CAPE YORK LAND COUNCIL

Annual Report 2023 - 2024

cylc.org.au

Image: Chili Beach

'We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Cape York and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to the Elders past, present and emerging.'

The CYLC 2023-2024 Annual Report and previous annual reports are available on our website at www.cylc.org.au

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons are warned that this annual report may contain images and or names of deceased indigenous persons or sites of cultural significance.

Enquiries may be directed to the Strategic Communications and Policy Officer. The officer can be contacted by phone on (07) 4053 9222, or by email at info@cylc.org.au

Cover Image: Arial Image Tip of Cape York **Design & Layout:** Leo Schoepflin, LS Design Studio

CAPE YORK LAND COUNCIL
YUK PUYNGK

ICN 1163 ABN 22 965 382 705

Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy
Minister for Indigenous Australians
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
ministermccarthy@ia.pm.gov.au

Dear Minister McCarthy,

I hope that you are well.

From myself and the entire Cape York Land Council Board, we would like to congratulate you on your new position as the Minister for Indigenous Australians.

Minister, I wish you every success in your new role. I am very much looking forward to meeting with you soon and working with you on the essential and foundational work of the Cape York Land Council in empowering and advancing the rights and interests of First Nations people and communities across Cape York and Australia.

Minister, you may be aware that CYLC, with the generous support of The Australian Government, is about to take ownership of our own office building in Cairns. This represents a very, very significant milestone for our organisation in that we will for the first time in our proud 34-year history own our own building - a great source of pride and strength for our leaders and members across Cape York and for all the work they do.

On behalf of the Board of CYLC, we are honoured to formally invite you to officially open and dedicate our new office later this year.

Yours sincerely

Richie Ah Mat
CHAIRPERSON

Cape York Land Council

Image: Elim Beach

Contents

Map of CYLC Representative Area

Our story

Since 1990 Cape York Land Council has successfully worked to support Cape York Traditional Owners to regain rights to land and sea, to preserve their culture, to create change and build vibrant, strong, independent communities for future generations.

Our people, our voice

Cape York Peninsula

- Is the same size as the state of Victoria
- Is home to 17 Indigenous communities
- Has a population of almost 17,000 people, 56% of whom identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Cape York Land Council

- Has a representative area covering 128,401 square kilometers (Not including sea territory)
- Ensures Traditional Owners of Cape York can speak for their Country.

HOME TO 17 INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

CAPE YORK IS THE SAME SIZE AS VICTORIA

POPULATION OF 17,000

56% ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

Image: Kowanyama Road

Report by the Chairman

It has been an honour to serve as Chairman of the Cape York Land Council Board for over two decades and I am very proud to have led this organisation towards the achievement of land and sea rights for the Traditional Owners of Cape York, particularly over the past five years.

However, this year has not been without its challenges. As we are all well aware, Cairns and Cape York were hit with a catastrophic weather event in December 2023 and we experienced the worst flooding this region has seen in 100 years. Homes were destroyed, lives uprooted and many of our People were displaced. Our headquarters at Florence Street was also badly damaged and the office was uninhabitable for several months while it underwent repair. During that time, the organisation saw major personnel changes. Additionally, our communities suffered consecutive instances of Sorry Business and we mourned the loss of very significant elders in the community. Yes, it was a trying time but Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are no strangers to hardship. Our greatest strength is in unity, resilience and our ability to rise from the ashes. And that's exactly what we've done.

Our People are stronger, our team is rejuvenated and there is a fire in our bellies for greater outcomes than previously achieved. In the second half of 2023, we celebrated nine determinations as part of the Cape York United #1 Claim. In the first half of 2024, we also facilitated a number of authorisation meetings in order to progress an additional eight determinations in the coming year. We are hopeful that these determinations will come to fruition, bringing us a step closer to finalising the Cape York United #1 Claim and seeing nearly 100% of Cape York covered by a native title determination.

The fight for recognition of our rights and interests to the land does not stop here. Cape York Bama equally have a deep connection to our Sea Country. It has provided sustenance, livelihood, enjoyment and spiritual enlivenment since time immemorial and it is time for our People to reclaim these rights and interests. The Cape York Land Council is currently working on its strategy for resolving sea claims and is grateful to the State of Queensland for its commitment to walking with us on this journey.

So once our land and sea country is determined, where to next?

This organisation must ready itself and our clients for opportunity. In the interests of self-determination, Cape York Land Council must do all that it can to support Cape York Traditional Owners to make decisions about their lives, including their political, social, cultural and economic development. Where there are opportunities for our Prescribed Bodies Corporate, be it corporate enterprise, tourism, carbon farming or otherwise, we must equip our People with the skills to pursue these opportunities autonomously, whilst at the same time having the power and the legal frameworks to protect their cultural heritage.

I would like to thank the Board for their support, leadership and commitment to achieving the objectives Cape York Land Council. I would also like to thank the management and staff of Cape York Land Council for staying the course, despite the huge challenges we have faced in the past year. Despite the upheaval, we have persevered and worked exceptionally hard to bring about positive outcomes for Traditional Owners. Afterall, Cape York Bama are the reason we show up everyday.

It has been nearly 34 years since the inception of this organisation and we don't plan on going anywhere. The fight for the rights and interests of Cape York Traditional Owners continues and I am very excited about what's instore for the next three decades and beyond.

Thank you.

Richie Ah Mat
CHAIRMAN

Cape York Land Council

Image: Aboriginal Stockman, Glen Garland Station, 1999

Our logo, our story

The Cape York Land Council (CLYC) logo signifies the importance of native title and the strength and unity of the Cape York people as they fight to assert their fundamental customary and legal rights.

Its elements represent both the law (rules of governance) and Aboriginal lore (knowledge and cultural protocols) of generations of Cape York people.

1. Central to the logo is the yuk puyngk or law stick, which today is used by the Wik People of western Cape York Peninsula to proclaim traditional laws, including ownership of land and material goods. In the logo, the law stick symbolises the strength and unity of all Cape York Aboriginal people as they united in 1990 to form the CYLC and demand recognition of their peoples and culture by the wider society.
2. The feathers at the top of the yuk puyngk in the CYLC logo form the shape of Australia with the Cape York region highlighted to show that the work to achieve native title rights for Cape York has a flow-on effect across the nation. Today the yuk puyngk appears regularly at dance and cultural ceremonies including the Laura Dance Festival and NAIDOC day. A yuk puyngk also appeared on the lawns of Parliament House in Canberra in December 1996 during the Wik Peoples vs the State of Queensland native title proceedings.
3. The colours of the CYLC logo have also been chosen to represent the importance of the earth (ochre) and the sea (blue) in native title negotiations and the intrinsic, life- long link between these elements and Aboriginal culture.
4. The circles of colour overlap to signify the coming together of Aboriginal lore and state and commonwealth law to ensure native title recognition. The overlapping also represents the Aboriginal people of Cape York walking together across two worlds to ensure they are able to build their future. The law stick ensures that the power remains in their hands.

Our logo elements

1. YUK PUYNGK (LAW STICK)
2. THE FEATHERS
3. THE COLOURS
4. THE CIRCLES

Our Elders' Vision

The Elders that gathered on a beach at Lockhart River in November 1990 had an unshakeable vision for their future and future generations of Cape York people.

As they drove the Aboriginal flag into the Cape's sand, they committed to creating a Cape York Land Council to effectively represent all Aboriginal peoples of Cape York to regain rights to land and sea, to preserve their culture and make their own decisions to achieve a better future.

Actions speak louder than words and they invested their own funds and own resources to ensure a land council was established and that CYLC would become a strong voice to represent them.

More than 30 years on, CYLC continues to assist Traditional Owners (TOs) to establish and manage their rights and interests in land and sea and produce social, cultural and economic benefits.

Two of the gentlemen who added their support and their voices to the establishment of the CYLC were Colin Lawrence (left) and Ezra Michael (right). Both men have since passed away.

Colin, commonly known as Domino, was a Kunjen Flying Fox Clan man with connections to Dunbar Station. He was at the original Lockhart River meeting of Traditional Owners to form the CYLC and an active advocate for Indigneous self-management.

Ezra was a Yir Yoronon Possum/Moon clan man, whose Country was next to the Kowanyumal Lagoon on the southern side of the Coleman River. He was one of the founding Elders of the Kowanyama Land Office in 1990.

The original Charter of CYLC identified a number of objectives. These included:

- Providing a vehicle for self-determination for the Aboriginal peoples of Cape York;
- Providing a representative voice for the Aboriginal peoples of Cape York in relation to land issues;
- Respecting and recognising land rights and responsibilities of TOs of land in Cape York;
- Transparency and accountability to government and TOs and partners;
- Respecting the culture of the Aboriginal peoples of Cape York Peninsula; and
- Providing opportunities for Cape York Aboriginal people to acquire management skills appropriate to the needs of their communities.

Our work today

CYLC forms a key link in a network of specialist community-based organisations. It has an established Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) Support Unit to provide support services to PBCs so that native title and holders have legally compliant and capable organisations to represent their interests and achieve benefits from native title.

In addition to the statutory functions of a NTRB, CYLC also performs broader functions including:

- responding to the implementation of Queensland legislation which affects native title interests including the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991* (Qld) (ALA), *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013* (Qld) (LHA), *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* (Qld) (ACHA), *Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007* (Qld) (CYPHA);
- participation in policy reviews and legislative amendment processes which affect native title and Aboriginal interests, participation in policy implementation such as the Cape York Welfare Reform agenda;
- participation in cultural heritage mapping and protection;
- participation in land use planning and management;
- providing a centralised, secure repository for anthropological research and genealogies;
- providing a secure repository for backup copies of important documents such as PBC legal documents;
- involvement in resolving land administration and land tenure issues on Aboriginal land;
- promoting home ownership and economic development on Aboriginal land; and
- promoting economic development and healthier living.

CYLC operates in compliance with the Native Title Unit and its Rule Book, the guidelines of the Program Funding Agreement (PFA) and the requirements of the Corporations *(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (Cth) (CATSIA).

Despite competing priorities and demands on resources, CYLC's focus on the protection of native title holders' interests remains its key priority, consistent with NTA s203B(4).

The organisation also ensures it is able to adapt to changing social and political environments by ensuring its work is current, relevant and effective. Its focus is to ensure timely and meaningful outcomes for all matters related to TO's land and sea rights and interests.

CYLC was recognised as the Native Title Representative Body (NTRB) for the Cape York region by the commonwealth minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs in 1993. Since that time, CYLC has undergone numerous operational and re-recognition reviews, and was recognised as the NTRB for the Cape York Representative Area until 30 June 2018. For 2019-2020 CYLC performed the functions of the Cape York Native Title Service Provider . From January 2021 CYLC secured re-recognition as a native title representative body for the Cape York area for a further three years under subsection 203AD(1) of the *Native Title Act 1993* (NTA).

Functions

As required under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) (NTA), CYLC undertakes statutory functions to fulfil its role as the Cape York NTRB. These include:

- facilitation and assistance functions (s203BB);
- certification functions (s203BE);
- dispute resolution functions (s203BF);
- notification functions (s203BG);
- agreement-making functions (s203BH);
- Internal review functions (s203BI); and
- other functions (s203BJ and s203AI).

Our Focus

Our Mission

Through our consultation, engagement, advocacy and leadership, CYLC will empower Cape York Aboriginal people to assert, establish and manage their rights and interests in land and sea to produce social, cultural and economic benefits.

Our Vision

To be recognised as the lead support and advocacy organisation for Cape York Aboriginal land and sea rights and interests, and to create opportunities for current and future generations of Cape York Aboriginal people.

Our Values

- Honesty, integrity and fairness in dealings with Cape York Aboriginal people and other stakeholders
- Determination to drive reform through innovative delivery of services
- Respect for the people and culture that we represent
- Protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage rights and interests.

Our Commitments

- Ensure Pama's long-term visions for the future drives CYLC operations
- Advocate for Pama's rights to manage and use land for cultural, economic and social purposes
- Ensure Traditional Owners speak for their Country
- Develop future leaders by building the capability of individuals and corporations.

Strategic Direction

The implementation of the Strategic Plan and efforts to support the CYU #1 Claim continued to be the focus for the organisation during 2023-2024.

Staff from all units worked to ensure the mission, vision, values and commitments made to the Cape York people continued to shape their daily activity which comprises advice and support to RNTBCs and Aboriginal people about land tenure, land ownership, native title, land use planning, and corporate governance.

Supporting Cape York Aboriginal people to escape welfare dependence and engage in the mainstream economy by realising the economic potential of their native title and land rights and interests remains an important priority for CYLC and RNTBCs.

Corporate Governance

CYLC is incorporated under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006.* The CYLC Constitution is registered with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC).

Good corporate governance is achieved through strong working relationships and the separation of powers between CYLC's elected arm - the Board of Directors, and CYLC's executive arm - CYLC employees. Corporate governance is strengthened through CYLC's focus on creating a culture of fairness, transparency and accountability, with clearly defined roles, responsibilities and reporting for CYLC's elected and executive arms.

The Board of Directors is responsible for setting strategic direction, representing Council at political forums, seminars and meetings and the overall monitoring of operations. The CEO is appointed by the Board to manage the day-to-day business of the CYLC and executes directions from the Board through the daily operations of CYLC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Elected representatives
- Strategic direction and advocacy
- Organisational performance oversight

EXECUTIVE UNIT

- Operational management
- PFA compliance

ANTHROPOLOGY AND RESEARCH UNIT

- Anthropological research and advice
- Evidence protection and management
- GIS and mapping

LAND REFORM UNIT

- Investment ready tenure
- Project planning and management

COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT

- Campfire governance
- Mediation
- Community engagement

BUSINESS ADVISORY UNIT

- Engagement
- PBC support
- Organisational development
- Capability building

NATIVE TITLE UNIT

- Claims
- Future Acts
- ILUA certification

CORPORATE SERVICES UNIT

- Contracts and purchasing
- Employment
- WH&S
- Financial management

Image: 'Superman' (Fishing), Pompuraaw

CYLC Board of Directors

There are 17 communities within the Cape York representative area and a representative from each community is elected as a Director to sit on the CYLC Board of Directors. Directors attend regular Board meetings to ensure that all 17 communities have a voice in setting the direction of CYLC's work. If a Director is unavailable for a Board meeting, an Alternate Director with the same powers and responsibilities acts on the Director's behalf.

In accordance with the CYLC Constitution, the Board of Directors has responsibility for:

- receiving and considering reports from the CEO and other members of the senior management team regarding CYLC operations;
- monitoring the financial position of CYLC;
- deciding on allocation of resources to particular projects;
- being informed of changes or proposed changes to the way CYLC conducts its work;
- setting policy;
- dealing with complaints; and
- other functions as accepted from time to time.

Board Meetings

The Board of Directors meets at least four times per year and receives presentations from the CEO and senior management team on CYLC activities for the relevant period. Reporting on all areas of CYLC operations takes place at each Board meeting, including reports from the CEO, Principal Legal Officer (PLO), Manager Human Resources, Manager Community Relations and the Manager Prescribed Body Corporate business units. After considering these reports the Board provides advice and direction to assist the senior management team to set priorities and identify actions which contribute to achieving the aims of CYLC and the Aboriginal people of Cape York.

Director's responsibilities

Directors are informed regularly about the Code of Conduct. The Induction for all Directors covers training around CYLC Policy, Procedures and the Separation of Powers. Directors are made aware of the responsibilities that accompany their position as part of the election process, and further training is part of their ongoing development. Regular governance training is provided to assist the Directors to perform their duties in accordance with the principles of good governance and the responsibilities of an NTSP / NTRB under the NTA, CATSIA, the CYLC Rule Book and Program Funding Agreement.

At present we have one vacancy for an alternative director in Aurukun and Coen and a Director and alternate in Cooktown.

Over 2023-2024 the board met on 4 occasions

- 22 & 23 August 2023
- 30 & 31 October 2023
- 11 &12 December 2023
- 26 & 27 February 2024

Table 1: Director meeting attendance 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

CYLC Director Meeting Attendance 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024					
Community	**Director**	**Meetings eligible to attend**	**Meetings attended**	**Alternate Director**	**Meetings attended**
Aurukun	Jonathon Korkaktain	4	4	VACANT	
Cairns	Richard Ah Mat	4	4	John Takai	0
Coen	Allan Creek	4	3	VACANT	
Cooktown	VACANT	4		VACANT	
Hopevale	Stephen Wallace	4	4	Katherine Steffenson	0
Injinoo	Charles Woosup	4	2	Dale Salee	2
Kowanyama	Aaron Teddy	4	4	Brenda Aidan	0
Laura	Michael Ross	4	3	Fred Coleman	0
Lockhart River	Rodney Accoom	4	3	Faye Hobson	1
Mapoon	Neomi Rosedale	4	4	Maria Pitt	0
Mossman	Karen Gibson	4	2	Gerhardt Pearson	2
Napranum	Moira Bosen	4	4	Richard Barkley	0
New Mapoon	Clara Day	4	4	Marlene Bond	0
Pormpuraaw	Devon Tarpencha	4	3	Renee Shortjoe	0
Port Stewart	Gavin Bassani	4	3	Karen Liddy	1
Umagico	Bernard Charlie	4	0	Gwen Toby	4
Wujal Wujal	Francis Walker	4	3	Dawn Harrigan	1

Image: Rusty Cape York Sign

Our Board members

Karen Gibson
Mossman

Rodney Accoom
Lockhart River

Stephen Wallace
Hopevale

Bernard Charlie
Umagico

Charles Woosup
Injinoo

Clara Day Deputy Chair
New Mapoon

Gavin Bassani
Port Stewart

Jonathon Korkatain
Aurukun

Michael Ross
Laura

Moira Bosen
Napranum

Francis Walker
Wujal Wujal

Neomi Roseblade
Mapoon

Aaron Teddy
Kowanyama

Devon Tarpencha
Pormpuraaw

Image: Coloured Sands, Elim Beach

Human Resources

The HR team provides comprehensive human resources support, including employee relations, policy and procedure development, recruitment and retention strategies, travel and accommodation logistics and specific software development and implementation.

Employee Engagement and Development

This year, we enhanced our commitment by making available learning and development programs, featuring virtual training sessions. These initiatives empower employees to advance their careers while aligning personal growth with organisational goals.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Our commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is at the heart of our work, aligning with our core values and responsibilities as an Aboriginal council. This year, we continued to prioritise creating an inclusive environment where everyone feels respected, valued, and empowered to contribute to our mission.

We have actively implemented initiatives that recognise and celebrate the unique cultural heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, while supporting diversity across all backgrounds

Our recruitment and development programs are designed to create opportunities for people of all backgrounds and to foster pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals within our organisation.

Looking forward, we are dedicated to strengthening our DEI strategy, continuing to promote cultural respect and inclusivity in all that we do.

Technical solutions

To better support our employees, Human Resources focused on modernisation and efficiency by introducing new software programs optimising administrative workflows. We reviewed and revised our software programs, some which have improved data accuracy and enhanced employee self-service options.

Employee Health and Wellness

Supporting the physical and mental well-being of our employees remains one of our top priorities. This year, we introduced a new Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offering more comprehensive wellness support, and access to counselling, financial guidance, and legal support.

To further foster a balanced work-life environment, we reinforced our commitment to flexible scheduling work arrangements. Our team developed remote work guidelines designed to maintain productivity while addressing employees' needs and responsibilities, helping them achieve a sustainable balance between work and personal life.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, Human Resources will continue to adapt to the evolving needs of our workforce. We are focused on enhancing our talent acquisition strategy, and advancing our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. Additionally, we are exploring innovative digital tools to Streamline HR processes, aiming to improve the employee experience and increase operational efficiency.

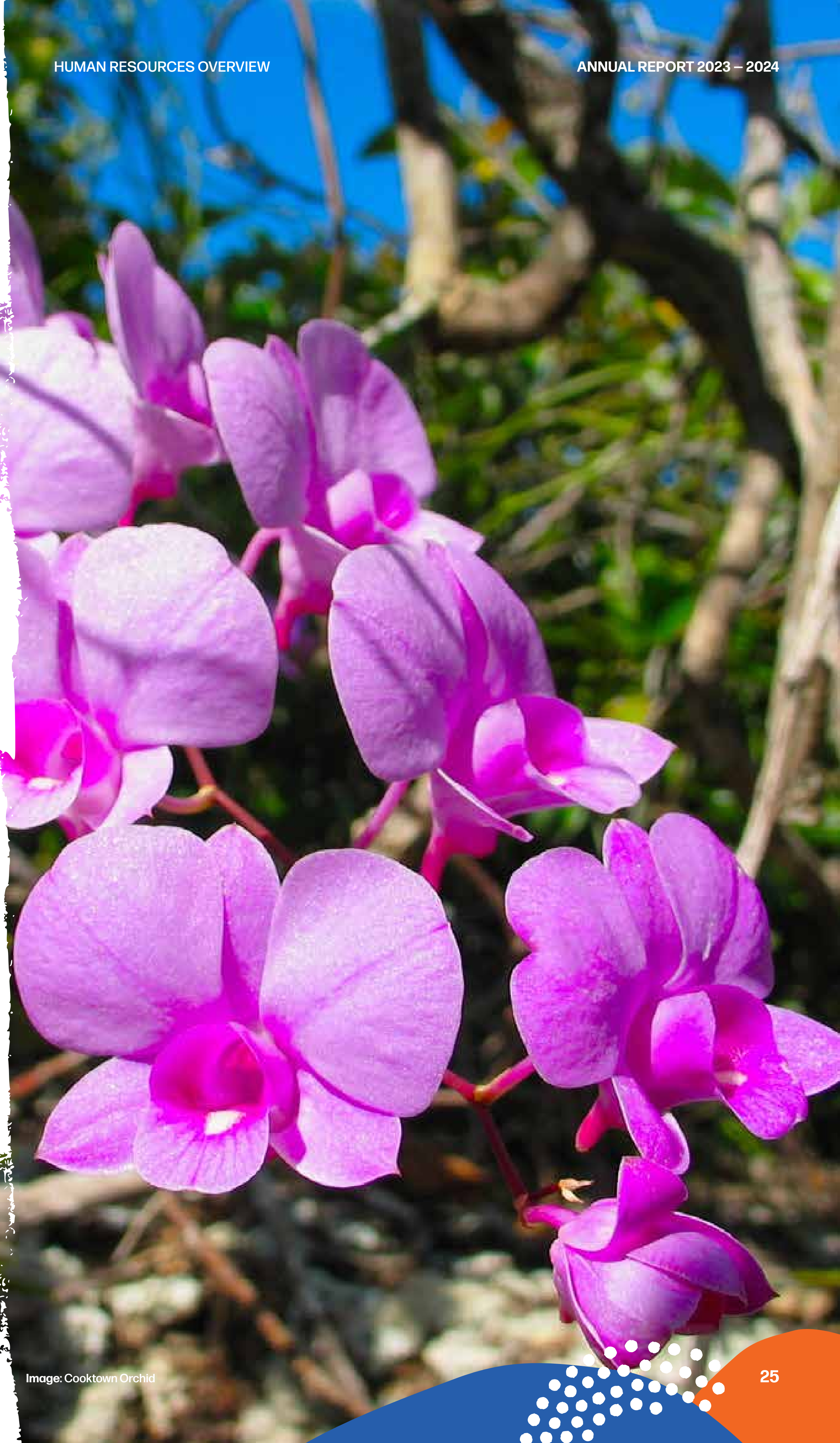


Image: Cooktown Orchid

Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) Unit

The PBC Unit offers support services to Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate/Prescribed Bodies Corporate (RNTBCs/PBCs) across Cape York.

CYLC remains committed to supporting PBCs in development of capacity to effectively manage native title rights and interests and progression towards self-determination.

The 2023-2024 native title determinations resulted in the incorporation of the following new PBCs within the CYLC representative body area:

1. Umpila Aboriginal Corporation RTNBC;
2. Weipa Peninsula People Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC;
3. Awu-Laya Indigenous Corporation RNTBC;
4. Possum Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC; and
5. Kuku Warra Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC.

As a result of these new PBCs, the total number of PBCs within CYLC's representative body area increased to 27.

The PBC Unit delivers a range of support to PBCs under the three broad categories of:

1. compliance with the Corporations *(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (CATSI Act) and *Native Title (Prescribed Bodies Corporate) Regulations 1999* (PBC Regulations) and governance training;
2. basic support funding administration; and
3. legal advice and service delivery.

Compliance

Throughout 2023-2024, existing and newly incorporated PBCs were supported to meet their compliance obligations under the CATSI Act with CYLC in attendance at directors' meetings, First General Meetings, Annual General Meetings (AGMs) held across Cape York.

Compliance services include:

- PBC Unit staff acting as the corporation's contact person;
- notification, coordination of and attendance at meetings;
- taking minutes at AGMs and directors' meetings;
- maintaining attendance records of meetings;
- assistance with director identification number applications;
- lodgement of general reports and change of corporation details;
- extension requests for general meetings;
- CYLC acting under delegated authority to lodge documents on behalf of the corporation;
- advice about the responsibilities of PBC directors, the PBC's obligations under the CATSI Act and the corporation's rule book;
- a full review of the corporation's rule book;
- drafting of changes to the rule book and the accompanying special resolutions;
- assistance at general meetings to consider changes to the rule book;
- advice about PBC's obligations under the PBC Regulations;
- facilitation assistance for member and native title holder meetings to support the PBC to comply with the PBC Regulations;
- review and settle policies and procedures related to the operational and governance functions of the PBC and any related body corporate;
- provide advice on related party benefits under CATSI Act;
- administer the PBC Basic Support Funding in accordance with any published guidelines;
- provision of information about other funding opportunities that may be available;
- offer and provide the suite of capacity development support services and activities that may be available from time to time through the PBC Unit.

Additional services are offered on agreed terms following an approved request for assistance form accompanied by a directors' resolution from the PBC.

Governance

With the need for strong governance within corporations, corporate governance training was offered to PBC directors in the form of attendance in person or remotely through ORIC directly.

We schedule governance training sessions during the first half of the financial year, so that directors and our staff have ample time to prepare for the AGM season which ranges from 1 July to 30 November.

Throughout the year, the PBC Unit email all PBC directors with the corporate governance training schedule published on the ORIC website.

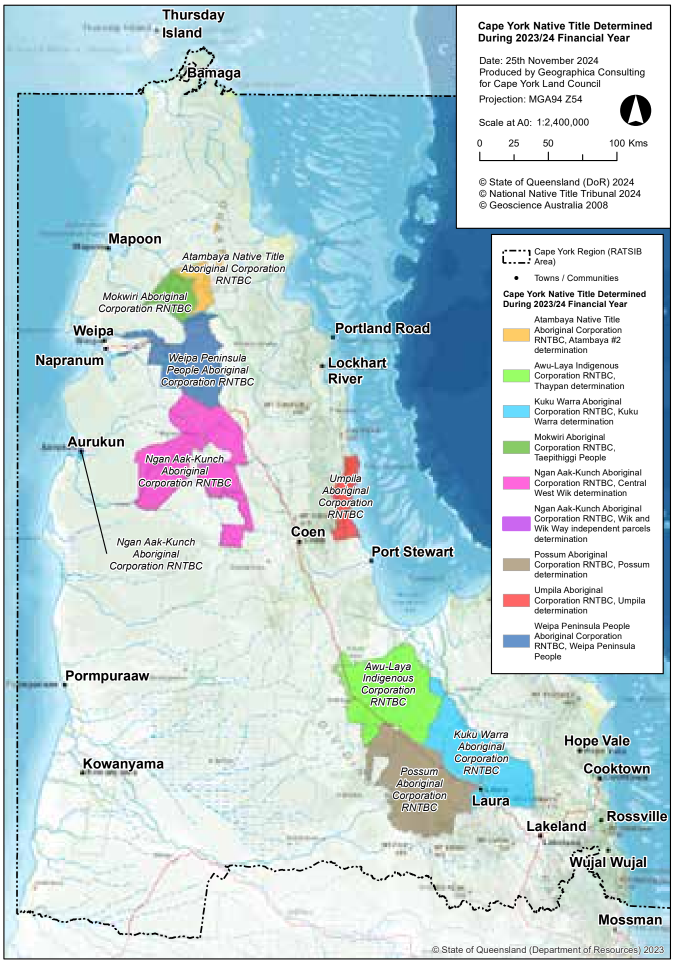
Legal advice is provided to directors and members in meetings to ensure that the CATSI Act and rule book requirements are followed.

Legal advice and service delivery

The PBC Unit assisted PBCs with legal and service delivery support this year through:

- advertisements, scheduling interviews and drafting employment contracts for PBC coordinators;
- obtaining building insurances by referral to consultants;
- assistance with opening PBC bank accounts;
- assistance with strategic plans through referrals;
- review of service and other legal agreements;
- provision of determination area maps;
- referral to third party providers for website development;
- review and renegotiation of contracts for carbon services with a view to increase profits for the Indigenous land holding corporation;
- advice on director sitting fees;
- advice on the transfer of Aboriginal Land Act 1991 (Qld) freehold land to PBCs;
- progression of overdue Indigenous Management Agreement reviews;
- attendance at joint management meetings;
- review of intellectual property agreements;
- progression of compensation agreements resulting from simplified procedure indigenous land use agreements (ILUAs);
- drafting consultation notices for PBCs to consult with affected native title holders prior to making native title decisions;
- advice to PBCs on ILUAs with landholding entities and proponents intending to conduct carbon projects;
- review of commercial office leases;
- resolutions to appoint directors and alternate directors;
- advice on overdue financial reports along with assistance with appointment of an accountant and auditor;
- submissions to ORIC for removal of corporations listed on the non-compliance list;
- calling in debts owed to corporations;
- review of policies and procedures for director use of corporation property.

The CYLC PBC Unit congratulates all native title holders on their determined outcomes and looks forward to the continued provision of services to existing and new PBCs within its representative body area.



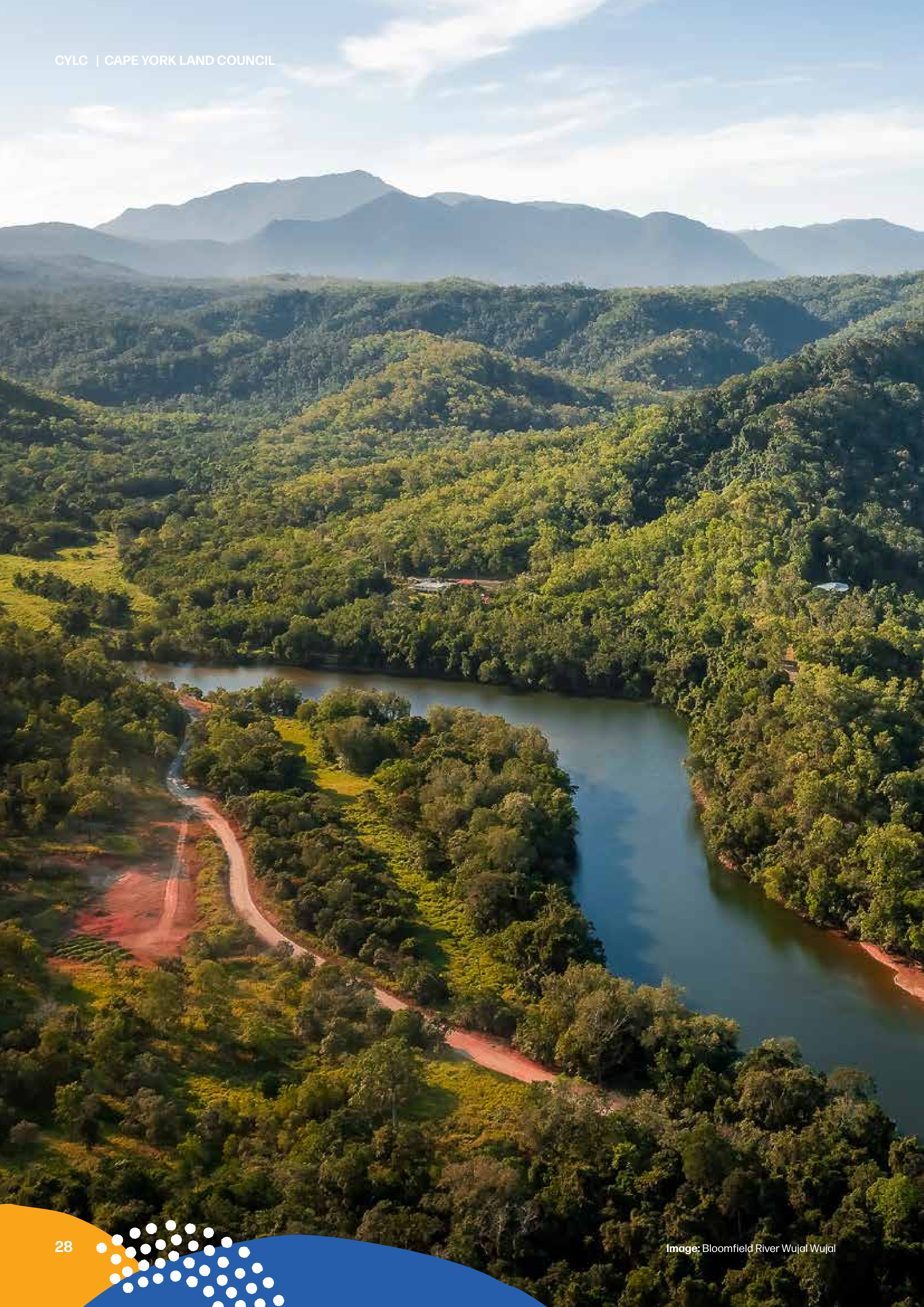
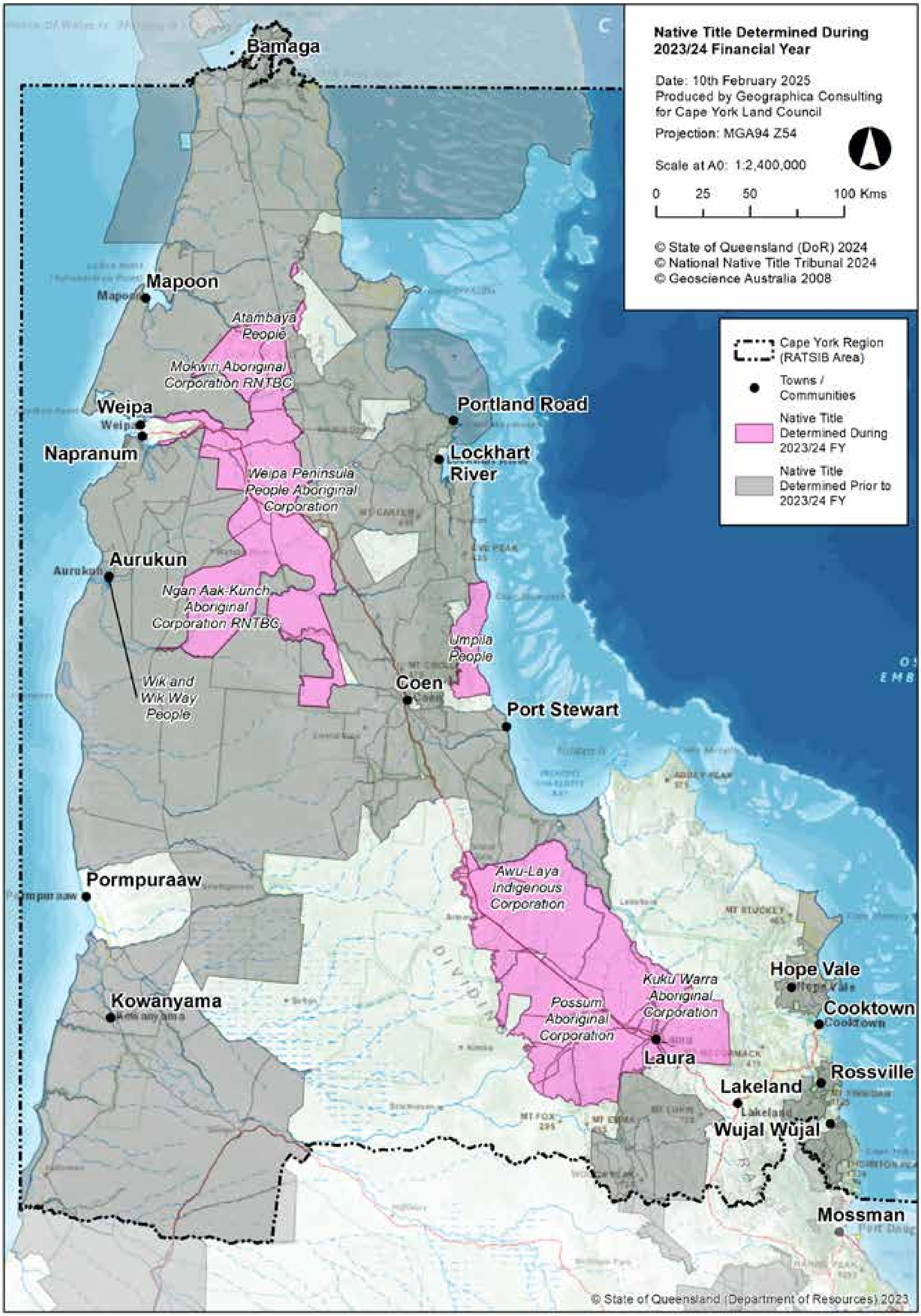


Image: Bloomfield River Wujal Wujal


Native Title Determined During 2023/24 Financial Year
Date: 10th February 2025
Produced by Geographica Consulting for Cape York Land Council
Projection: MGA94 Z54
Scale at A0: 1:2,400,000
0 25 50 100 Kms
© State of Queensland (DoR) 2024
© National Native Title Tribunal 2024
© Geoscience Australia 2008
Cape York Region (RATSIB Area)
Towns / Communities
Native Title Determined During 2023/24 FY
Native Title Determined Prior to 2023/24 FY
Bamaga
Mapoon
Atambaya People
Mokwiri Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
Weipa
Napranum
Weipa Peninsula People Aboriginal Corporation
Portland Road
Lockhart River
Aurukun
Ngan Aak-Kunch Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC
Wik and Wik Way People
Umpila People
Coen
Port Stewart
Pormpuraaw
Awu-Laya Indigenous Corporation
Kowanyama
Possum Aboriginal Corporation
Kuku Warra Aboriginal Corporation
Laura
Hope Vale
Cooktown
Rossville
Lakeland
Wujal Wujal
Mossman
© State of Queensland (Department of Resources) 2023

Native Title Unit

The Native Title Unit (NTU) at CYLC has continued to uphold the high standards it prides itself on, delivering exceptional outcomes for Cape York Traditional Owners through the prosecution of the Cape York United #1 Claim, Australia's largest claim both in geographic terms and by number of Traditional Owner groups involved.

Additionally, the NTU continues to secure native title outcomes through the Northern and North-Eastern Peninsula Sea Claims, negotiate tenure resolution Indigenous Land Use Agreements and cultural heritage agreements.

Through the vehicle of the Future Acts, Mining and Exploration team, the NTU are working closely with Traditional Owners to respond to exploration, mining and other future act matters, with a view to protecting traditional rights and interests in land.

Ultimately, the 2023/2024 period saw the culmination of years of hard work and collaboration between Cape York Traditional Owners and CYLC's multidisciplinary team of lawyers, anthropologists, community relations specialists and administrative staff, resulting in greater unity between Countrymen and the land and seas to which they are so deeply connected.

Between July and December 2023, the NTU progressed the following groups to determination:

Taepithiggi People	Ross on behalf of the Cape York United #1 Claim Group v State of Queensland (No 14) (Taepithiggi determination)	5 July 2023
Weipa Peninsula People	Ross on behalf of the Cape York United #1 Claim Group v State of Queensland (No 15) (Weipa Peninsula People determination)	5 July 2023
Central West Wik People	Ross on behalf of the Cape York United #1 Claim Group v State of Queensland (No 16) (Central West Wik determination)	6 July 2023
Umpila People	Ross on behalf of the Cape York United #1 Claim Group v State of Queensland (No 17) (Umpila determination)	6 July 2023
Atambaya People	Ross on behalf of the Cape York United #1 Claim Group v State of Queensland (No 18) (Atambaya #2 determination)	10 July 2023
Kuku Warra People	Ross on behalf of the Cape York United #1 Claim Group v State of Queensland (No 19) (Kuku Warra determination)	2 November 2023
Thaypan People	Ross on behalf of the Cape York United #1 Claim Group v State of Queensland (No 20) (Thaypan determination)	2 November 2023
Possum People	Ross on behalf of the Cape York United #1 Claim Group v State of Queensland (No 21) (Possum determination)	2 November 2023
Wik and Wik Way People	Ross on behalf of the Cape York United #1 Claim Group v State of Queensland (No 22) (Wik and Wik Way independent parcels determination)	2 November 2023

Between January and June 2024, the NTU has continued to work closely with the Eastern Kuku Yalanji, Western Yalanji, Guugu Yimidhirr, Yiithuwarra, Northern Kaanju and Central West Wik Peoples to progress resolution of boundaries, group descriptions and nominations of prescribed bodies corporate ahead of the last round of substantive determinations as part of the Cape York United #1 Claim. CYLC is fast approaching finalisation of the last 14 land claims in the next two years, as it sets its sights on progressing claims on the balance areas of sea country, both on the east and west coasts of Cape York. This includes the Wuthathi People Sea Claim, which was filed in December 2023.

Summary of Cape York determinations, NTDAs, ILUAs, FANs and SLD transfers

Native Title Determinations

Over the period 2023-2024 nine Native Title Determinations were made in the CYLC Representative Area.

Native Title Determination Applications

Over 2023-2024, CYLC commissioned anthropological research to support its projects and provided legal services to manage NTDAs active in the CYLC Representative Area.

Table 1: CYLC Representative Area NTDA Status

Application name	Date filed	Tribunal file number	Federal Court file number	Date claim entered on register
Cape York United # 1 Claim	12/12/2014	QC2014/008	QUD673/2014	06/02/2015
Northern Peninsula Sea Claim	27/02/2017	QC2017/002	QUD114/2017	Not registered
North Eastern Peninsula Sea Claim Group	27/02/2017	QC2017/003	QUD115/2017	Not registered

Over 2023-2024 several other NTDAs were being progressed within CYLC's Representative Area but CYLC is not providing legal and anthropological services to support these NTDAs. (Table 1A)

Table 1A: Other Cape York Representative Area NTDAs

Application name	Date filed	Tribunal file number	Federal Court file number	Date claim entered on register
Kurtijar People	18/06/2015	QC2015/006	QUD483/2015	15/04/2016
Kaurareg People #3	30/08/2010	QC2010/003	QUD24/2019	03/12/2010
Kaurareg People #2	28/08/2008	QC2008/007	QUD10/2019	13/02/2009
Torres Strait Regional Seas Claim (Part B)	23/11/2001	QC2001/042	QUD27/2019	05/07/2002

Indigenous Land Use Agreements

Over 2023-24 two Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) was registered with the National Native Title Tribunal (NNTT) for the CYLC Representative Area.

Future Act Notices

Over 2023-2024 111 FANS were received by CYLC for the CYLC representative Area.

Application name	ILUA TYPE	Purpose	Tribunal file number	Date filed
Kowanyama Defence Facilities ILUA	Body Corporate	Government, Access, Development, Infrastructure	QI2023/012	11/03/2024
Southern Kaanju People Biosecurity Centre ILUA	Area Agreement	Tenure resolution, Access, Development,	QI2023/005	09/02.2024

Table 1B: CYLC Representative Area Future Act Notices received

Future act	FANs Received
S29 - MC	1
24HA Permits	69
24KA – Facilities for service to public	1
S29 - EPM	26
S29 - ML	7
24MD – Infrastructure	1
Miscellaneous	5
Total*	111
S24JB - Offshore	

Image: Black Mountain Cape York

Image: Saltwater Crocodile

The Anthropology and Research Unit (ARU)

The Anthropology and Research Unit (ARU) plays a critical role in CYLC by providing anthropological, historical, and genealogical research and information based on field and archival research, drawing on the work that has been conducted by CYLC staff and consultants over its history of operations as well as actively conducting research with the current generation of Traditional Owners.

It provides anthropological advice and assistance at CYLC, including advice for the Native Title Unit (NTU) and the Prescribed Body Corporate Unit (PBCU) to progress current and future claims and post determination matters. Often this is in response to a request to identify the Traditional Owners of a project area, and people who should be consulted or notified in relation to projects or land use proposals.

The ARU also holds and manages anthropological, genealogical and ethnohistorical information in trust for Traditional Owners in secure and culturally appropriate ways.

The ARU conducts research at the request of the Board of Directors to help determine applicants' eligibility for CYLC membership and to verify the apical ancestry connections of individuals seeking confirmation of Indigeneity by Cape York Land Council for the region.

Over 2023-2024, the ARU:

- continued the development of a Cape-wide genealogy database, through the collection of Family Information Forms and obtaining records from relevant government departments and other sources of archival information;
- Implemented a contacts database of the Traditional Owners of the CYLC region to streamline contact information;
- assisted the NTU in regard to the CYU#1 claim, including through meetings, group description and apical ancestor research, family history research;
- provided advice to and assisted the Future Acts, Mining & Exploration (FAME) Unit with Traditional Owner consultations regarding future act matters;
- assisted the NTU in regard to World Heritage Areas through the preparation of reports and attendance at meetings with Traditional Owners;
- assisted the NTU in regard to ILUA negotiations by providing advice and attending meetings;
- supported Traditional Owners looking for information on their personal family histories;
- conducted cultural heritage surveys, including the production of reports; and
- attended professional development events run by the Centre for Native Title Anthropology and AIATSIS.

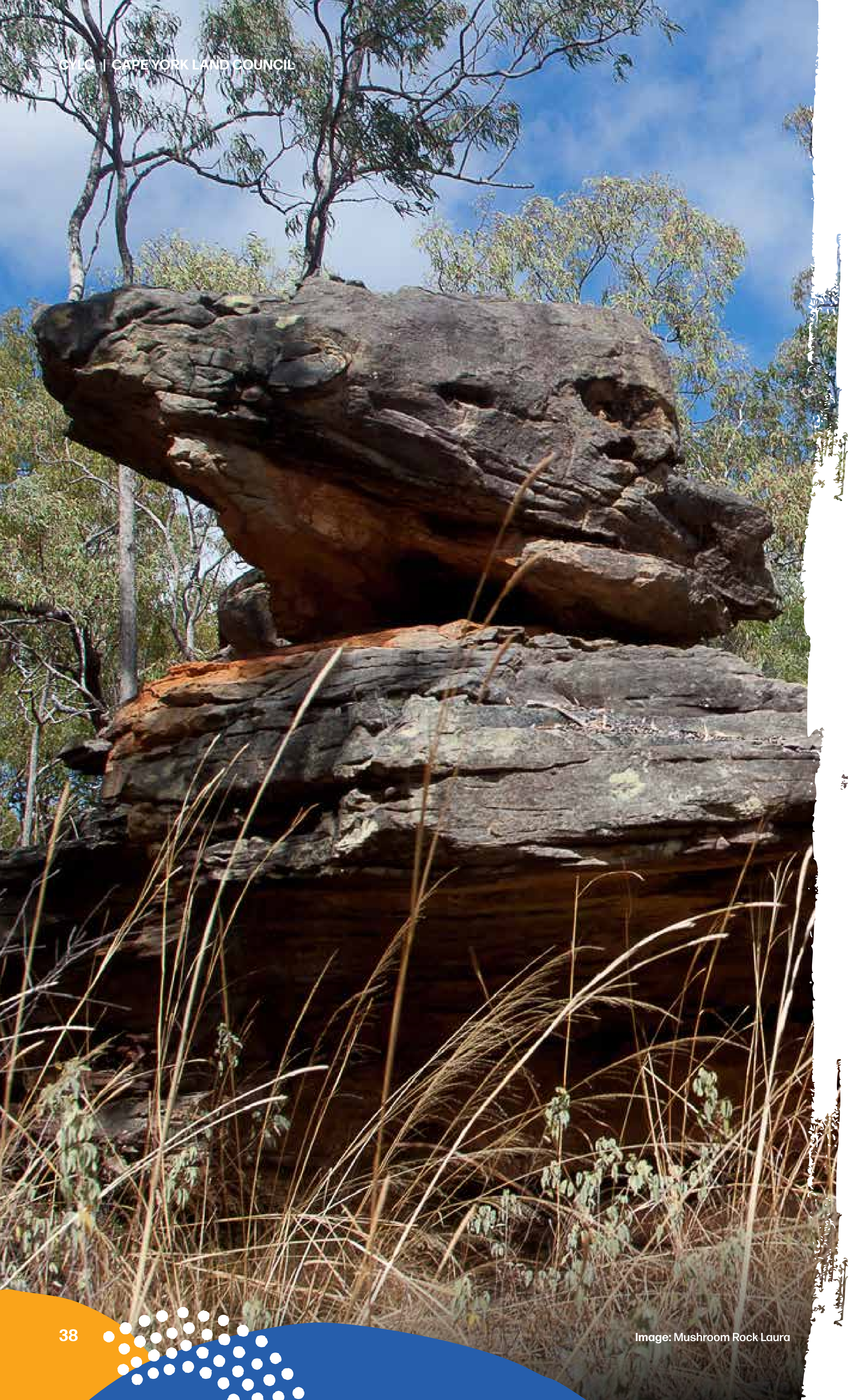


Image: Mushroom Rock Laura

Community Relations Unit (CRU)

During the 2022–2023, CRU dedicated its efforts towards fostering Community Engagement. This emphasis revolved around collaborating with various groups to formulate effective engagement strategies tailored to the specific needs and contexts of each community.

A key aspect of CRU's activities was its engagement beyond the boundaries of the Cape York Land Council, particularly targeting areas where numerous Traditional Owners reside, such as Townsville, Yarrabah, Mossman, and Palm Island.

CRU's aim by visiting these communities was to demonstrate its commitment to inclusivity and ensure that all stakeholders, regardless of location, had access to vital information and resources.

CRU facilitated information sessions aimed at familiarising communities with the core functions of CYLC and the supporting business units. These sessions were instrumental in advancing the success of the CYU#1 claim, contributing to greater understanding and collaboration among stakeholders.

Central to CRU's mission is the creation of culturally appropriate conversations and interactions. This objective is achieved through various initiatives, including regular Cultural Awareness training conducted by the CRU team internally. Cultural Awareness sessions serve to increase CYLC's employee's cultural awareness and cultural competencies, as well as appropriate ways to engage with Traditional Owners.

In summary, CRU's endeavours during the 2022-2023 year were centred around building stronger connections with communities, both within and beyond the CYLC boundary.

Through strategic engagement, informative sessions, and a commitment to cultural sensitivity, CRU continues to play a vital role in fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration across the Cape York region.

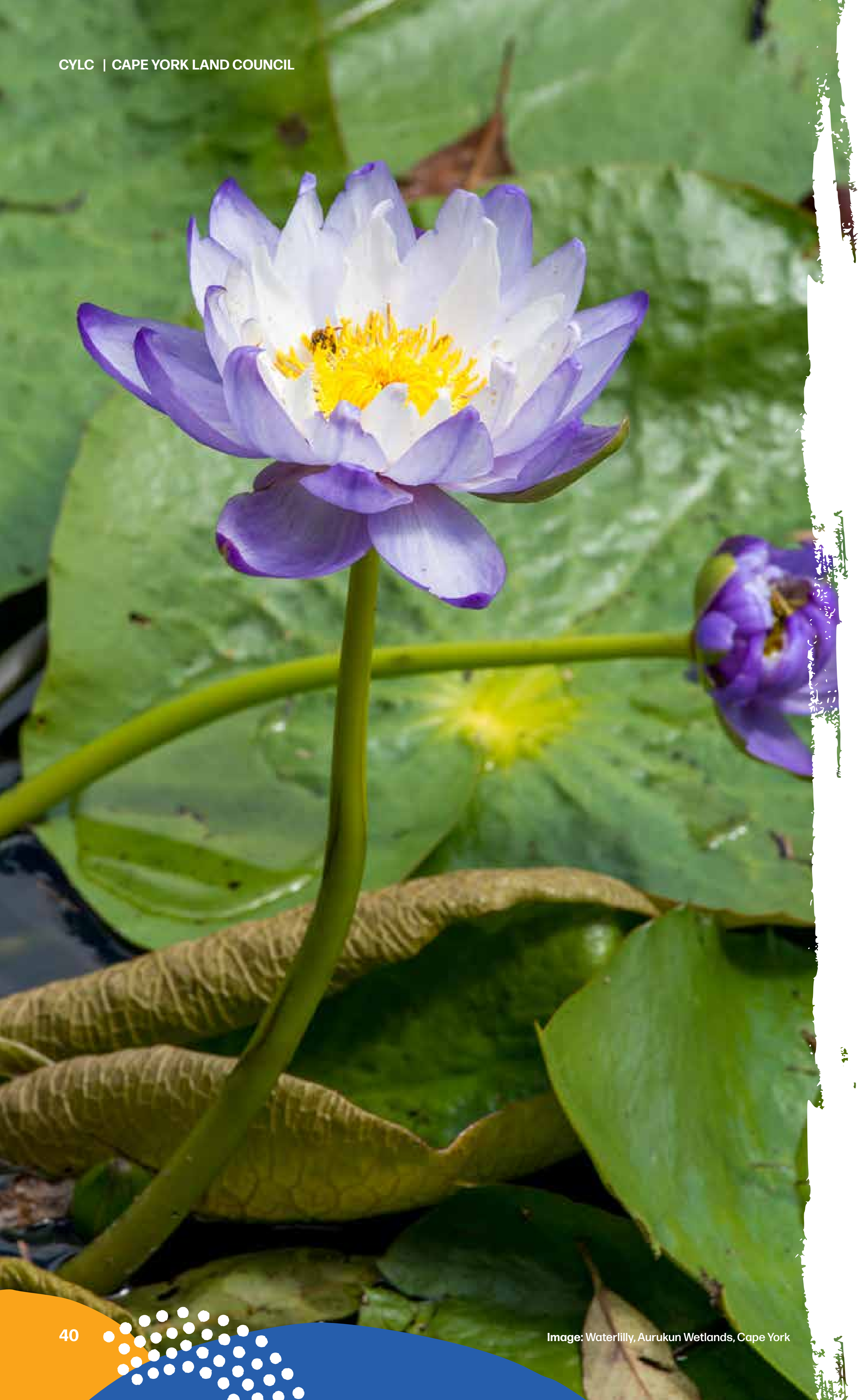


Image: Waterlilly, Aurukun Wetlands, Cape York

Acronyms

ACHA	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 (Qld)
AGM	Annual General Meeting
ALA	Aboriginal Land Act 1991 (Qld)
Balkanu	Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation
CATSI Act	Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth)
CHA	Cultural Heritage Agreement
Cth	Commonwealth
CYLC	Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
CYPAL	Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land
CYPHA	Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007 (Qld)
DOGIT	Deed of Grant in Trust
FAN	Future Act Notice
F/T	Full Time
GIS	Geographic Information System
ha	Hectares
ILUA	Indigenous Land Use Agreement
LHA	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013 (Qld) (Land Holding Act)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NTA	Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)
NNTT	National Native Title Tribunal
NTDA	Native Title Determination Application
NTRB	Native Title Representative Body
NTPCs	Native Title Protection Conditions
NTU	Native Title Unit
ORIC	Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
PDR	Peninsula Development Road
PLO	Principal Legal Officer
P/T	Part Time
PBC	Prescribed Body Corporate
PFA	Program Funding Agreement
PLO	Principal Legal Officer
PM&C	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
QRBA	Queensland Representative Body Alliance
RNTBC	Registered Native Title Body Corporate
SLD	State Land Dealings
SP	Service Provider
WCCCA	Western Cape Communities Co-existence Agreement 2001

Image: Jardine River Ferry Crossing

CAPE YORK LAND COUNCIL
YUK PUYNGK

Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

ABN 22 965 382 705 **ICN** 1163

Annual Financial Report
For the year ended 30 June 2024

Contents

Abbreviations

ILSC	Indigenous Land and Sea Council
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Agency
PBC	Prescribed Body Corporate

Directors' Report

The directors present their report together with the financial statements of Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (the "Corporation") for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 and the auditor's report thereon.

Operating and financial review

The Corporation's operations involve the advocacy of land issues on behalf of the Aboriginal people in the Cape York Peninsula region. The Corporation's main projects during this financial year include land advocacy work in the North West Cape and Northern Peninsula Area in relation to the continuation and development of mining and exploration activities. The Corporation also underwent an internal restructure to improve its ability to provide PBC assistance, future acts, mediation and dispute resolution, anthropology work and compensation. The results from operations and financial position of the Corporation outlined in the financial statements are consistent with the expectations of directors.

The net surplus from ordinary activities after income tax amounted to $5,709,795 (2023: $83,478).

State of affairs

There were no significant changes in the Corporation's state of affairs during the year.

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Corporation during the course of the financial year continue to be the advocacy of land issues on behalf of Aboriginal people in the Cape York Peninsula region.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the activities of the Corporation during the year.

Events subsequent to reporting date

On 30 August 2024 the board stood down the CEO Mr Dion Creek following allegations of domestic violence. Mr Richard Ahmat became the acting CEO on 15 August 2024 and subsequently stood down as the Chairperson and a Director of the Corporation on 10 September 2024. Ms Clara Day became the Chairperson from that date.

Other than the above, there has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any matter or circumstance that has significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Corporation, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Corporation, in future financial years.

Likely developments

The directors do not envisage any material threats to the Corporation's liquidity or its viability in the foreseeable future, the Corporation will continue to adapt its plans and operations to address any future changes in which it and its members find themselves.

The directors envisage that the Corporation will continue its existing operations, subject to the continued receipt of future funding from government and other sources.

Environmental regulation

The Corporation's operations are not subject to any particular and significant environmental regulations under either Commonwealth or State legislation. However, the board believes that the Corporation has adequate systems in place for the management of its environmental requirements and is not aware of any breach of those environmental requirements as they apply to the Corporation.

Distributions

The Corporation's constitution precludes it from distributing any surpluses to members. Accordingly, no distributions were paid, recommended or declared by the Corporation during the year.

Directors

The number of general directors' meetings and number of meetings attended by each of the directors of the Corporation during the financial year are:

Community	Name	Special responsibilities	No of meetings attended	No of meetings held
Cairns	Richard Ah Mat	Former Chairperson (resigned 10 September 2024)	4	4
Cairns	John Takai	Alternate Director	-	4
Aurukun	Jonathan Korkatain	Director	3	4
Coen	Allan Creek	Director	4	4
Hope Vale	Stephen Wallace	Director	4	4
Hope Vale	Katherine Steffensen	Alternate Director	-	4
Injinoo	Charles Woosup	Director	1	4
Injinoo	Dale Salee	Alternate Director	2	4
Kowanyama	Aaron Teddy	Director	3	4
Kowanyama	Brenda Aiden	Alternate Director	-	4
Laura	Michael Ross	Director	4	4
Laura	Fred Coleman	Alternate Director	-	4
Lockhart River	Rodney Accoom	Director	1	4
Lockhart River	Faye Hobson	Alternate Director	1	4
Mapoon	Neomi Rosedale	Director	1	4
Mapoon	Maria Pitt	Alternate Director	-	4
Mossman	Karen Gibson	Director	1	4
Mossman	Gerhardt Pearson	Alternate Director	1	4
Napranum	Moira Bosen	Director	4	4
Napranum	Richard Barkley	Alternate Director	-	4
New Mapoon	Clara Day	Director (appointed Chairperson 10 September 2024)	4	4
New Mapoon	Marlene Bond	Alternate Director	-	4
Pormpuraaw	Devon Tarpencha	Director	2	4
Pormpuraaw	Renee Shortjoe	Alternate Director	-	4
Port Stewart	Gavin Bassani	Director	4	4
Port Stewart	Karen Liddy	Alternate Director	-	4
Umagico	Bernard Charlie	Director	1	4
Umagico	Gwen Toby	Alternate Director	4	4
Wujal Wujal	Francis Walker	Director	2	4
Wujal Wujal	Dawn Harrigan	Alternate Director	1	4

* Directors Meeting in October was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

** On 10 September 2024 Richard Ahmat resigned as Chairperson and as a Director and was replaced by Clara Day as Chairperson. Richard Ahmat was appointed as acting Chief Executive Officer to replace Dion Creek following his termination by the board on 30 August 2024.

Secretary

Darren Sullivan was appointed to the position of secretary on 11 May 2021.

Proceedings on behalf of the Corporation

During the year, no person has made application for leave in respect of the Corporation under section 169-5 of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* (the "Act").

During the year, no person has brought or intervened in proceedings on behalf of the Corporation with leave under section 169-5 of the Act.

Auditor's independence declaration

At no time during the financial year ended 30 June 2024 was an officer of the Corporation the auditor, a partner in the audit firm, or a director of the audit company that undertook the audit of the Corporation for that financial year.

The lead auditor's independence declaration is set out on the following page and forms part of the directors' report for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

This report is made out in accordance with a resolution of the directors:

Clara Day
CHAIRPERSON

Date: 6/11/2024

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd
Cairns Corporate Tower
Level 13
15 Lake Street
PO Box 7200
Cairns QLD 4870

T +61 7 4046 8888

Auditor's independence declaration

To the directors of Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

In accordance with the requirements of section 339-50 of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, as lead auditor for the audit of Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation for the year ended 30 June 2024, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

a No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* in relation to the audit; and

b No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Grant Thornton

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants

Helen Wilkes

H A Wilkes
Partner – Audit & Assurance

Cairns, 6 November 2024

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 $	2023 $
Income			
Revenue and income	7	19,591,741	11,456,922
Expenses			
Employee expenses	8	5,465,109	4,932,231
Supplier expenses	8	8,467,236	6,334,496
Depreciation and amortisation expenses			
Property, plant and equipment	13	186,314	129,834
Right-of-use assets	14	91,125	107,377
Net (gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets		(52,895)	(29,540)
		14,156,889	11,474,398
Results from operating activities		5,434,852	(17,476)
Finance income	9	285,582	118,401
Finance costs	20	(10,639)	(17,447)
Net finance income (costs)		274,943	100,954
Net surplus / (deficit) before tax		5,709,795	83,478
Income tax expense	6.5	-	-
Net surplus / (deficit)		5,709,795	83,478
Other comprehensive income			
Decrease in asset revaluation reserve	21	-	-
Total comprehensive income		5,709,795	83,478

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 $	2023 $
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	10	2,815,932	7,836,240
Term deposits		2,000,000	1,850,054
Trade and other receivables	11	548,252	88,603
Prepayments		80,672	59,949
Accrued income	12	3,558,068	14,950
Current assets		9,002,924	9,849,796
Property, plant and equipment	13	6,053,337	337,703
Right-of-use assets	14	74,478	188,692
Non-current assets		6,127,815	526,395
Total assets		15,130,739	10,376,191
Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	16	1,566,883	1,546,671
Contract liability	17	6,816,103	7,715,236
Provisions	19	113,845	117,179
Lease liabilities	20	108,242	127,910
Current liabilities		8,605,073	9,506,996
Provisions	19	54,185	25,328
Lease liabilities	20	17,515	99,696
Non-current liabilities		71,700	125,024
Total liabilities		8,676,773	9,632,020
Net assets		6,453,966	744,171
Equity			
Revaluation reserves	21	658,922	658,922
Retained surplus		5,795,044	85,249
Total equity		6,453,966	744,171

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Reserves $	Retained surplus $	Total equity $
Attributable to members of the Corporation				
Balance at 1 July 2022		658,922	1,771	660,693
Total comprehensive income				
Net surplus		-	83,478	83,478
Total other comprehensive income	21	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income		-	83,478	83,478
Balance at 30 June 2023		658,922	85,249	744,171
Balance at 1 July 2023		658,922	85,249	744,171
Total comprehensive income				
Net surplus		-	5,709,795	5,709,795
Total other comprehensive income	21	-		-
Total comprehensive income		-	5,709,795	5,709,795
Balance at 30 June 2024		658,922	5,795,044	6,453,966

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 $	2023 $
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash receipts from funding bodies		14,512,849	12,806,037
Cash receipts from services provided		193,534	433,705
Cash paid to suppliers and employees		(13,923,875)	(12,531,970)
Cash generated from / (used in) operating activities		782,508	707,772
Interest received		285,582	118,401
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	22	1,068,090	826,173
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		58,710	45,000
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	13	(5,907,763)	(159,572)
Acquisition of investments		(149,946)	(1,850,054)
Net cash from/(used in) investing activities		(5,998,999)	(1,964,626)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Lease repayments		(89,399)	(134,354)
Net cash from/(used in) financing activities		(89,399)	(134,354)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(5,020,308)	(1,272,807)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July	10	7,836,240	9,109,047
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	10	2,815,932	7,836,240

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

1. Reporting entity

Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (the "Corporation") is domiciled and incorporated in Australia. The Corporation's registered office is at 32 Florence Street, Cairns, Queensland. The Corporation is a not-for-profit entity and is primarily involved in native title advocacy matters.

2. Basis of accounting

Statement of compliance

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ("AASB") and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*.

Because the Corporation is a not-for-profit entity and Australian Accounting Standards include requirements for not-for-profit entities which are inconsistent with International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRSs") to the extent these inconsistencies are applied, the financial statements of the Corporation do not comply with IFRSs adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board. The main impact is the timing of the recognition of grant income.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on the date shown on the directors' declaration.

Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

3. Functional and presentation currency

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Corporation's functional currency.

4. Use of judgements and estimates

In preparing these financial statements, management has made judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of the Corporation's accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to estimates are recognised prospectively.

Judgements

Information about judgements made in applying accounting policies that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is included in Note 7 – Revenue and income from contracts with customers, Note 13 – Property, plant and equipment, Note 14 Right-of-use assets, Note 19 – Provisions and Note 20 - Lease liabilities.

Assumptions and estimation uncertainties

The directors do not envisage any material threats to the Corporation's liquidity or its viability in the foreseeable future, the Corporation will continue to adapt its plans and operations to address any future changes in which it and its members find themselves.

Accordingly, management is not aware of any assumptions and estimation uncertainties that have a significant risk of resulting in a material adjustment within the next financial year.

Economic dependency and going concern

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

The Corporation has historically had a working capital shortfall for many years which has been rectified in recent years. A positive working capital position was maintained as at 30 June 2024. At 30 June 2024, current assets amounted to $9,002,924 (2023: $9,849,796) and current liabilities amounted to $8,605,073 (2023: $9,506,996) leaving a positive working capital position of $397,851 (2023: $342,800).

Accordingly, the ability of the Corporation to continue its operations at current levels and continue as a going concern is dependent upon future ongoing funding and support being provided by government funding bodies. Such funding and support from NIAA, the Corporation's main funding provider, has been secured until the period ending 31 December 2025. The Corporation has no reason to believe that funding will not continue after this date. Therefore, the directors are confident that the Corporation will continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

However, should future government funding be significantly reduced or curtailed, the Corporation would be unlikely to be able to continue its operations at current levels.

Notes to the financial statements

5. Changes to standards and material accounting policies

Standards issued but not yet effective
Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

A number of new standards and amendments to standards are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 July 2024, and have not been applied in preparing these financial statements. These are not expected to have a significant impact on the financial statements.

New and amended standards adopted
The Corporation has adopted all of the amendments to Australian Accounting Standards issued by the AASB which are relevant to, and effective for, the Corporation's financial statements for the annual period beginning 1 July 2023.

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

6. Material accounting policies

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

6.1 Revenue recognition

Revenue arises mainly from government grants, rendering of services and interest income.

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

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

Revenue is recognised for the operations of the Corporation using the methods outlined below.

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

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

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

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

6.2 Grants and other contributions

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.3 Finance income and finance costs

Finance income and finance costs include interest income and interest expense. Interest income or expense is recognised using the effective interest method.

6.4 Employee benefits

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

Defined contribution plans
Obligations for contributions to defined contribution plans are expensed as the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in future payments is available.

Other long-term employee benefits
The Corporation's net obligation in respect of long-term employee benefits is the amount of future benefit that employees have earned in return for their service in the current and prior periods. That benefit is discounted to determine its present value. Remeasurements are recognised in income or expense in the period in which they arise.

Termination benefits
Termination benefits are expensed at the earlier of when the Corporation can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits and when the Corporation recognises costs of restructuring. If the benefits are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months at the end of the reporting period, then they are discounted.

6.5 Income tax

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

Notes to the financial statements

6.6 Property, plant and equipment

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

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

Purchased software that is integral to the functionality of the related equipment is capitalised as part of the equipment.

Any gain or loss on disposal of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised in profit or loss.

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

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

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

Further details in relation to valuers, the methods of valuation and the key assumptions used are disclosed in Note 13.

Any revaluation increment arising on the revaluation of an asset is credited to the appropriate class of the revaluation reserve, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrement for the class previously recognised as an expense.

A decrease in the carrying amount on revaluation is charged as an expense to the extent it exceeds the balance, if any, in the revaluation reserve of that asset class.

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

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

Depreciation
Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of property, plant and equipment less their estimated residual values using the straight line basis over their estimated useful lives and is generally recognised in income. Leased assets are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives unless it is reasonably certain that the Corporation will obtain ownership by the end of the lease term. Land is not depreciated.

The estimated useful lives of property, plant and equipment are as follows:

- Leasehold improvements 5-10 years
- Plant and equipment 3-5 years
- Motor vehicles 4-8 years

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

6.7 Financial instruments

Recognition, initial measurement and derecognition
Trade receivables are initially recognised when they are originated. All other financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognised when the Corporation becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

A financial asset, unless it is a trade receivable without a significant financing component, or a financial liability is initially measured at fair value plus, for an item not at fair value through profit or loss, transaction costs that are directly attributable to its acquisition or issue. A trade receivable without a significant financing component is initially measured at the transaction price.

A financial asset is derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or when the financial asset and all substantial risks and rewards of ownership are transferred.

A financial liability is derecognised when its contractual obligations are discharged, cancelled or expire.

Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial assets

For the purpose of subsequent measurement, financial assets are classified into the following categories upon initial recognition:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit or loss
- equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income
- debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income
- Classifications are determined by both:
- the Corporation's business model for managing the financial asset
- the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial asset.

All income and expenses relating to financial assets that are recognised in profit or loss are presented within finance income, finance costs or other financial items, except for impairment of trade receivables which is presented within other expenses.

Financial assets at amortised cost

A financial asset is measured at amortised cost if it meets both of the following conditions and is not designated as at fair value through profit or loss:

- it is held within a business model whose objective is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows, and
- its contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding

After initial recognition, these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Discounting is omitted where the effect of discounting is immaterial. The Corporation has determined that all of its financial assets fall within the amortised cost category.

Financial liabilities

For the purpose of subsequent measurement, financial liabilities are classified as measured at amortised cost or fair value through profit or loss. A financial liability is classified as fair value through profit or loss if it is held-for-trading. Other financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The Corporation has only financial liabilities classified as measured at amortised cost.

Notes to the financial statements

6.8 Impairment

Non-derivative financial assets
Financial assets and contract assets

The Corporation uses forward looking information to recognise expected credit losses – the 'expected credit losses (ECL) model'. Instruments within the scope of these requirements include loans and trade receivables.

The Corporation considers a broad range of information when assessing credit risk and measuring expected credit losses, including past events, current conditions, reasonable and supportable forecasts that affect the expected collectability of the future cash flows of the instrument.

In applying this forward-looking approach, a distinction is made between:

- financial assets that have not deteriorated significantly in credit quality since initial recognition or that have low credit risk ('Stage 1') and
- financial assets that have deteriorated significantly in credit quality since initial recognition and whose credit risk is not low ('Stage 2').

'Stage 3' would cover financial assets that have objective evidence of impairment at the reporting date.

'12-month expected credit losses' are recognised for the first category while 'lifetime expected credit losses' are recognised for the second category.

Measurement of the expected credit losses is determined by a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses over the expected life of the financial asset.

Trade and other receivables and contract assets
The Corporation makes use of a simplified approach in accounting for trade and other receivables as well as contract assets and records the loss allowance at the amount equal to the expected lifetime credit losses. In using this practical expedient, the Corporation uses its historical experience, external indicators and forward-looking information to calculate the expected credit losses.

Non-financial assets
At each reporting date, the Corporation reviews the carrying amounts of its non-financial assets, to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists then the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

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

An impairment loss is recognised if the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount.

Impairment losses are recognised in expenses.

An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

6.9 Provisions

Provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as finance costs.

6.10 Leases

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

As a lessee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.11 Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) arrangements

SaaS arrangements are service contracts providing the Corporation with the right to access the cloud provider's application software over the contract period. As such the Corporation does not receive a software intangible asset at the contract commencement date. A right to receive future access to the supplier's software does not, at the contract commencement date, give the Corporation the power to obtain the future economic benefits flowing from the software itself and to restrict others' access to those benefits.

7. Revenue and income

Revenue streams

	2024 $	2023 $
Revenue from contracts with customers		
Grants and donations (under AASB 15)		
NIAA	10,978,985	11,641,853
World Heritage listing – Department of Environment & Science	888,864	-
Grant balances at 1 July	7,715,236	7,118,972
Grant balances at 30 June	(5,901,493)	(7,715,236)
	13,681,592	11,045,589
Operating revenue (under AASB 15)		
Recoverable income	194,686	286,361
Reimbursements received – State land dealings	80,073	124,972
	274,759	411,333
Total revenue from contracts with customers	13,956,351	11,456,922
Other income		
Grants and donations (under AASB 1058)		
NIAA	3,000,000	-
ILSC	3,550,000	-
Grant balances at 1 July	-	-
Grant balances at 30 June	(914,610)	-
Total other income	5,635,390	-
Total revenue and income	19,591,741	11,456,922
Contract liabilities		
Grants and donations (under AASB 15)	(5,901,493)	(7,715,236)
Grant and donations (under AASB 1058)	(914,610)	-
Total contract liabilities at 30 June	(6,816,103)	(7,715,236)

Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers
In the table above, revenue from contracts with customers is disaggregated by major sources/types of revenue. All revenue from contracts with customers is derived in the one geographical region - Cape York Peninsula.

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

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

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

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

8. Expenses

Employee expenses

	2024 $	2023 $
Wages and salaries	3,820,919	3,450,944
Superannuation	568,656	482,780
Leave and entitlements	870,944	771,591
Staff professional development	50,053	61,985
Other employee expenses	154,537	164,931
	5,465,109	4,932,231

Supplier expenses

Motor vehicle	220,470	175,965
Rent and occupancy costs	121,131	58,196
Service expenses	5,216,940	3,452,026
Supplies	607,101	538,157
Travel expenses	2,298,413	2,105,914
Minor capital purchases	3,181	4,238
	8,467,236	6,334,496

9. Finance income

	2024 $	2023 $
Finance income from financial institutions	285,582	118,401

10. Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 $	2023 $
Bank balances	2,811,432	7,833,240
Cash on hand	4,500	3,000
Cash and cash equivalents in the statement of cash flows	2,815,932	7,836,240

11. Trade and other receivables

Current	2024 $	2023 $
Trade receivables	197,304	88,603
GST receivable	350,948	-
Less: Allowance for impairment losses	-	-
	548,252	88,603

Allowance for impairment
The Corporation has not recognised a loss in income in respect of the expected credit losses for the year ended 30 June 2024 (2023: nil).

During the year $28,814 of the former CEO credit card transactions and travel allowances were identified by management as being potentially repayable to the Corporation due to there being either inadequate supporting documentation, inappropriately claimed or of a private nature.

12. Accrued income

Current

Current	2024 $	2023 $
ILSC building grant	3,550,000	-
Other debtors	8,068	14,950
	3,558,068	14,950

13. Property, plant and equipment

Reconciliation of carrying amount

	Land *Fair value* $	Improvements *Cost* $	equipment *Fair Value* $	Vehicles *Fair Value* $	progress $	Total $
Cost						
Balance at 1 July 2022	-	577,025	129,479	459,835	12,329	1,178,668
Additions	-	-	41,188	114,575	3,809	159,572
Disposals	-	-	(3,160)	(45,000)	-	(48,160)
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2023	-	577,025	167,507	529,410	16,138	1,290,080
Balance at 1 July 2023	-	577,025	167,507	529,410	16,138	1,290,080
Additions	640,000	2,670	71,680	231,265	4,962,149	5,907,764
Disposals	-	-	(24,335)	(87,000)	-	(111,335)
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers from WIP	-	-	16,138	-	(16,138)	-
Balance at 30 June 2024	640,000	579,695	230,990	673,675	4,962,149	7,086,509
Depreciation and impairment						
Balance at 1 July 2022	-	575,188	32,337	247,718	-	855,243
Depreciation for the year	-	463	37,083	92,288	-	129,834
Disposals	-	-	(1,582)	(31,118)	-	(32,700)
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2023	-	575,651	67,838	308,888	-	952,377
Balance at 1 July 2023	-	575,651	67,838	308,888	-	952,377
Depreciation for the year	-	652	53,471	132,191	-	186,314
Disposals	-	-	(20,254)	(85,265)	-	(105,520)
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2024	-	576,303	101,054	355,814	-	1,033,171
Carrying amounts						
At 30 June 2022	-	1,837	97,142	212,117	12,329	323,425
At 30 June 2023	-	1,374	99,669	220,522	16,138	337,703
At 30 June 2024	640,000	3,392	129,935	317,861	4,962,149	6,053,337

Fair value measurements

The following table presents the Corporation’s assets measured and recognised at fair value.

	2024 $	2023 $
Fair value		
Plant and equipment	129,935	99,669
Motor vehicles	317,861	220,522
	447,796	320,191

13. Property, plant and equipment (Continued)

The most recent comprehensive valuation of plant and equipment was carried out as at 30 June 2021 and the most recent comprehensive valuation of motor vehicles was carried out as at 30 June 2020. There have been no changes in the fair value of motor vehicles since the last comprehensive valuation. Both the plant and equipment and motor vehicle valuations were conducted by Mr Stacey Quaid of Quaid Auctioneers, a registered, independent appraiser having an appropriate recognised qualification and recent experience in the location and category of the plant and equipment being valued. Fair values were determined on the basis of market value (Level 1 inputs).

14. Right-of-use assets

Reconciliation of carrying amount

	Buildings $	Plant and equipment $	Total $
Cost			
Balance at 1 July 2022	1,063,221	24,409	1,087,630
Re-measurement	(485,944)	-	(485,944)
Disposals	-	(24,409)	(24,409)
Balance at 30 June 2023	577,277	-	577,277
Balance at 1 July 2023	577,277	-	577,277
Re-measurement	(50,865)	-	(50,865)
Additions	-	27,776	27,776
Balance at 30 June 2024	526,412	27,776	554,188
Depreciation and impairment			
Balance at 1 July 2022	287,311	18,306	305,617
Depreciation for the year	101,274	6,103	107,377
Disposals	-	(24,409)	(24,409)
Balance at 30 June 2023	388,585	-	388,585
Balance at 1 July 2023	388,585	-	388,585
Depreciation for the year	85,570	5,555	91,125
Disposals	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2024	474,155	5,555	479,710
Carrying amounts			
At 30 June 2022	775,910	6,103	782,013
At 30 June 2023	188,692	-	188,692
At 30 June 2024	52,257	22,221	74,478

The Corporation leases land and buildings for its office under agreement for 5 years until 31 March 2025 with options to extend for a further 5 years. The lease has various escalation clauses. On renewal, the terms of the leases are renegotiated. The Corporation leases two photocopiers from Canon Finance. The lease was entered into on 1 July 2023 for five years.

The Corporation leases storage sheds under agreements of less than a year. These leases are short-term, so have been expensed as incurred and not capitalised as right-of-use assets.

15. Financial instruments – fair values

Accounting classifications and fair values

The following table shows the carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities. Since all financial assets and financial liabilities are not measured at fair value, i.e. they are measured at amortised cost, the carrying amounts are reasonable approximations of fair value.

	Note	Carrying amount 2024 $	Carrying amount 2023 $
Financial assets measured at amortised cost			
Cash and cash equivalents	10	2,815,932	7,836,240
Term deposits		2,000,000	1,850,054
Trade and other receivables	11	548,252	86,603
		5,364,184	9,772,897
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost			
Trade and other payables	16	848,015	885,456
Lease liabilities	20	125,757	227,606
Unexpended grants	17	6,816,103	7,715,236
		7,789,875	8,828,298

16. Trade and other payables

	2024 $	2023 $
Trade payables	590,764	428,314
Accrued expenses	32,900	29,800
GST payable	-	215,204
PAYG payable	84,851	85,138
Salaries and wages accrued	139,500	127,000
Liability for annual leave	359,258	328,204
Liability for sick leave	273,559	254,687
Liability for time-in-lieu (toil)	86,051	78,324
	1,566,883	1,546,671

17. Contract liabilities

Current liabilities	2024 $	2023 $
Unexpended grants	6,816,103	7,715,236

18. Employee benefits

The Corporation makes contributions to defined contribution plans. The amount recognised as an expense was $568,656 for the year ended 30 June 2024 (2023: $482,780).

19. Provisions

	2024 $	2023 $
Current		
Long service leave	113,845	117,179
Non-current		
Long service leave	54,185	25,328
Balance at 1 July	142,506	97,258
Provision made during the year	44,657	101,323
Provisions used during the year	(19,133)	(56,075)
Balance at 30 June	168,030	142,506

Long service leave

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

The Corporation has determined that it is not eligible for QLeave portable long service leave given that it does not meet the definition of a community service organisation.

20. Leases

Leases as lessee

The Corporation leases its Cairns office from Cape York Building Pty Ltd. The initial period of the lease was five years and expired on 31 March 2020. A new lease was entered into for five years expiring on 31 March 2025. Lease payments are increased every year to reflect market rentals.

The Corporation leases two photocopiers from Canon Finance. The lease was entered into on 1 July 2023 for five years.

None of the leases include contingent rentals.

	2024 $	2023 $
Leases under AASB 16		
Interest on lease liabilities	10,639	17,447
Expenses relating to short-term leases	67,682	8,509

Lease liabilities

	2024 $	2023 $
Current		
Lease liabilities	108,242	127,910
Non-current		
Lease liabilities	17,515	99,696
Total lease liabilities	125,757	227,606

20. Leases (Continued)

Maturity analysis of future lease payments

Lease liabilities are payable as follows:

	Future minimum lease payments 2024 $	Interest 2024 $	Present value of minimum lease payments 2024 $	Future minimum lease payments 2023 $	Interest 2023 $	Present value of minimum lease payments 2023 $
Less than one year	112,558	4,317	108,241	134,887	6,977	127,910
Between one and five years	19,656	2,141	17,515	101,165	1,469	99,696
More than five years	-	-	-	-	-	-
	132,214	6,458	125,756	236,052	8,446	227,606

21. Capital and reserves

Revaluation reserve

The revaluation reserve relates to the revaluation of property, plant and equipment.

Movements in the revaluation reserve were as follows:

	2024 $	2023 $
Balance at beginning of financial year	658,922	658,922
Net adjustment to non-current assets at end of period to reflect a change in current fair value:		
Plant and equipment	-	-
Motor vehicles	-	-
Balance at the end of financial year	658,922	658,922

The closing balance of the revaluation reserve comprises the following asset categories:

	2024 $	2023 $
Plant and equipment	116,101	116,101
Motor vehicles	542,821	542,821
	658,922	658,922

22. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities

	2024 $	2023 $
Net surplus/(deficit)	5,709,795	83,478
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	186,314	129,834
Amortisation	91,125	107,377
Loss/(gain) on disposal of fixed assets	(52,895)	(29,540)
Interest expense	10,639	17,447
	5,944,978	308,596
Changes in:		
Trade and other receivables	(459,649)	(18,762)
Contract liabilities	(899,133)	596,264
Trade and other payables – suppliers and employees	20,212	(85,009)
Prepayments	(20,723)	(5,215)
Employee benefits	25,523	45,249
Accrued income	(3,543,118)	(14,950)
Net cash from operating activities	1,068,090	826,173

23. Related parties

Transactions with key management personnel

Key management personnel compensation

The key management personnel compensation comprised the following:

	2024 $	2023 $
Key management personnel compensation	811,371	587,017

Compensation of the Corporation's key management personnel includes salaries, non-cash benefits and contributions to a post-employment defined contribution plan.

Loans to directors and key management personnel

During the year $28,814 of the former CEO credit card transactions and travel allowances were identified by management as being potentially repayable to the Corporation due to there being either inadequate supporting documentation, inappropriately claimed or of a private nature. Other than these amounts, no loans or advances have been made to directors or key management personnel during the year ended 30 June 2024 (2023: nil).

Key management personnel and director transactions

A number of key management personnel, or their related parties, hold positions in other entities that result in them having control or significant influence over these entities.

A number of these entities transacted with the Corporation during the year. The terms and conditions of the transactions were no more favourable than those available, or which might reasonably be expected to be available, in similar transactions with non-key management personnel related entities on an arm's length basis.

23. Related parties (Continued)

The aggregate value of transactions and outstanding balances relating to key management personnel and entities over which they have control or significant influence were as follows:

		Transaction values for the year ended 30 June		Balance outstanding as at 30 June	
		Income	Expenses	Debtors	Creditors
		$	$	$	$
2024					
Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation Pty Ltd	(i)	80,073	8,000	-	-
Cape York Building Pty Ltd	(i)	-	92,961	-	-
Cape York Institute	(ii)	-	1,098,217	-	-
Coen Regional Aboriginal Corporation	(iii)	-	9,817	-	-
Ipima Ikaya Aboriginal Corporation	(iv)	-	78,618	-	-
Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation	(v)	-	80,000	-	-
Kalan Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation	(vi)	-	148,350	-	100,200
Ngan Aak-Kunch Aboriginal Corporation	(vii)	296,535	-	88,132	-
Poonko Strathgordon Aboriginal Corporation	(viii)	-	-	-	-
Sash Kai Kai	(x)	-	27,495	-	3,182
2023					
Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation Pty Ltd	(i)	168,900	346,413	13,894	-
Cape York Building Pty Ltd	(i)	-	137,661	-	-
Cape York Corporation Pty Ltd	(i)	-	19,034	-	-
Coen Regional Aboriginal Corporation	(ii)	-	2,309	-	-
Good to Great Schools Australia	(xiii)	2,424	-	-	-
Gungarde Community Centre	(xii)	-	172	-	-
Ipima Ikaya Aboriginal Corporation	(iv)	-	11,297	-	-
Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation	(v)	-	86,636	-	-
Kalan Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation	(vi)	-	53,336	-	-
North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)	(iv)	5,777	-	-	-
Ngan Aak-Kunch Aboriginal Corporation	(vii)	256,003	-	5,329	-
Poonko Strathgordon Aboriginal Corporation	(xi)	-	4,363	-	-
Sash Kai Kai	(x)	-	12,015	-	-

(i) In the prior year the Corporation paid reimbursements for planning works performed for the Florence St building extension to Balkanu Cape York development Corporation Pty Ltd as trustee for the Cape York Aboriginal Charitable Trust – Allan Creek was a director during the financial year.
- During the year the Corporation leased the office building from Cape York Building Pty Ltd as trustee for the Cape York Building Unit Trust.

(ii) During the year the corporation paid Cape York Institute the remainder of the Pama Futures Summit Funding.

(iii) During the year the corporation paid for shred meeting expenses to Coen Regional Aboriginal Corporation.

(iv) In the prior year NAILSMA reimbursed the Corporation for travel expenses paid by the Corporation on their behalf – Dion Creek was a chairman during the financial year

(v) During the year the Corporation paid sitting fees under the Queensland Health Cultural Heritage Agreement to Ipima Ikaya Aboriginal Corporation – Charles Woosup was a director during the financial year.

(vi) During the year the Corporation paid for shared meeting expenses and PBC support costs to Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation – Francis Walker was a member during the financial year.

(vii) During the year the Corporation paid for consultancy costs per an agreement to Kalan Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation – Dion Creek is a director and Allan Creek is chairman of the corporation during the financial year.

(viii) During the year Ngan Aak-Kunch Aboriginal Corporation reimbursed the Corporation for expenses paid by the Corporation on their behalf – Jonathan Korkatain was a director during the financial year.

23. Related parties (Continued)

(ix) In the prior year Poonko Strathgordon Aboriginal Corporation reimbursed the Corporation for expenses paid by the Corporation on their behalf – Devon Tarpencha was a director during the financial year.
(x) During the year the Corporation purchased catering from Sash Kai Kai – owned by Richie Ah Mat's family member.
(xi) In the prior year the Corporation paid for motor vehicle hire costs to Poonko Strathgordon Aboriginal Corporation – Devon Tarpencha was a director during the financial year.
(xii) In the prior year the Corporation paid for venue hire costs to Gungarde Community Centre – Michael Ross was a director during the financial year.
(xiii) In the prior year Good to Great Schools Australia reimbursed the Corporation for meeting expenses.

24 Auditor's remuneration

	2024	2023
Audit services	$	$
Auditors of the Corporation – Grant Thornton		
Audit of financial statements	30,000	27,300
Other regulatory audit services	-	-
	30,000	27,300
Other services		
Auditors of the Corporation – Grant Thornton		
Other assurance and taxation services	31,679	22,000
	61,679	49,300

Directors' Declaration

In the opinion of the directors of Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (the "Corporation'):

a the financial statements and notes are in accordance with the Corporations *(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Regulations 2017*, including:

i giving a true and fair view of the Corporation's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and

ii complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the Corporations *(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Regulations 2017* and any applicable determinations made by the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations under Division 336 of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*; and

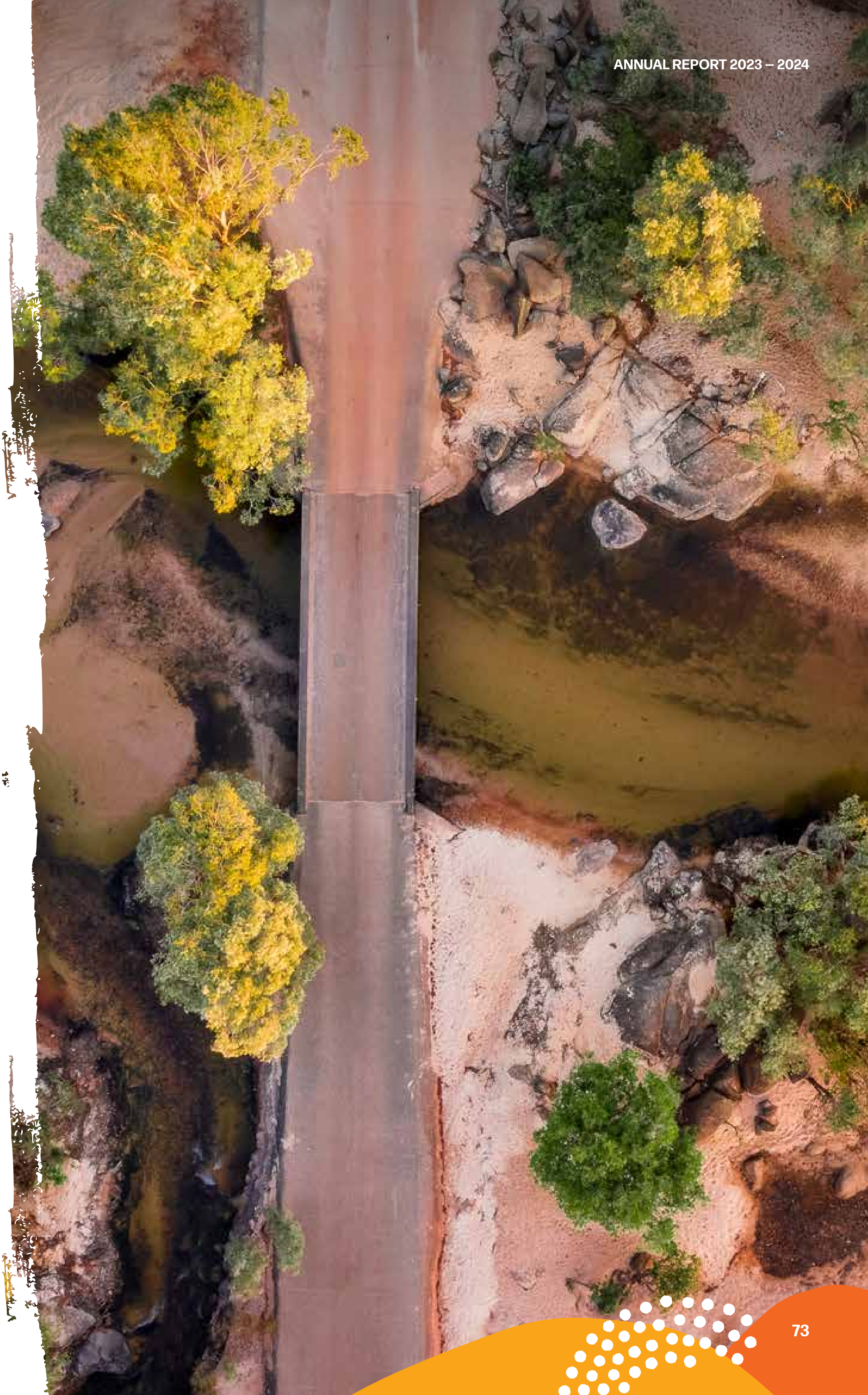
b there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Corporation will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors:

Clara Day

CHAIRPERSON

Date: 6/11/24



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Independent auditor's report

To the members of Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

Report on the audit of the financial report

Opinion

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

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

a. giving a true and fair view of the Corporation's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and

b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards – AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Regulations 2017* and any applicable determinations made by the Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations under Division 336 of the Act.

Basis for opinion

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

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

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

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

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

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

Responsibilities of the directors for the financial report

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

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

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

Grant Thornton

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants

Helen Wilkes

H A Wilkes
Partner – Audit & Assurance

Cairns, 6 November 2024

CAPE YORK
LAND COUNCIL

The CYLC 2023-2024 Annual Report and previous annual reports are available on our website at **www.cylc.org.au**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons are warned that this annual report may contain images and or names of deceased indigenous persons or sites of cultural significance.

Enquiries may be made by phone on **(07) 4053 9222**, or by email at **info@cylc.org.au**