

ANINDILYAKWA LAND COUNCIL – OPENING STATEMENT

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025–26

Monday 9th February 2026

Speaker – Michael Trainor, Interim Chief Executive Officer, Anindilyakwa Land Council

Good afternoon Madam Chair and Senators.

I would like to acknowledge and pay my respects to the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people, elders past and present, the First Peoples of the land on which you are meeting. We are meeting here in Alyangula, on the lands of the Anindilyakwa people.

I am representing the Anindilyakwa Land Council today and have with me Anna Malgorzewicz, Legal and Corporate Affairs Manager.

I will read a statement prepared by Cherelle Wurrawilya, Chair, Anindilyakwa Land Council.

Since the ALC Members last spoke with the Committee in December, we have made progress toward recruiting a new Chief Executive Officer and look forward to his commencement with the Anindilyakwa Land Council later this month. We also reported on the recent appointment of the Chief Financial Officer. With these senior appointments in place, I am confident that the ALC will be in a sound position to strengthen the work that we do to serve our communities. We are confident 2026 will be a strong year for the ALC and the Anindilyakwa people.

Our focus will be to continue to implement strong governance systems, financial reporting, budget management and Board Member skills development. The leadership of the ALC will continue to listen to and address matters raised by community and our stakeholders. We will also focus on securing the cultural, economic and social prosperity of our communities. This includes safeguarding Anindilyakwa peoples' interests in exploration, mining and mine closure, with an eye on sustainable futures and inclusive decision making.

Community-led programs that we are running successfully, like the Community Justice Program and the Anindilyakwa Healing Centre are evidence that we can as a community make positive changes. We are building on this success with continued effort in other areas such as housing to address overcrowding and to strengthen education outcomes for young people. We have a responsibility to leave a positive legacy for our children.

The ALC's commitment and efforts to a sustainable and bright future is unwavering. I welcome your questions today.

Thank you.