Official Media Release

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Anindilyakwa Land Council welcomes new Chief Executive Officer

A First Nations advocate with three decades of leadership experience has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC).

Kupa Teao, former head of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, will begin in the role on 16 February.

His wealth of experience includes more than 30 years in leadership roles working with medium-to-large scale organisations within New Zealand and Australia, including Yinhawangka Aboriginal Corporation, DEMED Aboriginal Corporation, Jabalbina AC, and West Arnhem Regional Council.

In addition to his experience in strategic direction, transformation and navigating organisational change, Mr Teao is a strong voice for the rights and aspirations of First Peoples.

“I have a strong cultural connection to Aotearoa (New Zealand), and to the Island of Aitutaki (Cook Islands). On Groote Island, I am committed to providing effective ongoing engagement and inclusive decision making for the Anindilyakwa people,” said Mr Teao.

Mr Teao has moved to Groote Eylandt with his partner to maintain a close connection with the community he serves. His office is based in the ALC Head Office in Alyangula.

The appointment of a new CEO is a significant milestone for the ALC, who have been engaged in the recruitment process for a leader since Matthew Bonson resigned from the role in July 2025 due to family reasons.

During the transition phase, Interim CEO Michael Trainor provided steady leadership and continuity of operations.

ALC Chair Cherelle Wurrawilya says the Board is excited to welcome Mr Teao to the leadership role.

“We thought carefully about selecting a new CEO, and we thank the community for their patience throughout the recruitment process and Mr Trainor for stepping into the role for these past six months,” she said.

“Now we are looking forward to having Mr Teao on board to help us realise our vision for the Anindilyakwa people.”

ALC undertook the recruitment campaign using First Nations recruiting agency, Pipeline Talent.

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For media enquiries please contact:
Sinead Horan-Webb E: sinead.horanwebb@alcnt.com.au