

Legal & Con. Committee: Questions on Notice
Inquiry into Wild River Legislation
Hearing in Cairns, 13 April 2010

QON No.	Department/ Agency	Senator	Question
2	Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	Heffernan	<p>My questions are to Murradoo Yanner and Mark Hognog who heads up the Wild Rivers Ranger Program for the Council.</p> <p>1. How much state and federal government funding does your Corporation receive? Please list all your income/funding for the last 5 years?</p> <p><u>Response</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see <i>enclosed</i> Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (CLCAC) Annual Reports for the last 5 years. <p>2. Could I have a breakdown/outline of costs and expenses for the past 5 years?</p> <p><u>Response</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see <i>enclosed</i> CLCAC Annual Reports. <p>3. How often do you meet, can I have copies of agendas and minutes for last 5 years?</p> <p><u>Response</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under CLCAC's Constitution the Board must meet at least twice per year. Details of actual meetings held are shown in the attached annual reports. Copies of Board papers and minutes are only available to CLCAC members. <p>4. When did the Wild Rivers Ranger Program commence?</p> <p><u>Response</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burketown Wild River Rangers were appointed 13/03/2008. The Normanton Wild River Rangers Coordinator was appointed 26/05/08, with the Rangers appointed on 30/07/08

5. How many rangers do you employ each financial year? What training do they receive? Where are they sourced from? What are the rangers paid per annum?

Response

- CLCAC employs 10 staff with funding from the Queensland Government's Wild River Rangers program (6 Rangers at Burketown, and 3 Rangers and a Coordinator at Normanton).
- CLCAC also employs 12 rangers with Australian Government Working on Country funding (8 Wellesley Island Rangers and 5 Gangalidda/Garawa Rangers)
- Rangers receive a wide variety of training necessary to undertake on-ground land and sea management activities, including boat operation, chainsaw operation, 4WD and quad bike operation, chemical handling and use, first aid, leadership, and fire management training. They have also been trained in the use of GPS and I-tracker handheld computers, and have received training from a variety of partner organisations in biodiversity survey techniques (e.g. bird, turtle, dugong, crocodile and fish surveys) and biosecurity activities (e.g. pig disease surveys and autopsies).
- The Rangers are employed as full time employees, with salaries in the range of approximately \$39,000 - \$45,000.

6. According to its 2009 annual report, your Land Council received \$745,000 that year to run their Wild River ranger programs. These programs aren't guaranteed, or have any public service security attached to them. It's a discretionary program which could cease at any time at the whim of the government. With this in mind, do you think your Corporation will lose its funding if you are not in agreement with the government of the day and its agenda?

Response

- Funding from the Queensland government is devolved through annual contracts, with a current 3 year commitment from the State Government.
- CLCAC seeks to diversify its funding sources and receives funding from a number of other agencies, including through Federal government programs under the Caring for Our Country umbrella (eg. Working on Country, Indigenous Protected Area and Heritage programs).

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There has never been any suggestion made to CLCAC that Queensland Government funding is dependent on agreement with the “agenda” of the Government of the day.• CLCAC has received funding through other programs that include the Turtle and Dugong Project and the Fire/Carbon Project through the North Australia Land and Sea Management Alliance, and the Carpentaria Ghost Nets project conducted through the Northern Gulf Resource Management Group. Both Southern Gulf and Northern Gulf NRM groups have funded project activities over the last 3 years. Century Mine has provided some funding for equipment. Strong partnerships have also been developed with a number of pastoral leaseholders, for example in controlling feral pig populations and weeds of national significance. All these partnerships contribute to developing long-term effectiveness of the ranger programs.• CLCAC will continue to develop and diversify its funding sources of its land and sea management programs and would welcome support from the Committee to ensure the long-term stability of the vital work being conducted by its Indigenous Rangers. CLCAC believes these programs have huge potential to improve natural resource management across the lower Gulf of Carpentaria area and support the wellbeing of Traditional Owners of the area. <p>7. Does your Corporation receives any funding from The Wilderness Society or any other conservation group, if so, how much? Please list all the conservation groups who have provided financial support and please itemise the total income from each group for the last 5 years.</p> <p><u>Response</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CLCAC receives no funding from The Wilderness Society• The CLCAC does not receive any funding at present from any other conservation group.• In May 2007 the CLCAC received \$10,000 from WWF toward the development of an IPA.
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