



THE TIWI

NEWS for
Traditional
Owners



NEWS from your LAND Council

Good to know

Cats and Wildlife Don't Mix!



See enclosed our flyer: how you can help to protect Tiwi Islands' plants and animals.

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Chairman's Words

Welcome to the August/September edition of *The Tiwi*. I would like to pass on our thoughts and prayers to family who have lost close ones over the past weeks. Your Tiwi Land Council has been busy looking after our land and sea while at the same time supporting our Tiwi Industries' development for the benefit of all our people.

The next couple of months are a time of Tiwi celebration. Our Tiwi Forestry project is currently harvesting our first load of wood chip for export from Port Melville, with a growing Tiwi workforce leading the charge.

For the first time, our Tiwi College senior young men are doing work experience at Port Melville as well as in forestry, with our Tiwi Rangers, Tiwi Enterprises, schools and with our RJCP crews while we celebrate with our Tiwi College young women who amazingly won the Women's football league grand final - as well as their fourth straight Quit 100 Cup against teams from all over the NT.

Our Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board are holding their Graduation Ceremony in September, which will showcase our rising stars of the future, so it will be great to celebrate their achievements with the whole community.



Tiwi College senior young men at Port Melville in front of new wood chip pile
David Henry-Whiting (Assistant Teacher), Richard Djorlorm, Hayden Henry-Whiting

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Chairman's Words

We also celebrated the retirement of two time Chairman of the Tiwi Land Council in the great Robert Tipungwuti, as reported in this edition of The Tiwi. Robert established Ranku community, the Tiwi College, led the development of our Tiwi Forestry and Port Melville projects, the Tiwi Bombers Football Club and a host of other visionary projects that will be the cornerstone of our great Tiwi Nation, decades into the future.



Tiwi Land Council Chairmen past and present: Robert Tipungwuti and Gibson F. Illortaminni At farewell for Robert Tipungwuti in July 2015



Celebrating Robert Tipungwuti at Tiwi Land Council meeting



Casmira Munkara at 100 years Mission Anniversary



Casmira Munkara

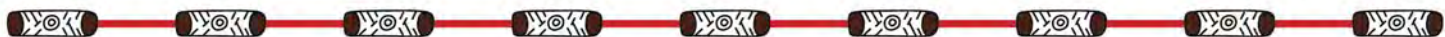
And in what is another amazing achievement, Casmira Munkara is celebrating 45 years of work, caring and looking after the health and well being of our people with Tiwi Health in October.

We wish both Robert and Casmira a well earned rest, happiness and good health in their retirement years.

If our Tiwi kids of today can look at Robert and Casmira and work towards displaying the same commitment and professionalism to our people, then our future will be assured.

Throw in the Tiwi Ashes at the Tiwi College at the end of August, the AFL Finals in September, the start of the NTLF and TIFL competitions soon after, with the word on the street pointing to a big year for our Tiwi Bombers, it really is a great time to be celebrating all the great Tiwi achievements over the next couple of months.

*Gibson Farmer Illortaminni
Chairman Tiwi Land Council*



Executive Management Committee

EMC's Notes



Hi All,

Well, this year is just flying by!

2015 is proving to be very positive, productive and progressive with such great things going on around the Islands. From the Red Cross continuing their great work they do on the ground right through to the big project right on our doorstep, the Port!

The Tiwi Land Council Executive Management Committee continues with its work. Meeting at least every 2 weeks, sometimes more often, we are listening to all the people who live and work on the Tiwi Islands - keeping a clear vision for the future and a better life for Tiwi people and great opportunities for our children.



We thank Chief Minister Adam Giles for taking time from his busy schedule to visit the Tiwi Islands during July. The Chief Minister met with the Tiwi Land Council Executive and discussed progress of the tourism initiative at Wurrumiyanga, potential economic development elsewhere on the islands, our excellent environmental management and partnership with the University of Melbourne, and answered questions from our Executive Members.



L to R: Leslie Tungatulum TLC, Chief Minister Adam Giles, Peter Styles Minister for Business, MLA Francis Kurupuwu and Wesley Kerinauia TLC officially open the first pop-up Territory Business Centre at Wurrumiyanga



“The Tiwi have a proud record of investing in Tiwi Businesses and their own future to achieve their own vision of an independent and resilient Tiwi society.”
Peter Styles, Business Minister

The Tiwi Land Council is grateful for the continued support we receive from the NT Government.

“My Government is determined to foster the development of new business in our remote and regional areas, and ongoing investment in new and improved infrastructure is critical to ensuring the future economic prosperity of the Tiwi Islands.”
Adam Giles, Chief Minister



New shed as part of the upgraded barge landing facility at Wurrumiyanga



Road upgrades at Three Ways, Melville Island

EMC's Notes

Robert Tipungwuti



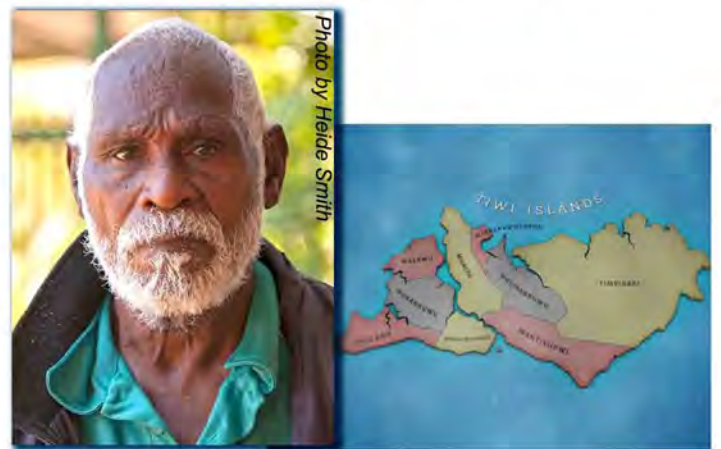
Robert with family and friends through the years. Top centre clockwise, with: grandchild; NT leaders at High Court (Blue Mud Bay); Allan Border, Andrew Forrest; Tiwi Bombers' trophy; family; Mal Brough, Bob Hawke

Also in July, at meeting number 289 of the full Tiwi Land Council, a farewell lunch and Yoi was held for Mr Robert Tipungwuti.

Robert recently retired from his numerous leadership roles after decades of tireless service. We wish him all the best in his retirement. He was a visionary and a strong leader for Tiwi people.

Robert shared similar visions with other former Tiwi leaders which included Tiwi College, Forestry, Port Melville, the Tiwi Bombers and further Economic Development and Tiwi jobs creation. Of course he led the way and was instrumental in township leasing at his beloved Ranku.

We wish him all the best in his retirement where he can now relax and spend quality time with his family – and maybe even watch his Swannies go all the way in September!



Robert Tipungwuti 2014

Until our next issue, take care everyone. Feel free to call our Picka HQ office if you have any questions about your land council. Or just ask any of your Exec members – we are here to communicate with you.

Executive Management Committee

Tiwi Science Reference Committee meets at Yapilika



L to R: Willie Rioli, David Jnr. Guy, Chris Weston, Janet Hergt, Gerd Bossinger, Gibson F. Illortaminni, Peter Ades, Lesley Tungatulum, Vivian Kerinauia, Kate Hadden, Wesley Kerinauia, Jose Puruntatameri, John Wilson and Kim B. Wommatakimmi

Scientists from Melbourne University met with representatives from the Tiwi Land Council, Land Rangers and TLC staff at our second Science Reference Committee meeting for 2015. Janet Hergt, Deputy Dean of Science, Gerd Bossinger, Peter Ades and Chris Weston, all from Forest Sciences, arrived at Yapilika on the 12th July and spent the following three days meeting and visiting on the Islands.

The visitors saw first hand the harvest and chipping of the plantations, and were hugely impressed with the work and persistence of everyone involved to get it to this final stage. They were also impressed with the natural environment of the Islands, and the ongoing work in looking after it.

Updates were provided on a number of projects, including joint projects between University researchers, Tiwi Land Rangers and Tiwi Forests. These included a project looking at how small mammals cope with different fire management, and projects looking at the best ways to check that there are plenty of native animals around. New research ideas included feral buffalo herd management, how to keep the Islands safe from pests and diseases and many others.

An important project the committee is trying to get funding for is about land use planning. This involves getting good scientific information across the whole Tiwi Islands, and using it to identify where the best areas would be for development, and where the best areas would be for conservation. This information could help landowners make decisions about what land can be used for jobs and income, while still making sure the native plants and animals are OK.

The visit was a busy three days, and there is now plenty of work to do. But everyone agreed it was a great meeting, and we're all looking forward to the next one in or around Melbourne in 2016.

Kate Hadden, TLC

Science Reference Committee



Feral Cats



Feral cats are a huge problem, with an estimated 18 million on the Australian mainland and increasing every year. Feral cats eat birds, insects, reptiles, turtle eggs and animals such as possums, bandicoots and even small wallabies. They can have a big impact on island wildlife, and have caused extinctions in places.

Feral cats are also a danger to people because they can carry serious diseases.

The bad news is that we have feral cats on the Tiwi Islands. Researchers working in partnership with Tiwi Land Rangers are finding lots of evidence of cats in the bush, which puts our local wildlife at risk. Because of this risk, cats are not welcome on the Tiwi Islands.

Cats are hard to control. They are shy, do not take baits readily, move around mostly at night and are difficult to shoot. However if you are out hunting and see a feral cat in the bush, the best thing to do is to kill it and report where you got it to the Tiwi Land Council. By killing the feral cats we see in the bush, and not bringing more cats onto the Islands we gain some control.

Even if a cat is de-sexed, people are asked to obtain permission from the Tiwi Land Council if they want to take cats to the Tiwi Islands. It is important that pet cats are kept under control and not allowed to roam and kill native animals.

Research into toxins and biological control methods is progressing and we may hope for a future where our Islands are free from this environmental predator.



Fire Upgrade

PLEASE STOP BURNING NOW

Our Tiwi Fire Coordinator Bruce and Tiwi Land Rangers have been working hard over the past few months, and have now finished their planned burning across the Tiwi Islands.

CSIRO has shown us that if country is burnt early in the dry season instead of late, then it saves carbon going into the air. If enough carbon is saved, it can be sold through carbon markets.

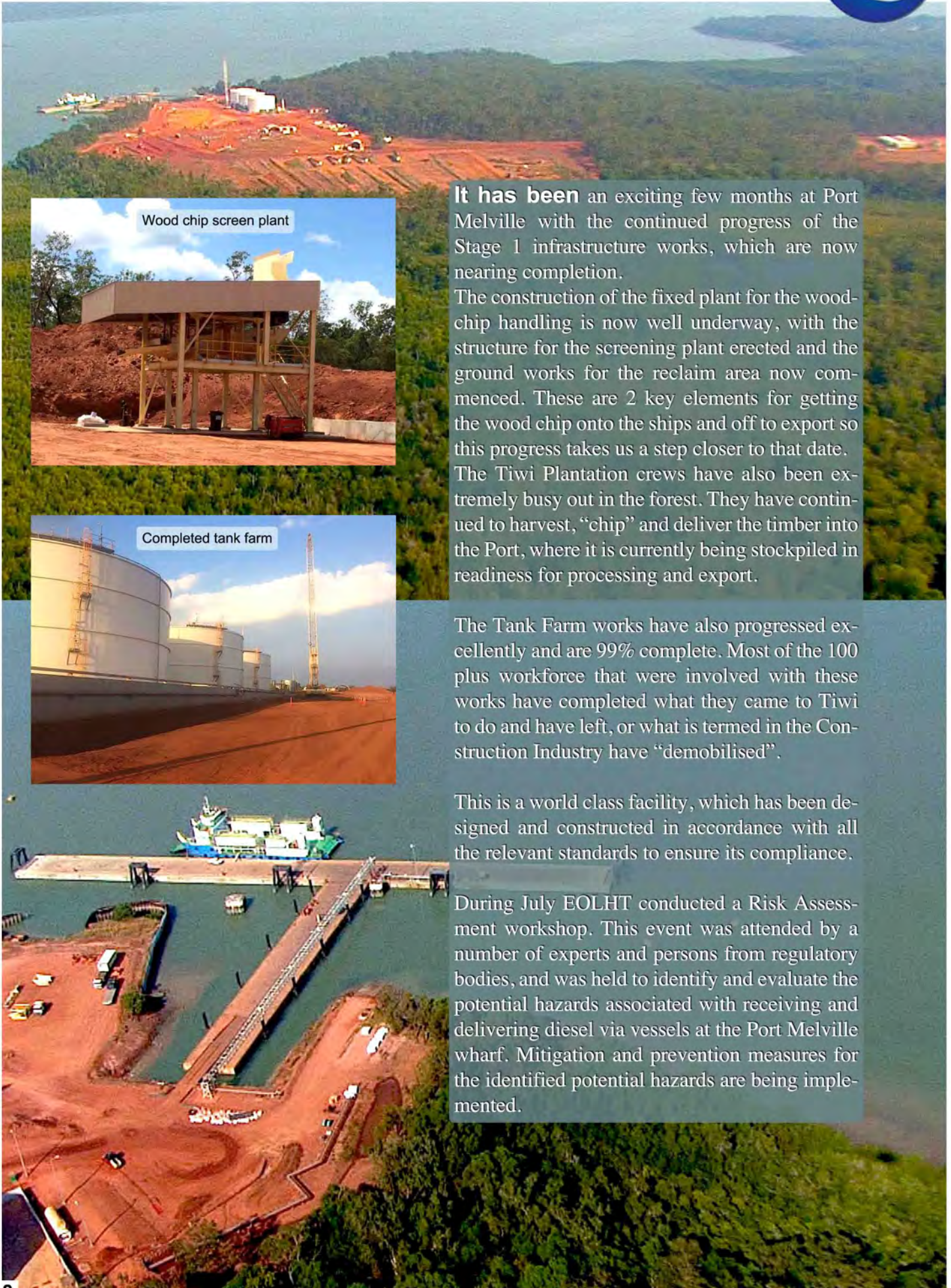
Every year the Tiwi Islands Fire Committee puts together a plan to carry out controlled burning. The aim is to burn areas early, and stop late dry season fires.

**REMEMBER
THINK ABOUT
YOUR BURNING**



To stop late season fires from sending carbon into the air, we now need people to stop burning. If you still want to burn some country, please talk to the Land Rangers or Bruce. They will help you burn the area you want so that it doesn't keep running into the bush. And if you are out bush, please be careful not to start any fires.

Kate Hadden, TLC



Wood chip screen plant



Completed tank farm

It has been an exciting few months at Port Melville with the continued progress of the Stage 1 infrastructure works, which are now nearing completion.

The construction of the fixed plant for the wood chip handling is now well underway, with the structure for the screening plant erected and the ground works for the reclaim area now commenced. These are 2 key elements for getting the wood chip onto the ships and off to export so this progress takes us a step closer to that date. The Tiwi Plantation crews have also been extremely busy out in the forest. They have continued to harvest, “chip” and deliver the timber into the Port, where it is currently being stockpiled in readiness for processing and export.

The Tank Farm works have also progressed excellently and are 99% complete. Most of the 100 plus workforce that were involved with these works have completed what they came to Tiwi to do and have left, or what is termed in the Construction Industry have “demobilised”.

This is a world class facility, which has been designed and constructed in accordance with all the relevant standards to ensure its compliance.

During July EOLHT conducted a Risk Assessment workshop. This event was attended by a number of experts and persons from regulatory bodies, and was held to identify and evaluate the potential hazards associated with receiving and delivering diesel via vessels at the Port Melville wharf. Mitigation and prevention measures for the identified potential hazards are being implemented.



The Tank Farm commissioning phase was undertaken through July. This is when all of the checks and balances are completed on the installation to ensure that everything is working properly and safely before the facility is actually used. This included the “hydro-testing” of the tanks, which involved filling the Tanks with water one at a time, and checking for any possible leaks and settlement “movement” of the tanks. The results for this testing all came up positive and were signed off by the design engineers.

Port Melville Port Corp would like to thank the people of Tiwi for their support of this process, in particular supplying the Port with the 10 million litres of water that was required for the test under the approved Land Use Request Form.

It was also good to have a couple of the Tiwi College Senior Boys attend the Port Melville site in August for their work experience placement. Hayden Henry-Whiting and Richard Djorlom accompanied by their teacher assistant David Henry-Whiting stayed on site for a week and were introduced to various areas of the Port Operation. Hopefully the boys took away some new knowledge and a better understanding of what is involved with work at the Port.

We were fortunate enough to spend some time with the NT Administrator the Honourable Mr. John Hardy and his wife Marie and took them for a tour of Port Melville. I believe they were very impressed with what they saw, in particular the welcome they received at the Garden Point airport.

Sean London, Project Manager



Tank farm hydro-tested



Tiwi College senior boys - work experience



L to R: Sean London, Cyril Kalippa, John and Marie Hardy, Dennis Tipakalippa

Tiwi Rangers shine on solar



Power and Water Corporation with the support of the Northern Territory Government has secured ARENA (Australian Renewable Energy Agency) funding to deliver solar systems across more than 30 remote communities in the Northern Territory, including on the Tiwi Islands.



Tiwi Land Ranger Willie Rioli and Vivian Kerinaiaua

The solar systems will generate clean power from sunlight replacing some of the power generated from diesel fuel. The power stations will continue to operate using 15% less diesel. This means less diesel exhausts and fewer truck and barge deliveries into the communities.

Power and Water is pleased to be working with remote communities, including three Tiwi Island communities, on this important project to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by producing renewable energy.

Power and Water has worked with Traditional Owners and the Northern Territory Government to identify solar sites at three Tiwi Island communities,

Milikapiti, Wurrumiyanga and Pirlangimpi. With the permission of Traditional Owners, the Tiwi Rangers were engaged to walk the land at these sites to check for threatened animals and plants that should be conserved ahead of the site being prepared for solar. In particular the

rangers were looking for red goshawk nests and roosting sites for masked owls.

The rangers also looked for an endangered plant *Typhonium mirabile* on the land at Milikapiti and Wurrumiyanga. No nests were found, or endangered plants.

Protecting cultural heritage sites is a priority for Power and Water. Development can only occur with Aboriginal Area Protection Authority Certificates prepared in consultation with Tiwi custodians and Traditional Owners.

Power and Water looks forward to continuing to work with the Tiwi communities in the development of this significant initiative.

PowerWater

Future solar panels



Kim B. Wommatakimmi marking the site at Milikapiti

Indigenous Literacy Foundation



For the past three years the Indigenous Literacy Foundation have come to the Tiwi Islands to conduct writing and illustrating workshops for the young Tiwi, using renowned Australian and often Indigenous authors and illustrators.

The outcomes of these workshops are wonderful short stories, songs and illustrations – all done via engaging and fun lessons – with a real outcome.

Of special note is the book written by Milikapiti Primary students entitled “No Way Yirrikapawi”, via Alison Lester.

The Tiwi College Senior Girls have also written, “Bangs to Jurrukuk” via John Denalis and they have also just completed a short illustrated novel entitled “Tiwi Girl” via Alison Lester. The Tiwi College Senior Girls now have an annual writing workshop trip to Sydney, where, thanks to ILF, they are able to work in the rooms of publishing companies to work on another Tiwi-centric book.

We enjoy having the team of ambassadors each year and would like to thank the tremendous work put in by Karen Williams (Executive Director, ILF) and Tina Raye (Program Manager, ILF).



Remote communities right across Australia have benefitted greatly by these types of trips.

Ian Smith, Principal Tiwi College

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or a **Hire Car**?

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Cats and Wildlife Don't Mix!

Cats are skillful hunters that kill our wildlife

How can you help protect Tiwi Islands' plants and animals

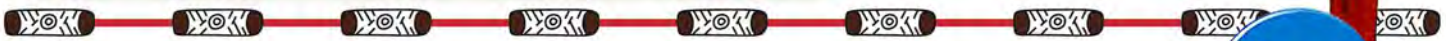
Don't bring cats to the Tiwi Islands

Desex your cat

Don't dump unwanted cats

Looking After Country Together

This project was supported by funding from the Australian Government's National Environmental Research Program



Tiwi Bus Service



Tiwi Enterprises has received funding from the Northern Territory Government to establish a new bus service for the Tiwi Islands.

There will be regular services between Pirlangimpi, Paṛu and Milikapiti on each day and also Pickertaramoor on Mondays and Fridays.

The funding includes the purchase of new buses and we are currently in the process of researching the best buses for the service.

The funding will also assist with operational expenses for the first 3 years, but fares will be charged to travellers to cover the shortfall between funding and actual costs.

Are you interested in being a bus driver?
We will be working with TITEB to provide training for drivers.

Please contact Mark or Ray on 8978 3755 if you are interested in this, or if you already have your bus licence.

We anticipate commencing the service in January 2016.