

Chairman's Report



CLC Chairman Lindsay Bookie

Mr Lindsay Bookie was elected at a Council meeting in Tennant Creek on Thursday 15 March.

Mr Bookie, 62, is an Eastern Arrernte man who is well respected for his knowledge of Arrernte law and culture.

He has run an award-winning 4WD tourism business on his traditional country at the northern edge of the Simpson Desert for six years.

He has worked on pastoral properties in the region, served as a community police officer at Harts Range for five years and has also worked as a Central Land Council field officer.

Mr Bookie also represented the Bonya region on the ATSIC Regional Council and the Bonya Regional Health Council.

I was deeply honoured to be elected as Chairman in June this year although the circumstances of the election were unfortunate.

I wish our former Chairman Mr Brown well for the future and thank him for his hard work for the Land Council.

I am looking forward to visiting all of the CLC's constituents over the coming months and really listening to what the mob out there have got to say and whether they have suggestions about how to do things better.

I also want to tell them about a lot of the good work the CLC has been doing supporting people in the bush to get jobs and businesses up and running so that we are not all dependent on welfare for the rest of our lives.

I have a tourism business on my traditional country and I know how hard it is when you have not had a good education to run a business without some support.

The CLC has joined forces with Tourism NT and they provide really good advice to traditional landowners who want to have businesses like mine on their country.

I tell people how rewarding it is to be able to do this and make a living from my land.

I also tell people how important it is that they make sure they send their kids to school so they can read and write because life is very difficult if you can't.

There has been a lot of talk about the problems in Alice Springs and the lack of accommodation for Aboriginal people in town.

While I know that many people come to town for business and services like doctors and the hospital, I also think that people should return to their homes out bush and not hang around here in town making trouble and getting drunk.

I do not think it's fair to spend \$10 million dollars of Aboriginal Benefits Account money in town when the members of the ABA advisory committee said that they think the money should be spent in the bush where it's badly needed.

It may mean people want to stay in town longer if its made easy for them.

We need to build the bush not empty it.

Thats what the work of the CLC is

all about - building the bush.

I look forward to working hard this year helping our constituents move forward into the future.