



Kimberley Land Council

MEDIA STATEMENT

15 January 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brian Wilkinson to lead the Kimberley Land Council

The Kimberley Land Council is pleased to announce that Kimberley Yawuru man, Brian Wilkinson, has been appointed as our new Chief Executive Officer. Mr Wilkinson arrived back in Broome this week to start his new role and brings with him a wealth of knowledge in Aboriginal affairs and a varied work history of holding senior executive positions with Federal and Western Australia Governments.

Mr Wilkinson will lead the decades-long work of the KLC in the Kimberley region working with Aboriginal people to secure native title recognition, conduct conservation, and land management activities, and develop cultural business enterprises.

"For a Yawuru man to come back to his own Country to lead the peak Indigenous body not only in the Kimberley but in Australia - is a privilege. The importance of this position and responsibility is not lost on me," said Mr Wilkinson.

For over 30 years, Mr Wilkinson has worked across Australia and Western Australia to improve the complex social and cultural issues faced by Aboriginal people and the wider community.

Previous appointments include:

- Leading the new WA Police Aboriginal Affairs Division and development of the agency's Aboriginal program and strategy to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the justice system;
- National Manager for the Commonwealth Department of Human Services leading services across Northern Australia and into remote communities;
- Principal Advisor for Aboriginal Strategy for the WA Public Sector Commission responsible for creating Aboriginal employment and leadership opportunities;
- Acting Director Equal Opportunity for Public Employment responsible for ensuring fair, and discrimination-free workplaces in Western Australia;
- Chief Operating Officer for the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee leading coordination of government policy and services for Aboriginal people throughout Western Australia.

"In my career, I've worked extensively within Aboriginal communities and it has given me first-hand experience of the wide range of challenges facing Aboriginal people," said Mr Wilkinson.

Media Contact: Shannon Wilson, Media Coordinator 0408 436 987 shannon.wilson@klc.org.au

"Along with my experience within Federal and State governments, it brings this knowledge together for the benefit of all Kimberley Aboriginal people through improved life and economic outcomes.

"I will be traveling throughout the Kimberley in the coming months and I have a simple approach, that is to listen to and consult with people as we build on the work of the KLC to make sure our organisation is supportive, sustainable, and strong.

"The KLC is here to represent the interests of all Aboriginal people in the Kimberley. We will put Kimberley Aboriginal people at the centre of everything we do to ensure we achieve positive outcomes for them."

Mr Wilkinson said his aim is to bring this knowledge together for the benefit of all Kimberley Aboriginal people through improved life and economic outcomes.

"I will be traveling throughout the Kimberley in the coming months and I have a simple approach, that is to listen to and consult with people as we build on the work of the KLC to make sure our organisation is supportive, sustainable, and strong," he said.

"The KLC is here to represent the interests of all Aboriginal people in the Kimberley. We will put Kimberley Aboriginal people at the centre of everything we do to ensure we achieve positive outcomes for them."