

Anindilyakwa Land Council Opening Statement

Additional Estimates - February 2025

Speaker - Cherelle Wurrawilya (ALC Chair)

Good morning, Senators.

My name is Cherelle Wurrawilya the Anindilyakwa Land Council Chair. I am here on my fifth trip to this beautiful Ngunnawal and Ngambri country. I'd like to acknowledge the elders past and present and pay my respect.

With me today I have ALC Board of directors Serena Bara, Bradley Bara, James Durilla and Sherita Wurramarrba. Also with me today are ALC staff, Colin Wakefield ALC Interim CEO, Julianne Uate-Jones ALC HR and Administration Manager and Samantha Corbett, Acting Corporate Affairs Manager.

It has now been 8 months as Chairperson of the ALC. We have made strong changes and will make more changes to continue what is best for the Anindilyakwa people.

I wish to advise that the new CEO recruitment is underway. There is an ALC board subcommittee who are working hard to review the candidates, and this will be done in the right way.

The Groote Archipelago Regional Council (GARC) is moving forward. Nominations for councillors have now closed for the three wards; East, West and Central. This ward structure was informed by our people.

This week GARC announced the councillors for East and West Ward. Elections for the central ward will be held on the 15th of March 2025. A local council is what we always wanted for our people, to ensure we take back control of our local services.

Construction for the Boarding School at Milyakburra (Bickerton Island) will commence this year, with the bilingual school system to begin operating in 2026. ALC is committed to working with Groote Eylandt Bickerton Island Primary College Aboriginal Corporation (GEBIPCAC) to deliver strong education outcomes for our people.

At the end of 2024, the Construction of the Anindilyakwa Healing Centre on Groote Eylandt was completed. Earlier this month, the Centre officially opened its services for day programs.

It is a new year and the ALC board is committed to looking forward not backwards to determine our future. We will be getting on with the important functions of the Land Council and delivering for the Anindilyakwa people.

Thankyou again for having my colleagues and I here today on Ngunnawal and Ngambri country.