

- The Mangalawurru community, west of Tennant Creek, requested support for participation in on-ground natural resource management activities on their country and attracted additional development interest from the Tennant Creek Indigenous Coordination Centre and the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) Indigenous Programs Unit in Canberra

- collaboration with the community council to provide vehicle and temporary coordination support to an emerging group at Kaltukatjara (Dockers River) undertaking an Indigenous Heritage Programme (DEH) project to protect traditional water sources (rockholes, soakages) from damage by feral camels

The project commenced in March 2006 and will continue until late 2006.

It has provided a valuable paid employment experience to 16 previously unemployed young men from the community with groups of eight to 12 men gaining experience in metalwork and welding of structures to exclude camels from accessing water sources of cultural significance.

Supervision by up to four senior traditional owners has also facilitated the transmission of valuable traditional knowledge to the group.

- collaboration with the Office of Indigenous Policy and Co-ordination (OIPC) to initiate the South West Youth Diversionary Project in April 2006 in response to a worsening petrol sniffing crisis in that region.

The Aboriginal Benefits Account (ABA) provided initial funding (\$68,150) for a three-phase project for CLC to investigate the feasibility of land management projects providing 'diversionary' activities for young people 'at risk' of substance abuse.

Consultations were conducted

over May and June in Aputula, Imanpa, Mutitjulu and Kaltukatjara (Dockers River). A young Yankunytjatjara man assisted with interpreting at community meetings and mentoring of interested youth.

The project is assessing the level of interest, need, local resource support and land management-related work opportunities in the vicinity of each community.

Recommendations from the work will be made in a report to the ABA Advisory Committee in September 2006.

Where feasible interim 'pilot' projects will be identified aimed at establishing the foundation for more permanent programs based on the model of indigenous community ranger programs operating elsewhere in the CLC region.

The advanced activity at Dockers River has positioned that group for early consideration for ongoing support.

- efforts to invigorate an Amoonguna Ranger Group, in collaboration with the Amoonguna Council, and incorporate them into FEP employment opportunities in national parks and reserves in the East MacDonnell Ranges. A group of young men have undergone Conservation and Land Management training at CDU but lack co-ordination.

- establishing links with an emerging group currently supported by Anmatjere Council at Ti-tree with a strong cultural resource management focus arising from research activity conducted by Charles Darwin University on cultural water values.

- Presentations to Yuelamu (Mt Allan), Aputula and Titjikala Community Councils on the benefits and structure of community land management programs.

- preparations commenced for the inaugural ranger group camp to be held in the Tennant Creek area in July 2006.

The camp aims to foster links between existing and aspiring groups in the CLC region and assess training requirements and other development needs.

Pastoral

- participated in and assisted with the Indigenous Cattleman's Workshop held in Alice Springs in August 2005.

- worked with the other stakeholders of the Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP) to maximise employment and training opportunities for Indigenous people in the NT pastoral industry.

- Monitored indigenous employment on Aboriginal-owned cattle stations and grazing licences negotiated on Aboriginal land.

Critical focus was given to indigenous employment benefits in evaluating all grazing licence proposals received during the year.

- Organised a five-day Campdraft and Horsemanship course to take place in July 2006 for five young Aboriginal stockmen working at the Aboriginal-owned Loves Creek station.

Tourism

- participated in development of a 'Desert Guides' initiative through Tourism NT, and advised on the potential needs/requirements for Indigenous participants

- Liaised with Charles Darwin University (CDU) and Bachelor College to assess the delivery and merits of their Tour Guiding & Land Management Certificates

- Liaised with Central Australian Tourism Industry Association (CATIA) about Indigenous tourism market opportunities in Central Australia, associated employment opportunities and skill requirements

- In conjunction with Tourism NT identified ongoing industry development requirements and resources for the participation of Indigenous people within the tourism industry.