

SALES TREND

Financial week range

FY25 Week 1 to FY26 Week 1

Financial year & week (yyyyww)

202501 202601

Day

All

Masthead

State & Communities (Ma...)

Masthead status

Active

Sales channel level 2

All

Sales channel level 4

All

Outlet group

All

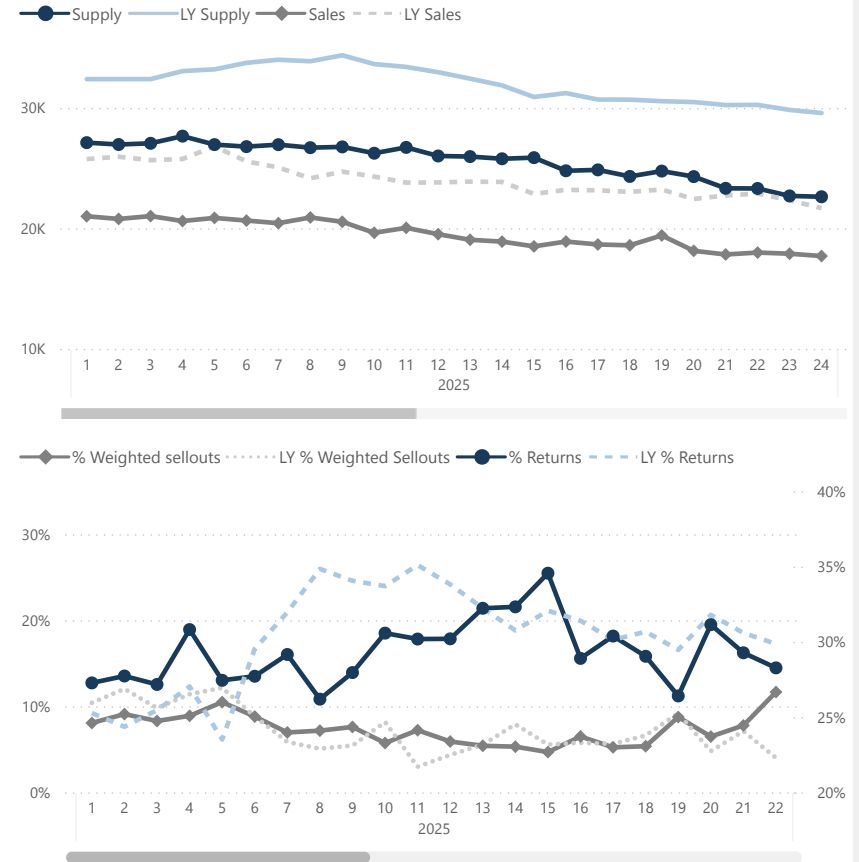
Click to view:

Weekly trend

YoY trend

Daily trend

Financial week	Day	Supply	Sales	% YoY	% YTD YoY	Returns	% Returns	Sales Instances	Sellouts	% sel
FY25 Week 7		20,950	20,420	-19.3%	-19.3%	-6,322	29.2%	1,250	104	
FY25 Week 6		26,786	20,646	-19.2%	-19.7%	-6,140	27.7%	1,256	113	
FY25 Week 5		26,955	20,867	-22.2%	-19.7%	-6,088	27.4%	1,283	141	
FY25 Week 4	Mon	3,322	2,570	-19.6%	-19.8%	-752	27.9%	187	12	
	Tue	3,388	2,538	-22.7%	-19.0%	-850	30.8%	190	11	
	Wed	3,495	2,750	-17.1%	-18.8%	-745	26.0%	190	22	
	Thu	3,892	2,857	-18.3%	-18.9%	-1,035	31.4%	190	14	
	Fri	3,823	2,695	-22.0%	-17.3%	-1,128	35.4%	182	19	
	Sat	4,517	3,377	-18.2%	-20.3%	-1,140	31.1%	175	26	
	Sun	5,220	3,820	-21.7%	-19.3%	-1,400	31.9%	157	27	
	Total	27,657	20,607	-20.0%	-19.1%	-7,050	30.8%	1,271	131	
FY25 Week 3	Mon	3,347	2,607	-18.1%	-19.8%	-740	27.2%	188	11	
	Tue	3,405	2,647	-14.7%	-17.7%	-758	27.3%	190	13	
	Wed	3,480	2,683	-18.8%	-19.4%	-797	27.9%	190	11	
	Thu	3,519	2,669	-19.2%	-19.0%	-850	29.4%	189	16	
	Fri	3,835	2,934	-17.5%	-15.8%	-901	28.2%	187	23	
	Sat	4,371	3,461	-20.0%	-21.0%	-910	25.8%	174	23	
	Sun	5,105	4,016	-17.8%	-18.6%	-1,089	25.5%	155	18	
	Total	27,062	21,017	-18.1%	-18.8%	-6,045	27.2%	1,273	115	
FY25 Week 2	Mon	3,328	2,558	-18.7%	-20.6%	-770	28.3%	188	20	
	Tue	3,411	2,636	-21.3%	-19.2%	-775	27.6%	190	16	
	Wed	3,503	2,627	-21.5%	-19.7%	-876	30.2%	190	12	
	Thu	3,517	2,684	-19.7%	-19.0%	-833	28.5%	190	17	
	Fri	3,828	2,967	-16.8%	-14.9%	-861	26.8%	187	16	



Transcription - Closed session CM2024.02 Watarrka 19th July 2024

Recording time 25:13

Primary speaker names noted when known:

- MP: Matthew Palmer
- NH: Ned Hargraves
- WW: Warren Williams

Languages to be translated and reviewed:

- **Arrernte language** – highlighted yellow below
- **Red text** = translated from Arrernte
- **Warlpiri language** – highlighted green below
- **Green text** = translated from Warlpiri
- **Language TBC** – highlighted blue below
- **Blue text** = translated from multiple languages (common across some languages)
- [Cross talk] = multiple people speaking at once; cannot discern conversation from audio

Transcript of what can be heard on the audio recording

MP – Yeah, I just wanna... I'd like all the staff to move please. Staff **[language inaudible]** confidential. Where are we? **Good come closer** (discussion in background.) Yo yo staff all out.

Staff member - you want me out?

MP - you can stand there.

1:00 – MP: [inaudible] ...Yesterday and then the problem is this. And ah whitefella kardiya they wanted Ingkerreke. **I told my problems - them white people wanted get me out.** Reason why this mob **I am helping this mob** either way all around the centre, outstations, **cattle stations.** **[language inaudible]** They don't want that **we worked on, they want to keep us down** like they did to our old people, put under the thumb under the sun. All mob. People **are you listening?**

[Cross talk]:

- yes
- yeah

1:40 MP: Right, **I spoke to the Minister, Minister spoke to me. Minister boss told me to break the middle man.** That's where all the money's gone. Money's gotta go back **to the people.** And they said **Minister, Prime Minister, and all they coming to speak to us, do you want that** or you mob **want to live like dogs.**

Other voice: yes

2:18: MP: Like, uh, old people was. No **work.** No anything, **like the old people used to talk, write everything on paper,** yeah we're right and damn right.

DRAFTING OF TRANSCRIPT IN PROGRESS and subject to review by language speakers.

(yo)

2:36 MP: Minister mob are backing me up. Then this mob wants backing me up. They said don't say it like that, take the middle man so all the money can go back to the community like that. I am going on a right road.

3:13 MP: [language inaudible] We will be getting older and older and see how the white man standing now and watching our old people getting old and Community can stay like that family mob like that, community will remain the same. Everything everybody [language inaudible] all you mob know, you heard that again about the roads from, like that well with back up like that we follow put fences up, bob cat or have own road crews in community. Work like that keep money in the community. That's the story I wanted to tell you mob. Middle man is stopping all the money. They still holding the money.

4:19 Other voice: [language warlpiri] support each other. Ya know... [language warlpiri] you know [language]. That's only [language] young fella [language] and no anything. No. [language].

5:06 MP: Yeah and another thing. I want to tell you mob when you put me in the position at the start, I was in the office looking at other white staff and I asked them "where is this person – CEO?" In Canberra... One week. He's the boss how come he never taken me to Canberra all the time he used to go visit to Canberra by himself without me knowing. He know if he'd taken me I would have listened to what parliament is talking about the Aboriginal people.

5:44 Other voice – you should go with him.

5:55 MP: But nothing, he used to cruise himself for two weeks and I get left behind. That's not working together.

Other voice: nah, should be the CEO and the Chair should be working together

6:00 MP: Yeah but nothing. This year coming to the end, he used to go for 2 week, 1 week but nothing so only the white people can talk for money, that's not good. He should have taken me from the start.

6:20 [Cross talk]:

- Mr. Ross, Mr. Ross.. [inaudible]
- Next year must be your turn
- Secret – you been telling what you're talking about
- [inaudible]

6:40 MP: He does not tell us what happened in the meeting, that's all, then he has conversation with whitefella. People that he knows and they keep secrets, no information.

Other voice: We got women's council but what about men's council? We got anything or...?

[Cross talk – inaudible]

MP: you mob got nothing. We gotta set that up too, it's important. You know if there's trouble in the community, men's council can sort them out, like that.

7:20 [loud aeroplane – discussion inaudible]

DRAFTING OF TRANSCRIPT IN PROGRESS and subject to review by language speakers.

7:35 MP: council really important from town and all, for example little bit to ask for everything he keeps doing this, he is looking at jail. If you are listening woman can beat and they go straight to jail, straight to jail...

[cross talk – inaudible]

MP: ... and it proper court [language inaudible] watch house proper [language inaudible] looking after you. [language inaudible] look up to em, do like that at meetings men's council if you do it again then we will go jail how many months, how many, how many years, then he'll pick up on these mob are getting hard on sentencing.

8:40 other voice: man go to jail for nothing [language]

[cross talk inaudible]

8:57 MP: Nine regions let the police and government ...meet up, we'll go men's council and tell them this is our plan and that's our punishment, that man gotta be there who made the trouble to pull him out of the court to face men's council. That's how hard we gotta be, hard. All men.

9:17 Other voice – meeting a couple of months ago [cross talk inaudible] for the white fella or [inaudible] might like to take a couple of white people and he went back town and call himself a real Aboriginal man and law man but he's a white fella. We wanna see things like that because they robbing us money. We want to stop all this bullshit. Men's council, we are the only people who can stop the other people. They got no father... [inaudible] who can be.

10:15 – [cross talk – inaudible]

10:39 NH – yes, yeah

10:43 MP - They using us for nothing otherwise we will be rubbish.

Other voice – you can't tell him off?

[cross talk – inaudible]

10:50 – MP – Look at the boss, he is sitting quietly listening. He does not come back from Canberra from staying 1 week or two weeks and how government was talking, and see here when he comes back he does not share what was spoken and I am working without knowing what went on.

11:20 NH – We don't want that thing, no, we don't want that, we can't allow that because it's terrible, it's secret, can't make that happen. No.

11:37 Other voice – that's why we're putting that voice for us

[Cross talk inaudible]

11:41 – MP: that next meeting [language inaudible] we strongly gotta put that uh 9 regions men's council. We gotta move that too. Lets work quickly and get that funding - federal government, commonwealth government if they want this problems then what's happening, it's only way we can throw him down.

12:05- NH: They can come through tribal council

[cross talk]

- Yeah, yeah

DRAFTING OF TRANSCRIPT IN PROGRESS and subject to review by language speakers.

- They'll find 'em, they'll find 'em, cos that's a big problem

12:10 – other voice: you know all that [language inaudible] that's a lot of money they got, and all that money we don't see that in our communities.

[Cross talk]:

- Yeah
- Yes

Other voice: they'll fund them. That sister was talking about the road and home, where's the money gone for Sandover road, can't keep it like that - they'll pull it out funding.

12:30 – 13:45 MP: I done this paper from the, what I heard from the Minister. They told me to write it down on the paper on what's spoken in Council meeting. They'll come to speak to us [language inaudible]

13:21 NH: we want you to read something out [cross talk inaudible]. Give it to him to read..

13:27 MP: Yeah. They will listen/read it and move it and pass so we can see the money in our community but this middle man is stopping all funding from the government... Minister... [language inaudible] get away from the middle man. [Language inaudible] whitefella, Minister [language inaudible].

13:50 NH: Let him read it. Read it out and then [language] let em read it out, you're right.. we gotta.

13:57 – MP: He told me himself, the Minister, do you want to see changes in the community, every community the building up, but he is still stopping the funding. Old people didn't know. That'll give us power.

14:10 Other voice: we gonna have the power again?

[cross talk – inaudible]

14:15 – MP: Power. Power yeah, yeah all power

[cross talk]:

- Gotta think about that one

MP: [language inaudible] not even NT government can stop us. Your house, your land trust they got no right to talk cause we can have own council not shire council. Go back to how we used to be, that's why we doing this paper cause the Minister told me.

[cross talk] 14:35 NH – Bro, let this one read it first. Let [Japanangka] [Warlpiri skin name] read it. Let [Japanangka] read and then from there we're... [inaudible]

14:46 MP: [language inaudible]

14:53 WW – I can't get myself involved in this one. I can't get myself involved in this one. That's out of jurisdiction, that's out of jurisdiction.[cross talk] Yeah, I can't get involved.

15:10 NH: All we want you to do is read it.

15:13 – WW: I can't even read it. No Ned, because you're asking me... [language]

15:17 MP: Is there anyone who can read this paper? - so everyone can listen.

DRAFTING OF TRANSCRIPT IN PROGRESS and subject to review by language speakers.

[cross talk – some in language]:

15:45 MP: When the boss heard he probably will go on his own and we heard the funding figure - 4 billion... [Language inaudible]

[cross talk]

16:00 NH: [language] because [language] whatever we do we gotta settle it quicker

[cross talk inaudible]

16:25 – other voice: you can't be here or...?

[cross talk inaudible]

16:33 – other voice: Maybe, maybe, maybe we gotta trying to find the fault. Any fault what he's done wrong, and then we can try and help you. If we go ahead and sign he might take us to court.

17:00 – MP: we'll put him in court with this one here. I can put him in court with what I've got here.

17:05 - NH: [language]

17:11 - MP: I can put him in court, the two of them, with this one I can sue him. See he made wrong here

17:18 – NH: [language] There's no .. [language]

17:19 – other voice: well you mob can sign it because I don't wanna be in jail

17:30-17:50 – [cross talk – some inaudible]

- All we want to do is take it up with ..[inaudible]. They gotta be (inaudible)
- Chair [language] Chair [Language]
- We can't put him [language]

17:55 – Other voice: He's the chairperson still for us so we can't turn around back way for CEO. No. There's no proof. He will take us to court.

18:04 - NH: There is a proof there [language]

18:06 – Other voice: where?

18:07 NH: because number [language] put that thing

18:10 – 18:28 [cross talk]

- No no
- Common seal

18:17 WW: Ned, he's won that [language]. He's still the chair, he's still the chair [language] Ned you and Valerie voted [language]. He's still the chair. For the period relevant next year April. You can't take it, no. He's the chair.

[cross talk]:

- Yeah
- Yuwa

18:25 [cross talk – some inaudible]

- Only a couple more months then we'll be new voting then. [inaudible]. Then for the CEO we gotta find a really false, I tell you.

18:47 MP: anything wrong **then that CEO we gotta find really fault he made wrong here.** I can put him in court, **two of them in court** no worries **that's why I was telling you from the start he was going to Canberra from start by himself ...** [inaudible] council, **he went again by himself, hey what's been happening, what I got to tell my people I got** no information

18:47 [cross talk – some inaudible]:

- ..CEO...Couple of [inaudible]...Lawyer
- [inaudible]..lawyer
- [language]
- You lot find (inaudible) Yeah somewhere

19:12 NH: We gotta think hard about it you know, because it's a time that we stood up, we stood up.

19:20 WW: Nah, Ned. You understand. He's already a Chair. Voted in today. He's already a chair [language] until April next year... No... you can't...

[Cross talk]

19:30 NH: Yes [language] he's writing that thing [language]

19:45 WW: for what reason? For what reason – you give me a good reason?

19:48 NH: The good reason is [language]

19:50 WW: No. He's back in the chair [language] [inaudible]

19:57 Other voice: when we vote him in and bring him back as a chair, we can't backfire for CEO, **no.**

[Cross talk]

20:02 WW: I'm telling you. I'm telling you right now Ned.

Other voice: we can't do that, we can't do that

20:04 NH: Yes we can. Yes we can. [language] seal [language] **No.**

20:13 [cross talk]:

- So you're automatically In the chair again
- We gotta be careful because... we gotta be careful
- We gotta watch him now

WW: That one hasn't got a common seal. Ned that letter doesn't have a common seal. You just be careful. You mob can go but we're standing by... [inaudible]. You mob can go, but we standing by

[cross talk – some inaudible]:

- He might take us to court
- I got no lawyer

20:44 NH: This isn't [language] this is our choice, no, no **non-aboriginal people (kardiya)** can tell us what to do. No

20:48: WW: Ned...

20:48: NH: Why are we fronting about the non-aboriginal people (kardiya)? Why? Why? Why are we fronting about the non-aboriginal people (kardiya)? Huh? Ya know why?

20:54 WW: What reasons you got there?

20:55 NH: I just told you.

WW: You got any... evidence in that letter?

20:55 – 22:30 [Cross talk – some inaudible]:

- You got nothing
- How many broken [inaudible]
- You mob can sign it no worries.
- I got no lawyer
- Lawyer coming to see me
- We'll just watch him for mistake...We watch him... gotta watch him again
- If you make a mistake [language] minister been [language]
- I tell you about that Chairman from way back. My rights he was a chairman in Lake nash trying to fix my property...[inaudible]... you know what's happened? ..[Inaudible]... that's the same thing that I remember
- And they'll blame him and go back way
- No no, not pressure
- We gotta find the false... [inaudible] we gotta..
- That's really cruel...
- [Language]...Canberra
- No evidence
- Hey we waiting for...[inaudible] tell him to come
- [inaudible].. False to that CEO then we can kick him out
- I remember [inaudible] I remember
- CEO [inaudible]...

22:30 NH: This is the choice of our own people. This is what we want. We're not happy about what he's doing and what he's done. No.

22:30 – 23:46 [cross talk – some inaudible]:

- Nothing written that...(inaudible)
- No. He's a good man.
- Cash money today ay?
- Yeah but I don't know why...(inaudible)
- With the delegates...yeah... proper meeting
- [Language]... This fella had a birthday yesterday
- Nothing written down...No
- They do a good thing too
- Yeah we want money
- Just (inaudible) slowly...[language]
- [cross talk continues – inaudible]

DRAFTING OF TRANSCRIPT IN PROGRESS and subject to review by language speakers.

23:41 MP: Family... (inaudible). In October meeting you mob can go cause, this is liar, that is my speech.

23:49 [cross talk – some inaudible]

- For money
- [language]
- You wanna go, we'll get him...(inaudible)
- Yes, ... our mother [language]
- [language]

Staff member: meeting closed or...?

24:25 MP (on microphone): is it okay or what? People on my side. In October, people on my side let's pull out okay? or [language inaudible]. So Minister can see. The Minister can join our side and Prime Minister to come to our side so we can do that. So these mob pick each other by voting we can turn in another direction. I'm telling the truth I've heard this from the minister okay. Alright go and get your money [cross talk - language inaudible] yeah thank you.

Staff member: meeting closed.

DRAFT

4



Jacinta Nampijinpa P...

last seen yesterday at 8:43 pm



18 Jul 2024



Central Land Council - No
Confidence Motion .docx

1 page • 24 KB • docx

Media release re CLC - let me
know your thoughts

4:22 pm ✓✓

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

18 July 2024

CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL TAKES MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS

A vote of no confidence carried this afternoon at a meeting of the Central Land Council has shown 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. Now the Central Land Council, at the request of the chair Matt Palmer, have agreed to dismiss their CEO due to unprofessional conduct.

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 overseen the inexplicable cessation of ABA grants for Homelands.

Following this afternoon’s vote, will the Albanese government now just leave the Central Land Council members to march on by themselves? Will they simply label this an isolated issue and continue to pretend that issues like this are not also present in other aboriginal organisations?

“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.”

Fwd: CLC Council voice no confidence in CEO Lesley Turner

Coombs, Stephen
To: Stephen Coombs

1 July 2025 at 16:41

From: Matthew Palmer < >
Date: July 20, 2024 at 1:46:49 PM GMT+9:30
To: Matt Cunningham < >

Subject: Re: CLC Council voice no confidence in CEO Lesley Turner

This Message Is From an External Sender

Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

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.”

Please call Matt Palmer, Chair CLC for comment and interviews -

Matthew Palmer
CHAIR
Central Land Council
27 Stuart Highway, Alice Springs NT 0870
T
F
E

~~~~~  
The information contained in this e-mail, and any attachments to it, are intended for the use of the addressee only. It is confidential and may be subject to legal professional privilege. No representation or warranty is given that this message or any attached files are free from viruses or other defects. If you are not the intended recipient you must not read, use, disclose, forward, copy, or retain any of the information. If you have received this e-mail in error, please delete it and notify the Central Land Council by calling

---

**Fwd: CLC Council voice no confidence in CEO Lesley Turner**

---

Coombs, Stephen  
To: Stephen Coombs

7 July 2025 at 11:43

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Matt Cunningham**  
Date: Sun, 21 Jul 2024 at 08:27  
Subject: Fwd: CLC Council voice no confidence in CEO Lesley Turner  
To: Melanie Plane

Jason Walls

Just passing on in case Alex hasn't forwarded.

Matt Cunningham  
Sky News

Begin forwarded message:

From: Matthew Palmer < >  
Date: July 20, 2024 at 1:46:49 PM GMT+9:30  
To: Matt Cunningham

**Subject: Re: CLC Council voice no confidence in CEO Lesley Turner**

---

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

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.”

Please call Matt Palmer, Chair CLC for comment and interviews -

Matthew Palmer  
CHAIR  
Central Land Council  
27 Stuart Highway, Alice Springs NT 0870  
T  
F  
E

~~~~~  
The information contained in this e-mail, and any attachments to it, are intended for the use of the addressee only. It is confidential and may be subject to legal professional privilege. No representation or warranty is given that this message or any attached files are free from viruses or other defects. If you are not the intended recipient you must not read, use, disclose, forward, copy, or retain any of the information. If you have received this e-mail in error, please delete it and notify the Central Land Council by calling

News Corp Australia

Fwd: CLC statement

Coombs, Stephen
To: Stephen Coombs

1 July 2025 at 16:39

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Tess O'Loughlin** <
Date: Mon, Jul 22, 2024 at 10:24 AM
Subject: CLC statement
To:

Good morning,

Please see attached the Central Land Council's statement.

Kind regards,

Tess O'Loughlin
ACTING MANAGER - COMMUNICATIONS
Central Land Council
27 Stuart Highway, Alice Springs NT 0870
T M
F
E
clc.org.au

The information contained in this e-mail, and any attachments to it, are intended for the use of the addressee only. It is confidential and may be subject to legal professional privilege. No representation or warranty is given that this message or any attached files are free from viruses or other defects. If you are not the intended recipient you must not read, use, disclose, forward, copy or retain any of the information. If you have received this e-mail in error, please delete it and notify the Central Land Council by calling (08) 8951 6211.

 **CLC Statement 22072024.pdf**
178K

[JOBS](#) [EVENTS](#) [ADVERTISE](#) [NEWSLETTER](#) [PRINT EDITIONS](#)



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 CLC CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL
NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS NT

Related

News

Taugurung Land and Waters Council urges Vic government to "put Country and people first"

The Taugurung Land and Waters Council has called on the Victorian government to...

Giovanni Torre 22 Jul 2024

Jacinta Nampijinpa Price

Central Land Council deny no-confidence motion against CEO

The Central Land Council have rejected claims by Jacinta Nampijinpa Price and th...

Dechlan Brennan 22 Jul 2024

Sport

Walsh labels Suaalii "class human" after Origin apology

Reece Walsh says Joseph-Aukuso Suaalii has shown himself as a "class human being..."

Scott Bailey 22 Jul 2024

Sport

Wighton prepares for daunting Canberra return

South Sydney veteran Damien Cook says it'll be a "weird feeling" for Jack Wighto...

Divisions fracture at CLC

CEO faces no-confidence

Camden Smith

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.

“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 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.

“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 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 Ms Burney did not respond in time.



Warlpiri 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 Warlpiri 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 Tjukurrpa 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 manage-

ment 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.

26 August 2024

2 Holt Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010
+61 2 9288 3000
newscorpaustralia.com.au

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE, SAVE AS TO COSTS
AND A S 17 DEFENCE**

GPO Box 4245
Sydney NSW 2001

BY EMAIL ONLY

Benjamin Regattieri
Legal Counsel
E:
P:

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

Dear Ms Otavski

RE: Your client, Lesley Turner

This office acts for the publishers comprising News Corp Australia including the publisher of the *NT News*, being Nationwide News Pty Ltd. Your letter of 30 July 2024 has been referred to this office for response (**Concerns Notice**). Unless indicated otherwise, our client adopts the defined terms in the Concerns Notice.

Our client instructs us to respond as follows.

The First Article came about following our client receiving a media release, which purported to be official, from Central Land Council (CLC) chair, Matthew Palmer. That press release stated that Lesley Turner, the CEO, had “lost the confidence of CLC delegates” and that members had moved a motion for his “instant dismissal” based on insubordination and unprofessional conduct. Prior to publication our client made several attempts to contact your client via the CLC for comment, to ensure his side of the matter was included.

Our client did not receive any response from your client prior to publication, but was obviously confident in the accuracy of information given it was provided in a media release which any reasonable person in our client’s position would have taken as an official release by the CLC. Further, there was no reason for our client to doubt the accuracy of a press release concerning events of a CLC board meeting, which was sent by the person presiding over that board. With respect, any criticism should obviously be directed towards Mr Palmer, and not our client, who acted reasonably in publishing the First Article. Our client denies that the First Article’s removal was an “admission” that it was incorrect. Lest it be unclear, the First Article was removed without admission.

Subsequent to the First Article being published, our client received the correspondence from Tess O'Loughlin of the CLC consistent with Schedule D in the Concerns Notice. Our client also instructs us that subsequent to the First Article being published, it further communicated with CLC employees. A press release was subsequently released by the CLC on 22 July 2024. Given the information provided to it by both the chairperson of the CLC board, and then others at the CLC via Ms O'Loughlin and the CLC press release, our client proceeded to publish the Second Article. The Second Article included both the perspective of Mr Palmer and of the CLC, and was careful to distinguish those positions.

Having regard to the above, our client is of the belief that it would be able to avail itself of a statutory qualified privilege defence under s 27 of the *Defamation Act 2006* (NT) (**Act**), given it acted reasonably in publishing the Articles and afforded your client ample opportunity to comment on the matter. Despite the matter being defensible, our client has also removed the Second Article and Facebook Post without admission.

Offer to make amends

Despite our client being confident it could avail itself of a defence of statutory qualified privilege, our client has instructed us to make an offer to make amends pursuant to Part 3, Division of the Act (**Offer**). The Offer, which is made without admission of liability, is made in full and final settlement of your client's claim against all News Corp Australia entities in relation to publication of the Articles and the Facebook Post and consists of the following terms:

1. The Offer is made in relation to the Articles and the Facebook Post generally.
2. As notes above, the First and Second Article, have both been removed from the *NT News* website, and the Facebook Post has also been removed.
3. Payment of your client's legal expenses reasonably incurred by your client before this Offer was made and the expenses reasonably incurred by your client in considering the Offer agreed in the amount of \$3,000.
4. Publication of an Apology and Correction in the following terms, within 30 days of your client accepting this offer:

Apology to Lesley Turner

The NT News published two articles on 21 and 22 July concerning a press release issued by the Central Land Council (CLC) which stated that the CLC's board had moved a motion to dismiss chief executive, Lesley Turner. Mr Turner subsequently contacted the NT News and informed us that the press release was incorrect and no such motion was ever put before the CLC's board, let alone moved. The NT News apologises to Mr Turner for any hurt or embarrassment caused by the publication of the articles.

A hyperlink to the Apology and Correction having the appearance of standard News Corp Australia article will be fixed to the homepage of the NT News website at NTnews.com.au for a period of 24 hours, after which it will remain online in archival form for a period of 7 days.

5. Our client agrees to take, or join in taking, reasonable steps to comply with s 14(1)(e) of the Act, and to the extent necessary, corresponding State and Territory legislation.

The Offer remains open to be accepted at any time up to 28 days after the date of this letter, unless the Offer is withdrawn or extended in writing or is rejected by you during that acceptance period. Please let us know if you does not consider this a reasonable period of time in which to consider the offer.

In the event that this offer is not accepted by you and you commence defamation proceedings, our client will rely upon this offer both as a defence under section 17 of the Act (and equivalent sections in legislation of other States and Territories) and in support of an application that you pay our clients' costs of any proceedings on an indemnity basis pursuant to section 40 of the Act and the principles in *Calderbank v Calderbank* [1976] Fam 93 and *Cutts v Head* (1984) CH 290.

Our client is also of the understanding that on 28 August there will be an emergency meeting of the CLC at Tennant Creek to discuss the circumstances of Mr Palmer's release. Our client wishes to cover this meeting, which would obviously go further in correcting the public record regarding your client and the initial press release issued by Mr Palmer.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin Regattieri', with a horizontal line underneath.

Benjamin Regattieri
Legal Counsel

Our ref: BBL:939

27 August 2024

Mr Benjamin Regattieri
Legal Counsel
News Corp Australia
2 Holt Street
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

By email

Dear Mr Regattieri

NT News Articles – Lesley Turner

We refer to your letter of yesterday's date.

We have sought instructions from Mr Turner about the attempts by your client to contact him for comment prior to publication of the First Article. Please find **enclosed** messages between the author of the article Mr Smith and Ms Elke Weisman and Ms Tess O'Loughlin of the Central Land Council (CLC). As is evident, the CLC was not given adequate time to respond to the allegations, and therefore nor was our client.

In the circumstances, given the defamation could have been avoided had Mr Smith been patient in waiting for a response from the "desdbeat" [sic] at the CLC, in our view some amount of compensation is necessary.

Having regard to the genuine apology that is being offered on behalf of the NT News, our client is willing to accept \$10,000 in addition to a contribution of \$4,500 towards his reasonable legal costs if the matter can be finalised quickly.

Regarding the Apology and Correction proposed by your client, the Press Release referred to in the Apology and Correction was not issued by the Central Land Council. Further, 30 days for the publication of the proposed apology is unreasonable.

Please confirm whether your client agrees to the following form of apology, to be published within 7 days of your client accepting our client's counter-offer:

Apology to Lesley Turner

The NT News published two articles on 21 and 22 July concerning a press release issued by Matthew Palmer, the Chair of the Central Land Council (CLC), purportedly on behalf of the CLC. Mr Palmer's press release stated that the CLC's board had moved a motion to dismiss chief executive, Lesley Turner. Mr Turner subsequently contacted the NT News and informed us that the press release was incorrect and no such motion was ever put before the CLC's board, let alone moved. The NT News apologises to Mr Turner for any hurt or embarrassment caused by the publication of the articles.

A hyperlink to the Apology and Correction having the appearance of standard News Corp Australia article will be fixed to the homepage of the NT News website at NTnews.com.au for a period of 24 hours, after which it will remain online in archival form for a period of 7 days.

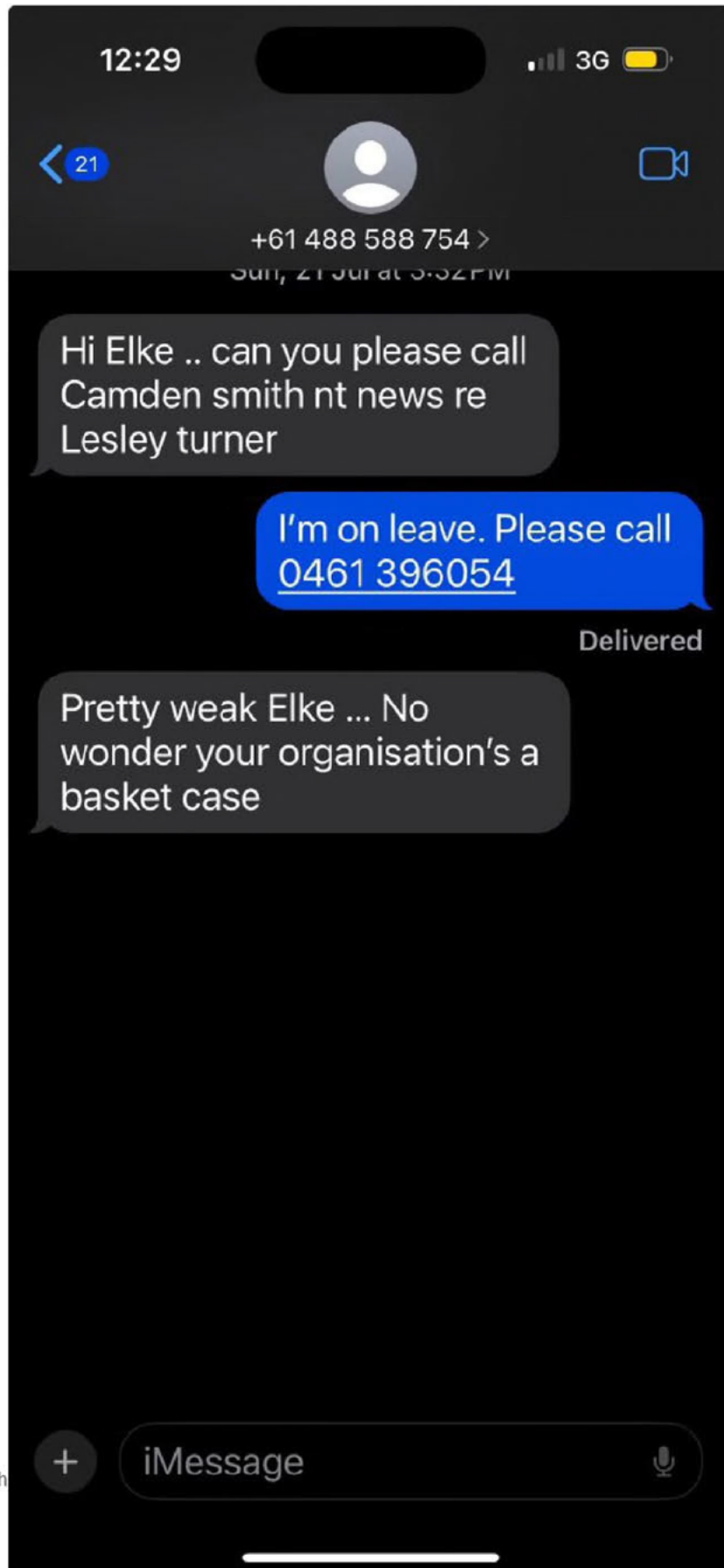
Terms 1, 2 and 5 of your client's offer are agreed.

This counter-offer is open for acceptance until 7.30 pm tomorrow.

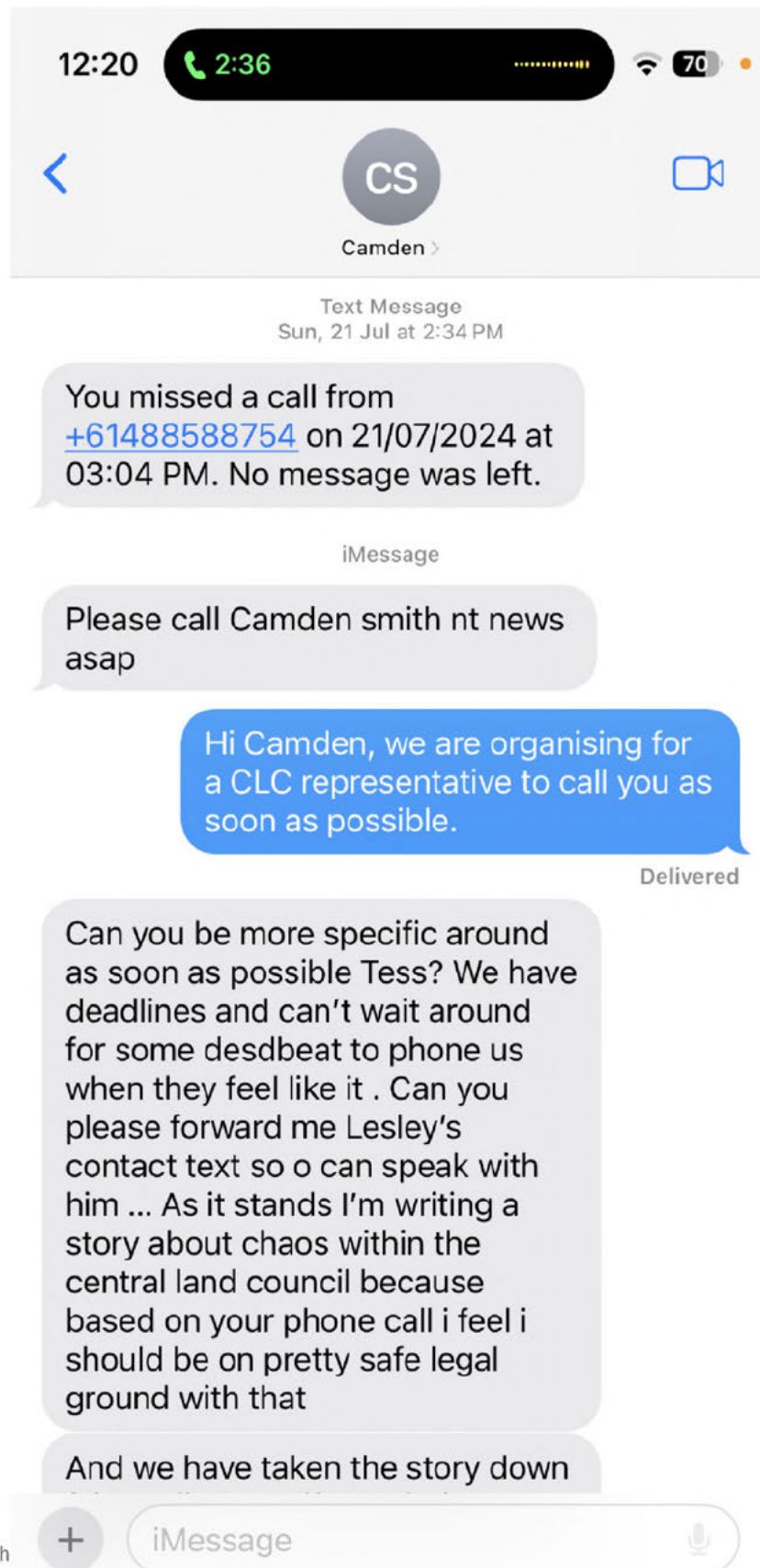
Yours sincerely
BlackBay Lawyers



Victoria-Jane Otavski
Partner



Liability limited by a sch



28 August 2024

2 Holt Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010

newscorpaustralia.com.au

**WITHOUT PREJUDICE, SAVE AS TO COSTS
AND A S 17 DEFENCE**

GPO Box 4245
Sydney NSW 2001

BY EMAIL ONLY

Benjamin Regattieri
Legal Counsel

E:
P:

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

Dear Ms Otavski

RE: Your client, Lesley Turner

We refer to your letter of 27 August 2024 and the Concerns Notice of 30 July 2024, as well as our client's offer to make amends of 26 August 2024 (**Offer to Make Amends**). Unless indicated otherwise, our client adopts the defined terms in the Concerns Notice and the Offer to Make Amends.

We are instructed by our client to withdraw the Offer to Make Amends under s 15(1) of the Act, and to make a renewed offer that addresses your client's concerns as expressed in the 27 August letter (**Renewed Offer to Make Amends**). For the avoidance of doubt, the Renewed Offer to Make Amends is made pursuant to Part 3, Division 1 of the Act.

The Renewed Offer to Make Amends, which is made without admission of liability, is made in full and final settlement of your client's claim against all News Corp Australia entities in relation to publication of the Articles and the Facebook Post and consists of the following terms:

1. The Renewed Offer to Make Amends is made in relation to the Articles and the Facebook Post generally.
2. As notes above, the First and Second Article, have both been removed from the *NT News* website, and the Facebook Post has also been removed.
3. Payment of the following amounts:
 - a. your client's legal expenses reasonably incurred by your client before the Renewed Offer to Make Amends was made and the expenses reasonably incurred by your

client in considering the Renewed Offer to Make Amends agreed in the amount of \$4,500.

- b. Payment of an amount of compensation to your client, in the amount of \$5,500

With the total payment for 3(a) and (b) above being \$10,000.

4. Publication of an Apology and Correction in the following terms, within 7 days of your client accepting this offer:

Apology to Lesley Turner

The NT News published two articles on 21 and 22 July concerning a press release issued by Matthew Palmer, the Chair of the Central Land Council (CLC), purportedly on behalf of the CLC. Mr Palmer's press release stated that the CLC's board had moved a motion to dismiss chief executive, Lesley Turner. Mr Turner subsequently contacted the NT News and informed us that the press release was incorrect and no motion was moved. The NT News apologises to Mr Turner for any hurt or embarrassment caused by the publication of the articles.

A hyperlink to the Apology and Correction having the appearance of standard News Corp Australia article will be fixed to the homepage of the NT News website at NTnews.com.au for a period of 24 hours, after which it will remain online in archival form for a period of 7 days.

5. Our client agrees to take, or join in taking, reasonable steps to comply with s 14(1)(e) of the Act, and to the extent necessary, corresponding State and Territory legislation.
6. The terms of this offer and any corresponding settlement are confidential save that:
 - a. The parties may:
 - i. say that the Articles and Facebook Post have been removed;
 - ii. say that the Correction and Apology has been published; and
 - b. The parties may disclose the terms and the payments in 3 above:
 - i. To their legal and financial advisers;
 - ii. as required by law and then only to the extent required by law.

With respect to the apology proposed in your 27 August 2024 letter, our client remains concerned that it has been unable to independently verify that no such motion was ever put before the board to be voted on. It has simply taken your client on his word, as per the Concerns Notice, where it is stated: "Mr Turner was not the subject of any motion at the Meeting". To date, it appears that CLC has only been able to confirm to our client that no motion was passed, which appears to be self-evident from the fact that your client is still employed in his job. In these circumstances, our client obviously remains concerned to name Mr Palmer where definitive proof that a motion wasn't put before the board, has not been forthcoming. If your client insists on Mr Palmer's name being included in the apology, our client is only comfortable with including information it is confident is

accurate. If your client and/or the CLC were to provide documentary evidence to prove the accuracy of the apology proposed in your 27 August letter, our client would reconsider its position.

The Renewed Offer to Make Amends remains open to be accepted at any time up to 7 days after the date of this letter, unless it is withdrawn or extended in writing or is rejected by you during that acceptance period. Please let us know if you does not consider this a reasonable period of time in which to consider the offer.

In the event that this offer is not accepted by you and you commence defamation proceedings, our client will rely upon this offer both as a defence under section 17 of the Act (and equivalent sections in legislation of other States and Territories) and in support of an application that you pay our clients' costs of any proceedings on an indemnity basis pursuant to section 40 of the Act and the principles in *Calderbank v Calderbank* [1976] Fam 93 and *Cutts v Head* (1984) CH 290.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Benjamin Regattieri', with a horizontal line underneath.

Benjamin Regattieri
Legal Counsel

Our ref: BBL:939

29 August 2024

Mr Benjamin Regattieri
Legal Counsel
News Corp Australia
2 Holt Street
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

By email:

Dear Mr Regattieri

NT News Articles – Lesley Turner

We refer to your letter of yesterday's date and to the offer contained therein. The terms of your client's offer are agreed.

We request that the full settlement sum of \$10,000 be paid within 7 days into our trust account, the details of which are set out below.

Name	BlackBay Group Trust Account
BSB	062-145
Account No.	1040 1895
Ref	Turner

We also request that you notify us when the apology has been published and that you provide evidence of publication of the same.

Yours sincerely
BlackBay Lawyers



Victoria-Jane Otavski
Partner
P:

Our ref: BBL:939

26 November 2024

Mr V Kalantzis
Kalantzis Lawyers
55 Stanley Street
East Sydney NSW 2010

Copy by email:

Dear Colleagues

Lesley Turner v Jacinta Nampijinpa Price – Federal Court Proceedings No. NTD17 of 2024

We refer to the Defence filed on 20 November 2024.

So that our client can be in a position to file and serve his Reply, we request that you please provide the following further particulars of the Defence by no later than 12noon on 29 November 2024.

For ease of identification, in this request, we adopt the subheadings identifying the defence pleaded and the relevant imputation.

Justification – section 22 of the Defamation Act 2006 – Imputation 6a.

Paragraph 9a (on page 10 of the Defence)

1. Where is it alleged that the applicant met with Arrernte elders and traditional land owners, including Pamela Lynch on behalf of the Mpweringe Arnapipe Aboriginal Land Trust in about April 2021?
2. Other than Pamela Lynch, who is it alleged that the applicant met with on the occasion referred to in this paragraph?
3. Who is it alleged informed the applicant they wished to be represented on and their concerns heard by the CLC?

4. Is it alleged that the Arrernte elders and traditional land owners identified in the preceding paragraphs informed the applicant of their concerns? If so, please provide all proper particulars detailing such concerns, and by whom it is alleged the concerns are held.

Paragraph 9b (on page 11 of the Defence)

5. Is it alleged that Mr Palmer invited the Arrernte elders to attend the CLC meeting orally or in writing?
6. If the invitation by Mr Palmer was communicated orally or party orally, please particularise:
 - (a) When the invitation was communicated;
 - (b) To whom it was communicated; and
 - (c) The substance of what was said.
7. If the invitation by Pamer was communicated in writing or party in writing, please provide a copy of the relevant document(s).

Paragraph 9c (on page 12 of the Defence)

8. Please provide particulars of Mr Palmer's "own experiences" particularly having regard to the allegation later in the Defence (on page 19) that he had only held the role as Chair since February 2023).

Justification – section 22 of the Defamation Act 2006 – Imputation 6b.

Paragraph 4 (on page 13 of the Defence),

9. Please particularise how Mr Palmer "brought forward" the motion or discussion to dismiss the applicant at the full CLC meeting.
10. Please particularise who it is alleged communicated support for a change in executive leadership, including how this support was communicated and the substance of what was said and to whom the support was communicated.

Qualified privilege

Paragraph 13(vi) (on page 19 of the Defence)

11. Please provide particulars of the sources of information for each item and when your client says she became aware of each such piece of information.

Paragraph 13(viii) (on page 21 of the Defence)

12. Please particularise when, before 18 July 2023, the respondent was contacted by Dr Gavin Morris and whether the contact was made by telephone, in person or by written communication.
13. To the extent that the contact between the respondent and Dr Gavin Morris involved an oral exchange, please particularise:
 - (a) When the conversation(s) occurred; and
 - (b) The substance of what was said.
14. If it is alleged that the contact by Dr Gavin Morris to the respondent was by written communication, please produce a copy of the relevant document(s).

Paragraph 13(x) (on page 21 and 22 of the Defence)

15. In relation to your client's reliance on Gavin Morris as a person she claims "was driven passionately to help the most vulnerable children" in Indigenous communities, we note that on 8 August 2024 Gavin Morris was arrested and charged with offences of aggravated assault of multiple children in 2023 who were aged between 8 and 13 at the time. Please provide particulars of when Senator Price:
 - (a) Became aware of allegations against Mr Morris in relation to his conduct towards children;
 - (b) Became aware of any investigation into Mr Morris' conduct towards children;
 - (c) Became aware of Mr Morris' arrest and charges.

Paragraph 13(xi) (on page 22 of the Defence)

16. In relation to the direction by the respondent to her Senior Adviser Damein Wilks, please particularise whether or not the direction was made orally or in writing.
17. To the extent that the direction referred to in paragraph 13(xi) on page 22 of the Defence was given orally, please particularise:
 - (a) When it was given; and
 - (b) The substance of what was said.
18. To the extent that the direction referred to in paragraph 13(xi) on page 22 of the Defence was given by written communication, please produce a copy of the relevant document(s).

Paragraph 13(xii) (on page 22 of the Defence)

19. Please particularise the nature, frequency and extent of any dealings between your client and Mr Palmer from the time that she became a Senator until 18 July 2024.

Paragraph 13(xix) (on page 25 of the Defence)

20. In relation to paragraph 13(xix) on page 25 of the Defence, please particularise:

- (a) the substance of what was said and by whom on the occasions on which Mr Wilks and Ms Hard, in preparing the First Media Release:
- (i) spoke with one another;
 - (ii) spoke with the respondent (specifying who spoke with the respondent); and
 - (iii) the substance of what was said in each conversation
- (b) Please provide particulars of all of the communications between Mr Wilks and Dr Morris both before and after 18 July 2024.
- (c) Please particularise the date on which it is alleged that Mr Wilks received a copy of the Motion.

Paragraph 13(xx) (on page 26 of the Defence)

21. On what basis did your client reasonably believe that journalists would seek comment from the applicant?

Paragraph 13(xxi) (on page 27 of the Defence)

22. Please particularise how the respondent approved the publication of the First Media Release. Specifically, is it alleged that the respondent's approval was communicated orally or in writing?
23. If the respondent's approval to publish the First Media Release was given orally, or partly orally, please particularise:
- (a) To whom the approval was communicated; and
 - (b) The substance of what was said

24. To the extent that the approval referred to in paragraph 13(xxi) on page 27 of the Defence was given by written communication, please produce a copy of the relevant document(s).

Honest Opinion s.28 of the Defamation Act 2006

Paragraph 19b.(ii) (on page 32 of the Defence)

25. How is it alleged that Mr Palmer caused or approved the CLC Release to be issued on 20 July 2024. Specifically, it is alleged that Mr Palmer caused or approved the release to be issued in a verbal conversation or in writing?
26. If it is alleged that Mr Palmer caused or approved the issue of the CLC Release on 20 July 2024 verbally, please particularise:
- (a) To whom it was communicated;
 - (b) When it was approved or caused to be issued; and
 - (c) The manner in which the verbal exchange took place; and
 - (d) The substance of what was said.
27. To the extent that the approval referred to in paragraph 19b. ii. on page 32 of the Defence was given in written material, please produce a copy of the relevant document(s).

Paragraph 19b.(iv) (on page 32 of the Defence)

28. Please provide particulars of each person that Mr Palmer communicated with, and the timing, nature and substance of each such communication and the response from each such delegate.

Paragraph 19b.(v) (on page 32 of the Defence)

29. Please provide particulars of the name of each delegate who “showed their support” and in relation to each such person how and when they did so including by any words or gestures spoken or made by each such person.

Paragraph 19b.(vi) (on page 32 of the Defence)

30. Please provide particulars of the name of each delegate who was fearful and how they demonstrated that “fear”.
31. Please provide particulars of the alleged threats, including the express terms of the threats, by whom they were made and to whom.

Unfounded allegations

We put you on notice that the Defence includes improper and unjustified allegations giving rise to a claim of aggravated damages by our client.

Justification defence hopeless

Particulars 1-7 in which unprofessional conduct is alleged against our client in relation to a fraud policy and the fraud risk assessment is misconceived. We invite you to withdraw it. Further, assuming your allegations are correct, it is unclear how those allegations justify the allegation made by your client that the conduct warranted our client's dismissal.

Similarly the allegation made about our client in particulars 8 and 9 are incapable of justifying imputation 6(a).

As to the allegations about what occurred on 17 and 18 July 2024, we note that your client or members of her staff conspired with Mr Palmer prior to his attempt to move a motion. We also note that the Central Land Council issued a media release on 24 August 2024 debunking the claims that women were removed from the meeting.

Particulars 1-7 in relation to imputation 6(b) are embarrassing on their face. The fact that only 2 people "spoke out" against the motion does not, on any view, mean that the 46 other persons present supported it. That allegation is illogical and not arguably or rationally open. That is particularly so given that your client is and was aware on or shortly after 18 July and at least by 19 July, that Mr Palmer's motion was spectacularly unsuccessful. Leaving this part of the chronology out of the particulars of justification in a pleading filed with the Court that can be accessed and reported on is lacking in bona fides and improper.

The particulars do not support the allegation that imputation 6(c) is substantially true.

Qualified privilege hopeless

As you are aware, the reasons in *Lange* render your client's defence of qualified privilege hopeless. She was aware of Mr Palmer's motion misadventure prior to publication and was informed, unequivocally of that fact in a communication on 22 July 2024. Further, she received the Concerns Notice setting out what occurred, in contradiction of her Media Release on 29 July 2023. Despite that information, she maliciously maintained the publication online until September 2024.

Further, given the publication was not in an election period, the pleading of common law qualified privilege in paragraph 14 of the Defence is a waste of time and costs. It raises a false issue, being an argument that has been rejected by the High Court.

Honest opinion defence hopeless

On page 31 of the Defence an allegation is made that “a majority of CLC members supported the dismissal of the CEO”. That allegation is said to be supported by particulars on pages 32 and 33 that are non-sensical. In order to make good this claim, you need to identify each person Mr Palmer “consulted either directly or indirectly” and what each such person said. You need to identify the name of each member who “showed their support” and how such support was shown. You also need to give details of who was fearful of “threats about legal repercussions”, and what they did or said to demonstrate such fear. Your client is clearly unable to provide these details.

You and your client have made very serious allegations about the applicant in the Defence that appear to hinge entirely on Mr Palmer’s view of “the vibe” of people at the meeting, despite an outcome wholly against him. The plea of this material is improper, unjustified and/or lacking in bona fides.

Parliamentary privilege

We note that in your client’s particulars of reasonableness she seeks to rely on events that occurred in Parliament. In our view, any tender or other evidence of such events will plainly be in contravention of s.16(3) of the Parliamentary Privileges Act. Given your client is precluded from adducing evidence of this material, it should be withdrawn by you.

In that regard we remind you of your obligations under s37M of the Federal Court of Australia Act, including not raising false issues and wasting time and costs.

Generally

We await your early reply.

We intend to raise our objections to the Defence at the next case management hearing.

Yours sincerely
BlackBay Lawyers



Victoria-Jane Otavski
Partner
P:

Report suites: News Corp AU Global, AMP (Accelerated Mobile Pages), App News Corp AU Global

Date: Jul 1, 2024 - Jul 4, 2025

Article ID	Article Name	Publish Date
30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362	calls for 'hard questions' to be asked as land council boss dumped	21/07/2024 13:34
30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362	'need to step up': price weighs in on land council spat	22/07/2024 10:07
30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362	'need to step up': price weighs in on land council spat	22/07/2024 16:07
a7d435e3dee5a802d262e34c8e5e7417	apology to lesley turner	29/08/2024 14:33

Unique Visitors and Page Views		Overall		NT News		Others	
Article ID	Article Name	Unique Visitors	Page Views	Unique Visitors	Page Views	Unique Visitors	Page Views
30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362	'need to step up': price weighs in on land council spat	1499	2032	1407	1918	96	114
30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362	calls for 'hard questions' to be asked as land council boss dumped	247	307	231	274	16	33
a7d435e3dee5a802d262e34c8e5e7417	apology to lesley turner	1270	1461	1150	1308	127	153

Unique Visitors and Page Views - By Platform		Web		AMP		App	
Article ID	Article Name	Unique Visitors	Page Views	Unique Visitors	Page Views	Unique Visitors	Page Views
30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362	'need to step up': price weighs in on land council spat	923	1191	17	19	559	822
30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362	calls for 'hard questions' to be asked as land council boss dumped	96	114	0	0	151	193
a7d435e3dee5a802d262e34c8e5e7417	apology to lesley turner	807	959	18	18	445	484

Report suites: News Corp AU Global, AMP (Accelerated Mobile Pages), App News Corp AU Global

Date: Jul 1, 2024 - Jul 4, 2025

Article ID	Article Name	Publish Date
30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362	calls for 'hard questions' to be asked as land council boss dumped	21/07/2024 13:34
30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362	'need to step up': price weighs in on land council spat	22/07/2024 10:07
30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362	'need to step up': price weighs in on land council spat	22/07/2024 16:07
a7d435e3dee5a802d262e34c8e5e7417	apology to lesley turner	29/08/2024 14:33

Unique Visitors and Page Views		Overall		NT News		Others	
Article ID	Article Name	Unique Visitors	Page Views	Unique Visitors	Page Views	Unique Visitors	Page Views
30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362	'need to step up': price weighs in on land council spat	1499	2032	1407	1918	96	114
30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362	calls for 'hard questions' to be asked as land council boss dumped	247	307	231	274	16	33
a7d435e3dee5a802d262e34c8e5e7417	apology to lesley turner	1270	1461	1150	1308	127	153

Unique Visitors and Page Views - By Platform		Web		AMP		App	
Article ID	Article Name	Unique Visitors	Page Views	Unique Visitors	Page Views	Unique Visitors	Page Views
30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362	'need to step up': price weighs in on land council spat	923	1191	17	19	559	822
30ec1be311b92d6b3b4d90367b41d362	calls for 'hard questions' to be asked as land council boss dumped	96	114	0	0	151	193
a7d435e3dee5a802d262e34c8e5e7417	apology to lesley turner	807	959	18	18	445	484



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

CEO'S REPORT

As an Arrernte man born and raised in Alice Springs, it is a privilege to return to Central Australia, after 37 years away from home, in the role of CLC interim chief executive officer.

I commenced with the CLC in April 2021, in the final quarter of this reporting period, attending the council meeting at Tennant Creek. At that meeting, the council discussed the policy priorities that currently drive the organisation: housing for our people, jobs, youth justice, Aboriginal control over the decisions that impact our lives, and the cultural and economic importance of water.

Water is critically important to our people, from the right to protect sacred sites to the right to safe and adequate drinking water. Many communities still do not have basic infrastructure services and it is crucial to ensure that potable water supplies are secured for all remote communities as a matter of urgency. Water and land rights go hand in hand. Secure access to water allows families and cultures to survive on that land and offers potential economic benefits.

For this reason, the CLC is contesting the water licence the Northern Territory Government has given to Fortune Agribusiness, a company that proposes to use 40,000 mega litres a year for 30 years to grow crops largely for export, on Singleton Station, south of Tennant Creek. This is the largest water licence allocation in the NT's history and gives water away free of charge.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact on our operations. The CLC is taking an active role in assisting with vaccinating communities and I have strongly encouraged all staff to get vaccinated, especially those who travel to communities. Our members and staff also continue to show leadership by using the media and other channels of influence, and working with Aboriginal health services and the NT Health Department to promote vaccinations and other COVID-safe practices, to keep our constituents safe and prepared for when state and international borders inevitably open up.



Lesley Turner

In May native title holders of the Jinka and Jervois pastoral leases met at Bonya, on Jervois Station, to celebrate the recognition of their native title rights. It was the third and last determination of the reporting period. The determination gives traditional owners a seat at the table with pastoralists and mining companies, but no veto right. As Bonya resident David Blue said, 'Something is better than nothing. Now we have a bit of rights and a bit of a voice.' The prescribed body corporate (PBC), the Ingkekure Aboriginal Corporation, which takes its name from the Arrernte word for eagle claw, will exercise rights for the native title holders, with the CLC's support.

In June we held a PBC camp at Ross River near Alice Springs. The biennial regional forum is an opportunity for PBC directors to discuss rights and empower them to take part in decisions about their country. A highlight was seeing traditional owners, some of whom brought their teenage grandchildren, engaged with the task of road-testing audio translations in six local Aboriginal languages of our Native Title Story booklet.

A positive development for the CLC this year is working with our partners from the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT (APO NT) to progress the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap at the national and territory level. This is a welcome shift in the way governments have previously worked to close the gap. It acknowledges that to close the gap, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must determine, drive and own the desired outcomes, alongside all governments.



Former CLC chief executive Joe Martin-Jard (second from left) handed over the reins to interim CEO Lesley Turner at the Tennant Creek council meeting in April. The meeting was chaired by Sammy Wilson and deputy chair Barbara Shaw.

The CLC has also been a driving force behind the APO NT's remote community job-creation plan. I commend the plan to Minister Wyatt, the Minister for Indigenous Australians, as he embarks on the co-design of a fair and effective program to replace the CDP.

This year is also the start of a three-year trial that sees the Australian Government match our constituents' own investment in community-driven development, dollar for dollar. This has the potential to encourage more Aboriginal groups to work with our community development team and invest more of their income from land use agreements in community development projects, rather than opt for the distribution of this income to individual traditional owners. The projects that are supported will create employment and training in our communities, for example 30 casual jobs in the design and construction of a walking and cycling trail near Alice Springs.

In 2020 Minister Wyatt provided us with economic stimulus funds from the Aboriginals Benefit Account as an important contribution to assist in areas of Aboriginal business, employment, training, land and infrastructure. The funds, which are being managed by the new economic participation unit, are a valuable opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness of Aboriginal-led economic stimulus initiatives.

The CLC has the longest history of the Aboriginal land councils in Australia. As interim CEO my aim is to make sure that the CLC is working as smoothly and effectively as possible, for it is an important organisation with far-reaching influence and the capacity to really improve people's lives. I also acknowledge the professionalism and dedication of the CLC staff and executive. We are all here working to benefit the Aboriginal people of Central Australia.

Doctor Pradeep Mishra and health workers Rhonda O'Keefe and Prisandra Devery from Anyinginyi Health did their best to counter vaccine misinformation guests at the CLC council meeting in April in Tennant Creek.



CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The responsibilities are:

- best practice accounting, financial management, performance reporting, unmodified annual audit reports and financial sustainability
- robust corporate financial planning
- relevant, accurate and timely performance-based management and environmental impact reporting
- effective risk management, including managing appropriate governance and risk management frameworks and understanding management's risk appetite
- procurement of funds to sustain and advance corporate and operational plans and performance of statutory functions, promoting indigenous business
- compliance with all statutory regulatory requirements including privacy considerations
- staff recruitment, training and development opportunities for administering Aboriginal corporations.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Estimates and review

Estimates of administrative expenditure are submitted annually to the minister. Additional estimates requests for essential additional resources are submitted only as required. Approved estimates fund operational expenses, salaries and wages, and capital expenditure. The minister originally approved \$31.22 million funding from the ABA, and subsequently approved a variation of \$22 million for economic stimulus for 2020–21 and a further \$14.7 million for 2021–22.

Reporting

A half-yearly performance and operations report was submitted to the minister in February 2021 in accordance with funding agreement and legislative obligations. The Australian National Audit Office performs the annual audit of the financial

statements to determine compliance and that the statements present fairly the financial position, performance and cash flows. Its audit opinion indicates that the statements are free from material misstatement.

FINANCE SYSTEM

The finance software package used for financial management control is known as Microsoft NAV.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND FRAUD CONTROL

The Commonwealth's fraud control framework informs the CLC's framework. The Accountable Authority takes all reasonable measures to prevent, detect and deal with fraud, including data collection, reporting and investigation. It certified that the required fraud data was collected and reported using the fraud incident register, which is continually updated. New staff complete the Commonwealth's online fraud awareness training.

Internal practices and procedures ensure that appropriate financial authorisations and financial delegations are in place for rigorous monitoring and detection of anomalies. Accountable Authority instructions are within the appropriate financial expenditure authorities' framework and are reviewed every July. The review takes into account changes in the value of money and the organisation's structure.

A code of conduct prescribes workplace personal and professional behaviour.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

The audit committee has four independent members: Beverley Russ (accounting manager), Danny Masters (lawyer), Bruce Walker (chair/director) and Adrian Watts (accountant).

The committee met five times. It oversees an agreed work plan and audit charter, and reports annually to the Accountable Authority. A review of the PGPA Act recommended that Commonwealth entity audit committee members be independent. All audit committee members are independent.

Table 32. Audit and risk committee, 2020–21

Member	Bruce Walker	Danny Masters	Adrian Watts	Beverly Russ
Fees and reimbursements	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$5,000
Qualifications and experience	Former chief executive officer of the Centre for Appropriate Technology and Central Australian resident for three decades with extensive knowledge of the region.	Lawyer with extensive experience and knowledge of Central Australia.	Chartered accountant with qualifications in accounting and auditing and knowledge of audit committee and commonwealth authority audit requirements.	Chartered certified accountant with qualifications in accounting and auditing.



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22



CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL

CEO'S REPORT

This has been a good year for the Central Land Council. In 2021–2022 we welcomed the return to some normality after the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, following good uptake of vaccinations and other preventative measures in Central Australia. As CEO I commend the work of the CLC administration and the Council itself for their efforts during a difficult time for all of the country.

This year saw the election of a new Council, including a new Chair, Mr Robert Hoosan from Finke community, and Deputy Chair, Mr Warren Williams from Yuendumu community. There has been an almost 50 per cent change in Council and Executive membership. It is pleasing that a number of younger delegates have been elected, which augers well for the future of our organisation. However, we need to do more work on achieving better gender balance and outcomes for women in communities.

This year has also seen significant changes in the political environment at both the Territory and federal level. In the Northern Territory a new Chief Minister, Natasha Fyles, and Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Selena Uibo, were appointed. Chansey Paech is now the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and we hope this leads to law and justice reforms for Aboriginal people.

The 2022 federal election saw a new Labor government elected. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has made the Uluru Statement from the Heart a priority for his first term in government. Linda



Les Turner

Burney is Minister for Indigenous Australians and we look forward to working with her.

Both governments have made a number of positive commitments in the areas of homelands, housing, youth, health and Closing the Gap. The CLC has been engaged in preliminary discussions on various initiatives.

It is notable that the ministers responsible for Aboriginal affairs at both the NT and federal level are Aboriginal women, as is the new Member for Lingiari, Marion Scrymgour, and NT Senators Malandirri McCarthy and Jacinta Nampijinpa Price. We are encouraged by this and look forward to building strong working relations to improve the lives of Aboriginal people in Central Australia. It is an opportunity to refocus and reset priorities in our region that in my view have gone backwards since the Northern Territory National Emergency Response, which we know as the Intervention.



CEO Les Turner at the Yeperenye Walking Trail launch.

The CLC has a long-established history, and is amongst the oldest of the Aboriginal land councils in Australia. In 2021–2022 we continued working with other Northern Territory land councils and the National Indigenous Australians Agency on the Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC), a new body that should change the dynamics of economic development in the Northern Territory. NTAIC is an Aboriginal-controlled body with responsibility for managing a beneficial payments program (grants) and a strategic investment program designed to grow financial investments and to finance larger commercial investments that will generate economic and social returns for Aboriginal people, and a financial return for the body. CLC elected Ms Barbara Shaw and Mr Derek Walker to sit on the Interim Board of the NTAIC.

In 2021–22, the Australian National Audit Office commenced a performance audit of the effectiveness of governance of all of the four Northern Territory land councils. The CLC welcomes the opportunity to demonstrate our strong governance and performance culture. The review is expected to conclude by March 2023.

The CLC continues to assess and approve projects funded by the economic stimulus funds provided during the pandemic.

Water policy continues to be an area of major concern. The CLC is seeking substantive reform to the NT water regulation and management regime. Water management in the NT is inadequate and unfair. Our current arrangements lag behind other jurisdictions, with the NT government still not meeting a number of key commitments it signed up to in 2004, including fair pricing, transparent water planning, and separation of planning from allocation to commercial concerns.

There are no legally binding minimum standards for drinking water in our communities, nor laws to ensure equal access to safe and palatable drinking water across the NT. Our water is being sold from underneath us – before many Aboriginal people have basic water infrastructure and at the expense of our land and sacred sites. Many of our communities are under water stress and this requires urgent rectification. In addition, Aboriginal people are being left out of any economic benefits deriving from holding rights to water on their land.

The social determinants of health – including lack of housing, inadequate planning for changing demographics, access to basic services, access to employment, education and ongoing disempowerment – continue to impact on communities in Central Australia. The CLC is often the organisation called on to represent or take action on behalf of our people. We are proud of our reputation as a voice and an organisation that takes action – but it is resource intensive. We will continue to work with Traditional Owners and communities in advocating for our rights and involving other agencies taking responsibility for providing services.

The Ranger Program, which provides good work on Country, is a transformative initiative and I commend both governments for their continuing support. It is a good model for the future health of our people and Country.

At the very end of this financial year the Northern Territory Treaty Commission released its final report.

The report was initiated after many years of lobbying by the CLC, culminating in the Barunga Agreement between the four statutory Land Councils and the NT Government in June 2018. It's been a long road since 1988 when the Barunga Statement was presented to then Prime Minister Bob Hawke by the Central and Northern land councils.

We enter this next year with a new government in Canberra committed to the Uluru Statement and a Treaty Commission report which provides a practical road map to a treaty for the Northern Territory.

In the words of the NT Treaty Commission Final Report: "The time for action has arrived."

Les Turner

Chief Executive Officer



CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The responsibilities are:

- best practice accounting, financial management, performance reporting, unmodified annual audit reports and financial sustainability
- robust corporate financial planning
- relevant, accurate and timely performance-based management and environmental impact reporting
- effective risk management, including managing appropriate governance and risk management frameworks and understanding management's risk appetite
- procurement of funds to sustain and advance corporate and operational plans and performance of statutory functions, promoting Indigenous business
- compliance with all statutory regulatory requirements including privacy considerations
- staff recruitment, training and development opportunities for administering Aboriginal corporations.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Estimates and review

Estimates of administrative expenditure are submitted annually to the minister. Additional estimates requests for essential additional resources are submitted only as required. Approved estimates fund operational expenses, salaries and wages, and capital expenditure. The minister originally approved \$30.2 million funding from the ABA for the 2021–22 financial year, and subsequently approved variations totalling \$4.1 million, primarily for a property acquisition in Alice Springs that occurred in May 2022.

Reporting

A half-yearly performance and operations report was submitted to the minister in February 2022 in accordance with funding agreement and legislative obligations. The Australian National Audit Office performs the annual audit of the financial statements to determine compliance and that the statements present fairly the financial position, performance and cash flows. Its audit opinion indicates that the statements are free from material misstatement.

FINANCE SYSTEM

The finance software package used for financial management control is known as Microsoft NAV.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND FRAUD CONTROL

The Commonwealth's fraud control framework informs the CLC's risk management and fraud control framework. The Accountable Authority takes all reasonable measures to prevent, detect and deal with fraud, including data collection, reporting and investigation. It certified that the required fraud data was collected and reported using the fraud incident register, which is continually updated. New staff complete the Commonwealth's online fraud awareness training.

Internal practices and procedures ensure that appropriate financial authorisations and financial delegations are in place for rigorous monitoring and detection of expenditure anomalies. Accountable Authority instructions are within the appropriate financial expenditure authorities' framework and are reviewed every July. The review takes into account changes in the value of money and the organisation's structure.

A code of conduct prescribes workplace personal and professional behaviour.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

The Audit and Risk Committee has four independent members: Bruce Walker (chair/director), Beverley Russ (accounting manager), Danny Masters (lawyer), and Neil McLeod (chartered accountant).

The committee met five times during the 2021–22 financial year. It oversees an agreed work plan and audit charter, and reports annually to the Accountable Authority. A review of the PGPA Act recommended that Commonwealth entity audit committee members be independent.

All Audit and Risk Committee members are independent. Members are entitled to a fee of \$1,250 per meeting, with the chair entitled to a fee of \$1,500 per meeting (all fees became effective June 2022; previously all members were paid \$1000 per meeting). Members are also entitled to a fee for travelling, dependent on travel distance.

The charter of the CLC Audit and Risk Committee is located at <https://www.clc.org.au/?s=audit+committee+charter>

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



CEO'S REPORT

This has been an eventful year for the Central Land Council, marked by some major achievements but also some significant sad events. In November 2022 we were shocked to lose our respected chair, Kunmanara Hoosan. Mr Hoosan passed away suddenly in Darwin. He was a strong and respected leader in Central Australia and is sorely missed by his family, his community, his colleagues and all of us at the CLC.

April 2023 also saw the passing of an important Yolngu leader, Mr Yunupingu. Mr Yunupingu was an advocate for our rights for his entire life. He served eight terms as chairman of the NLC, was an Australian of the Year and presented the Barunga Statement to then Prime Minister Bob Hawke. He was a strong advocate for the Voice to Parliament.

In February 2023, Mr Matthew Palmer, from Corkwood Bore outstation near Alice Springs, was elected as the new CLC chair. Mr Warren Williams, from Yuendumu, remains the CLC's deputy chair.

On the policy front, water policy continues to be an area of major concern. The CLC has been calling for the Northern Territory Government to implement stronger water laws that will respect the knowledge, rights and responsibilities of Aboriginal people. We want bold and strong water reform, developed in consultation with Aboriginal people from the start, and we want our rights and interests in water to be protected. Water is not just a tradable commodity – water is life.

On another matter of policy, the Northern Territory Government has released its Mineral Development Taskforce Report. CLC has concerns that the approach to royalties advocated in the report will disadvantage Aboriginal communities. The report recommends a competitive royalty scheme, supposedly to encourage mining in the NT, and claims that the NT royalty rate is higher than other Australian jurisdictions. We are concerned that even if there is more mining throughout the NT, lower royalty rates can impact affected communities. For mines on Aboriginal land, affected communities receive 30% of equivalent royalty payments under section 64(3) of the Land Rights Act.

Moving forward in terms of economic development, the CLC is focussing on supporting the prescribed bodies corporate (PBCs) that hold Native Title in our region to engage in economic development opportunities.

The largest gathering of Native Title holder corporation members in Central Australia was held on 27 to 29 June at the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs, bringing together 124 people from 25 PBCs. The 'PBC Camp' agenda covered governance, rights and the job of PBC directors. A highlight was the launch of a new mobile phone app with information and resources in six local languages. The multilingual PBCmob app is a new tool that tackles the literacy and language barriers to understanding the Native Title Act, one of Australia's most complex pieces of legislation. There were also presentations from Australian Government representatives and NGOs.



CLC also held a successful ranger camp at Ross River in 2023. The CLC ranger program, which provides good work on country, continues to be transformational for the health of our people and our land.

In addition, our highly successful community development program continues to work with Traditional Owner groups and communities to increase engagement, ownership and development of their communities, homelands and futures. It is pleasing to see the success of the matched funding initiative, which provides equivalent government funding to support communities that have pooled royalties for community generated and controlled projects.

On the administrative front, governance was a focus of this period. The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) reviewed the governance of each of the four Northern Territory land councils. The review provided independent assurance to the Parliament of the effectiveness of the land councils' governance arrangements in meeting their obligations under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (ALRA), the Native Title Act (NTA), and the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act (PGPA Act).

The ANAO audit took place over the course of this reporting period and was published in June 2023. The audit involved significant staff participation and explanation. The outcome for the CLC was positive. The CLC's strong governance results from the ongoing contributions of staff, the Council and the executive committee. It builds on a legacy from those before us and we continue to adapt to the changing environment. I commend all staff and delegates of the CLC for their time and effort.

The CLC administration is moving to a new organisational structure which will come into effect on 1 July 2023. I have created three new general manager positions, reporting to the CEO. I am pleased to advise the appointments of Dr Josie Douglas, as General Manager Professional Services; Mr Robert Cairney OAM, as General Manager Corporate Services; and Ms Mischa Cartwright, as General Manager Regional and Development Services.

The new structure enables a more equitable distribution of workload, improves reporting and management arrangements, and supports collaborative operations. It provides a clear path for CLC to focus on our regions.

Les Turner
Chief Executive Officer

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

Management and accountability

The responsibilities are:

- best practice accounting, financial management, performance reporting, unmodified annual audit reports and financial sustainability
- robust corporate financial planning
- relevant, accurate and timely performance-based management and environmental impact reporting
- effective risk management, including managing appropriate governance and risk management frameworks and understanding management's risk appetite
- procurement of funds to sustain and advance corporate and operational plans and performance of statutory functions, promoting Indigenous business
- compliance with all statutory regulatory requirements including privacy considerations
- staff recruitment, training and development opportunities for administering Aboriginal corporations.

Financial management Estimates and review

Estimates of administrative expenditure are submitted annually to the minister. Additional estimates requests for essential additional resources are submitted only as required. Approved estimates fund operational expenses, salaries and wages, and capital expenditure. The minister originally approved \$33.8 million funding from the ABA for the 2022–23 financial year, and subsequently approved variations totalling \$3.6 million.

Reporting

A half-yearly performance and operations report was submitted to the minister in February 2023 in accordance with funding agreement and legislative obligations. The Australian National Audit Office performs the annual audit of the financial statements to determine compliance and that the statements present fairly the financial position, performance and cash flows. Its audit opinion indicates that the statements are free from material misstatement.

Finance system

The finance software package used for financial management control is known as Microsoft NAV. In the financial year 2023–24 the system will be upgraded to MS Business Central.

Financial risk and fraud control

The Commonwealth's fraud control framework informs the CLC's risk management and fraud control framework. The Accountable Authority takes all reasonable measures to prevent, detect and deal with fraud, including data collection, reporting and investigation. It certified that the required fraud data was collected and reported using the fraud incident register, which is continually updated. New staff complete the Commonwealth's online fraud awareness training.

Internal practices and procedures ensure that appropriate financial authorisations and financial delegations are in place for rigorous monitoring and detection of expenditure anomalies. Accountable Authority instructions are within the appropriate financial expenditure authorities' framework and are reviewed every July. The review takes into account changes in the value of money and the organisation's structure.

A code of conduct prescribes workplace personal and professional behaviour.

Risk management system

Section 16 of the PGPA Act requires any accountable authority of a Commonwealth entity to maintain a system of risk oversight and management. The annual review of the CLC's risk profile was completed. A plan to review and revitalise the risk management system was completed and presented to the audit and risk committee in June. The Comcover annual best-practice benchmarking is used as the basis for continuous risk management improvement.

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee has four independent members: Bruce Walker (chair), Beverley Russ (deputy chair), Danny Masters (lawyer), and Neil McLeod (chartered accountant).

The committee met four times during the 2022–23 financial year. It oversees an agreed work plan and audit charter, and reports annually to the Accountable Authority. The PGPA Act recommends that Commonwealth entity audit committee members be independent. All CLC's Audit and Risk Committee members are independent. Members are entitled to a fee of \$1,250 per meeting, with the chair entitled to a fee of \$1,500 per meeting (fees effective at June 2023). Members are also entitled to a fee for travelling, dependent on travel distance.

TRANSCRIPT OF RML2

Recording of telephone conversation between Gavin Morris and Rachael Lila on 11 July 2024

Gavin Morris (**GM**): Hello Gavin speaking.

Rachael Lila (**RL**): Hey Gavin its Rach from umh Jacinta's office. How are you?

GM: Oh, I am good thank you. How are you?

RL: Yeah. Good thanks. Hey I just wanted to catch up with you to see umh ah whats happened what do you need me for. She's just umh up at Tennant Creek at the moment with umh [inaudible].

GM: Is she?

RL: Yeah

GM: I [inaudible] I need her advice actually. Umh

RL: Oh okay

GM: It's nothing really media related but its about to probably go into the media umh

RL: Okay

GM: Ah

RL: Oh well Gavin.

GM: We we speaking off the record here.

RL: I was just going to say anything you tell me I'm her ah. I'm her her ...

GM: [inaudible]

RL: ... as you would call the private person who knows everything. So ...

GM: Ah

RL: ... go for it.

GM: Yeah well. The CLC well she knows this. The CLC are about to move a ... they've got a full delegates meeting next Thursday.

RL: Ah ha

GM: Ah they're about to move a motion of no confidence in the CEO.

RL: Yep

GM: And they want to replace him with me.

RL: Okay

GM: Ahm and I'm yeah just chasing a bit of advice from JP around

RL: Yeah whether that

GM: ... nav navigating that, what that looks like, umh all the rest of it.

RL: Yep

GM: Umh, that's probably the biggest thing at the moment for me. Then the curfew stuff, the boarding school and the paedophile guy are all kind of in the background ticking away slowly. Actually all of those things are really closely finalising.

RL: Yep

GM: Umh in terms of how she thinks that you know. Yeah, I know she said to be [inaudible] her time. Umh yeah but that's where I'm at.

RL: Okay. So was it CLC's approach'd you is that it

GM: The CLC. The Central Land Council yeah.

RL: Yeah and they've asked you to umh

GM: Oh it's actually been going on now for about six weeks. It's not ... it's just this yeah.

RL: Yeah

GM: So, Matt Palmer the chair of the CLC.

RL: Yep

GM: I'm due to meet with all the grandmas, and the grandmothers and all the key umh ah women this afternoon but ...

RL: [inaudible]

GM: ... yeah they approached me about oh six to eight weeks ago now umh and so their about to move a vote of no confidence in Les Turner.

RL: Yep ... Yep

GM: Ahm so ah yeah and they want me to replace him.

RL: Yep. No worries, when she gets a break umh shortly I will let her know okay.

GM: Yeah, that'd be great.

RL: Yeah

GM: You know, it will just be two minutes. I just need to get her advice about what that

RL: Yes

GM: You know

RL: Yes

GM: What she thinks should happen there.

RL: Exactly. Yep.

GM: Umh

RL: Got it.

GM: And then the other stuff with the paedophile. Like I have been working now since I met with JP in her office ah at the start of the year

RL: mmm

GM: In terms of exposing the paedophile ring in the town camp. I have been working with David from the Australian.

RL: Yep

GM: Ahm and that story is ready to go.

RL: Yep

GM: Umh and that will be pretty explosive because it involves a whole range of people, two of the commissioners, police commissioners, families, you know, community members have known about it and turned their known about it for yonks and you know looked the other way because he's paying them off with food and alcohol, and transport and so worth

RL: mmm

GM: Umh she knows about it as well but just in terms of you know what she thinks is good timing.

RL: Yep

GM: With that story.

RL: Yep

GM: Ahm yeah and then the boarding. I guess that's the other just quick touch point.

RL: Yeah no that's all good. She ahm ahm she just asked me to ah follow up with you quickly on what is urgent umh that she can get back to you on. So umh I will have a chat

GM: The CLC stuff for me is pretty urgent. Yeah

RL: Yeah, yeah yep I know because your sitting with them this afternoon. Yeah.

GM: Yeah I am speaking with those yeah so umh. Yeah, the actual meeting is next Thursday.

RL: Okay

GM: So the full delegates meeting at Kings Canyon.

RL: ahmm cool

GM: Ahm, but yeah I've been meeting chatting with Matt Palmer now for ah I don't know how many meetings we have had.

RL: Yeah

GM: Upteen, over the last six to eight weeks.

RL: Yep

GM: Ahm, just want to make sure that's the right move for them. It's the right move for me.

RL: Yeah

GM: You know what

RL: You just need some advice from her her yeah.

GM: Yeah what she'd do from personally and professionally. What's best. What's likely to happen. And all the rest of it.

RL: Yeah no worries then. I will follow-up with her okay.

GM: Thanks very much Rach.

RL: Alright take care Gavin. See yah.

GM: You know you too. You're doing amazing work. Bye.

RL: Alright. Bye

Su Sze Ting

From: Meltwater Alerts
Sent: Sunday, 21 July 2024 1:31 PM
To: Media
Subject: Central Land Council: Lindsay Turner dumped as Central Land Council chief executive

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.



Every Mention

Central Land Council



The Herald Sun (Licensed by Copyright Agency) • Camden Smith
News | AU | Jul 21, 1:04 PM



Lindsay Turner dumped as Central Land Council chief executive
the top of the **Central Land Council**, with the board moving against
chief executive Lesley Turner, who has held the position since April
2021...

Central Land Council

🔊 2.44M Reach — 😞 Negative Sentiment [Tag](#) [Share](#)

[Provide feedback](#)

[Copyright Info](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [Blog](#) • [Unsubscribe](#) • [Contact Us](#)

Sent by Meltwater • 115 Sansome St Suite 1400, San Francisco, CA 94104

help@meltwater.com • Help Center

Ref: a32c667bbc5d70e74933051eab029c91

9:46

85



Josie

21 Jul 2024 at 1:40 pm

Calls for 'hard questions' to be asked as land council boss dumped



Calls for 'hard questions' to be asked as land council boss dumped

heraldsun.com.au

Pin to show in Herald Sun

iMessage



iMessage



9:45

85



Les >



Calls for 'hard questions' to be asked as land council boss dumped
heraldsun.com.au

It's Tess. Just saw this but at the shops so haven't read properly.

9:45

85



Les

21 Jul 2024 at 1:43 pm
Number changed to Personal

Calls for 'hard questions' to be asked as land council boss dumped



Calls for 'hard questions' to be asked as land council boss dumped
heraldsun.com.au

It's Tess. Just saw this but at the



iMessage



Josie Douglas

From: CCH Parliament
Sent: Monday, 22 July 2024 7:08 AM
To:
Subject: Political Alert - Central Land Council takes matters into their own hands (FED)
Attachments: 202B1803.PDF

**** 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.

Please find attached: CENTRAL LAND COUNCIL TAKES MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS (FED)

Shadow Minister for Indigenous Australians and Senator for the Northern Territory Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, says 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."

202B1803 Total number of pages 2 SUPPORT: politicalalert@cch.com.au or 02 6273 2070. MAILBOX:
<https://www.cchparliament.com.au>

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 –

Your Ref: BBL:939

21 February 2025

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

By email:

Dear Colleagues,

**Re: Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price – ats - Lesley Turner
Federal Court proceedings No. NTD 17/2024**

We refer to Order 4 of the Orders made by His Honour Wheelahan J on 4 December 2024.

That order required the parties to serve their affidavits in relation to the issues on which they bear the onus of proof by close of business today.

While the affidavits on behalf of our client are almost complete, we advise that we will not be able to have them sworn and served today. We expect we will be in a position to serve those affidavits by no later than Friday 28 February 2025.

We also advise that we are instructed not to press the defences of justification or honest opinion. We will write to you separately indicating the reasons for the withdrawal of those defences.

The qualified privilege defences are maintained.

The affidavits which will be served on you next week will relate to the qualified privilege defences.

Yours faithfully,
KALANTZIS Lawyers

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

BILL KALANTZIS
Principal

Your Ref: BBL:939

21 March 2025

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

By email:

Dear Colleagues,

**Re: Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price – ats – Lesley Turner
Federal Court proceedings No. NTD 17/2024**

We refer to previous correspondence including in particular our letter of 21 February 2025.

As we advised in that letter, the defences of justification and honest opinion are no longer pressed.

The qualified privilege defences are maintained.

We now **enclose** a proposed Further Amended Defence, reflecting that change, and seek your consent to its filing. We trust that a suitable consent order can be made on 27 March next.

As foreshadowed in discussions between our respective senior counsel, a small number of the particulars previously appearing as particulars of substantial truth have been repositioned as particulars relevant to qualified privilege. Those changes are shown in underlining and strike-through in the usual manner, including:

- Particulars (2) (b) and (c), on page 7 of the Amended Defence, now appear at (ba) and (bb) on page 16 of the Further Amended Defence;
- Particular (7A), on page 8 of the Amended Defence, now appears at (11A) on page 18 of the Further Amended Defence;
- Particulars (4) and (5), on page 11 of the Amended Defence, now appear (in slightly amended form) at (ea) and (f) on page 23 of the Further Amended Defence.

In addition: on page 19 of the Further Amended Defence, as to reasonableness, the particular previously numbered (15) has been moved forward chronologically to (13A), and the relevant date has been changed from 19 July to 18 July: see in that regard Ms Price's affidavit at [85].

We outline briefly, for the record, the matters which have led to the defences of justification and honest opinion being no longer pressed.

Those defences, namely that the three pleaded imputations were substantially true, and that the corresponding opinions were based on proper material, were pleaded not only on the basis of our client's knowledge and instructions but also in reliance on what Mr Palmer and others had expressly communicated to our client and her staff, including about what occurred at the male-only part of the CLC meeting on 18 July 2024. Mr Kalantzis made two extended journeys to numerous parts of the Northern Territory in January and February 2025 in order to take affidavits from the relevant persons as to those matters. However, by that time the anticipated witnesses, for reasons unknown to our client, either chose not to participate in that process at all (as was the case with Mr Palmer among others), or departed from accounts previously given. Once that became apparent, our client properly gave instructions that the defences be not pressed.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,
KALANTZIS Lawyers



BILL KALANTZIS
Principal

AUDIO: ABC Radio Darwin

Erin Archer

News Briefings Darwin audio

Tue 23 Jul 2024 at 5:30am

Listen 1m 45s

(Erin Archer)

Share



f

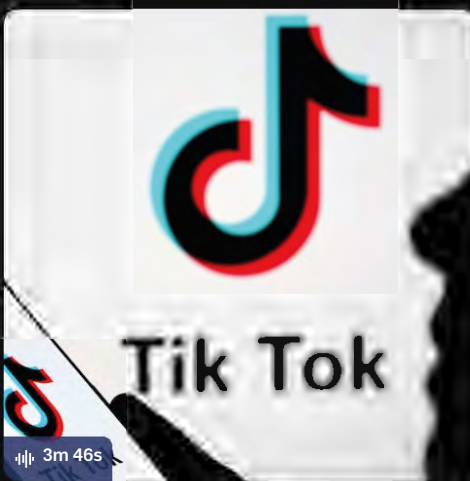
in

X

Regularly updated briefing from ABC News for Darwin

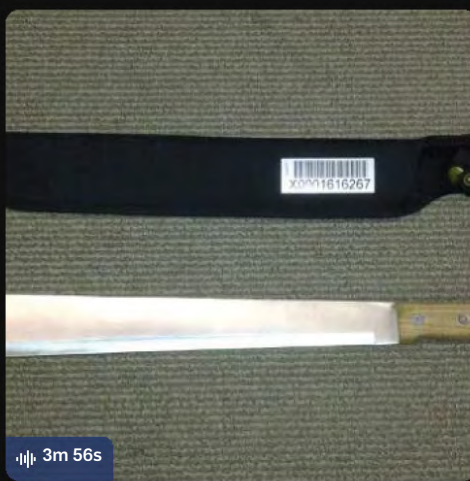
Darwin

Stories from ABC News



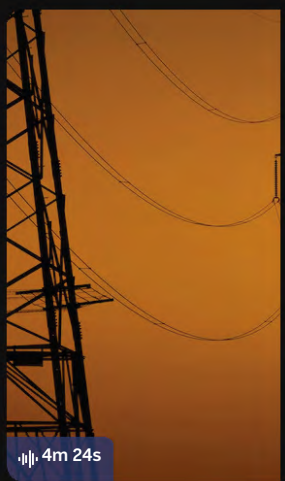
US reaches "framework" Tik Tok deal

3m 46s



Hundreds of machetes surrendered in amnesty

3m 56s



Can Australia adapt to climate change

4m 24s