



North Queensland Land Council

Native Title Representative Body Aboriginal Corporation
ABN: 19 047 713 117 | ICN 1996 | www.nqlc.com.au

(07) 4042 7000
1800 814 779 (Free call)
PO Box 679 Cairns North QLD 4870

Reply to: legaladministration@nqlc.com.au

23 October 2025

Dear Djabugay-Bulway-Yirrganydji-Nyakali-Guluy Traditional Owner,

AUTHORISATION MEETING: MAKING DECISIONS ON WHETHER TO CHANGE THE CLAIM GROUP DESCRIPTION FOR THE DJABUGAY NATION (QUD692/2016) NATIVE TITLE CLAIM

The North Queensland Land Council (**NQLC**) is organising two Authorisation Meetings of the Djabugay, Bulway, Yirrganydji, Nyakali and Guluy peoples (**the Djabugay Nation**) on the same day, as follows:

Authorisation Meeting #1	
DATE	Monday, 24 November 2025
TIME	Starting at 9:00am, registration from 8:30am
VENUE	Rydges Cairns Esplanade Resort, 209-217 Abbott Street, Cairns

Authorisation Meeting #2	
DATE	Monday, 24 November 2025
TIME	Starting at 1:30pm, registration from 1pm
VENUE	Rydges Cairns Esplanade Resort, 209-217 Abbott Street, Cairns

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE MEETINGS?

These meetings are being held for three reasons:

- (1) Firstly, to **consider** and **authorise** whether to retain or remove two Apical Ancestors (Charlie Fourmile and Walter Fourmile) from the Claim Group Description for the Djabugay Nation native title claim;
- (2) Secondly, to **consider** and **authorise** whether to include a particular Apical Ancestor (Winmai (the mother of Mick Sheppard)) in the Claim Group Description for the Djabugay Nation native title claim; and
- (3) Thirdly, to **consider** and **authorise** whether to remove particular Apical Ancestors (Robert Clarke and Jinny the mother of Tambo Banning) and to replace them with different Apical Ancestors from the same family line.

What is a Claim Group Description?

When a native title claim is filed, it must include a Claim Group Description. The Claim Group Description is the description of the people who are said to hold the native title in the area of the claim. The Claim Group Description for the Djabugay Nation native title claim - being the Djabugay, Bulway, Yirrganydji, Nyakali, and Guluy People - is described as the descendants of certain Apical Ancestors.

Claim group community consultation meetings

NQLC, with the Applicant for the Djabugay Nation native title claim, held four claim group community consultation meetings in July this year. The meetings were held in order to gather the community's opinion regarding potential changes to the Claim Group Description for the Djabugay Nation native title claim.

At those claim group community meetings, members of the Djabugay Nation Claim Group considered and discussed the Apical Ancestors set out in the paragraph below, and whether or not changes should be made to the Claim Group Description.

The apical ancestors that were discussed were:

- (a) **Charlie Fourmile and Walter Fourmile:** the proposal that was discussed at the community meetings was whether the Apical Ancestors 'Charlie Fourmile' and 'Walter Fourmile' should remain as Apical Ancestors in the Claim Group Description, or whether they should be removed from the list of Apical Ancestors in the Claim Group Description.
- (b) **Winmai (the mother of Mick Sheppard):** the proposal that was discussed was whether 'Winmai (the mother of Mick Sheppard)' should be added again as an Apical Ancestor in the Claim Group Description (Winmai is not currently listed in the Claim Group Description).

- (c) **Robert Clarke:** the proposal that was discussed was whether or not 'Robert Clarke' should be removed from the list of Apical Ancestors, and in his place there should be included 'Kitty (the mother of Robert Clarke)' and 'Rosie (the mother of Lizzie Street)'.
- (d) **Jinny the mother of Tambo Banning:** the proposal that was discussed was whether or not 'Jinny the mother of Tambo Banning' should be removed from the list of Apical Ancestors, and in her place there should be included 'The unnamed father of Tambo Banning and Jack Banning'.

You may have received a newsletter in August this year with information about the results of those meetings. If you did not receive this letter, and you would like to be provided with a copy of the newsletter, please contact NQLC using the details at the end of this notice.

Authorisation meeting

The authorisation meetings to be held on 24 November 2025 will be for the Djabugay Nation Claim Group, being the Djabugay, Bulway, Yirrganydji, Nyakali and Guluy peoples, to consider the same issues as were considered at the community meetings, and if the Claim Group decides to do so, to authorise the changes to the Claim Group Description.

Changes to a Claim Group Description must be **authorised** at a properly notified authorisation meeting.

If a Claim Group Description is changed, the Claim Group before the change must first meet and authorise the change. The changed Claim Group must then meet to authorise the claim and to authorise the Applicant, or a different Applicant, to proceed with the native title claim. That is why two meetings are being held on 24 November 2025: one for the current Claim Group, and, if the current Claim Group authorises the changes to the Claim Group Description, one for the Claim Group following the changes.

Authorisation Meeting #1 will be about authorising changes to and/or confirmation of the Claim Group Description.

Authorisation Meeting #2 will be about confirming the Applicant and the lawyers. Authorisation Meeting #2 will only be held if the Claim Group authorises the proposed changes to the Claim Group Description at Authorisation Meeting #1.

AUTHORISATION MEETING #1

This notice invites to Authorisation Meeting #1 all members of the Djabugay Nation native title claim group, comprising the Djabugay, Bulway, Yirrganydji, Nyakali and Guluy peoples, who are the biological or adoptive descendants (in accordance with traditional laws and customs) of the following apical ancestors (the current Claim Group Description):

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Biddy Tangir Coleman; | 28. Annie Courtney; |
| 2. George Coleman; | 29. Polly Courtney; |
| 3. Ginny/Jinny Njujingai; | 30. Kitty Courtney (mother of Dick Richardson and others); |
| 4. Worundu and Maritjima (parents of Ernest Bounghi); | 31. Charlie (who partnered Kitty Courtney); |
| 5. Billy Boyle; | 32. Molly Dingga and her partners Ngunbitji and Patupita (Parents of George Kuranda/Carrol, Maggie Bowen and Jinnie Kuranda); |
| 6. Nellie Kuranda nee Street (mother of Topsy Thomas and others); | 33. Tommy Hobson and his partners Cissie and Rose; |
| 7. Andrew Thomas aka Billy; | 34. Kitty Donald; |
| 8. Jerry Bardon; | 35. Nellie and Micky (parents of Mary Anne Lawrence); |
| 9. Maggie (mother of Janie Clark nee Brown); | 36. Cissie Hunter; |
| 10. Robert Clarke; | 37. Wulwai; |
| 11. Joshua Barron; | 38. Waimbul and Jakere; |
| 12. Merukan (father of Toby Brim and others); | 39. Jikangoman (mother of Charlie Hyde); |
| 13. Annie Brim; | 40. Nellie of Redlynch (who partnered Jiritju); |
| 14. Barney Hunter and Minnie Street; | 41. Charlie Fourmile; |
| 15. Tambo/Sambo Street and Kitty Street; | 42. Walter Fourmile; |
| 16. Jimmy Hobbler; | 43. Billy Jagar; |
| 17. Billy Hobbler; | 44. Kitty Ikitjiti (mother of Maggie Aleck); |
| 18. Tommy Newbury; | 45. Lizzie and Peter Harwood; |
| 19. Jimmy Newbury and Polly Thompson; | 46. Frank and Jinnie of Redlynch; |
| 20. Waikanigai; | 47. Billy and Rosie of Speewah; |
| 21. Joe and Annie Davidson; | 48. Jeanie Graper; |
| 22. Andrew Dabah; | 49. Charlie McGrath aka Frank Lyons; |
| 23. Billy Long and Nellie (parents of Nellie Hastie); | 50. Nellie (mother of Peter, Charlie, Mick and Phillip Reid); |
| 24. Jimmy and Nellie Street; | 51. Henry of Barron River; |
| 25. Jinny (mother of Tambo Banning); | 52. Old Man Manga/Mange; and |
| 26. Minnie (mother of Buttercup Banning); | 53. Niju Wu of Double Island |
| 27. Billy and Rosie (parents of Bella Robinson who raised Charlie Levers and Peter Banning); | |

The agenda items for Authorisation Meeting #1 are as follows:

1. **Confirm** the decision-making process to be used for making decisions at the meeting.
2. **Consider**, and if the Claim Group decides to do so, authorise to retain, or to remove, the following Apical Ancestors from the Claim Group Description: “Charlie Fourmile” and “Walter Fourmile”.
3. **Consider**, and if the Claim Group decides to do so, authorise the following changes to the Claim Group Description:
 - a. Add the Apical Ancestor “Winmai”;
 - b. Remove the Apical Ancestor “Robert Clarke”, and include in the Claim Group Description in his place, “Kitty, the mother of Robert Clarke” and “Rosie, the mother of Lizzie Clarke nee Street”; and
 - c. Remove the Apical Ancestor “Jinny (mother of Tambo Banning)”, and include in the Claim Group Description in her place, “The unnamed father of Tambo Banning and Jack Banning”.

AUTHORISATION MEETING #2

Authorisation Meeting #2 will only be held if the Claim Group authorises all or some of the proposed changes to the Claim Group Description at Authorisation Meeting #1.

If any proposed changes are made at Authorisation Meeting #1, then the biological or adoptive descendants (in accordance with traditional laws and customs) of the list of apical ancestors above, as well as the proposed additional or changed apical ancestors, are invited to attend Authorisation Meeting #2. The proposed additional or changed ancestors are as follows.

- Kitty, the mother of Robert Clarke;
- Rosie, the mother of Lizzie Clarke nee Street;
- The unnamed father of Tambo Banning and Jack Banning;
- Winmai, to be added to claim group description.

Though we invite all descendants of the 53 numbered ancestors above along with the four proposed additional or changed ancestors above to be present, only those descendants of the ancestors in the Claim Group Description as amended at Authorisation Meeting #1 will be able to participate and vote in Authorisation Meeting #2. The formal changes made at Authorisation Meeting #1 will be announced at the commencement of Authorisation Meeting #2.

The agenda items for Authorisation Meeting #2 are as follows:

1. **Confirm** the decision making process to be used for making decisions at the meeting.
2. **Confirm the Authorisation** of the current Applicant, or if the Claim Group decides to, authorise a new Applicant, and to provide authority to prosecute the claim and deal with all matters arising in relation to it and confirm the conditions on the authority of the Applicant.
3. **Authorise** the Applicant to give instructions for the NQLC to act as the legal representative of the Applicant and the claim group, to do all things necessary:
 - a. to make changes to the Claim Group Description in accordance with the resolutions from Authorisation Meeting #1 on 24 November 2025; and
 - b. do all things necessary pursuant to the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) to progress the application to a determination of native title.

If you have any questions about whether you are a member of the claim group as described above, please contact NQLC and ask to speak with anthropologist **Kara Dunn** by telephone on **(07) 4042 7000** or **Freecall 1800 814 779** or send an email to kdunn@nqlc.com.au.

In accordance with NQLC policy, assistance with travel and accommodation is available for Authorisation Meetings. Please refer to “**Travel Assistance**” attached.

To register to attend this meeting please contact **Cherona Walker** at NQLC on **Freecall 1800 814 779** or **(07) 4042 7000** or legaladministration@nqlc.com.au by no later than **4pm, on Wednesday 12 November 2025**. Please note that there is limited funding available and any requests for travel assistance after this date will not be approved. All approvals for travel assistance are subject NQLC policy.

Yours sincerely,



Cheryl Thomson

Deputy Principal Legal Officer

North Queensland Land Council NTRB Aboriginal Corporation



North Queensland Land Council

Native Title Representative Body Aboriginal Corporation
ABN: 19 047 713 117 | ICN 1996 | www.nqlc.com.au

(07) 4042 7000
1800 814 779 (Free call)
PO Box 679 Cairns North QLD 4870

MEETING NOTICE

These are Djabugay Nation Authorisation Meetings

Assistance with travel and accommodation etc is subject to NQLC policy on resources for meetings with Traditional Owners. Please read the attached guidelines and this notice in order to determine what travel and/or accommodation assistance is available for this meeting.

MEETING DETAILS

Date:	Meeting 1: Monday, 24 November 2025 - Starting at 9:00am, registration from 8:30am
	Meeting 2: Monday, 24 November 2025 - Starting at 1:30pm, registration from 1:00pm
Venue:	Rydges Cairns Esplanade Resort 209-217 Abbot Street Cairns QLD 4870
Meeting participants:	Djabugay Nation Traditional Owners NQLC Staff: • Ashley Roszczenko – Snr Legal Officer/Claim Lawyer • Bella Borchert-Jonker – Legal Officer • Kara Dunn – Anthropologist • Cherona Walker – Legal Administration officer • Madeleine Fuller – Legal Administration officer
Catering arrangements:	Refreshments will be provided. Please contact NQLC about any dietary requirements.
Transport Arrangements:	Please refer to the following Guidelines for Assistance and contact the Legal Administration Officers
Contact Officer:	To register to attend this meeting, please contact Cherona Walker at NQLC on Freecall 1800 814 779 or (07) 4042 7000 Or legaladministration@nqlc.com.au by no later than 4pm, Wednesday 12 November 2025



Guidelines for Assistance – Traditional Owners Attending Meetings

Native Title Representative Bodies are notoriously under-funded and accordingly we cannot provide the full extent of assistance that Traditional Owners deserve. As a result, the Land Council must be efficient and effective with resources when organising meetings with Traditional Owners. Thus, the Land Council has set limits on the amount of assistance available. These guidelines give an indication as to what assistance is available for Land Council meetings. Note that all assistance is subject to the approval of the Land Council's Executive Officer and that these guidelines may change in the future without notice.

Authorisation Meetings

Due to the importance of Authorisation Meetings and the need to have a wide representation of the community of Native Title Holders, assistance with travel and accommodation is available for Authorisation Meetings. All assistance is subject to approval of the Executive Officer but may include fuel assistance and assistance with long distance travel. Assistance with accommodation may also be available but is subject to the approval of the Executive Officer. Note: it is recommended that approval from the Executive Officer be sought before you make any travel and/or accommodation arrangements that may require reimbursement.

NIAA funding conditions do not allow the Land Council to pay sitting fees to Traditional Owners to attend meetings. An incidental allowance may be paid at various meetings however this is subject to the prior approval of the Executive Officer.

Travel Assistance

Travel Assistance is only available to those persons who register. **You must register by 4pm, Wednesday 12 November 2025. Registrations after this date or on the day of the meeting will not be accepted.**

FUEL ASSISTANCE

- Persons intending to drive their own vehicle must register their attendance and notify the Administration Officer of their intent to drive in order to receive Fuel Assistance;
- Assistance will be paid at 40 cents per kilometre as per NQLC Policy and mileage is calculated by the RACQ Website. Please note that Management will limit assistance where it is deemed that the calculation is excessive;
- Part payment of your Fuel Assistance entitlement will be electronically transferred into a nominated bank account (in your name) prior to travel. The balance of your entitlement will be transferred into your account once the Administration Officer has confirmed your attendance on the day.

TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

- Please note that Travel Allowance is for meals not catered for by the NQLC and is paid at the rate of \$20-30 per meal;
- Part payment of your Travel Allowance entitlement will be electronically transferred into a nominated bank account (in your name) prior to travel. The balance of your entitlement will be transferred into your account once the Administration Officer has confirmed your attendance on the day.

ACCOMMODATION

- If you are eligible, accommodation will be booked on a shared basis.

FAILURE TO ATTEND THE MEETING WHEN YOU HAVE RECEIVED TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

If you have received a Travel Allowance payment and fail to attend the meeting, please note the following:

- In relation to part payment made prior to travel – you will need to call your nominated Administration Officer ASAP to advise of your inability to no longer attend the meeting and they will assist you to make arrangements to reimburse the funds to the NQLC;
- If you do not make arrangements with your Administration Officer to reimburse the funds your name will be recorded in an Overpayments Allowance Register and a Tax Invoice will be forwarded to you to seek reimbursement of the funds and/or the funds owing will be deducted from any entitlements at any future meetings you may attend.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PAYMENTS ARE PAID BY ELECTRONIC TRANSFER AND
NO CASH PAYMENTS WILL BE PAID AT THE MEETING.**

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU PROVIDE YOUR CURRENT BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS TO YOUR ADMINISTRATION OFFICER.

ENSURE THAT YOU CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICER (AS WELL AS FILL IN THE "MEETING ATTENDANCE LIST") SO THE BALANCE OF YOUR PAYMENT CAN PROCESSED ASAP.

Map of the Djabugay Nation (QUD692/2016) Native Title Claim area

