



KIMBERLEY LAND COUNCIL
getting country back caring for country securing the future

NEWSLETTER

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NO 2, August 2013

KLC rangers go global



Sharing Knowledge Internationally

The KLC has been working to create an international knowledge sharing network with Indigenous land and sea managers from across the world.

As part of achieving this vision, the KLC hosted the inaugural Kimberley International Ranger Forum at Gambanan in May, with special guests the Comcacc from Mexico. The three-day event focused on networking, skill development and training.

The KLC also played a leading role at the World Indigenous Network Conference in Darwin where Kimberley rangers and cultural advisers shared their ideas, knowledge and expertise with more than 1200 delegates from 52 countries.

The KLC will continue to work towards its strategic vision to create international alliances and knowledge sharing network into the future and will be sending a group of Traditional Owners to Spain for the Wild10! Conference to present on Kimberley activities.

Looking Back @ the KLC



Five years ago: 2008

Responsible gas development

In 2008, the KLC started rolling out a comprehensive consultation process with Kimberley Aboriginal people in relation to proposed LNG development in the region.

The position of the WA State Government, at the time, was that LNG development would not occur without the informed consent of Traditional Owners and that it must include their economic participation.

The KLC's consultation process was with the Traditional Owner groups located along and adjacent to the Kimberley Coast, or who were culturally associated with

those people. The consultation process was designed to find out the position of Traditional owners in relation to LNG development in the Kimberley and if there were any culturally, environmentally, and commercially appropriate locations for a hub development.

As part of the consultations, the KLC started to investigate what opportunities there could be for communities if any development was to go ahead. The investigation looked at regional benefits including jobs, education, environmental and cultural protection, and long-term sustainability for the community beyond the life of any development.



Ten years ago: 2003

KLC takes a stand on cotton

In 2003, Kimberley Traditional Owners said 'no' to growing cotton on their country in response to proposals to develop cotton fields south of Broome.

KLC Executive Director at the time, Wayne Bergmann said the KLC would support Kimberley Aboriginal people.

"The KLC acts on behalf of Traditional Owners of country. These Traditional Owners have strongly and consistently

said 'no' to proposals to grow cotton on their country," he said.

"Traditional Owners are concerned about the environmental impacts of growing cotton in the Kimberley.

"It is no longer acceptable to ignore the wishes of Traditional Owners of country. Nor is it acceptable for developers to ignore laws in relation to land clearing and water use."



message from the **Chairman**

This year is proving to be very busy as we work to achieve some major outcomes in our native title and land and sea activities.

One of our major milestones this year has been the Gooniyandi native title consent determination, which was handed down on June 19.

Native title is a lengthy process and the Gooniyandi people waited more than 15 years. The Balanggarra native title group has also been waiting 15 years for a decision about their native title. The Federal Court will make a decision on the Balanggarra native title claim on August 7 in Wyndham.

Getting native title is a complex process but it should not take 15 years. Given the recent State election, the KLC expects better engagement with the State Government in resolving native title issues and looks forward to further consent determinations in the future.

The Attorney General is conducting a review of the Native Title Act with a view to speed-up the process. The KLC has long been a supporter of reversing the burden of proof, which means that it would be up to governments to prove that Aboriginal groups do not have native title rights.

The Federal Government is also reviewing the role of native title organisations, as the function of NTRBs is changing to include more work assisting Traditional Owner groups after they get native title.

The KLC has a close relationship with many PBCs in the Kimberley and will continue to work with these groups to build their skills and capacity as we work towards achieving the shared goal of self-determination for Kimberley Aboriginal people.

Our land and sea management team has had a bumper year, with the KLC hosting its first International Ranger Forum at Gambanan in May. The Comcacc from Mexico were our special

International guests and we both learned a lot about each other's culture and ways of looking after country. We shared many similarities but also many differences.

The International Ranger Forum formed part of our vision to create a knowledge sharing network with land and sea managers from across the globe. This vision was also the inspiration behind the World Indigenous Network Conference which was hosted by the Federal Government in Darwin in May. Our rangers were a stand-out at the conference as they completed presentations on dugong tagging, freshwater systems and the role of women in caring for country. KLC CEO Nolan Hunter also presented on cultural economies while KRED CEO Wayne Bergmann got a standing ovation for his keynote address. It was great to see Kimberley people speak up for their country and share their knowledge and expertise with other Indigenous people.

Kimberley Traditional Owners also declared four Indigenous Protected Areas across the north Kimberley, to create one of the largest Indigenous conservation areas in Australia. IPAs have been the preferred land management model for our people because they empower our people to manage our country our way.

It is fantastic to see our people stepping up and taking control and making the decisions about how we want to live our lives, empower our people and look after our country and culture.

Our AGM is fast approaching and I encourage all our members to attend. This year it is at Wuggubun in the east Kimberley. Our AGM gives you, our members, the chance to have input into deciding the priorities of the KLC for the coming year.

See you at Wuggubun in September.

FRANK DAVEY



GOONIYANDI

The Gooniyandi people, the river people of the mighty Fitzroy River, have been recognised as the Traditional Owners of their country in the Central Kimberley.

Federal Court Justice Gilmour handed down the native title determination at an 'on country' hearing at the Joy Springs community, east of Fitzroy Crossing on June 19.

The Gooniyandi native title area covers 1.12 million hectares of land and water and includes the Indigenous-owned pastoral stations of Bohemia Downs, Mt Pierre and Louisa Downs and portions of the non-Indigenous Christmas Creek, Gogo, Fossil Downs, Larrawa and Margaret River pastoral stations.

About 50 per cent of the native title claim is exclusive possession – the highest possible form of native title rights and interests.

Gooniyandi Traditional Owner Mervyn Street said his people had a strong connection to their country

and this was reflected in the positive determination.

"We have waited a long time for this and sadly, in the time it has taken to get our native title, many of our old people have passed away," he said.

"Our old people, a long time ago, told us all the stories about our places. Today, we remember them as we celebrate getting back our country."

Mr Street said the Fitzroy River was the lifeline of the Gooniyandi people but also a special cultural site with many stories and traditions.

"When I look at the river I think of my country. The river is important for me, my people and the old people. Now that we have native title, it will be protected. That river is who we are. We can't live without it," he said.

KLC CEO Nolan Hunter said it was great to see the Gooniyandi people finally recognised as the owners of their country after a 15-year native title battle.



COMBINED #2

But he said it was unacceptable for any group to have to wait 15 years for their native title rights.

“The Native Title Act needs to be changed to speed up this process. But any legislative change to native title needs to provide outcomes for Traditional Owners rather than weaken their position through watering down existing rights,” he said.

“Native title currently provides Aboriginal people with limited powers and in most circumstances only provides us with a right to comment about what happens on our country.

“A review of Native Title Representative Bodies is underway and a review of the Native Title Act will happen soon. We must all stand together to make sure the rights of Aboriginal people to country do not become a token gesture.

“With a Federal election in September we must start lobbying to ensure Indigenous people are not pushed to the side. We need to be at the centre of any debate and make sure our issues are heard.”

Mr Hunter said native title was important, in that it provided Traditional Owners with the confirmation that they belonged to and owned their land.

“It is fantastic to see the Gooniyandi community come together as one, and I hope they continue to work together into the future to ensure their traditions and culture remain vibrant.”



Kimberley

↑INTERNATIONAL R



More than 400 people attended the inaugural KLC International Ranger Forum at One Arm Point on May 21-23.

The Comcaac of Sonora Mexico were the special guests at the international event, which focused on sharing knowledge about ways to tackle environmental challenges on a global scale.

About 20 ranger groups braved the unusual rainy weather to attend the three-day event at Gambanan. The forum focused on networking and skill development workshops including outback survival, traditional knowledge recording, first-aid courses, native title, bush medicine and negotiation techniques. Guests were taken on ranger tours of country while there was also a Ranger Expo and entertainment nights with band performances and a quiz competition.

Alberto Mellado, a young leader of the Comcacc people from Mexico and executive director of a natural resource management organisation, said

the Kimberley was very different from his home, but similar in that Aboriginal people also have a very strong culture, language and traditions.

“It took us many weeks and months of efforts to come to the Kimberley but the experience we shared with Kimberley Indigenous rangers was invaluable and gave us many ideas to make ranger work in our Comcacc nation more meaningful.

“We struggle on a daily basis to get sufficient resources for our people to undertake land management activities and we were extremely impressed with how well organised you are as a ranger network.”

KLC CEO Nolan Hunter said the Kimberley International Ranger Forum showcased the important contribution Indigenous people made to looking after country.

“Indigenous people the world over have played an instrumental role in managing and enhancing the natural living environment,” he said.

ANGER

Forum



“Our Kimberley Rangers are leaders in conservation, natural biodiversity and cultural heritage. The strength of the Kimberley Ranger Network lies in its cultural foundations as it draws on the wisdom of cultural elders and combines this knowledge with modern techniques.

“The flow-on effects of the Kimberley Ranger Network are creating change in our communities, starting at a grass roots level. The benefits are wide-reaching and our rangers are looking after their country, while getting qualifications and real jobs. They have become leaders in their communities while working to create sustainable economies.”

“It was fantastic to meet and share stories with the Mexicans. I think our rangers learned a lot from this experience and I’m sure the Mexicans left with a lot of stories about their Kimberley adventure.”

IPA declarations



Bardi Jawi IPA

The Bardi Jawi people declared an IPA on their country at Gambanan as part of the Kimberley International Ranger Forum.

The Bardi Jawi IPA covers about 1000 square kilometres of country on the Dampier Peninsula.

Bardi Jawi Ranger Kevin George said IPA's enabled Aboriginal people to manage their country in a cultural and traditional way.

"When we declare an IPA we put a lot of effort into it, in working out how we want to do things on our country. We are moving forward as a people and we have recognised that we need a plan for our country so we can see it improved over time," he said.

"We are asking everyone that comes on to our country to follow our plan and work in with it because that plan is how we, the Traditional Owners, want to see our country managed.

"Our elders have made sure that as Bardi people we look after our country in a cultural and traditional way. This is reflected in our Healthy Country Plan which is based on our cultural and traditional values."

Indigenous Protected Areas are an initiative of the Federal Government's Caring for Country Program and the Bardi Jawi Traditional Owners worked with the Kimberley Land Council to create the Healthy Country plan with assistance from The Nature Conservancy and PEW Charitable Trust. The plan will be implemented by the Bardi Jawi Aboriginal Corporation and the Bardi Jawi Rangers.

Kimberley Traditional Owners recently declared four Indigenous Protected Areas which will link together to create a conservation corridor along the north Kimberley coast and across the world renowned Gibb River Road.

The corridor will form one of the largest Indigenous conservation areas in Australia at more than 45,000 square kilometres and includes the Bardi Jawi, Dambimangari, Wilinggin and Balanggarra Indigenous Protected Areas, as well as the previously declared Unguu IPA.

The creation of an Indigenous Protected Areas has been the preferred land management model for Kimberley Traditional Owners, as it enables Aboriginal people to look after country our way.

Healthy Country Plans have been developed for each IPA and set out the plan for how they are going to be managed. Healthy Country Plans identify threats to country and list actions and targets to improve these areas.

Fire management is listed as a key component of Healthy Country Plans and Kimberley rangers work to reduce wildfires through conducting cool burns using a combination of traditional methods and western science. Indigenous Protected Areas also provide Traditional Owners with a new way to do business through creating eco-system based enterprises. Carbon abatement is one of these opportunities and North Kimberley native title groups are utilising their fire management skills to build a carbon credit business based on using fire abatement across determined native title areas and Indigenous-owned land.

The four Indigenous Protected Areas were declared at the KLC International Ranger Forum at Gambanan on the Dampier Peninsula on May 23. Wilinggin and Dambimangari have also had community IPA launches on their country and Balanggarra will hold its launch in unison with its native title on-country hearing in August.

Indigenous Protected Areas are an initiative of the Australian Government's Caring for Country program.



Dambimangari IPA

Dambimangari Traditional Owners travelled to Koolan Island to celebrate the declaration of their Indigenous Protected Area across more than 6000 square kilometres of country in the west Kimberley.

Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation Deputy Chair and Traditional Owner Rowena Mouda said an Indigenous Protected Area or "Aboriginal National Park" empowered her people to look after and manage their country their way, through a combination of traditional knowledge and western science.

The Dambimangari Healthy Country Plan, which was also launched at Koolan Island, sets out the long-term management targets and work plans for the Indigenous Protected Area.

"This plan allowed us to include a cultural dynamic and it highlights what we want to see happen on our country. Our IPA will form an important part of the way we do business into the future. We have ownership of the IPA and we are the managers and this is very important because we know our country better than anyone."

"Our country holds a vital part of our culture and through our IPA we can look after our land and sea in a traditional way like our old people taught us and we are teaching our future generations. Indigenous protected Areas are an initiative of the Federal Government's Caring for Country Program and Dambimangari Traditional Owners worked with the Kimberley Land Council to create the Healthy Country plan across four years with assistance from The Nature Conservancy and PEW Charitable Trust. The plan will be implemented by the Dambimangari Aboriginal Corporation and the Dambimangari Rangers.





Wilinggin IPA

The Wilinggin IPA community launch was held on June 11, as part of the opening of the Wunggurr Ranger base at Gibb River Station.

The Wunggurr Rangers have been on a mission to return home and relocate their office from Derby to out on their country.

Today, you will find the rangers, their families and headquarters at Ngallagunda Community, Gibb River Station.

Wunggurr head ranger Robin Dann said moving back to country meant the ranger team could effectively and efficiently look after their country, while providing a visible presence in the community. "We have a large native title area, and now we are in the heart of our country. Being based at Ngallagunda means we can easily access our Indigenous Protected Area and work on looking after the things that are important to our people such as making our connection to country and culture really strong," he said.

"As part of our IPA we have a Healthy Country Plan that sets out how we are going to manage our country into the future. We all helped write that plan. It took us three years and it's based on our cultural values and is about looking after the things we want to see protected, our way."

The Wilinggin IPA covers about 24,000 square kilometres of country. The Ngarinyin people worked with the KLC to develop the Indigenous Protected Area, with support from The Nature Conservancy and the Federal Government's Caring for Country Program. The Wilinggin Aboriginal Corporation and the Wunggurr Rangers will implement the Healthy Country Plan.



WORLD INDIGENOUS NETWORK

Kimberley Rangers were a stand-out at the World Indigenous Network Conference with their presentations on dugong tagging, women in landscape management, freshwater protection and cultural economies.

More than 1200 delegates from 52 countries attended the World Indigenous Network Conference which was hosted by the Federal Government and aimed at connecting Indigenous land and sea managers from across the globe.

The idea for a World Indigenous Network was borne on the banks of Sunday Island between the KLC and former federal Environment Minister Tony Minister Burke at the west Kimberley National Heritage declaration in 2011.

KRED CEO Wayne Bergmann gave a keynote presentation at the conference about how Indigenous people across the world could work together to create international benchmarks. He also said the Network should be a grass roots initiative led by Indigenous people, not the Government.

Wayne Quillia - WIN



Wayne Quillia - WIN

Rangers presented on freshwater places.

KLC CEO Nolan Hunter presented on cultural economies as well as on behalf of the Australian delegates about what people wanted the network to look like in the future.

“There was strong support for the network to be underpinned by cultural values and that youth should have a strong voice as they will be the future custodians of our land and seas,” he said.

Irene Davey, Pansy Nulgit and Ari Gorrington led a contingent of 10 Kimberley cultural women in a presentation on the role of women in decision-making and landscape protection.

The KLC will continue to focus on building international relationships. A contingent of rangers and cultural advisers will be presenting on Kimberley activities at the WILD10! Conference in Spain In October.



Archive news

The KLC is working on a project to improve the way we create, use, preserve and where appropriate give back information from our archive.

At the KLC, we have a very important archive which is the keeping place for all the information and materials we have collected across the past 35 years.

The material in our library includes:

- Important historical documents about the early days setting up our organisation
- Material collected during the native title process including connection evidence, family information, and stories about significant sites.
- Sensitive and restricted anthropological information and legal documents
- Information collected about specific projects the KLC has done
- Cultural knowledge recordings, photos, videos and audio

Some information in our archive was recognised by the National Library last year as being of national and regional significance. This is really important and further highlights the need for it to be managed and looked after properly.

The KLC is focusing on a long-term plan to digitise and store all the paper information and documents we have on computers to make sure it is protected and can be used by future generations. From now on, all the information we collect and receive will be saved on computer. The KLC is also making a new system so we can sort and find all the information we have stored on computers. This is a big project and will take us many, many years to complete. The KLC Archive team recently attended a digitising training course to get some training and discuss preservation issues. The course was held at Mowanjum Aboriginal Art and Culture Centre.

The KLC is looking at ways to work with Traditional Owners and PBCs to see how we can repatriate or give back the information we have about their native title group. During the native title process, the KLC collects a lot of information on native title groups to assist in proving they are the Traditional Owners.

As part of the National Heritage Listing process across the West Kimberley, Traditional Owners want to make sure the stories they told about their country are recorded and kept safe. As directed by the Kimberley Traditional Owner Senior Leadership Group, the KLC is working to make sure the story about Resistance, Survival and Adaptation is the first piece of information to be put on the database.



NTRB Review

Land councils and



It has been 20 years since the Mabo decision and as a result the Federal Government is reviewing the role of native title organisations.

Traditionally, Native Title Representative Bodies have focused on assisting Traditional Owners achieve recognition of their native title rights through the claims process.

But in recent years, as more and more native title claims are resolved, Native Title Representative Bodies, like the KLC have been assisting Traditional Owners in the post-determination phase, such as setting up and developing a PBC.

PBC's hold the native title rights for each group once they get their native title and work to conduct land management and economic development outcomes for Traditional Owners. The Federal Government's review is aimed at making sure Native Title Representative Bodies continue to meet the needs of Traditional Owners while they are in the process of getting native title but also after they get their native title rights.

In the last 20 years, the KLC and Kimberley Aboriginal people have worked hard to get native title determined. We have been very successful because Kimberley Aboriginal people have a strong connection to their country. The KLC will continue to work with Traditional Owners to secure their native title rights. We will also work with Traditional Owner groups after their determination.

The role of the KLC is changing and we spend lots of time working with native title holders to assist them in setting up their PBC and to help them carry out the functions PBCs are required to do.



PBC's working together

The majority of PBC's, are given very little resources or support to establish itself with. As a result, land councils have stepped up and expanded their role to include working in a post native title environment to assist native title groups develop their PBC.

The KLC works with many PBCs across the Kimberley and helps with writing a constitution, putting in place governance and decision-making models and electing directors to look after the PBC.

PBCs often don't have computers or phones, printers, offices or staff – all the things required to operate a successful organisation. As a result, KLC staff often organise meetings on behalf of PBCs, take the minutes, and provide administrative support as well as contract management and the writing of funding submissions. We also provide legal advice, expert knowledge and training to assist PBC directors increase their skills and capacity in this role.

The KLC also offers PBCs support in dealing with Future Acts, which are activities undertaken by third parties on native title land and can include road works, mining exploration, resource development and housing. In partnership with PBC's, we work to make sure that any party wanting to go on native title land signs a Heritage Protection Agreement to make sure there are no negative impacts to country.

The KLC works with PBCs on state issues that will affect their native title land, such as the Science and Conservation Strategy and the development of marine and national parks. The KLC is working closely with the State Government to develop better methods of engagement with Traditional Owners about land management and conservation projects.

We will also be looking at what opportunities there are for Kimberley Aboriginal people to complement the State's efforts in land and sea management.

The KLC is also the liaison between the State Government, PBCs and communities in relation to new housing.

The Kimberley Ranger Network is another good example of the services the KLC provides to PBCs. The KLC facilitates the Kimberley Ranger Network which is made up of 14 ranger groups across the Kimberley. The PBC or native title group has a cultural advisory committee that advises rangers and staff on the programs and work they undertake on the ground. The KLC employs coordinators to work with the rangers so they can deliver strong cultural and environmental outcomes. The KLC also assists with ranger training, liaises with funding partners and buys the equipment and tools needed to carry out ranger work.

The creation of Indigenous Protected Areas is another joint project between the KLC and PBCs. The KLC has worked with the Wilonggin, Dambimangari, Uunguu, Balangarra, Bardi Jawi, Ngurrara and Tjurabalan PBCs to help them secure their Indigenous Protected Areas and write and implement Healthy Country Plans. The KLC employs IPA coordinators to work closely with PBCs, cultural advisory committees and rangers to implement the actions Traditional Owners want to see happen on the ground as part of the Federal Government's Caring for Country Initiative.

As an extension of the IPA and ranger programs, the KLC is working with north Kimberley PBCs to build a carbon business based on fire abatement using traditional burning and fire management methods. The aim of this program is to create a cultural economy through using traditional knowledge to generate an income stream in remote communities while providing environmental outcomes.

The deadline for submissions about the Review of Native title Organisations is September 30, 2013.

Kimberley MP Josie Farrer



Kija woman Josie Farrer was elected to State Parliament in March this year and is the third Aboriginal MP to represent the region.

Her maiden speech was exceptionally powerful as she spoke in Kija, Kreol and English about the high rates of suicide in the Kimberley, economic development, training and employment. She also spoke about the racism she has endured as an Aboriginal woman.

“I understand first hand the entrenched bigotry and prejudice that I, and people like me suffer daily,” she said.

“During my pre-selection in the ALP, it was suggested to me that I had no idea what Parliament was like, what being a Member of Parliament involved – and who was I to think I could be a Member of Parliament?

“I can only assume it is because I am black and most of all because I am a black woman.

“Here I am proudly elected – proudly black and proudly strong.”

Josie has actively lobbied for Aboriginal rights for the past two decades and has been a director on many regional boards including the Kimberley Land Council.

Tackling the high rate of suicide throughout the region, Josie said, would be a high priority as she knew too well the devastating impact it has on families and the wider community. Josie also lost her own grandson a few years ago.

“No one who has not suffered this type of grief and loss can understand the very real pain a family goes through when someone who is dearly loved takes their own life.”

She said she was extremely thankful to all the Kimberley people for their ongoing support and looked forward to tackling some tough issues to provide positive outcomes for the whole region.

Josie’s office is located in Broome and she will be opening an additional office in Halls Creek in the second half of this year. She welcomes everyone to visit her office to discuss regional and specific issues.

Office of Josie Farrer MLA, Member for the Kimberley

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For help or information call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

Native Title Act Review

The Attorney General has ordered a review of the Native Title Act in a bid to speed-up the process and reduce the need to go to court to resolve certain matters.

The Review of the Native Title Act 1993 was announced in June and will be conducted by the Australian Law Reform Commission. The review will focus on two issues including:

- Connection requirements relating to the recognition and scope of native title rights and interests; and
- The identification of barriers, if any, imposed by the Acts authorisation and joinder provision to claimants and potential claimants

KLC CEO Nolan Hunter said he welcomed the Federal Government's Review and anything that could be done to speed-up the native title process.

"We all know that native title is a lengthy and drawn-out experience. In the Kimberley, many

groups have waited more than 15 years to get their native title rights. That is not good enough," he said.

"While we wait for our rights, many of our elders and leaders who led the land rights battle, pass away before they get their native title.

"Native title also places a heavy burden on Aboriginal people to prove they have an unbroken connection to their country. It is unfair that Aboriginal people have to reveal every detail about their family history, language and culture as well as the location of significant places and the way law is practised.

"The KLC has long been an advocate of reversing the burden of proof so governments will be required to show that Aboriginal people do not have a connection to their country.

"I hope this will be considered in the review as reversing the burden of proof will not only speed-up the process but make sure it is just and fair."

Government to acquire JPP land

In April this year Woodside announced it would not build an LNG precinct at James Price Point as the economics of the project was not viable.

As a result of Woodside's decision, the \$1.5 billion benefits package brokered with Kimberley Aboriginal people became void.

At the time, the former Chairman of the Goolarabooloo Jabirr Jabirr Traditional Owner Negotiating Committee Frank Parriman said he was extremely disappointed Woodside had walked away from the project because Kimberley Aboriginal people would get no benefits package.

"I think it has put us back a generation," Mr Parriman said.

"People were getting excited that social issues were going to be tackled in a really comprehensive way through this package. Unfortunately, that package no longer exists and Kimberley Aboriginal people get nothing."

Woodside will now investigate using floating LNG technology to develop its Browse Basin gas reserves.

In other developments, WA Premier Colin Barnett announced in June that the State Government would continue to acquire the land at James Price Point for future development opportunities.

Mr Barnett has said he would like the site to be used as part of the development of the offshore Browse Basin and the onshore Canning Basin gas fields but as yet had no proponent.

Under the native title agreement signed in June 2011 between the State Government and the native title party, the native title holders will receive \$30 million in benefits as compensation for the State using the land at James Price Point for development.

Construction starts on new KLC Office Facility

Construction of the Kimberley Land Council's new \$15 million purpose-built office facility in Broome has started.

The new complex will provide office and storage space on two levels as well as conference facilities and meeting rooms. The Gregory St facility will have strong environmental design elements including solar power arrays, adaptive air-conditioning, and use of environmentally friendly materials and treatments. The aim is for the building to have a 4 star design rating through the Green Building Council of Australia

A commencement ceremony was held on site in June with KLC directors and staff attending along with funding and project partners including special guest Nationals Leader Brendan Grylls.

KLC Chairman Frank Davey said the construction of the new facility was a significant step forward in the history of the Kimberley Land Council.

"It is both recognition of the past 35 years of work undertaken by the KLC, and an investment in our future, and the future of Indigenous people in the Kimberley Region," he said.

Funding for the project was received from the Australian Government's Regional Development Australia Fund, and Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs; the State Government's Royalties for Regions program; Lotterywest; and the Indigenous Land Corporation.

KLC CEO Nolan Hunter said the KLC had contributed the land at the site and would act as the project manager to ensure construction included Indigenous employment and training support.

"As well as delivering a great facility for our members, board and staff, we are committed to securing strong Indigenous employment and training outcomes from the construction of this building," he said.





“This will be achieved through direct employment with the KLC and strong incentives and support for the builder and sub-contractors to engage Indigenous employees, and utilise local Indigenous contractors and suppliers.”

Lotterywest Chairman John Atkins said the new facility would help the KLC continue to deliver important services to Aboriginal people in the Kimberley into the future.

“We’re proud to support the construction and fit-out of Kimberley Land Council’s new building. As well as being an investment in the future of this important organisation, the project will help to boost employment for local Aboriginal people,” he said.

Construction and fit-out of the new facility is expected to be completed by September 2014.



AGM 2013 Wuggubun

This year the combined AGM’s for the Kimberley’s three peak Aboriginal organisations will be held at Wuggubun in the east Kimberley from September 24 to 26.

The Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALACC) AGM will be held on Tuesday, September 24. It is also an election year for KALACC.

The Kimberley Land Council (KLC) AGM will be held on Wednesday, September 25 and the Kimberley Language Resource Centre (KLRC) AGM will be held on Thursday, September 26. Travel days will be Monday, September 23 and Friday, September 27.

Travel assistance including limited fuel orders and bus services from the west and south Kimberley to Wuggubun will be provided. No food will be supplied on travel days, so members will need to pack their own lunch and drinks. Meals will be supplied during the AGMs.

People need to bring their own camping equipment to the AGM including tent, swag and blankets. It is very important people remember to bring any medication they may need.

All members are encouraged to attend the AGMs as they provide an opportunity for people to get involved and set the priorities Kimberley Traditional Owners want to see happen in the year ahead.

The AGMs also provide an opportunity for Aboriginal people right across the Kimberley to catch up, network and share ideas.

This is an alcohol and drug free event.

For more information or to organise travel arrangements please contact either Julia in Kununurra or Regina or Chaumani in Broome on 9194 0100. It is essential that travel is organised as soon as possible.



KALACC



KLRC

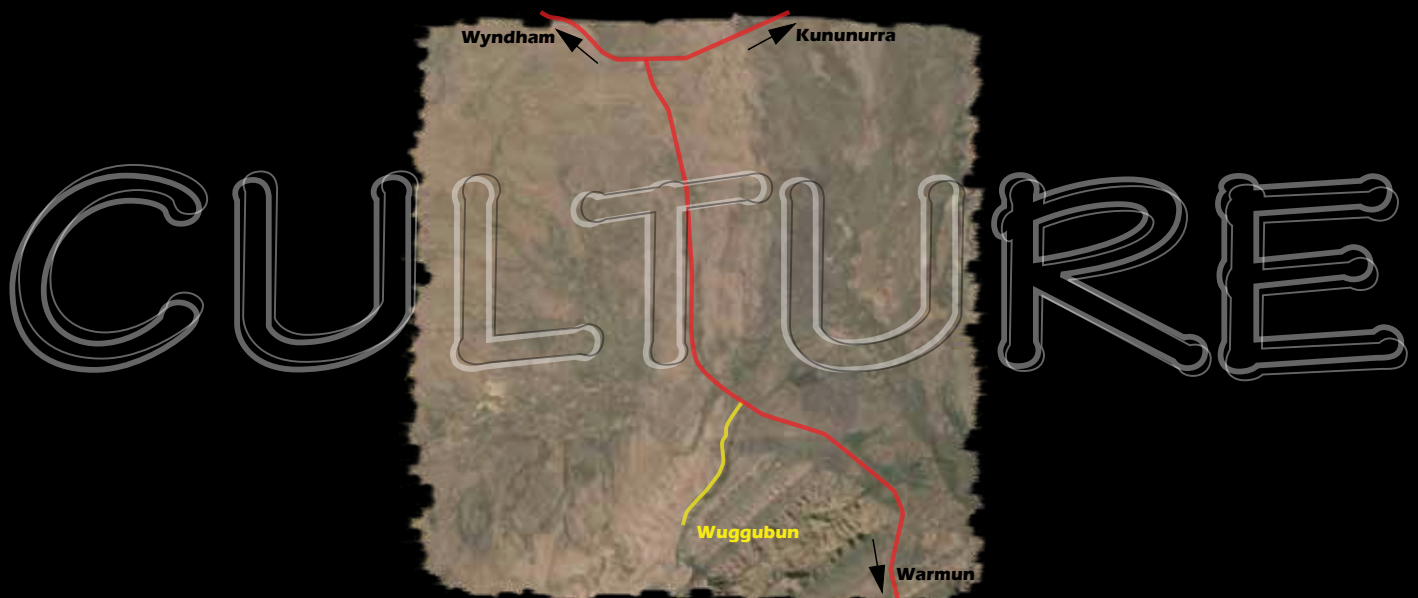


KLC

Law Language Land

AGM 2013 Wuggubun

24-26 September 2013



Election year for KALACC

KALACC - Tuesday 24th KLC - Wednesday 25th KLRC - Thursday 26th

Wuggubun is about 8 Km south of the Kununurra - Wyndham road, and 2.5 Km west of the Great Northern Highway.

Travel days are Monday 23rd and Friday 27th. Travel assistance is available, including buses from the west and south, and limited fuel orders only (no food).

Bring your own tent/swag/bedding/medicines. Meals will be provided at the site.

For more information, and to organise travel arrangements, please call the following KLC staff: Kununurra - Julia or Broome - Regina or Chaumani. Telephone 9194 0100.