



CLCAC
CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Annual Report 2023 - 2024



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**CLCAC**CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION*United we stand.*

13 November 2024

Senator the Hon. Malarndirri McCarthy
Minister for Indigenous Australians
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2000

Dear Minister

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024

I am pleased to present the Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation's Annual Report for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

The Annual Report includes the Corporation's Report of Operations and Audited Consolidated Financial Statements for the 2023-2024 reporting period.

Yours sincerely

Thomas Wilson
CHAIRPERSON

Glossary of Terms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AGM	Annual General Meeting
CATSI	<i>Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006</i> (Cth)
CEDM	Capacity and Economic Development Manager
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CLCAC	Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
DAF	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QLD)
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Cth)
DCEO/CSM	Deputy CEO and Corporate Services Manager
DESI	Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (QLD)
EAAFP	East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership
FB	Facebook
FCA	Federal Court Application
GGNTAC	Gangalidda and Garawa Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
GKAC	Gkuthaarn and Kukatj Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
GRAC	Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
GREAT	Gulf Regional Economic Aboriginal Trust
HR	Human Resources
IAS	Indigenous Advancement Strategy
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area
LEM	Land and Environment Manager
MAC	Mpundwithal Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
MMG	Minerals and Metals Group
NAIDOC	National Aborigines and Islander Day Observance Committee
NAQS	Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy
NESP	National Environmental Science Program
NFPAP	National Feral Pig Action Plan
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Agency
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NTA	<i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cth)
NTRB	Native Title Representative Body
NTSP	Native Title Service Provider
OHS	Occupational Health & Safety
PBC	Prescribed Body Corporate
PCYC	Police and Citizen's Youth Club
PLO	Principal Legal Officer
RNTBC	Registered Native Title Representative Body
TEK	Traditional Ecological Knowledge
WHS	Workplace Health and Safety
WILSSED	Wellesley Island Land Sea Social Economic Development
WJV	Waanyi Joint Venture
WNTAC	Waanyi Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC



Contact Information

Copies of our Annual Report are available on our website at:
<http://www.clcac.com.au>

For further information regarding Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
please contact:

ENQUIRIES

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Director's Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

The Directors present this Report together with CLCAC's Financial Report for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2024 and the Auditor's Report thereon.

Financial Review

The net profit from ordinary activities after income tax for the year amounted to \$1,066,619 (2023: \$5,858).

Principal Activities

The principal activities of CLCAC during the Financial Year related to carrying out its functions and responsibilities as a Native Title Service Provider (NTSP) in accordance with the provisions set out in Part 11 Division 3 of the NTA and assisting Traditional Owners and communities with the conduct of various Capacity Building and Economic Development projects and Land and Environment Management Activities.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the activities conducted by CLCAC in this Reporting Period.

Events Subsequent to Reporting Date

There are no subsequent events to Report.

Likely Developments

The Directors envisage that CLCAC will continue its existing operations, subject to the receipt of ongoing funding from Government and other sources.

The Directors expect that during the next three years, the principal activities of CLCAC will continue to focus on achieving positive native title outcomes over areas where recognition of native title has not been achieved, supporting native title holders in assessing whether determined rights and interests can be expanded through variations to existing determinations to reflect advancements in the common law and commence work with Traditional Owner groups on identifying areas where native title has been extinguished and the extinguishment may be compensable.

CLCAC will commence work with those Traditional Owners to implement the strategy for approaching negotiations with the State in relation to compensation. CLCAC will also complete a review of the current Land and Environment program and set a new strategy for regional land and environment management activities to allow for further expansion and specialisation of the program, and focus will also increasingly be directed toward the work of its PBC Capacity and Economic Development Unit, in particular, supporting Native Title Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs) to develop good, robust governance structures, increase capacity and work toward becoming financially independent of government funding support through the development of sustainable commercial enterprises.



Environmental Regulation

Save as provided for in specific Land and Environment Management Funding Contracts, CLCAC's operations are not subject to any particular or significant environmental regulations under either Commonwealth or State Legislation. CLCAC has adequate systems in place for the management of its contractual requirements and is not aware of any breach in that regard.

Distributions

CLCAC's Constitution precludes it from distributing any surplus to Members. Accordingly, no distributions were paid, recommended or declared by the Corporation during the year.

Lead Auditor's Independence Declaration

At no time during the Financial Year ended 30 June 2024 was an Officer of CLCAC the Auditor, a Partner in the Audit Firm, or a Director of the Audit Firm that undertook the audit of CLCAC for the 2023-2024 Financial Year.

The Lead Auditor's independence declaration is set out in the Audited Financial Statements and forms part of this Directors' Report for the Financial Year ended 30 June 2024

Proceedings on Behalf of the Corporation

During the 2023-2024 year, no person has made an Application for Leave in respect of CLCAC pursuant to section 169-5 of the CATSI Act.

During the 2023-2024 year, no person has brought or intervened in proceedings on behalf of CLCAC with leave under section 169-5 of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006.

This Report is made by resolution of the Directors in Burketown on 13 November 2024.

Thomas Wilson
CHAIRPERSON

CLCAC Board of Directors at 30 June 2024



Mr Thomas Wilson – DIRECTOR & CHAIRPERSON: LARDIL

Mr Thomas Wilson is the Chairperson of CLCAC and resides on Gununa, Mornington Island. Mr Wilson is a member of the Lardil Traditional Owner group and is employed by WILSED Pty Ltd as the Ranger Coordinator of the Wellesley Islands Rangers. Mr Wilson has been Chairperson of CLCAC for 14 years and is our longest serving Chair. He is also a Director of Gulf Regional Economic Aboriginal Trust (GREAT).



Mr Lawrence Burke – DIRECTOR: YANGKAAL

Mr Lawrence Burke is a Director of CLCAC and resides on Gununa, Mornington Island. Mr Burke is a member of the Yangkaal Traditional Owner group. Mr Burke is also a Director of Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (GRAC). He is also a lead dancer with Mornington Island dancers and works at PCYC.



Mr Damien Gabori – DIRECTOR: KAIADILT

Mr Damien Gabori is a Director of CLCAC and resides on Gununa, Mornington Island. Mr Gabori is a member of the Kaiadilt Traditional Owner group. Mr Gabori is also a Director of Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (GRAC).



Mr Joseph Rainbow – DIRECTOR: KURTIJAR

Mr Joseph Rainbow is a Director of CLCAC and resides in Normanton. Mr Rainbow is a member of the Kurtijar Traditional Owner group and undertakes a Cultural Heritage Management advisory role for the Kurtijar People. Mr Rainbow is the Chairperson of Mpundwithal Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (MAC).



Mr Murrandoo Yanner Jnr – DIRECTOR: GANGALIDDA

Mr Murrandoo Yanner is a Director of CLCAC, from Mougibi (Burketown). Mr Yanner is employed by CLCAC as Head Ranger for the Gangalidda Garawa Ranger Unit and is also a Director of the Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (GRAC).



Ms Dianne Milwood – DIRECTOR: GKUTHAARN

Ms Dianne Millwood is a Director of CLCAC and resides in Normanton. Ms Millwood is a member of the Gkuthaarn Traditional Owner Group. Ms Millwood is also a Director of Gkuthaarn and Kukatji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (GKAC).



Mr Hayden Tyrrell – DIRECTOR: KUKATJ

Mr Hayden Tyrrell is a Director of CLCAC and is employed by CLCAC as Ranger Coordinator for the Normanton Ranger unit. Mr Tyrrell is also a member and former Director of Gkuthaarn and Kukatji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (GKAC).



Mr Donald Bob – DIRECTOR: GARAWA

Mr Donald Bob is a Director of CLCAC and a senior Garawa man who resides in Burketown. Mr Bob is also a Director of Gangalidda and Garawa Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (GGNTAC) and Gulf Regional Economic Aboriginal Trust (GREAT). Mr Bob is employed by CLCAC as a Ranger with the Gangalidda and Garawa Ranger Group.



Mr Henry Aplin – DIRECTOR: WAANYI

Mr Henry Aplin is a Director of CLCAC, a member of the Waanyi Native Title group and a Director of Waanyi Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (WNTAC). Mr Aplin resides in Doomadgee.



CLCAC Alternate Directors at 30 June 2024

Mr Grayson Williams – ALTERNATE DIRECTOR: LARDIL

Mr Grayson Williams is an Alternate Director of CLCAC for the Lardil Traditional Owner group and resides on Gununa, Mornington Island. Mr Williams is also a director of Gulf Regional Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (GRAC).

Mr Michael Gavenor – ALTERNATE DIRECTOR: YANGKAAL

Mr Michael Gavenor is an Alternate Director of CLCAC for the Yangkaal Traditional Owner group and resides on Gununa, Mornington Island. Mr Gavenor is also the Chairperson of Gulf Regional Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (GRAC).

Mr Gerald Loogatha – ALTERNATE DIRECTOR: KAIADILT

Mr Gerald Loogatha is an Alternate Director of CLCAC for the Kaiadilt Traditional Owner group and resides at Gununa, Mornington Island.

Mr Xavier George – ALTERNATE DIRECTOR: KURTIJAR

Mr Xavier George is an Alternate Director of CLCAC for the Kurtijar Traditional Owner group and resides in Normanton. Mr George is also employed by CLCAC as a Ranger with the Normanton Ranger Group.



Mr Paul Logan – ALTERNATE DIRECTOR: GKUTHAARN

Mr Paul Logan is an Alternate Director of CLCAC for the Gkuthaarn Traditional Owner group and resides in Normanton. Mr Logan is also employed by CLCAC as head ranger with the Normanton Ranger Group.

Mr Lurick Sowden – ALTERNATE DIRECTOR: GARAWA

Mr Lurick Sowden is an Alternate Director of CLCAC for the Garawa Traditional Owner group and resides in Burketown. Mr Sowden is also a Director of Gangalidda and Garawa Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (GGNTAC) and is a tour guide for Yagurli Tours.

Mr Desmond Armstrong – ALTERNATE DIRECTOR: GANGALIDDA

Mr Desmond Armstrong is an Alternate Director of CLCAC for the Gangalidda Traditional Owner group and resides in Burketown. Mr Armstrong is also employed by CLCAC as Ranger Coordinator with the Gangalidda and Garawa Ranger Group

Ms Natalie King – ALTERNATE DIRECTOR: WAANYI

Ms Natalie King is an Alternate Director of CLCAC for the Waanyi Traditional Owner group and resides in Bidunggu.

Mr Lawrence George – ALTERNATE DIRECTOR: KUKATJ

Mr Lawrence George is an Alternate Director of CLCAC for the Kukatj Traditional Owner group and resides in Normanton. Mr George is also employed by CLCAC as a Ranger with the Normanton Ranger Group.



Chief Executive Officer's Report

I am pleased to present my seventh Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) report for Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation's (CLCAC) 2023-2024 period. Each year, the organisation is growing, and with it comes many challenges, but also much reward through successful determined native title outcomes, a successful ranger program that manages the land and waters on each respective language groups behalf, and the creation of economic opportunities for the PBC's and our ongoing support and assistance in building each their corporation's internal capacity. This all leads toward real outcomes, that I believe will create positive change and opportunities, for the Traditional Owners in our region and the communities in which they live.

As we reach our Corporation's momentous 40th year milestone since becoming incorporated on 27 April, 1984 (noting CLCAC was first established in 1982), we take this opportunity to reflect and remember all those that came before us and those that are no longer with us. It is hard to put into words how important that contribution was, that the people in the past made throughout this journey, which made such a huge positive impact on the success of this organisation. We acknowledge them and thank the great work of our past Chairpersons, Directors, members, native title claimants and holders, staff and consultants for their involvement, direction, guidance, and support over the course of the last 40 years. I would like to further acknowledge and thank our current directors, members,

native title holders, staff and consultants for their dedication and commitment working together to achieve the goals on behalf of the people in our region. However, we do not rest on our successes, there is still a lot of work to be done, and we look forward to another 40 years of growing the organisation, increasing our services to better support and assist our Traditional Owners for the benefit of the next generation and future generations to come.

We again pay our respects to our first Board of Directors; Charlie Dick, Major Walden, Norris King, Tommy George, Willie Doomadgee, and Phillip Yanner. We further recognise all those that have contributed in some way to the struggle for the rights and interests of our Traditional Owners in our indigenous communities in the Gulf. I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to them all.

It is important to point out that the strength of leadership of the Chairperson and Directors over the years has been integral to the stable governance of our Board. As CEO of CLCAC, it is a privilege to have the trust of the Board and our constituents comprising of the nine (9) language groups that we represent in our region. I am privileged to have this opportunity to continue in this role, ensuring their vision and goals are achieved.

CLCAC's role is to carry out our people's objectives in gaining their native title rights and interests, including management of their traditional country, whether through our land & environment programs, or assisting



through economic development opportunities, including representing them in negotiations, at government events, conferences, and the like.

I wish to thank all our stakeholder partners and, acknowledge the State and Commonwealth funding agencies. Their support of the objectives of this organisation and aspirations of the Traditional Owners in our region, has allowed us to effectively achieve many outcomes. CLCAC will ensure it continues to maintain those strong partnerships that we have already built, and we hope to forge new ones as those opportunities arise.

It has been another successful year, and I am pleased to report on those achievements and outcomes for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Corporate Services

As of 30 June 2024, CLCAC funded 53 full-time positions, one permanent part-time position and one casual position. Our Senior Management Group team (SMG) comprises of myself, our Deputy CEO/Corporate Services Unit Manager, our PLO/Native Title Services Unit Manager, our Land & Environment Manager and our PBC Capacity and Economic Development Manager. The SMG team will continue to seek every opportunity and endeavours, to strive to make every effort to identify new funding sources that can allow CLCAC to continue to provide the services and activities that are needed by our constituents in the region.

CLCAC once again received an unqualified audit report for the 2023-2024 financial year. This achievement proves yet again, the testament of our sound accountability and

application of best business practice by all our Staff and in particular our Corporate Services Unit under the strong guidance of our Corporate Services Manager. As well as the Corporate Services Manager, this unit comprises of a Senior Finance Officer, Finance Officer, Digital Content & Communications Officer, Corporate Services & Project Support Officer, Corporate Services Administration Officer, HR OHS Compliance & Training Coordinator and a People and Payroll Officer.

Native Title

The Principal Legal Officer (PLO) and the Community & Stakeholder Engagement Officer work together to oversee and facilitate native title matters. An Administration and Project Support Officer, based in Burketown provides logistical support for native title as well as performing the functions of executive assistant to the CEO.

The finalisation of research projects in 2023-24 will enable CLCAC to progress the development of three new native title claim activities. Additional research was also commenced in two further areas earmarked for likely future native title claims.

In addition to progress towards achieving additional native title determinations, CLCAC supported Lower Gulf PBC's with preparatory work towards future native title compensation claims and held native title compensation information sessions in our region to inform native title holders of potential opportunities and the support CLCAC can provide. CLCAC also supported legal advice to PBCs in relation to potential opportunities to seek variations of



older determinations to seek the benefit of more recent common law precedents.

Further information on native title outputs for the 2023-2024 period can be found in Chapter 1 NTRB Overview and Chapter 2 – Report on Performance – Native Title Output Summary and Chapter 3.

PBC Capacity Building and Economic Development Unit

CLCAC continues to provide facilitation and assistance to five (5) PBC's that currently represent all the 9 language groups in our region: Waanyi Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (WNTAC), Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC), Gangalidda & Garawa Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (GGNTAC), Gkuthaarn & Kukatj Aboriginal Corporation (GKAC) and Mpundwithal Aboriginal Corporation (MAC). This unit supports the delivery of PBC Corporate Support Services, and the PBC Capacity and Economic Development Manager manages and supervises a team of four (4) PBC support staff.

During 2023-2024 CLCAC continued to facilitate two large grants from National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) through their Jobs, Land and Economy funding stream for strategic capacity building and economic development planning for GGNTAC and GRAC. We also submitted and were successful in an application for a grant for strategic capacity building and economic development for GKAC, which will commence delivery in 2024-2025. We are looking at further funding applications for similar grants for MAC and WNTAC. Consultations are ongoing with these PBCs and applications are expected to be submitted in 2024-2025.

CLCAC's implementation of its Transition Plan to guide, develop and support the PBC's in our region, and further planning for service delivery in a post-determination environment is ongoing.

Further information on the support provided to PBCs for capacity building and economic development during 2023-2024 can be found in Chapter 2 of our Report – Report on Performance – *Strategy 2: Obtain positive determinations of Native Title and assist Prescribed Body Corporates and Strategy 4: Strong, Sustainable Region.*

Land and Environment

CLCAC Rangers manage over 85,000 square kilometres of land and over 600 kilometres of coastline and provide support and mentorship to the Wellesley Islands Rangers who manage the 22 Wellesley Islands. As of 30 June 2024, CLCAC funded the employment of thirty six (36) staff through the Land and Environment (L&E) unit. This included twenty-three (23) full time indigenous rangers and three (3) full time indigenous ranger coordinators based at Normanton, Burketown, and Gregory.

The Wellesley Rangers, through their Wellesley Island Land Sea Social Economic Development Pty Ltd (WILSSED) ranger team based at Gununa, Mornington Island, consists of a full-time indigenous ranger coordinator and six (6) full time indigenous rangers.

Our Ranger teams, including the Wellesley Rangers, are supported by a L&E Manager, L&E Projects Coordinator, four (4) L&E Project Officers, Natural Resource Management (NRM) Project Officer, and our administrative staff.



Our Rangers continue to carry out projects and activities to a high standard to protect and manage the land, sea, and waters of their country on behalf of the Traditional Owner groups in our region.

Some of the activities that have come from a range of funding sources include; early detection biosecurity surveillance, monitoring and management of marine turtles, general biodiversity, saltwater crocodiles, migratory shorebirds, water quality, and coastal wetlands, feral animal and weed control, wetland rehabilitation, fire management, marine debris and ghost net monitoring and management, community engagement and education, coastal surveillance and visitor management, joint fisheries patrols, and protection and management of cultural sites.

The objective is to focus on a regional landscape scale to deal with environmental management across the whole region through the ranger program. CLCAC's aim is to be the best ranger program in the country, and we will strive to continue to build and strengthen the L&E unit accordingly to accomplish this goal.

For further information on our Land and Environment Report for the 2023-2024 period, can be found in Chapter 2 of our Report – Report on Performance – *Strategy 3: Country is well managed.*

Promotion of CLCAC

CLCAC continues to produce quarterly newsletters that we distribute to our members, stakeholders, funding bodies, PBC members and native title holders on our distribution list. This reporting year, we had a vacancy in the position of

Digital Content & Publications Officer for some time, due to delays in successfully recruiting to the role. We expect this position to be filled soon.

CLCAC also has a Facebook (FB) and Instagram page. There are regular uploads of posts of interest to our followers that include Ranger activities, meeting notices, position adverts etc. CLCAC has Ranger Group FB pages, and each Ranger Group regularly posts activities to showcase their work. All FB posts are shared so that all followers can be updated accordingly. CLCAC is still actively working towards redeveloping its YouTube site and website. Unfortunately, some of this delay is due to funding constraints. We hope to have the redevelopment completed in the 2024-25 period.

In conclusion, I would like to assure to our members, that I will continue to strive to the best of my ability in actively working assiduously with our Board of Directors, staff, and stakeholder partners to ensure the strategic objectives and aspirations of our Traditional Owners are met.

Rachel Amini-Yanner
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



CHAPTER 1

NTRB OVERVIEW

Background

CLCAC was first established in 1982 as a community based organisation to represent, protect and secure the rights and interests of Aboriginal people in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Following a large meeting in Doomadgee, CLCAC was incorporated under the Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act on 27 April 1984.

On 30 June 1994, CLCAC was recognised under the Native Title Act 1993 as the representative Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander body for the Gulf Region. This region includes land and waters from the Northern Territory border to east of Normanton, and the islands and seas of the lower Gulf of Carpentaria.

Today, CLCAC is the largest and most eminent corporate entity representing the rights and interests of Traditional Owners in the southern Gulf of Carpentaria. The Corporation represents the rights and interests of Traditional Owners in the southern Gulf of Carpentaria, with its membership drawn from the following nine Aboriginal language groups whose traditional lands and waters are located in the Gulf:

1. KURTIJAR
2. GKUTHAARN
3. KUKATJ
4. GANGALIDDA
5. KAIADILT
6. LARDIL
7. YANGKAAL
8. WAANYI
9. GARAWA

Since first being recognised as a NTRB, CLCAC has achieved several important and positive outcomes to provide for the protection and recognition of the native title rights and interests of Aboriginal traditional landowners in northwest Queensland.



What We Do

In performing the role and functions of a native title representative body, CLCAC assists Traditional Owner groups in the Southern Gulf Region to pursue native title rights over their traditional lands and waters. This has resulted in successful determinations for all of the nine language groups represented in our region: the Waanyi, Gangalidda, Garawa, Lardil, Yangkaal, Kaiadilt, Gkuthaarn Kukatj and Kurtijar Peoples.

CLCAC employs various consultative mechanisms to ensure that its members and the people that it serves have input into its decision making and prioritisation. The primary means of consultation is by way of Applicant, claim group and prescribed body corporate meetings, held regularly to advise native title claimants and native title holders about recent court decisions, the legal context for native title, and to discuss matters relevant to the progress of their native title applications and ancillary matters.

Native Title

Following two native title determinations in the prior financial year, in 2023-24 CLCAC finalised research projects over two areas and progressed research in two additional areas. This will lead to three new claim development projects in 2024-25, one for Gkuthaarn and Kukatj People and two for Kurtijar People, as well as continued research towards multiple likely future claims in the Lower Gulf region.

CLCAC continued to support Waanyi People in 2023-24 with their current claim over Bowthorn Station and parts of

the Nicholson River (Waanyi #3 Claim), which was registered in June 2023, with much progress made in the context of confidential negotiations with the State of Queensland. Waanyi People also benefitted in September 2023 from the successful registration of the Boodjamulla National Park (Aboriginal Land) ILUA, certified by CLCAC, which provided for the transfer of Aboriginal freehold land title and cooperative national park management arrangements.

CLCAC commissioned legal advice in 2023-24 for our region's PBCs and language groups identifying all potential additional steps, including applications to vary existing determinations and new claims, so as to secure the maximum level of recognition of native title rights and interests in our region. In tandem with this process, CLCAC continued development of our Native Title Resolution Strategy identifying CLCAC's future priorities and projects to achieve full resolution throughout our region and enable the transition to post-determination status.

In November 2023, CLCAC partnered with the National Native Title Council to hold native title compensation information sessions for each of our language groups. These information sessions were held in Gununa (Mornington Island), Burketown and Normanton and were attended by around 120 Lower Gulf Native Title Holders. Further, CLCAC commissioned preliminary legal and strategic advice for four of our PBCs on future native title compensation claim opportunities and funded more advanced compensation claim research and legal advice for our fifth PBC. In consequence, CLCAC is anticipating our region's first native title compensation claim may be brought as early as 2024-25, with others to follow in future years.



The new claims arising from CLCAC's ongoing research efforts, along with plans for potential variations to existing determinations as well as native title compensation claims, will supplement CLCAC's achievement of 12 successful determinations in prior years:

CLCAC assisted the Waanyi People to pursue a claim for native title over their traditional land and waters. The claim was filed in 1999 and culminated in a final positive determination on 9 December 2010 (Aplin on behalf of the Waanyi Peoples v State of Queensland (No 3) [2010] FCA 1515). The determination covers 1,730,081 hectares in the Southern Gulf of Carpentaria, making it the largest single determination in Queensland's history.

We assisted the Gangalidda and Garawa Peoples to obtain positive determinations of native title over their two claims. By consent, two determinations were made on 23 June 2010 (QC04/05 and QC95/03; Gangalidda and Garawa People v State of Queensland [2010] FCA 646) recognising native title rights over 5,810 square kilometres of land and waters, including exclusive native title rights over an Aboriginal Land Trust area and Aboriginal owned pastoral leases. Two Indigenous Land Use Agreements have been registered in respect to access to pastoral leases within the determination area. On 1 April 2015, two further Gangalidda and Garawa determinations were made recognising native title over the remainder of the traditional land and waters of the Gangalidda and Garawa Peoples: (Taylor on behalf of the Gangalidda and Garawa Peoples #1 v State of Queensland [2015] FCA 731, and Taylor on behalf of the Gangalidda and Garawa Peoples #2 v State of Queensland [2015] FCA 730).

In March 2019, the Federal Court of Australia made orders recognising exclusive native title in favour of the Gangalidda People over the pastoral stations Pendine (Gangalidda Pendine Claim QUD660/2017) and Konka (Gangalidda Pendine Claim QUD660/2017). These two native title claims were supported by CLCAC and progressed very quickly through the claim process as the previous successful determinations in favour of Gangalidda (along with Garawa) in 2010 and 2015 were relied upon as evidence that the pastoral stations were part of traditional Gangalidda country.

CLCAC assisted the Lardil, Yangkaal, Kaiadilt and Gangalidda Peoples to obtain a positive determination of native title in Lardil Peoples v State of Queensland [2004] FCA 298. The determination recognises non-exclusive rights to land and waters, such as right of access for the purposes allowed under traditional laws and customs and the right to fish, hunt and gather living and plant resources. CLCAC then assisted these four language groups to lodge and pursue a second native title claim over the Wellesley Islands. This claim led to a consent determination on 9 December 2008: (Lardil, Yangkaal, Gangalidda and Kaiadilt Peoples v State of Queensland [2008] FCA 1855). The determination recognises exclusive possession over the Wellesley Islands and covers 127,400 hectares, including outstations, subleases and freehold under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 (Qld).

On 29 September 2020, the Gkuthaarn & Kukatj native title claim (Gkuthaarn and Kukatj People QUD685/12 (QC2012/019)) came to a successful end when the Federal Court handed down its decision on the native title



application. The Court's decision recognised the Gkuthaarn & Kukatj native title claim group as holding native title rights and interests in approximately 844,000 hectares of their traditional country.

CLCAC assisted the Waanyi People with their second native title claim (Waanyi People #2 – QUD474/2018 (QCD2021/003)), following the filing of a claim in 2018 over areas of the pastoral property known as Turn Off Lagoon. This resulted in a consent determination on September 2021.

On 26 July 2022, CLCAC and Kurtjar People hosted the Federal Court of Australia on country at Delta Downs Station for the Kurtjar People's historic and hard-fought determination of Native Title (Rainbow on behalf of Kurtjar People v State of Queensland [2021] FCA 1251). This determination was the first case in which the Court has made a finding that the native title holders of a land estate have the right to access and take resources for any purpose, and by extension for commercial purposes. Additionally, it was the first time a native title claim over the Eastern Seaboard of Australia (mainland Queensland NSW and Victoria) has gone to a contested Court hearing with the result that the native title holders won the case.

The Kurtjar People's successful native title determination marked a milestone for the Lower Gulf Region. Each of CLCAC's nine language groups now benefits from at least one determination and is represented by at least one PBC, with the twelve native title determinations now achieved in our region being the fulfilment of a deliberate native title claim strategy initiated by CLCAC in 1996.

PBC Corporate Support

The central initiative of CLCAC's post determination planning is the establishment of a unit to support the delivery of PBC Corporate Support Services. There are currently five registered PBCs in our region representing native title holders from all nine Gulf language groups

Together these five PBCs represent all nine Gulf language groups with the vast majority of the native title holders residing in the remote communities of Doomadgee, Gununa, Normanton, Robinson River, Borroloola, Gregory and Burketown

The Gulf PBCs are currently at differing stages of independence. Where assistance with performing their statutory functions is requested, CLCAC to date has been providing that assistance.

During initial consultations with PBCs in 2016-2017, it was agreed that CLCAC should develop a plan to build capacity gradually in the PBCs. CLCAC's role and its ability to deliver effective services is fundamental to the success of the PBCs during the medium to long term. Further consultation with PBC Boards, together with initial and more wide-ranging consultation with native title holder groups and native title claim groups is needed. CLCAC developed an initial framework to build capacity over a five-year period. A detailed description of the specific services that were to be delivered was set out in our Transition Plan.

Although considerable progress was made to increase the internal capacity of PBCs during this time. During this time, it also became apparent that additional opportunities to maximise the determined rights and interests of the



PBC	DETERMINATION(S)	DATE OF INCORPORATION	NUMBER OF DIRECTORS	NUMBER OF MEMBERS	ICN
WNTAC	<i>Aplin on behalf of the Waanyi Peoples v State of Queensland (No 3); Rockland on behalf of the Waanyi People v State of Queensland</i>	16/09/2010	1	555	7448
GGNTAC	<i>Gangalidda and Garawa People v State of Queensland; Taylor on behalf of the Gangalidda and Garawa Peoples #1 v State of Queensland; Taylor on behalf of the Gangalidda and Garawa Peoples #2 v State of Queensland; Gangalidda Pendine Claim; Gangalidda Konka Claim</i>	26/04/2010	10	215	7365
GRAC	<i>Lardil Peoples v State of Queensland; Lardil, Yangkaal, Gangalidda and Kaiadilt Peoples v State of Queensland</i>	08/11/2008	12	165	7139
GKAC	<i>Phillip George and Leanne Edwards on behalf of the Gkuthaarn and Kukatj People v State of Queensland</i>	04/09/2018	8	94	8895
MAC	<i>Rainbow on behalf of the Kurtjar People v State of Queensland</i>	29/06/2022	7	53	9781



language groups in the Gulf region had emerged with the development of the common law, notably in relation to native title compensation (i.e. Timber Creek) as well as the expanded common law understanding of the purpose for which resources might be taken.

During 2022-2023 CLCAC commenced work on a Native Title Resolution Strategy to identify and prioritise viable future native title projects required to maximise the determined rights and interests of our constituent language groups. The strategy will be used to develop a revised and more detailed Transition Plan, anticipated to be developed in the next 2 years once all future native opportunities have been investigated and assessed and a realistic timeframe for resolving outstanding claims, including variations and compensation has been set.

During the 2023-2024 reporting period CLCAC supported both GRAC and GGNTAC with capacity grants and were successfully granted a capacity grant for GKAC from NIAA's Jobs, Land and Economy Program. This funding is supporting the PBCs on a path to sustainable growth and independence over a three-year period and will be extended into 2024-2025 to continue to build internal capacity of these PBCs and pursue further economic development opportunities designed to improve employment outcomes and provide them with a stable revenue source.

Economic Development and Business Support

Approximately 60% of the population in the southern Gulf is indigenous (2021 ABS) indicating a majority indigenous community. Exclusive native title determinations, together

with high levels of Aboriginal owned land, means indigenous communities now have access to capital, land and resources. However indigenous unemployment remains high, while participation in business and the economy is low.

The Southern Gulf Region's economic base is dominated by cattle, mining, fishing and tourism with a range of services located in the townships. The largest mining operation in the region was the Century Mine at Lawn Hill owned by MMG, which ceased mining operations in 2016. Considered one of the world's biggest zinc mines, the Century Zinc mine was operated for 16 years from 1999 to 2015 by Rio Tinto before ceasing operations in 2016.

Rio Tinto sold the property to MMG in 2016, which, in turn, sold the mine to New Century Resources in 2017. New Century launched a restart feasibility study (RFS) for the project to process the tailings from previous operations. The results from the RFS were released in November 2017, while an independent technical review of the RFS was announced in April 2018. The restart operation commenced production in August 2018 with an expected life of six years.

CLCAC is responding to the economic challenges faced by our constituents through the initiatives and strategies being developed and implemented by its Capacity and Economic Development Unit.

This Unit has several key priorities:

- Identifying and facilitating delivery of key business and economic development projects and initiatives;
- Assisting PBCs with corporate governance and compliance as legislated under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006;



- Providing business, commercial and strategic planning support to Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs); and
- Advocating on behalf of Traditional Owners and communities of the Southern Gulf for projects and initiatives that develop the region's economy sustainably.

An assessment of the four key sectors of Resources, Land Management, Tourism and Service Delivery has been completed by CLCAC to identify and prioritise potential economic development opportunities, as well as to better understand the barriers to investment. CLCAC is working with partners, stakeholders and the community to deliver the recommendations of this report for the benefit of Gulf communities.

During 2023-2024 CLCAC has been involved in planning to host the second Regional Economic Development Forum in the Lower Gulf to align with our 40th Anniversary in 2024. The first Indigenous Economic Development Summit was held in the region in 2013.

The Commonwealth Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy Jobs, Land and Economy Program priorities are:

- Getting Indigenous Australians into work;
- Fostering Indigenous business; and
- Ensuring Indigenous people receive economic and social benefits from the effective management of their land and native title rights.

These priorities align almost directly with CLCAC's. CLCAC supports good policy and planning and will advocate for change where it is ineffective. CLCAC's Economic Development and Business Support Unit provides strategic

and commercial planning support for PBCs to ensure they are viable and sustainable in the long term. Advice and support are also available to assist in establishing commercial enterprises in certain circumstances.

The following support services are provided by CLCAC:

- Corporation business and governance planning;
- Corporation restructuring;
- Building capacity and mentoring;
- Identifying and pursuing business and economic development opportunities including regional coordination;
- Assistance with funding applications for specific projects; and
- Coordination of cultural heritage and native title matters.

In 2023-2024 CLCAC was successful in securing funding through the Federal Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy Jobs, Land and Economy Program on behalf of GKAC for strategic capacity building projects to be progressed over three years. The purpose of this funding is to facilitate Strategic and Economic Development Planning for the PBC and increase the internal capacity of the PBC on their path to financial and administrative independence.

This third capacity building grant components two existing capacity building grants for GRAC and GGNTAC that commenced in 2020-2021.

This funding has already provided the following outcomes and more: two strategic and economic development plans, policies and procedures to enhance governance, numerous



director training sessions to improve board effectiveness, project support for land and sea activities and economic development, several employment outcomes, business plans and concept plans for two large infrastructure projects.

During 2023-2024 CLCAC secured an extension of the two existing capacity building projects for an additional twelve months to provide further opportunity to advance GRAC and GGNTAC toward self-determination.

The extension will deliver additional employment outcomes, including three Certificate III in Business traineeships, several board governance training sessions, purchase of assets to enhance the operational capacity of each entity and engagement of expert consultants to enhance tourism, negotiate development opportunities, and progress the operations hubs for both GRAC and GGNTAC. Delivering on these outcomes will improve the internal capacity of the PBCs and provide mechanisms to further leverage and progress the implementation of the strategic and economic development plans for the benefit of the community.

Land and Environment Program

This unit undertakes land and sea management activities that improve and enhance the condition of natural resources in the Lower Gulf of Carpentaria area for the long-term benefit of Traditional Owner and Native Title holder groups and communities.

Activities conducted by CLCAC during this period have included:

- Early detection biosecurity and coastal surveillance
- General biodiversity protection activities;

- Monitoring and management of marine turtles, saltwater crocodiles, migratory shorebirds, water quality, and coastal wetlands;
- Pest animal and plant control;
- Wetland rehabilitation;
- Fire management;
- Marine debris and ghost net removal, monitoring and management;
- Community engagement and education;
- Visitor management; and
- Protection and management of cultural sites.

With a review of the Gulf of Carpentaria Marine Park due in 2026, the program is targeting additional projects which will assist in gathering data across the gulf region to assist in furthering protections of natural and cultural values. In the coming years we are looking to expand international migratory shorebird surveys along with mapping and monitoring the health of marine and intertidal seagrass beds. We have also commenced discussions regarding additional protections through nominating sites for national and international recognition such as World Heritage listing and additional sites the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership.

Strategies used to undertake this work include:

- Employment of Indigenous Rangers to undertake culturally appropriate environmental management and conservation projects;
- Preservation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and utilisation of TEK together with Western science to increase our understanding of the natural values of the region and to contribute to effective management;
- Developing international, national and regional

partnerships that contribute to improved land and sea management;

- Proactively collaborating on key research initiatives in the region;
- Working to have additional layers of protection for the natural and cultural values of the gulf, and
- Undertaking community and visitor education about cultural and natural values.

CLCAC funds thirty-six (36) positions through its Land and Environment management programs, including twenty-five (25) full-time Indigenous Rangers and three (3) Indigenous Ranger Coordinators over three Ranger Units in Normanton, Burketown and Gregory.

CLCAC also provides mentorship and assistance to the Wellesley Islands Rangers, a Wellesley Island Land Sea Social Economic Development Pty Ltd (WILSSED) ranger team, which employs six (6) Indigenous Rangers and one (1) Indigenous Ranger Coordinator.

All ranger teams are supported by CLCAC's professional and administrative staff, including a Land and Environment Projects Coordinator located in Normanton, a Natural Resource Management Project Officer located in Burketown, four (4) Land and Environment Project Officers based in Cairns, and a Corporate Services and Project Support Officer located in Cairns. The program is strategically led and managed by a Land and Environment Manager based in the Cairns office.





Role and Functions

The Rules of CLCAC

CLCAC is an incorporated association registered under the CATSI Act. The key objectives of the Corporation are the relief of poverty, sickness, destitution, serious economic disadvantage, distress, dispossession, suffering and misfortune amongst Aboriginal peoples. CLCAC's objectives also include:

1. Promoting opportunities for Aboriginal people to return to and settle on their traditional homelands;
2. Obtaining security of tenure over traditional Aboriginal land in the southern Gulf;
3. Promoting and preserving Aboriginal culture and language;
4. Providing basic community services to members of the Association to alleviate poverty;
5. Promoting the social and economic well-being of Aboriginal people in the Gulf; and
6. Being recognised and performing the functions of a NTRB.

The Native Title Act

Part 11 of the NTA sets out the functions of CLCAC as a NTRB/SP. It also includes provisions about how CLCAC is to perform these functions and prescribes how the CLCAC is to be funded and held accountable.

CLCAC's functions under section 203 of the NTA are:

- Facilitation and assistance;
- Certification;
- Dispute resolution;
- Notification;
- Agreement making;
- Internal review; and
- Other functions.

Although CLCAC's primary function is facilitation and assistance, it also performs the other functions set out in the NTA:



Certification

CLCAC's process of certification in relation to claims includes the preparation of a memorandum detailing the decision-making process by which the claimants select and authorise the applicants. If CLCAC is satisfied, that there has been a proper and fair process to authorise the named Applicants by the claimant Group, and that all efforts have been made, to ensure that the application identifies the Native Title Claimant Group, the Chief Executive Officer then may certify the application pursuant to an authority delegated by the CLCAC Board of Directors.

Whether or not CLCAC will certify an Application will depend upon proper evidence of preparation of the application process provided to the Chief Executive Officer.

Amongst other things, preparation needs to include; ethnographic research to identify the basis of the community of Native Title Holders, the area of Land and or Sea to be claimed, the membership of the Claimant Group, records of minutes of all meetings, and of the decision-making process undertaken at the meeting.

Dispute Resolution

CLCAC carries out its dispute resolution functions in a way that seeks to emphasise culturally appropriate mediation and negotiation with Traditional Owners and seeks to identify the appropriate Traditional Owner groups prior to the lodgement or progression of native title applications.

Notification

As the NTSP for the lower Gulf of Carpentaria Region, CLCAC receives notices of proposed future acts from the Queensland Department of Resources (DR), Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) and the Department of Environment and Science (DES). Currently, CLCAC's Contact Person, with assistance from the Principal Legal Officer and PBC Support Services Officers, is responsible for receiving and processing notifications of all proposed future acts.

CLCAC works to ensure that registered native title claimants and/or Traditional Owner groups are notified of proposed future acts within their native title claim or determination area and encourages Traditional Owners to work with CLCAC to respond to these future act notifications.

Agreement Making

Consistent with our Objectives, CLCAC will become a party to an ILUA as set out in section 203BH of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), where this is necessary or convenient for realising the aspirations or furthering the interests of Traditional Owners.



Other Functions

Other functions performed by CLCAC during the reporting period include:

- Attending and participating in appropriate forums addressing native title and related matters;
- Providing a regular newsletter to update members, claimants and Traditional Owners on matters relevant to the progress of native title claims in our NTSP area for which we provide assistance and in order to wider promote understanding of native title;
- Conducting regular trips to Aboriginal communities in our NTSP area in order to consult with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal people about matters that might affect them, or which may have an impact on their native title rights and interests;
- Maintaining and updating a register of Traditional Owners and the lands, waters and/or seas to which they have traditional connections; and
- Assessing applications for assistance in accordance with CLCAC Policies and Procedures.



Organisational Structure

Membership

Membership of CLCAC is open to adult Aboriginal persons who have a primary affiliation with a Gulf Language Group. Members must be affiliated with one of the recognised nine Gulf Language Groups outlined below:

1. GANGALIDDA
2. GARAWA
3. GKUTHAARN
4. KAIADILT
5. KUKATJ
6. KURTIJAR
7. LARDIL
8. WAANYI
9. YANGKAAL

Board of Directors

An elected Board determines the Corporation's priorities in all Corporate, Policy and Operational matters, monitors the work of the Corporation, and oversees the conduct of the Corporation's affairs. The Board of Directors comprises of one member (or alternate member) from each of the nine Gulf Language Groups.

Staff Structure

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is based in Burketown and has responsibility for the day-to-day operation and administration of the Corporation. The CEO is assisted in discharging this responsibility by the Senior Management Group. Our staff fall within one of four Organisational Units:

- Corporate Services;
- Native Title Services;
- PBC Development and Business Support; and
- Land and Environment Services.



Outcome and Output Structure

The Output and Outcome Structure of CLCAC as a NTSP, is generally determined by the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth). Although the terms "Outcomes" and "Outputs" are not used in the Native Title Act 1993, CLCAC uses them as a means to measure performance. Thus, the principal outcome towards which CLCAC as a NTSP strives is the recognition and protection of native title in its NTSP area. This follows from the objects set out in s.3 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)

The overall strategic objectives that CLCAC aims for are consistent with CLCAC's Vision, Mission and Values:

- **OUR VISION:** To be the leader of sustainable Indigenous economic development in the lower Gulf region where our people are self-determined and empowered to take control of country, culture and their future.
- **OUR VALUES:** Unity, Leadership, Integrity and Commitment.
- **OUR PRINCIPLES:** In pursuing our vision and objectives CLCAC adheres to the following principles:

CLCAC's Board will continue to maintain equal representation for each on the nine constituent Traditional Owner groups	CLCAC's Board will continue to provide a credible and effective forum for regional discussion, planning and action..
CLCAC will support the cultural and economic aspirations of Traditional Owner groups .	CLCAC recognises the need to continue to strive for the recognition of native title and to assist Traditional Owners to protect and manage country
CLCAC will invest in the continued development of its people to build capacity within the region .	



CLCAC's overall Strategic Objectives for the reporting period were as follows:

KEY AREA OF OPERATION	OBJECTIVES
Accessible, responsive and well managed organisation	• Create further opportunities for Traditional Owners to engage and participate in our activities and programs • Share information about our programs and performance and let people know about how we will respond to future opportunities and challenges. Manage resources sustainably. • Manage resources sustainably • Develop staff to meet current and future needs and deliver services our clients need and are happy with.
Obtain positive determinations of Native Title and assist Prescribed Body Corporates	• Provide high quality professional services to secure native title or alternative settlement outcomes for Traditional Owners. • Assist Native Title Holders to protect their rights and interests and successfully access financial opportunities which may flow. • Support and foster PBCs to be self-sufficient, charting and managing their own direction. • Seek out organisations and supporters who share similar social investment objectives and build long term sustainable partnerships that will assist in these endeavours.
Country is well managed	• Be the best land and sea unit across Northern Australia. • Combine the best available science with traditional knowledge and practices. • Improve how we manage country and, in partnership with others, grow the range of services we deliver. • Encourage our community and others to take positive actions in relation to environmental sustainability and to lead by example.
Strong, sustainable region	• Support and foster regional development, entrepreneurs, enterprises and small businesses and help them establish in local and regional markets. • Collaborate with government, industry and others to achieve this objective and form partnerships to ensure success and a higher standard of living for all. • Encourage our community and others to take positive actions in relation to developing a strong and sustainable regional economy.



CHAPTER 2

REPORT ON PERFORMANCE

Native Title Output Summary:

CLCAC recorded the following native title outputs in 2023-2024

Total number of native title determination applications dependent on CLCAC for assistance in the reporting year	1
Number of native title determination applications where CLCAC provides direct legal representation	0
Number of new applications filed in the reporting year with CLCAC assistance	0
Number of registered determinations	12
Total number of non-claimant applications	0
Total number of compensation applications	0
Total number of registered ILUAs	25
Number of new ILUAs registered in the reporting year	1
Total number of native title determinations made by consent determination	9
Number of new native title determinations made by consent determination in the reporting year	0
Total Number of litigated native title determinations	3
Number of new litigated native title determination in the reporting year	0



ANALYSIS OF PERFORMANCE AGAINST STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

Strategy 1: Accessible, Responsive and Well-Managed Organisation

Objective – Create Further Opportunities for Traditional Owners to Engage and Participate in Our Activities and Programs

During this reporting period, CLCAC has met this objective by:

1. Providing representation for each of the nine constituent Traditional Owner groups and continuing to provide a credible and effective forum for regional discussion, planning and action;
2. Representing the interests of constituent Traditional Owner groups in State, Commonwealth and Local Government regional planning processes and responding to relevant government policy and legislative proposals;
3. Maintaining an up-to-date register of members;
4. Assessing applications for membership in an efficient manner and in accordance with our Rules; and
5. Posting regular news updates on our website, Facebook and Instagram,

Objective – Manage Resources Sustainably.

During this reporting period, CLCAC has met this objective by:

1. Ensuring compliance with The Corporation's Rule Book and reporting obligations under the CATSI Act;;
2. Development of new policies and plans to manage risk;
3. Holding regular Senior Management Group strategic planning meetings to ensure forward planning is undertaken and financial performance and budget compliance are regularly monitored; and
4. Preparing monthly budget reports which are monitored by Project Managers and the Senior Management Group.



Objective – Share Information About Our Programs and Performance and Let People Know About How We Will Respond to Future Opportunities and Challenges.

During this reporting period, CLCAC has met this objective by:

1. Holding three (3) meetings of the Board of Directors in 2023-2024, at which the Board was provided with strategic and technical advice and administrative support in order to make informed and transparent decisions in the interests of the nine (9) constituent Traditional Owner groups;
2. Fostering cooperative relationships with State, Local and Federal Governments. These relationships have continued to develop through the progression, negotiation and completion of the native title determination applications in the region; Regularly liaising with State and Local Governments, including the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI), Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), Burke Shire Council, Carpentaria Shire Council and Mornington Shire Council; and
3. Regularly liaising with State and Local Governments, including the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI), Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), Burke Shire Council, Carpentaria Shire Council and Mornington Shire Council; and
4. Regularly liaising with Federal Government, including the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and Department of Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Water.

Objective - Develop Staff to Meet Current and Future Needs and Deliver Services Our Clients Need and Are Happy With.

During this reporting period, CLCAC has met this objective by:

1. Developing individual training and development schedules;
2. Continuing to implement our Performance and Development Review for all staff with annual reviews; and
3. Consultation with clients to determine their current needs and future aspirations to factor into CLCAC's forward planning.



Strategy 2: Obtain Positive Determinations of Native Title & Assist Prescribed Body Corporates

Objective - Provide High Quality Professional Services to Secure Native Title or Alternative Settlement Outcomes For Traditional Owners.

Native title determination applications assisted by CLCAC in this reporting period were:

APPLICATION NAME	NNTT FILE NUMBER	FEDERAL COURT FILE NUMBER	DATE FILED
WAANYI PEOPLE #3	QC2022/008	QUD476/2022	25/11/2022

Waanyi People #3 – QUD476/2022 (QCD2022/008)

Waanyi Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC Native Title Claim

Following filing on 25 November 2022, Waanyi People's third native title claim was accepted for registration by the NNTT on 14 April 2023 and has since proceeded by way of confidential negotiations between the Applicant and the State of Queensland under Federal Court of Australia case management. Connection was accepted by the State during the reporting period and negotiations towards a consent determination continued.

Number of Corporation Meetings - 10

Number of Community/Claim Group Meetings – 2

Number of Future Act Matters - 6

Gangalidda and Garrawa Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

No present Native Title claims

Number of Corporation Meetings – 12

Number of Community/Claim Group Meetings – 2

Number of Future Act Matters – 7

Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

No present Native Title Claims

Number Of Corporation Meetings – 14

Number Of Community/Claim Group Meetings – 0

Number Of Future Act Matters - 0



Gkuthaarn and Kukatj Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

No present Native Title Claims

Number Of Corporation Meetings – 13

Number Of Community/Claim Group Meetings – 2

Number Of Future Act Matters – 5

Mpundwithal Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

No present Native Title Claims

Number Of Corporation Meetings – 6

Number Of Community/Claim Group Meetings – 0

Number Of Future Act Matters – 0

Objective - To Assist Native Title Holders Protect Their Rights and Interests and Successfully Access Financial Opportunities Which May Flow.

CLCAC assists Native Title Holders and Native Title Claimants in the region to protect Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and to mitigate the impact of future acts and other development proposals on native title rights and interests.

Future act notifications received by CLCAC during 2022-2023 were as follows:

Type of Future Act	Number of Notifications
S29 Notifications	15
Other future acts	3
TOTAL:	18



Objective - Support and Foster PBCs to Be Self-Sufficient, Charting and Managing Their Own Direction.

PBC Assistance - Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (GRAC) is the prescribed body corporate of the Lardil, Yangkaal, Kaiadilt and Gangalidda People, managing the rights and interests the subject of the determinations made in *Lardil Peoples v State of Queensland (QUD207/1997)* and *Lardil, Yangkaal, Gangalidda & Kaiadilt Peoples v State of Queensland (QUD7/2006)*.

The Capacity and Economic Development unit progressed its work on several fronts for the development of GRAC and its representative communities. At the forefront of these efforts is utilising the Capacity Building grant money for several essential projects. Firstly, the development of concept plans for the construction of an Operational Hub on the island. The hub will host a variety of services that would benefit GRAC and its subsidiaries on wide range of economic activities. They include a GRAC administration office, tourism hub, accommodation, ranger base, caretaker residence, keeping place and other facilities. These designs are approved by the GRAC board of directors. CLCAC will support GRAC Directors in conducting next stage consultations with the engineering firm and other partners to progress to development approval, quantity surveying and tender and funding preparation.

A second important development as part of the grant is the launch of GRAC's website. The website acts as a central platform for GRAC and its subsidiary WILSSED Pty Limited's (WILSSED) economic and cultural activities. The website also showcases

the GRAC communities' way of life and culture, facilitates transparency, and allows easy access to important information and resources for both GRAC members and external partners and stakeholders. Future activities such as land a permitting system, cultural heritage monitoring and a donations portal are planned and will be hosted on the GRAC website when implemented. The PBC unit is currently conducting desktop research and consulting with the GRAC Board in preparation to launch these project management activities in the upcoming financial year.

On the capacity development side, the board of directors successfully underwent a four-day intensive director training workshop with the National Native Title Council (NNTC) in Cairns which further strengthened the capacity and governance capability of directors. Consequently, the board made significant progress on a suite of governance policies and procedures. These include amendments to the GRAC Rule Book, WILSSED OHS & operational policies and GRAC governance policies and procedures.

Early in the reporting year the GRAC board recruited an administration officer, however that position unfortunately became vacant presenting an ongoing challenge.

The PBC Unit supported GRAC Directors in pursuing confidential negotiations with multiple private and government parties in relation to a range of exciting project opportunities linked to GRAC's Strategic Plan which are expected to lead to positive future announcements.

During the reporting period, the capacity of WILSSED was likewise advanced, through which both cultural and economic outcomes were achieved. Projects undertaken with CLCAC's support included Fish Trap Mapping in collaboration with



James Cook University and Endemic Fish Species Research in collaboration with Griffith University. An Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) agreement associated with the WILSSED Ranger group has been ratified, with a steering committee established to manage the important work to be conducted under the agreement.

For the new upcoming year, the PBC Unit is providing support towards a Stage II Capacity Building Grant which will promote various economic activities, including establishment of a Land Access Permit System, recruitment of a Cultural Liaison Officer, launching a food canteen and several other projects reflecting the aspirations outlined in GRAC's Strategic Plan.

During the reporting period CLCAC assisted the GRAC to:

1. Conduct general meetings;
2. Maintain a future act and a native title holder database;
3. Comply with its CATSI obligations, including holding its AGM;
4. Assisted the Directors obtain their Director Identification Number; and
5. Assist with ORIC reporting obligations.

Number of Board meetings assisted by CLCAC = 11

Number of GRAC Special General Meetings assisted by CLCAC = 2

Number of GRAC Annual General Meetings assisted by CLCAC = 1

Number of Training Workshops assisted by CLCAC = 4

PBC Assistance - Gangalidda and Garawa Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Gangalidda and Garawa Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (GGNTAC) was registered on 17 January 2011 as the RNTBC managing the native title rights and interests, the subject of the determinations made in Gangalidda and Garawa People v State of Queensland; Gangalidda and Garawa People v State of Queensland #2; Taylor on behalf of the Gangalidda and Garawa Peoples #1 v State of Queensland; Taylor on behalf of the Gangalidda and Garawa Peoples #2 v State of Queensland; Taylor on behalf of the Gangalidda People v State of Queensland (The Gangalidda People Pendine Claim); and Taylor on behalf of the Gangalidda People v State of Queensland (The Gangalidda People Konka Claim).

The Capacity and Economic Development unit progressed two infrastructure projects for GGNTAC. Firstly, the Operations Hub project advanced to the next phase which includes acquiring costings for engineered architectural drawings, quantity surveying, and project management costs of the construction phase which will propel it to a tender and grant funding ready stage. The second is for a commercial shed in Normanton wholly owned by GGNTAC which is used to host the Gkuthaarn, Kukatj, and Kurtijar Ranger Program managed by CLCAC in consultation with Traditional Owners. This project will enhance the PBC's asset whilst also enabling the expansion of the Ranger program and provide adequate office and storage facilities to ensure both staff and assets are suitably accommodated.



The Board of Directors attended a four-day training workshop in Cairns reinforcing their knowledge of governance, finance, and the responsibilities of being a Director. There was also a substantive financial analysis and training provided to the Board prior to the AGM which outlined the entire group entity structure, where the income is derived from, and where expenses are going as well as the forecast for the following 12 months. This provided the Directors detailed overview of their business structure and activities and clarified their responsibility to ensure things stay on track financially and how to look for warning signs.

Further accomplishments include successfully tendering for two grants during the 2023-2024 financial year. The first was to provide much needed equipment upgrades to the Yagurli Tours vessels and office, including a refrigerator and freezer following flooding, an outdoor setting for visitor seating and a new bimini and motor for the polycraft vessel. The second grant will provide fresh water drinking wells on GGNTAC land on the coast, being an area which is both culturally significant and the location where the Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers conduct turtle nesting surveys for prolonged periods of time. Preliminary discussions with NIAA for a Stage-2 Capacity Building Grant are also underway, which will build on the success of the first grant and provide further employment and project support opportunities to the Gangalidda and Garawa People.

Other accomplishments that CLCAC has assisted GGNTAC Directors to achieve include

- Employing an indigenous (Gangalidda) Administration officer who is enrolled in a Certificate III in Business Administration and has completed several units already;
- Acquiring Deductible Gift Recipient Status for GGNTAC RNTBC opening up further grant funding opportunities and philanthropic partnerships;
- Coordinating, under direction of the PLO, Native Title Compensation workshops hosted by the NNTC;
- Coordinating, under the direction of the PLO, native title holder meetings relating to future native title variation and compensation projects;
- Project managing a fee-for-service model between Yagurli Tours and the Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers to solve short-term staff shortages; and
- The revaluation of commercial properties to ensure they are adequately insured at replacement value.

During this reporting period CLCAC also assisted GGNTAC Directors to:

- Maintain a future act and native title holder database;
- Comply with its CATSI obligations, including holding its AGM;
- Obtain Director Identification Numbers; and
- Support the recruitment of a Chief Executive Office for GGNTAC.



Number of GGNTAC Board meetings assisted by CLCAC = 7

Number of GGNTAC Community meetings assisted by CLCAC = 2

Number of GGNTAC Special General meetings assisted by CLCAC = 2

Number of GGNTAC Annual General meetings assisted by CLCAC = 1

Number of Training Workshops assisted by CLCAC = 2

PBC Assistance - Waanyi Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Waanyi Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (GGNTAC) is the prescribed body corporate managing the native title rights and interests the subject of the determinations made in Aplin on behalf of the Waanyi Peoples v State of Queensland and Rockland on behalf of the Waanyi People v State of Queensland..

During this reporting period and consistent with requests received from WNTAC, CLCAC provided financial assistance to WNTAC to enable it to:

- Convene one Board of Directors, Annual General and Special General Meeting; and
- Engage consultants with a view to ensuring CATSI Act compliance.,

CLCAC liaised regularly with the PBC Board and provided a range of assistance when requested, including in relation to meeting notification, budgetary management of PBC Basic Support funding and undertaking a workshop with the Board of Directors to develop an IAS PBC Capacity Building grant application.

Number of WNTAC Board meetings assisted by CLCAC = 1

Number of WNTAC Annual General meetings assisted by CLCAC = 1

Number of Community meetings assisted by CLCAC = 1

PBC Assistance - Gkuthaarn and Kukatj Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Gkuthaarn and Kukatj Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (GKAC) manages the rights and interests the subject of the determination made on 29 September 2020 in George & Anor on behalf of the Gkuthaarn and Kukatj People v State of Queensland (QUD 29/2019).

CLCAC's Capacity & Economic Development Unit applied for, and were successful in obtaining, an IAS PBC Capacity Building grant from NIAA to assist with developing the capacity of the PBC over the next two years. A further NIAA Tourism Grant was approved for the development of indigenous-led tourism products. Policies and procedures will also be developed around tourism activity. This grant will see the establishment of a GKAC office in Normanton and employ a full-time administrator, greatly increasing the PBC's ability to manage day to day activities and administration as well as to autonomously keep and maintain the Corporation's books and records.

GKAC successfully applied for a grant for Gkuthaarn & Kukatj Language Cards, which will lead to development of a Digital Language App. The cards are already being used in the weekly language program delivered by Gkuthaarn and Kukatj representatives at the local primary school in Normanton.



GKAC's Board of Directors attended the NNTC's four -day PBC Governance Training workshop in June 2024, which was held for the first time in Normanton. Following this training, GKAC elected to itself become a member of the NNTC, strengthening the Directors' network of contacts and resources in the sector. GKAC's Co-Chairs were also invited to join the NNTC's PBC Steering Committee, with sponsorship for travel to meetings wherever in Australia they are held and providing the opportunity to learn how other PBC's are building capacity and pursuing economic opportunities and report back to the GKAC board.

Five GKAC Directors attended the AIATSIS 2024 conference in Melbourne, where numerous new contacts were made and valuable information was received in relation to not only PBC governance, but also land management, keeping places, cultural heritage activities and tourism opportunities (being key topics intended for inclusion in GKAC's Strategic and Economic Plans).

Five GKAC Directors attended tourism workshops in Mt Isa, gaining knowledge of current and emerging indigenous tourism practices and opportunities.

CLCAC assisted GKAC to participate in many successful proponent meetings this year, resulting in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and mining / exploration agreements. CLCAC also provided support with implementation of agreements, resulting in improved PBC capacity with cultural heritage survey and monitoring services and additional qualifications (Green and White Cards) being obtained by relevant individuals.

Ten of GKAC's Aboriginal Freehold lots in Normanton were surveyed during the year, in association with native title

holder aspirations around land use and development.

During this reporting period CLCAC assisted GKAC to undertake the following activities:

- Develop a future act and native title holder database and comply with CATSI obligations including holding an AGM
- Assisted the Directors and Alternative Directors to obtain Director Identification Numbers
- Managed all remote meeting logistics with GKAC;s relevant consultants and proponents to complete the following meetings and workshops within the PBCs annual Basic Support Budget.

Number of GKAC Board Meetings assisted by CLCAC = 10

Number of GKAC Special General Meetings assisted by CLCAC = 2

Number of GKAC Annual General meetings assisted by CLCAC = 1

Number of GKAC Community Meetings assisted by CLCAC = 2

Number of GKAC Capacity Building Grant Workshops assisted by CLCAC = 1

PBC Assistance – Mpundwithal Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC

Mpundwithal Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (MAC) is the RNTBC managing the native title rights and interests the subject of the determination made in *Rainbow on behalf of the Kurtjar People v State of Queensland* (QUD483/2015).

During this reporting period, CLCAC provided assistance to MAC in relation to:



- Acting as Contact Person for corporation and maintaining the corporation books and records, including membership registers and meeting records;
- Ensuring lodgment of documents with ORIC to ensure CATSI Act compliance;
- Preparing board papers, agenda, notices and assisting with all logistics for Board of Directors meetings, Annual General Meetings, Special General Meetings, and Native Title Holder Meetings.
- Ensuring the PBC provided instruction to legal representatives for native title and commercial matters, including in relation to objections and responses to future act notices;
- Managing the PBC Basic Support budget to ensure the basic obligations of the PBC were met;
- Assisting the PBC with setting up its bank account, ABN number and engaging accounting / bookkeeping services; and
- Supporting the Directors with consultations and a community meeting that endorsed a Rulebook change to reduce the number of Directors from 11 to 7, considered more reflective of the membership and more conducive to a manageable quorum for Directors Meetings.

Number of MAC Board Meetings assisted by CLCAC = 5

Number of MAC Annual General meetings assisted by CLCAC = 1

Number of MAC Special General Meetings assisted by CLCAC = 0

Number of MAC Community Meetings assisted by CLCAC = 0

Objective – Seek Out Organisations and Supporters Who Share Similar Social Investment Objectives and Build Long Term Sustainable Partnerships That Will Assist in These Endeavours.

The PBC unit has been cultivating strong relationships with partners who support our shared objectives. The key relationship that supports the delivery of the objectives of the Capacity and Economic Development unit is the Mount Isa office of NIAA.

Another notable key relationship cultivated during the reporting period is with the Indigenous Land and Sea Council (ILSC) given their interest in, and support for, infrastructure projects that will enhance the economic independence of PBC's in our region.

CLCAC shares a strong relationship with Gulf Region Economic Aboriginal Trust (GREAT) and values our shared objectives for Aboriginal economic development aligned to the aspirations of the region's PBCs, which each has Director representation on the GREAT board.

In Normanton and Mornington Island, an ongoing partnership with the local CDP provider, Bynoe Community Advancement Co-operative Society Ltd, has assisted CLCAC with recruitment to vacant PBC administration positions, meeting venue hire and catering for PBC meetings.

Our PBC team staff with Directors from four PBC's attended Director Training in Cairns and in Normanton that was facilitated by the National Native Title Council (NNTC). The NNTC has also been a source of guidance and wisdom for best practice approaches to PBC development.

Staff from the PBC unit attended a Carbon Market

conference in Cairns, where the team were able to network with the key agencies and representatives that support our PBC's native title aspirations. The key learning the team brought home from the conference is that the carbon market is evolving, and we have time to engage in this market in a manner that maximises the benefits for our PBCs.

Other key relationships that have supported our PBCs have been OSE Group and RLB Engineering who have assisted us with infrastructure feasibility and costings for grant purposes. We have had support from the State Department of Small Business, Training and Employment with the recruitment of administration staff to work in both GRAC and GGNTAC.

CSIRO approached CLCAC asking to consult on their water assessment program in the Lower Gulf river systems. The PBC team, with direction from the CLCAC Board, facilitated these consultations through our region's five PBCs. Working in partnership with CSIRO, CLCAC supported CSIRO's application for a research grant to ensure the consultations were adequately funded. Following months of planning, CSIRO will meet with our PBCs in July 2024. Prior to CSIRO meeting with our PBCs to discuss water assessments, CLCAC facilitated a Traditional Owner water meeting with representatives from our region's PBCs and ranger programs in June in Burketown. This meeting agreed upon a regional approach to vested water interest in our region.

With water in the Lower Gulf a key topic for the upcoming year, the PBC team is engaging with the State government to facilitate engagement with our PBCs on the upcoming review of the Gulf Water Plan.







Strategy 3: Country is Well Managed

Objective - Be The Best Land and Environment Unit Across Northern Australia.

CLCAC actively pursues opportunities to increase the capacity and skills of our rangers to enable them to deliver the best outcomes possible for Traditional Owners. CLCAC aims to continue to enhance our natural resource management operations at a regional landscape scale, and to position ourselves as a high-quality regional service provider. This approach requires coordination and collaboration of the ranger units, taking in all nine language groups, with permanent bases located at Burketown, Normanton, Mornington Island and Gregory.

During the 2019-20 financial year, CLCAC commenced a comprehensive review of the Land and Environment Program. The purpose of the review was to identify:

- Benefits of the program;
- Areas for improving efficiencies;
- Operational gaps including skills, capacity, resourcing;
- Workforce planning priorities and career pathways;
- Future risks, including external risks such as funding models, and recommending responses to these;
- Optimum resourcing and operating models; and
- Future opportunities for program expansion and sustainability, specifically opportunities for innovation, partnering and commercialisation of the program's competitive strengths.

An initial high level desktop analysis review of CLCAC's land and environment program was completed in November 2019. This was followed by a skills gap analysis to identify areas CLCAC would need to increase skills and capacity to expand the land and environment program and take on new and emerging opportunities.

A more detailed strategic review, requiring face to face consultation with key stakeholders in the Gulf region, was planned as the next stage of the project. However, after being initially delayed by COVID-19 lockdowns during the 2020-2021 reporting period, the consultant engaged to undertake the review was no longer available. The flooding events and staffing changes in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 further delayed the commencement of this process, however a consultant has now been engaged to deliver a 10-year Land and Environment Strategic Plan (2025-2035) by the end of February 2025.

The development of a Land and Environment Strategic Plan for CLCAC is intended to provide overarching prioritisation, guidance, direction and planning for the future of the Land and Environment Program and will build on current progress through established programs and initiatives. The plan will consider high level operational planning, infrastructure planning and funding strategies and will also identify the plans and strategies that will be required to support the delivery of the Strategic Plan (e.g. career development and training plan, resourcing plan, operational and business plans and detailed infrastructure planning).



Development of the plan will include undertaking background research to understand the context and identified aspirations and priorities for the nine language groups and the region regarding the Land and Environment program. There will be extensive engagement with CLCAC management and staff to understand current operations and future aspirations and inform the development of the Plan. The plan will also highlight how CLCAC and the PBC's can work together across various programs and economic development opportunities.

Objective - Combine the Best Available Science With Traditional Knowledge and Practices.

CLCAC's Land and Environment Program is recognised for innovation in combining Western science and new technologies with TEK. A combination of Western science and TEK continues to inform decision making and the implementation of our land and sea management activities.

The CLCAC Ranger program has become well renowned across Northern Australia for the development, planning and delivery of successful fire management on country. The CLCAC (Gangalidda-Garawa, Normanton, and Ngumari Waanyi) and Wellesley Islands ranger teams deliver tailored fire management at sites to reduce fuel loads, control woody weed infestations and enhance habitat for our native fauna and flora.

Controlled burns are also conducted to protect culturally significant areas and infrastructure, using a combination of traditional burning practices and modern scientific knowledge to inform fire management. CLCAC continues

to review, refine, and redevelop the Gulf Savannah Fire Management Guidelines to ensure the program delivers meaningful and targeted outcomes, and the guidelines continue to be a valuable planning resource for all land managers in the region.

Although no training courses were conducted over the financial year, promotion of the Jigjja Indigenous Fire Training Program was achieved through presentations to various groups.

CLCAC's weed management program remains on the forefront, utilising the expertise of specialised CLCAC staff and reviewing and updating treatment methods, equipment, and monitoring and evaluation. The CLCAC and Wellesley Islands ranger teams deliver up-to-date best practice management, ensuring effective and efficient use of resources to tackle invasive plants to protect the environment at a range of priority sites on Country as well as through the fee-for-service program. Species specific weed management plans are being developed for each locality, designed to help ensure robust, appropriate, and consistent treatment and monitoring methods are employed.

All Ranger teams are strategically working to expand and standardise biodiversity management through a regional approach. Regional plans for individualised management objectives (such as crocodiles, tidal wetlands, migratory shorebirds, invasive weeds, water quality, etc.) have been developed collaboratively, incorporating both TEK collated through discussions with Rangers and Traditional Owners and Western Science research and scientific expert advice, to improve monitoring and outcomes for native flora and fauna.



With increasing outside interest in irrigated agriculture and water extraction in Northern Australia, the Land and Environment Unit has launched a water quality monitoring program to gather baseline data and to identify any impacts to fresh and saltwater systems caused by contamination, altered waterflow, saltwater incursion into freshwater environments, and other measurable threats to water systems.

As part of this program, the rangers collected baseline data, coupling rigorous scientific methods with traditional knowledge of Gulf water systems. With support of scientists from Griffith University, water monitoring plans specific to each team have been developed and implemented within the ranger workplans, ensuring long-term program uptake and meaningful data collection.

We are in the process of securing further funding specific to this work, to expand the monitoring to include freshwater fish. Netting surveys will complement new technologies such as eDNA testing from water samples, providing insight on species present (including sawfish and invasives) and overall health of the freshwater fish populations across the lower Gulf region.

Objective - Improve How We Manage Country and in Partnership With Others, Grow the Range of Services We Deliver.

CLCAC's Land and Environment Program continues to have the support of all PBCs and claim groups in the region, who have confirmed that they wish CLCAC to continue to manage land and sea programs on their behalf.

CLCAC does not directly receive funding for the Wellesley Islands Ranger Program, which is funded by NIAA through GRAC's wholly owned and controlled entity, Wellesley Island Land Sea Social Economic Development Pty Ltd (WILSSED). CLCAC provides assistance with facilitation, administration and project-based support to the Wellesley Islands ranger Program, and both CLCAC and WILSSED ranger groups work closely to share skills and knowledge and to leverage training opportunities in the region. Information provided in this report on the outcomes of the Wellesley Islands Ranger Program is included to give a full overview of the Land and Environment outcomes in the region and has the full support of WILSSED Pty Ltd.

Achieving the vision and desired outcomes of a regional-based Land and Environment Management Program requires cooperation, commitment and resources from all levels of government, research institutions, the corporate sector and existing and potential partners. CLCAC has continued to attract a high level of funding assistance from both State and Federal Governments and other stakeholders in the 2023-2024 financial year.

CLCAC maintains membership of the Gulf Inshore Working Group and the most recent meeting discussions centred on the new gillnet-free areas in the Gulf of Carpentaria that took effect from 17 May 2024. The new areas include all waters within a defined area from the Northern Territory border east to Point Parker, including all waters around the Wellesley Islands. CLCAC has re-commenced discussions with the Queensland Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to develop a potential agreement regarding training and accreditation of CLCAC rangers to undertake



joint and fee for service compliance patrol work during the 2024-2025 financial year. These activities will focus heavily on compliance of commercial operators in both the inshore net fishery, gill net free zones, and the Commonwealth and State trawl fisheries in the lower gulf.

Currently CLCAC is in the process of establishing multiple marine based collaborative research projects which will support the review process of the Gulf of Carpentaria Marine Park between 2026-2028 with a view to seeing significant expansion of this area, a reduction in commercial fishing operations, and further protections for marine and coastal ecosystems in the Gulf.

The Wellesley Islands region harbors areas of significant environmental and cultural importance, comprised of submerged coral reefs, sandy seafloors, undersea pinnacles and a near-pristine coastal zone. Diverse and regionally important fish, marine turtle and seabird species thrive in the area.

Traditional Owner and community concerns over public access and use of sensitive areas, commercial fishing rights, and the lack of permitting and enforcement of environmental regulations throughout the Wellesley Islands region have been ongoing. WILSSED has been involved in discussions for years about ways to protect the high conservation, cultural and biodiversity values of the islands in the lower Gulf. WILSSED wants to ensure Traditional Owners and community members clearly understand the different options available for dedicating areas for legal conservation protection, what level of protection each type of nomination brings, and long-term implications for Traditional Owner rights.

CLCAC's continued membership of the National Feral Pig Action Plan (NFPAP) Implementation Committee and to chair its Indigenous Engagement Advisory Panel at the national level. The purpose of the committee is to "facilitate the delivery of feral pig management approaches on a national, regional and local scale, undertake stakeholder engagement, drive effective investment and raise awareness of feral pig issues". CLCAC is recognised as a leader in landscape scale, multi-tenure, integrated pest management of feral pigs and will be increasingly involved through the committee in demonstrating best practice methods and advising on the level of investment required to effectively manage feral pigs at a national scale.

Partnerships have been maintained between CLCAC, Australian Marine Parks and James Cook University (JCU). The NESP Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub and Australian Marine Parks are providing valuable funding for regional seagrass surveys. The rangers have worked alongside JCU Marine Scientists to map seagrass and other benthic habitat (e.g. corals, sponge beds) which will be used to produce baseline bilingual habitat maps for whole lower Gulf Region. Works planned for during 2024 and 2025 will cover the other lower gulf area through to the Northern Territory Border and benthic and surrounding meadows throughout the Gulf Islands.

Future collaborative projects to be funded through the NESP through to 2026 include dugong population surveys and health assessments, dugong genetic analysis to assess the size and health of the population, freshwater and marine sawfish work to collect genetic samples and undertake GPS tracking of the fish, and analysing historical data



collected on the health and value of significant Gulf reefs, and mapping reefs to guide future research, protection and management.

The partnership between CLCAC and the NESP Northern Australia Environmental Resources Hub led to additional funding being provided to conduct an on-Country ceremony to celebrate the successful nomination of the Wernadinga Flyway Site to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) by the Normanton rangers. This celebration was delayed in 2021-2022 and in 2022-2023, however an on-Country ceremony was held in August 2023, alongside a second Lower Gulf of Carpentaria Shorebird Stakeholder meeting.

The solid relationship with Col Limpus (Chief Scientific Officer – Wildlife and Threatened Species Operations) and the Department of Environment and Science (DES) helped with the delivery of a 2-year research program on marine turtles within the Wellesley Islands, finalised in June 2023. The Wellesley Islands rangers collected critical baseline scientific data on nesting marine turtle populations, nesting habitat, climate impacts, and marine debris and ghost nets. This work led to continuation and expansion of the project, with WILSSED receiving an additional two (2) years of DES Threatened Species Operations funding. Rangers are working collaboratively with CSIRO and marine turtle scientists to assess nesting population dynamics, turtle movement patterns, reproductive success and health baselines through intensive on ground surveys.

The CLCAC and Wellesley Islands ranger teams continue to deliver a range of fee-for-service activities, through contracts with Commonwealth Department of Agriculture,

Water and the Environment, Biosecurity Queensland, and local shire councils. CLCAC works closely with the Department of Agriculture under the National Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) regarding various biosecurity matters. As part of this collaboration, rangers inspect residential areas in communities across the lower Gulf to identify any potential diseases in fruit trees, infestations of weeds, domestic animal diseases and surveillance for other potential biosecurity risks such as Avian Influenza. Rangers also undertake coastal surveillance activities, playing an essential role in early detection of potential marine pests and identifying current marine debris hotspots. The teams are recognised for their commitment on delivering these activities. WILSSED is part of Biosecurity's Coastal Clean Up Advisory group and is working closely with Biosecurity and other selected ranger groups to help build this program.

CLCAC has continued to secure contracts through successful and well-established programs to manage feral animals and weeds with the Carpentaria Shire Council and Burke Shire Council. In 2023-2024, the Gangalidda & Garawa rangers delivered 1080 baiting through a fee-for-service contract with Burke Shire Council on six properties to reduce the impacts of feral pigs and wild dogs in the region covering an area of almost 1 million hectares. The Normanton rangers delivered 1080 baiting on 20 properties covering a vast area of over three million hectares through a contract with Carpentaria Shire Council.

The capacity of the ranger teams to deliver land and sea management is continually being improved through accredited and non-accredited training. Funds for training support continues to be provided from Waanyi Joint



Venture (WJV), with the 2018-2020 funding contract extended through 2022-2023 due to the excellent performance of the Land & Environment Unit and clear training outcomes of the program.

The Ngumari Waanyi rangers continue their journey towards fostering a strong and productive partnership with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). Their collaborative efforts are focused on the shared goal of effective management and conservation of Boodjamulla National Park (Aboriginal Land). Through dedicated teamwork and a deep commitment to the preservation of this pristine natural habitat, the Ngumari Waanyi rangers have been working hand in hand with QPWS, pooling their expertise and resources to deliver fire and weed management to ensure the park's ecological integrity and cultural significance are upheld. Representatives from CLCAC and WNTAC RNTBC sit on the Boodjamulla National Park (Aboriginal Land) Cooperative Management Council (CMC) to provide governance around activities undertaken within the park. Discussions with QPWS are ongoing with regards to the involvement of CLCAC and specifically Ngumari Waanyi rangers in all aspects of the park management and revising management practices to be more consistent with traditional management practices for the country.

Objective - Encourage Our Community and Others to Take Positive Actions in Relation to Environmental Sustainability and to Lead by Example.

We lead by example in the community by publicising the rangers' work and achievements in regular posts on the CLCAC and WILSSED Facebook pages, CLCAC website and articles in the quarterly newsletter. Rangers provide regular updates to Traditional Owners through Native Title, community and board meetings as well as participating in community events and NAIDOC week celebrations and maintaining relationships on-ground.

Rangers regularly visit all schools across the region to educate the next generation. Seasonally appropriate interactive presentations are provided in the classroom as well as fieldtrips, beach clean-ups and camps. These activities are thoroughly enjoyed by all participants, all ages included. The breadth and diversity of youngsters clamoring to be part of the program speaks well of the potential for the next generation in natural resource management initiatives.

Every kid in the region wants to be a ranger! School visits also strengthen the CLCAC ideal that being a ranger is a viable career path. The Gangalidda and Garawa rangers run a yearly knowledge transfer camp where visiting families partake in knowledge transfer activities such as cooking bush foods, shelter building and spear making. This camp provides an important platform for transferring traditional knowledge to community members and building the younger generation's interest in the land and sea ranger program.

The Wellesley Islands ranger team regularly delivers



presentations to the local school, as well as conducting regular community events (including NAIDOC) to raise awareness of current environmental issues such as invasive pests, animal disease, marine debris, recycling, threatened species and crocodile safety. In collaboration with a range of stakeholders, the team has developed a recycling program to help reduce the amount of plastic and waste that enters landfill or pollutes the local beaches. The success of this grassroots initiative is apparent, with additional collection points being installed, and ever-increasing amounts of recycling being removed each week. WILSSED has expanded their work program with the local Mornington Island State School, and regularly conducts field trips on Country to help teach students relevant topics in a more meaningful way outside of the classroom.

CLCAC and WILSSED work closely with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) under the National Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) regarding various biosecurity matters. As part of this collaboration, rangers have been trained by NAQS personnel to inspect residential areas in communities and beaches across the lower Gulf to assess animal health for infectious new diseases, detect infestations of weeds, and track levels of marine debris and monitor for potential new marine pests. This valuable service, along with specific community presentations and engagement, are important mechanisms for getting messages about biosecurity “out there” and educating the broader community on natural resource management issues affecting their area.

Land and Sea Management Projects Underway During the Last Year Were:

Nijinda Durlga Indigenous Protected Area for Gangalidda Traditional Country

The Nijinda Durlga IPA was declared in 2014 over an area of 250,000 hectares. This project enhances the capacity of the Gangalidda and Garawa rangers to care for country by expanding the range of conservation services offered in a culturally appropriate and inclusive manner and provides wages for an IPA Coordinator (Project Support Officer). This year saw ranger efforts focus on marine turtle monitoring, fire and weed management, feral animal management and marine debris clean ups along the coastline.

Kurtijar Sea Country Indigenous Protected Area for Kurtijar Traditional Owners

During 2022-2023 CLCAC was successful in securing funding to progress dedication of a Sea Country Indigenous Protected Area extending through coastal waters of Kurtijar country from the Norman River region to the Staaten River, including the coastal floodplains of Delta Downs Station. The Kurtijar Sea Country IPA covers an area of 4,250 square kilometres. This project enhances the capacity of the Normanton rangers to care for country through the employment of three (3) rangers and an IPA Coordinator and expanding the range of conservation services offered in a culturally appropriate and inclusive manner. The 2023-2024 financial year saw ranger efforts focus on planning, fire and weed management (prickly



acacia), erosion and saltwater incursion, seagrass monitoring, and marine debris clean ups along the Delta Downs coastline.

Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) Rangers - Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers (Based in Burketown) and Normanton Rangers (Gkuthaarn, Kukatj & Kurtijar)

This Project is funded by the Australian Government's National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) Indigenous Advancement Strategy (formerly administered through the Working on Country Program) to support nine (9) Indigenous ranger positions, six (6) in Burketown on the Gangalidda & Garawa team and three (3) in Normanton. Rangers work on their own land and sea country to undertake a range of natural and cultural resource management activities including:

- Weed and invasive animal management including the control of vertebrate pests (feral pigs and wild horses) and work to eradicate weeds of national significance;
- Monitoring and recording the effect of invasive animals and weeds on marine turtle nesting sites and freshwater wetlands;
- Traditional fire management on country and the continued application of fire management plans incorporating both western scientific best-practice techniques and traditional fire knowledge;
- Sea patrols, joint fisheries patrols, and collection of marine debris (including ghost nets);
- Facilitating the transfer and preservation of Traditional Knowledge and protection of culturally significant sites;

- Biosecurity patrol monitoring for possible introduction of foreign debris and associated pests; and
- Community engagement activities such as exchange visits, liaison with schools and other community organisations, and joint patrols with other agencies.

Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program – Gangalidda & Garawa Rangers (Based in Burketown), Normanton Rangers (Gkuthaarn, Kukatj & Kurtijar) and Ngumari Waanyi Rangers (Based in Gregory).

The Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program is funded by the Queensland State Government through the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI). The Program aims to build the capacity of Gulf Aboriginal communities to manage community resources, strengthen the local economy based on natural resource management and to preserve and promote the natural values of the formally declared Wild River catchments. The program enabled CLCAC to employ five (5) rangers in Burketown, five (5) rangers in Normanton, three (3) rangers in Gregory, as well as an Indigenous Ranger Coordinator for each team respectively during the 2023-2024 financial year. CLCAC was successful in securing funding for an additional ranger position to be based in the Burketown Ranger Unit and recruitment for this position was underway at the time of reporting.

The Program supports a range of on-ground activities including:

- Fire, weed, and feral animal management;
- Preserving key wetlands and ecosystems of high biodiversity



or cultural significance through activities such as weed and feral animal control and restoration works;

- Coastal wetland monitoring and marine debris surveys;
- Biodiversity monitoring to measure the success of management;
- Community and visitor education about cultural and natural values;
- Engaging Elders and Traditional Owners as mentors to familiarise rangers with cultural aspects of country;
- Developing partnerships with neighboring communities, landholders and research agencies to identify and preserve areas of high cultural and natural values and management practices;
- Erosion mitigation and restoration works; and
- Developing and implementing landscape fire regimes for biodiversity improvement on country and within communities, incorporating both cultural and scientific practices.

Indigenous Fire Management

CLCAC is continuing to build capacity within the regional ranger teams, using traditional fire management practices together with modern scientific knowledge to implement planned burning across the region. Primary objectives are to control the extent and severity of savannah wildfires as well as protect infrastructure and community. These practices reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to other land management objectives such as improved control of weeds, increased habitat suitability for species

and reducing fuel loads in fire-prone areas to help protect infrastructure.

The program includes a yearly fire management training week to build rangers' skills in fire management, production of an annual burn plan, planning workshops and communications with local stakeholders to collaboratively deliver on local fire management priorities, establishment or upgrading of fire breaks, pre and post fire plot monitoring to measure impacts and carrying out prescribed on-ground burns. This program has led to the improvement of community, building relationships with pastoralists, local councils, local fire brigades and volunteers, and other land managers across the region. The work is funded through various sources including IAS, IPA, DES, Queensland Rural Fire Service and the private sector.

Key outcomes include:

- The application of more ecologically appropriate fire regimes across bigger areas has led to improved protection of fire-sensitive plant and animal communities and improve habitat condition and resilience;
- An improvement in the connectivity, extent and condition of remnant vegetation through the active management and control of priority weeds (including parkinsonia, prickly acacia, rubber vine, leucaena and neem tree), creating a linkage between significant wetlands, pristine river catchments (previously declared Wild River Areas), priority remnant vegetation patches and National Parks in the region;
- Enhanced community engagement and participation in best-practice weed and fire management, particularly



for local Traditional Owner groups, Indigenous rangers and pastoralists; and

- Reducing fuel loads, decreasing the severity, extent, and frequency of large-scale, late season wildfires that negatively impact on native flora and fauna, infrastructure and the local community.

Feral Animal Control

The Gangalidda & Garawa rangers supported by the Normanton Ranger Coordinator continued annual aerial culling operations for large vertebrates in 2023–2024 throughout Gangalidda Country to improve wetlands and land condition.

CLCAC continues to highlight the effectiveness of the feral pig control program, including the reduction of environmental impacts, and seeks sustained investment for the control program as a member of the National Feral Pig Action Plan Implementation Committee and chair of the Indigenous sub-committee.

In April 2024, CLCAC was contracted by Aak Puul Nganatam (APN) Cape York to perform aerial shooting operations targeting feral pigs in Blue Lagoon, Aurukun, Queensland. This operation marked the inaugural fee-for-service contract for aerial feral animal control, a significant milestone for our program. Over six days, Ranger Coordinator Desmond Armstrong successfully conducted 10 flights, covering 2,168 kms and resulting in the control of 816 pigs

Biodiversity Monitoring

The Gangalidda and Garawa rangers continue to conduct biodiversity surveys at local fire and weed management sites to determine the presence/absence and abundance of native fauna. The surveys provide a measure of the health of the country the rangers manage and found that these areas support fire sensitive species and indicated the success of fire management objectives. It is intended to develop a field guide to aid these biodiversity surveys.

The WILSSED program continued biodiversity work on their Country through two standardised camera trapping surveys, targeting native and feral animal occurrence across different habitat types on Mornington Island, feeding into their developing dataset on local wildlife distributions. Rangers also conducted live trapping surveys at four sites on Mornington Island, assessing species of reptiles, amphibians, mammals and invasive animals present.

Marine Turtle Monitoring

Marine turtles are identified as one of the key priorities for management and conservation within the Wellesley Islands.

Building on the critical baseline information the rangers have collected over the previous five years and with a new two-year grant through the Department of Science and Innovation Threatened Species Program, WILSSED was able to undertake more targeted and intensive high-level research and monitoring of the significant turtle nesting populations in the Wellesley Islands. During 2023, rangers hosted a workshop to develop and design a sustainable



long-term turtle monitoring program collaboratively with CSIRO scientists, marine turtle experts, ecologists, a wildlife veterinarian and Traditional Owners.

An intensive 14-night survey was undertaken in Oct 2023 with a large collaborative team at the northern end of Mornington Island, with follow up nesting surveys being undertaken in December. The surveys were multi-purpose, assessing:

1. nesting turtle abundance;
2. nest and hatching success;
3. health, disease and contamination levels in turtles and in nests; and
4. nest predation rates; and 5) movement patterns of nesting female green turtles.

These surveys initiated the long-term monitoring plan developed for WILSSED, with intensive surveys now to occur annually. This is the first time any of these assessments has been conducted in the Wellesley Islands; they are critical to collect the information required for determining the trend of the local marine turtle population and impacts of climate change and predation.

The Gangalidda and Garawa rangers continued their annual marine turtle and knowledge transfer camp on the Gunnamulla coast in September/October 2023. Cultural knowledge was passed down to youth and the annual turtle track, nest, and adult nesting surveys ran for 17 consecutive days to coincide with the peak of the nesting season. The surveys play an important role in understanding the importance of the coastline to these threatened species and how to protect them into the future.

Water Quality Monitoring

Following a successful project between the Normanton rangers and Griffith University examining how impacts to Gulf rivers may impact food availability for shorebirds, CLCAC engaged the project researchers from Griffith University's Australian Rivers Institute to provide training to all ranger teams in water quality monitoring and to develop individualised detailed monitoring manuals for each region.

The Wellesley Islands rangers, Gangalidda and Garawa rangers, Normanton rangers and Ngumari Waanyi rangers have continued to implement the regional water quality monitoring program, assessing the health of waterways across the region. Teams now have established baselines of water quality and are conducting standardised routine monitoring twice annually (once during dry season, once mid-wet season) to assess for any changes. A total of 86 sites have been selected (across the four ranger groups) to determine if water sources are safe to drink, look for potential contaminants, understand impacts of runoff and assess saltwater incursion.

A finalised monitoring plan has been produced for Mornington Island and CLCAC, with the two subsequent mainland plans still in development.

Thuwathu/Bujimulla Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) for the Wellesley Islands

This program is funded by the Australian Government's National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) IPA Program, supporting the employment of three (3) ranger positions and one (1) Ranger Coordinator. The Wellesley



Islands Land Sea Social Economic Development Pty Ltd (WILSSED)'s Ranger Program was established in 2016 by the Gulf Region Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC) to implement the Thuwathu/Bujimulla IPA Management Plan across the Wellesley Islands. CLCAC provides administrative and project-based support to the Wellesley Islands ranger team.

Overall, the program delivered a range of on-ground land management activities including:

- A range of fee-for-service activities through partnerships with NAQS (delivering on biosecurity activities such as coastal and aquatic structure pest surveillance, marine debris and ghost nets monitoring and management, and animal health monitoring);
- Marine turtle monitoring and research to determine abundance, population trends, success of nesting, and threatening processes throughout the Wellesley Islands including commencement of a new marine turtle health and satellite tracking program collaborating with CSIRO and DESI;
- Fire management to protect infrastructure and the local community, reducing fuel loads and the risk of wildfires on Mornington Island;
- Community engagement and awareness of local environmental issues such as crocodile safety, marine debris, marine turtle, plastic pollution, threatened species conservation and fire/weed management through school visits and programs, local events and stakeholder engagement;
- Migratory shorebird counts to determine abundance and

habitat use on Mornington Island, and collect baseline data to support listing the Wellesley Islands as an East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network Site of international importance, and participation in planning workshops for the future of Migratory Shorebird monitoring in the Gulf;

- Weed management, specifically surveillance, treatment, eradication and monitoring of priority weeds and weeds of national significance; and
- Regular consultation and communication with Traditional Owners to record and utilise Traditional Knowledge, and to address local concerns as they arise and ensure the ranger program is working towards Traditional Owner aspirations.

Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) Rangers – Wellesley Islands Rangers (Lardil, Kaiadilt, Yangkaal), Based on Mornington Island

The Wellesley Islands ranger team has consistently demonstrated success in delivering a range of land and cultural heritage management, including targeted threatened species projects, weed and fire management, biodiversity work, cultural site management and restoration, and biosecurity surveillance while effectively engaging with external stakeholders, supporting the local community and undertaking research projects. Significant groundwork (such as training and skill building within the team, multifaceted project development and delivery, and establishing relationships) has been undertaken to ensure the program can continue to build sustainably into the future. Confidence in the program and the team's abilities is being recognised, and the Wellesley Islands rangers



received a significant outcome which has substantially developed the team's capacity and capabilities to deliver land management. WILSSED secured IAS funding that:

- Supports three additional ranger positions, bringing the team to seven (7);
- Provides essential assets including the delivery of a fit-for-purpose barge capable of carrying the team and equipment throughout all of the Wellesley Islands; and
- Expanded land and sea country management, incorporating all areas of the IPA not previously accessible to the team.







Strategy 4: Strong Sustainable Region

Objective - Support and Foster Regional Development, Entrepreneurs, Enterprises and Small Businesses and Help Them Establish in Local and Regional Markets.

Objective - Collaborate With Government, Industry and Others to Achieve This Objective and Form Partnerships to Ensure Success and a Higher Standard of Living for All.

Objective - Encourage Our Community and Others to Take Positive Actions in Relation to Developing a Strong and Sustainable Regional Economy

In 2023-2024, CLCAC continued to undertake a range of activities to support and foster social, cultural and economic development in the region, including:

- Identification of further opportunities and associated funding to support the development of indigenous tourism products in Burketown, including progressing the GGNTAC Hub infrastructure project from feasibility stage to grant preparedness;
- Ongoing support to the GRAC board and their plans for the redevelopment of a tourism site on Mornington Island with the negotiation of an occupancy license to a private investor to access the site for concept design work before substantive negotiations commence;
- Facilitation of a broad range of training and development including governance, Chairperson and Director mentoring and financial literacy to build Board capacity, including assisting CLCAC, GGNTAC and GRAC Directors attending a four-day National Native Title Council PBC Governance Training workshop in Cairns, and a similar NNTC four-day workshop for CLCAC, MAC and GKAC Directors in Normanton;
- Supporting the recruitment and mentoring of a Chief Executive Officer for GGNTAC funded by NIAA under Capacity Building grant funding;
- The engagement of Project Management Services to support infrastructure feasibilities for project costs to accompany grant applications for facilities in in Normanton and Mornington Island and success in securing grant funding to progress feasibility work on a facility in Burketown. These projects received assistance from GREAT and Century Environment Fund;
- Going live with the GRAC website to showcase the tourist options and educate the public on GRAC matters and life in the Wellesley Islands;
- Continued support of all five PBCs in CLCAC's region through the employment of project officers for each PBC to facilitate PBC capacity building projects, assist the PBC Boards with PBC compliance and report to funders on PBC development



- A successful funding application to NIAA on behalf of the Gkuthaarn Kukatj Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC to deliver a Capacity and Economic Development project over three years, which will focus on good governance, increasing operational capacity and progressing economic development opportunities;
- Progressing discussions with NIAA on behalf of MAC, WNTAC, GGNTAC and GRAC to develop Stage One or Stage Two PBC Capacity and Economic Development Program Grants;
- In partnership with GRAC, commencing preliminary workshops on a permit system for visitor access to Aboriginal land in the Wellesley Islands;
- Supporting PBCs to negotiate Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Agreements for various projects;
- Facilitating a Traditional Owner led water workshop held in June in Burketown with representatives from all 5 PBCs and all ranger programs to commence a conversation on agreed approach to water interests in the region;
- Securing sponsorship for Directors from each of our region's PBCs to attend the annual AIATSIS conference in Melbourne;
- Assisting fledgling PBC MAC with the set up of its trading structure including an ASIC trading company, an ABN and a bank account;
- With assistance from Bynoe CACS on Mornington Island, successfully supporting GRAC with the recruitment of a trainee administration officer;
- Facilitating a partnership between James Cook University and GRAC for a Wellesley Island Fish Trap restoration and mapping research project; and
- Assisting with the successful development and execution of the Jigija Fire Training indigenous cultural and intellectual property agreement between GGNTAC and CLCAC.



CLCAC
CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

40 years of CLCAC: 1984 - 2024



















Funding Sources

As a NTSP, CLCAC's Native Title service operations were funded in 2023-2024 by the National Indigenous Australians Agency through its Native Title Program.

This year, CLCAC also received grants from:

1. National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) for the management of the Njinda Durlga Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), Kurtijar Sea Country Indigenous Protected Area, Indigenous Ranger Program for the Gangalidda & Garawa and Gkuthaarn, Kukatj and Kurtijar Ranger units, Gulf of Carpentaria Connecting Culture with Curriculum project for the development of a junior ranger program, NAIDOC week activities and Strategic PBC Capacity Building for GKAC funded through the Jobs, Land and Economy Program;
2. Queensland Government's Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) for the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Programs based in Burketown (Gangalidda and Garawa Rangers), Normanton (Gkuthaarn, Kukatj and Kurtijar Rangers) and Gregory (Ngumari Waanyi Rangers);
3. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) for Indigenous Rangers Coastal Cleanup and Indigenous Rangers Capability Building projects;
4. Northern Gulf Resource Management Group (NGRMG), trading as Gulf Savannah NRM for Prickly Acacia weed management on Delta Downs Station;
5. Waanyi Joint Venture Pty Ltd (WJV) to deliver training services and for ongoing development of the Ngumari Waanyi Ranger program;
6. Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Partnerships, Communities and the Arts (TATSIPCA) for the purchase of PPE and camping equipment for the Junior Ranger project and NAIDOC week activities;
7. Queensland Community Fund (QCF) for installation of water wells at Gunnamulla; and
8. Gulf Regional Economic Aboriginal Trust (GREAT) for development of a concept plan for the GRAC Hub.



Funding Release Details for the Reporting Period Were as Follows:

FUNDING BODY	AMOUNT
NATIONAL INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS AGENCY (NIAA)	5 046,220
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION (DESI)	2,299,723
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY	247,375
NORTHERN GULF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GROUP (NGRMG)	47,586
WAANYI JOINT VENTURE (WJV)	189,838
DEPARTMENT OF TREATY, ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS, COMMUNITIES AND ARTS (TATSIPCA)	16,100
GULF REGIONAL ECONOMIC ABORIGINAL TRUST (GREAT)	37,750
CENTURY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (CEC)	50,000
QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY FUND	27,272
TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED	7,961,863





Factors, Events and Trends Affecting Performance

The single greatest factor that continues to affect CLCAC's performance of its objects and functions is financial resourcing for Support personnel in an ever-increasing competitive funding environment, impacting the Organisation's ability to expand its workforce to respond to increasing demands and take advantage of new and emerging opportunities. CLCAC has continued to experience the difficulties of attempting to perform a wide range of important functions with a limited budget. Other factors which have continued to affect CLCAC's performance include:

- The logistical and cost implications of working in remote locations;
- The remoteness of CLCAC's region;
- The "wet season" which affects CLCAC's ability to gain access to and perform work in large parts of its NTRB area for approximately four months per year and a major flooding event in March 2023 impacting the communities of Gregory and Burketown, cutting off roads within the region and limiting access to significantly large areas of native title land where CLCAC conducts operations, late into the dry season; and
- Difficulties recruiting and retaining suitably qualified and experienced personnel to key vacancies in a highly competitive employment market.

Significant Changes in Nature of Principal Functions/Services

There are no significant changes in the nature of CLCAC's principal functions /services to report.

Complaints

There were no complaints received by the Corporation in the 2023-2024 financial year. Any written complaints are referred to the CEO who assesses them. The CEO may refer the complaint to the Board of Directors or an appropriate person to manage the complaint resolution process within an agreed timeframe.

Likely developments

It is envisaged that CLCAC will continue its existing operations, subject to the receipt of ongoing funding from Government and other sources. It is expected that during the next three years, the principal activities of CLCAC will continue to be directed toward a focus on unresolved complex Native Title issues, finalisation of CLCAC's Land and Environment Program Strategic Plan to guide the further expansion of the regional Land & Environment Program, expansion of the PBC Support and Business and Economic Development program and toward revising CLCAC's transition to a Post Determination service delivery model.



Financial Performance and Position

CLCAC received an unqualified Audit Report for the year ended 30 June 2024.

CLCAC recorded a total comprehensive income for the year of \$1,181,087 (2023: \$306,243). This is largely as a result of the prepayment of legal fees for progress of native activities in 2024-2025 and revaluation of the Corporation's property, plant and equipment in the reporting period.

Total grant funding of \$9,169,091 increased compared to last year (2023: \$7,059,934) This is largely due to the success of CLCAC securing funding from NIAA for development of a Junior Ranger Programme and for a PBC Capacity Building Project for GKAC, from DESI for one-off asset and equipment purchases for the Ranger Programs, and DAFF for Indigenous Ranger Coastal Cleanup and Indigenous Ranger Capability Building projects.

Unexpended Grant Funding for the year ended 30 June 2024 from all funding sources amounted to \$2,768,705 (2023 \$3,975,932). The majority of unexpended grant funding relates to the Native Title Program, Kurtijar Sea Country IPA, PBC Strategic Capacity Building Projects, and Waanyi Joint Venture training funds and development of the Ngumari Waanyi ranger Program.

The corporation's net assets have increased to \$4,164,592 (2023: \$2,983,504). Working capital has increased to \$2,102,081 (2023: \$1,564,356).



Comparison of Financial Information – Native Title Funding Grant

The following table illustrates the comparison of financial information for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 in relation to the Native Title Program Funding Agreement:

NTSP FUNCTIONS (Funds utilised under Native Title Program Funding Agreement)	(1) ACTUAL 2022-23 \$,000	(2) BUDGET 2023-24 \$,000	(3) ACTUAL 2023-24 \$,000	(4) VARIATION 2023-24 \$,000
EXPENDITURE				
CAPITAL	-	15	15	(1)
CONTESTED LITIGATION	36	108	127	(18)
PBC SUPPORT AND TRANSITION FUNDING*	265	511	463	48
ACTIVITIES	1,278	2,135	1,938	197
CORPORATE	637	960	866	94
TOTAL	2,217	3,729	2,217	320
INCOME				
NATIVE TITLE FUNDING	2,273	2,421	2,421	-
SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING – WAGE DECISION & CPI INCREASES	170	73	73	-
OFFSET OF FUNDS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	1,417	1,649	1,649	-
ACTIVITY GENERATED INCOME:				
- INTEREST EARNED	4	5	19	(4)
- SALE OF CAPITAL ITEMS	-	-	-	-
- OTHER ACTIVITY GENERATED INCOME	2	-	6	(6)
- LIABILITIES NOT REALISED	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3,866	4,148	4,168	(20)
SURPLUS	1,649	419	760	(341)

Surplus

In relation to the Native Title funding grant, CLCAC has ended the financial year with a surplus of \$759,808 (2023: \$1,649,499).

CHAPTER 3

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

CLCAC's Corporate Governance is Structured as Follows:

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors consists of one representative from each of the nine gulf language groups in the lower Gulf of Carpentaria. The Chairperson of CLCAC is Mr Thomas Wilson. Election of the current Board of Directors was held

25 October 2023. The Rules of CLCAC require an election of Directors be held every two years and the next election is required to be held at the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

During the reporting period, CLCAC held three (3) meetings of the Board of Directors.

List of current CLCAC Directors and Alternate Directors at 30 June 2024:

GULF LANGUAGE GROUP	DIRECTOR	ALTERNATE DIRECTOR
GANGALIDDA	Murrandoo Yanner Jnr	Desmond Armstrong
GARAWA	Donald Bob	Lurick Sowden
LARDIL	Thomas Wilson	Grayson Williams
KAIADILT	Damien Gabori	Gerald Loogatha
YANGKAAL	Lawrence Burke	Michael Gavenor
KUKATJ	Hayden Tyrrell	Lawrence George
KURTIJAR	Joseph Rainbow	Xavier George
GKUTHAARN	Dianne Millwood	Paul Logan
WAANYI	Henry Aplin	Natalie King



Attendance Records – Board of Director’s Meetings 2023-2024:

*NR=Not Required, NA= Not Applicable

Director	Language Group	15-16/08/23	25/10/23	28/02/24
Murrandoo Yanner Jnr	Gangalidda	Yes	Yes	Yes
Donald Bob	Garawa	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marlene Logan (Retiring)	Gkuthaarn	No	NA	NA
Dianna Millwood (New)	Gkuthaarn	NA	NA	Yes (Part of meeting only)
Leanne Edward (Alt - Retiring)	Gkuthaarn	No	NA	NR
Paul Logan (Alt - New)	Gkuthaarn (Alt-new)	NA	NA	Yes (Proxy for part of meeting only)
Thomas Wilson	Lardil	Yes	Yes	Yes
Geraldine (Delma) Loogtha (Retiring)	Kaiadilt	Yes	NA	NA
Damien Gabori (New)	Kaidilt	NA	Yes	Yes
Hayden Tyrell	Kukatj	Yes	Yes	Yes
Joseph Rainbow	Kurtijar	Yes	No	Yes
Xavier George (Alt-New)	Kurtijar	NA	No	NR
Henry Aplin	Waanyi	Yes (16/08/23 only)	Yes	Yes
Lawrence Burke	Yangkaal	Yes	Yes	Yes



Contact Person

Apryl Ford was appointed to the position of Contact Person by the Board of Directors on 11th of August 2020 and remains in the position of Contact Person.

Senior Management Group

CLCAC has a Senior Management Group which meets regularly to discuss and plan operational matters. The Senior Management Group is comprised of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Deputy CEO/Corporate Services Manager (DCEO/CSM), Principal Legal Officer (PLO), Capacity and Economic Development Manager (CEDM) and the Land and Environment Manager (LEM).

The CEO of CLCAC is Rachel Amini-Yanner.

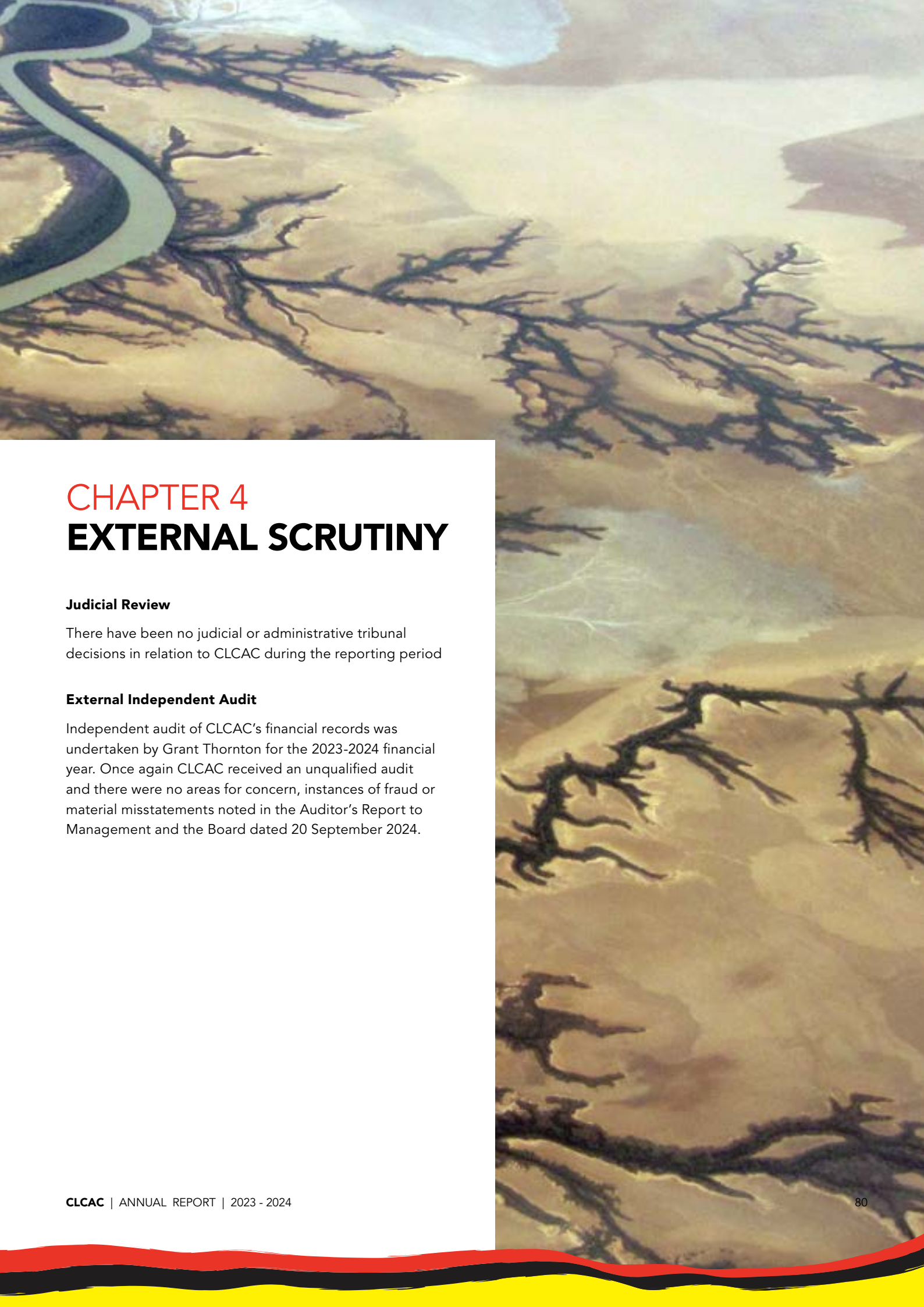
Remuneration of Senior Staff

Six employees received a salary of more than \$100,000 during the 2023-2024 reporting Period. CLCAC adopts a Salary Framework more in line with the Queensland State Public Service Award. Salaries are reviewed annually and may be adjusted in accordance with movements in relevant State Awards, subject to budgetary pressures and constraints. Salaries were reviewed and Salary Frameworks were adjusted in the 2023-2024 financial year

Policies and Procedures

CLCAC continues to adopt and implement the following policies and procedures in conjunction with its overarching policies and procedures manual to ensure the maintenance of appropriate ethical standards and to manage risk:

- Occupational Health and Safety Plan;
- Communication and Social Media Policy;
- Firearms Policy and Procedures;
- Guidelines for Assistance in Native Title Matters;
- Performance and Development Review Policy;
- Working with Children (Blue card) Policy;
- Parental Leave Policy;
- Alcohol and/or Drugs Policy;
- Employee Assistance Program Policy;
- Risk Management Policy;
- Pandemic Emergency Management Plan;
- Fraud and Corruption Control Plan; and
- Business Continuity Plan.



CHAPTER 4

EXTERNAL SCRUTINY

Judicial Review

There have been no judicial or administrative tribunal decisions in relation to CLCAC during the reporting period

External Independent Audit

Independent audit of CLCAC's financial records was undertaken by Grant Thornton for the 2023-2024 financial year. Once again CLCAC received an unqualified audit and there were no areas for concern, instances of fraud or material misstatements noted in the Auditor's Report to Management and the Board dated 20 September 2024.





CHAPTER 5

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Staffing Retention and Turnover

During 2023-2024 CLCAC continued to promote training and strived to retain and attract suitable employees to fill vacancies as they arose. CLCAC received new funding for one (1) female ranger position for the Gangalidda & Garawa Ranger unit. This was funded through State under the Land and Sea Ranger stream.

At the commencement of the reporting period CLCAC had six (6) positions vacant within the Land and Environment units. CLCAC managed to successfully recruit to all expect two (2) of these vacancies as well as any others that became available during the year through a combination of temporary and permanent placements. New staff were appointed to the following positions during the financial year:

Cairns Office:

- Land and Environment Manager
- PBC Capacity and Economic Development Officers x 2
- Senior Finance Officer
- Finance Officer
- Corporate Services and Project Support Officer
- Land & Environment Projects Support Officer x3
- Digital Content and Publication Officer

Burketown:

- Indigenous Rangers

Normanton:

- Indigenous Rangers

Ngumari Waanyi:

- Indigenous Rangers

As at 30 June 2024 CLCAC employed forty three (43) permanent employees and two (2) casual employees. There were six (6) vacant ranger positions and one (1) vacant Project Officer position in the PBC unit and three (3) full-time vacancies in the Corporate Services Unit. There was also a vacancy in the newly funded Junior Ranger Project Coordinator position.

CLCAC'S Staffing Levels (permanent positions) at 30 June 2024 were as follows:

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (1)			
CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT	NATIVE TITLE SERVICES UNIT	PBC CAPACITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT	LAND & ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT UNIT
CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER AND DEPUTY CEO	PRINCIPAL LEGAL OFFICER	PBC CAPACITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (1)	LAND & ENVIRONMENT MANAGER
SENIOR FINANCE OFFICER	COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER OFFICER	PBC SUPPORT SERVICES PROJECT OFFICERS (3) (1 VACANCY)	LAND & ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS COORDINATOR
FINANCE OFFICER	ADMINISTRATION & PROJECT SUPPORT OFFICER		RANGER COORDINATORS (3)
CORPORATE SERVICES & PROJECT SUPPORT OFFICER (VACANT)			HEAD RANGERS (3)
DIGITAL CONTENT & PUBLICATIONS OFFICER (VACANT)			RANGERS (17) (6 VACANCIES)
HR, OHS COMPLIANCE & TRAINING COORDINATOR			NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICER
PEOPLE & PAYROLL OFFICER (VACANT)			LAND AND ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS OFFICERS (4)
CORPORATE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION OFFICER			JUNIOR RANGER PROJECT COORDINATOR (VACANT)
5	3	4	30

Staffing Profile and Statistics

In keeping with the overall aims of the Corporation, CLCAC is pleased to be able to employ a high proportion of Indigenous staff. The following table shows CLCAC's staffing profile, including casual and part-time staff as at 30 June 2024:

	INDIGENOUS	NON-INDIGENOUS	TOTAL
MALE	21	9	30
FEMALE	5	10	15
TOTAL	26	19	45



Staff Training and Professional Development

Staff training and professional development continues to be a significant priority for CLCAC and CLCAC acknowledges the importance of setting work and training priorities to maximise the benefits to participating staff. CLCAC continues to rely heavily on Government and other funders to sponsor training and professional development for staff. CLCAC was able to secure ongoing contributions from NIAA and Waanyi Joint Venture during the 2023-2024 financial year to support further training for staff, offering a more technical skill base to increase their capacity to be able to progress to more senior roles and take advantage of current and emerging opportunities.

Through its succession management plan, CLCAC aims to train and encourage Indigenous staff to seek career paths within CLCAC so as to advance competent Indigenous employees to senior positions within the organisation and to build capacity for their PBC in readiness for future economic development opportunities.

CLCAC continually develops and seeks out specific programs aimed at:

- Targeting recruitment of Indigenous People for identified and general positions;
- Promotion of all employment opportunities through Indigenous community groups and Indigenous media; and
- Developing culturally appropriate training, mentoring and support systems

Native Title and Corporate Courses and Conferences

Staff from the Corporate Services, Native Title and PBC Development Services units attended the following conferences, workshops and training during the reporting period:

- AIATSIS NTRB Legal Workshop
- AIATSIS Native Title Summit
- 8th Carbon Farming Industry Forum
- ORIC Governing an Indigenous Corporation
- ORIC Managing Member Disputes and Conflict on the Board
- ORIC Governance Workshop
- Our Community Taking Minutes
- Our Community Artificial Intelligence and Governance online webinar
- NNTC Director & Contact Officer Training
- QCOSS Tender Writing Workshop
- Effective People Communications
- Time Management
- Resilience and Stress Management
- Psychosocial Hazards Awareness Training
- Communication Skills for Managers
- Time Management for Managers

- Managing People Performance
- Leading Teams
- Building Resilient Teams
- Supervision and People Management
- Discrimination, Bullying and Sexual Harassment Awareness
- Introductory MS Excel
- Cyber Awareness Training
- Leadership for Women workshop

Land and Environment Courses and Conferences

Staff from the Land and Environment Unit attended the following training courses and conferences:

- Effective People Communications
- Time Management
- Resilience and Stress Management
- Psychosocial Hazards Awareness Training
- Communication Skills for Managers
- Time Management for Managers
- Managing People Performance
- Leading Teams
- Building Resilient Teams
- Supervision and People Management
- Cyber Awareness Training
- RePL Drone Training
- 1080 Baiting including Qld Health licenses
- Cert I in Marine Operations – General Purpose Deckhands NC
- Cert II in Marine Operations – NC Grade 1
- First Aid in Remote Situations, including CPR & Defibrillation
- Recreational Marine Boat and Marine Radio Licences
- Firearms training, including Firearms and Weapons Safety, Aerial Shooting and Verification of Competency for existing trained personnel
- Water Quality Monitoring and Testing
- Fire Management Training – Level 1
- Marine Debris Training
- Units of competency toward Certificate II and III of Conservation and Ecosystem Management
- 4WD Skill Set
- Drone Mapping Training at Adelaide University
- Indigenous Rangers Coastal Clean up Conference
- QLD Disaster Management Conference
- Emergency Services Forum
- Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Roundtable Conference
- Northern Australia Biosecurity Rangers Forum
- National Feral Pig Conference
- QFES Regional Meeting
- QLD Rural Fire Summit

- Fresh Water Sciences Conference
- Australian Marine Sciences Association Conference
- 8th Carbon Farming Industry Forum
- National Inaugural First Nations Dingo Forum

Workplace Health and Safety Performance

There were no notifiable incidents recorded by CLCAC during the 2023-2024 financial year.

CLCAC is cognisant of and compliant with Workplace Health and Safety requirements and every effort is made to ensure that staff work in a safe environment at all times, whether in the office or the field. The Ranger Units each nominate a Health & Safety Representative and Deputy Health & Safety Officer and hold weekly toolbox meetings where any items concerning WHS is tabled. WHS is audited and monitored at all times to ensure that all CLCAC employees work in a safe and healthy environment.

Insurances - Indemnity and Insurance Premiums

CLCAC has maintained association liability insurance cover of \$5 million (\$10 million in aggregate) and public liability cover of \$20 million for the entire 2023-24 Financial Year.





CHAPTER 6

CONSULTANTS AND COMPETITIVE TENDERING AND CONTRACTING

Consultants

CLCAC relies on assistance from external contractors and consultants to achieve its objectives. CLCAC entered into 51 Consultancy Service Arrangements in 2023-2024. 36 contracts related to the provision of Legal Services, four (4) contracts related to Anthropological Service, three (3) Accounting and Financial services, and eight (8) contracts to other Consultancy Services.

Competitive Tendering and Contracting Practices

CLCAC has in place procurement procedures for all supplies of goods and services. These procedures ensure that contract specifications do not bias or predetermine the outcome in awarding contracts. All procurement activities are based on the core principle of value for money and are compliant with Commonwealth procurement guidelines and the Procurement for Activity clauses of the Funding Agreements.



CLCAC

CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

United we stand.

ABN 99 121 997 933 - ICN 268

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

2023-2024

Statutory Financial Report

Directors' declaration
Statement of financial position
Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income
Statement of changes in equity
Statement of cash flows
Notes to the financial statements
Independent auditor's report

Abbreviations

CEC	Century Environment Committee
CLCAC	Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
DES	Department of Environment and Science
GREAT	Gulf Region Economic Aboriginal Trust
GU	Griffith University
JCU	James Cook University
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Agency
NGRMG	Northern Gulf Resource Management Group
QCF	Queensland Community Fund
TATSIPCA	Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts
WJV	Waanyi Joint Venture Pty Ltd

General information

The financial statements cover Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation ("the Corporation") as an individual entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Corporation's functional and presentation currency.

Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation is a not-for-profit Aboriginal Corporation, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Its registered office and principal place of business are:

Registered Office and principal place of business

Suite 2, Level 1, 104 Mulgrave Road, Cairns QLD 4870

A description of the nature of the incorporated association's operations and its principal activities are included in the directors' report, which is not part of the financial statements.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 24 September 2024.

CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

In the opinion of the directors of Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation ("the Corporation"):

- (a) the attached financial statements and notes, set out on pages 2 to 23, are in accordance with the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Regulations 2017*, including:
 - (i) giving a true and fair view of the Corporation's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) complying with the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures, the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Regulations 2017* and any applicable determinations made by the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations under Division 336 of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*.
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Corporation will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors:

Dated at this 24th day of September 2024



Thomas Wilson
Chairperson
Cairns

CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
ASSETS			
Financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	4A	5,025,104	6,032,996
Trade and other receivables	4B	204,239	199,647
Other financial assets	4C	22,080	22,080
Total financial assets		5,251,423	6,254,723
Non-financial assets			
Prepayments	5A	1,442,027	597,647
Property, plant and equipment	5B	1,909,638	1,350,208
Right of use assets	8	1,639,625	1,598,742
Total non-financial assets		4,991,290	3,546,597
Total assets		10,242,713	9,801,320
LIABILITIES			
Payables			
Suppliers	6A	627,337	215,923
Other payables	6B	413,962	493,342
Contract liabilities	6C	2,768,705	3,975,932
Lease liabilities	8	1,732,256	1,669,103
Total payables		5,542,260	6,354,299
Provisions			
Employee entitlements	7	535,861	463,517
Total provisions		535,861	463,517
Total liabilities		6,078,121	6,817,816
Net assets		4,164,592	2,983,504
EQUITY			
Asset revaluation reserve		1,951,401	1,836,933
Retained surplus		2,213,191	1,146,572
Total equity		4,164,592	2,983,505
Current assets		6,693,450	6,852,370
Non-current assets		3,549,263	2,948,951
Current liabilities		4,591,369	5,288,014
Non-current liabilities		1,486,752	1,529,802

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
INCOME			
Revenue			
Revenue from grants	2A	9,169,091	7,059,934
Other revenue	2B	428,246	408,868
Total revenue		9,597,337	7,468,802
Total income		9,597,337	7,468,802
EXPENSES			
Employee expenses	3A	4,390,126	4,014,167
Suppliers	3B	3,494,564	2,893,936
Depreciation	3C	592,373	490,395
Finance costs	3D, 8	104,707	74,541
Total expenses		8,581,770	7,473,038
Results from operating activities		1,015,567	(4,236)
Finance income		51,052	10,094
Net finance income		51,052	10,094
Surplus (deficit) before tax		1,066,619	5,858
Tax expense	1.10	-	-
Net surplus for the year		1,066,619	5,858
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss			
Revaluation of property, plant and equipment		114,468	300,385
Total comprehensive income for the year		1,181,087	306,243

The above statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Retained surplus		Asset revaluation reserve		Total equity	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July	1,146,572	1,140,715	1,836,933	1,538,548	2,983,505	2,677,263
Total comprehensive income for the year						
Surplus for the year	1,066,619	5,858	-	-	1,066,619	5,858
Increase in asset revaluation reserve	-	-	114,468	300,385	114,468	300,385
Total comprehensive income for the year	1,066,619	5,858	114,468	300,385	1,181,087	306,243
Balance at 30 June	2,213,191	1,146,572	1,951,401	1,838,933	4,164,592	2,983,505

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
Services and grants		7,955,668	7,748,474
Other revenue		429,850	452,237
Interest		51,052	10,094
Total cash received		8,436,570	8,210,805
Cash used			
Employees and suppliers		(7,966,246)	(6,380,084)
Net GST paid to the ATO		(358,446)	(484,450)
Total cash used		(8,324,692)	(6,864,534)
Net cash from operating activities		111,878	1,346,271
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash used			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(624,648)	(96,534)
Total cash used		(624,648)	(96,534)
Net cash used in investing activities		(624,648)	(96,534)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Payment of lease liabilities		(495,122)	(360,197)
Net cash used in financing activities		(495,122)	(360,197)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		(1,007,892)	889,540
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July		6,032,996	5,143,456
Cash and cash equivalent at 30 June	4A	5,025,104	6,032,996

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Note 1: Summary of material accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all periods presented in these financial statements, unless otherwise stated. The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on the date shown on the directors' declaration.

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') and the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006. Because the Corporation is a not-for-profit entity and AASBs include requirements for not-for-profit entities which are inconsistent with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRSs"), to the extent these inconsistencies are applied, this report does not comply with IFRSs. The main impact is the timing of the recognition of grant income.

Historical cost convention

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, except for certain classes of property, plant and equipment which are stated at fair value.

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars, which is the Corporation's functional currency.

Changes to standards and material accounting policies

Standards issued but not yet effective

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted. A number of new standards and amendments to standards are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 July 2024, and have not been applied in preparing these financial statements. These are not expected to have a significant impact on the financial statements.

New and amended standards adopted

The Corporation has adopted all of the amendments to Australian Accounting Standards issued by the AASB which are relevant to, and effective for, the Corporation's financial statements for the annual period beginning 1 July 2023. The Corporation also adopted AASB 2021-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosures of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards from 1 July 2023. Although the amendments did not result in any changes to the accounting policies themselves, they impacted the accounting policy information disclosed in the financial statements. The amendments require the disclosure of 'material', rather than 'significant', accounting policies. The amendments also provide guidance on the application of materiality to disclosure of accounting policies, assisting entities to provide useful, entity-specific accounting policy information that users need to understand other information in the financial statements. Management reviewed the accounting policies and made updates to the information disclosed in Note 1 Material accounting policies (2023: Significant accounting policies) in certain instances in line with the amendments.

Material accounting policies

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

1.2 Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the incorporated association's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in note 1.12.

1.3 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

1.4 Property, plant and equipment

Recognition and measurement

Each class of property, plant and equipment is stated at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Items of property, plant and equipment are initially measured and recognised at cost. Cost includes expenditures that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset.

If significant parts of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, then they are accounted for as separate items (major components) of property, plant and equipment.

Plant and equipment and motor vehicles are subsequently measured on the revaluation basis, at fair value, in accordance with AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment. Leasehold improvements are measured at cost.

Note 1: Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

1.4 Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Recognition and measurement (continued)

Property, plant and equipment assets measured at fair value are revalued, with sufficient regularity, so as to ensure that the carrying amount of each class of asset does not materially differ from its fair value at the reporting date. This is achieved by engaging independent, professionally qualified valuers to determine the fair value for each class of property, plant and equipment assets. This process involves the valuer physically sighting a representative sample of the Corporation's assets, or undertaking a desktop review based on recent images provided by the Corporation, and making their own assessments of the condition of the assets at the date of inspection. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

Further details in relation to valuers, the methods of valuation and the key assumptions used are disclosed in Note 5.

Any revaluation increment arising on the revaluation of an asset is credited to the appropriate class of the revaluation reserve, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrement for the class previously recognised as an expense. A decrease in the carrying amount on revaluation is charged as an expense to the extent it exceeds the balance, if any, in the revaluation reserve of that asset class.

Any gain or loss on disposal of an item of property, plant and equipment (calculated as the difference between the net proceeds from disposal and the carrying amount of the item) is recognised in income or expenses.

Subsequent expenditure

Subsequent expenditure is capitalised only when it is probable that the future economic benefits associated with the expenditure will flow to the Corporation.

Disposals

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the incorporated association. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis to write off the net cost of each item of property, plant and equipment (excluding land) over their expected useful lives as follows:

	2024
Buildings	20 years
Plant and equipment	3-10 years
Furniture, fittings and equipment	3-8 years
Motor vehicles	4 years

Freehold land is not depreciated.

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted if appropriate.

1.5 Impairment

Financial assets

Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any allowance for expected credit losses. The Corporation applies a simplified approach in calculating expected credit losses (ECLs) which requires lifetime expected credit losses to be recognised from initial recognition of the receivables.

Non-financial assets

The carrying amounts of the Corporation's non-financial assets are reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists then the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. An impairment loss is recognised if the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its estimated recoverable amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the greater of its value-in-use and its fair value less costs to sell. As the entity is a not-for-profit entity, value in use is the depreciated replacement cost of an asset as the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and as the entity would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits.

Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Corporation prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. Due to their short-term nature they are measured at amortised cost and are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Note 1: Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Impairment (continued)

Contract liabilities

Contract liabilities represent the Corporation's obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer and are recognised when a customer pays consideration, or when the Corporation recognises a receivable to reflect its unconditional right to consideration (whichever is earlier) before the Corporation has transferred the goods or services to the customer.

1.6 Employee benefits

Liabilities for services rendered by employees are recognised at the reporting date to the extent that they have not been settled.

Defined contribution plans

A defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which an entity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further amounts. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as a personnel expense in the periods during which services are rendered by employees. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in future payments is available.

Other long-term benefits

The Corporation's net obligation in respect of long-term service benefits is the amount of future benefits that employees have earned in return for their service in the current and prior periods. The obligation is calculated using current wage and salary rates including related on-costs and expected settlement dates. Any actuarial gains or losses are recognised in expenses in the period in which they arise.

Short-term benefits

Short-term employee benefit obligations are expensed as the related service is provided. A liability is recognised for the amount expected to be paid under short-term cash bonus or profit-sharing plans if the Corporation has a present legal or constructive obligation to pay this amount as a result of past service provided by the employee and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Amounts expected to be settled within 12 months are calculated on current wage and salary levels and include related employee on-costs. Amounts not expected to be settled within 12 months are calculated on projected future wage and salary levels and related employee on-costs and are discounted to present values.

The short term liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave. No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and the average sick leave taken in future years by employees of the Corporation is estimated to be less than the annual entitlement for sick leave.

Leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration, including the Corporation's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

Termination benefits

Termination benefits are recognised as an expense when the Corporation is demonstrably committed, without realistic possibility of withdrawal, to a formal detailed plan, to either terminate employment before the normal retirement date, or to provide termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy. Termination benefits for voluntary redundancies are recognised as an expense if the Corporation has made an offer encouraging voluntary redundancy, it is probable that the offer will be accepted, and the number of acceptances can be estimated reliably. If benefits are payable more than 12 months after the reporting period, then they are discounted to their present value.

1.7 Provisions

A provision is recognised in the statement of financial position when the Corporation has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation.

1.8 Fair value measurement

When an asset or liability, financial or non-financial, is measured at fair value for recognition or disclosure purposes, the fair value is based on the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date; and assumes that the transaction will take place either: in the principal market; or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market.

Fair value is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming they act in their economic best interests. For non-financial assets, the fair value measurement is based on its highest and best use. Valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, are used, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

Note 1: Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Revenue

Revenue arises mainly from government grants.

Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue from contracts with customers is recognised by reference to each distinct performance obligation in the contract with the customer. Revenue from contracts with customers is measured at its transaction price, being the amount of consideration which the Corporation expects to be entitled to in exchange for transferring promised goods or services to a customer, net of goods and services tax, returns, rebates and discounts. The transaction price is allocated to each performance obligation on the basis of the relevant standalone selling price of each distinct good or service promised in the contract. Depending on the substance of the contract, revenue is recognised when the performance obligation is satisfied, which may be at a point in time or over time.

The Corporation recognises other revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the Corporation and specific criteria have been met for each of the Corporation's activities. The Corporation bases its estimates on historical results, taking into consideration the type of customer, the type of transaction and the specifics of each arrangement.

Revenue is recognised for the major business activities using the methods outlined below.

Services

Revenue from services is recognised in the financial year in which the performance obligations are considered met. For fixed-price contracts, the Corporation has determined that most of its contracts satisfy the overtime criteria, because the customer simultaneously receives and consumes the benefits provided by the Corporation's performance as it performs. The Corporation recognises revenue using the input method, based on costs incurred in the period for each performance obligation to be recognised over time.

Estimates of revenues, costs or extent of progress toward completion are revised if circumstances change. Any resulting increases or decreases in estimated revenues or costs are reflected in income or expense in the year in which the circumstances that give rise to the revision become known to management.

Interest

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

Other revenue

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

Contract balances

Contract assets are recognised when the Corporation has transferred goods or services to the customer but where the Corporation is yet to establish an unconditional right to consideration. Contract assets are treated as financial assets for impairment purposes.

Contract liabilities represent the Corporation's obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer and are recognised when a customer pays consideration, or when the Corporation recognises a receivable to reflect its unconditional right to consideration (whichever is earlier) before the Corporation has transferred the goods or services to the customer.

Grants and other contributions

Grants under AASB 15

Grants (other than certain capital grants) are accounted for under AASB 15 where the grant income arises from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations. As such, the revenue is recognised when each performance obligation is satisfied.

Grants under AASB 1058

Other grants, including certain capital grants, are generally accounted for under AASB 1058.

The timing of income recognition under AASB 1058 is dependent upon whether the transaction gives rise to a liability or other performance obligation at the time of receipt. Income under the standard is recognised where:

- an asset is received in a transaction, such as by way of grant, bequest or donation;
- there has either been no consideration transferred, or the consideration paid is significantly less than the asset's fair value; and
- the intention is to principally enable the entity to further its objectives.

Note 1: Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Revenue (continued)

Grants and other contributions (continued)

Grants under AASB 1058 (continued)

Assets arising from grants in the scope of AASB 1058 are recognised at the assets' fair values when the assets are received. Any related liability or equity items associated with the asset are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard. Once the asset and any related liability or equity items have been recognised, then income is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time the asset is received.

For transfers of financial assets (usually cash and/or a receivable) to the Corporation which enable it to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset, a liability is recognised for the excess of the fair value of the transfer received over any related amounts recognised. Related amounts recognised may relate to contributions by owners, AASB 15 revenue or contract liability recognised, lease liabilities in accordance with AASB 16, financial instruments in accordance with AASB 9, or provisions in accordance with AASB 137. The liability is brought to account as income over the period in which the Corporation satisfies its performance obligation.

1.10 Taxation

Income tax

The Corporation has been granted exemption from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

Goods and services tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax ("GST"), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office ("ATO"). In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as a current asset or liability in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as part of operating cash flows.

1.11 Leases

At inception of a contract, the Corporation assesses whether the contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. To assess whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, the Corporation uses the definition of a lease in AASB 16.

At commencement or on modification of a contract that contains a lease component, the Corporation allocates the consideration in the contract to each lease component on the basis of its relative stand-alone price. However, for the leases of property, the Corporation has elected not to separate non-lease components and account for the lease and non-lease components as a single lease component.

The Corporation recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, plus any initial direct costs incurred and an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located, less any lease incentives received.

The right-of-use asset is subsequently depreciated using the straight-line method from the commencement date to the end of the lease term, unless the lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset to the Corporation by the end of the lease term or the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the Corporation will exercise a purchase option. In that case, the right-of-use asset will be depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset, which is determined on the same basis as those of property, plant and equipment. In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any, and adjusted for certain re-measurements of the lease liability.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, the Corporation's incremental borrowing rate. Generally, the Corporation uses its incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate.

As a lessee

The Corporation determines its incremental borrowing rate by obtaining interest rates from various external financing sources and makes certain adjustments to reflect the terms of the lease and type of the asset leased.

Note 1: Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

1.11 Leases (continued)

As a lessee (continued)

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following where applicable:

- fixed payments, including in-substance fixed payments;
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- the exercise price under a purchase option that the Corporation is reasonably certain to exercise, lease payments in an optional renewal period if the Corporation is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, and penalties for early termination of a lease unless the Corporation is reasonably certain not to terminate early.

The lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. It is re-measured when there is a change in future lease payments arising from a change in an index or rate, if there is a change in the Corporation's estimate of the amount expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee, if the Corporation changes its assessment of whether it will exercise a purchase, extension or termination option or if there is a revised in-substance fixed lease payment.

When the lease liability is re-measured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in income and expenses if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to nil.

The Corporation presents right-of-use assets as a separate line item and lease liabilities within "loans and borrowings" in the statement of financial position.

The Corporation has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for leases of low-value assets and short-term leases. The Corporation recognises the lease payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

1.12 Critical accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

Estimation of useful lives of assets

The Corporation determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

Impairment of non-financial assets

The Corporation assesses impairment of non-financial assets other than goodwill and other indefinite life intangible assets at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the Corporation and to the particular asset that may lead to impairment. If an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. This involves fair value less costs of disposal or value-in-use calculations, which incorporate a number of key estimates and assumptions.

Employee benefits provision

As discussed in note 1.7, the provision for employee benefits expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the nominal value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date.

Note 2: Revenue and income

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Note 2A: Revenue from grants		
Grants under AASB 15		
Grants received - NIAA	5,046,220	5,630,605
Grants received - DAFF	247,375	-
Grants received - DES	2,299,723	1,920,809
Grants received - NGRMG	47,586	43,000
Grants received - TATSIPCA	1,100	1,000
Grants received - CEC	50,000	-
Grants received - WJV	189,838	150,000
Grants received - GREAT	37,750	-
Grants received - QCF	27,272	-
	<u>7,946,864</u>	<u>7,745,414</u>
Grants under AASB 1058		
Grants received - TATSIPCA	15,000	-
Contract liabilities / unexpended grant balances at the beginning of the year	3,975,932	3,290,451
Contract liabilities / unexpended grant balances at the end of the year	<u>(2,768,705)</u>	<u>(3,975,932)</u>
Total revenue from grants	<u>9,169,091</u>	<u>7,059,934</u>

Revenue from contracts with customers is measured based on the consideration specified in the contracts. Revenue is recognised when control over a good or service is transferred to a customer.

The following provides information about the nature and timing of the satisfaction of performance obligations in contracts with customers, including significant payment terms and related revenue recognition policies.

Grants (other than certain capital grants) are accounted for under AASB 15 where the grant income arises from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations. As such, the revenue is recognised when each performance obligation is satisfied. The performance obligations are varied based on the requirements under the relevant funding agreements and include performance obligations. Payment terms can vary depending on the terms of the grant. cash is received up front for some grants and on the achievement of certain payments milestones for others.

Each performance obligation is considered to ensure that the reconciliation of revenue reflects the transfer of control. Within funding agreements, there may be some performance obligations where control transfers as a point in time and others which have continuous transfer of control over the life of the contract. Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods, being either costs or time incurred are considered to be most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefits.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Note 2B: Other revenue		
Administration levy	46,653	43,948
Contributions for capital works	17,090	-
Liabilities Not Realised	-	5,067
Wages subsidy	7,299	50,000
Sundry income	356,754	286,035
Insurance claim payments	450	23,818
Total other revenue	<u>428,246</u>	<u>408,868</u>

Note 3: Expenses

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Note 3A: Employee expenses		
Wages and salaries	3,810,570	3,476,338
Superannuation	380,901	344,511
Leave and other entitlements	158,247	148,616
Recruitment	40,408	44,702
Total employee expenses	4,390,126	4,014,167
 Note 3B: Suppliers		
Motor vehicle expenses	246,202	230,892
Native Title implementation expenses	959,915	938,867
Repairs and maintenance expenses	101,780	75,617
Service expenses	595,761	398,461
Supplies	896,132	630,899
Travel expenses	669,279	595,187
Workers compensation premiums	25,495	24,012
Total supplier expenses	3,494,564	2,893,936
 Note 3C: Depreciation		
Property, plant and equipment depreciation:		
Buildings	43,315	42,681
Plant and equipment	72,994	58,395
Motor vehicles	35,000	59,690
Furniture, fittings and equipment	28,378	19,160
	179,687	179,925
Right of use asset depreciation:		
Buildings	132,092	140,510
Motor vehicles	280,594	169,960
	412,686	310,470
Total depreciation	592,373	490,395
 Note 3D: Finance cost		
Leases	104,707	74,541
Total finance costs	104,707	74,541

Note 4: Financial assets

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Note 4A: Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	5,025,104	6,032,996
Total cash and cash equivalents	5,025,104	6,032,996
 Note 4B: Trade and other receivables		
Goods and services	204,239	199,647
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	204,239	199,647
Less: Allowance for expected credit losses*	-	-
GST receivable from the ATO	-	-
Total trade and other receivables (net)	204,239	199,647
 *Based on an assessment of historical credit loss experience adjusted for forward looking factors, the expected credit loss % is zero.		
 Note 4C: Other financial assets		
Other financial assets	22,080	22,080
Total other financial assets	22,080	22,080

Note 5: Non-Financial assets

Note 5A: Prepayments		
Insurance	134,550	-
Legal Fees	1,294,753	597,647
Motor vehicle lease payments	12,724	-
Total prepayments	1,442,027	597,647

Note 5: Non-financial assets (continued)

Note 5B: Property, plant and equipment

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment (2023-24)

Class	Land and buildings ¹ \$	Plant and equipment \$	Motor vehicles ² \$	Furniture, fittings and equipment \$	Work in progress \$	Total \$
As at 1 July 2023						
Gross book value	928,334	596,844	275,270	227,552	-	2,028,000
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(753)	(387,395)	(135,271)	(154,373)	-	(677,792)
Net book value 1 July 2023	927,581	209,449	139,999	73,180	-	1,350,208
Additions:						
by purchase	13,646	228,611	-	102,349	280,042	624,648
Asset revaluations	60,016	-	54,452	-	-	114,468
Depreciation expense	(43,315)	(72,994)	(35,000)	(28,378)	-	(179,687)
Disposals:						
Disposal of assets in the ordinary course of business	-	-	-	(27,708)	-	(27,708)
Depreciation writeback for disposal of assets	-	-	-	27,708	-	27,708
Net book value 30 June 2024	957,928	365,066	159,451	147,150	280,042	1,909,638
Net book value as at 30 June 2024 represented by:						
Gross book value	967,897	825,455	294,721	302,193	280,042	2,670,308
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(9,968)	(460,389)	(135,271)	(155,043)	-	(760,671)
	957,929	365,066	159,450	147,150	280,042	1,909,638

The most recent comprehensive valuation of property, plant and equipment was carried out as at 30 June 2023. Property valuations were conducted by a registered, independent appraiser having an appropriate recognised qualification. Marine plant and equipment valuations were carried out by an independent marine broker having recent experience in the category of plant and equipment being valued. Motor Vehicle valuations were undertaken by the Corporation using published Red Book trade-in valuations for vehicles of the same make, model and year. Fair values were determined on the basis of market value.

1. Valuations of Buildings are indexed using CPI at 30 June 2024 for all Capital Cities.
2. Valuation for Motor vehicles are indexed using market values at 30 June 2024.

Note 5: Non-financial assets (continued)

Note 5B: Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Reconciliation of the opening and closing balances of property, plant and equipment (2022-23)

Class	Land and buildings \$	Plant and equipment \$	Motor vehicles \$	Furniture, fittings and equipment \$	Work in progress \$	Total \$
As at 1 July 2022						
Gross book value	916,547	583,260	374,030	189,177	-	2,063,014
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(42,327)	(454,740)	(297,519)	(135,213)	-	(929,799)
Net book value 1 July 2022	874,220	128,520	76,511	53,964	-	1,133,215
Additions:						
by purchase	27,835	30,323	-	38,376	-	96,534
Asset revaluations	68,208	109,000	123,177	-	-	300,385
Depreciation expense	(42,681)	(58,395)	(59,690)	(19,160)	-	(179,925)
Net book value 30 June 2023	927,581	209,449	139,999	73,180	-	1,350,208
Net book value as at 30 June 2023 represented by:						
Gross book value	928,334	596,844	275,270	227,552	-	2,028,000
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(753)	(387,395)	(135,271)	(154,373)	-	(677,792)
	927,581	209,449	139,999	73,180	-	1,350,208

The most recent comprehensive valuation of property, plant and equipment was carried out as at 30 June 2023. Property valuations were conducted by a registered, independent appraiser having an appropriate recognised qualification. Marine plant and equipment valuations were carried out by an independent marine broker having recent experience in the category of plant and equipment being valued. Motor Vehicle valuations were undertaken by the Corporation using published Red Book trade-in valuations for vehicles of the same make, model and year. Fair values were determined on the basis of market value.

Note 6: Financial liabilities

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Note 6A: Suppliers		
Trade creditors	627,337	215,923
Total supplier payables	627,337	215,923

Settlement is usually made in 60 days.

Note 6B: Other payables

Salaries and wages	26,465	27,253
Superannuation	31,556	44,005
Annual leave	276,239	258,047
PAYG payable	47,494	66,644
GST Payable	29,100	64,818
Other	3,108	32,574
Total other payables	413,962	493,342

Note 6C: Contract Liabilities

Earthwatch	-	68,605
NIAA	1,970,542	3,026,501
DAFF	381	-
DES	192,984	160,414
TATSIPCA	16,832	1,732
WJV	297,262	451,182
CEC	256,528	206,528
GU	619	8,984
JCU	619	8,984
NGRMG	7,790	43,000
GREAT	2,421	-
QCF	22,727	-
Total Contract Liabilities	2,768,705	3,975,932

Note 7: Employee entitlements

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Employee entitlements		
Long service leave	535,861	463,517
Total employee entitlements	535,861	463,517
Employee entitlements are represented by:		
Current	398,483	325,476
Non-current	137,378	138,041
Total employee entitlements	535,861	463,517
Long service leave provision movements		
Balance at beginning of financial year	463,517	382,574
Long service leave entitlement arising	78,607	94,590
Long service leave entitlement paid	(6,565)	(13,647)
Balance at end of financial year	535,861	463,517

The provision for long service leave represents the Corporation's best estimate of the future benefit that employees have earned. The amount and timing of the associated outflows is uncertain and dependent on employees attaining the required years of service. Where the Corporation no longer has the ability to defer settlement of the obligation beyond 12 months from the reporting date, liabilities are presented as current. This would usually occur when employees are expected to reach the required years of service in the 12 months from the reporting date.

Note 8: Right-of use assets and lease liabilities

	Buildings	Motor Vehicles	Total
Cost	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2022	1,331,218	582,113	1,913,331
Additions	-	380,328	380,328
Remeasurements	142,568	-	142,568
Disposals	-	(114,483)	(114,483)
Modifications	-	97,497	97,497
Balance at 30 June 2023	1,473,786	945,455	2,419,241
Balance at 1 July 2023	1,473,786	945,455	2,419,241
Additions	-	381,442	381,442
Remeasurements	61,406	-	61,406
Disposals	-	(447,355)	(447,355)
Modifications	-	10,721	10,721
Balance at 30 June 2024	1,535,192	890,263	2,425,455
Depreciation and impairment			
Balance at 1 July 2022	(167,271)	(457,243)	(624,514)
Depreciation for the year	(140,510)	(169,958)	(310,468)
Disposals	-	114,483	114,483
Balance at 30 June 2023	(307,781)	(512,718)	(820,499)
Balance at 1 July 2023	(307,781)	(512,718)	(820,499)
Depreciation for the year	(132,092)	(280,594)	(412,686)
Disposals	-	447,355	447,355
Balance at 30 June 2024	(439,873)	(345,957)	(785,830)
Carrying Amounts			
At 30 June 2023	1,166,005	432,737	1,598,742
At 30 June 2024	1,095,319	544,306	1,639,625
		2024	2023
		\$	\$
Lease liabilities			
Current		382,882	277,342
Non-current		1,349,374	1,391,761
		1,732,256	1,669,103
Movement of lease liabilities during the year			
Balance at 1 July		1,669,103	1,334,367
Additions		381,442	380,328
Modifications		10,721	97,497
Remeasurement		61,406	142,568
Lease payments		(495,122)	(360,197)
Interest		104,707	74,541
		1,732,256	1,669,103

The Corporation leases 2 premises for its offices and ranger operations under agreements of 5 years, with options to extend. On renewal, the terms of the leases are renegotiated. Office leases are remeasured annually in accordance with CPI review increases. The Corporation also leases 12 motor vehicles on 3 year terms.

Note 8: Right of use assets and liabilities (continued)

Terms and repayment schedule

The terms and conditions of outstanding loans are as follows:

	Nominal Interest Rate	Year of Maturity	Face value 2024	Carrying amount 2024	Face value 2023	Carrying amount 2023
Lease liabilities	6%	2023-2038	2,118,099	1,732,256	2,112,714	1,669,103
Total interest-bearing liabilities			2,118,099	1,732,256	2,112,714	1,669,103

Lease liabilities

Lease liabilities are payable as follows:

	Future minimum lease payments 2024 \$	Interest 2024 \$	Present value of minimum lease payments 2024 \$
Less than one year	477,878	94,996	382,882
Between one and five years	1,038,275	204,680	833,595
More than five years	601,946	88,167	515,779
	<u>2,118,099</u>	<u>385,843</u>	<u>1,732,256</u>

Note 9: Contingent liabilities and assets

The Corporation did not have any contingent liabilities or assets at 30 June 2024 (2023: nil).

Note 10: Remuneration of auditors

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Audit services		
Auditors of the Corporation - Grant Thornton		
Audit of financial statements - 2024	8,500	-
Audit of financial statements - 2023	25,500	6,000
Audit of financial statements - 2022	-	23,850
	<u>34,000</u>	<u>29,850</u>
Total audit services	<u>34,000</u>	<u>29,850</u>

Note 11: Commitments

The Corporation entered into a contract with Ocean Blue Boats to build 2 vessels totalling \$474,684. The initial cost of \$237,342 was paid in May 2024 and the remainder of \$237,342 is expected to be paid in the 30 June 2025 financial year (2023: nil).

Note 12: Related party disclosures

Key management personnel compensation

The key management personnel compensation included in employee expenses in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income is as follows:

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Short term employee benefits	466,899	449,411
Long term benefits	16,290	14,883
Post-employment benefits	49,256	45,528
	<u>532,445</u>	<u>509,823</u>

Key management personnel compensation includes wages and salaries, annual leave, superannuation, and other allowances and amounts paid by the Corporation during the year.

Transactions with key management personnel

In addition to their salaries, the Corporation also provides non-cash benefits to key management personnel, and contributes to a post-employment defined contribution superannuation fund on their behalf.

Loans to key management personnel

There were no loans to or from related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

Other key management personnel transactions

The aggregate amounts recognised during the year relating to key management personnel and their other related entities were as follows:

- Various directors of the Corporation were employed by the Corporation during the financial year and received total remuneration of \$222,440 (2023: \$351,942).
- Relatives of various directors were employed by the Corporation during the financial year and received total remuneration of \$251,680 (2023: \$191,475).

A number of the Corporation's key management personnel, or their related parties, hold positions in other entities. A number of these entities transacted with the Corporation during the year. The terms and conditions of the transactions with key management personnel and their related entities were no more favourable than those available, or might be reasonably expected to be available, on similar transactions to non-key management personnel related entities on an arm's length basis. The Corporation does not assess those key management personnel or their related parties as having significant control or influence over those entities.

Receivable from and payable to related parties

There were no trade receivables from or trade payables to related parties at the current and previous reporting date.

Note 13: Economic dependency

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which contemplates continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business.

The ability of the Corporation to continue its operations at current levels is dependent upon future ongoing funding being provided by Commonwealth and State funding bodies. The majority of this funding is provided on an annual basis. The Corporation believes that the necessary funding will continue to be forthcoming for the year ending 30 June 2025. Such funding and support from NIAA, the Corporation's main funding provider, has been secured until the period ending 30 June 2025.

Note 14: Events after the reporting period

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2024 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the Corporation's operations, the results of those operations, or the Corporation's state of affairs in future financial years.

Independent Auditor's Report

To the members of Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

Report on the audit of the financial report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (the Corporation), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies, and the Directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Corporation is in accordance with the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006, including:

- a giving a true and fair view of the Corporation's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b complying with Australian Accounting Standards – AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities and the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Regulations 2007 and any applicable determinations made by the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations under Division 336 of the Act.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Corporation in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

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Information other than the financial report and auditor's report thereon

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Corporation's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information available at the date of this report and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the directors' for the financial report

The directors of the Corporation are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Corporation or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Grant Thornton

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants

Helen Wilkes

H A Wilkes
Partner – Audit & Assurance
Cairns, 24 September 2024



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CARPENTARIA LAND COUNCIL
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION