

Green River Aboriginal Corporation

Local Decision Making Agreement 2022-2026



Australian Government
National Indigenous
Australians Agency



CATHOLIC
Diocese of
DARWIN

Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	2
2. Green River Aboriginal Corporation	2
3. Vision	2
4. Objectives	3
5. Working in Partnership.....	3
6. LDM Agreement Overview.....	5
6.1 LDM Agreement & Implementation Plans Process	5
6.1.1 Timeframes.....	5
6.1.2 Monitoring and Evaluation	5
7. Strategic Priorities	6
8. Key Enablers.....	8
8.1 Key Enablers Implementation Plan	7
8.1.1 Capacity Building	8
8.1.2 Implementation	8
8.1.3 Relationships and Engagement	9
8.1 Key Enablers Measures of Success.....	8
9. Abbreviations.....	10
10. Status of Agreement	11

1. Introduction

The Green River Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC), the Northern Territory Government (NTG) and the Commonwealth Government through the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) all have key roles to play in working together to create positive, lasting change for the health, wellbeing and prosperity of Malak Malak people as the Traditional Owners of the land and the families of the broader Nauiyu community.

These parties have come together to support the development of a Local Decision Making Agreement to facilitate a new working relationship between the Nauiyu community and government. This Agreement is a commitment by government to support Nauiyu's aspirations for self-determination by working with GRAC to implement the Corporation's community-driven strategic priorities.

2. Green River Aboriginal Corporation

Since the 1950s, the Catholic Diocese of Darwin has held Land Portion 4028, which covers the Nauiyu community, under a freehold title. In the 1990s, the community expressed that they were not ready to accept the offer to take the freehold title from the Diocese so the land was leased to them less the land and buildings directly used by the Church. Subsequently, the Church established the Nauiyu Nambiyu Land Trust (NNLT) in 1996 to hold the lease and manage Land Portion 4028 and its fixed assets. The NNLT sublet the land and assets to Nauiyu's Community Government Council to manage until the 2008 NT local government reforms that dismantled those Councils.

In response to the local government restructure, the NNLT established their own organisation, the Green River Aboriginal Corporation (GRAC), to administer the NNLT's lease. Since its establishment on 30 June 2015, GRAC has worked towards creating a community which is "connected, inclusive and resilient". The GRAC Board seeks to achieve this by:

- Reinvesting profits back into the community, including the money raised by NNLT's lease over Nauiyu.
- Providing safe and secure housing for the residents of Nauiyu and assisting them to own and maintain property.
- Ensuring security of local permanent jobs, supporting families and encouraging participation in education.
- Assisting the Aboriginal people from the Daly River Region to undertake economic development opportunities to their benefit.
- Strengthening traditional regional relationships.
- Establishing and maintaining relationships with relevant organisations, groups and governments and utilising their resources to the benefit of the community.

3. Vision

It is the aspiration of GRAC, the NTG and NIAA that this agreement will provide a platform for GRAC and the Nauiyu community to:

- Advance the cultural, spiritual, social and economic wellbeing of the community to create positive and lasting change.
- Have a genuine voice in, and assume greater control over decisions and service delivery impacting the broader Nauiyu community.
- Develop strong and supportive relationships with government, as well as ensure community and government priorities are aligned.

4. Objectives

The objectives of this Agreement are to:

- Show respect to the Nauiyu people's cultural, spiritual, social and economic connection to the community.
- Recognise the Nauiyu community as being well-placed to understand the local context which is required to effectively address key issues and advance priorities.
- Ensure that GRAC Board Members continue to have a strong role in decision making on key local issues.
- Document the commitment by the Northern Territory Government, the Commonwealth Government and GRAC to work together to implement Local Decision Making in Nauiyu as driven by the community's aspirations and priorities.

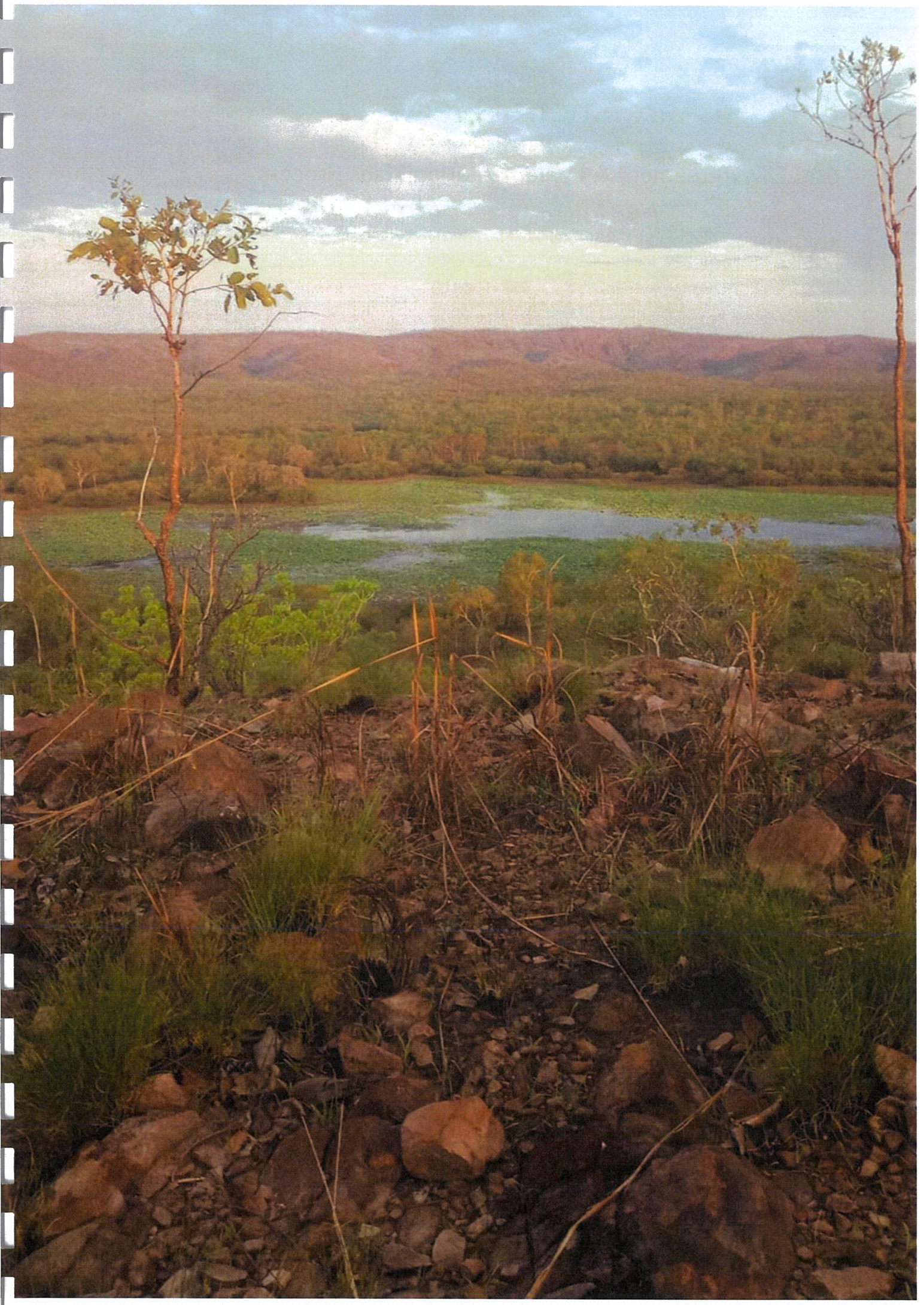
5. Working in Partnership

The GRAC Local Decision Making (LDM) Agreement aims to strengthen the relationships between GRAC, the NTG and NIAA. Parties agree that working in partnership means:

- Trust is built and maintained through open, honest and respectful two-way relationships that include regular face-to-face communication in Nauiyu.
- Partners come together to work through difficult and challenging issues.
- Partners challenge each other's perceptions and/or limiting beliefs to allow identification of new ways of working together.
- Roles and mutual accountabilities are defined with parties committing to work together to implement agreed actions.
- Partners recognise that capacity building within all of the parties is required to achieve agreed outcomes.
- Partners support each other to address challenges while celebrating and promoting the successes of the LDM Agreement.

All partners commit to the above principles and recognise that these areas will be key to the successful implementation of the partnership.





6. LDM Agreement Overview

6.1 LDM Agreement & Implementation Plans Process

The Agreement enables GRAC, the NTG and NIAA to take a coordinated approach to improving social and economic outcomes for GRAC Members and residents of Nauiyu over the next five years. It is an evolving document that will be reviewed and updated through regular engagement between the parties.

This document broadly outlines GRAC's Strategic Priorities. Further detail will be provided in subsequent Implementation Plans developed and agreed to by the relevant parties. The Implementation Plans will include:

- Key background information
- Key actions required to achieve the Priority with responsibility allocated to relevant parties and timeframes specified
- Measures of success
- Risks
- Monitoring and evaluation processes

6.1.1 Timeframes

This Agreement and subsequent Implementation Plans will commence upon the date of signing by GRAC, NTG agencies and NIAA and extend to 30 June 2026.

6.1.2 Monitoring and Evaluation

Each Implementation Plan will specify the agreed monitoring and evaluation processes and the frequency of meetings required to evaluate and update the Plan.

It is recommended that all parties jointly meet every three months and as required to formally report on and review the progress of the Agreement as a whole. During these meetings parties will:

- Evaluate and report on the progress of high priority actions and work to address any emerging barriers to successful implementation.
- Discuss and seek agreement for changes to the Agreement to reflect changing priorities, address emerging issues and approve alternative approaches.
- Ensure stakeholders, including residents of the Nauiyu community, remain informed of the progress and outcomes of the Agreement.

7. Strategic Priorities

The partners have agreed to work together to support current activities and progress future social and economic opportunities in four priority areas:

1. Arrangements for Land Tenure and Future Land Use Planning

This Priority requires action to support GRAC in:

- Lease arrangements and freehold ownership of Portion 4028.
- Planning for future land and infrastructure needs.

Responsible parties include GRAC, the NTG (DIPL), the Catholic Church and NIAA.

2. Community Housing

This Priority requires action to support GRAC in:

- Planning for long term strategic housing needs and options to support Nauiyu including involvement in tenders and procurement processes
- Housing construction
 - Short-term focus on small projects such as the joint venture contract for NTG Room to Breathe signed with Big River Housing and fencing of houses
 - Long-term focus on larger and regional projects potentially including homelands development
- Housing maintenance and tenancy management
- Representation on boards and panels

Responsible parties include GRAC and the NTG (TFHaC and DIPL).

3. Economic Development Opportunities, Local Jobs and Training

This Priority requires action to support GRAC in:

- Exploring options for training and jobs programs (including vocational education and training (VET) courses)
- Planning for future business development and contracting opportunities in areas such as civil road services, aerodrome services, fencing and cultural tourism.
- Creating opportunities for local jobs and training in GRAC owned, sponsored and/or joint venture enterprises with Ironbark Aboriginal Corporation and external contractors.
 - Explore the potential to establish a mechanic workshop/trade centre which supports VET courses with a focus on 16-30 year olds
- Planning for school-to-work and local workforce pathways.

Responsible parties include GRAC, the NTG (DITT, DIPL, TFHaC and CM&C), NIAA, VDRC, Ironbark and external contractors.

4. Community Health and Wellbeing

This Priority requires action to support GRAC in:

- Focusing on service delivery that improves cultural connection to achieve positive health outcomes, especially in the education, health and justice systems. This will involve exploring options for:

- Improving cultural learning in school and improving school attendance/educational outcomes
- Physical health service delivery including sport and recreation services as per signed MOU with VDRC
- Environmental health service delivery including clean water and waste management services
- Parks and gardens service delivery, to service all areas of the community
- Community Night Patrol service delivery
- Aged care service delivery
- National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) service delivery
- A secondary school/emergency shelter
- Services taking on broader social roles in the community
- Services to school attendance

Responsible parties include GRAC, the NTG (DIPL, DITT, DEPaws, TFHaC and DOE), Indigenous Essential Service, NIAA, NT Health, VDRC, NNLT and Saint Francis Xavier School.



8. Key Enablers

Key enablers to support implementation of agreed activities include:

Capacity Building	Implementation	Relationships and Engagement
<p>Development of GRAC's capacity and capability to support future growth, business development & local employment opportunities</p> <p>Development of the GRAC Board's governance and leadership capacities</p>	<p>Development of Implementation Plans for the Strategic Priorities, including monitoring & evaluation plans to measure outcomes</p>	<p>Establishment of regular meetings with GRAC, the NTG and the Commonwealth Government to review the LDM Agreement and Implementation Plans.</p> <p>Establishment of processes for escalation of issues/concerns</p>

8.1 Key Enablers Implementation Plan

8.1.1 Capacity Building

Key Actions	Timeline	Responsibility
Support GRAC to develop policies and procedures that focus on sustainable business growth, business development and local employment	2022/23	GRAC, NTG, NIAA
Support GRAC to offer training for Board Members and staff to further develop relevant skills and capacities	2022/23	GRAC, NTG, NIAA
Support GRAC in developing community mentor program/relationships	2022/23	GRAC, NTG, NIAA

8.1.2 Implementation

Key Actions	Timeline	Responsibility
Develop Implementation Plans for Strategic Priorities	Ongoing	GRAC, NTG, NIAA
Carry out Plans according to agreed governance arrangements	Ongoing	GRAC, NTG, NIAA

8.1.3 Relationships and Engagement

Key Actions	Timeline	Responsibility
Establish calendar of formal joint meeting dates to review Agreement and Plans.	2022	GRAC, NTG, NIAA
Identify Implementation Plan success stories and profile outcomes internally and externally where appropriate.	Ongoing	GRAC, NTG, NIAA
Support GRAC to establish appropriate processes to escalate issues/concerns	2022	GRAC, NTG, NIAA

8.2 Key Enablers Measures of Success

Priority Area	#	Measures of Success
Capacity Building	1	<i>Development of GRAC policies and procedures to support business growth, business development and local employment</i>
	2	<i>Board Member participation in governance and leadership training</i>
	3	<i>Board Members and staff develop and engage in mentor relationships</i>
Implementation	1	<i>Implementation Plans endorsed</i>
	2	<i>Governance arrangements are followed by all parties</i>
Relationships and Engagement	1	<i>LDM review meetings held with attendance by all parties</i>
	2	<i>Number of LDM success stories profiled</i>
	3	<i>Points of contact established for key government department relationships</i>

9. Abbreviations

CM&C	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (NT Government)
DEPaWS	Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (NT Government)
DIPL	Department of Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics (NT Government)
DITT	Department of Industry, Tourism & Trade (NT Government)
DOE	Department of Education (NT Government)
GRAC	Green River Aboriginal Corporation
LDM	Local Decision Making
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Agency
NNLT	Naiyu Nambiyu Land Trust
NTG	Northern Territory Government
TFHaC	Department of Territory Families, Housing & Communities (NT Government)
VDRC	Victoria Daly Regional Council (NT Government)



10. Status of Agreement

The parties acknowledge that the provisions of the LDM Agreement are not legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the commitment of the parties to fully implementing this agreement in a transparent, consultative and accountable manner.

The parties acknowledge that an appropriate legal framework, with legally binding contracts, may be required to achieve some of the specific priorities set out in this Agreement for local delivery and decision making.

It is the intention of the parties to capture the transfer of any responsibility and control of agreed services and programs in formal contractual arrangements that detail and give legal effect to the parties' decisions.



11. Signatures



Green River
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Miriam Rose Ungunmerr-Bauman AM
Chair
Green River Aboriginal Corporation

Handwritten signature of Miriam Rose Ungunmerr-Bauman AM in black ink.



**NORTHERN
TERRITORY**
GOVERNMENT

The Hon Natasha Fyles MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern
Territory
Northern Territory Government

Handwritten signature of The Hon Natasha Fyles MLA in black ink.

The Hon Selena Uibo MLA
Minister for Treaty and Local
Decision Making
Northern Territory Government

Handwritten signature of The Hon Selena Uibo MLA in black ink.

Mr Dheran Young
Member for Daly
Northern Territory Government

Handwritten signature of Mr Dheran Young in black ink.



Australian Government
**National Indigenous
Australians Agency**

Ms Fleur Hill
National Indigenous Australians
Agency
Australian Government

Handwritten signature of Ms Fleur Hill in black ink.



**CATHOLIC
Diocese of
DARWIN**

Bishop Charles Gauci
Catholic Diocese of Darwin

Handwritten signature of Bishop Charles Gauci in black ink.

