Respondent wherein I provided certain advice.
- 20. On 3 September 2024 I forwarded by email a letter to the Applicant’s legal representatives Blackbay Lawyers. Annexed hereto and marked “VK-5” is a copy of that letter and the email sending the letter.
- 21. The email address I used was the email address after the signature block at the end of the Concerns Notice under the name Victoria-Jane Otavski. That email address read as follows:
[REDACTED]
- 22. I did not receive any bounce back or non-delivery notification and assumed that the letter of 3 September 2024 had been received by the Applicant’s legal representatives.
- 23. I did not receive any response to my letter of 3 September 2024.
- 24. On 6 September 2024 the Applicant filed the Statement of Claim commencing these proceedings.

Sworn by Vasilios Kalantzis)
 at Sydney)
 in New South Wales)
 on 21 March 2025)



.....
 Signature of deponent

Before me:



Signature of witness
 Name: **Luca Italiano Circosta**
 Qualification: **Solicitor**
 Address: [REDACTED]

Certificate of Annexure

No. NTD 17 of 2024

Federal Court of Australia
District Registry: Northern Territory
Division: General

LESLEY TURNER

Applicant

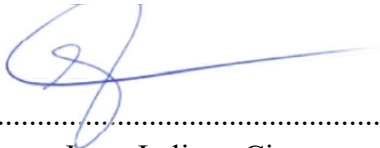
JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE

Respondent

Affidavit of: **Vasilios Kalantzis**
Address: **55 Stanley Street**
East Sydney NSW 2010
Occupation: **Solicitor**
Date: **21 March 2025**

ANNEXURE “VK-1”

This page and the following 18 pages is the annexure marked “VK-1” referred to in the affidavit of Vasilios Kalantzis sworn on 21 March 2025, before me:



.....
Name: Luca Italiano Circosta
Qualification: Solicitor

Our ref: BBL:939

29 July 2024

Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price
1,229 McMillans Road
JINGILI NT 0810

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL – NOT FOR PUBLICATION

By Express Post

Copy by email: [REDACTED]

Dear Senator Price

Defamation of Lesley Turner

We act for Mr Lesley Turner, the Chief Executive Officer of the Central Land Council.

This letter is a Concerns Notice for the purposes of Part 3, Division 1 of the *Defamation Act 2006* (NT) and its counterparts in the other States and Territories. This is a legal notice which has serious consequences and should be treated as such. Our client is entitled to rely on this Concerns Notice for the purposes of commencing legal proceedings against you.

On 21 July 2024, you published a Media Release of and concerning Mr Turner with the title "*Central Land Council takes matters into their own hands*" (**Media Release**). The Media Release was published at the following URL: <https://www.jacintaprice.com/21-july-2024>.

Enclosed as Schedule A to this letter is a copy of the Media Release.

Your statement in the second paragraph of the Media Release that “[t]hrough last week’s vote, a majority of Central Land Council members showed their support for the dismissal of the CEO due to unprofessional conduct” was re-published in a story the NT News, at the following URL:

<https://www.ntnews.com.au/business/nt-business/lindsay-turner-dumped-as-central-land-council-chief-executive/news-story/30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362>

(NT News Story)

The republication of your statement by the NT News was entirely foreseeable. A copy of the NT News Story is enclosed as Schedule B to this letter

Imputations of Concern


The Media Release is defamatory and conveys the following imputations, or imputations not different in substance (**Imputations of Concern**):

1. Mr Turner, the CEO of the Central Land Council, no longer has the support of the majority of Central Land Council members.
2. Mr Turner, the CEO of the Central Land Council, is not deemed fit to continue to occupy the role of CEO of the Central Land Council by the majority of Central Land Council members.
3. Mr Turner, the CEO of the Central Land Council, is unfit to continue to occupy the role of CEO of the Central Land Council.
4. Mr Turner, the CEO of the Central Land Council, has engaged in unprofessional conduct.
5. Mr Turner, the CEO of the Central Land Council, has behaved so unprofessionally that he deserves to be dismissed as the CEO of the Central Land Council.
6. Mr Turner is incompetent.

Generally

The assertion by you in the Media Release that Mr Turner was the subject of a no confidence motion by Central Land Council members last week is completely false.

The Central Land Council’s Acting Manager of Communications, Tess O’Loughlin, communicated this to your Communications Manager, Rebekah Hart, by telephone and by email on 22 July 2022, and requested that you retract the Media Release. Attached to Ms O’Loughlin’s email to Ms Hart was a statement from the Central Land Council, confirming that the Media Release and the NT News Story



were incorrect (**Statement**). A copy of Ms O'Loughlin's email is **enclosed** as **Schedule C** to this letter. A copy of the Statement is **enclosed** as **Schedule D** to this letter.

Despite our client putting you on notice of the error in your Media Release, you have not retracted the false and defamatory allegations made by you about Mr Turner.

Our client is extremely aggrieved by your publication of the Media Release and the false and defamatory allegations you have made about him. The harm and distress the Media Release has caused to our client cannot be overstated.

In the circumstances, our client has a strong claim in defamation against you and would be entitled to a significant award of damages. As a general observation, you should be aware that from 1 July 2023, damages of up to **\$459,000** can be awarded in defamation proceedings for non-economic loss, with no evidence required of any specific financial loss. The Court may also award additional damages for aggravation, for example where there has been some improper, unjustifiable or bad faith conduct by the defendant. Both of these heads of damages are separate from and in addition to any special damages awarded for economic loss suffered by our client. There exists no limit or cap on the amount of aggravated damages that a Court can order to be paid by a defendant.

Proposed Resolution

Our client is committed to seeking vindication for the harm and damage caused to him by the Media Release. This can include the commencement of proceedings in defamation against you.

To avoid the commencement of Court proceedings against you, our client is prepared to resolve his claims against you on the following terms:

1. You immediately remove the Media Release from any location where it has been published;
2. You undertake not to re-publish in the future the Media Release, the Imputations of Concern, or imputations of the same or similar effect;
3. Within 14 days of this letter, you publish on your website <https://www.jacintaprice.com/> for a period of no less than 14 days, the following Retraction and Apology:

Retraction and Apology to Lesley Turner

On 21 July 2024, I published a Media Release which contained a number of false and defamatory allegations about Lesley Turner, the CEO of the Central Land Council.

There was no basis for me to make those allegations. I retract the allegations and apologise to Mr Turner for the hurt and damage caused by my conduct.

Jacinta Nampijinpa Price

4. You agree to pay our client \$30,000 by way of damages; and
5. You agree to pay our client's reasonable legal fees.

(the Offer)

The Offer is open for 14 days from the date of this letter. We note that under the *Defamation Act 2005* (NT) you have 28 days to otherwise make amends if you wish to propose an alternative resolution of this matter.

This offer is made on the basis that if it accepted but you were to subsequently breach the agreement or undertaking above that our client would immediately commence action in defamation against you and rely upon your acceptance and any breach to seek any extension of time to any limitation period that has expired.

In the meantime, we require you to preserve, and not destroy or delete, documents of all kinds including all electronic material, emails, text messages, phone records and social media communications concerning the Emails, the imputations and their subject matter.

If you fail to provide a satisfactory response to this letter, our client will consider all of his options, including the commencement of defamation proceedings against you, without further notice.

Our client reserves all his rights arising from the Social Media Posts and in respect of any other or subsequent publications made by you.

Finally, we emphasise that this letter is private and confidential and that its contents are not for publication or dissemination.

Yours sincerely
BlackBay Lawyers



Victoria-Jane Otavski
Partner

██████████
████████████████████

SENATOR JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE
Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians
Senator for the Northern Territory

21 July 2024

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL TAKES MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS

A motion of no confidence was moved last week in relation to the CEO of the Central Land Council. The motion demonstrates yet again that the needs and concerns of Indigenous Australians are not a priority for the Albanese Government.

In September last year, the Coalition moved a motion calling for an inquiry into the governance of the Land Councils, however the Albanese government refused to heed that call. Through last week's vote, a majority of Central Land Council members showed their support for the dismissal of the CEO due to unprofessional conduct.

Although unsuccessful, the motion was backed by the Central Land Council chair Matt Palmer, who said, "the voices of people in community have been ignored for too long and many in this community are being kept in poverty. Voices are ignored, people are left behind and the vision of the Central Land Council has been lost. There is majority support for change of direction and leadership in the Central Land Council, and it is time to get things done that matter for the people in the heartland and homelands of the Council."

"Hard questions need to be asked, like why there are Traditional Owners still living in tin sheds? And why are we still vulnerable while living on our homelands? Where have all the funds and resources gone that should be getting to our grass-roots, to make a difference for our mob?" asked Mr Palmer.

"Following last week's vote, will the Albanese government simply leave the Central Land Council members to fix this issue by themselves?" asked Senator Nampijinpa Price. "Will they simply label this an isolated issue and continue to pretend that issues like this are not also present in other aboriginal organisations?"


Senator Nampijinpa Price said the Albanese government has presided over the ongoing failure of NAAJA, has ironically given boards with domestic violence offenders money to deliver domestic violence prevention services, and has overseen the inexplicable cessation of ABA grants for Homelands.

"At the end of the day, it is the most marginalised Indigenous Australians who suffer when aboriginal organisations are not held to a proper standard. Minister Linda Burney needs to step up and actively ensure these organisations are being run to the highest standard possible; the same standard we would apply to any other organisation in Australia," said Senator Nampijinpa Price.

"If Minister Burney continues to let these organisations off the hook as she has done with other Indigenous-run organisations, she is simply revealing the racist low expectations she holds with respect to Indigenous Australians, and doing nothing to actually improve the lives of those people she claims to represent," Senator Nampijinpa Price said.

Senator Nampijinpa Price said a review into the Land Rights Act must be conducted to ensure greater transparency and accountability. “For too long the status quo has overseen an arrangement whereby traditional owners are land rich but dirt poor, and have little hope of being empowered to use the resources available to them to build their own economic independence.”

[END]

Media Contact: Rebekah Hart – 

Schedule B

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a news article on the NTNews website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: ntnews.com.au/business/nt-business/lindsay-turner-dumped-as-central-land-council-chief-executive/news-story/30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362. The page features a dark blue header with the NTNews logo and navigation links. The main content area displays the article title "No confidence motion against Lesley Turner defeated" and a sub-headline: "A Northern Territory land council has moved to sack its chief executive, citing ongoing poverty and poor conditions. Read what happened." The article is attributed to Camden Smith, a reporter for NTNews, and includes a "Follow" button and a comment count of 11. A video player is embedded in the article, showing a news anchor and a man speaking. The video player includes a "Watch again" button and a "Cancel" button. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Windows logo, a search bar, and various application icons. The system tray in the bottom right corner displays the time as 9:24 PM on 24/07/2024.

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No confidence motion against Lesley Turner defeated

A Northern Territory land council has moved to sack its chief executive, citing ongoing poverty and poor conditions. Read what happened.

Camden Smith Reporter Follow @CamdenSmith1 2 min read July 22, 2024 - 6:08PM 11 comments

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03:18

REAL NEWS, HONEST VIEW

The Greens are planning to replace Labor as the authentic party of the centre-left. Greens Leader Adam Bandt has told The Australian they will win the votes of the public by taking a "Robin Hood platform to the election". Mr Bandt also challenged Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, stating his party would sharpen Australia's...


Internal divisions within the Central Land Council have spilt over at the weekend with reports the organisation moved a no-confidence motion against chief executive Lesley Turner.

A statement released at the weekend by chairman Matt Palmer said members at a full council meeting last week had moved an instant dismissal motion against Mr Turner.

The CLC on Monday denied an instant dismissal motion was moved.

Mr Palmer claimed the CLC had "failed to address basic needs of Aboriginal people across the region, weakening many communities and contributing to increasingly worse conditions".

"The voices of people in community have been ignored for too long and many in this community are being kept in poverty," Mr Palmer said.




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Lesley Turner CLC chief executive. Picture: Supplied

“Voices are ignored, people left behind and the vision of CLC has been lost. There is majority support for change of direction and leadership in the CLC. It is time to get things done that matter for the people in the heartland and homelands of the CLC.”

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Lesley Turner CLC chief executive. Picture: Supplied

“Voices are ignored, people left behind and the vision of CLC has been lost. There is majority support for change of direction and leadership in the CLC. It is time to get things done that matter for the people in the heartland and homelands of the CLC.”

The statement said while CLC values were driven by Aboriginal world views, members insisted this needs to go further for tangible on-the-ground change.

It said long with radical action and progress, some members strongly supported a breakaway Arrernte Land Council.




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Matthew Palmer CLC chair. Picture: Supplied

“We are demanding real impacts and accountability, delivered directly to CLC members – where they live, with what is needed to thrive,” Mr Palmer said. “This is what self-determination looks like.”

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“We are demanding real impacts and accountability, delivered directly to CLC members – where they live, with what is needed to thrive,” Mr Palmer said. “This is what self-determination looks like.”


[The statement quoted Lindsay Watson at Alcoota Station](#) who said it was time for serious change.

“Hard questions need to be asked. Why are there traditional owners still living in tin sheds?

Why are we still vulnerable while living on our homelands?

“Where have all the funds and resources gone that should be getting to our grassroots, to make a difference for our mob?”

Late on Sunday, CLP Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price weighed in, linking the failed no-confidence vote against Mr Turner to a Coalition motion to hold an inquiry in Land Councils governance.



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Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price generic: Picture: Gera Kazakov

“Through last week’s vote, a majority of Central Land Council members showed their support for the dismissal of the CEO due to unprofessional conduct,” Senator Price said.

Senator Price said the no-confidence vote should prompt an intervention by the federal government to fix the organisation.

“At the end of the day, it is the most marginalised Indigenous Australians who suffer when Aboriginal organisations are not held to a proper standard,” Senator Price said.

“Minister Linda Burney needs to step up and actively ensure these organisations are being run to the highest standard possible; the same standard we would apply to any other organisation in Australia.”

A CLC spokesperson said the organisation “scrupulously adheres” to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and would continue working for the community.

“Council delegates and staff of the CLC remain focused and continue to act in the interests of traditional owners and Aboriginal people across its region,” a statement said.

Labor Senator Malarndirri McCarthy declined to comment, while Ms Burney has been contacted for a response.

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Labor Senator Malarndirri McCarthy declined to comment, while Ms Burney has been contacted for a response.




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9:26 PM 24/07/2024

Browser window showing a news article on ntnews.com.au. The page features a navigation bar with categories like 'Today's Paper', 'Local', 'Northern Territory', 'National', 'World', 'Opinion', 'Business', 'Entertainment', 'Lifestyle', and 'Sport'. The main content is organized into two columns: 'Trending now' and 'Read More'. The 'Trending now' column includes articles such as 'Military exercise grounded after aircraft crashes in remote NT', 'Just seems crazy: Darwin isolated further as airline pulls popular route', 'Aussie Karen savaged over entitled flight gripe', 'A shocking male-on-female attack outside a Darwin City address', and 'Heavy rain from Typhoon Gaemi floods Manila streets, homes'. The 'Read More' column includes 'Aussie Karen savaged over entitled flight gripe', 'Can you spot the AI fake? Test yourself amid warning for teachers', 'What Nikki looks like now after baby-faced Sydney Olympics gig', 'Brand gambles on powerful roadster', and 'Get your FREE 36-page guide to the Olympics'. On the right side, there are several advertisements, including one for Hubbl offering a 20% discount, an Adobe Acrobat advertisement for AI Assistant, and a video player for 'Coalition still have explaining to do regarding nuclear pitch' with a 'Cancel' button.

No confidence motion against Lindsay Turner dumped as central land council chief executive/news-story/30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362

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Up Next: Coalition still have 'explaining to do' regarding nuclear pitch

The Greens are planning to replace Labor as the authentic party of the centre-left. Greens Leader Adam Bandt has told The Australian...

9:27 PM 24/07/2024

From: [Tess O'Loughlin](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: CLC statement
Attachments: [CLC Statement 22072024.pdf](#)

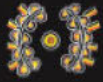
Hi Rebekah,

Thanks for your time on the phone just now. As mentioned, we are asking for the retraction of Senator Price's statement yesterday as it is factually incorrect. We have issued a statement of our own this morning, stating that there was no motion to dismiss Central Land Council's chief executive Mr Lesley Turner at its full council meeting last week.

I have attached the statement for your reference.

Kind regards,

Schedule D



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

CLC statement

The Central Land Council is governed by the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* and scrupulously adheres to the Act.

Senator Jacinta Price's statement and the NT News report are inaccurate. There was no motion to dismiss Central Land Council's chief executive Mr Lesley Turner at its full council meeting last week.

Mr Turner is the CEO of the Central Land Council. Council delegates and staff of the CLC remain focused and continue to act in the interests of traditional owners and Aboriginal people across its region.

No further comment will be provided at this time.

22 July 2024

MEDIA CONTACT: Tess O'Loughlin | 0461 396 054 | media@clc.org.au

Certificate of Annexure

No. NTD 17 of 2024

Federal Court of Australia
District Registry: Northern Territory
Division: General

LESLEY TURNER

Applicant

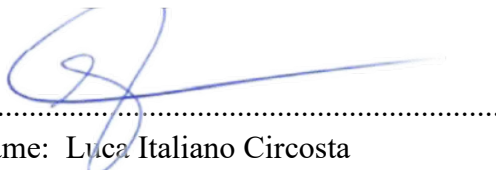
JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE

Respondent

Affidavit of: **Vasilios Kalantzis**
Address: **55 Stanley Street**
East Sydney NSW 2010
Occupation: **Solicitor**
Date: **21 March 2025**

ANNEXURE “VK-2”

This page and the following 6 pages is the annexure marked “VK-2” referred to in the affidavit of Vasilios Kalantzis sworn on 21 March 2025, before me:



.....
Name: Luca Italiano Circosta
Qualification: Solicitor



9 August 2024

Mr Matthew Palmer
Chair, Central Land Council

By email: Matthew.Palmer@clc.org.au

Dear Mr Palmer

Council Meeting at Watarrka on 18 July 2024, subsequent events and media commentary

The Central Land Council's **Executive** Committee met on Wednesday 7 August 2024. Executive discussed in great depth and detail what happened at the full Council Meeting at Watarrka on 18 July 2024, and the events and media commentary that happened after that.

This letter is to inform you of Executive's decisions.

Copies of two resolutions are attached.

- The first resolution contains a statement of the facts of what happened at the full Council meeting.
- The second resolution sets out the actions Executive decided to take in response to your conduct after that meeting.

The special Council meeting referred to in the second resolution is likely to take place on 28 August 2024. The Deputy Chair will preside at that Council meeting as required by the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act*. Given this matter involves your conduct, if you want to you, will be able to address the Council meeting before any decisions are made. However you will need to leave the meeting during the Council's discussion and decision making.

These resolutions remain confidential Central Land Council business and you must ensure that they do not become public.

If you want to talk with someone about these resolutions and the next steps, please call CLC to make an appointment to talk with Barbara Shaw (as your regional Executive member), Janelle Trotman (Manager – Strategy & Performance) and Kate O'Brien (Principal Legal Officer) at the CLC office in Alice Springs.

The CLC has also written to Ingkerreke Services Aboriginal Corporation to inform them of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Warren Williams, on behalf of the Executive Committee
DEPUTY CHAIR
CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

Executive Committee Meeting

Resolution No: EX2024.05.211

Date: Wednesday, 7 August 2024

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton, Spinifex Room – Alice Springs

Subject: **Statement of Facts: what happened at Council meeting (July 2024)**

RESOLUTION

The CLC Executive Committee resolves that the following is a statement of what happened at the CLC Council Meeting on 18 July 2024 at Watarrka:

- (1) The document produced by the Chair which is called "Draft Resolutions Thursday, 18th July, 2024" is not a resolution of the CLC Council, the document was not on the Agenda and did not go through the usual process for CLC meeting papers.
- (2) The document produced by the Chair was not shown to Regional Delegates or the full Council
- (3) There was no discussion in Region 1, which includes many Arrernte delegates, about a breakaway Arrernte Land Council
- (4) Female delegates were told by the Chair and another male delegate member to leave the meeting to make it a "men only" meeting
- (5) There was no process to confirm if there was a quorum and nothing was minuted
- (6) All staff – male and female – were told by the Chair to leave the meeting
- (7) The Chair asked the Deputy Chair to read out the document called "Draft Resolutions Thursday, 18th July, 2024".
- (8) The Deputy Chair read the first line of the "Draft Resolutions Thursday, 18th July, 2024", then refused to read anymore
- (9) There was discussion in Warlpiri and Arrernte, which was not understood by and conveyed to all male delegates
- (10) The Chair did not give any evidence of "insubordination" or "unprofessional conduct" by the CEO
- (11) No motion about the CEO was put to the male delegates of Council
- (12) No motion about the CEO was moved, seconded or passed by the male members of Council
- (13) The Council did not give the Chair permission to talk to the media or the public about what happened at the Council meeting. No media statement was approved.

MOTION: PASSED*



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

Executive Committee Meeting

Resolution No: EX2024.05.212

Date: Wednesday, 7 August 2024

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton, Spinifex Room – Alice Springs

Subject: Conduct of the Chair after the July 2024 Council Meeting

RESOLUTION

The CLC's Executive Committee has discussed the conduct of the Chair after the July Council meeting. Executive wanted to hear the Chair's explanation, but he gave an apology and did not attend the meeting. Executive considers that the Chair's behaviour is a breach of the CLC's Code of Conduct and the obligations of Executive and Council members. Executive does not have the power to manage the Chair's performance that is for CLC's Council. Under section 31(2) of ALRA, six or more members can ask the Deputy Chair to call a meeting of Council. There are more than six members on the Executive Committee who are voting in favour of this resolution.

1. Executive resolves to:

- a. Inform the Alice Springs Outstations, through their recognised entity Ingkerreke Services Aboriginal Corporation, of the Chair's conduct after the July Council meeting;
- b. Send Ingkerreke Services Aboriginal Corporation a letter which includes copies of:
 - i. the attached agreed statement of facts;
 - ii. the attached media stories;
- c. Ask Ingkerreke Services Aboriginal Corporation to respond by close of business on 22 August 2024; and
- d. For the Deputy Chair to sign the letter on behalf of the Executive Committee.

2. Executive resolves to:

- a. Hold a meeting of Region 1 Delegates for them to discuss the Chair's conduct;
- b. Inform Council of the Chair's conduct;
- c. Ensure that the Chair is given an opportunity to present to the Council;
- d. Ask Council to consider what action, if any, should be taken about the Chair's conduct;
- e. Ask the Deputy Chair to call a special meeting of Council under section 31(2) of ALRA to discuss this matter as soon as possible; and
- f. Ask the NT Electoral Commission to attend in case Council decides to elect a new Chair.

3. Executive also resolves to inform the Minister for Indigenous Australians what happened at the July Council meeting, and that the Deputy Chair, on behalf of Executive, should send her a letter which includes a copy of this resolution and the attached agreed statement of facts.

4. Executive also resolves to warn the Chair not to talk to the media or other people outside the CLC about CLC business until this matter is considered by full Council, and to comply with all his obligations under the PGPA Act, Code of Conduct, and Council and Executive meeting rules.

MOTION: PASSED*

clc.org.au



Redacted for privacy



1 August 2024

Mr Matthew Palmer
Chair, Central Land Council

By email <Matthew.Palmer@clc.org.au>

Dear Mr Palmer

Council Resolution CM2024.02.05

This letter is to give you formally the resolution the Central Land Council passed on Wednesday 17 July 2024 at its meeting at Watarrka.

A copy of the resolution is attached to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren Williams", is written over a horizontal crease in the paper.

Warren Williams
DEPUTY CHAIR
CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

**CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL**

Council Meeting
Resolution No: CM2024.02.05

Date: Wednesday 17 July
Location: Watarrka
Subject: Governance Matter Regarding the Chair

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

The CLC RESOLVES that Mr Palmer's behaviour in signing the attached letter dated 8 April 2024 is not acceptable behaviour for the Chair of the CLC, and is in serious breach of the code of conduct of the CLC. We, members of the CLC full Council, warn Chair Palmer that he must not conduct himself in a manner that is harmful to the CLC and must not behave like that again. The CLC asks Mr Palmer to acknowledge his actions were inappropriate and write to the CLC Council to apologise.

MOVED: Geoffrey Matthews **REGION:** 3

SECONDED: Ned Hargraves **REGION:** 4

MOTION: PASSED

Submitted and presented by: Les Turner and Kate O'Brien

Section: CEO and Principal Legal Officer

08th April 2024

1. Matthew Palmer

Currently the chairman of Central Land Council (CLC), hereby confirm my acknowledgement, that Mr [REDACTED] is the Senior Custodian and Traditional Owner of [REDACTED] (ALT) Aboriginal Land Trust.

Mr [REDACTED] will have full responsibility for the land, make decisions to maintain and care of places of cultural significance.

Mr [REDACTED] acknowledges to act in the best interest and to work on the land as he sees fit and that it will benefit the land and other members of the [REDACTED] family.

Matthew Palmer
Signature

9/5/2024
Date

Matthew Palmer
Name

[REDACTED]
Signature

9/5/2024
Date

[REDACTED]
Name

Certificate of Annexure

No. NTD 17 of 2024

Federal Court of Australia
District Registry: Northern Territory
Division: General

LESLEY TURNER

Applicant

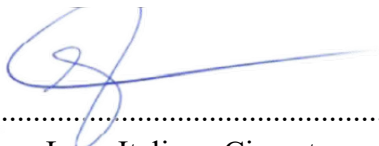
JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE

Respondent

Affidavit of: **Vasilios Kalantzis**
Address: **55 Stanley Street**
East Sydney NSW 2010
Occupation: **Solicitor**
Date: **21 March 2025**

ANNEXURE “VK-3”

This page and the following 21 pages is the annexure marked “VK-3” referred to in the affidavit of Vasilios Kalantzis sworn on 21 March 2025, before me:



.....
Name: Luca Italiano Circosta
Qualification: Solicitor



9 August 2024

The Board of Directors
 Ingkerreke Services Aboriginal Corporation
 24 Kidman Street
 Alice Springs NT 0870

By email: Jozan.Collins@ingkerreke.org.au

Dear Directors

Conduct of the Central Land Council (CLC) representative for the Alice Springs Outstations

Recognised Entity

Under the CLC's method of choice, **Ingkerreke** Services Aboriginal Corporation is the *recognised entity* for the Alice Springs Outstations. A copy of the method of choice is attached to this letter. Being a *recognised entity* means Ingkerreke is responsible for nominating a person to be the CLC member who represents the Alice Springs Outstations (see paragraph 4(a) of the method of choice). A *recognised entity* can also change the member at any time (see paragraph 17 of the method of choice).

Conduct of Mr Palmer

This letter is to inform Ingkerreke about the conduct of the CLC representative for the Alice Springs Outstations, Mr Matthew Palmer. It has come to the CLC's Executive Committee's attention at its meeting on 7 August 2024 that Mr Palmer has breached the CLC's Code of Conduct, Meeting Rules and other governance rules.

It is up to Ingkerreke / Alice Springs Outstations to decide if they are happy with that conduct from their representative on the CLC Council.

The CLC held a full Council meeting at Watarrka in July 2024. Resolution EX2024.05.211 of the CLC's Executive Committee is attached. That resolution sets out the facts of what happened at the meeting on the afternoon of 18 July 2024.

On 20 July 2024, Mr Palmer appears to have issued a media release. Mr Palmer didn't give the CLC a copy of the media release, but the NT News and Senator Jacinta Price received copies. Senator Price's office gave the CLC the text of the media release. A copy is attached to this letter.

The media release is wrong. It does not tell the truth about what happened at the Council meeting and is probably defamatory against the CLC's CEO. Mr Palmer has not retracted the media release.

The NT News, ABC, National Indigenous Times and Centralian Advocate all reported about Mr Palmer's media release and his comments. Senator Price also issued her own media release about it. Copies are attached to this letter.

Mr Palmer's conduct and that media coverage have caused damage to the CLC. The false media release:

- hurts the CLC's reputation,

- makes it look like there is infighting at the CLC and that the CLC can't do its job,
- suggests the CLC is responsible for things that are actually the government's job,
- makes it easier for people outside the CLC to attack the CLC,
- causes confusion for CLC staff and CLC members,
- probably defames the CLC's CEO, and
- most importantly, takes time of CLC members and staff away from working on the important priorities of the CLC's Council and for the benefit of Aboriginal people in this region.

Next Steps

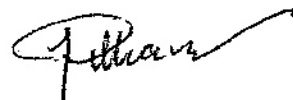
Please read all of the attached documents carefully and make up your own minds.

It is up to Ingkerreke / Alice Springs Outstations to decide whether Mr Palmer's conduct is acceptable for their representative on the CLC Council.

Please inform Janelle Trotman, CLC Manager of Strategy & Performance and Kate O'Brien, Principal Legal Officer, by close of business on 22 August 2024 if Ingkerreke has taken any action in relation to Mr Palmer. That date is important because any action Ingkerreke takes could affect what action the CLC Council may take. A CLC special Council meeting will be held in the week of 26 August 2024.

For further information about this letter please contact Ms Trotman and Ms O'Brien.

Yours sincerely,



**Warren Williams, on behalf of the Executive Committee
DEPUTY CHAIR
CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL**

Attachments:

1. CLC Method of Choice
2. Resolution EX2024.05.211
3. Text of Mr Palmer's media release, provided by Senator Price's office
4. Media stories from NT News, ABC, National Indigenous Times and Centralian Advocate
5. Senator Price's media release



MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Reference: MC19-006460

Mr David Ross
Director
Central Land Council
PO Box 3321
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870

Dear Mr Ross

Thank you for your letter of 31 January 2019 about revising the current Method of Choice for the selection of Central Land Council members.

I approve the revised Method of Choice for Central Land Council members in accordance with section 29(1) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*. A signed copy is attached.

Yours sincerely



NIGEL SCUILLION

15/2/2019

Commonwealth of Australia

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976

Subsection 29(1) Notice

Method of Choice for Central Land Council Members

I, Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, APPROVE, under subsection 29(1) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, the following method of choice for members of the Central Land Council with respect to the specified communities, areas or organisations in its area.

1. Community, Area and Number of Representatives

Community/Area	Number of representatives
Region 1	
Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa)	1
Titjikala	1
Wallace Rockhole	1
Amoonguna	1
Uruna	1
Yateman's Bore Outstations	1
*Alice Springs town camps	1
*Alice Springs native title holders	2
*Alice Springs Outstations	1
Iwupataka	1
Ntaria (Hermannsburg)	1
Ntaria (Hermannsburg) Outstations	3
Region 2	
Imanpa (Mount Ebenezer)	2
Utju (Areyonga)	1
Apatula (Finke)	1
Kaltukatjara (Docke River)	1
Kaltukatjara (Docke Outstations)	1
Mutitjulu	2
Kings Canyon Outstations	1
Ukaka (Tempe Downs)	1
Region 3	
Bamboo Springs	1
Mistake Creek	1
Dagaragu	1

Dagaragu Outstations	2
Lajamanu	2
Lajamanu Outstations	1

Region 4

Nyirrpi	1
Yuendumu	2
Yuendumu Outstations	2
Tanami Downs	1
Willowra	2
Mount Barkly	1
Mount Denison	1

Region 5

Papunya	1
Papunya Outstations	1
Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff)	1
Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff) Outstations	1
Mount Liebig (Amundurrngu)	1
Mount Liebig Outstations	1
Walungurru (Kintore)	1
Walungurru (Kintore) Outstations	1
Mbunghara	1

Region 6

Mangalawarra	1
Ngurratiji (Ngurramanyi)	1
Kunayungku	1
Karlanjarriyi	1
Epenarra (Wutunurrurga)	1
*Tennant Creek native title holders	1
*Tennant Creek	2
*Canteen Creek	1
Purrukuwurru	1
Alekarengge	2
Imangara (Murray Downs)	1

Region 7

Alpurrurulam (Lake Nash)	2
Ampilawatja	1
*Utopia Homelands	2
*Alparra	2
Irrultja	1
Atnwengerrpe	1

Region 8

*Bonya	1
Urlampe Outstations	1
Alcoota	1
Irrerlirre (McDonald Downs)	1
Mount Eaglebeak	1
Akarnenhe Well	1
Atitjere (Harts Range)	1

Region 9

Adelaide Bore (Woola Downs)	1
Yuelumu (Mount Allan)	1
Pmara Jutunta (Ti Tree Six Mile)	1
Nturiya (Ti Tree Station)	1
Wilora (Stirling)	1
Laramba (Napperby)	1
*Barrow Creek outstations	1
Yuelmumu Outstations	1
Tara	1

TOTAL **90**

*nominations are sought from 'recognised entities'

Qualification of Members

2. Subject to subsections 29(3)-(6) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, members shall be Aborigines living in the area of the Land Council, or whose names are set out in the register of traditional Aboriginal owners of Aboriginal land in the area of the Central Land Council ('CLC').

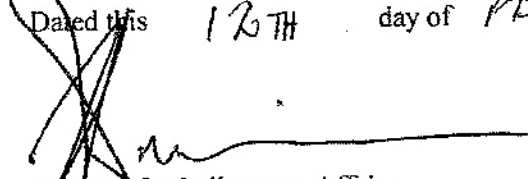
Method of Choice of Members

3. Nomination of members shall be sought from the above communities, area or organisation by letter by an employee of the Central Land Council or by notice of a date for nominations to be made at a meeting within the community. Such letters or notices shall state that the nominated members should be traditional owners or Aborigines living in the area.
4. (a) Where in any community or area designated for representation in paragraph 1, there is an incorporated Aboriginal association or Aboriginal corporation acknowledged by resolution of the CLC as a recognised entity ('recognised entity'), the traditional owners or Aborigines living in the Land Council area serving on the governing body of the recognised entity shall nominate a person or persons as the case may be, to be a member or members of the Central Land Council.
 (b) Where, in any area designated for representation in paragraph 1, there exists an Aboriginal community but no recognised entity, such a community shall, with the assistance of an employee of the Central Land Council, hold a meeting to nominate a person or persons as the case may be.

her office and the Chair will write to the nominating community, area or recognised entity requesting it nominate another person to be its member on the Land Council.

- 16. If a member is asked to resign, then he or she must resign within 14 days of the date on a written request.
- 17. Communities, areas or recognised entities may at any time change their members.
 - a) For members nominated by recognised entities the change of member shall take effect only after the Central Land Council receives both the written advice of the change from an officer holder, public officer or contact person of a recognised entity and an accompanying acceptance of nomination signed by the nominated member.
 - b) Where, for a community or area there is no recognised entity, the change shall only take effect following a meeting convened at the written request from two traditional owners or Aboriginals living in the area for the assistance of an employee of the Central Land Council and upon receipt in the Central Land Council office of a report by the relevant CLC staff member outlining the date, time, attendance and results of a nomination meeting so held.
- 18. A member must advise the Chair of any disqualifying event, as outlined in 29(5) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*, in relation to himself or herself as soon as is practical after the event. The Chairperson must advise the Minister of any disqualifying event.
- 19. A member may be removed from office by resolution of the Central Land Council if:
 - (a) the member does not comply with rules approved by the Minister under subsection 31(7) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*; or
 - (b) the member is on a Committee and the member does not comply with the rules for that Committee as approved by the Land Council under subsection 29A(4) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*; or
 - (d) the member does not comply with the requirements of the code of conduct for Central Land Council members; or
 - (e) whether or not an offence is proven, the member does not comply with one or more of the requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).
- 21. Where a new member is nominated by a community, area or recognised entity to replace a member who has resigned, been terminated or disqualified from membership, the new member's name must be recorded in the register of Land Council members. That person's term of membership shall expire at the end of the remainder of the previous member's term of membership, and shall not extend beyond the three year term of the other members of the Central Land Council, except if that person is reappointed for a further term.

Dated this 12TH day of FEBRUARY 2019



Minister for Indigenous Affairs



Executive Committee Meeting

Resolution No: EX2024.05.211

Date: Wednesday, 7 August 2024

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton, Spinifex Room – Alice Springs

Subject: **Statement of Facts: what happened at Council meeting (July 2024)**

RESOLUTION

The CLC Executive Committee resolves that the following is a statement of what happened at the CLC Council Meeting on 18 July 2024 at Watarrka:

- (1) The document produced by the Chair which is called "Draft Resolutions Thursday, 18th July, 2024" is not a resolution of the CLC Council, the document was not on the Agenda and did not go through the usual process for CLC meeting papers.
- (2) The document produced by the Chair was not shown to Regional Delegates or the full Council
- (3) There was no discussion in Region 1, which includes many Arrernte delegates, about a breakaway Arrernte Land Council
- (4) Female delegates were told by the Chair and another male delegate member to leave the meeting to make it a "men only" meeting
- (5) There was no process to confirm if there was a quorum and nothing was minuted
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- (7) The Chair asked the Deputy Chair to read out the document called "Draft Resolutions Thursday, 18th July, 2024".
- (8) The Deputy Chair read the first line of the "Draft Resolutions Thursday, 18th July, 2024", then refused to read anymore
- (9) There was discussion in Warlpiri and Arrernte, which was not understood by and conveyed to all male delegates
- (10) The Chair did not give any evidence of "insubordination" or "unprofessional conduct" by the CEO
- (11) No motion about the CEO was put to the male delegates of Council
- (12) No motion about the CEO was moved, seconded or passed by the male members of Council
- (13) The Council did not give the Chair permission to talk to the media or the public about what happened at the Council meeting. No media statement was approved.

MOTION: PASSED*

CLC Council voice no confidence in CEO Lesley Turner

Media Release, 20 July, 2024

At this week's Central Land Council meeting, Mr Lesley Turner, CLC CEO, lost the confidence of CLC delegates.

At the full Council Meeting, members moved a motion of instant dismissal of the Chief Executive Officer based on insubordination and unprofessional conduct.

Mr Turner has been at the helm of CLC since April 2021.

Council Members expressed dissatisfaction with the current state of CLC operations that have failed to address basic needs of Aboriginal people across the region, weakening many communities and contributing to increasingly worse conditions.

Mr Matthew Palmer, CLC Chair, said, "The voices of people in community have been ignored for too long and many in this community are being kept in poverty.

Voices are ignored, people left behind and the vision of CLC has been lost.

There is majority support for change of direction and leadership in the CLC.

It is time to get things done that matter for the people in the heartland and homelands of the CLC."

While CLC values are driven by Aboriginal world views, members are insistent this needs to go further for tangible on-the-ground change. Along with radical action and progress, some members strongly support a breakaway Arrernte Land Council.

Lindsay Watson, who recently stepped into the administration of the Alcoota Station, said, "Hard questions need to be asked. Why are there Traditional Owners still living in tin sheds?

Why are we still vulnerable while living on our homelands?

Where have all the funds and resources gone that should be getting to our grass-roots, to make a difference for our mob?"

Mr Palmer declared that the time of unfulfilled promises and delay was over: "We are demanding real impacts and accountability, delivered directly to CLC members – where they live, with what is needed to thrive.

This is what self-determination looks like."

NT News Article July 21 1:34pm;

Screenshots taken on phone before NT News took article offline

2:50 📶

📶 📶 58

< Back

Lindsay Turner dumped as Central Land Council chief executive

A Northern Territory land council has moved to sack its chief executive, citing ongoing poverty and poor conditions. Read what happened.

Camden Smith

2 mins read · July 21, 2024 01:34 PM

NT News

There has been change at the top of the Central Land Council, with the board moving against chief executive Lesley Turner, who has held the position since April 2021.

Following two years of tumult in Central Australian indigenous communities sparked by the removal of intervention era grog bans, the Central Land Council has separately moved to draw a line in the sand on a particularly difficult era for the organisation and the people it represents.

The move comes amid rumours of a potential split within the Central Land Council, with a breakaway organisation made up of Arernte people under discussion.

Amid surging crime and high-profile acts of violence in and around Alice Springs, the Commonwealth launched an extraordinary intervention in January last year by ordering the Territory government to reinstate community grog bans.

The intervention came with a \$250m cash gift from the Commonwealth to the Territory government to try and reduce crime in the town.

Despite the commitment of additional cash and resources, the government has since declared two curfews in Alice Springs this year as issues around crime and anti-social behaviour have continued.

In a statement released on Saturday, CLC chairman Matt Palmer said council members had expressed dissatisfaction with the current state of the organisation's operations, which it believes has "failed to address basic needs of Aboriginal people across the region, weakening many communities and contributing to increasingly worse conditions".

He said that at a full meeting of the CLC council last week, members moved a motion of instant dismissal against Mr Turner.

"The voices of people in community have been ignored for too long and many in this community are being kept in poverty," Mr Palmer said.



📷 Matthew Palmer CLC chair. Picture: Supplied

"Voices are ignored, people left behind and the vision of CLC has been lost. There is majority support for change of direction and leadership in the CLC. It is time to get things done that matter for the people in the heartland and homelands of the CLC."

NT News Article July 21 1:34pm;

Screenshots taken on phone before NT News took article offline

Mr Palmer said while CLC values were driven by Aboriginal world views, members insist this needs to go further for tangible on-the-ground change.

2:50



Some members strongly support a breakaway Arrernte Land Council.

He said the time of unfulfilled promises and delay was over.

“We are demanding real impacts and accountability, delivered directly to CLC members – where they live, with what is needed to thrive,” he said. “This is what self-determination looks like.”

The CLC media statement quoted Lindsay Watson at Alcoota Station who said it was time for serious change.

“Hard questions need to be asked. Why are there traditional owners still living in tin sheds?

Why are we still vulnerable while living on our homelands?

“Where have all the funds and resources gone that should be getting to our grassroots, to make a difference for our mob?”

The NT News has attempted to contact Mr Turner for comment.

Janelle Trotman

From: Paul Serratore <Serratore.Paul@abc.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2024 12:43 PM
To: Tess O'Loughlin
Subject: Matthew Palmer news story this morning
Attachments: ASP clc chair AM 1.mp3

Caution: This message was sent from outside the CLC. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you know the sender, and are sure the content is safe. Use the **Report Phish** button to report any suspicious mail.

Hey Tess,

Please find attached the news story and audio of Matthew palmer that went to air this morning on local news bulletins:

The chair of the Central Land Council has called for the dismissal of its C-E-O... and has thrown his support behind a break-away council.

The C-L-C is one of the nation's biggest Aboriginal land councils... made up of 90 elected delegates from across the Northern Territory's Central Desert region.

Chair Matthew Palmer says he received strong support for a motion to dismiss the C-E-O at a recent full council meeting.

He says the largely remote member base aren't getting the support they need from the C-L-C.

[AUDIO :A lot of the directors and delegates got the same feeling. they dont get much help, much support, and funding. they just get broken promises year after year.]

(B/A): In a statement, a C-L-C spokesperson denied such a motion had been moved at the full council meeting.



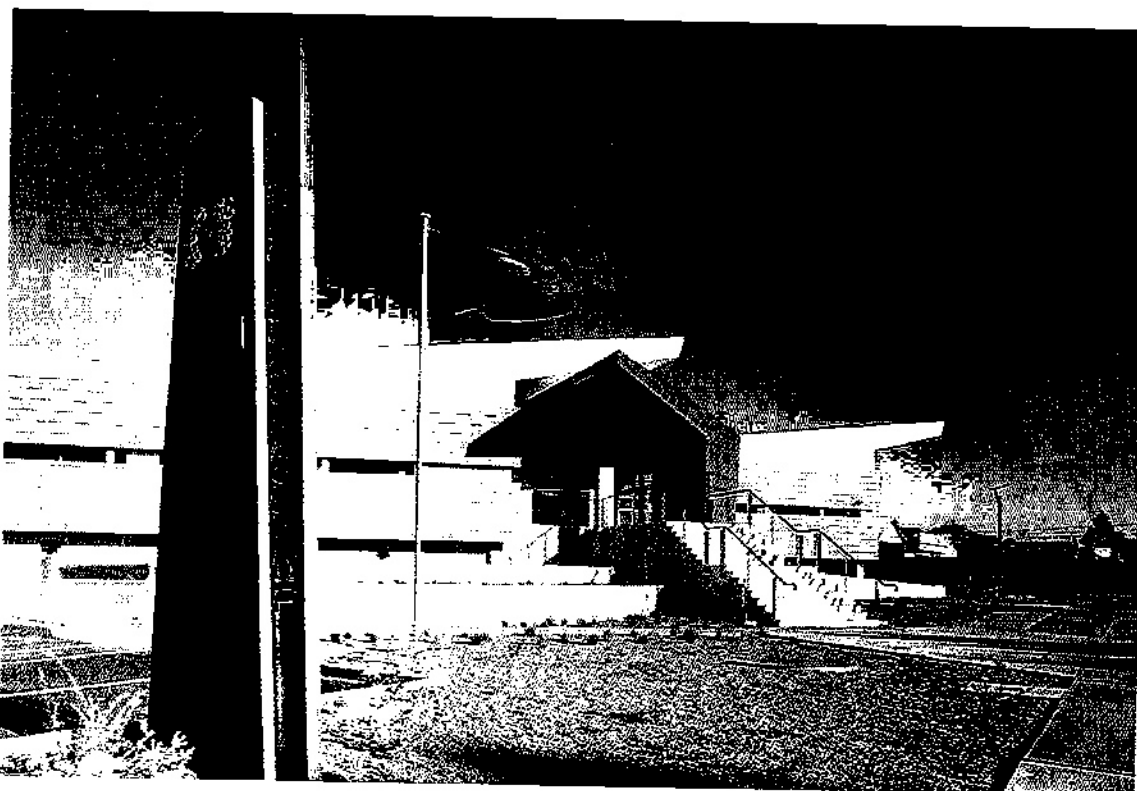
Paul Serratore
 Acting Radio Lead and Drive Producer
 ABC Alice Springs
 P: (08) 8950 4741
 M: 0400 890 853

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.



Central Land Council deny no-confidence motion against CEO

Dechlan Brennan - July 22, 2024



JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE

The Central Land Council have rejected claims that a no-confidence motion has been moved against chief executive Lesley Turner. (Image: Elevation Designs)

The Central Land Council have rejected claims by Jacinta Nampijinpa Price and the NT News that a no-confidence motion was moved against chief executive Lesley Turner at the weekend.

The report on Monday said Central Land Council (CLC) chairman Matt Palmer had released a statement over the weekend saying members at a full council meeting moved for an instant dismissal motion against Mr Turner.

On Sunday evening, Senator Price weighed in, arguing the no-confidence vote against Mr Turner was linked to a Federal Coalition motion to hold an inquiry in Land Councils governance.

In response, the CLC denied the claims.

"The Central Land Council is governed by the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* and scrupulously adheres to the Act," the CLC said in a statement.

"Senator Jacinta Price's statement and the NT News report are inaccurate. There was no motion to dismiss Central Land Council's chief executive Mr Lesley Turner at its full council meeting last week.

"Mr Turner is the CEO of the Central Land Council. Council delegates and staff of the CLC remain focused and continue to act in the interests of traditional owners and Aboriginal people across its region."

NT News said the motion against Mr Turner failed, but Mr Palmer said the CLC had "failed to address basic needs of Aboriginal people across the region, weakening many communities and contributing to increasingly worse conditions".

He went on to say voices were being "ignored" and the vision of the CLC was being lost.

Ad

Furthermore, Mr Palmer said some members of the CLC supported a breakaway Arrernte Land Council.

"We are demanding real impacts and accountability, delivered directly to CLC members – where they live, with what is needed to thrive," Mr Palmer said, as reported by NT News.

"This is what self-determination looks like."

Senator Price said the "majority of Central Land Council members showed their support for the dismissal of the CEO due to unprofessional conduct".

"At the end of the day, it is the most marginalised Indigenous Australians who suffer when Aboriginal organisations are not held to a proper standard," the Country Liberal Party Senator said.

Senator Price has been heavily criticised by the CLC in the past, when her denial about the negative impacts of colonisation in the lead up to last year's referendum were met with derision and disappointment.

She called for Minister Linda Burney to "step up" and make sure the CLC and other Indigenous organisations were being run to the "same standard we would apply to any other organisation in Australia".

JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE LAND COUNCILS LES TURNER QLC CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL
NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS NT

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With more than 100,000 monthly readers of our Newspaper as well as our daily news website, we offer rigorous and fearless reporting on the issues that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The NIT is a 100% Indigenous-owned business.

Navigation

across the region, weakening many communities and contributing to increasingly worse outcomes.

The voices of people in communities have been ignored for too long and many in this community are being kept in poverty," Mr Palmer said.

"These are ignored people and their vision of CLC has been lost. There is no majority support for change of direction and leadership in the CLC. It is time to get things done that matter for the people in the heartland and homelands of the CLC."

The statement said while CLC values were driven by Aboriginal world views, members insisted this needs to go further for tangible on the ground change.

It said along with radical action and progress, some members strongly supported a breakaway Arnhem Land Council.

"We are demanding real impacts and accountability, delivered directly to CLC members - where they live, with what is needed to thrive," Mr Palmer said.

"This is what self-determination looks like."

majority of Central Land Council members showed their support for the dismissal of the CEO due to unprofessional conduct," Senator Price said.

Senator Price said the no-confidence vote should prompt an intervention by the federal government to fix the organisation.

"At the end of the day, it is the most marginalised Indigenous Australians who suffer when Aboriginal organisations are not held to a proper standard," Senator Price said.

"Minister Linda Burney needs to step up and actively ensure these organisations are being run to the highest standard possible; the same standard we would apply to any other organisation in Australia."

A CLC spokesman said the organisation "scrupulously adheres" to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and would continue working for the community.

"Council delegates and staff of the CLC remain focused and continue to act in the interests of traditional owners and Aboriginal people across its region," a statement said.

Labor senator Malarndirri McCarthy declined to comment, while Mr Burney did not respond to the NIT.



Wedjidi Elder Ned Jankurpa Hargraves at the Central Australian Frack Free Alliance anti-fracking gathering in Alice Springs.

Decade on, campaigners revel in telling companies to 'frack off'

Gera Karlow

Anti-fracking protesters gathered in Alice Springs on Sunday to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Central Australian Frack Free Alliance's formation. The group, which was founded in 2014, has been instrumental in the fight against hydraulic fracturing in the region. The day's events included a walking rally from the Alice Springs Town Council to the Alice Springs Frack Free Alliance's office.

The Central Australian Frack Free Alliance (CAFFA) has celebrated a decade of its existence, marking the anniversary with a series of events in Alice Springs. The group, which was founded in 2014, has been instrumental in the fight against hydraulic fracturing in the region. The day's events included a walking rally from the Alice Springs Town Council to the Alice Springs Frack Free Alliance's office.

Greens candidate for Braffing Asta Hill. Elder Mr Hargraves didn't mince his words when he gave his opinion on the practice, stating "take your fracking, and frack off". "We don't want fracking in the NT," he said. "If you want fracking, go do it in your backyard. Our land, our Tjukurpa is going to be destroyed by these people who want to frack."

Ekin said she was proud of the collective efforts in the Territory. "Ten years into the campaign, fracking companies continue to struggle to get the fracking off the ground," she said. "It's hard enough to get a dirty fracking industry off the ground, and with the resistance from traditional owners and communities across the NT this industry is bound to fail."

Local destination plan updates 'opportunities'

Four years after the first plan was released, the Territory government has released an updated destination management plan for the MacDonnell Ranges and Alice Springs. The update aims to ensure the plan aligns with the current state of the region and the opportunities it offers.

The updated plan includes the completion of restoration works at the Hermannsburg Historic Precinct and the development of a new walking trail linking Niara (Hermannsburg) to the Finke Gorge National Park. It also includes the development of a new walking trail connecting the Telegraph Station, the future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art

gallery, and the development of a new walking trail connecting the Telegraph Station, the future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art gallery, and the development of a new walking trail connecting the Telegraph Station, the future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art gallery.

The plan also lists a \$5 million casino overhaul and a \$5 million Alice Springs visitor centre. The casino upgrade is scheduled for completion in 2026, while the visitor centre will be completed in 2026.

The plan also lists a \$5 million casino overhaul and a \$5 million Alice Springs visitor centre. The casino upgrade is scheduled for completion in 2026, while the visitor centre will be completed in 2026.

Divisions fracture at CLC

CEO faces no-confidence

Camden Smith

Internal divisions within the Central Land Council have split over at the weekend with reports the organisation moved a no-confidence motion against chief executive Lesley Turner.

A statement released at the weekend by chairman Matt Palmer said members at a full council meeting last week had moved an instant dismissal motion against Mr Turner.

The CLC on Monday denied an instant dismissal motion was moved.

Mr Palmer claimed the CLC had "failed to address basic needs of Aboriginal people across the region, weakening many communities and contributing to increasingly worse conditions".

"The voices of people in community have been ignored for too long and many in this community are being kept in poverty," Mr Palmer said.

"Voices are ignored, people left behind and the vision of CLC has been lost. There is majority support for change of direction and leadership in the CLC. It is time to get things done that matter for the people in the heartland and homelands of the CLC."

The statement said while CLC values were driven by Aboriginal world views, members insisted this needs to go further for tangible on-the-ground change.

It said along with radical action and progress, some members strongly supported a breakaway Arrente Land Council.

"We are demanding real impacts and accountability, delivered directly to CLC members - where they live, with what is needed to thrive," Mr Palmer said.

"This is what self-determination looks like."

The statement quoted Lindsay Watson at Alcoota Station

who said it was time for serious change.

"Hard questions need to be asked. Why are there traditional owners still living in tin sheds?"

"Why are we still vulnerable while living on our homelands?"

"Where have all the funds and resources gone that should be getting to our grassroots, to make a difference for our mob?"

Late on Sunday, CLP senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price weighed in, linking the failed no-confidence vote against Mr Turner to a Coalition motion to hold an inquiry into land councils' governance.

"Through last week's vote, a majority of Central Land Council members showed their support for the dismissal of the CEO due to unprofessional conduct," Senator Price said.

Senator Price said the no confidence vote should prompt an intervention by the federal government to fix the organisation.

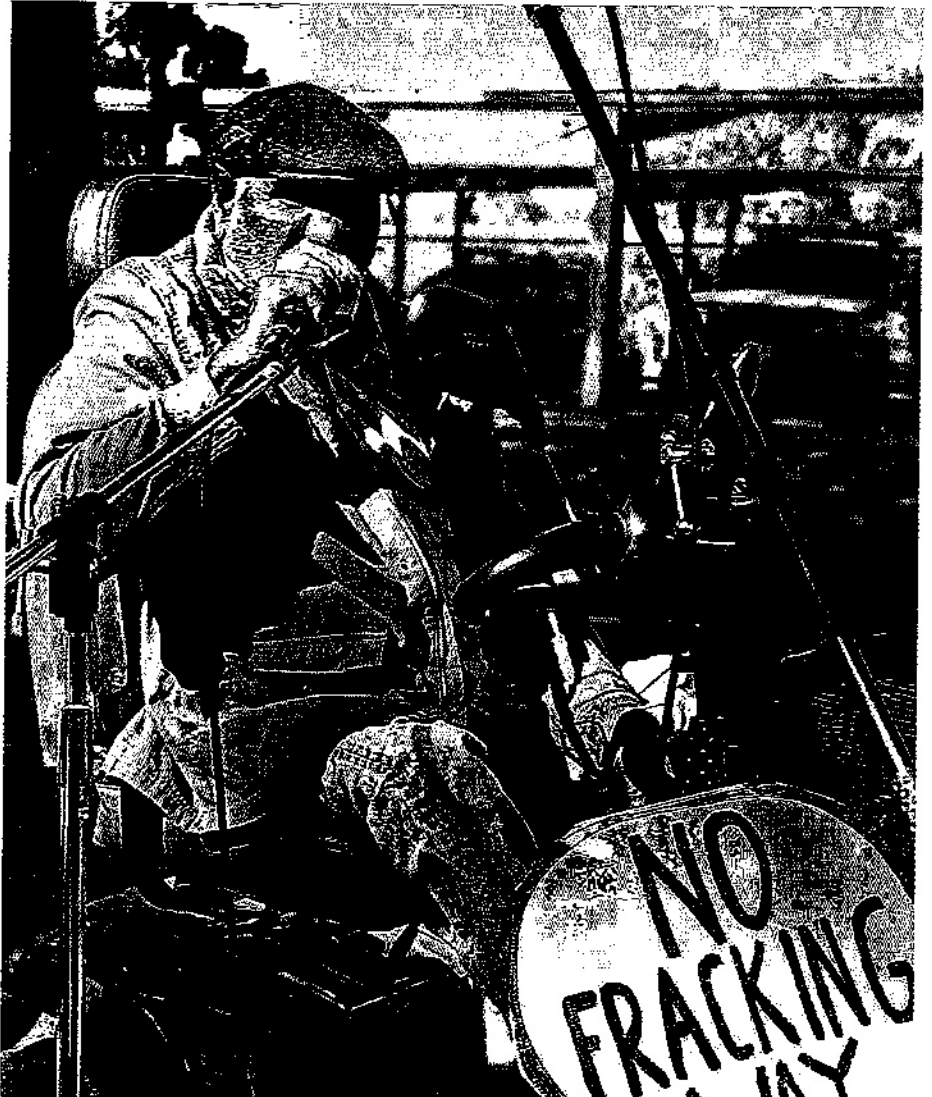
"At the end of the day, it is the most marginalised Indigenous Australians who suffer when Aboriginal organisations are not held to a proper standard," Senator Price said.

"Minister Linda Burney needs to step up and actively ensure these organisations are held to the highest standard possible; the same standard we would apply to any other organisation in Australia."

A CLC spokesman said the organisation "scrupulously adheres" to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act and would continue working for the community.

"Council delegates and staff of the CLC remain focused and continue to act in the interests of traditional owners and Aboriginal people across its region," a statement said.

Labor senator Malarndirri McCarthy declined to comment, while Ms Burney did not respond in time.



Wajipiri Elder Ned Jampijinpa Hargraves at the Central Australian Frack Free Alliance anti-fracking gathering in Alice Springs.

Decade on, campaigners revel in telling companies to 'frack off'

Gera Kazakov

Anti-frackers have congregated in the Red Centre to celebrate a milestone moment in their fight against the controversial mining practice - telling those behind the practice to "frack off".

Members and allies from the Central Australian Frack Free Alliance descended on the Alice Springs Town Council lawns on Sunday

afternoon to celebrate a decade of anti-fracking campaigning.

The three hour event - billed as an anti-fracking gathering - featured speeches from elders, budding politicians and activists. Speakers included Wajipiri Elder Ned Jampijinpa Hargraves, Arid Lands Environment Centre fracking campaigner Hannah Ekin,

Central Australian Frack Free Alliance's Hilary Tyler and NT

Greens candidate for Brailling Asta Hill.

Elder Mr Hargraves didn't mince his words when he gave his opinion on the practice, stating "take your fracking, and frack off".

"We don't want fracking in the NT," he said. "If you want fracking, go do it in your backyard. Our land, our Tjukurpa is going to be destroyed by these people who want to frack."

Fracking campaigner Ms

Ekin said she was proud of the collective efforts to stop fracking in the Territory.

"Ten years into the campaign, fracking companies continue to struggle to get the industry off the ground," she said.

"It's hard enough to get a dirty fracking industry off the ground, and with the strong resistance from traditional owners and communities across the NT this industry is bound to fail."

Local destination plan updates 'opportunities'

Gera Kazakov

Four years after the first plan was released, the Territory government has released an updated destination management plan for the MacDonnell Ranges and Alice Springs - showing "opportunities identified" within the region alongside "key achievements".

The update aims to ensure "the plan aligns with the cur-

rent tourism environment", according to a statement from tourism and hospitality minister Joel Bowden.

"Key achievements - include the completion of restoration works at the Hermannsburg Historic Precinct, early works under way to build the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Gallery of Australia in Alice Springs, and the establishment

of a new contemporary visitor information centre in Alice Springs," the statement said.

"Development opportunities identified for the region include establishing a walking trail linking Ntaria (Hermannsburg) to the Finke Gorge National Park, and developing a tourism precinct that connects the Telegraph Station, the future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art

Gallery of Australia, Alice Springs CBD and Anzac Hill."

In May, Alice Springs residents watched the last rugby games played at Anzac Oval - the future site of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Gallery of Australia with local clubs now shuffled between different ovals, as the town's rugby teams await a new oval to be built in Kilgariff.

The destination management plan lists five strengths for the region: "Aboriginal culture, nature, adventure, history, and events sectors".

"The plan maps out the strategy to lean in even more to the region's competitive strengths, attracting more visitors and increased expenditure by building up and promoting Aboriginal cultural experiences, night time and astro-tourism experiences, drive tourism

and new adventure opportunities including hiking and 4WD experiences," the statement reads.

The plan also lists a Lasseters casino overhaul and a \$5 million Alice Springs visitor centre upgrade as key achievements.

The casino upgrade is scheduled for completion in 2028, according to the updated plan, while the visitor centre will be completed in 2026.



CLC statement

The Central Land Council is governed by the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* and scrupulously adheres to the Act.

Senator Jacinta Price's statement and the NT News report are inaccurate. There was no motion to dismiss Central Land Council's chief executive Mr Lesley Turner at its full council meeting last week.

Mr Turner is the CEO of the Central Land Council. Council delegates and staff of the CLC remain focused and continue to act in the interests of traditional owners and Aboriginal people across its region.

No further comment will be provided at this time.

22 July 2024

SENATOR JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE
Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians
Senator for the Northern Territory

21 July 2024

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL TAKES MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS

A motion of no confidence was moved last week in relation to the CEO of the Central Land Council. The motion demonstrates yet again that the needs and concerns of Indigenous Australians are not a priority for the Albanese Government.

In September last year, the Coalition moved a motion calling for an inquiry into the governance of the Land Councils, however the Albanese government refused to heed that call. Through last week's vote, a majority of Central Land Council members showed their support for the dismissal of the CEO due to unprofessional conduct.

Although unsuccessful, the motion was backed by the Central Land Council chair Matt Palmer, who said, "the voices of people in community have been ignored for too long and many in this community are being kept in poverty. Voices are ignored, people are left behind and the vision of the Central Land Council has been lost. There is majority support for change of direction and leadership in the Central Land Council, and it is time to get things done that matter for the people in the heartland and homelands of the Council."

"Hard questions need to be asked, like why there are Traditional Owners still living in tin sheds? And why are we still vulnerable while living on our homelands? Where have all the funds and resources gone that should be getting to our grass-roots, to make a difference for our mob?" asked Mr Palmer.

"Following last week's vote, will the Albanese government simply leave the Central Land Council members to fix this issue by themselves?" asked Senator Nampijinpa Price. "Will they simply label this an isolated issue and continue to pretend that issues like this are not also present in other aboriginal organisations?"


Senator Nampijinpa Price said the Albanese government has presided over the ongoing failure of NAAJA, has ironically given boards with domestic violence offenders money to deliver domestic violence prevention services, and has overseen the inexplicable cessation of ABA grants for Homelands.

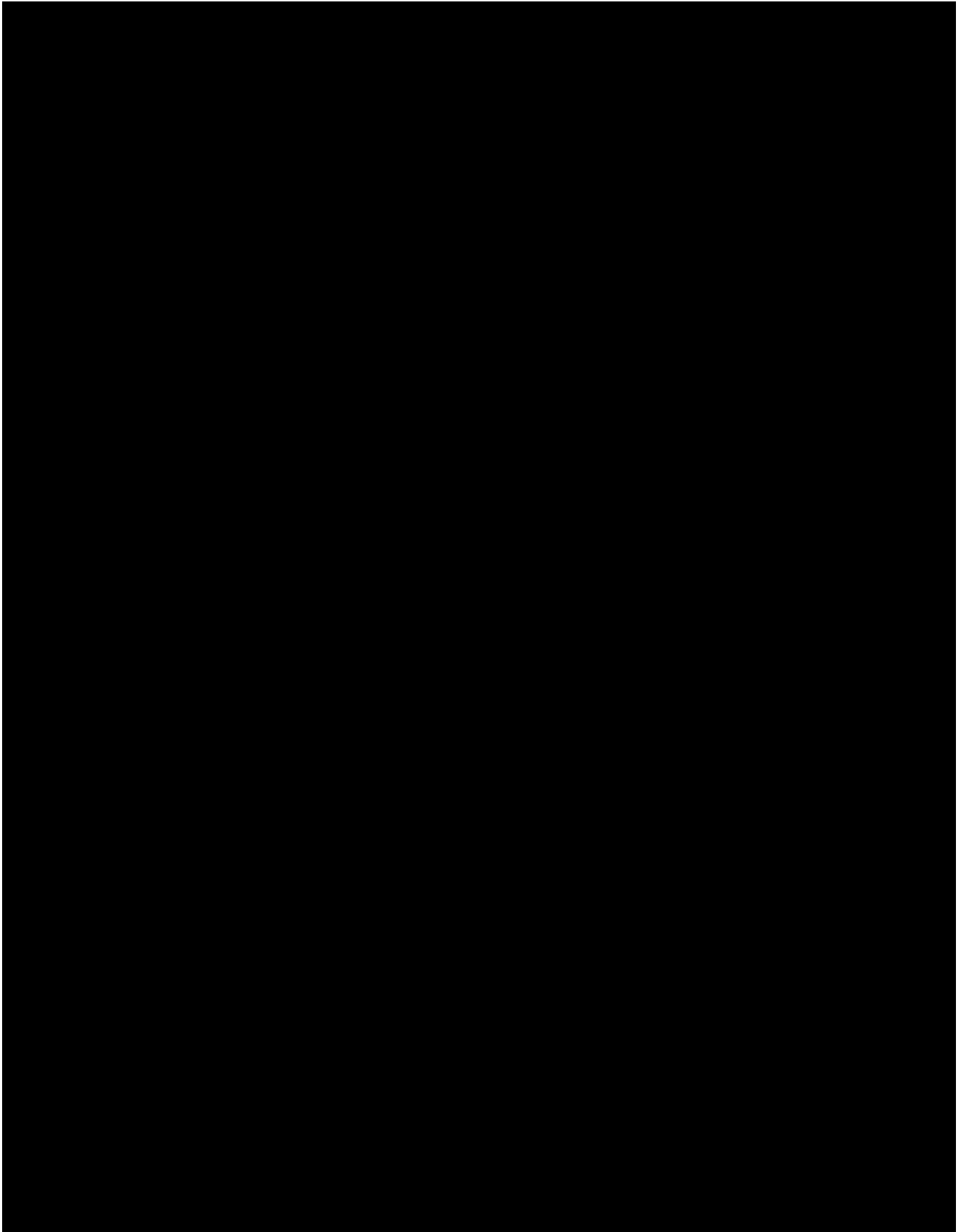
"At the end of the day, it is the most marginalised Indigenous Australians who suffer when aboriginal organisations are not held to a proper standard. Minister Linda Burney needs to step up and actively ensure these organisations are being run to the highest standard possible; the same standard we would apply to any other organisation in Australia," said Senator Nampijinpa Price.

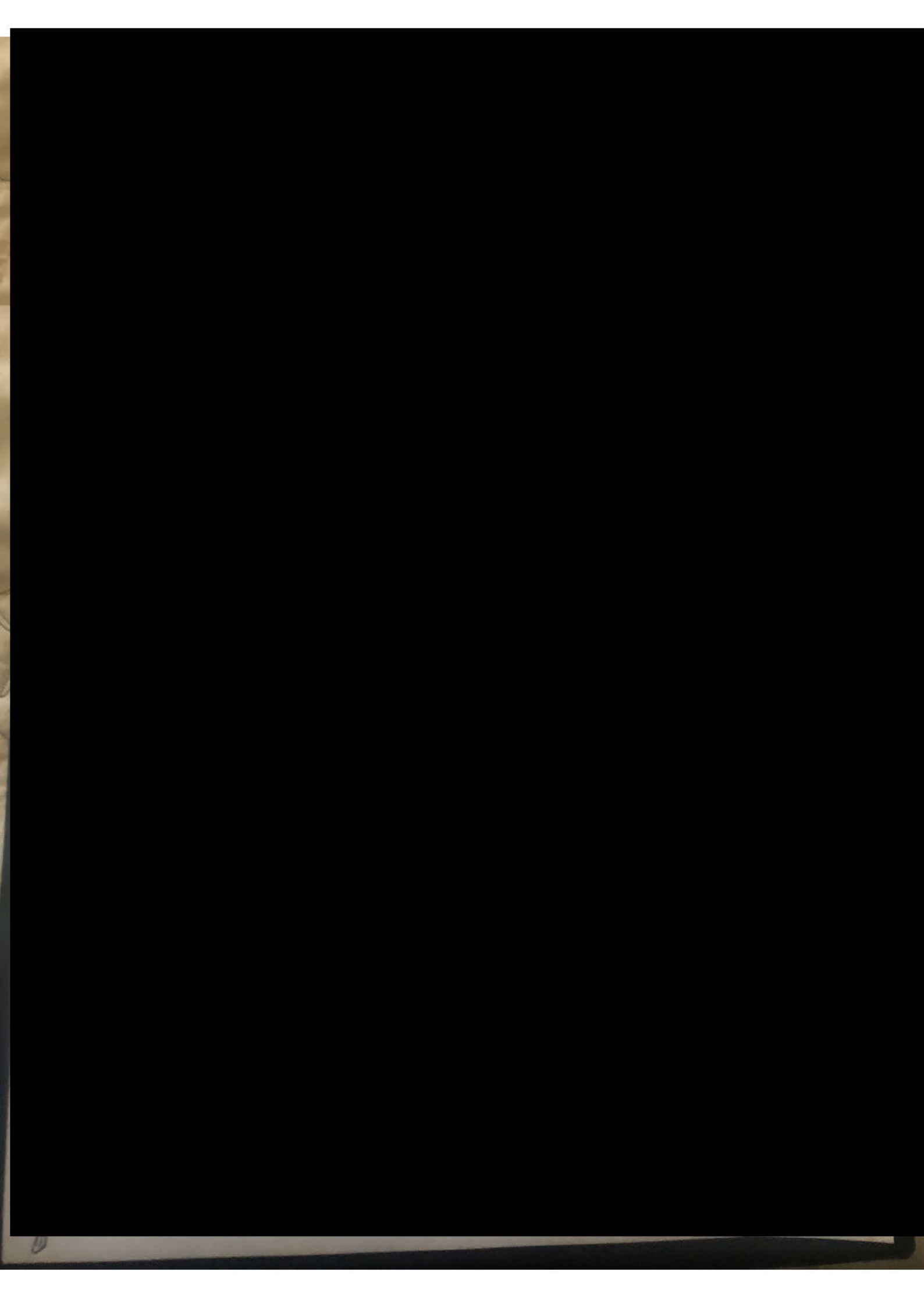
"If Minister Burney continues to let these organisations off the hook as she has done with other Indigenous-run organisations, she is simply revealing the racist low expectations she holds with respect to Indigenous Australians, and doing nothing to actually improve the lives of those people she claims to represent," Senator Nampijinpa Price said.

Senator Nampijinpa Price said a review into the Land Rights Act must be conducted to ensure greater transparency and accountability. "For too long the status quo has overseen an arrangement whereby traditional owners are land rich but dirt poor, and have little hope of being empowered to use the resources available to them to build their own economic independence."

[END]

Media Contact: Rebekah Hart - 





Certificate of Annexure

No. NTD 17 of 2024

Federal Court of Australia
District Registry: Northern Territory
Division: General

LESLEY TURNER

Applicant

JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE

Respondent

Affidavit of: **Vasilios Kalantzis**
Address: **55 Stanley Street**
East Sydney NSW 2010
Occupation: **Solicitor**
Date: **21 March 2025**

ANNEXURE “VK-5”

This page and the following 3 pages is the annexure marked “VK-5” referred to in the affidavit of Vasilios Kalantzis sworn on 21 March 2025, before me:



.....
Name: Luca Italiano Circosta
Qualification: Solicitor

From: [Bill Kalantzis](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price and Lesley Turner
Date: Tuesday, 3 September 2024 11:32:00 AM
Attachments: [Let to Blackbay - Senator Price and Turner - 02.09.2024.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Dear Victoria,

I trust you and your family are all well.

I act for Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price and refer to your letter to my client dated 29 July 2024 forwarded on behalf of your client Mr Lesley Turner.

Attached is my letter dated 2 September 2024 in response.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

Bill Kalantzis | Principal
Kalantzis Lawyers

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Hackers have impersonated conveyancing and legal firms and requested payment via email using their own account details. It is important you take the extra steps to verify any bank account details you receive in an email from our firm by speaking to us before transferring money. Use a search engine to find our website and verify our phone number and call us. Do not reply to any email asking for payment before verifying its authenticity with us.

55 Stanley Street
East Sydney NSW 2010
PO Box 129
Darlinghurst NSW 2010

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Your Ref: BBL:939

2 September 2024

Ms Victoria-Jane Otavski
Partner
Blackbay Lawyers
Level 30, 133 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Victoria,

Re: Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price and Lesley Turner

We act for Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price and refer to your letter to our client dated 29 July 2024 (**your letter**).

We note your client alleges that a media release our client published on 21 July 2024 (the **Media Release**) carried defamatory imputations of and concerning your client.

The Media Release was created by reference to material provided to our client by the Chairman of the Central Land Council Mr Matthew Palmer which included a media release and draft resolution.

We note that your client relies on a statement from the Central Land Council that the Media Release was "*factually incorrect*" in asserting that the Media Release was false. We have been provided with signed statements by persons in attendance at the meeting held on 18 July 2024 who attest to the fact that a motion to dismiss the Central Land Council's chief executive was tabled.

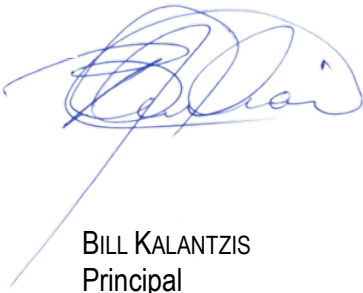
It is not possible for our firm to advise our client properly about the claim in your letter that the Media Release was "*factually incorrect*" in these circumstances without a copy of the transcript and the minutes of the meeting.

Accordingly, in order that we may properly advise our client in relation to your client's claims and the requests made in your letter, we request that you provide a copy of any transcript or minutes of the Central Land Council meeting held on 18 July 2024.

In the meantime, in the interests of resolving this matter and without any admissions our client will remove the Media Release from her website.

We await your response.

Yours faithfully,
KALANTZIS Lawyers

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Kalantzis", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

BILL KALANTZIS
Principal