# Final Mulka Electorate Newsletter
# Yiŋiya Guyula



AUGUST 2026

## Statement announcing my retirement from NT Parliament

On 19 August I notified the Speaker of the NT Legislative Assembly of my decision to step down as the Member for Mulka. It's time for me to return to my family and my people on country to provide the leadership for the next generation as my full focus without the enormous workload that comes with being an Independent Member of Parliament. I need to focus on the next generation of Yolŋu and give the guidance on what it means to be a strong Yolŋu leader on our country, for our people, and across two worlds.




This has not been an easy decision to make. I have served the Mulka Electorate for the past 10 years and I have worked hard over this decade to be the voice of the Mulka Electorate and support all remote communities across the NT. I have been very proud to be an Independent Member, accountable directly to the people and speaking for the people.

It has been my aim to come to Parliament to try and work with government to fix problems and make things better. I have been sent by my people to work with the Government but their answer has always been, "we know what is best for you", rather than working in partnership with us. What I have discovered is that Aboriginal communities are the political football that gets passed around with no real intention of working with our people to bring positive change for our communities.

We are willing. We have called for partnership. We have called for Treaty. We are saying, "come and work together". But successive governments are not listening and are unwilling to do so. Last month, the CLP Government changed the child protection laws with no consultation with our communities. I appealed to the Government to withdraw the Bill and work with communities to bring real changes that will work.

Since their election, the CLP have introduced too many laws that are dehumanising, oppressing and destroying our communities and our people. They have significantly failed Aboriginal people and their ongoing actions are contributing to the breakdown of our culture and people, in what is now becoming a slow genocide. **Continued page 2**

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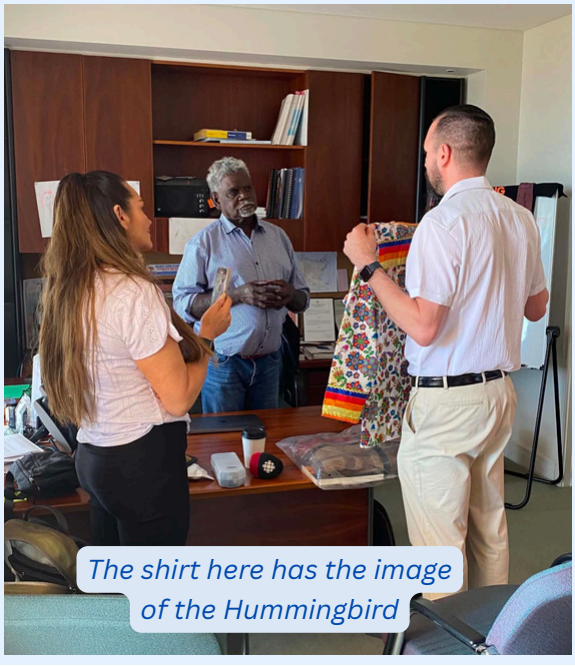
I no longer feel that I can be a part of the NT Parliament and sit opposite a government who are not willing to listen or form partnerships. We are sovereign people and the only way things will improve is when the Government recognise that and come and sit with us respectfully.

We are kindly offering partnership, but instead of diplomacy the Government are walking all over us. This is very serious business because people are dying. I buried a younger brother earlier this month and on Friday the funeral for my older brother will begin. We have people dying avoidable deaths every day. We are physically, mentally and spiritually struggling because of the frequent loss of family members as we move from one funeral to the next. As I too get older, and have also had health concerns, I need to return my focus to community-led solutions on country and make space for someone else to come in with new energy to serve the electorate and continue to hold the Government to account.

It has been an honour to serve the people of Mulka for 10 years. I will continue to serve my people as a Yolŋu leader for as long as I have left, and I will continue to seek genuine partnerships and advocate for our homelands and community-led solutions that are desperately needed on country. I would like to thank the people of Mulka across all clans, Yolŋu and Balanda, my family, my staff and all the Yolŋu elders of our lands. Thank you for your hard work to make things better and thank you for electing me with a vision of hope for Yolŋu communities. We will continue to hold this hope and vision of a better future. No one thought a Yolŋu person could be elected as an Independent Member of Parliament but we did it three times. We showed the world that we are united by a vision of Yolŋu rom ŋurruŋu (our way first) and we must continue to be united through Yolŋu rom ŋurruŋu as we work to protect our people, land and culture.

## The hummingbird's message of courage for the people of Mulka

Last year I was visited by Angela Sterritt and Dr David Robinson, who are First Nations people from Canada. They told me this story: "The animals, the bear, the moose and the fox found their homes, where they lived and loved, on fire. And as they were watching by the lake, they saw a hummingbird come out. It dipped its tiny beak into the lake, filled it with water and flew to the fire, dropping a bead of water into it, then came back and did the same.



*The shirt here has the image of the Hummingbird*

All the big animals are watching, thinking Hummingbird will never put the fire out at this pace. But the hummingbird keeps filling his beak, dropping water into the fire. The Great Spirit watches the hummingbird witnessing its tenacity and courage. He was doing good work to protect the people, their homes, and their culture. So, Creator blesses hummingbird with the fastest wings of all the birds." They said, "right now, there's a fire, and the fire is in your homelands. And you're bringing the water of your heart and ceremonies, putting out the fire, and helping to protect the land, the people, and your culture." This is a story for all our people. We are working with courage to put out the fire, and we must keep working with courage.

## Child protection laws

In July, Parliament passed new child protection laws that will increase the removals of Aboriginal children from their kin, culture and land. I strongly opposed these changes and have called on Government to work in partnership with communities to help families who are struggling and make children safe.

## Gove Peninsula future

The future of the Gove Peninsula needs to be decided by many Yolŋu clans of the region, and created in partnership with all the businesses and services of the region.

While the Chief Minister announced an in-principle agreement has been reached with Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation for a “long-term, Traditional Owner-led tenure model”,further details and consultation are still needed.

All clans of the Gove Peninsula must be included in these processes. In Yolŋu rom there are many clans working together for robust decision-making. We are stronger when we get this right and I encourage all of the clan leaders to work together.




## Dhaḏalal` a calling for all Yolŋu

The first ever Dhaḏalal` Homeland Festival was a powerful reminder of our strength in the homelands. Held at Gäṉgaṉ in June, the festival created a space for Yolŋu rom through connection and genuine conversation about the management of homelands. Dhaḏalal` is a special ceremonial Yidaki used to issue a call, and to me, this felt like a calling for Yolŋu to come together to celebrate our culture and help teach the next generation to be strong leaders. I congratulate the leaders and all who helped make it possible.

## New land council dhäwu

At the Garma Festival there was an announcement of plans for a new land council on Yolŋu country. I support the idea of a Yolŋu-run land council that is underpinned by Yolŋu rom and represents all clans equally, but it’s very important that we are all included from the beginning. Let’s talk more about this idea for bukmak Yolŋu through Yolŋu rom ŋurruŋu.

## Homelands leaders travel to Canberra

In June, a delegation of Aboriginal leaders went to Canberra to call on the Federal Government to take real action to support our homelands. Currently, there is a $4 billion housing agreement that excludes the homelands and instead directs funding to 72 Aboriginal hub communities across the Northern Territory.

Homelands must be included in the vision for stronger communities and it is time for all levels of government to recognise the vital role homelands play in keeping our people safe and protecting culture.



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## Condolences

My condolences to all the families who are grieving across our communities. My Wawa, **Mr B Marika**, the chairperson of RAC passed away this month. He set a strong example for the next generation and will be greatly missed.

There have also been several young lives to violence and this has been very tragic for our communities and requires strong leadership from all clans to work together to bring peace. It also requires government partnership for community-led solutions.

My Wawa, **Mr G Wanambi**, a strong leader and the chairperson of ARDS sadly passed away in June. At the time of his passing, he was undertaking a court battle to bring his older brother and senior Yolŋu leader, Mr B Wanambi, home to be buried on his country. Currently, Mr B Wanambi's wife and family from Tiwi want our Yolŋu elder to be buried in Tiwi. The Wanambi family will continue to fight for the return of Mr B Wanambi's body to country so that he can be at peace.

This is a significant court case that is about Aboriginal rights to bury according to custom and has been appealed to the Full Federal Court on the basis that the decision conflicts with the Racial Discrimination Act. If you can help support this court case in any way please contact Piper, Grimster, Jones Lawyers on 89814114. I made a promise to my Wawa before he died that I would continue to fight to bring our Wawa home but we need support from bukmak Yolŋu, the corporations and our friends.











**Thank you bukmak.**

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