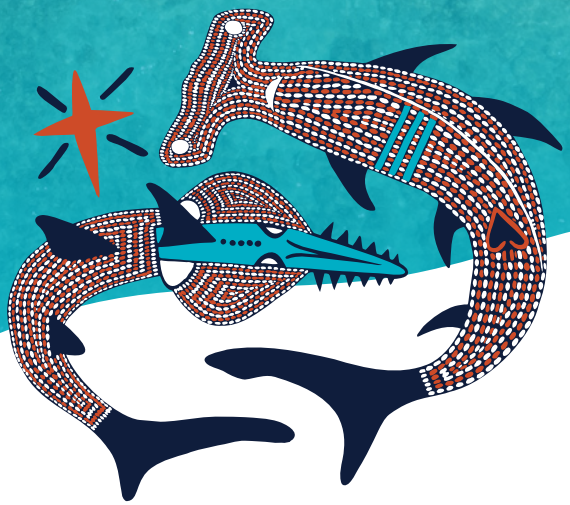
Anindilyakwa
Land Council

Stories from Groote

Edition 16

22 October 2025



Message from the Chair

In this edition of 'Stories from Groote' we are excited to report on a recent gathering to address the critical issue of overcrowding in NT's remote and regional communities.

We were proud to represent the interests of the Anindilyakwa people and share our views with the Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy, on housing issues affecting the Groote Archipelago.

Also in this issue, we explore the new round of Business Grants from Aboriginal Investment NT, along with their improved, more user-friendly application process.

We also take a look at our Data Unit team's first ever Community Census. The team gathered real data by visiting homes across Groote Eylandt, counting everyone in the community, a great undertaking!

As always, we are open to feedback or stories you'd like covered – you can reach us directly on corporate.media@alcnt.com.au

Cherelle Wurrawilya, Chair

Subscribe now

Uniting for landmark $4 billion remote housing agreement

Invest in the present to build a self-sufficient future

Anindilyakwa Land Council recently attended a Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meeting to address the critical issue of overcrowding in remote and regional communities across the NT.

Established in September 2024, the Partnership Agreement for Remote Housing and Homelands is a $4 billion commitment to halve overcrowding over the next 10 years by delivering up to 2,700 new homes and implementing a regular repairs and maintenance program.

Minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy was there to listen to NT land councils' concerns. Issues included the need for a realistic and robust housing repairs and maintenance program, data sharing, and genuine shared decision making between governments.

Representing the ALC, Chair Cherelle Wurrawilya was joined by Michael Trainor, ALC's Interim Chief Executive Officer, and Legal & Corporate Affairs Manager, Anna Malgorzewicz.

"We're here to ensure culturally appropriate and sustainable housing is delivered in partnership with the Anindilyakwa community," Ms Wurrawilya said.

Minister McCarthy agreed a long-term vision to drive housing reform was needed to achieve Closing the Gap targets and see real improvements in health, education and well-being for people living in remote communities.



The Partnership Agreement commits the Australian and Northern Territory Governments, along with the four Land Councils and Aboriginal Housing NT, to work together to improve housing in remote NT communities.

We look forward to hearing how our concerns are being met at the next JSC session in December. We will keep you updated.



Joint Steering Committee (JSC) for Remote Housing and Homelands meeting with Minister for Indigenous Australians, Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy

Aboriginal Investment NT making grants easier for applicants

Invest in the present to build a self-sufficient future

Aboriginal Investment NT has announced improvements to its Business Grants application process – making it easier than ever for Aboriginal businesses and communities to pursue their business dreams.

The Business Grants program, which aims to increase the size, scale, diversity and maturity of NT Aboriginal businesses, will open **Round 3 of its funding applications on 17 November 2025.**

Following feedback from Rounds 1 and 2, Aboriginal Investment NT said they received requests for a simpler application process, with more flexibility and a quicker turnaround.

To streamline the process, applications will now pass through two clear stages: an eligibility stage and an application stage. This pathway will ensure that only those deemed eligible can proceed to the application stage, making the process easier and fairer for everyone.

In addition, new tools will help applicants assess their eligibility for a grant before starting an application.

New tools include:

- ✓ A self-assessment checklist for applicants to identify whether they should apply for a 'start-up' or 'growth grant'
- ✓ An eligibility checklist so applicants can see all of the eligibility criteria up front
- ✓ A document checklist so applicants can make sure they are attaching all the correct documents to their application.

All applications will be assessed on a rolling basis to avoid hold-ups, meaning the sooner applicants apply, the sooner Aboriginal Investment NT can support their business.

Aboriginal Investment NT will be rolling out these new tools shortly. Keep an eye on their Facebook page for updates:

Follow www.facebook.com/AboriginalInvestmentNT
Visit www.aboriginalinvestment.org.au

ABORIGINAL INVESTMENT

Have your say on the future of the Groote Archipelago

Protect, maintain and promote Anindilyakwa culture

The Groote Archipelago Regional Council (GARC) is seeking community feedback on issues that will help shape the Council's future priorities.

GARC's Community Consultation Survey aims to capture feedback on critical areas like infrastructure, environment and culture across the Groote Archipelago.

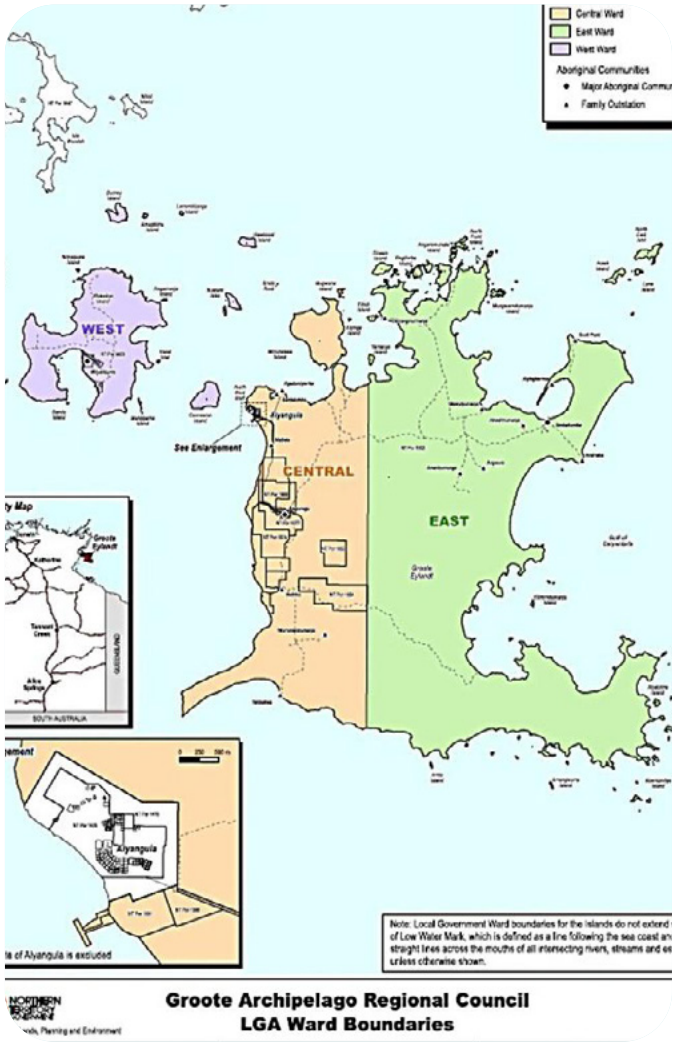
"The Survey will help us understand what the community would like to see improved, implemented or advocated for and will inform Council's 5-year Corporate Plan," said GARC Chief Executive Officer Shane Marshall.

The survey is available in both print and electronic format and will remain open for three weeks.

Complete the survey online

Or download the print survey and drop the completed survey into any Council office.

Download now





Courtesy Groote Archipelago Regional Council (GARC)

Community Census paves the way for a bright future

Protect, maintain and promote Anindilyakwa culture

For the first time in history, Anindilyakwa people will have access to critical data about themselves including in health, housing, education, community justice and country, thanks to the completion of ALC's first annual community census.

The ALC Data Unit team collected real data by visiting homes across Groote Eylandt to count everyone in the community. Their goal is to monitor the development of the Groote Archipelago and gain insights which will inform the work of the ALC's programs.

The community census data is still being finalised, but it's already painting a more accurate picture of the needs and services of the local people.

ALC Chair Cherelle Wurrawilya said the data will enhance locally-informed decision making for the ALC board.

"Now the census is complete, the data will help the ALC understand what our people need, from housing and jobs to services," Ms Wurrawilya said.

"This Data Unit has been driven by young Anindilyakwa people who are gaining important skills for their future careers and guided by an ALC board who work closely with the program to ensure its success," she added.

This first annual community census is part of the ALC's Data Unit Strategic Plan 2025–2028, Australia's first road map forward in First Nations-led data governance and sovereignty on Groote Eylandt.



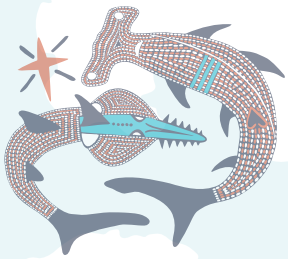
There are seven Indigenous communities in the Groote Archipelago. The Anindilyakwa people primarily reside in Angurugu and Umbakumba which are located on Groote Eylandt, and Milyakburra which is located on Bickerton Island.

The four additional satellite communities are located close to mainstream services and exist for culturally significant reasons. These include: 4 Mile, Malkala, Little Paradise, and Bartalumba Bay. There are also several homeland centres or outstations associated with these communities.



Courtesy ALC Data Unit

Our values



One People One Family
Ngarrurrakawuruma ngarnumamalya

Pride
Ngarriwerrikiyangmakwajinama

Honesty/Truth
Akuwerrikilyangmandukunadinama

Listen
Akeningmidini-yada

Respect
Akumaringkirradinama

Our Future
Ambakumurra-yada

The Strategic Plan 2023-33

Protect, maintain and promote Anindilyakwa culture

Invest in the present to build a self-sufficient future

Create pathways for youth to stand in both worlds

Anindilyakwa Land Council

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