

Question on notice no. 222

Portfolio question number: NIAA222

2024-25 Budget estimates

Finance and Public Administration Committee, Cross Portfolio Indigenous matters

Senator David Pocock: asked the Anindilyakwa Land Council on 20 June 2024—

Please provide a breakdown of all funding and in-kind support that has been provided by the ALC to entities, projects or initiatives that directly or indirectly support the establishment of Winchelsea Mining. This should include, but not be limited to: funds provided directly to Winchelsea Mining and related entities such as the Anindilyakwa Advancement Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC) ; funds provided to other entities, such as Groote Holdings Aboriginal Corporation (GHAC) , to complete projects that will support the establishment or operations of Winchelsea Mining (such as the jetties, ramps, workers accommodation and logistics base camp referred to in the ALC's recent annual reports) ; funds spent on any professional services to support the establishment of Winchelsea Mining, including environmental or cultural surveys, permit or licence applications, valuations and other reports; and the value of shared office spaces and other corporate resources or services.

Answer —

Please see attached.

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2024-2025

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC)

Topic: Breakdown of funding to support Winchelsea Mining

Senator: David Pocock

Question reference number: NIAA222

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 25 July 2024

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Question:

- Please provide a breakdown of all funding and in-kind support that has been provided by the ALC to entities, projects or initiatives that directly or indirectly support the establishment of Winchelsea Mining. This should include, but not be limited to:
 - funds provided directly to Winchelsea Mining and related entities such as the Anindilyakwa Advancement Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC);
 - funds provided to other entities, such as Groote Holdings Aboriginal Corporation (GHAC), to complete projects that will support the establishment or operations of Winchelsea Mining (such as the jetties, ramps, workers accommodation and logistics base camp referred to in the ALC's recent annual reports);
 - funds spent on any professional services to support the establishment of Winchelsea Mining, including environmental or cultural surveys, permit or licence applications, valuations and other reports; and
 - the value of shared office spaces and other corporate resources or services.

Answer: -

The ALC distributes *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth) (ALRA) s.64 (3) monies to Aboriginal Corporations whose members live in or are the traditional Aboriginal owners of the area affected by those mining operations. The ALC has not provided funds directly to Winchelsea Mining Pty Ltd.

It is part of ALC's function under ALRA s.23 (1) (ea) to assist in carrying out 'commercial activities (including resource development, the provision of tourist facilities and agriculture activities)...

Therefore, efforts made by the ALC to carry out these functions (including the value of shared office space etc.) are treated as part of ALC’s operations and are not recorded as in-kind contributions to other entities. Consequently those matters are not separately identified or listed. This is the standard approach used by the ALC in relation to similar assistance which is presently provided to 13 Aboriginal controlled corporations.

The Winchelsea mining venture is a ‘future Groote’ enabling project. A core vision of the project is to raise enough revenue to support the economic and social future of the Traditional Owners of the Groote Archipelago. The proposed Winchelsea mine closure plan will include re-purposing the mine site to scale up aquaculture operations post mining.

Table 1: Funding from ALC to Anindilyakwa Advancement Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC) that directly supports the establishment of Winchelsea Mining between 2018 to 30 June 2024

Project/initiative supported.	Amount (\$)	Funding Source
Environmental Impact Studies	1,211,020	NT Economic Stimulus Package
Logistics Project and Business Feasibility work	1,981,000	NT Economic Stimulus Package.
Yukida Mining Agreement 2018 payment.	5,000,000	ALRA s.64(3)
Yukida Mining Agreement payout payment.	2,500,000	ALRA s.64(3)
Payment to assist in negotiation with Winchelsea Mining shareholder for additional funding or share dilution.	2,500,000	ALRA s.64(3)
TO Mining Agreement payments.	1,574,869	ALRA s.64(3)
TO Mining Agreement payment-funding held by AAAC available to be re-purposed	\$80,000	ALRA s.64(3)
Working Capital June 2022 to June 2024.	2,860,000	ALRA s.64(3)
Winchelsea Forestry Project	622,240	ALRA s.64(3)
EIS consultants for Winchelsea	2,013,251	ALRA s.64(3)
Mining exploration and testing, BFS project costs for Winchelsea.	\$6,965,470	ALRA s.64(3)
Mining exploration and testing, BFS project costs for Winchelsea - funding re-purposed for working capital funding to Winchelsea.	\$225,000	ALRA s.64(3)

Anindilyakwa Advancement Aboriginal Corporation has provided funds for these initiatives to Winchelsea Mining Pty Ltd in the form of a loan.

Table 2: ALC funding to Groote Holdings Aboriginal Corporation (GHAC) that indirectly supports Winchelsea mining or where the funds will have broader benefits.

The Little Paradise Development is a large scale multi-faceted economic and community development initiative which includes aquaculture enterprise development, worker's accommodation, jetty and ramps for enterprise development, telecommunications, and accommodation for essential services to support the Local-Decision Making Agreement.

The table below presents funding for initiatives that provide broad economic and community development outcomes for the Groote Archipelago including providing some benefit to Winchelsea Mining where it uses the Little Paradise facilities.

Projects/Initiative supported	Amount (\$)	Funding Source
Jetty and Ramp - Capital	1,658,500	NT Economic Stimulus Package
Jetty and Ramp - Capital	1,000,000	ALRA s.64(3)
Little Paradise Base Camp	17,498,714	ALRA s.64(3)
4G Base Station	3,426,033	ALRA s.64(3)
Pole 7A Visitors Village 15 rooms	9,357,680	ALRA s.64(3)
Pole 7A Kitchen	1,574,000	ALRA s.64(3)
Renewable Energy/Solar Farm	1,065,000	ALRA s.64(3)
Little Paradise Section 19 lease payments	5,278,705	ALRA s.64(3)
Marine Services - Capital (Centaur II)	1,562,087	NT Economic Stimulus Package
GHAC Land Equipment	572,486	NT Economic Stimulus Package
Civil Fleet	744,372	ALRA s.64(3)