



Dear Killian,

Please find below Tiwi Land Council's submission to the enquiry regarding the significant findings raised in the Financial Statements 2023-24 report.

New significant legislative breach

Non-compliance with the ALRA Act

This breach relates to the requirement for funds in Tiwi Land Council's royalty trust account to be distributed to traditional owners within agreed timeframes in accordance with the requirements of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*.

Tiwi Land Council Response

The Tiwi Land Council (TLC) has taken all steps within its power to comply with the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (ALRA) requirements for distribution in accordance with ALRA s35(4B). Section 35(4B) requires the TLC to pay an amount equal to the amount of the Township lease payment to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for the benefit of the traditional Aboriginal owners of the Land. At present, no such corporation exists. Accordingly, the TLC wrote to the Minister in accordance with s35(5) requesting approval of an alternative method of payment as described in the Audit findings above. The Minister declined to approve this proposed alternative payment and did not make an alternate determination that would enable the TLC to make a payment to comply with Section 35(4B).

The TLC was advised by the Office of Township Leasing in September 2025 that it had received advice which would pave the way for establishment of a compliant corporation, enabling the TLC to distribute the relevant funds in accordance with its ALRA obligations. However, we also understand that establishment may take at least another six (6) months. Accordingly, in November 2025, the TLC again wrote to the Minister seeking approval to effect payment through an alternative mechanism to resolve the identified breach and ensure that funds can be received by traditional owners for community development and economic benefit.

Any further clarification, please let me know.

Kind Regards,

Maria Juan

Chief Financial Officer



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