

GROOTE ARCHIPELAGO LOCAL DECISION MAKING AGREEMENT

Progress Report
2018-2022



Anindilyakwa
Land
Council



NORTHERN
TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT



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Front cover image : Tony Wurramarrba AO, Chairman of the Anindilyakwa Land Council.

Inside cover image: Supporting economic development of the sea-country of the Anindilyakwa people is an objective of the Local Decision Making Agreement.

Images supplied by the Anindilyakwa Land Council, with additional imagery provided by Anindilyakwa Housing Aboriginal Corporation and Bush Fit Mob.

Community quotes sourced from the Northern Territory Government Local Decision Making report developed by Charles Darwin University:

Spencer, M., Christie, M., Boyle, A. (2022) Northern Territory Government Local Decision Making: Ground Up Monitoring and Evaluation - Final Report, Charles Darwin University, Uniprint



Anindilyakwa
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OVERVIEW

The Groote Archipelago Local Decision Making Agreement (the Agreement) was signed by the Chairperson of the Anindilyakwa Land Council and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory Government on 14 November 2018.

The Agreement is a nine year plan which identifies short, medium and long-term priorities for transition to regional and local control. The Agreement requires the development of detailed, specific implementation plans across the respective priority areas to establish the necessary steps to achieve the agreed outcomes.

These priority areas include:

- Economic development
- Law, Justice and Rehabilitation
- Education
- Housing
- Health and Wellbeing
- Local Government
- Sustainable Long Term Power Solution
- Future of Alyangula
- Regional Control of Other Services.

An important aspect of the Agreement is the requirement for Evaluation and Monitoring. The Agreement specifies that a report is to be developed by independent experts at the three year point, to provide an evaluation of:

- the extent to which the vision, objectives and outcomes of the Agreement have been achieved
- the views of Anindilyakwa people and their respective organisation
- progress of the Agreement against developed Implementation Plans and milestones therein.

The Ground Up Team at the Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University (CDU) were engaged to develop the Monitoring and Evaluation report on Northern Territory Government Local Decision Making (2018-2020), with a focus on obtaining community views in all sites with active LDM Agreements. The section of the report which focuses on Groote Archipelago was informed by a series of unstructured or semi-structured discussions with elders, Board members, Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC) staff and staff associated with the various implementation plans of the Agreement. Research was focussed on their experiences of being involved in the process, outcomes arising and what good local decision making means to them.

This 4 Year Progress Report has been prepared and agreed jointly by Northern Territory Government (NTG) and ALC, to incorporate findings from CDU's independent report and present progress updates from the commencement of the Agreement to date, as at November 2022.



Image: Jennifer Yantarrnga, Senior Ranger, Anindilyakwa Land and Sea Rangers.

FEEDBACK FROM ANINDILYAKWA TRADITIONAL OWNERS ON LOCAL DECISION MAKING

“Every decision made must come from us, so people see this and can support and follow us. It makes things easier. We know who we are. Is very different with other places around us, we know who we are.”

“Lot of changes been happening since LDM came in. Health, Justice, Housing, Education. Want to have a pathway for our future, make sure the young people know where they are and we have a steady purpose for them. LDM – keep it moving, make sure stays strong.”

“For us it is easy, we are on the island, it is easy to bring satellite towns in. Here everyone makes decision and move forward. Here we all speak up and try to make better change and living. We always listen to Traditional Owners and have consultation.”

“We took the opportunity with the Gunner government to take up local decision making agreements, because we could see an opportunity to get them to focus on those elements of our Strategic Plan, which we always knew we had to, to roll it out.”

“Local decision is easy for us to understand, it’s a big change and easier way communicating with each other. Do things in our community how we want, we are looking forward to this.”

“We know who to speak to. It’s easy to get in the same room, and make sure we have the right people to talk to.”

“We are standing on our own two feet, be who we are.”



GROOTE ARCHIPELAGO LOCAL DECISION MAKING AGREEMENT



Signed 14 Nov 2018

SHORT TERM

Law, Justice and Rehabilitation



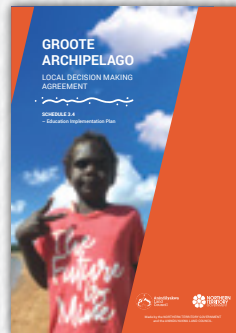
Signed June 2019

Economic Development



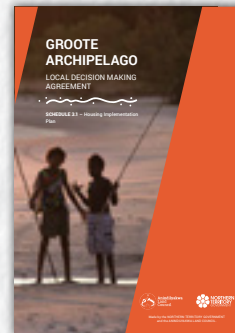
Signed June 2019

Education



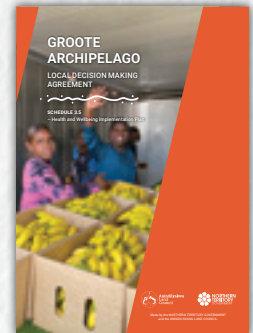
Signed April 2020

Housing



Signed June 2019

Health and Wellbeing



Signed Nov 2022

MEDIUM TERM

Local Government

Original due date: 30 September 2020. To be extended.

Sustainable Long Term Power Solution

Original due date: 31 December 2020 (subject to agreement with GEMCO). To be extended.

LONG TERM

Regional Control of Other Services

Original due date: 31 December 2023. To be extended.

Future of Alyangula

Original due date: 31 December 2026 (subject to agreement with GEMCO).

LAW, JUSTICE AND REHABILITATION

OVERVIEW

The Agreement outlines the outcome sought for Law, Justice and Rehabilitation. It is to increase the involvement and leadership of Anindilyakwa people in the justice system, including access to rehabilitative services.

[The Law, Justice and Rehabilitation Implementation Plan](#) was signed on June 2019 and outlines two actions to achieve this outcome. These are:

1. Establishing a Cultural Rehabilitation Centre/Alternative to Custody Facility.
2. Establishing a Community Justice Group.

A Law Justice Steering Committee comprising of the ALC, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice (AGD) and Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) has been established to provide oversight on the effective implementation of both projects and meets on a monthly basis.



ALTERNATIVE TO CUSTODY FACILITY/CULTURAL REHABILITATION CENTRE

An important part of the Alternative to Custody Facility (ATC) is the active involvement of Anindilyakwa people in the project at all stages, from development to construction to service delivery.

The ATC Facility will provide an avenue for Anindilyakwa men to receive culturally appropriate rehabilitation, services and support while remaining on Anindilyakwa country.

This facility will provide the courts and community with an alternative option to a term of imprisonment for eligible Anindilyakwa males, or those identified at risk of offending or re-offending.

Also being explored is an opportunity to bring together a concept of a work camp within the ATC Facility.



Figure 1: Map of Groote Archipelago and ATC Facility site location.



PROGRESS

The design and planning work for the Alternative to Custody Facility has been developed by the ALC, in consultation with AGD.

This work has gone out to tender and a number of contracts have been awarded. Tenderers for the construction of the facility have been assessed against their ability to engage and work with Anindilyakwa people, including those who are currently incarcerated away from Anindilyakwa country.

Largely due to COVID-19, construction costs over the past three years have increased significantly. Capital investment has been secured for a facility that will cater for 16 clients in the first instance.

In order to manage future expansion in the most affordable and seamless way, the ALC Infrastructure Department have developed an agile design that will allow seamless expansion of the facility to cater for 32 clients when required in the future.

All essential service infrastructure as mentioned above is planned for stage 1 investment to cater for 32 clients, although there will only be buildings to host 16 clients initially. The total construction time is 34 weeks and the facility aims to be operational by July 2023.

The Community Justice Group members will have a key role in working directly with government and relevant stakeholders to shape how the ATC Facility will run, including the services and programs to be delivered.

WORK AHEAD

- Funding opportunities
- Tender and construction phase will continue
- Tender process for ATC provider
- Identification of ATC service model, including programs and services that could be delivered in the centre
- Confirmation of referral pathways and eligibility criteria.



Figure 2: Project plans for the ATC facility.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE GROUP

The Community Justice Group (CJG) is being established to provide a holistic approach to law and justice. Community members want the CJG to provide a strong local voice on law and justice to help to rebalance the justice system to be fairer to local Aboriginal people and to improve community safety and wellbeing.

The CJG will be actively involved in the service design for the Alternative to Custody Facility, as well as bush courts, relationship and practice strengthening with Police, and building their own capacity through community legal education.

In addition to these areas, the CJG members will work in consultation with community to identify additional priority areas of law and justice to focus on and progress.

PROGRESS

In July to November 2020, Social Ventures Australia (SVA) facilitated consultations with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal community members in Angurugu, Umbakumba, Milyakburra and satellite communities.

Based on consultations, SVA proposed a model for membership, coordination and funding the Group, and identified an independent service provider to support the Group to become more established and to strengthen its capacity.

NAAJA were contracted to facilitate and build the CJG's initial capacity to drive implementation of reforms and programs with the outcome focussed on handing over full responsibility of the group in the future.

A Community Justice Manager was recruited in October 2022 and is based on Eylandt.

The CJG project has now transitioned from NAAJA to a localised model.



Image: Marble Point area looking across to Chasm Island, northern coast of Groote Eylandt.

Law, Justice, Rehabilitation IP signed	Community consultations on proposed CJG facilitated by SVA	SVA Report provided to ALC, NTG	NAAJA contracted to establish and facilitate CJG	Advertisement and recruitment of various CJG positions	Community consultations facilitated by NAAJA	Community Justice Manager commences on Groote Eylandt
JUNE 2019	JULY - NOV 2020	FEB 2021	JULY 2021	JULY-OCT 2022	JULY-OCT 2022	OCTOBER 2022

Figure 3: Milestones achieved to date for Law, Justice and Rehabilitation under the Agreement.





Image: Hanging Rock, Marble Point.

WORK AHEAD

Over the next 12 months, the Community Justice Manager and Local Coordinator will:

- Continue conversations with community members to confirm the core membership of the CJG.
- Convene and facilitate regular meetings with members of the CJG and maintain regular communication with members.
- Be a contact for the CJG in working with other stakeholders including Courts, Police, Diversion and other service providers.
- Help the CJG to plan and keep track of its priority areas of focus, and review these over time.
- Encourage active participation in the CJG, including support for others to take on roles as 'leaders' or 'community champions'.
- With administrative support, keep track of membership and participation of members of the CJG and ensure CJG members are remunerated for their participation.
- Contribute to meetings and work taking place in each community, for example by co-facilitating community meetings and providing updates on the work of the core members.

FEEDBACK FROM ANINDILYAKWA LEADERS ON LAW AND JUSTICE

"Takes time, depends on their feelings, their choice to come and join us. We negotiate, sit with families together – know which families to invite when becomes a big issue, find a way to make peace. The police were not there at the right time, we are the people that deal with the problem first. Amazing thing to see the work. See people going from being angry to hugging and crying"

"Need people to be here when they are finished [their jail sentence] instead of someone being on parole in Darwin. When they are there, they will get bored, do something and go back in there again. Boys are missing out on funerals. So many things are better to be here."

"Sometimes we find it hard with the police – we don't have any good relations with them. Not only when is big fighting from community, but sometimes can be elsewhere."

"Peacemakers should go and see other organisations about peacemaking works. Trying to get people in the middle sorting probs out. Instead of using weapons, they use words, talk more and find things out, do what we can."

"Justice camp will be good. Have to go and learn, have to go and help them. Some people might come back angry. Need plans for them. Tell them we need you guys, feed them with good things. Sometimes when they get all built up in head and go for fight. Need them to be clear and empty, not head full. Need to help them come back into Groote life."



HOUSING

OVERVIEW

The Agreement outlines the outcome sought for Housing as a single, sustainable, diverse and culturally appropriate community housing system across all towns and satellite communities in the Groote Archipelago that Anindilyakwa people control and take responsibility for.

[The Housing Implementation Plan](#) was signed on June 2019 and outlines three actions to achieve this outcome. These are:

1. Operationalise Anindilyakwa Housing Aboriginal Corporation, building its capacity and achieving registration under the National Regulatory System for Community Housing
2. Joint Housing Investment to reduce overcrowding and achieve agreed standard for transition
3. Progressive Transfer of Housing Assets to AHAC.



OPERATIONALISE ANINDILYAKWA HOUSING ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Anindilyakwa Housing Aboriginal Corporation (AHAC) was established in 2018 and is made up of mostly local staff, currently employing 12+ Traditional Owners.

The AHAC Board is made up of Anindilyakwa Traditional Owners, community representatives and independent experts to support strong governance of the organisation. AHAC offices have been established in Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra.

PROGRESS

In January 2021, AHAC achieved registration under the National Regulatory System for Community Housing as a Tier 2 provider.

AHAC commenced provision of Homelands Services to 40 houses in the satellite communities of Bartalumba Bay, Little Paradise, Malkala, Emerald River, Yenbakwa, Leskie Pools, Thomson Bay, Salt Lake and Four Mile in July 2020.

In October 2021, AHAC was awarded NTG select tender for 21 months to deliver Tenancy Management Support Services on behalf of the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities, and Remote Housing Maintenance Services on behalf of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to tenants living in public housing dwellings in the remote communities of Angurugu, Milyakburra and Umbakumba.

Awarding of the contracts to AHAC is an important step in capacity building and supports Anindilyakwa people to build, repair, maintain and manage their own homes, thereby providing safer, healthier remote housing. AHAC's current focus is undertaking inspections to get a better understanding of current housing stock, and what can be upgraded.

AHAC now manages between 350-400 houses, which is one of the largest community housing portfolios in the NT. In November 2020, new housing reference groups were established for each community. AHAC facilitates these meetings which are held in Anindilyakwa and translated to English.

WORK AHEAD

- Construction of an office extension at Angurugu to provide adequate space to meet operational requirements and a culturally appropriate meeting area.
- Ongoing review and development of the AHAC operating model, including Housing Reference Groups, to ensure Tier 2 registration as a community housing provider is maintained and AHAC continues to meet community expectations and commitments under the Agreement.



Image: Anindilyakwa Housing Aboriginal Corporation.

JOINT HOUSING INVESTMENT

The aim of this action is to reduce overcrowding, manage joint investment in existing and new housing stock, and achieve agreed and reasonable standards for progressive asset transfer to AHAC.

In December 2021, the Northern Territory Government and the ALC announced a new joint investment of nearly \$80 million under the NTG HomeBuild and Room to Breathe programs which will see 150 homes built or improved across the Groote Archipelago, and the development of subdivisions in Angurugu and Umbakumba.

From 2021-2026, as guided by the agreed *Groote Eylandt Housing Master Plan*, 76 new homes will be constructed under the HomeBuild and Groote Archipelago Housing programs and 40 lot subdivisions developed in Angurugu and Umbakumba. A further 74 existing homes will be extended across the Groote Archipelago under the Room to Breathe program.

PROGRESS

A select NTG tender was awarded to Aminjarrinja Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation and GEBIE Civil and Construction in November 2021 for three years for the delivery of Northern Territory Government Infrastructure in Groote Eylandt Archipelago communities, including:

- The demolition of various structures including Remote Community Housing and/or Government Employee Housing dwellings.
- Construction of new Remote Community Housing dwellings.
- Construction of new Government Employee Housing dwellings.
- Modification of existing dwellings.
- Upgrading various Remote Community Housing or Government Employee Housing dwellings.



Image: Transitional Housing, Angurugu.



HomeBuild program

Ten houses have been identified for replacement in Umbakumba and Milyakburra, with four demolished to date. Subdivision designs for Angurugu and Umbakumba have been completed and endorsed by the housing reference groups.

Room to breathe program

Throughout 2022, project plans for the Room to Breathe program progressed and construction activity commenced.

Eight transitional houses have been identified and renovated for families receiving upgrades under the program. In Angurugu, 82 additional bedrooms will be constructed over the duration of the program. As at November 2022, 22 bedrooms have been scoped across 16 homes and works commenced on 4 houses.

In Umbakumba, 18 additional bedrooms will be constructed with 17 bedrooms already scoped across 13 homes, with works having commenced on three houses in November 2022.

Groote Archipelego Housing program

The ALC has provided funding for the construction of 12 new Groote Archipelago Housing Program (GAHP) houses, with works completed in Angurugu, Umbakumba and Little Paradise.

Housing for Health program

AHAC entered into a partnership with Healthabitat and local service providers to deliver the Housing for Health program across all communities, with funding provided by the ALC. The project was completed in Milyakburra and satellite communities during 2020-21.

Under the Housing for Health program, extensive planning, surveying and testing work was undertaken using an evidence based methodology. This enabled assessment of immediate/urgent fix work, improved functionality of community housing and ultimately, improved health through the living environment.

WORK AHEAD

- The Northern Territory Government led development of 40 lot subdivisions in Angurugu and Umbakumba, as well as construction of additional housing in all three communities, as agreed under the Housing Implementation Plan, including: 7 houses in Milyakburra; 30 houses in Angurugu and 19 houses in Umbakumba. Negotiations are underway regarding the ALC co-contributing agreed top-up funding to ensure the houses are built to the GAHP standard, with consideration being given to unforeseen price escalations due to COVID-19.
- Ongoing review and development of the AHAC operating model, including housing reference groups, to ensure Tier 2 registration as a community housing provider is maintained and AHAC continues to meet community expectations and commitments under the Agreement.



Image: Groote Archipelago Housing Program, Little Paradise.

PROGRESSIVE TRANSFER OF HOUSING ASSETS TO AHAC

A key objective to achieve the agreed outcome for Housing is for AHAC to progressively take ownership and management responsibility for all current and new community housing across the Groote Archipelago.

PROGRESS

Anindilyakwa Royalties Aboriginal Corporation has transferred 28 houses to AHAC, with 29 houses currently in the process of being transferred to AHAC from other Aboriginal corporations.

WORK AHEAD

- Drawing on work underway for the transfer of NTG Urban Public Housing to AHAC, develop a framework meeting the unique requirements of the remote housing environment for the transfer of 265 Northern Territory Government Remote Public Housing dwellings in Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra over to AHAC, as well as newly constructed Remote Public Housing dwellings over time.



FEEDBACK FROM ANINDILYAKWA LEADERS ON HOUSING

"We've been seeing a lot of changes [around housing]. Maintenance reporting was pretty flat. But people have started hopping onto social media, now that maintenance requests going to us. So many requests, people are saying AHAC is getting things done. Now some people send photo, send to tenancy office, we send someone to help."

"Everyone is talking about what is happening here with housing. People are trying to do the same in other areas, and they come and visit us. Travel to lots of conferences and share the story."

"Now GEBIE, AHAC, NTG, Angurugu will come under one umbrella. People just come one office, everyone just come here. People can just pick up the phone and call if is a problem; or see our shirts."

"Major thing out of contract is houses beyond economical repair. [NTG] looked at Room to Breathe program and Home Build program, but didn't take into account existing housing stock beyond repair."

"We have been designing houses around what can be different and suit our lives. All about culturally appropriate housing – layout of house, interaction between family and who might be living there. Separate entrances and bathroom entrances and access so don't have to cross pathway. Whenever we start new things, we wish for culture to be there."

"New people come in local people, and we support with on the job training. For maintenance work can get up to Cert IV do all here. We tap into any available training through ALC, CDP. This is the best for us."

EDUCATION

OVERVIEW

The Agreement outlines the outcome sought for Education. It is a new community-controlled bi-lingual education system in the Groote Archipelago that allows for Anindilyakwa people to control and take responsibility for their own schools, with a curriculum to enable Anindilyakwa people to live in both worlds, facilitated with a single governance model for education.

[The Education Implementation Plan](#) was signed on 30 April 2020 and outlines key actions to achieve this outcome. These are:

1. Building an Independent Boarding School for students located in the Groote Archipelago that is to be owned and operated by Groote Eylandt Bickerton Island Primary College Aboriginal Corporation (GEBIPCAC)
2. Implementing a bi-lingual curriculum across the Independent Boarding School and the Anindilyakwa community schools
3. Establishing an ongoing program to develop and grow Anindilyakwa education workers to engage preschool-aged and school-aged children who are not in school, with the support of the Northern Territory Government, while considering interactions with Commonwealth programs such as the Remote School Attendance Strategy
4. Prioritising Early Childhood development and education as well as bi-lingual education for children aged 0-8 years
5. Community led governance.

GEBIPCAC, whose Board is emerging as a clan and moiety based representative body, are developing an integrated bilingual education system across the Archipelago with the Groote Eylandt Independent Education Authority, with an independent boarding school supporting community-led education.

The Department of Education (DoE) has appointed a Senior Administrative Officer to oversee and coordinate all aspects of the Education Implementation Plan (IP) linked to the Agreement. This role is responsible for liaising with regional stakeholders and coordinates the progression of each goal outlined within the Education IP.

Furthermore, DoE has established several working groups to support the progress of key elements of the Education IP.



INDEPENDENT BOARDING SCHOOL AT BICKERTON ISLAND

The Independent Boarding School at Bickerton Island, named Wurriyukwayuwa-Langwa College, will be established and operated by GEBIPCAC. 'Wurriyukwayuwa-Langwa' means that 'it is about all our children'. The name signifies that the College will be for all children from across the Archipelago, including those who are currently studying off-Eylandt.

The Wurriyukwayuwa-Langwa College aims to:

- develop strong parent and community engagement
- respect the old language and culture
- develop a happy and engaging learning environment
- cater for individual differences
- provide a balanced and culturally safe learning program
- utilise a moiety-based restorative justice approach for conflict resolution and guide students through a value system based on respect.

PROGRESS

The ALC successfully sought Commonwealth Government funding from the Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) in February 2020 to support phase one construction of the boarding school and accommodate 24 students in its initial stages of operation. To overcome unforeseen price escalations during COVID-19, further design work and planning for both phase one and phase two was undertaken. Both stages of construction will be completed together in order to generate cost efficiencies and expand the school to accommodate 48 students upfront, pending approval of additional funding sought from the ABA.

GEBIPCAC is in the process of obtaining independent school registration and, with assistance provided by DoE, have submitted all documents, including a project plan, funding model and financial sustainability plan for the independent boarding school.

GEBIPCAC aims to have the Independent Boarding School open with 24 students in Semester 1, 2024, at which time the school will focus on Years 3-6.

WORK AHEAD

- Registration and construction of the independent boarding school for students located in the Groote Archipelago.



Figure 4: Project plan for the Independent Boarding School.

IMPLEMENTING A BI-LINGUAL CURRICULUM ACROSS THE INDEPENDENT BOARDING SCHOOL AND ANINDILYAKWA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

An agreed objective for Education is the development of a bi-lingual curriculum for implementation across the Anindilyakwa community schools, Independent Boarding School (once established) and in early childhood education.

PROGRESS

The bi-lingual curriculum is being developed by GEBIPCAC to support student Anindilyakwa language learning. Community consultations were conducted in 2020 to inform and identify models for bi-lingual curriculum in community schools.

GEBIPCAC has made significant progress in developing the bi-lingual curriculum for early years, including the design and development of key elements of online components by the GEBIPCAC board, senior language workers and external consultants. DoE continues to provide support to GEBIPCAC for the development of the curriculum through access to the department's bilingual team, as the need arises, as well as facilitating access to other Northern Territory bi-lingual teams and developed resources shared at the bi-lingual workshops.

GEBIPCAC have also developed a community-led cultural induction project and process to support training for GEBIPCAC staff and interested Traditional Owners, and bi-lingual curriculum implementation. The pilot cultural induction plan was introduced to Groote Archipelago community schools in Term 2, 2022. Training commenced in July 2022, with 12 Traditional Owners now learning to read and write in Anindilyakwa and use the bi-lingual curriculum resources produced.

WORK AHEAD

- Prioritise development of local Anindilyakwa teachers.
- Establish bi-lingual working group to determine 2023 priorities, milestones and measurables.
- DoE to collaborate with GEBIPCAC and develop 2023 bi-lingual pilot for Anindilyakwa community schools.
- DoE to work with school staff to build capacity in Team Teaching in preparation for the implementation of the bilingual curriculum.
- Bi-lingual curriculum to be prioritised in schools 2023 Annual School Improvement Plans (ASIP).
- Establish DoE bi-lingual team visit schedule for curriculum support.



Image: Groote Eylandt Bickerton Island Primary College Aboriginal Corporation.



TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

The need to substantially increase the amount of Anindilyakwa staff working in Groote Archipelago schools (including in teaching positions) is identified as a key priority for Education under the Agreement.

PROGRESS

A Teacher Training Coordinator has been recruited and appointed to the role based on Groote Eylandt, with the aim of supporting the delivery of accredited and non-accredited training for future Anindilyakwa language teachers to work in schools and deliver the bi-lingual curriculum.

While formal pathways towards teaching are offered, including the Remote Area Teaching Education (RATE) program and a Certificate III in Educational Support, the Department of Education is exploring alternate pathways to identify, support and retain Anindilyakwa teachers.

Adult training spaces have been identified across all communities in the Groote Archipelago, and funding provided for participants in these teacher training programs to address any barriers preventing adult study.



Image: Ida Mamarika, Groote Eylandt Bickerton Island Primary College Aboriginal Corporation.

WORK AHEAD

- Establishing an ongoing program of Anindilyakwa education workers to travel 'on country' and engage both pre-school-aged and school-aged children who are not in school, with the support of the Commonwealth Government.
- Supporting GEBIPCAC to explore options and transition to community control over Learning on Country.
- Pipeline development and succession planning of Anindilyakwa teachers, in both the cross-curriculum delivery of the RATE qualification as well as Anindilyakwa language teachers.
- Team teaching professional development facilitated by local Teacher Trainer.
- Collaborating with GEBIPCAC for Anindilyakwa language teachers to learn the curriculum for team teaching with GEBIPCAC teachers.
- Collaborating with GEBIPCAC on pilot implementation and consistency of practice across schools.
- Establishing regular Anindilyakwa teacher workshops to improve teaching-related practices for curriculum delivery and improved student outcomes.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Parties have been working together to prioritise early childhood development and education for children aged from birth to 8 years, as part of the overarching governance model. The new *Connected Beginnings - Community Action Plan 2022-25* was co-designed with community, partners and stakeholders to create a shared agenda, priority activities and projects for better outcomes for the children of Groote Archipelago.

PROGRESS

DoE designated a Senior Administrative Officer to live on Groote Eylandt to lead and coordinate this work on behalf of the Northern Territory Government. A key achievement under this role has been the development of a clearly defined Early Years Quality Framework for all early childhood services across Groote Archipelago communities, focused on the Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Framework standards.

The framework is based upon strong and empowered Anindilyakwa children and families, strong connection to language, culture and country, health, safe and quality learning environments, with children being developmentally on track to learn in two ways. Community input will be continuous in quality assurance on the framework and implementation, with this work to be completed in early 2023.

Connected Beginnings continues the home visiting programs to support families and the community with their children's early childhood development. The Department of Education will also continue multi-sector collaboration toward a shared agenda, wider service system focus and agreed commitment for action to ensure children are school ready.

Data analysis of current attendance and engagement of children 0-8 years is underway, and will inform initiatives and activities proposed in the Education Engagement Strategy, which is in the initial stages of planning and development between DoE and GEBIPCAC.

From the outset, the Connected Beginnings Team supported by DoE, have integrated measures to build sustainability Ambakumurra-yada (Our Future) into the community co-designed *Community Action Plan 2022-25* to ensure human, physical and financial capital is in place for the long-term effort.

WORK AHEAD

- Progress early childhood development strategies for children aged 0-8. Support a service integration model with early years education and care services (Families as First Teachers programs, pre-school and transition) with Anindilyakwa families, community and organisations, and the Departments of Health, and Territory Families, Housing and Communities.
- Consultation and engagement processes will be two ways, with partnerships and ways of working to be developed and implemented to build on culturally safe partnerships.
- Finalise the Early Years Quality Framework including the Early Years Workforce Review.
- Re-establish the Groote Eylandt Early Years Governance Reference Group to support early childhood development, care and education.
- Draft the Community Engagement plan based on the *Starting Early for a Better Future* stakeholder engagement plan. Ways of working agreements, consultation and engagement processes will be co-designed.



ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY-LED GOVERNANCE MODEL

It was identified as a priority for Education that the GEBIPCAC and DoE work collaboratively to create a Groote Eylandt Independent Education Authority that is responsible for governance of all Groote Eylandt schools over time.

PROGRESS

In preparation for the Groote Eylandt Independent Education Authority, a consultant was procured to provide advice on amending the *Education Act 2015* to allow for Joint School Bodies.

Taking into consideration consultant recommendations, four potential pathways emerged:

- a new Joint School representative body
- transition to non-government sector
- a multi-school management council
- school amalgamation to become Independent Public School.

There are six key areas to be addressed and potential impediments to implementation of Local Decision Making, which would require amendments to the *Education Act 2015* and the *Education Regulation 2015*. These include:

- quorum requirements for decision making
- membership composition and number
- timing of Annual General Meetings
- establishment of parent consultative groups
- departmental policies and guidelines.

While this process is undertaken, a scaffolded approach could be taken with six key stages and milestones to support the transition to a Groote Eylandt Independent Education Authority:

Stage 1: Reactivate and support school councils.

Stage 2: Capacity building and training for local decision making in school councils.

Stage 3: Establishment of an interim governance body as outlined in community consultation, and working closely with GEBIPCAC and community on detailed governance structure requirements.

Stage 4: Consultant to develop a detailed implementation plan of an agreed governance model.

Stage 5: Implementation and transition support to the interim governance body.

Stage 6: Governance handover and transition from interim governance body to Groote Eylandt Independent Education Authority.

WORK AHEAD

- Continued capacity building and training for local decision making in school councils.
- Consultation with GEBIPCAC and community on detailed governance structure requirements to support the transition to a Groote Eylandt Independent Education Authority.
- Scaffolded and staged implementation to address key priority areas.
- Establish interim governance body.
- Establishing and sustaining a Groote Eylandt Independent Education Authority, under the *Education Act 2015* is a priority for all parties to support school management governance across the Archipelago.

FEEDBACK FROM ANINDILYAKWA LEADERS ON EDUCATION

“Our Bilingual Curriculum is very important for our Anindilyakwa wurriyukwayuwa so that they walk and see in two worlds. We need our kids to be confident to read and write in Anindilyakwa and in English as they are our future. We don’t want to lose our precious culture.”

“Every child matters, and all children matter. We have one ancestor and we all come from there. Not the same for whitefellas, you just focus on close family, yes? We are everyone. All people together, the extended family and the place. Working in health and in school to see that happening where children are proud and recognised. So, others can support us and recognise. See what was happening before and come back to that. That child needs to become themselves.”



Image: Angurugu youth watching cultural films at ALC Media Centre.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

OVERVIEW

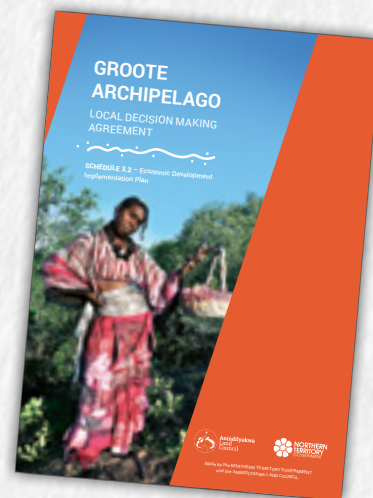
The Agreement outlines the outcome sought for Economic Development; it is a viable, culturally rich and sustainable two-stream (diversified) economy in the Groote Archipelago, not dependent upon mining royalty income, which is controlled by Anindilyakwa people.

[The Economic Development Implementation Plan](#) was signed on 19 June 2019 and outlines key actions to achieve this outcome. These are:

1. Improve Transport and Telecommunications Services.
2. Support Economic Development of the Sea Country of the Anindilyakwa people.
3. Implement a trial project for Oyster Aquaculture.
4. Establish a Fishing Cooperative.
5. Facilitated Project Support for Winchelsea Exploration and Mining Project and Other Projects.

Groote Holdings Aboriginal Corporation (GHAC) has been established to support and progress major projects that are being facilitated through LDM, including the Winchelsea Mine, aquaculture projects and Little Paradise development.

Comprehensive detail on economic development work is outlined in the Anindilyakwa Land Council *Invested in Our Future Groote* economic development plan.



IMPROVE TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

The parties recognise the importance of reliable and affordable regional air services, sea freight and intra-island road networks to support economic development. Similarly, reliable telecommunications have been identified as a priority for Groote Archipelago's economic development to support accessibility of the communities and satellite communities.

PROGRESS

The Telstra backhaul upgrade between the Groote Eylandt transmission to Katherine was completed in 2021 and has provided the following benefits:

- After the upgrade was completed, Telstra released a project to increase the existing available fixed broadband transmission backhaul at Groote Eylandt from 180Mb to +540Mb. This has benefited existing DSL customers in Alyangula, Umbakumba and Angurugu and allowed further customers to apply for new service connections.
- Local businesses and stakeholders on Eylandt can now request high end wideband products or increase the backhaul availability of their existing services as well.
- The transmission upgrade will now allow further mobile upgrades, as well as allow further high-cost enterprise solutions for the ALC and Mining industry on Groote Eylandt.

- The ALC has since implemented a private microwave network to connect community support sites between Alyangula, Angurugu and Umbakumba. This high speed secure/private radio transmission network will allow for the transmission of voice and data between connected sites on the Groote Archipelago and will be fundamental to providing high speed data and internet connections to support business process, community support offices and programs, data storage and service provision.
- In addition, the microwave network will be extended to both Bickerton Island and Winchelsea Island to support community activities and connectivity for the Winchelsea Mining production area and the Independent Boarding School.
- Telstra has advised that off the back of the fibre backhaul project, it has secured co-investment through the Australian Government Regional Connectivity Program for upgrades to the Angurugu, Milyakburra and Alyangula mobile phone 4G towers. This work will be undertaken in 2023.

AQUACULTURE

The Groote Archipelago has a long history of sea-based product trading. Anindilyakwa people would like to see a return to this traditional past by once again developing a thriving aquaculture industry based on contemporary and sustainable fishing practices using a combination of on land hatcheries and grow out farms.

PROGRESS

Groote Aqua Aboriginal Corporation (GAAC) was registered in June 2021. As aquaculture activities move from research and development towards a commercial venture, GAAC will be the entity responsible for managing the operations, potentially in a joint venture with established seafood exporters.

Several species are currently being considered for farming; sea cucumber (trepang); tropical rock lobster, seaweed and black-lip rock oyster. Research and development programs are underway and aim to provide clarity on potential commercialisation issues such as survival and growth rates, and harvest value.

Economic modeling and business planning to produce trepang and tropical rock lobster across the Groote Archipelago were completed in July 2021.

A black-lip rock oyster trial is underway in collaboration with the Darwin Aquaculture Centre as part of a Cooperative Research Centre for Developing Northern Australia project. There have been challenges with the Thompson Bay site resulting in the exposure of oyster baskets to extended heat and dry conditions. Approval was granted from Traditional Owners to move the oyster trial to Northwest Bay, where the lobster trials are also taking place. The transition took place in September 2022.

A new FlipFarm system is being trialed at the Northwest Bay site, allowing for semi-automated oyster growing in 100 baskets on floating lines (previously 27 baskets on a 30 metre line).

A self-sustaining Aquaculture Facility has been developed by GAAC, consisting of three shipping containers holding recirculated aquaculture systems. The facility is being used to conduct on-land growth trials on Groote Eylandt with tropical rock lobster and trepang.

The land-based infrastructure at Little Paradise (Bartalumba Bay) will include a lobster nursery, trepang hatchery, trial grow-out ponds and supporting infrastructure. The nurseries will house and rear the trepang larvae and nurse sea lobster (puerulus), before they are transported to sea-ranching facilities for production to a marketable size.



Three GAAC staff, including two Indonesian lobster specialists and an Australian aquaculture technician, were appointed in April 2022 and are based on Groote Eylandt.

Trials commenced in May 2022 to establish the viability of puerulus harvesting, provide advice on the size of the naturally occurring lobster puerulus population and its potential for future commercialisation. An NT Fisheries permit has been secured to perform the tropical rock lobster puerulus survey. Four pontoons have also been secured for Northwest Bay to support lobster harvesting.

Approval from Umbakumba and Northwest Bay Traditional Owners was granted to commence seaweed trials floating long lines, with a second NT Fisheries special permit secured in September 2022 allowing for seaweed production. The targeted seaweed species will be used for human consumption, animal feed and also for fertiliser to improve the soil quality on Groote Eylandt to support the production of locally grown food (rather than relying solely on imports).

Under the CDP program, traditional owner groups were shown through a newly developed aquaphonic (freshwater) system for fish and plant life in July 2022. The closed loop system is creating produce such as tomatoes, corn, basil, spinach, okra, lemongrass and flowering plants such as marigold and sunflowers to support pollination and is being utilised as a community project.

GAAC are in the planning stages to provide the local community with fresh seafood (currently there is no fresh fish available on Eylandt with only imported fish available to purchase from the supermarket). Next steps involve applying for an Aboriginal Coastal Licence (fishing licence) and a retail/processing licence.



*Images: Groote Aqua Aboriginal Corporation
trepang/sea cucumber farming.*



Image: Anindilyakwa Land and Sea Rangers and Groote Holdings Aboriginal Corporation removing a 4 tonne ghost net from Groote Archipelago waters.

WORK AHEAD

- GAAC is working on an application for an aquaculture licence and environmental approval to allow future commercial production and the breeding of marine animals.
- GAAC to apply for an Aboriginal Coastal Licence (fishing licence) and a retail/processing licence.
- Locate different aquaculture species in Groote Archipelago, including green sea caviar or sea grapes (Caulerpa Genus) which can now be farmed under the NT Fisheries permit.
- Commence domestication of seaweed on-land at the Aquaculture Facility.
- Explore opportunities to visit community schools with aquaphonic systems to involve Anindilyakwa children in aquaculture.



FACILITATED PROJECT SUPPORT FOR WINCHELSEA EXPLORATION AND MINING PROJECT AND OTHER PROJECTS

WINCHELSEA MINE

The Winchelsea Mining Project is a joint venture between the Anindilyakwa Advancement Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC) and AUS China International Mining Pty Ltd. The project is Anindilyakwa majority-owned, by the Traditional Owners of Akwamburrkba (Winchelsea Island).

Winchelsea Mining Pty Ltd is proposing to develop and operate a new open cut manganese mine on Winchelsea Island about 600 km southeast of Darwin. The proposed mine is based on Akwamurrka in the Groote Archipelago and lies just off the north-west coast of the main island.

Akwamburrkba has an area of around 50km² and is traditional Bara and Jaragba clan country, but is managed on their behalf by the ALC. Access is via boat to a purpose built barge loading causeway on the western side of the island.

The mine development heavily involves the Traditional Owners and underpins key actions of the Anindilyakwa Land Council's *Invested in Our Future Groote* economic development plan.

The core vision of the project is to raise enough revenue to permanently support the economic and social future of all Anindilyakwa speaking clans of the Groote Archipelago.

PROGRESS

Exploration Licence EL27521 was granted on 21 December 2018 for a period of six years to explore for manganese on Winchelsea Island. The licence covers over 20 square kilometres, with the remainder of the island being under another Winchelsea Exploration Licence application EL32022 (26.89km²).

Winchelsea Mining Pty Ltd (Winchelsea Mining) commenced an exploration program in 2019. A significant manganese resource (Mn) was discovered and is being evaluated with the potential to successfully develop the project through to mine production. Several smaller deposits were also identified to the north of the main deposit.

The Mining Agreement between the Anindilyakwa Land Council and Winchelsea Mining was completed in April 2021. The Mineral Lease 32704 was granted on 25 March 2022 for a period of 30 years. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared and expected to be submitted early 2023. A Mining Management Plan will be developed once the EIS process is complete.

Further refinement based on high-level mining economics has suggested that there exists a potentially mineable high-grade Mn resource that can be readily sold into existing markets. A final feasibility study has been developed to explore this option further, with findings informing the basis of the EIS referral assessment.

Once the mine goes into production it is expected to be operational for at least 10 years providing upwards of 50 mine-related jobs and demand for many other ancillary support services such as transport, accommodation and food-supply.

WORK AHEAD

- Simultaneous studies, activities and regulatory approval processes are currently underway to minimise the lead-time to commence mining.
- Submission of the Environmental Impact Statement to the NT Environment Protection Authority.
- Winchelsea Mining to complete final feasibility assessments and progress through regulatory approval processes.
- Winchelsea Mining to progress applications for an environmental approval under the Environment Protection Act and an authorisation under the Mining Management Act in 2023, with a view to commencing mining operations in early to mid-2024.



LITTLE PARADISE

The Little Paradise development is an unprecedented project in terms of its overall scale, being over 300 hectares in size, and impact as a major economic project (being pursued by Anindilyakwa traditional owners on their own lands to support their future economic prosperity).

Little Paradise is the name of the peninsular located immediately to the east of Deception Bay. Due to its accessibility and serviceability, naturally sheltered waters, favourable topography, and the absence of any culturally significant sites or songlines, it is the preferred location for the establishment of a number of major infrastructure projects critical to developing the Future Groote economy and Local Decision Making Agreement service provision, as outlined in the [ALC's 15 year Strategic Plan 2012-2027](#).

Major project assets to be constructed at Little Paradise include:

- marine harbour facilities
- a biosecurity compound
- a logistics, stores and maintenance base
- workers accommodation and social facilities
- telecommunication facilities
- a solar-electricity farm
- a residential housing estate providing housing for health workers and other LDM entities
- a vehicle-centric business cluster
- timber industry assets
- aquaculture industry assets
- community hospitality assets
- community kitchen and meal service
- various tourism venture assets.



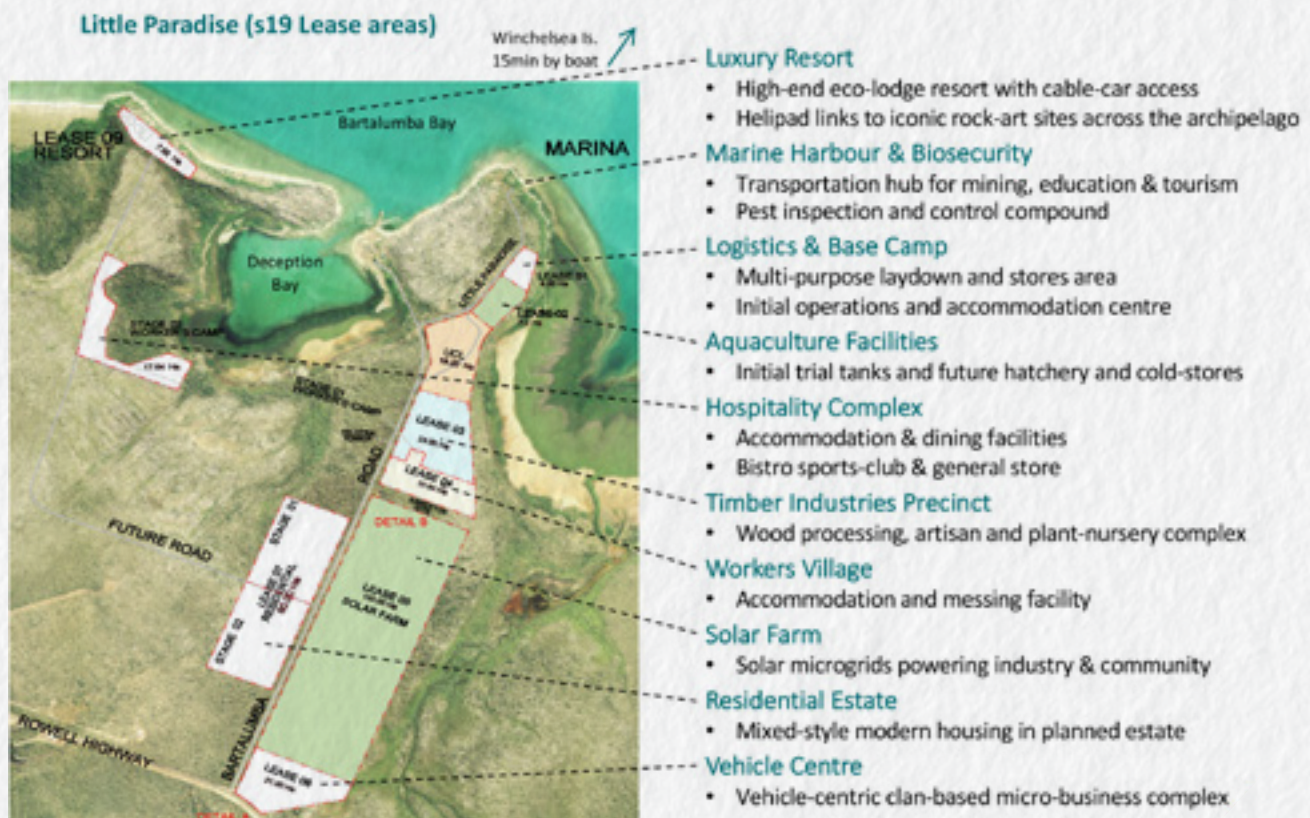


Figure 6: Project plan for the Little Paradise development.

PROGRESS

On 31 March 2022, a series of section 19 leases were granted in favour of GHAC under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (ALRA)* with the approval of former Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon. Ken Wyatt, for over 300 hectares of land for a total period of 50 years. The leases range in varying size, use and location, from 4 hectares for the logistics bases through to 130 hectares to cater for the large solar farm project.

Preliminary conceptual designs were developed for the possible infrastructure assets. These models formed the basis of presentations given to Traditional Owners during consultations.

A Master Plan has been developed to guide and inform the development of major project assets at Little Paradise. Work is currently being undertaken by GHAC to develop environmental studies to support referrals to the NT EPA for environmental impact assessment. These studies outline environmental base data, risk mitigation measures and consultation outcomes required to obtain environmental approval.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

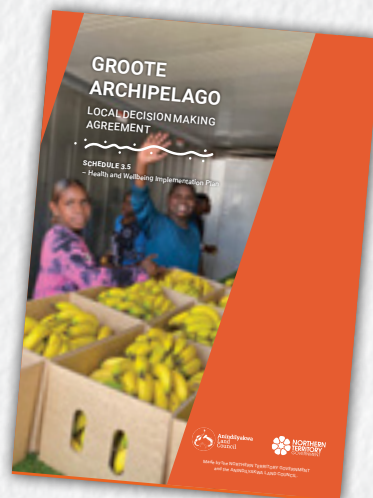
OVERVIEW

The Agreement outlines the outcome sought for Health and Wellbeing is the transition of control and responsibility for health clinics in the Groote Archipelago from NT Health to an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

While Aboriginal community controlled primary health services remains a long term goal, Anindilyakwa leaders have expressed a desire for NT Health to continue providing health services within the Groote Archipelago for the foreseeable future.

The agreed outcome is to increase involvement, capacity and leadership of Anindilyakwa people in the health and wellbeing sector, and support their long term aspirations of transitioning to community control and responsibility.

This includes working constructively with all stakeholders to strengthen the current provision of health and wellbeing services delivered within Groote Archipelago, in line with priorities identified by Anindilyakwa people.



PROGRESS

Warnumamalya Health Services Aboriginal Corporation (WHSAC) was registered on 2 November 2021 with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, with its membership consisting of directors and members from Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra communities.

WHSAC, CM&C, NT Health and ALC have been working together since late 2021 and throughout 2022 to draft the Health and Wellbeing Implementation Plan (IP). The IP outlines Anindilyakwa priority areas for health and wellbeing, and sets out the actions and steps required to achieve the proposed outcomes.

The Health and Wellbeing IP was endorsed by WHSAC and the ALC in August 2022. On 15 September 2022, Cabinet endorsed the signing of the Health and Wellbeing Implementation Plan and the signing ceremony was held on Groote Eylandt on 14 November 2022.

Progress has already begun on implementing priority areas/actions. One of the priorities identified by WHSAC was to increase the provision of health and wellbeing services in Milyakburra. At the time of negotiations, two nurses would provide services at the Milyakburra Clinic on Wednesday. Following further consultations with WHSAC and the Milyakburra community, the clinic will be open and serviced by two nurses on Wednesday and Fridays, starting 7 October 2022. This arrangement will be reviewed with WHSAC and the Milyakburra community after 6 months to determine next steps.



Image: Tony Wuramarrba AO, Chairman of the Anindilyakwa Land Council addressing the Hon Natasha Fyles MLA, Chief Minister and Minister for Health, the Hon Linda Burney MP, Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, and Hon Malarndirri McCarthy, Federal Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health and community members.





Image: Jennifer Yantarrnga, Chairperson of Warnumamalya Health Services Aboriginal Corporation and community members at the Health and Wellbeing Implementation Plan signing ceremony.

WORK AHEAD

- Establish the Health and Wellbeing Advisory Group.
- Recruit to the WHSAC Executive/Project Officer position.
- Engage with stakeholders and work through implementation of the health and wellbeing priority areas identified in the Health and Wellbeing IP.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

OVERVIEW

Under the Agreement, a key priority identified was for Anindilyakwa people to take responsibility for local government in the Groote Archipelago, by the establishment of an Anindilyakwa Regional Local Government Council.

Formation of a new regional council would mean the East Arnhem Regional Council (EARC) would be the local government for Yolŋu communities and a new regional council would be established for Anindilyakwa communities. This would empower Anindilyakwa people to make their own local government service delivery decisions through a newly elected council.

The Northern Territory Government has made an in-principle agreement to establish a new regional council (shire) for the Groote Archipelago.

PROGRESS

The Northern Territory Government is working towards fulfilling the aspiration of Anindilyakwa people to take responsibility for local government in the Groote Archipelago.

To inform the Northern Territory Government's decision on whether or not to proceed with making two local governments, the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet, the ALC and the EARC formed a Transition Committee to understand what support is needed.

Representatives of the Transition Committee visited the Yolŋu and Anindilyakwa communities to speak to community and seek their thoughts on the outcome of restructuring the EARC and establishment of the new Warnindilyakwa Regional Council. The Anindilyakwa regional community briefings were held across the three main communities, specifically Angurugu, Milyakburra and Umbakumba. The Yolŋu region community meetings were held at community briefings and Local Authority meetings.

The majority of people that attended the Yolŋu and Anindilyakwa community meetings said they supported the idea of two local governments (shires). Yolŋu communities emphasised the need to ensure there was no deterioration in service standards for those areas that continued to be part of EARC.

To help the Northern Territory Government understand the financial impact of establishing two regional councils, a Financial Assessment Report was developed by CM&C and independently reviewed by Deloitte. This report provided insights to the Northern Territory Government as to how much it might cost to establish a new Warnindilyakwa Regional Council (shire).

In June 2022, a decision was made by the Northern Territory Government to undertake further work to understand the requirements of the potential new regional council and ensure that it, and the EARC, would be strong local governments for their communities.

On 9 August 2022, the Minister for Local Government signed the Gazette Notice establishing the prospective Warnindilyakwa Regional Council (shire) and appointing Iain Summers as manager of the prospective council.



Image: Anindilyakwa regional community briefing





Image: BMX riding program delivered in Angurugu



Image: Road infrastructure in the Groote Archipelago

The prospective council manager is progressing conversations that aim to establish the level of support needed to form a new regional council. A priority for the Northern Territory Government is to ensure financial viability of both regional councils, so the councils can deliver services and programs to both Andindilyakwa and Yolŋu communities.

It is anticipated that a final decision on whether or not the Warnindilyakwa Regional Council will be formed will be made by the Northern Territory Government in the first quarter of 2023.

An Implementation Plan will be negotiated and developed with all parties to outline what work will be undertaken by the Northern Territory Government, the ALC and EARC to support the transition process, should a decision be made to form the new regional council.

The establishment process and commitments of all parties will be outlined in the IP.

WORK AHEAD

- The Prospective Manager to complete the report, outlining the findings from his work.
- Final decision on whether or not the Warnindilyakwa Regional Council will be formed is expected by the Northern Territory Government in the first quarter of 2023.
- Should a decision be made to form the new Warnindilyakwa Regional Council, develop the Implementation Plan for Local Government and seek endorsement of all parties of the plan.

FEEDBACK FROM ANINDILYAKWA LEADERS ON LOCAL GOVERNANCE

“One voice, one government body. We are one people, want one voice to deliver something for our land. Within the boundaries of Groote Archipelago, we work as one people for our next generation... Want to get it right for our kids to have sustainable future.”

“If we get our own Local Authority here, my people will support me. Will make one decision, one language.”

“What I didn’t like about working for East Arnhem Council, was we would get left behind. Yolngu would get something again and again, but we would wait for years. The Yolngu would talk their language and we didn’t understand.”

“All services put into our own vision. Put Anindilyakwa instead of East Arnhem and ALC, so our services can work together. There are many services that East Arnhem doesn’t deliver. Will have more employment.”

“When you ask for something at East Arnhem Shire Council, it goes around in a circle. If we now have this local authority, this is what we have to move to. Very important think about all things – having a meeting talking up to Nhulunbuy. Have our own meeting. So can decide our own Archipelago.”



SUSTAINABLE LONG TERM POWER SOLUTION

OVERVIEW

The LDM outcome sought is the transition to a long term power generation solution that provides low cost, reliable, safe and clean energy for all communities in the Groote Archipelago, with a focus on renewable energy.

The majority generator of power on the Groote Archipelago is currently GEMCO/South 32 who supply power to Alyangula and, through Power Water Corporation (PWC), to Angurugu and the satellite communities. The communities of Umbakumba and Milyakburra are supplied by PWC using diesel generators.

PROGRESS

On 13 August 2021, a meeting between the ALC, CM&C, South32, the Department of Treasury and Finance, National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), PWC and the Department of Industry Tourism and Trade (DITT) took place to discuss remote power challenges on Eylandt.

The group agreed to establish a Future Groote Power and Distribution working group to help guide this work. Membership was determined, to be made up of PWC, GEMCO, CM&C and the ALC.

A meeting was held between DITT's Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) and the ALC on 4 November 2021. A briefing was provided on the current energy supply, plans for future economic development, and the proposed power system strategy for the Groote Archipelago. Based off these discussions, DITT recommended the ALC seek power system engineering advice from a consultant and to develop concept designs.

The ALC are working to establish a solar farm on Eylandt as one of the major assets proposed for Little Paradise development. An independent expert was commissioned to develop a report to inform the establishment and viability of a large-scale solar farm. The concept involves the production and sale of solar generated power to local stakeholders, including GEMCO, to reduce emissions and the reliance on fossil fuels. The development would be a significant step forward in minimising energy risk for the Groote Archipelago communities, moving away from diesel reliance and focusing on a sustainable and renewable energy source for new business, industries and communities.

WORK AHEAD

- ALC/GHAC to present renewable solar proposal to GEMCO and other stakeholders.
- Working group to be reconvened with PWC, GEMCO, CM&C and the ALC.
- Negotiate an Implementation Plan and an amended date for signing.

REGIONAL CONTROL OF OTHER SERVICES

OVERVIEW

The LDM outcome sought is for Anindilyakwa people to have control and responsibility for key services presently delivered by the Northern Territory Government.

Key to achieving this outcome is the ALC and the Northern Territory Government considering opportunities for transition of identified services to Anindilyakwa people that are currently the responsibility of the Northern Territory Government. Similarly, the ALC and the Northern Territory Government have committed to explore opportunities with the Commonwealth for transition of services that are currently delivered by the Commonwealth Government.

WORK AHEAD

- The ALC, the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government to consider this priority in greater detail, informed through the LDM Monitoring and Evaluation process.

FUTURE OF ALYANGULA

OVERVIEW

The LDM outcome sought is controlled management of GEMCO transition impacts on Alyangula and the Groote Archipelago, leading up to the closure of the operating manganese mine on Groote Eylandt. In addition, support for the Anindilyakwa people through the transition to utilise Alyangula in establishing a successful, local, diversified economy that provides jobs and opportunities for the Groote Archipelago.

The Northern Territory Government is working to support the parties to achieve the outcome sought under this Agreement; including the ALC, GEMCO and the Commonwealth Government.

An Implementation Plan for the Future of Alyangula will be developed outlining the objectives and principles of the work to be undertaken by all parties. The agreed timeframe for signing of the Implementation Plan is 31 December 2026.

WORK AHEAD

- Ongoing high-level discussions to take place between the ALC and South32 regarding mine closure, including the future of Alyangula.
- Transition conversations to progress with the Groote Eylandt Executive Steering Committee (GEESC). Members of the group consist of the ALC, South 32, Northern Territory Government and NIAA.
- Future Groote Traditional Owner visioning to be developed.





Image: Anindilyakwa Land Council

OTHER SUPPORTING WORK

DATA SHARING COMMITMENTS AND ANALYSIS

The ALC have been working with the Australian National University to develop an updated baseline data report and a locally managed database of key socio-economic indicators to support informed, evidence-based decision making by Anindilyakwa leaders. NIAA and CM&C have been liaising with relevant Northern Territory Government and Commonwealth agencies to assist ALC with accessing the requested data.

Next steps for this project include the establishment of a locally led data unit within the ALC, as well as establishing appropriate data sharing arrangements to ensure the ALC can continue to receive yearly data from both the Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments through a streamlined and timely process.

It is anticipated that this project will inform future reviews of the Agreement to determine if the outcomes sought in this agreement are leading to improved socio-economic outcomes for the Anindilyakwa people.

STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATIONS

It is important that regular updates as to progress are provided to Anindilyakwa people and regional stakeholders. The Northern Territory Government and the ALC are committed to ensuring effective and timely communications with Anindilyakwa people and their organisations as to work underway to deliver the outcomes for each of the priority service delivery areas, measured under key performance indicators and milestones.

CM&C, together with the ALC, develop and distribute quarterly LDM newsletters to the community and regional stakeholders in the Groote Archipelago, as well as the broader East Arnhem region to ensure updates are provided on the progress, current and future work being undertaken and/or issues relevant to delivery of identified outcomes under the Agreement. Newsletters are also published on the Northern Territory Government's [Local Decision Making website](#) and can be accessed by broader stakeholders.

In addition, the ALC publishes informative news articles in the News Media Publication section of the [Anindilyakwa Land Council website](#) to provide Anindilyakwa people with updates as to priority areas and projects progressing under Local Decision Making.

Each of the signed Implementation Plans for the priority service delivery areas that have been agreed upon are published on the websites of the [Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet](#) and the [Anindilyakwa Land Council website](#), which are tabled in the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly and Federal Parliament respectively.

Targeted emails and communications are also issued to stakeholders as to work and negotiations undertaken for priority service areas in which Implementation Plans have not yet been developed.

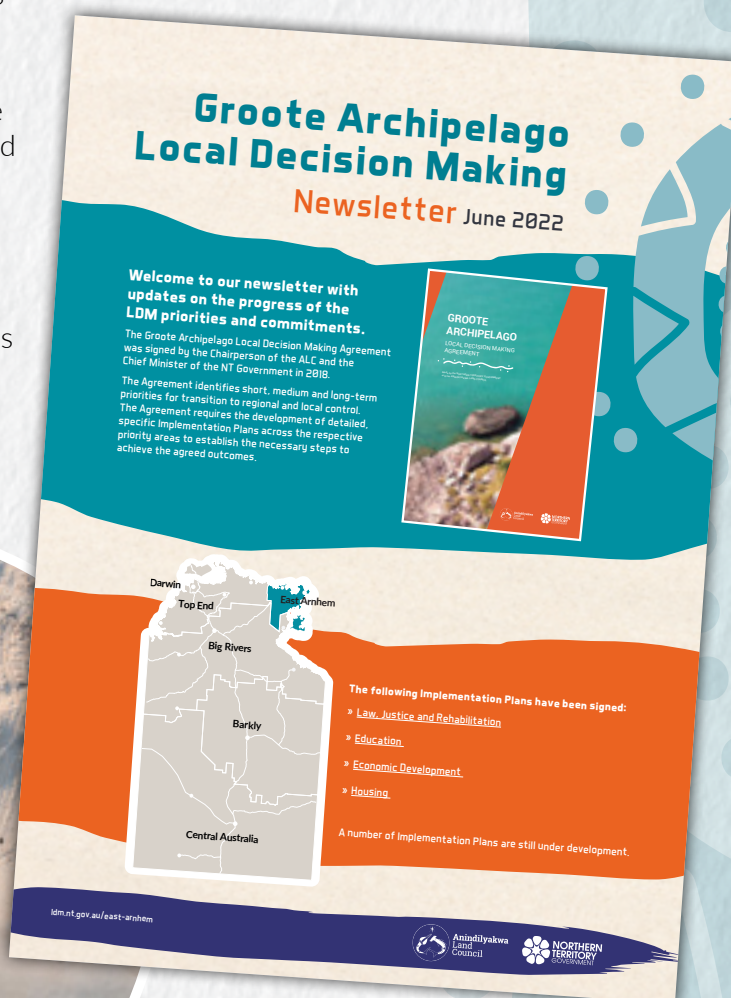


Image: Anindilyakwa Land & Sea Rangers turtle camp



