

and community rangers from the Wulain and Warlpiri Ranger groups.

- based on traditional owner consultations, CLC prepared instructions for Newmont Mining regarding dingo control options on their Tanami mining leases.
- participation in the Tanami Working Group for implementation of the MOU between the Commonwealth Government and the Minerals Council of Australia giving particular focus identifying and facilitating opportunities in the Tanami region including assessment of business opportunities in mine site rehabilitation.

Collaboration – Fire Management

Constructive engagement by CLC with the NT Bushfire Council, the NT Parks and Wildlife Service, NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (NRETA) and Desert Knowledge CRC throughout the year established a strong basis for collaboration in addressing strategic fire management issues on Aboriginal lands in the CLC region.

Key elements in this were:

- a successful submission to the National Disaster Mitigation Program (N DMP) to employ a Fire Management Officer within the CLC to facilitate indigenous engagement in collaborative fire projects in the southern NT
- a successful submission to NHT for funds from the NT RIS to support a two year project for Best Practice Community Fire Management on Aboriginal Lands in Arid NT.

This project provides the basis for traditional owner awareness raising and on-ground participation with the support of the NDMP in strategic fire management projects in seven areas of high biodiversity value on Aboriginal land including the regions of the

Tanami, Hermannsburg, South Barkly, Tennant Creek, and the Simpson Desert.

- completion of the Desert Knowledge-CRC Desert Fire Project focussed on indigenous knowledge and attitudes to fire management issues in the Tanami region.

Collaboration – Infrastructure and land rehabilitation

The CLC continued to work with community councils, resource centres, DNRETA, DIP, ICC and the Local Government Association (LGANT) in providing technical advice and assistance with community and outstation infrastructure placement, road siting and maintenance, rehabilitation and erosion control measures on Aboriginal land.

This was facilitated by the continuing NHT project “Soil Erosion and Environmental Awareness Program for Aboriginal landowners” up to October 2005 and the establishment of a new rural development position in the CLC.

Material support for addressing priority regional issues identified was provided through ABA funds secured in late 2004 for the Community Outstation Roads and Erosion project.

These funds supported machinery hire for on-ground works and purchase of necessary items or materials to improve control over other erosion-causing factors such as stock and feral animals eg. gates, cattle grids.

Four related projects were completed or progressed during the year to address major gully erosion threatening essential community infrastructure on the Mungkarta and Santa Teresa ALTs and undertake upgrade and maintenance works to the Yuendumu-Willowra and Papunya-Yuendumu link roads neither of which are serviced under government programs.

s. 23 (1)(a) consultations on NRM issues affecting Aboriginal land

CLC undertook a wide-range of consultations, fieldwork and other responses in accordance with s. 23(1)(a) with traditional owners and affected communities across the region in relation to natural resource management issues and related community impacts raised by external parties, Aboriginal communities and traditional owners themselves.

These included:

- feral horse impacts on the Mungkarta and adjoining Warumungu ALTs (Tennant Creek region) including aerial survey of horse and feral cattle numbers;
- feral horse impacts on outstation infrastructure and land condition on the Iwupataka ALT (Alice Springs region)
- the erection of feral animal control fencing in the Areyonga valley on the Haasts Bluff ALT to address impacts on the community and surrounding environment;
- issues relating to feral stock management in the Victoria River District (VRD) Declared Pest Control Area
- aerial culling and pet-meating of 3844 horses and 7161 donkeys from Daguragu and Hooker Creek Aboriginal Land Trusts in the Victoria River District Declared Pest Control Area
- co-ordination of work area clearances for fire breaks in the Tennant Creek region including areas adjoining the Tennant Creek town boundaries and Warumungu ALT boundaries;
- representation of traditional owner and community interests with the NT Government in relation to the Santa Teresa Land Use Structure Plan and new housing for Phillipson Bore outstation on the Santa Teresa ALT
- representation of the interests and concerns of Alice Springs