



## METHOD OF CHOICE FOR MEMBERS

*In Accordance with the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976, Section 29(1).*

### 1. DEFINITIONS

<b>ALC</b>	Anindilyakwa Land Council
<b>ALC Member</b>	A person who holds office under subsection 29(1) or subsection 29(2) as a member of the ALC established under the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (ALRA)</i> , and <b>ALC Membership</b> means the state of being an ALC Member.
<b>Clan</b>	A collection of families belonging to the same song line specific to the Groote archipelago. There are 14 Clan groups, being those 14 clans referred to in Rule 2.3, identified as the Traditional Owners of the Groote archipelago. The Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC) maintains a genealogy register that identifies the members of the 14 Clans.
<b>Community</b>	The townships of Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra.
<b>Council</b>	The body comprised of ALC Members
<b>Election Commencement</b>	The time and date that voting opens for whole of election of ALC Members.
<b>Meeting Rules</b>	Rules For The Convening And Conduct Of ALC Members Meetings as in force at the time referred to in this method of choice
<b>Election Closure</b>	The time and date that voting closes for whole of election of the ALC Members
<b>Returning officer</b>	The person appointed to that position in accordance with Rule 5.3





## 2. MEMBERSHIP

2.1 The ALC will comprise a total maximum number of 26 ALC Members, each belonging to one of the 14 Clans of the Groote archipelago in accordance with Rule 2.3.

2.2 Of the 26 members:

2.2.1 23 will be elected by their respective Clans;

2.2.2 1 Community representative will be elected by the people of Angurugu, and

2.2.3 1 Community representative will be elected by the people of Umbakumba, and

2.2.4 1 Community representative will be elected by the people of Milyakburra.

2.3 Each of the 14 Clans listed below may elect up to a maximum of the number of ALC Members stated against that Clan name under this rule, to hold office as an ALC Member.

Clan	Maximum number of ALC Members
Amagula	2
Mamarika	2
Bara/Murrungun	2
Jaragba	2
Wurramara	2
Wurragwagwa/ Yantarrnga	2
Bara Bara	2
Lalara	2
Maminyamanja	2





Wurramarrba	2
Wurrawilya	2
Durilla	1
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>23</b>

2.4 Each Community below may elect one member to hold office as an ALC Member.

Community representative	Maximum number of ALC Members
Angurugu	1
Umbakumba	1
Milyakburra	1
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3</b>

2.5 Each Community nominee must be from one of the 14 Clans and be permanently residing in the Community they represent.

### 3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1 To be considered for ALC Membership a candidate must:

3.1.1 belong to one of the 14 Clans; and

3.1.2 be normally living in the area of the Anindilyakwa Land Council; and

3.1.3 be at least 18 years of age at the time they first hold office as an ALC Member.

### 4. NOMINATIONS

4.1 A secret ballot will be held every three years at which the members of each Clan can elect their preferred representative for their Clan and/or their Community as outlined in Rule 2.





- 4.2 No sooner than 8 weeks, and no later than 2 weeks, prior to commencement of an election, Clan members can submit a nomination to the ALC to formalise their intent to represent their Clan or Community as an ALC Member.
- 4.3 Nominations are to be in the form as attached at **Schedule 1**, and are to be submitted to the office nominated by the Returning Officer.
- 4.4 Clan members can nominate other members of their Clan and must have the approval of the nominee.
- 4.5 Clan members can nominate themselves and must have the approval of another member of their Clan (or in the case of Community representatives, the approval of any Clan member over the age of 18 years permanently residing in that Community).
- 4.6 An individual may submit two nominations: a Clan representative nomination and a Community representative nomination. The individual may only hold one position if successful.

## 5. ELECTIONS

- 5.1 Elections for the ALC Membership will be held on a triennial basis between 1 July and 30 September for all ALC Member positions.

5.1.1 All ALC Member positions will be open for re-election irrespective of the amount of time an ALC Member has held the position during the three-year period.

5.2 Elections must be advertised using posters at public locations in Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra advising of the election date/s at least four weeks prior to the commencement of the election. Other methods which may also be used to publicise the election include email, newspaper and verbal communication.

5.3 The ALC shall appoint a Returning Officer who:

- (a) is not eligible for ALC Membership;
- (b) is not an employee of the ALC;
- (c) is qualified and experienced in the conduct of elections;
- (d) will conduct all elections of the ALC Membership for the year in question;
- (e) follows this method of choice approved by the Minister;
- (f) reports to the ALC on the outcome of the elections in a timely manner.





- 5.4 Only individuals belonging to the 14 Clans and whom are at least 18 years of age at the time of election commencement are eligible to vote in an ALC Membership election.
- 5.4.1 The election process is to provide for a period of not less than 7 days between Election Commencement and Election Closure.
- 5.4.2 The election process is to provide for postal voting for eligible electors not resident in the Groote Archipelago.
- 5.5 Voting for a Clan representative is only open to individuals belonging to that Clan. For example only Amagula Clan members can vote for the Amagula representative/s.
- 5.6 Voting for a Community representative is open only to members of the 14 Clans whom are residents of that Community.
- 5.7 If not more than the maximum number of valid nominations for election for any Clan or Community is received for that Clan or Community position, those candidates will be automatically elected as an ALC Member.
- 5.8 If no nominations are received for a Clan or Community position, that position will remain vacant until such time as an eligible candidate is nominated to fill that position (refer to clause 7.1).
- 5.9 The ALC will not call meetings of the ALC, and therefore no ALC Membership decisions can be made, between the Election Commencement and the first meeting of the newly elected ALC Membership.

## 6. HOLDING OFFICE

- 6.1 Within 14 days of the completion of ALC Membership elections, the ALC will call a meeting for the newly elected ALC Members. The purpose of the meeting is to: a) formally welcome elected representatives as ALC Members;
- b) elect the Chair and Deputy Chair (refer to rule 6.2);
- c) provide ALC Members with an induction to their roles and responsibilities as ALC Members.
- 6.2 All elected ALC Members are eligible to become the Chair or Deputy Chair of the ALC. At the first meeting of the ALC following a whole of Council election, the ALC Members will hold an anonymous ballot to elect the Chair and the Deputy Chair.
- 6.2.1 Subject to rule 6.2.2, a person elected as the Chair or the Deputy Chair of the ALC under this Rule holds office for a period of 3 years, and is eligible for re-election.
- 6.2.2 The ALC may, at any time, by resolution, elect a new Chair or Deputy Chair and, on the passing of such a resolution, the person who held that office immediately before that resolution was passed ceases to hold that office.
- 6.2.3 If required, and in accordance with section 31(5) of the ALRA, consecutive rounds of voting will occur until a candidate for election as Chair or Deputy Chair has received a majority of votes from ALC Members present and voting. In the absence of a single candidate gaining a majority





of available votes in a ballot round, the candidate/s attracting the least votes will be excluded from subsequent ballot rounds until a candidate attracts the majority vote required.

6.3 Terms and conditions of office:

- 6.3.1 An ALC Member shall hold office for three consecutive years except when clause 7 applies.
- 6.3.2 The period of three years shall be taken to expire at the election commencement for the new Council.
- 6.3.3 Persons may be reappointed for a further term or terms if those persons are re-elected.
- 6.3.4 The position of the ALC Member is honorary. ALC Members will be paid sitting fees as determined by the *Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal*.
- 6.3.5 The position of Chairman is a full time position with the terms and conditions determined by the *Commonwealth Remuneration Tribunal*.
- 6.3.6 ALC Members are required to attend meetings of the ALC called in accordance with the Meeting Rules on a periodic basis.
- 6.3.7 For the avoidance of doubt, the term of office of any new ALC Member is deemed to commence at the first meeting of the new Council.

7. VACANCIES

7.1 A Clan or Community which has a vacant position as an ALC Member can at any time, up until eight weeks prior to a triennial ALC election, make a nomination in writing to the ALC for an eligible candidate to take up a position as an ALC Member. If more than one nomination is received, the ALC will call a ballot for the election of the Clan or Community Representative.

7.2 A Clan or Community representative can at any time resign from their ALC Membership and must do so in writing.

7.3 Upon the passing away, resignation, or non-attendance of an ALC Member in accordance with the Meeting Rules, the ALC Member's position becomes vacant and clause 7.1 applies.

