

Committee: *Public Accounts*  
Paper No: *17* Date: *2/12/22*  
Tabled By: *OCME*  
Signed: *[Signature]*

# *Local decision making* in East Arnhem

*Dhayunhamirr rom  
The pattern of mutual  
commitment which allows  
another party to take more  
responsibility*

NT Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet  
Jim Rogers – Regional Executive Director  
Waka Mununggurr – Strategic Cultural Advisor  
Cathryn Moore – Director – Yolngu region

# Key points in today's evidence

1. The context for LDM in East Arnhem
  2. The LDM journey so far
    - 3.1 Our work to sharing the LDM story (2017 to 2019)
    - 3.2 Building capability and capacity of CM&C and NTG
    - 3.3 Examples of LDM in practice (*LDM Pathway 1*)
    - 3.4 Agreement making and Partnerships (*LDM Pathway 2*)
  3. Lessons learnt
  4. Questions
-

# 1. East Arnhem LDM context

Yolngu – ~10,000ppl.  
Nhulunbuy, 6 large communities, 70+  
homelands

Yolngu Region LDM Partnership  
Commitment (concluded)

Djalkiripuyngu  
LDM Agreement

Other sub-regional  
engagement

Anindilyakwa – 2200ppl.  
Alyangula, 3 communities and  
smaller satellite communities

Groote Archipelago LDM  
Agreement

Economic Development, Law and  
Justice, Housing, Education and Health  
and Wellbeing IP signed

Local Government in negotiation

## 2.1 Early work – sharing the LDM story

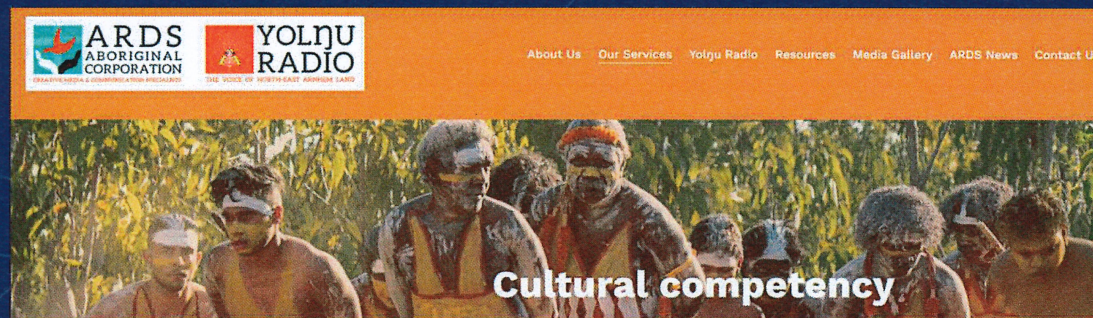
- Extensive engagement LDM opportunities with many Yolngu and Anindilyakwa organisations and interested leaders
- Held regional stakeholder workshops in the Yolngu region

At these workshops the Northern Territory Government heard Yolngu leaders say:

- *Many policies have changed in East Arnhem Land over the last 15 years*
- *There are many different governance groups and committees*
- *It is difficult for Yolngu leaders to show unity and authority*
- *Governments have decided what work is most important in Yolngu communities*
- *Governments decided how that work will be done*
- *Yolngu clans and leaders have little power over what happens in their communities.*
- *Communities are ready to engage in LDM, but Government must be ready too.*

## 2.2 Government capacity and capability development

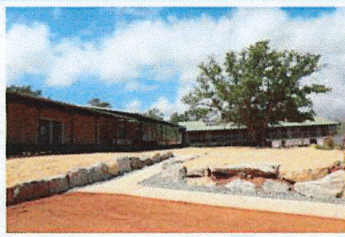
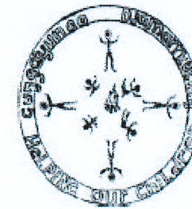
*Building and upskilling our team and NT agencies*



## 2.3 LDM in practice (LDM Pathway 1)



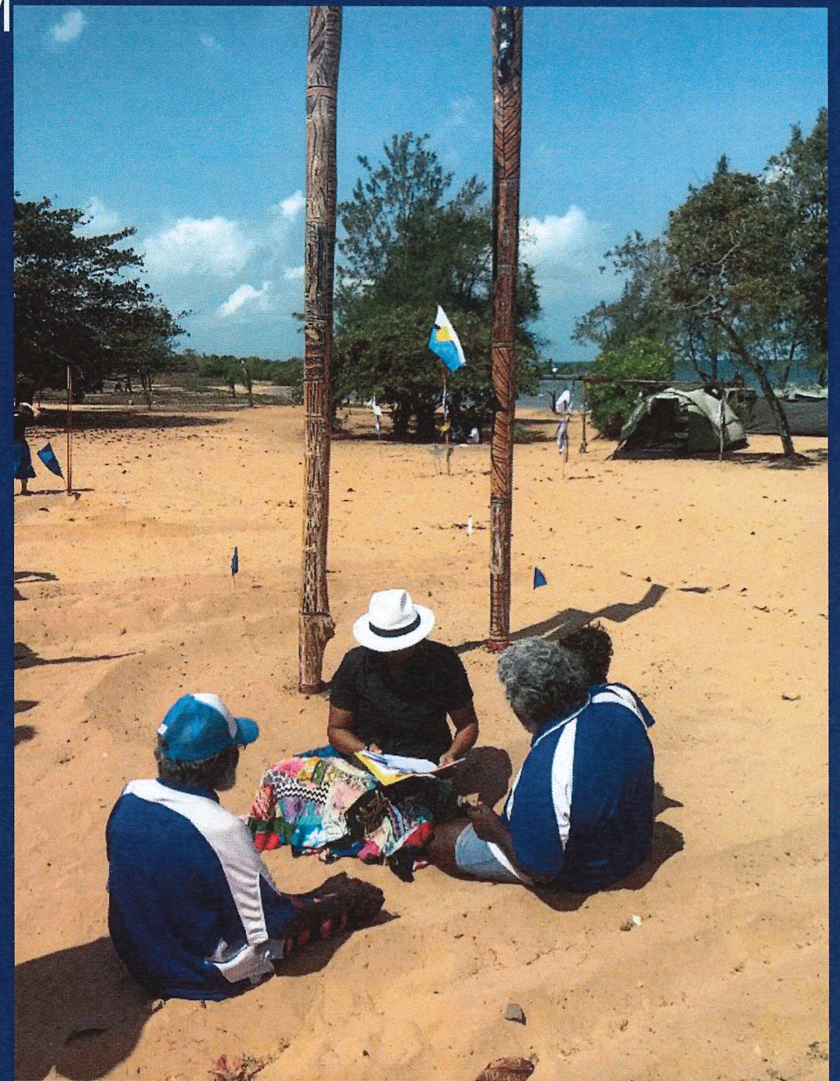
**Gunja'yunga Djamarrkuḷiny**  
East Arnhem Land Youth Model - EALYM



## 2.4 DJALKIRIPUYNGU (BLUE MUD BAY) LDM AGREEMENT – SIGNED 30 JULY 2022

Landmark homelands agreement that formally recognises Djalkiripuyngu leadership and Yolŋu Rom/governance (Blue Mud Bay native title holders and homelands leaders)

- Place: Djalkiripuyngu Bāpurru and homleands (~500 ppl.) in Blue Mud Bay region (Baniyala, Gan Gan and Wandawuy)
- Priorities and co-investment in education, community safety, health, housing/infrastructure, cultural heritage, land/sea management and economic development
- Funding to support regional and local engagement + capacity building
- Commits NTG to locally driven Djalkiripuyngu Development Strategy
- **Next steps:** Implementation over 5 years

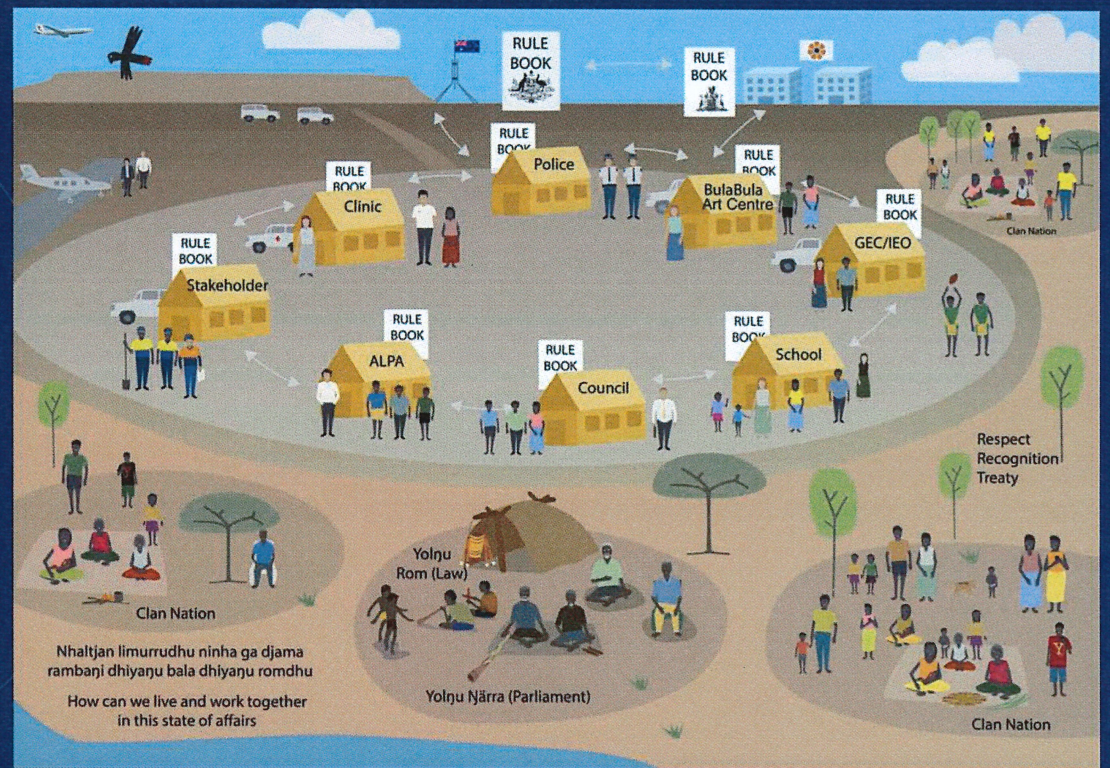


# 2.4 Yolŋu Region LDM Partnership Commitment

Signed in May 2019 at Yolŋu Radio studios

At a summary level and as agreed way of working, the Yolŋu Region LDM Partnership provided opportunities:

1. for Balanda and Yolŋu organisations and institutions to share stories to better understand the way decisions are made in the Balanda system and Yolŋu system (gurrutu and kinship systems), including their strengths and weaknesses;
2. to think about ways of changing the Balanda system to include the Yolŋu way of making decisions; and if agreed;
3. to think about how we can make those changes together as Yolŋu and Balanda.

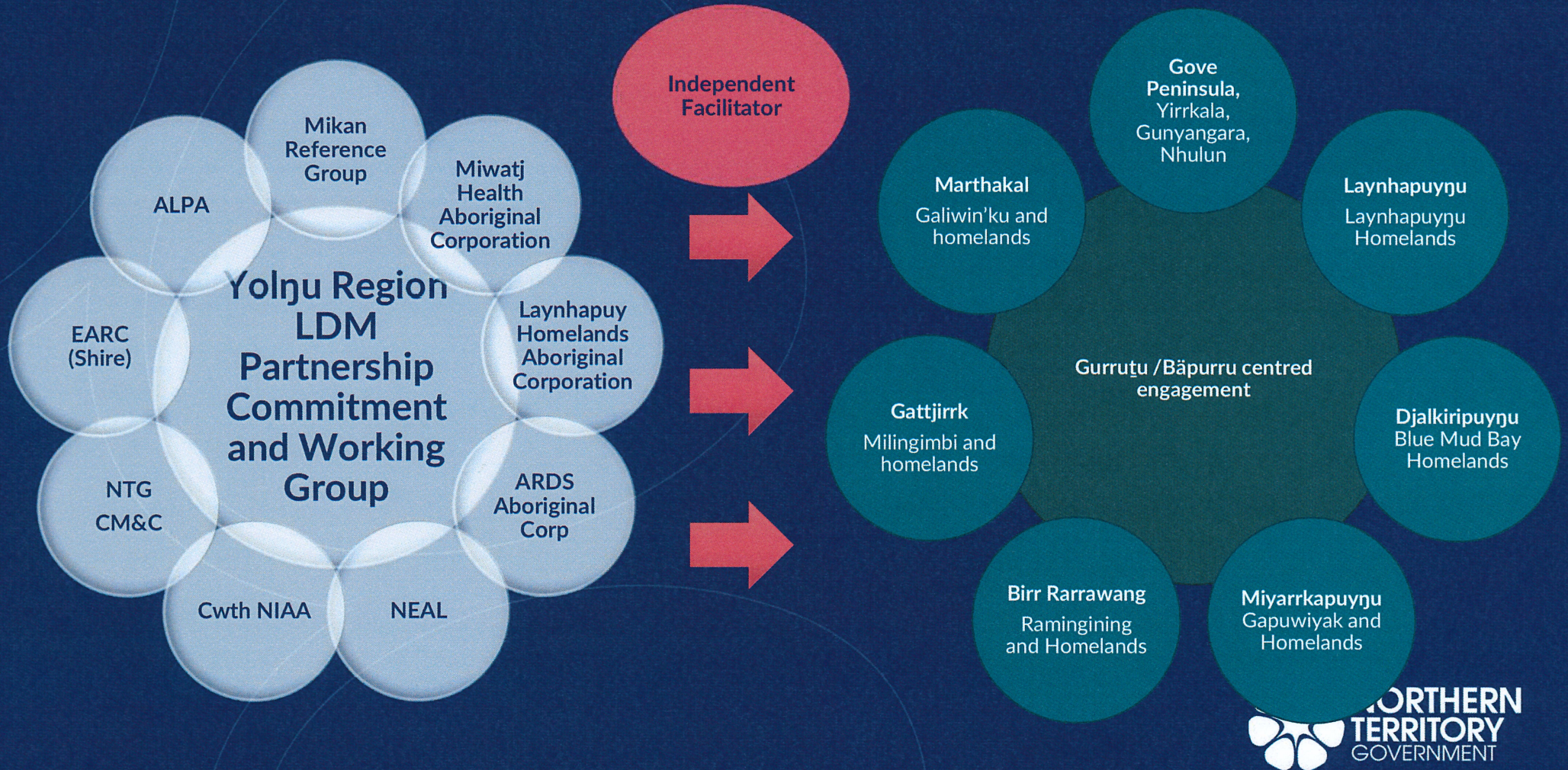


Permissions: This poster was designed by the late Mr. Gaykamanu, Ramingining leaders, expressing his experience of how the Australian system of law works in his community of Ramingining. Mr. Gaykamanu gave us express permission to use this diagram for the LDM Workshop reports on at [www.ldm.nt.gov.au](http://www.ldm.nt.gov.au).





## 2.4 The Partnership approach



# 3. Our learnings

1. The empowerment agenda is a crowded space – risk of confusion and of dividing leaders is very significant
2. Neutrality and recognising/addressing vested interests is critically important
3. Capacity building and developmental approaches are a good way
4. Governments must be flexible and patient
5. Trust should not be assumed, it should be earned
6. There are significant risks in cross-cultural communication
7. Government capacity to support and maintain momentum is very challenging
8. Honesty, transparency and accountability must be maintained

## 4. QUESTIONS

Further information.....

[www.idm.nt.gov.au](http://www.idm.nt.gov.au) (click East Arnhem on the map)

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