

ANINDILYAKWA LAND COUNCIL – OPENING STATEMENT

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025–26

Monday 1st December 2025

Speaker – Cherelle Wurrawilya, Chair, 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 we meet.

Representing the ALC today are also Ida Mamarika, Deputy Chair, and Board members Serena Bara, James Durrilla, Matthew McKenzie, Scott Wurramarrba and Sherita Wurramarrba. Also with me are ALC staff Michael Trainor, Interim Chief Executive Officer and Anna Malgorzewicz, Legal and Corporate Affairs Manager.

Since we were last here in October, we have made progress toward recruiting a new Chief Executive Officer and look forward to finalising this process in the New Year. We have also appointed a Chief Financial Officer who commenced last week. 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.

The leadership of the ALC will continue to listen to and address matters raised by community and our stakeholders. The ALC's focus is on securing the cultural, economic and social prosperity of our communities, grounded in strong governance practices. We are committed to continuous improvement. My strong view is that to create positive outcomes for our communities on the Groote Archipelago we must work together to overcome challenges and find common ground for that greater purpose.

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. An important step towards this is the recent joint submission by the NT Land Councils on the EPBC Act reforms which the Australian Parliament passed on Friday. We advocate that Aboriginal people's involvement in the processes, decisions and determinations under the reformed EPBC Act must be properly embedded and given appropriate resources and representation for the meaningful transmission of Aboriginal people's views and knowledge. Through the submission the NT Land Councils have made important recommendations to protect our lands and waters.

The ALC's commitment and efforts to a sustainable and bright future is unwavering. I welcome your questions today. Thank you for having us here on Ngunnawal and Ngambri country.