



2015 KLC ANNUAL REPORT



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Introduction and overview



The Kimberley Land Council (KLC) was established in 1978 following a dispute between Kimberley Aboriginal people, the West Australian Government and an international mining company at Noonkanbah.

The KLC was set up by Kimberley Aboriginal people as a peak regional community organisation, to secure the rights and interests of Kimberley Aboriginal people in relation to their land and waters and to protect their significant places.

The KLC has experienced rapid growth in recent years. While fulfilling our role as a Native Title Representative Body remains the core business of our organisation, we have expanded to include a broad range of programs and activities that help us to achieve the vision of our members.

As part of our Native Title Representative Body funding agreement with the Commonwealth Government, the KLC is required to present detailed technical information on its functions in our Annual Report.

This report also includes information on other aspects of our organisation to reflect the full diversity of our operations.

While fulfilling our role as a Native Title Representative Body remains the core business of our organisation, we have expanded to include a broad range of programs and activities that help us achieve the vision of our members

Our mission, vision and values



Our Vision

The Kimberley Land Council is a community organisation working for and with Traditional Owners of the Kimberley to get back country, look after country and get control of the future.

Our Mission

Aims

- To get back country
- To look after country
- To get control of the future
- To have a strong organisation

Objectives

- Improve the cultural, social and economic wellbeing of Kimberley Aboriginal people
- Operate as an effective body to secure rights for and deliver the aspirations of Kimberley Traditional Owners

- Develop and implement policies, strategies and activities that deliver a high-standard of services to Traditional Owners to achieve our vision
- Develop and implement sound, appropriate and effective planning and review processes and documents

Our Values

- Respect for our law and culture
- Respect for our elders and stakeholders
- Fair and transparent decision-making
- Effective and open communication
- Working in partnership
- Trust and loyalty
- Justice and equality for Indigenous people
- Cultural diversity

The Kimberley Land Council is a community organisation working for and with Traditional Owners of the Kimberley to get back country, look after country and get control of the future

Anthony Watson



KLC CHAIRMAN ANTHONY WATSON

It was an honour and privilege to be elected as the new Chair of the KLC at our Annual General Meeting in September 2014, in my home community of Jarlmadangah. I have been fortunate enough to grow up alongside the organisation and the KLC has been a part of my family and my life since I was little. So for me, taking on a leadership role within the organisation has been extremely special.

There were a number of changes to the KLC board in the reporting period including the election of the first ever female Deputy Chair, Bonnie Edwards along with a number of young people and future leaders. This is a positive step forward in the history of the KLC.

Political landscape

The WA State Government approach towards Aboriginal affairs and native title has dictated the political landscape in the 2014-2015 reporting period.

It has been a challenging year for Aboriginal people in Western Australia as we tackled proposed changes to the Aboriginal Heritage Act, threats to forcibly close remote Aboriginal communities and land tenure reform issues.

Discriminatory policies that erode Aboriginal human rights and undermine the native title system severely and negatively impact on our ability to pursue culturally appropriate and sustainable economic development opportunities.

WA Aboriginal Heritage Act changes

Changes to the Aboriginal Heritage Act, expected to be introduced within the next reporting period, are discriminatory and erode the rights of Aboriginal people to protect our cultural heritage. The WA Aboriginal Heritage Act should protect and preserve cultural heritage for Aboriginal people. Instead the proposed amendments deny Aboriginal people of

any meaningful involvement in heritage protection, improve the rights of mining companies to destroy cultural heritage and give supreme decision-making power to government bureaucracy.

Kimberley Aboriginal people have not been properly consulted about the proposed amendments and we do not support them. Our people have rallied together in a show of unity to protest against the changes and this has been great to see. More than 400 people rejected the proposed amendments at a Kimberley protest in September 2014, while a bush meeting at Yule River and a Traditional Owner march to the steps of Parliament were used to object to the changes.

West Australian Aboriginal people reject the proposed changes and we urge the State Government to take the necessary steps needed to abandon the amendments. The KLC strongly supports reform of the Aboriginal Heritage Act but we need to start with a clean slate to produce legislation



We hope the State is true to its word to not close remote communities because they play a vital role in strengthening culture, enhancing the natural environment, protecting heritage values and in improving the social fabric and wellbeing of Aboriginal people

that meaningfully includes Aboriginal people and respects our values and role in protecting our cultural heritage.

Aboriginal community closures

In November 2014, Premier Colin Barnett announced plans to forcibly close up to 150 remote Aboriginal communities after the Federal Government withdrew funding for municipal services, saying the State could not afford to service them. The KLC took the lead role in petitioning against the closures raising regional, national and international awareness of the issue. As part of this, CEO Nolan Hunter and I went to the United Nations in New York to raise the issue and lodge a formal submission condemning the closures. The KLC received widespread international support from global human rights organisations, Indigenous organisations and NGOs from Australia, India, New Zealand and the United States.

The KLC community closures campaign sparked massive public support for Aboriginal people. This was highlighted on May 1 when thousands of people marched in #sosblakaustralia rallies across Australia and around the world to protest against the closures. Mounting public pressure forced the WA State Government to reassess its position and on May 7 it announced that it would no longer close Aboriginal communities but implement regional reforms.

We are excited the State Government has committed to working with

Kimberley leaders to find positive solutions to improve and enhance remote Aboriginal communities. We are also looking forward to the State Government moving forward with consultation and announcing how, when and where community engagement will occur and with whom. The KLC will continue to be involved in the process as we move forward to provide advice, ensure the government is held accountable and to represent the interests of all Kimberley Aboriginal people.

The State Government has said it will not be closing any Aboriginal communities. We hope the State is true to its word because remote communities play a vital role in strengthening culture, enhancing the natural environment, protecting heritage values and in improving the social fabric and health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people.

Land tenure and native title

In the reporting period we also battled a number of land tenure issues that work to undermine and reduce the native title rights and interests Kimberley Aboriginal people have fought so hard to secure. We want to use our native title rights to create culturally appropriate and sustainable economic opportunities that improve our social wellbeing. Native title needs to be viewed, not as an inconvenience but as a tool to enable positive social and economic opportunities for Aboriginal people and all Australians. Native title has provided a platform

for the Kimberley Ranger Network, Indigenous Protected Area programs and the development of carbon businesses which are tools Traditional Owners are using to achieve their social and economic aspirations.

There have been many challenges in the reporting period but what I have been most proud of is the way not only Kimberley Aboriginal people but all Aboriginal people and the wider Australian public have come together to support each other and stand up for our rights. Our old people would be proud.

Anthony Watson

KLC Board as of 30 June, 2014



CHAIRMAN ANTHONY WATSON



DEPUTY CHAIR BONNY EDWARDS



CEO NOLAN HUNTER



SPECIAL ADVISER JOHN WATSON



SPECIAL ADVISER MARIA HAND



SPECIAL ADVISER PETER MURRAY



TOM BIRCH



PHILLIP MCCARTHY



KEITH ANDREWS



BOBETTA ALBERT



GORDON MARSHALL



YVONNE BIRRELL



TOM LAWFORD



ANDREW DAYLIGHT



DWESMOND WIGGAN-DANN



MERLE CARTER



MINETTA FARRER



ISMAHL CROFT



ALBERT COX



ROSIE NUNJU



PEARL GORDON



ELIZABETH LULU



CATHERINE GOONACK



KATHY O'REERI



FRANCIS (LULGA) DJIAGWEEN



GABRIEL NODEA

Nolan Hunter



Investing in the future of Kimberley Aboriginal people has been a priority of the KLC in the reporting period. We have focused our work on building bright futures for Kimberley mob by securing native title outcomes, developing cultural business enterprises to provide strong economic foundations and increasing our international networks so we can not only share our knowledge but learn from the experiences of others.

Native title and land tenure reform

The KLC has worked hard to secure strong native title outcomes and as a result about 70 per cent of the Kimberley is determined native title land. Kimberley Aboriginal people have been recognised in Australian law as having strong and significant rights and interests in their country. As a result, Traditional Owners have been using their land to develop cultural enterprises such as carbon business and tourism ventures to provide an economic foundation in communities.

Conservation and land management activities through the Kimberley Ranger Network and the declaration of Indigenous Protected Areas are being used to deliver environmental, economic and social benefits.

In the reporting period, there has been a push by government departments to undermine the rights of Traditional Owners and disregard their native title interests. This has been occurring in particular where there is tension between State Government legislation and Federal Government legislation set out in the Native Title Act. As a result conflict occurs when the State Government tries to assert jurisdiction across Crown Land and Traditional Owners try to assert their native title rights and interests. These actions are proving to be a significant impediment to the pursuit of self-determination and are interfering with attempts by Kimberley Aboriginal people to pursue culturally appropriate and sustainable economic development opportunities.

The KLC will continue to advocate to government the benefits of native title while ensuring the rights and interests of Kimberley Aboriginal people are respected.

Funding uncertainty

There has been uncertainty surrounding long-term funding for Native Title Representative Bodies as a result of the introduction of the Federal Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy. This new scheme, which is currently under investigation, consolidated 150 programs into five categories focused on education, training and employment and community safety. The difficulty for Native Title Representative Bodies is that land councils have a statutory obligation to provide a service as determined by Australian law and the Native Title Act. As a result, our organisations cannot be grouped into one of the five categories where access to funding is based on producing education, training and employment outcomes.



Funding security for Native Title Representative Bodies is pivotal if organisations, like the Kimberley Land Council are going to continue to resolve native title, establish Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate and deliver a range of benefits for Traditional Owners

To make matters more difficult only 45 per cent of successful applicants through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy were Indigenous organisations. There has been no clear or transparent process in how successful applicants were determined or why so many Indigenous organisations were unsuccessful. The rigour with which Aboriginal organisations are held to account far exceeds government accountability.

Funding security for Native Title Representative Bodies is pivotal if organisations, like the Kimberley Land Council are going to continue to resolve native title, establish Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate and deliver a range of benefits for Traditional Owners. We call on the Federal Government to adequately resource Native Title Representative Bodies and provide a clear, transparent and secure process for this occur.

Native title transition

This year, the KLC has continued to assist Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate to make the native title transition from the pre-determination phase into the post-determination environment. The KLC has come under significant pressure to provide ongoing resources and assistance to native title holders including setting up and registering PBCs, working to develop governance structures, providing administrative support, skill enhancement, strategic business development and training and legal and financial support.

The KLC currently provides all of its services pro bono, but as PBCs develop and begin to function as professional operations, we are looking to enter into fee-for-service contracts with PBCs to provide a suite of specialist services and technical support. We are currently investigating how this transition could occur and are looking at a range of models. We have been working with native title holders and have conducted a number of workshops and information sessions with PBCs to gain feedback and advice.

As part of this review and investigation into future operations, the KLC has been working with PBCs and ranger groups to look at ways Traditional Owners can use their native title rights and utilise their knowledge and skill in looking after country to create sustainable business and enterprise opportunities.

Developing business projects in remote communities has a number of positive flow-on benefits in the form of increased employment and training, increased income and expenditure within communities, improved health and wellbeing, and enhanced social cohesion. Providing these opportunities in remote areas also provides certainty for Aboriginal communities to be successful while providing significant opportunities for people to access country and enhance cultural connection.

International networking

In the past year, the KLC has continued its focus on promoting our projects and sharing our learning with other Indigenous groups from across the world. The emergence of eco-system based markets has provided an opportunity and urgency to connect the world's Indigenous people so we can share our experiences, skills and information about ways to access opportunities for socially, environmentally and culturally sustainable development.

Our focus has been on creating an international knowledge sharing network of land and sea managers and as a result the KLC co-sponsored a three-day gathering to discuss conserving nature and culture. More than 200 Indigenous people from across the globe attended the event which was the precursor to the World Parks Congress in Sydney in November.

The KLC played a significant role at the conference, hosting a number of workshops and presenting at a number of sessions. In line with our vision, our Chair Anthony Watson and I attended the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York while the organisation was represented at the Emissions Reduction Summit in Melbourne. Within the next reporting period, we will continue to build and develop our relationships with other Indigenous people and as a result we plan on attending the UN Climate Change Conference COP 21 in Paris in November 2015.



In the coming year, the KLC will continue to advocate for the rights and interests of Kimberley Aboriginal people as we pursue our journey to achieve improved economic, social, education and health outcomes



The year ahead

In the coming year, the KLC will continue to advocate for the rights and interests of Kimberley Aboriginal people as we pursue our journey to achieve improved economic, social, education and health outcomes. Our focus will be on further developing cultural enterprises to provide sustainable business opportunities for Kimberley Aboriginal people so we can deliver jobs, training and an income stream to remote communities.

We will also continue to expand our international networking efforts by attending the Climate Change Conference COP 21 in Paris as part of our efforts to reduce climate change impacts through data collection and monitoring and conducting early dry season prescribed burning.

Achieving native title outcomes will be a priority and for the first time in 10 years the KLC will resolve native title

through litigation with the Bindunbur claim set for trial in the Federal Court in September.

Preparing for a native title trial is time consuming and resource intensive. Our legal and anthropology teams have been hard at work assisting more than 30 witnesses, mostly senior old people, prepare to give evidence. The trial, which is expected to last for six weeks, begins on September 21 and will include one week of on-country evidence and another two weeks in Broome before further evidence is heard in Perth in February 2016.

Progressing native title across the east Kimberley towards a native title determination will also be a focus of our native title team in the year ahead.

Although staff have recently moved into the KLC new office facilities, the official opening of the purpose built office facility will be held in the next

reporting period. The new office complex is a significant achievement for the organisation as it not only brings together our Broome staff and operations under one roof but it symbolises the important and permanent role of Aboriginal people in the Kimberley.

Our new offices will also enable the KLC to continue to grow and operate as a strong organisation as we work to achieve our vision.

The KLC overcame a number of challenges in the reporting period to continue to achieve great successes for Kimberley Aboriginal people. I would like to thank our members and directors for their vision and on-going support to guide the organisation into the future. I would also like to thank our staff who are energetic, resilient, innovative and hard working. Our organisation is a reflection of the great work they do to assist Kimberley Traditional Owners achieve their aspirations.



Nolan Hunter

Kimberley Land Council



NOOKANBAH PROTEST MARCH, 1978

Kimberley Land Council

The Kimberley Land Council was borne out of the epic land rights battle in 1978, when Kimberley Aboriginal people travelled to defend sacred sites at Noonkanbah from plans by the Western Australian Government and international mining company AMEX, to explore and drill for oil.

The KLC was formed by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people, and is one of the three peak Indigenous organisations in the Kimberley working with Traditional Owners to protect and strengthen land, law, language and culture.

Kimberley Aboriginal people have been strong advocates for land rights since the KLC was started in 1978. The KLC was recognised in May 2000 as the Native Title Representative Body for the Kimberley region in Western Australia pursuant to s230AD of the Native Title Act 1993, (Cwth) (NTA).

Our Native Title Representative Body operations are funded by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Some of our other activities at the KLC are supported by state and federal governments, philanthropic organisations, environmental groups and self-generated income.

The KLC is incorporated under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 and operates under the Native Title Act (1993).

Role and functions

NTRB – legislation

The KLC provides native title services to Kimberley Aboriginal people. The following primary functions of the organisation are prescribed by the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth):

Facilitation and assistance

The KLC strives to provide its clients with the highest standards of

representation for achieving positive native title outcomes. In the reporting period, the KLC worked with native title claimants, native title holders and Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (PBCs) to prepare and progress native title applications while providing facilitation and representation to our clients in the mediation and negotiation of agreements.

In doing this, the KLC meets its requirements as a Native Title Representative Body to:

- Research, prepare and progress native title applications; and
- Represent and facilitate consultations, mediation, negotiation and proceedings relating to native title applications such as Future Acts, Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) and any other native title matters.



The KLC was formed by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people, and is one of the three peak Indigenous organisations in the Kimberley working with Traditional Owners to protect and strengthen land, law, language and culture

Native title assistance

During the 2014/2015 reporting period, the KLC provided native title assistance to 25 native title claims and 10 Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (RNTBCs) within the Kimberley region. Throughout the year, the number of claims has fluctuated to take into consideration the filing of new claims and the determination or withdrawal of others.

All the native title claims the KLC provides facilitation and assistance to are important, but with the limited resources available, not all claims can be progressed at the same time. Claim priority assessment determines the direction of organisational activities.

The prioritisation of claims is informed by, but not limited to, resourcing considerations, Federal Court case management priorities and the availability of suitably qualified expert consultants.

The KLC also provided assistance to a number of Registered Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) in relation to establishment, meeting assistance, expert advice, resources, governance and compliance matters.

There is a high level of demand for the KLC to provide assistance in the post-determination environment as most Registered Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate have limited capacity and resourcing to carry out its functions.

Certification

In line with its statutory responsibilities, the KLC certifies native title applications for the determination of native title and applications for the registration of Indigenous Land Use Agreements.

Complaints and dispute resolution – mediation

The process for achieving successful native title determinations affects all Traditional Owners and often raises difficult questions for claimants that can cause conflict and disputes.

Disputes often arise, where the Native Title Act is in conflict with traditional law and customs. As a result, the KLC is called upon to assist in resolving these disputes.

The existence of disputes can have a significant detrimental impact on the ability of Traditional Owners to exercise their native title rights and interests, or to have those rights and interests recognised.

For example, the existence of a dispute might have a negative impact on:

- Priority for assistance from the Native Title Representative Body;
- Registering a determination application (because of adverse impacts on certification or authorisation processes);
- Responding to Future Acts; and,
- Obtaining a determination of native title – whether by consent or litigation.

The Kimberley Land Council will not necessarily be able to resolve all disputes. It is also a requirement of the Native Title Act for the KLC to make all reasonable efforts to minimise the number of overlapping native title claim applications. The dispute resolution function provides an important element to ensure the KLC is responsible for streamlining native title processes and improving certainty for parties involved in native title matters.

There are two separate types of complaints:

- Complaints about a decision of the Grants Committee; and
- Complaints about other decisions or actions of the KLC or its staff.

The KLC has a Grants Committee that assesses new applications for native title assistance. The Grants Committee is made up of members of the KLC Board and is responsible for assessing and deciding on each application.

In the reporting period, the KLC received three applications for native title assistance. The KLC received no formal complaints relating to a decision made about an application for assistance.

Notification

The KLC ensures that native title holders and claimants are informed about any Future Act notices that are received and could potentially affect native title rights and interests.



The prioritisation of native title claims is informed by, but not limited to, resourcing considerations, Federal Court case management priorities and the availability of suitably qualified expert consultants



MEMBERS OF KLC BOARD AND STAFF AT THE NEW KLC OFFICE BUILDING

The KLC works to provide advice to native title holders and claimants while informing them of relevant time limits in which to respond to any such notices.

The KLC also has its own internal notification process for informing native title holders and claimants of any claim group meetings. The KLC endeavours to keep extensive and up-to-date claim group member lists and contact details. Native title holders and claimants are notified of claim group meetings through posted and hand-delivered letters, emails, phone calls, the posting of notices on public boards throughout the Kimberley and advertising in local newspapers.

Agreement-making

The KLC represents many native title claim groups and Registered Native Title Body Corporates and facilitates non-commercial negotiations for

agreement-making with third parties in relation to native title. The KLC has been extremely successful at negotiating positive agreements, such as Indigenous Land Use Agreements on behalf of Traditional Owners.

Internal review

The KLC has a Grants Committee that assesses new applications for native title claim assistance. The committee is comprised of KLC directors and assesses each application before making a decision. If the Grants Committee rejects an application for assistance, the KLC gives clear, written reasons for that decision and lets the applicants know about their right to have the decision reviewed.

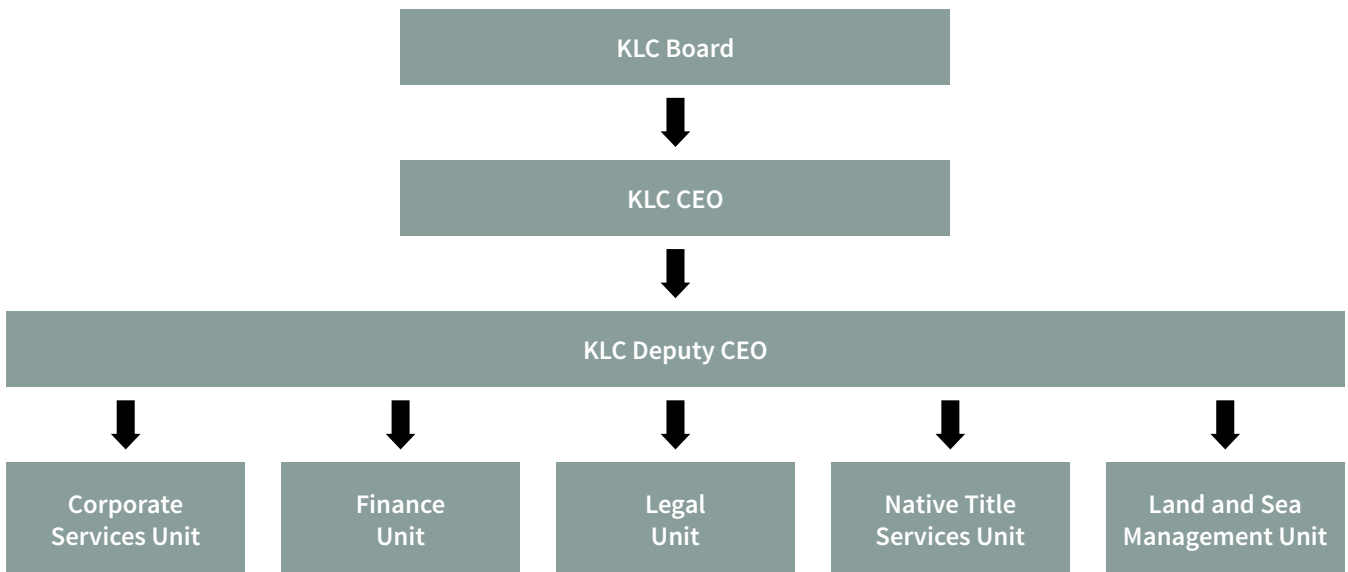
The applicants can seek to have the decision looked at again by the KLC’s Review Committee. The Review Committee is made up of the KLC Chairperson and four directors

(who were not on the original Grants Committee).

The Review Committee assesses the application and determines if the decision made by the Grants Committee was fair and proper. If the applicants are still not satisfied, they can request to have the decision reviewed under the Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act, 1977 (ADJR), and s203FB of the Native Title Act (1993).

Organisational structure

KLC ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Executive roles and responsibilities

Board of Directors

The KLC Board of Directors provides leadership and direction to the organisation and ensures it operates properly and fairly on behalf of all its members. At the end of the reporting period, the Board of Directors was comprised of 27 people representing the majority of native title claim groups across the Kimberley.

Four special advisers are included as part of the board and work with directors, members and Traditional Owners to provide expert cultural advice, offer support and guidance.

Directors are elected to the board every two years, with the latest election occurring in September 2014 at the KLC Annual General Meeting held in the Jarlmadangah Burru community.

Anthony Watson was elected as the new Chair and Bonnie Edwards was elected as the first female Deputy Chair of the KLC. The Chair and Deputy Chair are responsible for making sure the KLC functions effectively. They provide leadership to the KLC, the Board of Directors, the CEO and staff. They also act as the organisation's spokespeople and the interface between the KLC and the broader community.

The KLC Board of Directors meets a minimum of four times a year to set the direction of the organisation, establish priorities and direct the development of the strategic and operational plans.

Director training and development

The KLC board received governance training provided by representatives from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to inform them about policy and funding changes to Native Title Representative Bodies.

A number of directors also attended the international Indigenous Gathering in the Gully event in the Blue Mountains and the World Parks Congress in Sydney in November 2014 which set global targets for conservation and land management.

In June 2015, a contingent of KLC Directors attended the National Native Title Conference in Port Douglas to represent the organisation and take part in a number of sessions and workshops addressing the current issues and trends in native title.

Corporate governance

Corporate governance

The KLC has an effective corporate governance structure that enables the organisation to deliver on its mandate and achieve native title outcomes for Kimberley Aboriginal people.



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KLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ATTENDANCE JULY 2014 TO JUNE 2015

Executive Director* - previous board members who weren't reappointed at elections in September 2014	No. of meetings (out of 2) July 2014 / Sept 2014
Frank Davey	2
Joe Brown (Special Advisor)	2
Marty Stevens	1
Percy Bulgardie	1
Frankie McCarthy	2
Joe Davey (Special Advisor)	1
Wayne Bergmann	1
Mervyn Street	1
Lenny Hopiga	1
Serena Samuel	0
Shirley Purdie	0
Patsy Bedford	1
Lee Bevan* resigned from board on 16/07/14	0
Executive Director* - newly elected to the board on 24/09/2014	No. of meetings (out of 3)
Minetta Farrer	0
Phillip McCarthy	3
Bobetta Albert	3
Ismahl Croft	2
Dwesmond Wiggan-Dann	3
Gabriel Nodea	1
Andrew Daylight	1
Catherine Goonack	1
Gordon Marshall	3
Elizabeth Lulu	2
Emily Carter	0
Rosie Nunju	3
Maria Hand (Special Advisor)	0
Peter Murray (Special Advisor)	0
Executive Director* - reappointed to the board on 24/09/2014	No. of meetings (out of 5)
Tom Birch	5
Anthony Watson	5
Bonnie Edwards	5
Tom Lawford	3
Yvonne Birrell	3
Francis Djiagween	2
Merle Carter	3
Kathy O'Reeri	4
Pearl Gordon	4
Albert Cox	4
Irene Davey (Special Advisor)	5
John Watson (Special Advisor)	5



Holding on-country meetings and providing travel and accommodation arrangements for Traditional Owners, directors and staff is becoming increasingly challenging, particularly when working in extremely remote parts of the Kimberley



CEO NOLAN HUNTER AND CHAIRMAN ANTHONY WATSON WITH KLC LAND AND SEA MANAGEMENT UNIT STAFF, PURNULULU

The KLC conducts regular corporate governance planning at both a strategic and operational level to ensure our organisation is achieving its mission, vision and values. Regular reporting to the Board of Directors, KLC members, partners, funding bodies and staff ensures key stakeholders are kept informed of our activities and our organisation remains on track to realise its strategic goals.

Stringent financial and operational procedures are maintained and applied to make sure the organisation is effectively managed. The KLC employs a Chief Financial Officer, who is a Chartered Accountant and forms part of the KLC's senior management team. The senior management team meets regularly to review progress and ensure any upcoming or potential issues are dealt with to reduce any financial or operational risk.

The KLC acknowledges the support of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and other funding bodies which support the KLC on operational and activity-based programs. However, the KLC continues to struggle to reduce ever-increasing costs amid a lack of resources. Holding on-country meetings and providing travel and accommodation arrangements for Traditional Owners, directors and staff is becoming increasingly challenging, particularly when working in extremely remote parts of the Kimberley.

KLC management team

The Kimberley Land Council executive management team is responsible for the management of staff and organisational performance.

As the Chief Executive Officer of the Kimberley Land Council, Nolan Hunter is responsible for the day-to-day operational and administrative

management of the KLC, including overseeing the operations of the Deputy CEO, corporate services, financial, legal, land and sea management and native title services units. The CEO is the interface between the Board of Directors and KLC staff.

The CEO also works to achieve the strategic aims of the organisation. The CEO is assisted by a management team which at June 30, 2015 included:

- Tyrone Garstones – Deputy CEO
- Sue Humphries – Chief Financial Officer
- Kevin Murphy – Principal Legal Officer
- Erika Blades – Native Title Services Manager
- Sarah Parriman – Corporate Services Manager
- Tanah Tang Wei – Human Resources Manager
- Tom Holyoake – Acting Land and Sea Management Unit Manager
- Ariadne Gorring – Strategic Business Development Officer

Strategic and operational plans



KLC STAFF AND JAWUN SECONDEES AT THE 2014 AGM, JARLMADANGA BURRU COMMUNITY

The KLC is guided by the 2011-2016 Strategic Plan which sets out the organisation's long-term goals and strategies, in line with our vision and values. It also defines our overall strategy for achieving native title and other outcomes for Kimberley Aboriginal people.

The KLC Operational Plan 2014-2015 sets out the schedule of claim and PBC activity performance outputs our organisation aims to achieve within the reporting period. It is a tool for managing native title and other activities, in line with the KLC's policies, procedures and funding requirements.

The KLC's outputs were generally completed in accordance with the performance targets set out in the Operational Plan. In the reporting period, the KLC achieved the majority of its targets. Completion of performance outputs is significantly assisted when all parties adopt a

position in favour of mediation and negotiation rather than litigation.

Planning and reporting

The Kimberley Land Council Strategic Plan 2011-2016 guides the organisation's long-term focus and direction. The KLC's yearly Operational Plan sets performance targets and goals to ensure the KLC carries out its mission statement and vision. The KLC executive management team has monthly meetings to provide regular updates on operations as well as strategic planning meetings in which to review performance and track achievements. The KLC provides ongoing progress reports to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Salary levels and awards

Remuneration of all KLC staff members is determined by the Kimberley Land Council Enterprise Bargaining

Agreement 2014-2017. Salary scales within the document relate to a performance assessment scheme and staff performance is reviewed on an annual basis. Nine employees from within the executive management team were paid more than \$100,000 in the reporting period.

Risk management

The KLC has maintained and applied stringent financial and operational procedures to ensure that adequate information is available for the effective management of the organisation. The KLC employs a Chief Financial Officer, who is a Qualified Accountant, to manage the financial affairs, compliance and risk management of the organisation.

The management team meets regularly to review progress and identify upcoming issues and regularly reports back to the Board of Directors.



The KLC is guided by the 2011-2016 Strategic Plan which sets out the organisation's long-term goals and strategies, in line with our vision and values. It also defines our overall strategy for achieving native title and other outcomes for Kimberley Aboriginal people.

The KLC is pro-active in identifying potential financial and operational issues to ensure appropriate action is taken to minimise or exclude those risks.

Ethical standards

All Kimberley Land Council employees are required to maintain high standards of honesty, integrity and respect while behaving in an appropriate and fair manner.

Employees also conduct their work in accordance with the ethical standards relevant to their particular professions and codes of conduct. Staff performance guidelines are included in the KLC's policies and procedures and the KLC Code of Conduct.

External scrutiny

An annual financial audit was conducted by Moore Stephens WA Pty Ltd (formerly UHY Haines Norton) and can be found in the Financial Statements section of this Annual Report.

There were no judicial or administrative tribunal decisions in relation to the KLC during the reporting period, other than legal decisions that affected native title decisions generally.

Service charter standards

The KLC has no service charter or customer service standards but uses a process of complaints management instead.

Detailed information on how a complaint can be made and managed is publicly available and can be found on the KLC website at www.klc.org.au.

Written complaints are referred to the Chief Executive Officer, or delegate for assessment. In cases where it is appropriate to respond, the Chief Executive Officer refers the complaint to an appropriate person to manage the resolution process, allocate a priority response time and to case manage responses required to deal with the complaint.

Complaints

The KLC received one complaint in the reporting period. The complaint was resolved in accordance with our complaints process outlined as part of the KLC's policies and procedures.

Native title disputes

It is the KLC's policy to endeavour to resolve all disputes relating to native title applications by consultation at claimant meetings and during the course of claim preparation.

The KLC facilitated mediations under its dispute resolution functions with three native title claim groups.

There were no formal disputes relating to native title applications, Indigenous Land Use Agreements or rights of access reported in 2014-2015.

The Native Title Materials Policy Committee

The KLC holds a significant collection of material from many years of undertaking native title claim work. While there is a policy and procedure for controlled material, which is managed through the Research, Ethics and Access Committee, this policy does not address the issue of identifying and transferring native title materials back to the relevant native title holders.

The KLC commissioned legal advice in 2014 to identify the issues associated with transferring native title material. The KLC has taken steps to work through the issues but an increase in the number of requests from PBCs and native title holders for native title materials has highlighted the need for a comprehensive policy and process that sets out the way material is managed and how it can be returned to either individuals or Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (PBC).

A pilot project was established in 2013 to return materials to the Bardi Jawi people. In May 2015, the KLC board set up a committee to workshop and develop policies and procedures for returning native title materials. The board elected five directors to sit on the committee along with the KLC Chair, Deputy CEO, Principal Legal officer, a Senior Legal officer and the Native Title Services Manager. A committee workshop held on June 30 - July 1 decided a staged approach would need to occur so stakeholders could be consulted and the KLC could work



The new KLC office building has achieved a 4 Star Green Star - Office Design v3 certified rating from the Green Building Council of Australia, which means it has been designed to best practice environmental standards



with Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate to develop management plans, policies and agreements. The committee plans to have a finalised draft of the policy ready to present at the December 2015 meeting of the KLC board for review and approval.

KLC office facility

Construction of the KLC's new purpose built office facility in Broome started on July 22, 2013.

Practical completion occurred June 22, 2015 and an occupancy certificate was issued on June 23. The KLC commenced relocation to the new building on June 24 and was operating from the building by June 30.

The \$15 million project provides office resources and warehouse space on two levels at the KLC's Gregory Street site. The state of the art building includes conference facilities and meeting

rooms as well as a commercial kitchen, records management facilities and equipment storage.

The new office has achieved a 4 Star Green Star – Office Design v3 certified rating from the Green Building Council of Australia, which means that the building has been designed to 'best practice' environmental standards. It is the first Green Star certified building in WA, outside of Perth, to achieve this rating.

The environmental features of the building include a solar panel system to reduce peak electrical demand by 30 per cent, water efficient designs, small lighting zones, and the diversion of construction waste away from landfill. At the end of the reporting period, the facility was generally complete, with some finishing work still to be undertaken. The shake-down period is bringing up some further matters that will require attention, modification, or

addition. These outstanding matters are expected to be completed by September 2015.

The project remains within budget. The building provides the Kimberley Land Council members, Directors, and staff with modern, purpose built facilities, enhancing the profile of the organisation, improving efficiencies, and reflecting the history and ongoing operations of the KLC.

The KLC committed a significant amount of its own resources to the project. Funding for the project was received from the Australian Government's Regional Development Australia Fund, the Indigenous Land Corporation, the State Government's Royalties for Regions program, and Lotterywest. The Kimberley Land Council gratefully acknowledges the generous support provided by these partners.

Human Resources



KLC STAFF MEMBER MERVYN (MERV) MAHER

Workforce planning, staff turnover and retention

Staffing levels continue to fluctuate annually depending on the status of project activities. At June 30, 2015 a total of 108 people were employed at the KLC.

The KLC also facilitates the Kimberley Ranger Network which employs about 80 full-time rangers annually as well as a number of administrative and regular casual rangers. In recent years a number of rangers have commenced full-time employment with the KLC as they complete qualifications in Conservation and Land Management and progress into senior leadership roles. At June 30, 2015, the KLC directly employed 13 senior full-time rangers.

During the reporting period, there were 26 recruitments with 50 per cent of new recruitments being Indigenous people. Our staff turnover rate was 32 per cent which is an increase on the turnover rate of 19 per cent in 2012-2013. The staff turnover rate at the KLC regularly

fluctuates depending on the number of projects the organisation is managing at any one time.

Indemnity insurance

KLC staff are covered for professional indemnity insurance to the value of \$10 million.

Learning and development

The KLC is committed to providing learning and development opportunities to our employees. Regular 4WD and First Aid courses are offered throughout the year while the Kimberley Ranger Network supports rangers completing a variety of certifications including Certificates in Conservation and Land Management and Business, literacy and numeracy training, leadership and professional development.

As part of attaining their practice certificates the KLC Legal team are required to attend compulsory professional development. The KLC

continues its partnership with the Aurora Project and through this staff have been involved with a number of training opportunities directly related to native title including courses such as Management Development and Native Title Law. In addition to the Aurora Programs, the KLC has provided other training opportunities such as contracts management training, Kimberley interpreting training, project management, leadership and a variety of professional development courses for individual staff members. The KLC had a high number of representatives attend the National Native Title Conference in Port Douglas.

KLC enterprise bargaining agreement

Negotiations for the KLC Enterprise Agreement 2014 – 2017 were finalised within the reporting period and the agreement was approved by Fair Work Australia in November 2014. The new agreement is currently operating within the organisation.



In the reporting period 28 NTRB consultants were contracted to undertake a range of services for the KLC including providing legal advice, expert anthropology services, cultural services and other services including corporate and financial



GLENELG RIVER, DAMBIMANGARI COUNTRY

Workplace health and safety

The KLC continues its commitment to a safe working environment. During the 2014-2015 reporting period six incidents that went to an insurance claim were reported. These were for motor vehicle damage and personal injury. We have since taken steps to reduce the risk or reoccurrence of any such incidents.

STAFF NUMBERS JUNE 30, 2015*

Full-time	95
Part-time	13
Male	61
Female	47
Under 25	3
Indigenous	48
Total employees	108

*This figure does not include Kimberley Group Training rangers or casual staff

Consultants, competitive tendering and contracting

The KLC awarded 28 Native Title Representative Body consultancy contracts in the reporting period. Consultants were contracted to undertake a range of services for the KLC including providing legal advice, expert anthropology services, cultural services and other services including corporate and financial. Consultant and service contracts expenditure for the 2014-2015 reporting period totalled \$1,741,176.

NTRB ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Complaints and disputes	
Complaints	
Received	3
Resolved	3
Pending	0
Disputes	
Native title application disputes	0
Disputes relating to ILUAs, rights of access and other matters	0
Requests for review of decisions not to assist	
Requests	
Received	0
Completed	0

Performance Report



Introduction

The KLC has been extremely successful in achieving positive native title outcomes for Kimberley Aboriginal people. At the end of the reporting period, about 70 per cent of the Kimberley was determined native title land, legally recognised by the Federal Court.

There have been 23 successful native title determinations in the region to date and there are a total of 13 Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (PBCs) that hold on trust the native title rights and interests recognised under these determinations.

The KLC continued to provide support services to PBCs through direct funding support which is provided to 10 PBCs and through certification functions and Future Act support where requested.

Significant events and changes

Agreements KRED Enterprise

In March 2011, the KLC established the Ambooriny Burru Foundation, a charitable venture to facilitate Kimberley Aboriginal people's engagement in the expanding regional economy.

The KLC, in establishing the foundation fulfilled the long-term vision of Kimberley Aboriginal people to get control of their future through increased opportunities and economic independence.

As part of the Ambooriny Burru Foundation, the KLC also established KRED, which seeks out and develops business and job opportunities for Kimberley Aboriginal people, on behalf of the foundation.

In the reporting period, the KLC continued to contract out its function to negotiate commercial agreements with mining companies to KRED, as it has the expertise and resources

required to represent Traditional Owners and negotiate economic opportunities for Kimberley Aboriginal people.

Under this arrangement the KLC, in line with its function as a Native Title Representative Body, remains a party to negotiations and a representative of native title claimants. It is up to individual claim groups to decide if they want to use the services of KRED or not.

In the reporting period, the KLC worked with KRED to successfully certify an agreement between the Nyikina Mangala and Karajarri Traditional Owners and Buru Pty Ltd.

Through the strong partnership between the KLC and KRED, native title groups are able to receive a high standard of representation and support when making the important decisions about what happens on their country.



The reluctance of companies to enter into Heritage Protection Agreements with Traditional Owner groups is concerning, as is the increasing pressure on Traditional Owners to take matters to inquiry with the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT)



Mining Future Acts

The KLC continued to respond to a high number of Future Act notices received on behalf of Traditional Owner groups, as a result of companies wanting to explore or mine resource-rich country in the Kimberley. The reluctance of companies to enter into Heritage Protection Agreements with Traditional Owner groups is concerning, as is the increasing pressure on Traditional Owners to take matters to inquiry with the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT).

Despite the KLC achieving some strong wins on matters that went before the National Native Title Tribunal, the trend in negotiations with most companies appears to be adversarial. In the reporting period, the KLC continued to emphasise to companies the long-term benefits of working in partnership

with Traditional Owners to respect Aboriginal heritage and community values.

Companies that negotiate Heritage Protection Agreements to undertake exploration activities have the benefit of certainty in knowing they are engaging with the right Traditional Owners who have authority for that area and that subsequently the activity undertaken is free from risk.

As at June 30, 2015, the KLC had 101 active mining expedited procedure matters with the National Native Title Tribunal including:

- 15 companies engaging prior to inquiry to try and reach a Heritage Protection Agreement with Traditional Owners;
- 20 procedures in the inquiry stream with the National Native Title Tribunal; and

- 13 right to negotiate procedures, where the KLC had successful determinations from the National Native Title Tribunal.

The remaining 53 matters are in the process stream but it is anticipated they will move quickly into the inquiry process as the National Native Title Tribunal has been proactive in managing these matters.

The KLC native title Future Act team has been under significant pressure to manage a high volume of work required when there is a variation to an existing agreement, as this requires staff to consult with and obtain consent from affected native title holders. This is a relatively new process following on from the Brown decision in early 2013, where it was found the ‘act’ occurs when the legal right is triggered, not at the time of an activity flowing from that right. As a result, where the KLC would previously consult with Traditional Owners when a company was about to undertake on-ground activities, it must now consult with Traditional Owners before tenements can be added to an agreement. This creates an additional resource and costs burden on the KLC and its staff which is not recoverable under the terms of the Heritage Protection Agreement.

There has been a significant number of miscellaneous licence applications for related mining matters such as roads and bores. As this often gives Traditional Owners the right to object, the KLC is required to negotiate



Companies that negotiate Heritage Protection Agreements to undertake exploration activities have the benefit of certainty in knowing they are engaging with the right Traditional Owners who have authority for that area and that subsequently the activity undertaken is free from risk

with proponents for benefits where historically this may previously not have been available. These matters are also continuing to the extensive Future Acts workload.

Non-mining Future Acts

State Activities (SAFA)

In October 2012, the KLC entered into a funding agreement with the WA State Government to provide a process for government departments to work with Traditional Owners in relation to state activities undertaken in Aboriginal communities and on native title land.

The agreement set out a specified heritage process for ensuring the protection of significant sites and traditional country. The funding agreement established a dedicated KLC team to manage Traditional Owner engagement and consultations regarding State Government Future Acts, Indigenous Land Use Agreements and Aboriginal heritage matters.

The KLC's state activities team comprised 14 full or part time staff including a manager, project co-ordinator, two legal officers, three anthropologists and other project and support personnel.

In October 2014 the SAFA agreement came to an end. Since that time all on-going work on State Government Future Acts has been managed by remaining KLC future act staff as additional work on top of the mining work Future Acts work already undertaken by them. This has left a large resource gap within the KLC.

Despite the SAFA Agreement having come to an end, there has continued to be a constant stream of agency work from the Department of Housing, Horizon Power, Water Corporation and the Department of Environment.

Indigenous Land Use Agreements

At the end of the reporting period there was a number of State and third party Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) under negotiation.

ILUA negotiations with the WA State Government for the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy were at various stages at June 30, 2015. In summary:

- The Karajarri Traditional Lands Association signed an Agreement as part of the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy on June 4, 2015. A management planning workshop will be held on August 12, 2015.
- The KLC had negotiated a funding agreement for the Balangarra Aboriginal Corporation to continue negotiations with the State in relation to the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy.
- The KLC was in the process of negotiating a funding agreement for the Nyangumarta Karajarri Aboriginal Corporation to further discuss a Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy Indigenous Land Use Agreement.
- The Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation, the Wunambal

Gambera Aboriginal Corporation and the Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation were negotiating their own Kimberley Science and Conservation Indigenous Land Use Agreements with the State.

These negotiations, along with other third party negotiations are creating serious staffing capacity issues within the legal and native title units, as there is no dedicated team to undertake this work. Other staff have been required to take on this additional work on top of their normal duties and priorities.

In the reporting period, there was also a number of third party Indigenous Land Use Agreements that at June 30, 2015 were in various stages of negotiation. For many of these agreements the KLC must negotiate the terms of a funding protocol before any substantive negotiations can take place, which can be a time consuming exercise.

These agreements are usually with pastoralists who have applied for general purpose or other leases which give rise to the right to negotiate.

There has also been an increase in applications by Traditional Owners to undertake business activities on their country. The KLC has requested the WA Department of Lands to negotiate a standard Indigenous Land Use Agreement for lease applications but at the end of the reporting period this had not yet happened.

East Kimberley



Jaru

Native title claim progress

The KLC received instructions to lodge the new Jaru claim in October 2011. Subsequently, the new Jaru claim was filed and registered with the National Native Title Tribunal in March 2012.

The claim covers an area north of the Tanami Desert and south of Halls Creek and is comprised of the former Lamboo native title claim as well as previously unclaimed country in the east Kimberley to the south of Halls Creek.

Research in support of the claim continued throughout the reporting period, with a two-day meeting being held in Burks Park in June 2015 to bring the genealogies for the claim and neighbouring claims close to finalisation.

The Jaru claim is under close case management by the Federal Court.

Future Act developments

There has been a high level of exploration applications within the Jaru claim area, with some cases progressing to the inquiry stage with National Native Title Tribunal. The KLC has collected evidence detailing significant sites in these areas.

The KLC executed a Heritage Protection Agreement within the reporting period and is currently in the process of negotiating a number of Heritage Protection Agreements with large mining companies.

The KLC provided assistance to KRED Enterprises to facilitate and execute agreements and conduct claim group meetings with large mining companies. There were no applications for petroleum or mining leases.

Koonjie-Elvire

Native title claim progress

The Koonjie-Elvire claim was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal

on November 15, 1999. The claim covers an area of land north of Halls Creek and south of Kununurra in the east Kimberley.

Research in support of the claim continued throughout the reporting period, with a two-day meeting being held at Burks Park in June 2015 to bring the genealogies for this claim and neighbouring claims close to finalisation.

The Koonjie Elvire claim is being progressed concurrently with the adjoining Jaru claim and is under close case management by the Federal Court.

Future Act developments

There has been a high level of exploration application activity within the reporting period, with some applications currently within the tribunal inquiry process. A small number of successful determinations from the inquiry process have progressed to the right to negotiate



There has been a high level of exploration applications within the Jaru claim area, with some cases progressing to the inquiry stage with National Native Title Tribunal

stream. There have been no mining or petroleum applications within the reporting period.

Goorring (Lumugal)

Native title claim progress

The Goorring claim, originally called Lumugal, was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on February 17, 2006. The claim was lodged in response to a Future Act application and covers an 11 square kilometre area between the O'Donnell Range, the Ragged Range, the Evelyn Range and the Pitt Range.

The mine located within the claim area is close to being wound up, and the KLC met with the applicants in April 2015 to discuss alternatives for resolving the matter.

Future Act developments

No new exploration, petroleum or mining applications were received during the reporting period.

Marlarngowem

Native title claim progress

The Marlarngowem claim was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on February 4, 2000. The claim covers an area north east of Halls Creek and towards Warmun.

In the reporting period, the KLC invested significant resources to progress this claim through conducting anthropological research, claimant meetings and mediation.

The Marlarngowem claim is being progressed concurrently with the Goorring, Ngarrawanji, Yurriyangem Taam and Kija claims and is under close case management by the Federal Court.

A two-day meeting was held in Warmun in June 2015 to bring the genealogies for this claim and neighbouring claims close to finalisation.

Future Act developments

There has been a high level of exploration applications received during the reporting period and a small number of miscellaneous licence applications with the right to negotiate. There were no applications for petroleum or mining leases.

Ngarrawanji

Native title claim progress

The Ngarrawanji claim was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on June 25, 1996. The area covers the Moola Bulla pastoral lease and some small areas of reserves and unallocated crown land around Halls Creek. In the reporting period, the KLC invested significant resources to progress this claim through conducting anthropological research, claimant meetings and mediation.

The Ngarrawanji claim is being progressed concurrently with the Goorring, Marlarngowem, Koonjie-Elvire, Purnululu and Yurriyangem Taam claims that make up the Kija cultural bloc, and is under close case management by the Federal Court.

Several meetings were held in June 2015 to bring the genealogies for this claim and neighbouring claims close to finalisation.

Future Act developments

There was a low level of new applications for exploration tenements received during the reporting period. The KLC currently has a matter in the tribunal process awaiting determination. There were no applications for petroleum or mining leases.

Purnululu

Native title claim progress

The Purnululu claim was registered on March 27, 1995 and was subsequently amended and re-registered on October 15, 1999. The claim covers the Purnululu National Park in the east Kimberley.

Research in relation to the Purnululu claim continued during the reporting period and is to be completed during the next financial year.

The Purnululu claim is under close case management by the Federal Court.

Future Act developments

There has been a low level of new applications for exploration tenements in the reporting period but a number of matters have resulted in successful executed agreements. No objections to the application of the expedited procedure had progressed to inquiry during the reporting period.



In the reporting period, the KLC invested significant resources to progress the Yurriyangem Taam claim through conducting anthropological research, claimant meetings and mediation



There were no applications for petroleum or mining leases.

Yurriyangem Taam

Native title claim progress

The Yurriyangem Taam claim was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on October 29, 2010. The claim is comprised of core Kija country, located north-east of Fitzroy Crossing towards Kununurra in the east Kimberley.

In the reporting period, the KLC invested significant resources to progress this claim through conducting anthropological research, claimant meetings and mediation.

The Yurriyangem Taam claim is being progressed concurrently with the Goorring, Marlarngowem, Ngarrawanji and Kija claims.

The Yurriyangem Taam claim is under close case management by the Federal Court.

Future Act developments

There has been a medium level of new applications received within the reporting period. Some of these applications were withdrawn by companies while others are before the National Native Title Tribunal awaiting determination. There were no applications for petroleum or mining leases.

North Kimberley



Balanggarra Combined, Balanggarra #3 and Balanggarra #4

Native title claim progress

The Balanggarra native title area is covered by three claims; Balanggarra Combined, Balanggarra #3 and Balanggarra #4.

The Balanggarra Combined and Balanggarra #3 claims were progressed concurrently and determined by the Federal Court on August 7, 2013.

The claim area covers more than 30,343 square kilometres of country in the north Kimberley including the Wyndham township, Kalumburu, Oombulgurri and Forest River Aboriginal reserves, Carson River pastoral lease, parts of the Drysdale River National Park and unallocated crown land at Cape Londonderry, Carson River and the Cambridge Gulf Coast. Balanggarra Traditional Owners waited more than 18 years for their native title interests to be recognised.

The KLC assisted the Balanggarra people to set up the Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation to be its corporate entity and Registered Native Title Prescribed Bodies Corporate. The Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation holds on trust the native title rights and interests of Balanggarra Traditional Owners.

There are two outstanding native title matters for the Balanggarra claim. The first involves an issue surrounding potentially invalid Future Acts across six blocks of freehold land in Wyndham.

The KLC has provided assistance to the Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation in its negotiations with the State for compensation in regards to these blocks. The KLC has also provided cultural mapping assistance to Balanggarra to assist in the development of a decision-making process for dealing with on-country matters.

Mineral and petroleum Future Act developments

There has been little exploration activity on Balanggarra country in the last financial year. Two exploration licences were considered by the National Native Title Tribunal, and on the basis of the evidence provided by Balanggarra Traditional Owners, were considered to attract the right to negotiate. As a result, one new Heritage Protection Agreement has been negotiated and is expected to be settled within the coming months.

Wanjina Wunggurr claims: Wilinggin, Uunguu and Dambimangari

The Wanjina Wunggurr Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate manages the native title interests of the three Wanjina Wunggurr claims. The Wanjina Wunggurr Wilinggin native title claim was determined on December 8, 2003. The claim covers more than 60,150 square kilometres of country across the Gibb River Road.



The KLC facilitates the governance structures between the Wanjina Wunggurr Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate and the three individual administrative corporations, which represent the three determination areas, to ensure positive working relationships between the parties



The Wanjina Wunggurr Unguu Part A claim was determined by consent on May 23, 2011 while the Wanjina Wunggurr Unguu B claim was determined in November 2012. The Wanjina Wunggurr Dambimangari native title claim was determined on May 26, 2011.

The KLC assists the Wanjina Wunggurr Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate in its general compliance with the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 1996 and in responding to Future Acts. It has provided assistance on request to the related corporations in relation to establishing good governance practices.

It also facilitates the governance structures between the Wanjina Wunggurr Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate and the three individual administrative corporations, which represent the three determination

areas, to ensure positive working relationships between the parties.

Wanjina Wunggurr Unguu Future Act developments

A medium level of mineral exploration licences were received during the reporting period but no applications for petroleum or mining leases. No objection to the application of the expedited procedure had progressed to inquiry during the reporting period.

Wanjina Wunggurr Dambimangari

Future Act developments

No applications for petroleum or mining leases and very few mineral exploration licences were received during the reporting period. One objection to the application of the expedited procedure progressed to inquiry during the reporting period and is awaiting determination.

Wanjina Wunggurr Wilinggin

A medium level of mineral exploration licences were received during the reporting period but no mineral or mining lease applications. No objection to the application of the expedited procedure had progressed to inquiry during the reporting period.

Dampier Peninsula



All claims

Native title claim progress

The Dampier Peninsula is located along the northwest coast of the Kimberley and is currently home to seven native title claims and two native title determinations.

The KLC has been working with native title claimants across the Middle Dampier Peninsula. Five claims in the region have been programmed to a trial which will commence within the next reporting period in September 2015.

In this reporting period, KLC staff and consultants have prepared pleadings explaining and describing the laws and customs of the claim group, and have invested significant time in working with witnesses to record their stories and beliefs for presentation to the court.

Bardi Jawi

The Federal Court recognised native title across a large area of the Bardi and Jawi claim on November 30, 2005

including exclusive possession across most of the mainland area.

The Federal Court also found that native title did not exist across sea country, reefs, and a number of the islands including Sunday Island and Jackson's Island.

The KLC appealed the decision in 2006 and on March 18, 2010, the Federal Court reversed its initial decision and recognised the native title rights of the Bardi and Jawi people across their sea country on the Dampier Peninsula. The Bardi Jawi native title claim was determined through litigation over 15 years. The claim covers 1,037 square kilometres of land and sea country on the Dampier Peninsula.

The Bardi and Jawi Niimidiman Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate manage the native title rights and interests on behalf of the Bardi and Jawi people. During the reporting period the KLC worked to assist Bardi Jawi to hold

about 10 directors meetings including the Annual General Meeting and to provide administrative support.

The KLC also worked with the Bardi Jawi Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate on internal governance measures to develop a process for decision-making about land arrangements.

Future Act developments

During the reporting period, there was a low level of Future Act activity.

Djabera Djabera

Native title claim progress

The Djabera Djabera claim was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on October 8, 1996. The claim covers an area to the south and west of Beagle Bay. The KLC, as the representative body for the Kimberley, became a respondent to the claim in 2013 as it considers the claim to be fundamentally flawed due to the composition of the claim group.



Native title claimants on the Middle Dampier Peninsula share the same system of laws and customs and decided it would be better to resolve native title as the one society rather than as individual tribal groups

The Djabera Djabera claim is overlapped by the Bindunbur native title claim, which was authorised in 2013. In June 2015, the KLC brought an application for the claim to be struck out and anticipates that, if successful, the claim will be removed early in the next reporting period.

Future Act developments

The KLC does not have carriage of Future Act activity for the Djabera Djabera claim group.

Jabirr Jabirr and Goolarabooloo

Native title claim progress

The Goolarabooloo Jabirr Jabirr native title claim was discontinued on September 20, 2013. A claim on behalf of the Jabirr Jabirr people was filed on September 23, 2013 and a separate claim on behalf of the Goolarabooloo people was filed on October 4, 2013. Both claims have passed the registration test and are not represented by KLC.

On July 4, 2014, Justice Barker made orders setting down both claims for trial in September 2015, along with the Bindunbur and Djabera Djabera native title claims.

Future Act developments

During the reporting period, there was no Future Act activity. No objections to the application of the expedited procedure had progressed to inquiry during the reporting period.

Warrwa Mawadjala Gadjidgar (Point Torment)

Native title claim progress

The Warrwa Mawadjala Gadjidgar claim was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on June 23, 2011. The claim covers an area across Point Torment in the west Kimberley.

This claim was lodged in response to Future Act pressures at the time. The claim is the subject of a request for a meeting to consider combining it with the adjoining Warrwa #2 application. That meeting was scheduled to take place in late July 2015.

Future Act developments

There was a low level of Future Act activity during the reporting period. No objection to the application of the expedited procedure had progressed to inquiry during the reporting period.

Mayala

Native title claim progress

The Mayala claim was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on July 1, 1998. The claim covers the island and sea area between the Bardi and Jawi determined area and the Wanjin Wungurr Dambimangari determined area, in and around the Buccaneer Archipelago.

In the reporting period, resources were committed to anthropological research with the Mayala claimants. When that research is completed, (currently anticipated to be in mid-late 2016) and any necessary amendments are made

to the claim, the State will be asked to assess whether it is prepared to agree to a consent determination for the Mayala claim.

Future Act developments

A low level of mineral exploration licences and no applications for petroleum or mining were received during the reporting period. No objection to the application of the expedited procedure had progressed to inquiry during the reporting period.

Bindunbur

Native Title claim progress

The Bindunbur native title claim provides a new approach to having native title recognised on the Middle Dampier Peninsula. Native title claimants on the Middle Dampier Peninsula strategically consolidated claims across their country as a way to speed-up and resolve native title.

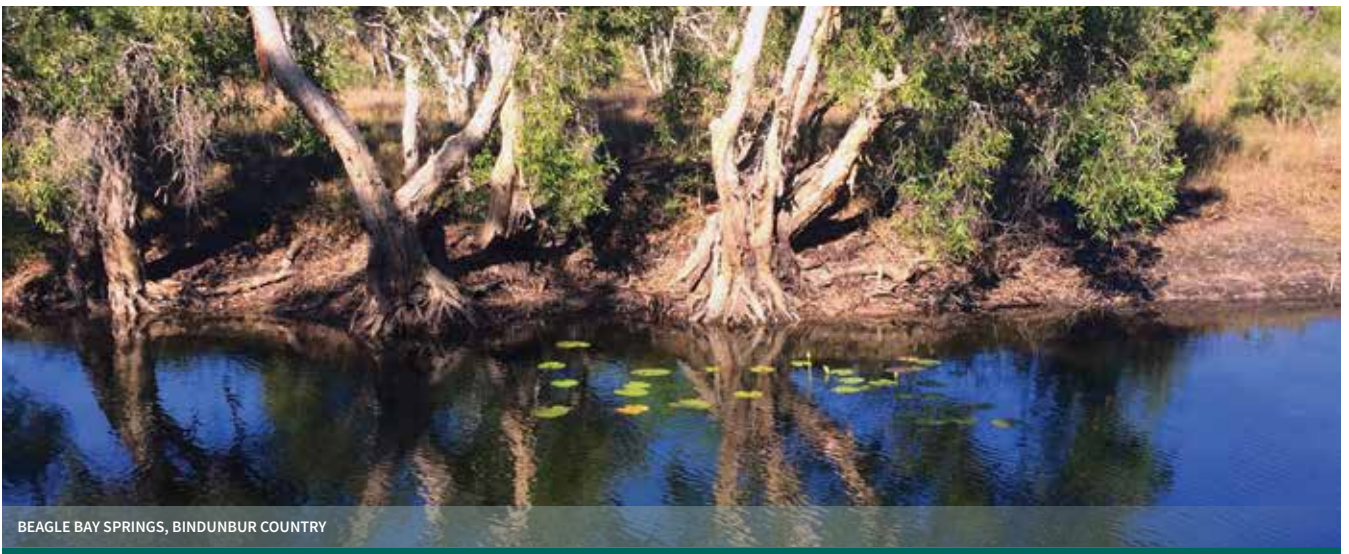
Native title claimants on the Middle Dampier Peninsula share the same system of laws and customs and decided it would be better to resolve native title as the one society rather than as individual tribal groups.

Through this joint approach they believe they can move forward with native title after previous long delays to the process. When combined, the Bindunbur claims cover more than 7609 square kilometres of land and sea country.

In July and October 2013, Jabirr Jabirr, Nyul Nyul and Nimanburru people



In the reporting period, the KLC invested significant resources to progress the Bindunbur claim to get it ready for trial, which begins in September 2015



came together to authorise the filing of the Bindunbur native title claims.

The Nyul Nyul people also made the difficult decision to discontinue their claims to allow the Bindunbur claims to go ahead. One Bindunbur claim, over the north, north east and central areas of the Middle Dampier Peninsula was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on December 13, 2013.

The Bindunbur (Area B) claim, over Carnot Bay, Sandy Point and the Lacepede Islands, was filed on April 24, 2014 but is not able to pass the registration test as it overlaps with the Djabera Djabera claim. The KLC has become a respondent to the Djabera Djabera claim and in the reporting period made a second application to have it struck out.

In the reporting period, the KLC invested significant resources to progress the Bindunbur claim to

get it ready for trial, which begins in September 2015.

The KLC has conducted significant research and interviews with senior Traditional Owners to gather the evidence needed to demonstrate native title.

Future Acts developments

There was a low level of Future Act activity during the reporting period. No objection to the application of the expedited procedure had progressed to inquiry during the reporting period.

Warrwa

Native title claim progress

The whole-of-country Warrwa #2 claim was lodged by external lawyers (without KLC assistance) in September 2012. The claim is the subject of a request for a meeting to consider combining it with the adjoining Warrwa Mawadjala Gadjidgar claim.

That meeting was scheduled to take place in late July 2015. The applicant continues to be privately represented, without KLC assistance.

Future Act developments

There were low levels of Future Act applications received within the reporting period. No objection to the application of the expedited procedure had progressed to inquiry during the reporting period.

Karajarri

Native title claim progress

The Federal Court recognised the native title rights of the Karajarri people in two consent determinations in 2002 and 2004.

The KLC, in its role as a Native Title Representative Body, continues to work with the Karajarri people and provides ongoing support and assistance to the Karajarri Traditional Lands Association



The KLC and the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation acted on behalf of the Karajarri and Nyangumarta claimants to negotiate native title across 2000 square kilometres of land and sea country including Anna Plains Station, a portion of Mandora Station and 80 Mile Beach



ROCKS AT GOURDON BAY, KARAJARRI COUNTRY

(KTLA) Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate. This assistance includes helping convene director meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

The KLC also represented the Karajarri Traditional Lands Association in negotiations for an Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the State Government as part of the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy.

Future Act developments

There was a low level of exploration applications received during the reporting period. No objection to the application of the expedited procedure had progressed to inquiry.

Yawinya

Native title claim progress

The Federal Court handed down the Yawinya native title determination across shared country near 80 Mile Beach on May 25, 2012.

The determination area is comprised of the shared country of the Nyangumarta and Karajarri people, two different tribal groups who share traditional laws and cultural connection to the area.

The Kimberley Land Council and the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation acted on behalf of the Karajarri and Nyangumarta claimants to negotiate native title across 2000 square kilometres of land and sea country including Anna Plains Station, a portion of Mandora Station and 80 Mile Beach.

The KLC, in its role as a Native Title Representative Body, continues to work with the Nyangumarta and Karajarri people to provide ongoing support and assistance to the Nyangumarta Karajarri Aboriginal Corporation as the Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate for the shared area. This assistance includes helping convene director meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

In the reporting period, the KLC also worked with the Nyangumarta and Karajarri people to hold an on-country planning workshop about the best ways to prioritise work across shared areas.

Future Act developments

There was a low level of Future Act applications received by the KLC within the reporting period.

Desert region



Ngurrara, Ngurrara B and Yi-Martuwarra Ngurrara

Native title claim progress

There are currently two native title determinations and one native title claim across Ngurrara country, which extends south into the Great Sandy Desert and north into the river country south of Fitzroy Crossing.

The first native title claim, Ngurrara, was successfully determined on November 9, 2007. The second native title claim, Ngurrara B, was successfully determined in November 2012.

The third native title claim, Yi-Martuwarra Ngurrara, was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on February 29, 2012. To date there has been minimal progress with this claim due to a number of factors both internal and external. However, negotiations are currently underway between applicants and the lease holder of Christmas Creek Station to reach consent for a co-existence

agreement which is expected to be resolved in October 2015.

In the reporting period the KLC worked with the Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation to provide extensive assistance to the Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate to organise director meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

Future Act developments

There has been a low level of exploration applications received within the reporting period as most were withdrawn by companies. There are no active negotiations in progress for this claim.

Nyikina Mangala

Native title claim progress

The majority of Nyikina Mangala native title claim was determined on May 29, 2014 across more than 26,000 square kilometres. The determined area extends from the mouth of the King Sound below Derby, along the Fitzroy

Valley to Noonkanbah and south into the Great Sandy Desert.

Exclusive possession native title rights were recognised across more than 40 per cent of the claim area, including three Aboriginal pastoral stations, a large tract of unallocated crown land in the Great Sandy Desert and smaller pockets within the claim. A second overlapping claim has been made over a small area known as Udialla in order to secure exclusive possession native title rights. It is anticipated this claim will be determined by consent in the next reporting period.

The KLC continued to assert its right for costs to be paid by third party respondent Oil Basins Limited in relation to a failed legal bid to stop the Nyikina Mangala native title determination. His Honour Barker J made an order that Oil Basins Limited pay those costs to the KLC on an indemnity basis. Oil Basins Ltd appealed the decision to the Full Court of the Federal Court but the



The majority of Nyikina Mangala native title claim was determined on May 29, 2014 across more than 26,000 square kilometres, extending from the mouth of the King Sound below Derby, along the Fitzroy Valley to Noonkanbah and south into the Great Sandy Desert



SUNSET ON NYIKINA MANGALA COUNTRY

Nyikina Mangala application was again successful. The appeal court ordered Oil Basins Limited to pay the costs of the appeal, in addition to the first round of costs which has been formally calculated at \$160,000.

In the reporting period, the KLC worked with the Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate to provide administrative and meeting support and assisted with funding for an office in Derby. The KLC also provided authorisation assistance for the Buru Agreement.

Future Act developments

There has been a medium level of Future Act applications received during the reporting period. There was also a medium-level of on-ground exploration across Nyikina Mangala country.

Tjurabalan

Native title claim progress

The Tjurabalan native title claim was determined on August 20, 2001. The claim is in the Tanami Desert region, in the far south-east of the Kimberley and includes the Aboriginal communities of Ringer Soak, Bililuna, Mulan and several outstations. It was the first consent determination to be reached in the Kimberley.

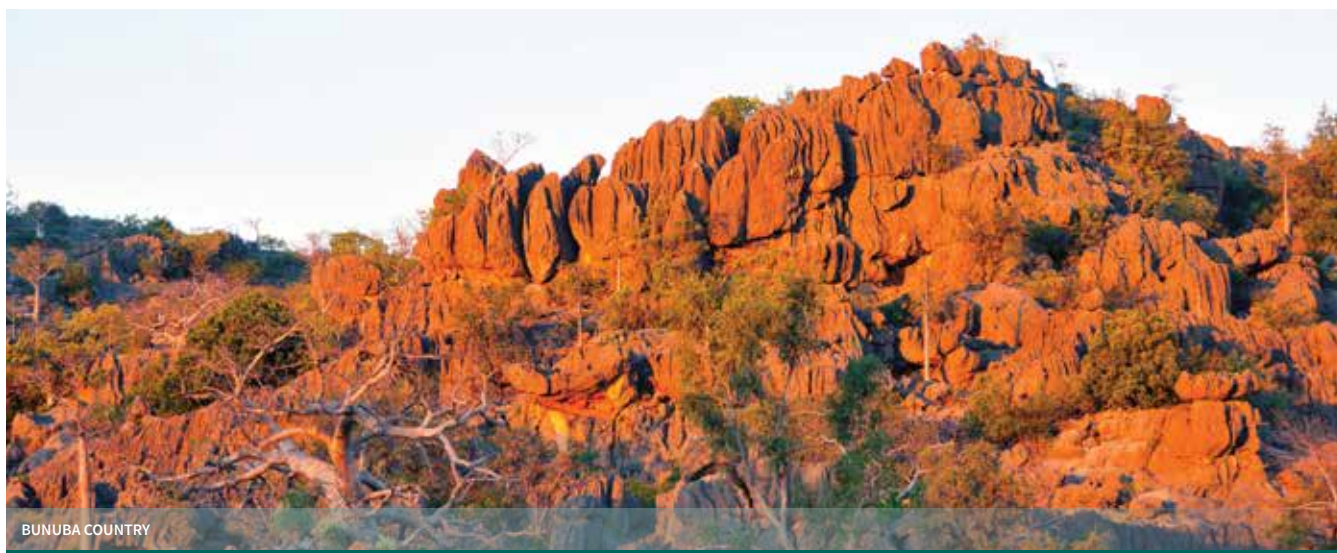
During the reporting period, the KLC provided the Tjurabalan Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate with administrative support, meeting assistance, legal advice and assisted to conduct heritage surveys.

Future Act developments

During the reporting period, there was a high level of Future Act applications received. The KLC managed these applications and negotiated Heritage Protection Agreements.

No objection to the application of the expedited procedure had progressed to inquiry during the reporting period.

Central Kimberley



Bunuba and Bunuba #2

Native title claim progress

There are three native title claims across Bunuba country in the central Kimberley area near Fitzroy Crossing.

The Bunuba Combined claim was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on August 20, 1999 and Part A of this claim was determined by consent at an on-country sitting of the Federal Court on December 12, 2012. Part B of this claim is expected to be determined at the same time as the other Bunuba claims.

The Bunuba #2 claim was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on May 10, 2012 and covers, amongst other places, the Fitzroy Crossing township.

The Bunuba #3 claim relates to a small pocket of country excised from the Bunuba Combined claim prior to the determination of Part A of the claim.

Due to changes in tenure, it is likely that exclusive possession native title will be able to be obtained across these areas as set out under section 47B of the Native Title Act.

Negotiations are ongoing with the State Government and all other respondent parties in relation to settlement of the Bunuba Part B, Bunuba #2 and Bunuba #3 claim.

The Court has ordered that all things be done for determination of these claims by December 14, 2015. This puts a tight timeframe on these claims and the KLC is working with the Applicant to have all outstanding matters resolved so that an authorisation meeting for the consent determinations from the Bunuba claim group can be held in late October.

Future Act developments

The KLC does not have carriage of Future Act activity for Bunuba.

Gooniyandi Combined and Yarrangi Riwi Yoowarni Gooniyandi

Native title claim progress

The Gooniyandi Combined claim was determined by consent at an on-country hearing of the Federal Court on June 19, 2013.

The Gooniyandi native title area covers 11,200 square kilometres of land and water and includes the Indigenous-owned pastoral stations of Bohemia Downs, Mt Pierre and Louisa Downs and portions of the non-Indigenous Christmas Creek, Gogo, Fossil Downs, Larrawa and Margaret River pastoral stations. About 50 per cent of the native title claim is exclusive possession – the highest possible form of native title rights and interests.

The Gooniyandi Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate administers the native title rights and interests on behalf of the Gooniyandi people.



The Gooniyandi native title claim area covers 11,200 square kilometres of land and water, about 50 per cent of which is exclusive possession – the highest possible form of native title rights and interests



The Yarrangi Riwi Yoowarni Gooniyandi claim was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on February 15, 2013. A claim group meeting in July 2014 authorised a reduction in the claim area, to allow for a claim by a differently-constituted claim group including Kija interests to be lodged in its place. However, the applicant's authority to reduce the Yarrangi Riwi Yoowarni Gooniyandi claim was made contingent on a registrable replacement claim being ready to file. A consultation meeting involving relevant Gooniyandi and Kija elders was held in November 2014, and that meeting produced a recommended claim group description for the new claim.

Initial connection work in support of registration of the new proposed claim was due to commence in the second half of the new financial year. The KLC is in active negotiations with

the State Government in relation to the settlement of the remainder of the Yarrangi Riwi Yoowarni Gooniyandi claim.

Future Act developments

In the reporting period, the KLC received a high level of exploration applications, some of which are currently with the tribunal awaiting determination. The KLC has been successful in negotiations, resulting in the execution of Heritage Protection Agreements.

Kurungal

Native title claim progress

The Kurungal native title claim was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on December 1, 1997. The claim covers a portion of the Christmas Creek pastoral lease that is north of Christmas Creek and south of the Northern Highway.

After considering further connection evidence provided by the KLC in June and October 2013, the State Government indicated in-principle support for a consent determination in early 2014, subject to the applicant reaching a co-existence agreement with the holder of the Christmas Creek pastoral lease. Negotiations towards this agreement are being overseen by a Federal Court Registrar and mediation continued throughout the reporting period. A consent determination is being provisionally scheduled for late 2015.

Future Act developments

There was a low level of Future Act applications and exploration activity on Kurungal country within the reporting period, for which the KLC negotiated Heritage Protection Agreements for.

Land and Sea Management



KIJA RANGER ALEC ECHO WITH A LEGLESS LIZARD

Introduction

Looking after country is an integral part of the KLC's vision. The Land and Sea Management Unit works with Traditional Owners to achieve the cultural, social and environmental outcomes they want to see happen on the ground. The unit strives to build strong foundations for the long-term sustainability of programs to create a lasting legacy for the next generation.

The Land and Sea Management Unit (LSMU) was established in 1998 and its projects are far reaching, covering all aspects of cultural and environmental management including the implementation of traditional burning practices, wildlife and biodiversity monitoring and the passing on of traditional knowledge and cultural practises from old people to young people.

Kimberley Traditional Owners are at the forefront of all activities and provide instructions to the KLC on the direction in which to progress projects.

Each team of rangers is governed by a Healthy Country Advisory Committee, comprised solely of senior community leaders. This group directs the rangers on cultural matters and supports them in the management of staff and budgeting.

The Land and Sea Management Unit fosters and enhances cultural connection to country and uses a combination of traditional ecological knowledge with modern science to achieve best practice methods and environmental outcomes. It also focuses on delivering direct employment and training opportunities for Kimberley Aboriginal people while enabling Traditional Owners to remain living on country in remote areas.

The Land and Sea Management Unit continued to grow in the reporting period with its projects now comprising more than half of the operational work at the KLC. Staff members are based across many locations in the Kimberley.

The Land and Sea Management Unit works in close partnership with native title groups and Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (PBCs) with a whole of organisation focus on building capacity for PBCs to manage and deliver project activities and strengthen their native title rights.

Long-term planning

The Land and Sea Management Unit will continue to work with Traditional Owners to create Healthy Country Plans. These documents are developed over months of community consultation and analysis of the cultural and natural environment so that groups can identify priorities and targets. Once the process is complete Traditional Owner groups will have developed a long-term vision for country that land and sea staff can work to achieve, either by strengthening the identified targets or managing the target threats. The Land and Sea Management Unit also works to ensure each ranger group conducts activities that are in line



The Land and Sea Management Unit works with Traditional Owners to achieve their desired cultural, social and environmental outcomes and strives to build strong foundations for the long-term sustainability of programs to create a lasting legacy for the next generation



KLC STAFF AND RANGERS AT THE 2014 HEALTHY COUNTRY FORUM, BIRIDU COMMUNITY

with the direction and vision of their relevant Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate.

In the Kimberley network, nine of the 12 native title groups the KLC works with have Healthy Country Plans. These long-term management plans are invaluable in communicating priorities to external partners and directing the annual work planning sessions of ranger groups. The Land and Sea Management Unit will continue to work to find the resources needed to assist the remaining three groups develop Healthy Country Plans.

Highlights

The inaugural Kimberley Healthy Country Forum was a highlight of the reporting period. Representatives from across the Kimberley region came together to network and share stories and experiences about managing country. Cultural advisors, Registered

Native Title Bodies Corporate directors, KLC directors, rangers and staff descended on Biridu community for the three-day event which included workshops on managing country and protecting native title rights and interests.

The World Parks Congress placed the work of the KLC and its activities on the global stage with 27 representatives from the Kimberley attending. KLC staff, rangers and directors also presented in five presentations outlining our high environmental standards and best practice methods and achievements.

The World Parks Congress was held in Sydney and was integral in inspiring staff as they learned new methods, came up with new ideas and forged strong international connections.

The KLC Land and Sea Unit worked to develop a new regional monitoring and evaluation framework and hosted

two meetings in February and March to start discussions. The framework will enable information gathered from the across the region to be compared between ranger groups, therefore increasing the validity of the data by ensuring best practice methodologies are used.

Ranger work planning sessions were held in April and May to set clear targets and priorities to ensure the land and Sea Management unit continue to achieve strong outcomes and continued success. The sessions bring together members of the Healthy Country Advisory Committees, PBC directors, KLC program staff and rangers who work together to formulate a strategic work plan for the year ahead. Governance is a strong focus of work plans, with Traditional Owners and cultural advisers directing the flow of work.



The Cultural Enterprise Hub model, whilst empowering Aboriginal people to manage their country, is also creating revitalised communities, Indigenous leadership and empowerment and is driving social change and remote community development

Partnerships

The Land and Sea Management Unit fosters partnerships with many external agencies including the Federal Government, State Government, non-government environmental organisations and philanthropic groups. It is also working to form international alliances with other Indigenous peoples.

Some of the main project partnerships that were strengthened during the reporting period include the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of Environment, The Nature Conservancy, PEW Environment Group, the Australian Conservation Foundation, WWF Australia, the National Environmental Research Program, Shell Social Investment Fund, The Christensen Fund, Indigenous Business Australia, Jawun, Indigenous Community Volunteers, WA Department of Parks and Wildlife and the WA Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

Cultural Enterprise Hub

The Kimberley Ranger Network is facilitated by the KLC with resourcing and program support provided by the Australian Government and other strategic partners. The business model for the Network is vulnerable as it is heavily reliant on Australian Government investment and continued uncertainty in relation to funding priorities and cycles, limits the scope of work and prevents long-term planning.



An oversupply of cultural and natural resource management programs has limited growth opportunities for the Kimberley Ranger Network. Conversely, demand for ranger positions in Kimberley communities remains high with more than 10 people recently applying for one ranger position in a remote community. These indicators identify the need to diversify the income stream to support growth and strengthen the Kimberley Ranger Network business model.

To meet this need the KLC is establishing a Cultural Enterprise Hub. Future opportunities available through the Cultural Enterprise Hub are indicated by the success of the Kimberley Ranger Network.

Not only does the Network deliver employment benefits to remote Kimberley communities but rangers are respected role models and leaders within their groups. This makes the

Kimberley Ranger Network an effective vehicle in which to generate interest and participation in real economy roles, particularly amongst disengaged youth.

This model, while empowering Aboriginal people to manage their country is also proving to be a solution to reduce entrenched socio-economic disadvantage, welfare dependence, political marginalisation and poverty. It is creating revitalised communities, Indigenous leadership and empowerment and is driving social change and remote community development.

Based on these factors the KLC is drawing on its extensive knowledge and expertise in delivering cultural and natural resource management projects for over 15 years to facilitate the development of cultural enterprises in the Kimberley region.



The vision of the Cultural Enterprises Hub is to facilitate opportunities that enable Kimberley Aboriginal people to live and work on country, in enterprises that build capacity, create employment and are founded on traditional knowledge, culture and connection to country



KARAJARRI RANGERS SET-UP PITFALL LINES IN THE GREAT SANDY DESERT FOR BIODIVERSITY SURVEYS WITH ENVIRONS KIMBERLEY

The vision is to facilitate opportunities that enable Kimberley Aboriginal people to live and work on country, in enterprises that build capacity, create employment and are founded on traditional knowledge, culture and connection to country.

Cultural and conservation enterprises leverage a combination of public and private sector funding to deliver environmental outcomes in a culturally appropriate way. Examples of cultural conservation enterprises may include environmental management services, carbon abatement, biodiversity offsets, environmental surveys, monitoring and data collection and cultural environmental immersion experiences.

During the reporting period, the KLC invested significant resources in developing a concept model for the Enterprise Hub and engaged with a number of corporate, philanthropic and government partners.

The public good provided by cultural conservation enterprises has been promoted to leverage a combination of public and private sector funding to deliver outcomes. Based on feedback from prospective partners, the KLC has engaged Social Ventures Australia Consulting to assist with the development of a business plan. A focus of the business plan will be on establishing a financing model that partners private sector and philanthropic investment with government funding to ensure long-term support for the establishment of cultural conservation enterprises.

To ensure the model and concept is driven by the community, there has been significant consultation about developing business and social enterprises with rangers, cultural advisors and PBC directors. Many ideas have been generated from these workshops and evaluated against cultural and environmental criteria.

The KLC has initiated a parallel approach to grow and develop ranger business ideas while establishing the Hub model. This ensures the dynamic model responds to local needs. As part of this process the KLC is focused on building the business and financial understanding of rangers to ensure they have the abilities to deliver professional services and high-quality business management.

Cultural and environmental services

In the past five years, the KLC's Land and Sea Management Unit, has focused on working with Traditional Owner groups to develop and build ranger teams and declare Indigenous Protected Areas across their country.

With a network of eight Indigenous Protected Areas declared across the Kimberley and 13 ranger groups operating to a high standard, the focus



By keeping Kimberley Ranger Network groups up to date with cutting-edge technology for reporting, an important step has been made to raise the capacity of rangers to provide services in the field of monitoring and evaluation and wider environmental and cultural services

of the Land and Sea Management Unit has changed towards the regional implementation of cultural and natural resource management.

The shift towards providing strategic environmental and cultural services to native title groups has resulted in the development of the Cultural and Environmental Services Unit (CESU). This unit has been added to the KLC's land and sea portfolio and in the reporting period worked to employ experienced staff with extensive skills and specialised backgrounds in cultural and natural resource management.



GOONIYANDI RANGERS WITH AN OLIVE PYTHON (LIASIS OLIVACEUS)

CyberTracker project

CyberTracker technology has become pivotal to ranger work and is frequently used to record information about country while working in the field.

Data collected from the handheld computer is downloaded and managed by rangers, who use it to inform land management decisions and provide reports on activities.

The CyberTracker has enabled the Kimberley Ranger Network to undertake monitoring and evaluation activities on a regional level, highlighting the strength of strategic Indigenous land management across the region.

The CyberTracker project is in its second year of a three-year funding contract which is due to expire in June 2016.

In this reporting period the project focus has been on training, so as to increase the capacity of Kimberley Ranger Network groups in using rugged tablets to record data while out in the field. In addition, CyberTracker-recording sequences especially designed for Kimberley ranger groups, have been developed to capture relevant information from their healthy country work.

By keeping Kimberley Ranger Network groups up to date with cutting-edge technology for reporting, an important step has been made to raise the capacity of rangers to provide services in the field of monitoring and evaluation and wider environmental and cultural services.

Biodiversity project

After years of engaging external consultants to conduct biodiversity work in the Kimberley, the KLC's

Cultural and Environmental Services Unit employed a biodiversity officer in October 2013 to evaluate national biodiversity standards and trends and provide best-practice advice to Kimberley rangers. The position is co-funded by the Federal Government's Caring-for-our-Country target area grants program and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

The biodiversity officer works with all Kimberley ranger groups to undertake biodiversity surveys and monitor culturally and environmentally significant species.

During the reporting period, ranger groups worked to collect baseline biodiversity data to inform their Healthy Country Plans and strategic plans to look after threatened animal species across the Kimberley.



Right way fire activities undertaken with the KLC involves Traditional Owners and Indigenous rangers conducting strategic burns on country in the early dry season to stop the spread of large destructive late season wildfires and reduce the total area of the region burnt by fire



Healthy Country fire operations

The Land and Sea Management Unit works with Traditional Owners and Ranger groups to undertake right way fire activities across the Kimberley.

Right way fire activities undertaken with the KLC involves Traditional Owners and Indigenous rangers conducting strategic burns on country in the early dry season to stop the spread of large destructive late season wildfires and reduce the total area of the region burnt by fire. Reinvigorating this traditional method of managing country improves environmental outcomes for the Kimberley region.

With appropriate levels of support, right way fire activities have the potential to enable Traditional Owners to spend more time on country, take care of important cultural sites, facilitate the sharing of traditional knowledge across generations and

achieve the conservation and cultural outcomes identified in Indigenous Protected Area and Healthy Country Management Plans.

The Cultural and Environmental Services Unit has engaged with Traditional Owners to work out whether it is worthwhile registering carbon projects on areas where healthy country fire management is undertaken. Because right way fire projects help to reduce greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere, it is possible to generate carbon credits from these activities, if they are done properly. The money from the sale of carbon credits can then be used to support expanding healthy country fire management in the future.

During the reporting period the Cultural and Environmental Services Unit supported the Balangarra, Uunguu, Wilinggin and Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporations to generate

and sell carbon credits from their fire management activities. It is expected proceeds from the sale will be used to fund long-term fire management on their country and generate income and employment opportunities in remote communities.

The Cultural and Environmental Services Unit also worked with native title groups who do not yet have carbon projects but have the opportunity to register savanna burning carbon projects in the future. The Cultural and Environmental Services Unit undertook carbon feasibility studies which were delivered to seven separate native title groups.

During the reporting period, north Kimberley ranger groups continued to undertake annual fire planning workshops and conduct traditional burns both on the ground and through the use of helicopters. In the 2015 fire season about 60 Traditional Owners



Through conducting strategic early dry season burns, Traditional Owners created fire breaks and used patch burning to reduce fuel loads as a way to protect country from large scale wildfires and result in a mosaic fire pattern over time

participated in the project, spending 41 nights in remote camps on country or at ranger bases out bush (Truscott and Kandiwal). The helicopter travelled more than 50,000 km in the north Kimberley and spent 370 hours on aerial fire management.

Through conducting strategic early dry season burns, Traditional Owners created fire breaks and used patch burning to reduce fuel loads as a way to protect country from large scale wildfires and result in a mosaic fire pattern over time. Balangarra, Wilinggin and Wunambal Gaambera Traditional Owners also completed fire walks to conduct on-ground burning around sensitive sites.

There has been a significant increase in prescribed burning activities by KLC ranger groups and Traditional Owners in the central, east and southern Kimberley areas.

Fire management activities included more than 315 days of on-ground prescribed burning by the Karajarri, Nyikina Mangala, Nyul Nyul, Bardi Jawi, Ngurrara, Gooniyandi and Kija ranger groups between March and June 2015.

This early dry season prescribed burning creates firebreaks to protect both communities and infrastructure and fire sensitive habitats while establishing a network of strategic firebreaks across the landscape.

More than 70 hours of aerial prescribed burning was also done by KLC ranger groups in the east Kimberley and Great



WUNGGURR RANGER KEVIN DANN CONDUCTS RIGHT WAY FIRE BURNING ON WILINGGIN COUNTRY

Sandy Desert. This work will help to protect over 42,000 square kilometres of native title areas from late dry season wildfires, which are considered to be the main threat to the region's biodiversity, pastoral stations and cultural sites.

More than 62 Traditional Owners were employed as advisors or casual staff across burning programs.

Carbon Outreach project

The carbon outreach project commenced in June 2013 and finished on June 30, 2015. The project aimed to inform Kimberley Traditional Owners and Indigenous pastoralists about carbon business opportunities.

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture funded the two-year project which was managed by the KLC's Cultural and Environmental Services Unit.

The focus of the project was to work with native title groups and Indigenous pastoralists throughout the Kimberley to discuss the carbon story, climate change and opportunities for carbon businesses, so Aboriginal landowners have the information needed to decide whether to pursue these opportunities or not.

In the past two years there has been more than 37 meetings held with 15 native title groups, 10 workshops and more than 400 Traditional Owners engaged. The project has produced 10 newsletters, posters, brochures and a DVD to help people understand carbon projects and carbon businesses. The project worked closely with native title holders in the north Kimberley to facilitate the registration of the only native title carbon projects in Australia and has helped Traditional Owners from these groups generate and sell carbon credits.



The west Kimberley is the largest area in Australia to have been protected through National Heritage Listing, cementing the region as a strong and significant Aboriginal place



DANCERS AT THE WEST KIMBERLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE ANNOUNCEMENT AT GAMBANAN, NEAR ONE ARM POINT ON THE DAMPIER PENINSULA, AUGUST 2011

National Heritage Listing

The west Kimberley received National Heritage Listing in August 2011 for its outstanding Indigenous cultural values to the nation. It is the largest area in Australia to have been protected through National Heritage Listing, cementing the region as a strong and significant Aboriginal place.

To further protect the Indigenous cultural values of the Kimberley, the senior leadership group that led the National Heritage Listing consultations, re-formed to create a legal policy and Indigenous values management framework.

During the reporting period, work on the framework to protect, maintain and enhance the important cultural, environmental and traditional Indigenous values of the region entered the final phase. The framework pulls together already existing work from

community driven Healthy Country Plans and aggregates them on a regional level.

This is in line with the essential criteria set by Traditional Owners to manage National Heritage Listing values. These guidelines include Traditional Owner involvement, culturally appropriate decision making and to ensure management of National Heritage Listing is done through existing programs including the Kimberley Ranger Network and Indigenous Protected Areas.

With funding from the Federal Government's Indigenous Heritage Program, the Cultural and Environmental Services Unit met with Kimberley native title groups to raise awareness amongst Traditional Owners, native title groups and rangers about the National Heritage Listing values and management.

Work on the NHL database has been completed during the reporting period with final technical updates to store information securely. Some information on the database will be available to the public in the future, while other information will be restricted as directed by the senior leadership group. In the past year more external material was sourced to continue to archive the past, capture the present and make it available for future generations.

Ngurrara 2 Way Learning project

The Ngurrara 2 Way Learning project is a two-and-a-half year cultural and environmental program that combines western science and traditional knowledge. It aims to build the capacity, aspirations and employability skills of Ngurrara youth, who live across a number of remote Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley.



Integral to the Nurrara 2 Way Learning project is a strong cultural base, founded in the guidance and mentoring of Nurrara elders and the Nurrara Rangers working with young people in a culturally appropriate and sustainable way



NGURRARA RANGERS ENGAGE WITH NGURRARA YOUTH AS PART OF THE 2 WAY LEARNING PROJECT

More than 120 young people, including at least 10 that are unemployed will be engaged in a study that captures both the science and traditional ecological knowledge of culturally and environmentally significant water sources in the northern Great Sandy Desert.

The Nurrara 2 Way Learning project has three intertwined components: environment, education and employment. Integral to all the components is a strong cultural base, founded in the guidance and mentoring of Nurrara elders and the Nurrara Rangers working with young people in a culturally appropriate and sustainable way.

A 2 Way Community Cultural Education Officer has been employed part-time to facilitate the project and mentor the youth involved, bridging the 2 knowledge systems with the aim of finding some interesting similarities.

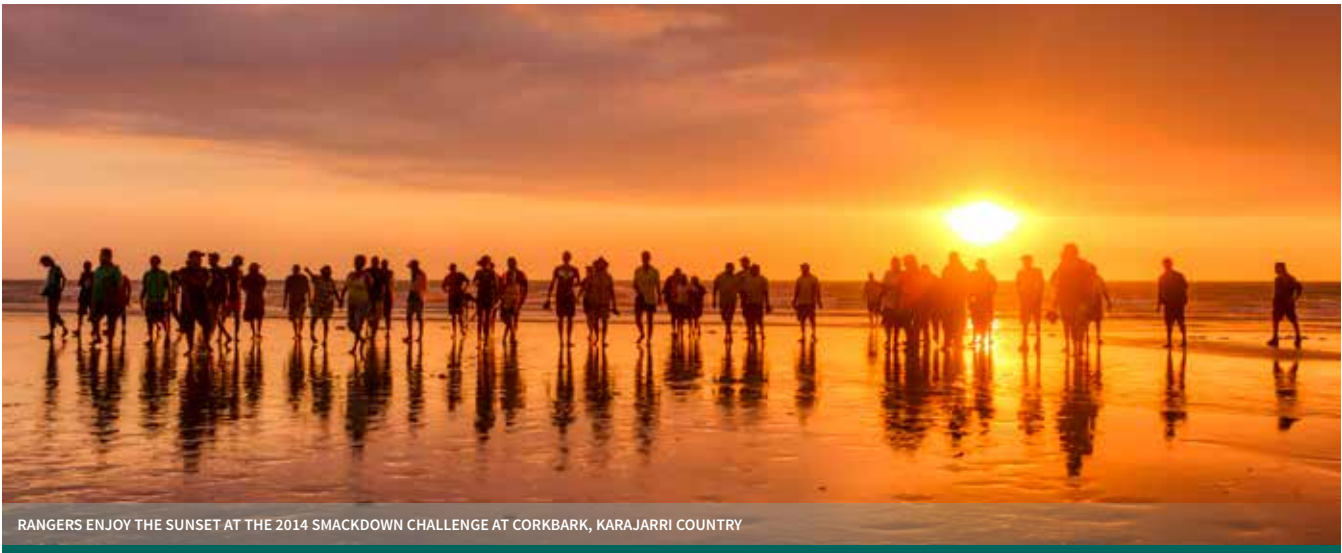
Targeted in the program are four remote schools of which the rangers will play a pivotal role in implementing an incentives program for attendance and good performance.

A University of Western Australia masters student is working with rangers to build capacity in the areas of water monitoring and evaluation. Through this project the rangers have achieved Certificate III qualifications in water sampling and testing water and are refining their skills on regular trips to the water sources identified in the project. The rangers have installed two new weather stations, numerous data loggers into existing bores and monitoring bores and barometric pressure loggers.

Through a focus on training and skills development, the rangers have out themselves in a strong position to secure fee-for-service contracts in water monitoring.

The Nurrara Rangers and the Yanunijarra Aboriginal Corporation have identified the collection of strong baseline data to identify changes on country as a priority and valuable management tool to inform future conservation activities.

Kimberley Ranger Program and Indigenous Protected Areas



RANGERS ENJOY THE SUNSET AT THE 2014 SMACKDOWN CHALLENGE AT CORKBARK, KARAJARRI COUNTRY

Introduction

The Kimberley Ranger Network is facilitated by the KLC and works to realise Indigenous aspirations to look after country while providing real jobs, training and education as well as improving socio-economic standards and community wellbeing.

The Kimberley Ranger Network has successfully completed its seventh year of operation and continues to carve out an expanding and increasingly valuable role for Traditional Owners in the natural and cultural resource management industry.

The Kimberley Land Council facilitates 13 ranger groups as part of the network, which continues to be one of the biggest employers of Aboriginal people in remote communities. During the reporting period, the Kimberley Ranger Network continued to work with a number of Indigenous rangers to increase their leadership and management skills as they pursue career advancement into senior roles

as coordinators. In recent years a number of rangers have commenced full-time employment with the KLC as they complete qualifications in Conservation and Land Management and progress into senior leadership roles. At June 30, 2015, the KLC directly employed 13 senior full-time rangers.

The Kimberley Ranger Network integrates ecological, social and cultural values to generate sustainable economic growth in remote Aboriginal communities.

The ranger initiative is supported by the Australian Federal Government and works to realise Indigenous aspirations to look after and manage country using a combination of traditional cultural knowledge, western science and modern technologies.

It has not only created jobs in remote communities but has established long-term career pathways, while significantly improving social and economic circumstances and

community health and wellbeing. The network is based on a regional hub and spoke governance structure founded on Indigenous cultural values.

Elders direct long-term conservation and management plans, promote the transfer of traditional knowledge and provide guidance, leadership and authority. The governance model connects all groups together to ensure that not only are community goals being achieved but regional objectives as well.

The Kimberley Ranger Network operates in conjunction with Indigenous Protected Areas. Kimberley Aboriginal people have identified Indigenous Protected Areas as the preferred land management model in the region and eight have been declared across the region.

Indigenous Protected Areas are dedicated areas of highly sensitive or important biodiversity hotspots that Indigenous people want to see



The Kimberley Ranger Network is facilitated by the KLC and works to look after country while providing real jobs, training and education as well as improving socio-economic standards and community wellbeing



BARDI JAWI RANGERS TREVOR SAMPI, KEVIN DOUGAL, DWAYNE GEORGE AND PHILLIP (BIBIDO) MCCARTHY AT JALAN REEF, OFFSHORE FROM CAPE LEVEQUE

protected. The Indigenous Protected Area program is an initiative of the Federal Government in partnership with supportive corporate and non-government organisations.

Balanggarra Rangers and Indigenous Protected Area

In the 2014-2015 reporting period, the Balanggarra Rangers continued to manage the Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) as a stable and productive group, despite the challenges of working across very remote and rugged country in the north Kimberley. Management of the Balanggarra Indigenous Protected Area has seen relationships between the rangers and the Healthy Country Advisory Committee continue to strengthen as they work to ensure Traditional Owner aspirations to look after and keep country healthy are met.

The highlight of the year for the group was a 'back to country' trip that saw

rangers travel across the length of the determined Balanggarra native title area. The trip enabled the rangers and Traditional Owners to spend time on country and travel to, and visit places many people hadn't been to in more than 15 years.

Other highlights included developing on-going partnerships with various research institutions and the Department of Parks and Wildlife to deliver fee-for-service projects across Balanggarra country. Project work included biodiversity surveys, fire management, community animal health reporting, cultural mapping of important sites and feral animal management.

On-ground work complemented training outcomes and assisted all four rangers to build practical skills and successfully progress through to their Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management. The Balanggarra Rangers

were also excited to welcome a fifth member to the team. The Balanggarra Rangers and Indigenous Protected Area are grateful for the support from the Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation and Traditional Owners and plan to build on last year's efforts to make sure Balanggarra country and culture remains healthy and strong.

Bardi Jawi Rangers and Indigenous Protected Area

The Bardi Jawi healthy country team continued to expand and grow within the 2014-2015 reporting period to include 15 staff members.

The Indigenous Protected Area Coordinator is responsible for the overall coordination of the program across Bardi Jawi lands. The men's ranger coordinator leads a team of seven Aamba (men) rangers while the women's coordinator directs four Oorany (women) rangers.



Significant cultural program outcomes were achieved during the reporting period with the rangers launching the Dambimangari language database and recording more than 50 cultural sites for inclusion on the cultural heritage database



A support officer is responsible for professional development and improving internal processes within the team with the assistance of an admin support officer.

In this past financial year, the Bardi Jawi team has focused on developing the skills of the two newly-appointed Indigenous ranger coordinators so they can seamlessly transition into these roles.

The rangers have developed new procedures to support marine and fire operations and have reviewed capacity to expand the office and work base to cater for the introduction of the full-time women's group into the team.

The Bardi Jawi Rangers provided a significant amount of marine science support to a number of research institutions within the 2014-2015 reporting period. This work assisted in the collection of information which

has created a baseline of data on the marine environment. The rangers increased fire operation activities in order to protect, manage and enhance sensitive monsoonal vine thicket areas and deliver on associated contracts.

Dambimangari Rangers and Indigenous Protected Area

The Dambimangari Indigenous Protected Area is managed by the Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation's ranger team and is predominantly-funded by the Dambimangari Trust fund. During the reporting period the ranger group employed 14 team members.

Implementing the landscape scale fire management project and the subsequent sale of carbon credits was a highlight of the ranger and Indigenous Protected Area program for the 2014-2015 period.

Finalising the weed management plan and implementing some of the project priorities including removal of Lantana, a weed of national significance and Coffee Bush from within the Indigenous Protected Area was also a significant achievement.

Signing a research agreement with the Western Australian Marine Science Institute (WAMSI) for collaboration on research projects across Dambimangari country was a significant milestone.

The third annual Dambimangari turtle monitoring project at Montgomery Reef was a great success, yielding high numbers of green turtles with more than 28 turtles found per kilometre. These figures show there is a very consistent population of turtles on Montgomery reef, with numbers consistent with the previous two years of research.



The Gooniyandi Rangers continued to work as a developed and solid team during the reporting period enabling them to carry out a greater diversity of tasks to better care for country

Significant cultural program outcomes were achieved during the reporting period with the rangers launching the Dambimangari language database and recording more than 50 cultural sites for inclusion on the cultural heritage database.

Development of the Dambimangari visitor pass is nearing completion and is expected to be implemented at the beginning of 2016, to coincide with the joint management of the Lalangarram Camden Sound Marine Park.

Rangers continued to work on completion of their coxswain course, with the view to have a number of qualified coxswains within the next 12 months to assist with marine activities.

Gooniyandi Rangers

The Gooniyandi Rangers continued to work as a developed and solid team during the reporting period enabling them to carry out a greater diversity of tasks to better care for country.

The Gooniyandi Rangers welcomed new ranger coordinator Hugh James into the team which consists of five full-time rangers, an admin assistant and a number of casual staff.

In the past 12 months, the rangers have worked closely with a number of pastoral stations to further develop relationships and undertake fire and threatened species management. Early dry season burning on GoGo Station and Mt Pierre Station highlighted the good working partnerships between



GOONIYANDI RANGER IDENTIFY ANIMALS TRAPPED IN A PITFALL LINE DURING BIODIVERSITY SURVEYS

the rangers and station owners. Several back to country trips were completed to enable Gooniyandi Traditional Owners to visit country they rarely have access to. For many, especially the school children, these trips allow countrymen to see what work the rangers do while educating them about how to behave on country.

One of the highlights was delivering on a trip to Painted Rocks on Fossil Downs Station, which had been in the making for more than three years. This trip saw a number of Traditional Owners, school children and rangers attend and assist in the documentation of a number of significant cultural sites.

Training has been a priority for the team, with four long-term rangers expected to complete their Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management by the end of 2015, while the newest ranger has completed almost all of their Certificate II. The rangers have

also been busy conducting water monitoring, bilby and pest surveys and have started participating in weekly interviews with a local radio station to highlight their work and provide project updates.

The Gooniyandi Aboriginal Corporation has started construction of a news base at Bayulu hills from which all business operations will be conducted including ranger activities.

Karajarri Rangers and Indigenous Protected Area

The 2014-2015 reporting period has been one of growth and exciting achievements for the Karajarri Healthy Country program.

With a declared IPA and a stable and experienced crew of rangers, advisors and coordinators, a number of real and tangible on-ground projects have been implemented.



With a declared IPA and a stable and experienced crew of rangers, advisors and coordinators, a number of real and tangible on-ground projects have been implemented by the Karajarri Rangers and their Healthy Country Program



KARAJARRI RANGERS AT JINMARNKUR (CAPE MISSISSY)

Some of these include:

- Commencement of the Injudinah and Munroe Springs fencing projects;
- Introduction of the Karajarri Visitor Permit System at Port Smith and Gourdon Bay areas;
- Undertaking site management planning at Kurriji Pa Yajula (Dragon Tree Soak);
- Initiating the Karajarri Desert Burning project.

Other milestones also include:

- Undertaking the Karajarri cultural exchange trip to British Columbia, Canada;
- Recruitment of four new rangers through the Yiriman Caring for Country program;
- Partnership development with neighbours and stakeholders; and
- Signing of the Eighty Mile Beach Marine Park Indigenous Land Use Agreement.

Over the coming year the focus is to improve upon partnerships and governance to take the Karajarri Healthy Country program into an even stronger position in the future so we can further achieve our vision to:

- Look after our country as we have done for thousands of years; and
- Maintain our unique culture, language, people and country.

Karajarri carry the responsibility to keep our country good for our future generations. This is recognised from Pukarikarra and in our native title rights. Under our law it is our responsibility to "look after our traditional lands, our country."

The Karajarri Healthy Country program would like to thank its leaders past and present and cultural advisors for their support, guidance and assistance.

Kija Rangers

The Kija Rangers actively engaged more than 18 rangers as part of conservation activities undertaken in the reporting period. This is a significant achievement for an independent group that generates a large proportion of their funding through fee for service contracts.

Training was a priority focus throughout the year with rangers working towards completing Certificates II and III in Conservation and Land Management. Rangers also completed CyberTracker, remote First Aid and numeracy and literacy training as well as cultural knowledge transfer, Kija language classes and fire and natural disaster prevention training.

Conservation and land management activities included the mapping, monitoring and chemical treatment of weeds at a number of locations along waterways, stations and communities,



Training was a priority focus throughout the year with Kija Rangers working towards Certificates II and III in Conservation and Land Management whilst also completing CyberTracker, remote First Aid and numeracy and literacy training



KIJA RANGERS WITH COORDINATOR HYLKE VADER

as part of ongoing management and maintenance.

Rangers undertook a bird and fauna survey at Violet Valley, Doon Doon, Bow River and Glenn Hill stations as part of the ongoing 'Flames and Feathers' project.

The project incorporates early dry season burning with the monitoring of fauna, in particular the threatened Gouldian Finch and Purple Crowned Fairy Wren. Strategic early burning was also conducted around the Warmun community to protect assets while rangers participated in firefighting activities across a number of pastoral properties in the region.

Cultural activities were also a focus of the ranger team which participated in monitoring significant sites, traditional knowledge transfer, several back to country trips and Kija language classes.

In the next year the Kija Rangers plan to continue to achieve strong training outcomes, work with teachers to set up a junior ranger program and look to engage more female rangers with a view to set up a women's ranger team in the future.

Ngurrara Rangers and the Warlu Jilajaa Jumu Indigenous Protected Area

The Ngurrara Rangers enjoyed another highly productive year on the ground and achieved a huge range of outstanding outcomes.

Men's and women's ranger coordinators transitioned well into their new leadership roles and the team will continue to grow with four new members due to start in the coming months. With a large team comes a greater capacity to carry out work simultaneously which requires effective planning to capitalise on positive outcomes.

In November 2014, a number of rangers and coordinators attended and presented at the ICCA Consortium global Indigenous event in the Blue Mountains, the IUCN World Parks Congress in Sydney and a parallel event for desert ranger groups in Australia.

Rangers and coordinators shared stories and spoke with Indigenous people from all around the world, taking back with them a wealth of knowledge and a new confidence to present in front of large audiences.

Throughout the 2014-2015 period rangers have worked closely with pastoral stations to further strengthen the relationship with managers to collaborate on fire and threatened species management.

The Ngurrara women's team hosted the Ngurrara Women's Cultural Camp at Kurlku which was a hugely successful event with a number of Traditional



A major focus for the Ngurrara Rangers this financial year has been the Ngurrara 2 Way Learning Project, which combines western science and traditional knowledge and aims to uncover the similarities in each



Owners and women from various organisations and ranger groups attending the bush meeting.

There were some significant training milestones achieved with three rangers progressing well with their traineeships while another three rangers finished their Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management.

A major focus this financial year has been the Ngurrara 2 Way Learning project. The cultural and environmental program has been operating for more than two years and focuses on surface and groundwater systems on country.

The project combines western science and traditional knowledge and aims to uncover the similarities through each. A university research student is working alongside the rangers to build capacity in the areas of water monitoring and evaluation.

Through this project the rangers have achieved Certificate III qualifications in water sampling and testing. The rangers have installed two new weather stations, numerous data loggers into existing bores and monitoring bores, and barometric pressure loggers.

Four remote schools are being targeted as part of the database learning project with rangers assisting to build the capacity, aspirations and employability skills of local indigenous youth through the program.

The rangers have been looking to establish a new ranger base on the Canning Stock Route and re-establish a solid presence out there.

It has been another big year for the Ngurrara team with everyone contributing to achieve great success and outstanding results.

Nyikina Mangala Rangers

The Nyikina Mangala Rangers have worked to undertake a number of diverse projects across large areas of desert, river and coastal country to protect and enhance biodiversity values. Working alongside cultural advisors, the Nyikina Mangala Rangers have taken a community approach to their work and have engaged a variety of project partners to provide services, skills, opportunities and training to six communities within the area.

Key project work for the 2014-2015 reporting period has included:

- Black Footed Rock Wallaby research: The rangers used a variety of information collection techniques to monitor population numbers of the threatened species including motion sensor camera traps, scat plots and hair traps. The rangers are at the forefront of Black Footed Rock Wallaby Research with



Working alongside cultural advisors, the Nyikina Mangala Rangers have taken a community approach to their work and have engaged a variety of project partners to provide services, skills, opportunities and training to six communities within the area



NYIKINA MANGALA RANGERS AND COORDINATOR DAN KEYES WITH A 3.6M CROC THEY HELPED CATCH AT TELEGRAPH POOL ON THE FITZROY RIVER

a collection of more than 270 high definition images of the Kimberley species.

- Interpretive sign implementation: The rangers worked to design eight interpretive signs to inform and educate the public about Nyikina Mangala culture, native title and ways to keep country healthy.
- Prescribed burning: The rangers undertook an extensive prescribed burning program using aerial and ground burning techniques to protect community assets and improve biodiversity and conservation values.
- Crocodile management: The Nyikina Mangala Rangers have played a vital role in informing and educating the public about crocodile management on the Fitzroy River. The rangers worked with the Department of Parks and Wildlife to trap and relocate an aggressive saltwater crocodile from

a popular fishing and camping site.

- Fee-for-service opportunities: Under the direction of the Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation the rangers engaged with a large mining company to undertake fee-for-service work completing biodiversity, flora and fauna surveys. This mutually beneficial opportunity also provided for a two-day knowledge transfer and exchange.
- Training: Rangers continued to progress through Certificates II and III in Conservation and Land Management. Training has enabled the rangers to undertake fee-for-service work in machine operation, survey work and data collection.

Nyul Nyul Rangers

Situated on the Dampier Peninsula and based at Beagle Bay, the Nyul Nyul Rangers worked closely with their Traditional Owner Healthy Country

Advisory committee to deliver strong conservation, research and training outcomes.

The group has continued to grow as a team to build capacity and skill level which saw a high attendance rate and no staff turnovers. All rangers are now completing their Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management or above, while the head ranger has become a full-time ranger employed by the KLC. The administration officer has almost completed his Certificate III in Business Administration.

Fire management was a focus in the reporting period, with the group's two head rangers competently planning and implementing the program for the year. A working partnership was also established with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services in cooperation with KLC staff to collaboratively conduct burning operations.



The Nyul Nyul Rangers completed a number of on-country projects in feral animal management, Monsoon Vine Thicket protection, weeds, fish trap restoration and endangered species monitoring of the Gouldian Finch and Bilby



NYUL NYUL RANGERS TAKE SKIN SAMPLES FROM A GREEN SEA TURTLE FOR RESEARCH ACROSS THE LACEPEDE ISLANDS

A freshwater management plan was finalised in a partnership with NERP/ NAILSMA with recommendations presented to the Nyul Nyul Healthy Country Advisory Committee for ongoing monitoring of springs, wetlands and lakes. The rangers presented their findings at the Ecological Society of Australia Conference in Alice Springs in October 2014 and will present again at the upcoming conference in 2015.

The Nyul Nyul Rangers also completed a number of on-country projects in feral animal management, Monsoon Vine Thicket protection, weeds, fish trap restoration and endangered species monitoring of the Gouldian Finch and Bilby. Rangers have worked to achieve high-level technical reporting standards.

Infrastructure leases for development of a new ranger office, workshop and industrial compound were finalised

with construction expected to start in the next reporting period. The Nyul Nyul Rangers also purchased a number of new assets including a survey vessel and dinghy to assist with water monitoring and patrols.

Six rangers attained their Certificate II in Coxswains while two more rangers are in the process of completing the training, so they are qualified to operate the marine vessels.

Paruku Rangers and Indigenous Protected Area

The Paruku Rangers carry out various environmental and cultural management practices to protect, enhance and develop the Indigenous Protected Area in the desert region of the south-east Kimberley.

Environmental tasks have focused on controlled burning, feral animal management, weed control, water

monitoring, tourism management and flora and fauna surveys.

Cultural engagement has included incorporating traditional knowledge into land management practices, maintaining sacred and significant sites and facilitating the transfer of knowledge to younger generations. Key achievements in the 2014-2015 reporting period have included:

- Tourism: A new campground was established at Lirra, an area of exceptional birdwatching on the northern shoreline of Paruku Lake. The road to the site was graded and a composting toilet and shade shelter installed. Two birdwatching hides were purchased to trial for visitor use.
- Environmental management: Ranger coordinator Jamie Brown was accredited with a KLC gun licence for feral animal control. A feral cat survey was carried out while management of the feral horse population is ongoing.
- CyberTracker work: Rangers have been trained in the latest CyberTracker program and technology and are using the new units to monitor and record flora and fauna, feral animal and weed information on all field trips.
- Water monitoring: Monitoring of the Paruku waterway system is continuing with the support of the WA Department of Water and the University of WA. Bilby and yellow chat colonies are also monitored regularly. A major Parkinsonia weed infestation was successfully



Environmental tasks undertaken by the Paruku Rangers have focused on controlled burning, feral animal management, weed control, water monitoring, tourism management and flora and fauna surveys



PARUKU RANGERS DOING TRAINING AND FENCE LINE MAINTENANCE AT WOLF CREEK CRATER

controlled on the southern reaches of Sturt Creek.

- Cultural and community engagement: A junior ranger program has been incorporated into the Mulan school while a women’s ranger group has recently been established.
- Field trips: Rangers and Traditional Owners undertook a field trip to collect wirimangurru wood to make traditional weapons and artefacts. Rangers facilitated several trips with school children and Traditional Owners to trial field use of the Walmajarri Plants and Animals Dictionary.
- Maintenance work: Rangers carried out maintenance work including hazard reduction burning and clearing of weeds from several sacred sites within the Indigenous Protected Area and at the Sturt Creek Massacre site.

- Fee-for-service work: Maintenance of the tourist campground at Wolfe Creek Crater was carried out by the rangers as an ongoing fee-for-service arrangement with the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

Uunguu Rangers and the Wunambal Gaambera Indigenous Protected Area

The Uunguu Rangers have overcome some major logistical challenges to establish their base at Garmbermirri and maintain and protect the Wunambal Gaambera Indigenous Protected Area.

Rangers graded the roads from Kalumburu to Garmbermerri and Wade Creek in Vansittart Bay to enable greater access to country to maintain significant sites and monitor visitors.

There have been several changes to the team this year with two members

resigning due to personal issues while a former experienced ranger was welcomed back into the group.

Three of the rangers are women and this provides a good mix to the team but also provides a great knowledge balance when conducting cultural and research activities.

Under the guidance of the Uunguu Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, new initiatives have been implemented to observe and assess changes to the Uunguu Healthy Country Plan. Healthy country ranger activities have focused on fire management, feral animal management, visitor management and cultural heritage protection.

As part of plant and animal monitoring work, the Uunguu Rangers undertook a number of research projects including rainforest surveys, turtle, dugong and seagrass monitoring in conjunction with NAILSMA, the CSIRO and the



The Wunggurr ranger team has continued to grow and for the first time has welcomed two female rangers to the group, which is back at full capacity. Senior rangers have remained consistent, providing stability, value, knowledge and experience to the team.



National Environmental Research Project.

Small mammal surveys and weeds management projects were completed with the Department of Parks and Wildlife while a freshwater turtle survey was conducted with the University of Canberra. The Uunguu rangers also participated in the annual fire walk which was held across the Lawley River region.

Wunggurr Rangers and the Wilinggin Indigenous Protected Area

Throughout the 2014-2015 reporting period the Wilinggin Healthy Country team continued to make solid progress with the Wunggurr Rangers implementing the Indigenous Protected Area plan of management.

Activities were completed in line with the strategic direction of the Wilinggin

Healthy Country Advisory Committee and the Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation Board of Directors.

The Wunggurr ranger team has continued to grow and for the first time has welcomed two female rangers to the group, which is back at full capacity. Senior rangers have remained consistent, providing stability, value, knowledge and experience to the team.

The Wunggurr Ranger base at Ngallagunda community on the Gibb River Station in the heart of Wilinggin country is now fully operational due to the connection of electricity and water. The rangers have recommenced using CyberTracker software to monitor their activities and record the health of country.

Aerial burning operations were conducted in the early dry season across 14,000 square kilometres of exclusive possession native title land in

partnership with the North Kimberley Fire Abatement Project, Rangelands NRM, the Indigenous Land Corporation and the KLC. The Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation submitted a carbon offsets report and sold a number of carbon credits as part of the fire abatement project.

The Healthy Country team also conducted prescribed ground burning to protect infrastructure and control the spread of late season wildfires on the Gibb River, Karunjie and Durack River stations and the Marunbabidi community. This included a 60km fire walk from Gibb River Station to Karunjie Station.

The Wunggurr Rangers made significant progress in controlling gamba grass at El Questro Station. They also participated in regional efforts to control grader grass in conjunction with the Australian Wildlife Conservancy and WA Department of Parks and Wildlife.

The Healthy Country team facilitated separate men's and women's back to country trips across the Werangarri nation of which more than 50 Ngarinyin men, women and children participated.

Activities included elders passing on stories and songs about law, country and culture to younger people, making bush medicine, traditional ochre painting, spear and didgeridoo making, coolamon and boab nut carving, fishing and bush cooking. Back to country trips are rotated around the four Wilinggin nations each year.

2014-15 Financial Statements



Kimberley Land Council

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ABN 96 724 252 047 ICN 21

CFO CERTIFICATION STATEMENT 2015

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge, information and belief that:

- The accompanying financial statements of Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation comprising the Grant Acquittal Statement for the period 1 July, 2015 to 30 June, 2015 have been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, from proper accounts to present fairly the financial transactions for the period; and
- The board and the Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation have complied with the obligations imposed by the Constitution of the Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and the terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement. All Funding received was expended for the purpose of the Project and in accordance with the Funding Agreement.

.....
CFO Signature

Sue Humphries
Print Name

03/09/2015
Dated

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
TO KIMBERLEY LAND COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
NATIVE TITLE FUNDING PROGRAM
AND TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**

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REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

We have audited the accompanying financial statement of the Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation – Native Title Funding Program which comprises the Grant Acquittal Statement for the year ended 30 June 2015. The financial statement has been prepared by management based on the reporting provisions of the funding agreement with Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statement in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Corporation's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

OPINION

In our opinion, the financial statement of the Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation – Native Title Funding Program for the year ended 30 June 2015 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of the funding agreement and:

- a) Actual expenditure is in accordance with the budget;
- b) The financial statement for the Activity for the year is based on proper books and records;
- c) Kimberley Land Council is able to pay debts as and when they fall due and Kimberley Land Council has sufficient resources to discharge all debts as at 30 June 2015;
- d) Adequate insurance cover has been arranged for the assets purchased from the funding; and
- e) Assets purchased totalled \$112,349. At the time of signing this report these assets were still Work-in-Progress and have not been included in the asset register.

RESTRICTION ON DISTRIBUTION AND USE

The financial statement is prepared to assist the Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation to comply with the financial reporting provisions of the funding agreement referred to above. As a result, the financial statement may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.



DAVID TOMASI
PARTNER



MOORE STEPHENS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Signed at Perth this 29th day of September 2015

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KIMBERLEY LAND COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
ICN 21

GRANT ACQUITTAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 2015

DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
NATIVE TITLE FUNDING PROGRAM

	Actuals Ex GST \$	Budget Ex GST \$	Variance Ex GST \$
INCOME			
AGI - Bank Interest	33,260	40,000	(6,740)
AGI - Heritage	226,634	60,000	166,634
AGI - State Housing Agreement	703,852	740,000	(36,148)
	<u>963,746</u>	<u>840,000</u>	<u>123,746</u>
Cabinet Funding			
Capital	200,000	200,000	0
Operational	7,547,000	7,547,000	0
Operational - Variation 4	468,238	468,238	0
Contested Litigation	868,348	868,348	0
PBC Support	550,000	550,000	0
	<u>9,633,586</u>	<u>9,633,586</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>10,597,332</u>	<u>10,473,586</u>	<u>123,746</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Capital	112,349	200,000	(87,651)
Total Capital	<u>112,349</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>(87,651)</u>
CORPORATE			
Salaries			
CEO/GM or equivalents	227,059	222,266	4,793
Corporate staff (eg Accounting admin.)	1,446,729	1,427,539	19,190
Services			
Accommodation	135,283	130,000	5,283
Motor Vehicles - Corporate	106,527	132,984	(26,457)
Repair and Maintenance - Equipment	116	1,000	(884)
Repair and Maintenance - Buildings	40,669	31,000	9,669
Bank Charges	6,181	3,892	2,289
Audit Fees	68,813	72,000	(3,187)
Consultants - Corporate	16,390	52,650	(36,260)
Communications - Telephones, Fax and IT	118,590	110,000	8,590
Insurance	115,757	103,684	12,073

Advertising & Publicity	9,025	12,855	(3,830)
Cleaning	44,210	38,159	6,051
Computer Services	75,473	60,000	15,473
Energy & Water	64,920	58,131	6,789
Equipment Hire	8,499	8,000	499
Employee Costs (other)	30,854	27,360	3,494
Membership Fees & Subscriptions	31,792	21,199	10,593
Postage	12,928	9,143	3,785
Rates	18,532	14,488	4,044
Staff relocations	44,867	36,000	8,867
Recruitment	49,042	38,000	11,042
Training & Development			
Governing Committee	29,116	12,000	17,116
Staff	84,795	135,000	(50,205)
Meetings			
Governing Committee	22,345	85,000	(62,655)
Accommodation Chairperson	649	2,600	(1,951)
Committee	40,415	5,000	35,415
Accommodation Staff	42,859	28,000	14,859
Other Meetings - AGM	79,974	85,000	(5,026)
Staff Meetings	12,947	5,000	7,947
Travel & Allowances			
Chairperson	2,639	3,000	(361)
Other Governing Committee members	27,439	20,000	7,439
Staff (Travel) - Corporate	43,232	30,000	13,232
Travel Allowance - Governing Committee	6,143	38,000	(31,857)
Travel Allowance - Staff	22,816	30,000	(7,184)
Travel Allowance - Chairperson	0	1,500	(1,500)
Supplies & Consumables			
Corporate - Office Supplies	43,577	34,000	9,577
Minor Equipment	6,746	8,000	(1,254)
Printing	26,500	20,000	6,500
	3,164,448	3,152,450	11,998
ATTRIBUTABLE			
Salaries			
Project staff(legal, anthro, field)	2,566,935	2,502,318	64,617
Services			
Motor Vehicles - Attributable	294,951	388,510	(93,559)
Advertising & Publicity	38,686	36,300	2,386
Transcripts and Claim Documents	3,967	6,700	(2,733)
Consultants - Attributable	637,173	775,300	(138,127)
Meetings			
Claimants (Meetings)	171,396	138,440	32,956
Travel & Allowances			
Claimants (Travel)	177,965	284,336	(106,371)
Staff (Travel) - Attributable	143,979	164,835	(20,856)
Fares	54,809	59,900	(5,091)

Other Operational			
AGI - Heritage	175,798	60,000	115,798
AGI - State Housing Agreement	703,852	740,000	(36,148)
Casual Wages	20,709	-	20,709
Field Expenses	68,566	30,000	38,566
NNTC Other	19,811	12,912	6,899
NNTC Contribution	35,000	35,000	0
Total Attributable	5,113,597	5,234,551	(120,954)
PBC Support - Balangarra	50,486	50,000	486
PBC Support - Bardi & Jawi Niimidiman	51,568	50,000	1,568
PBC Support - Bunuba	45,454	50,000	(4,546)
PBC Support - Karajarri	51,357	50,000	1,357
PBC Support - Gooniyandi	55,159	50,000	5,159
PBC Support - Tjurabalan	53,312	50,000	3,312
PBC Support - Wanjina-Wunggurr	92,398	100,000	(7,602)
PBC Support - Ynaunijarra AC	48,484	50,000	(1,516)
PBC Support - Yawinya (Karajarri Nyangumarta)	48,337	50,000	(1,663)
PBC Support - Nyikini Mangala	58,148	50,000	8,148
Contested Litigation - Bindunbar	0	424,624	(424,624)
Contested Litigation - Bindunbar	1,049,181	363,592	685,589
Development of MOU's	0	468,237	(468,237)
Contested Litigation - Oil Basins	55,073	80,132	(25,059)
Sub-Total Other Attributed	1,658,957	1,886,585	(227,628)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE & CAPITAL	10,049,351	10,473,586	(424,235)
Unexpended Grant	547,981	0	547,981

Glossary

AGM	Annual General Meeting
ADJR	Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act, 1977
ALT	Aboriginal Lands Trust
AQIS	Australian Quarantine Inspection Service
CATSI Act	Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFI	Carbon Farming Initiative
CPA	Certified Practising Accountant
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs
DFES	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife
DPP	Dampier Peninsula Plan
EHSIS	Environmental Heritage and Social Impact Services
FAA	Financial Assistance Agreement
HPA	Heritage Protection Agreement
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area
KALACC	Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre
KLC	Kimberley Land Council
KLRC	Kimberley Language Resource Centre
KRED	KRED Enterprises
KTLA	Karajarri Traditional Lands Association
LSMU	Land and Sea Management Unit
NHL	National Heritage Listing
NNTC	National Native Title Council
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
NTA	Native Title Act (Cth) 1993
NTRB	Native Title Representative Body
PBC	Prescribed Bodies Corporate
RNTBC	Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate
SAFA	State Activities and Future Acts
WWRNTBC	Wanjina Wungurr Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate

