

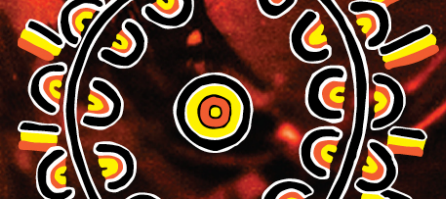
## “Working together – respectful engagement”

### Joint Management of NT Parks and Reserves



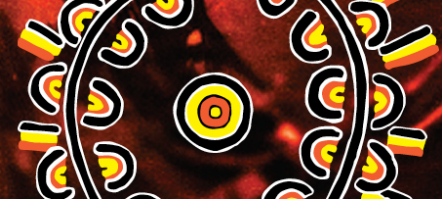
Peter Donohoe  
Central Land Council





## Background and Structural Arrangements

- Ward Decision - Legal uncertainty over 50 NT parks and reserves
- Framework for the Future Act –
  - 27 parks and reserves
  - Schedule 1, 2, and 3 parks
- Indigenous Land Use Agreements – settling native title issues
- Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act – Amendments - 2005
  - park level governance through joint management plans. Decision making processes for.....
  - Sets out Principles and objectives of joint management
- Joint management Agreement – (unsigned) – regional and NT wide governance.
- Lease – dispute resolution, territory’s obligations, Land trust obligations, calculation of rent, no entry fees etc



## How are these arrangements being interpreted 'on the ground'?

### Example - West MacDonnell National Park

- 12 – 18 months of preliminary work complex land tenure
- 12 months of planning and engagement
- 3 joint management committees

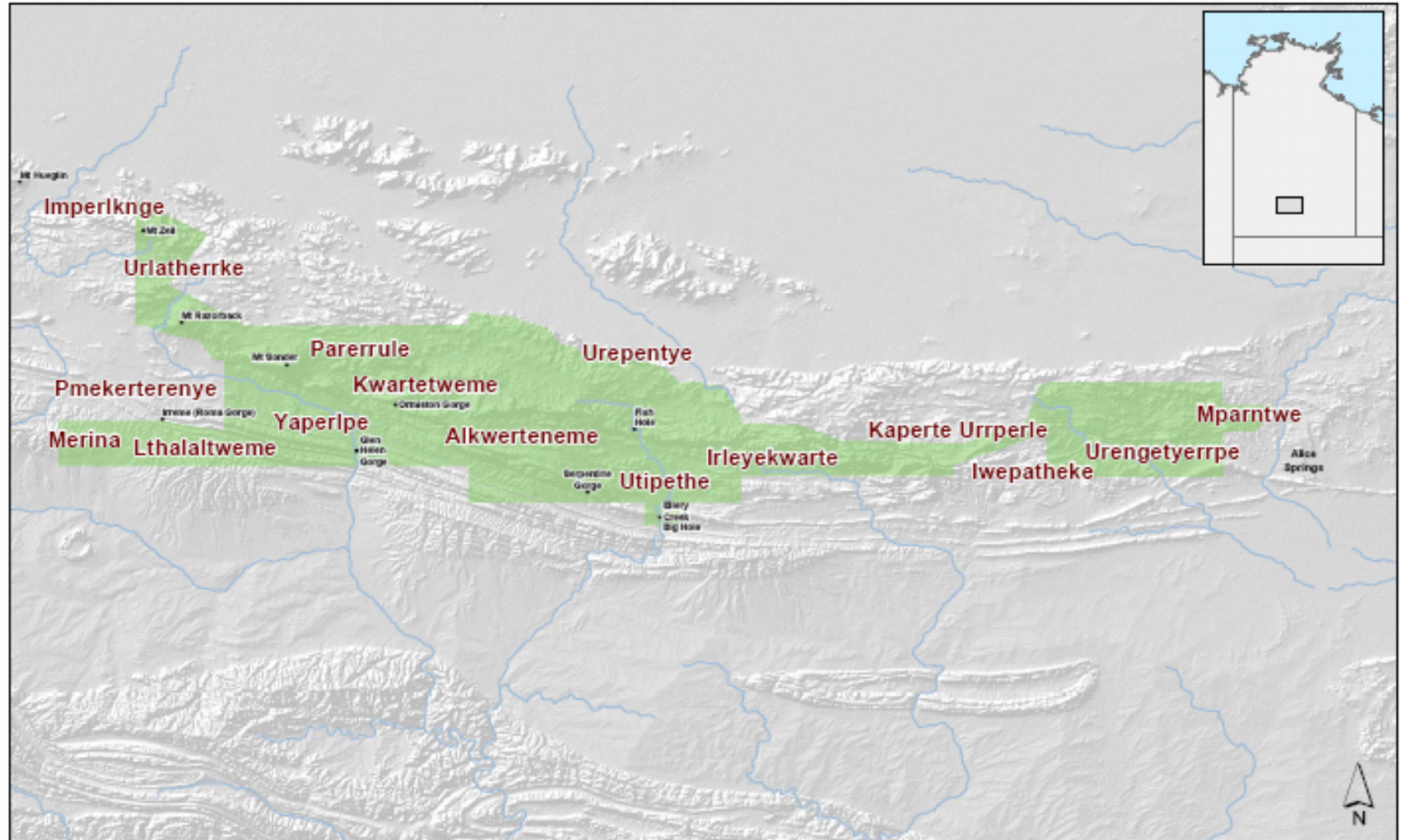


### Watarrka National Park

- 12 months joint management planning
- Joint management committee – formal decision making and ongoing planning

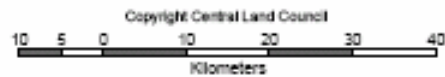


### Approximate Distribution of Countries - Tyurretye (WMNP)



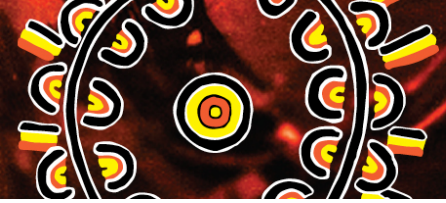
Scale 1 : 550 000  
Projection: Geographic  
Datum: GDA84

 WMNP Extent



Park boundary based on  
DPI tenure data.  
Drainage from Geoscience Australia





## Examples of engagement – where might the difficulties be?

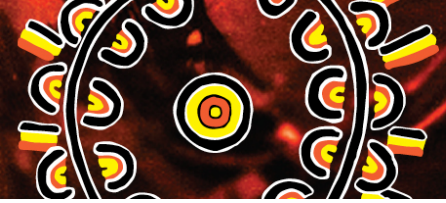
Davenport Range National Park

- Fire management Program
- Feral animal management



*“You’ve got your law and we’ve got ours, joint management is rangers and us working side by side. That isn’t joint management. You left us behind. You need to pay us back for what you did, that is our rule. If you do this for free it will just keep on happening.”*





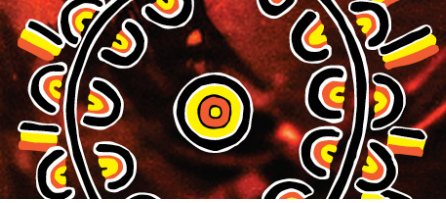
## Planning

### What has been working well?

- People back out on the country
- Participatory approaches
- Team approach (LC and PWS JM staff)
- Balance of planning and project work

### • Challenges (where we can improve)

- Balance between getting the plans done and decent processes
- More informal, country based planning with traditional owners to improve engagement
- Traditional Owners aspirations lost in the process
- Long timeframes



## Governance

- Some quite complex traditional owner groups
- Park by park JM (representative) committees being established – planning and engagement groups
- Decision making workshops – levels of decision making

## What has worked well?

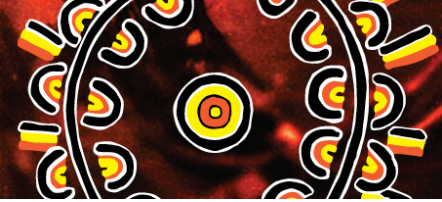
- Informal park level advisory committees – engagement
- Enthusiasm and attitude

## Challenges (where can we improve)

- communication – effective engagement (budgets, reports, communication tools)
- Meaningful involvement - Resourcing a number of committees – managing expectations
- Balance of power
- Regional and NT wide governance

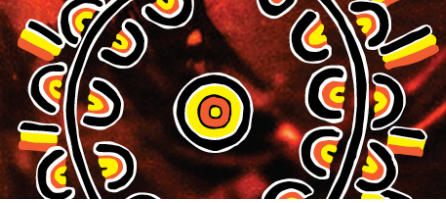
# Central Land Council

*The Land is always alive..*



## Levels of Engagement - Snapshot

|                            | Legal and other formal documents           | Types of decisions  | Actual level of involvement  | What impacts respectful engagement?  |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Rangers<br>(On the ground) | Joint Management Plan<br>Operational plans | Day to day management                                     | limited  | Interest, Enthusiasm<br>Capacity, disputes,<br>Complex traditional ownership,<br>Connection to country |
| Park level<br>(Committees) | TPWCA<br>Park Joint management plan        | Operational planning –<br>fire, ferals, weeds,<br>permits | Traditional owner consultation<br>Committees and other representative groups | Connection to country, Interest,<br>Enthusiasm<br>Complex traditional ownership                        |
| Regional level             | TPWCA<br>Joint management agreement        | Policy and planning<br>Regional Budgets                   | ??<br>CLC<br>NLC   | Commitment,<br>Resources, Capacity,<br>Politics  |
| Territory level            | Joint management agreement                 | Policy<br>Budgets and resourcing                          | Joint Management Forum<br>CLC<br>NLC   | Capacity, Resources<br>Access to knowledge<br>??   |



Can issues of respectful engagement be addressed with legislative and other formal agreements?

Or does respectful engagement depend on relationships and personalities at the operational level?