

## **Aboriginals Benefit Account (ABA) Advisory Committee Meeting**

**26-27 July 2022**

### **Communiqué**

The Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee (ABAAC) is established under subsection 65(1) of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (ALRA) to advise the Minister for Indigenous Australians on debiting the ABA (the Account) for the benefit of Aboriginal people living in the Northern Territory (NT). Members of the ABAAC are nominated by their respective Land Councils and the Chair is appointed by the Minister for Indigenous Australians.

The ABAAC met from 26-27 July 2022 in Darwin. The meeting considered 51 applications submitted to 24 June 2022, totalling around \$80 million in requested funding. This includes two applications that were deferred at the last meeting. Advice will shortly be provided to the Minister. Outcomes are anticipated to be announced in the third quarter of 2022.

The ABAAC Chair Ms Leeanne Caton, and Co-Chair Mr Samuel Bush-Blanasi welcomed members to the meeting, from the TLC region – Mr Stanley Tipiloura; from the ALC region – Mr Thomas Amagula (proxy for Mr Tony Wurramarrba AO); from the CLC region – Ms Barbara Shaw and Mr Robert Hoosan; and from the NLC region – Mr David Harvey, Mr Peter Lansen, Mr Graham Kenyon, Mr Wayne Wauchope and Ms Lorraine Jones.

Apologies were received from Mr Tony Wurramarrba AO (ALC), Mr Warren Williams (CLC) and Ms Lisa Mumbin OAM (NLC).

Two vacant positions have been filled for the Central Land Council by Mr Kim Brown and Ms Sandra Morrison. These members will attend the next ABAAC meeting. Members acknowledged the contribution of retiring members Mr Jeffrey Zimran and Ms Lynda Lechleitner.

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) and Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment Corporation (NTAIC) Interim Board members provided an update on the establishment of the NTAIC, including progress toward finalising key roles and audit and investment committees.

The NIAA gave an update on the financial situation of the ABA. The opening balance of the Account as at 30 June 2022 totalled \$1,379.31 million. The year to date revenue equates to \$360.47 million, expenditure is \$320.25 million and commitments are \$92.62 million. The estimated available balance is \$1,326.91 million (refer Attachment).

An update on the ABA Homelands Project was provided by the NIAA. Of the 180 homelands participating in the project, agreements have been executed to release funding for works in 116. It is anticipated agreements will be in place for the remaining 64 homelands by the end of 2022.

Additional information on ABA grant funding, including previous ABAAC messages and advice on how to apply for funding, is available on the NIAA website at:

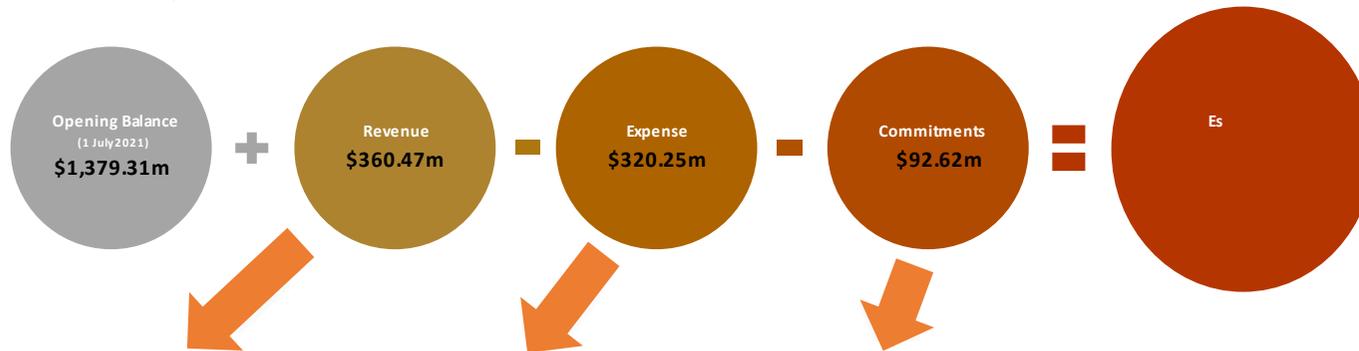
The next ABAAC meeting will be held in October 2022 to consider the last tranche of applications, before the NTAIC assumes responsibility of managing the ABA grant process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Caton', with a small horizontal line at the end.

Leeanne Caton  
Chair  
Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee

27 July 2022

## ABA Special Account - Available Balance as at 30 June 2022:



Revenue	
Royalty	From mining on Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory \$349.62m
Interest	From ABA monies invested \$7.56m
Lease revenue	Township leases \$2.45m
Other revenue and gain	\$0.85m

Expense	
s64(1)	Payments to Land Councils \$137.21m
s64(3)	Royalty Distribu \$104.89m
s64(4)	\$60.16m
s64(4A)	\$17.04m
s64(6)	\$0.95m

Future Commitments	
s64(1)	\$8.63m
s64(4)	\$32.79m
s64(4)	\$29.03m
s64(4A)	\$19.67m
s64(6)	\$2.50m