Mulka Electorate Newsletter
Yiŋiya Guyula MLA



JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2026

Yuw bukmak, it's Mayaltha – wet season. A time of the west wind and rain, bringing fresh growth and lots that can be harvested, like gaḏitjirri (spear grass) and ganguri (yams). We've seen some significant weather events across the Northern Territory, with flooding and strong winds hitting large parts of the Mulka electorate.

In March, Tropical Cyclone Narelle moved over northern Australia, prompting much concern for communities in the cyclone's path. I want to say a big thank you to all the organisations and emergency support staff who helped communties prepare, and in particular to Laynhapuy Homelands AC and NT Police for evacuating several homeland towns, ARDS for its emergency messaging in Yolŋu Matha, MG Electrical and everyone else who helped with the clean-up effort.

Some homelands and tourism businesses sustained structural damage, there was damage to boats, and significant road and tree clearing was carried out by rangers and residents.

Seeing many big weather events happening at once reminds us to look after country properly. As we see the effects of climate change more, we need to be turning our focus to renewables and moving away from fracking and gas. The land is talking to us and we need to listen!



Waves at Shady Beach, Yirrkala



Fallen tree at my house - Milingimbi



Residents and rangers spent ten hours clearing the road out to Garrthalala. Photo: Laynhapuy Homelands AC



Woolworths has been operating in Nhulunbuy since 1972

The announcement by Woolworths that it plans to close its Gove store by mid-2027 came as a shock to many residents and businesses. Woolworths has supported the region for more than 50 years, playing a big role in the liveability and food security of Nhulunbuy and surrounding communities and homelands. I have called on Woolworths to keep its doors open until at least 2032 to help support our region beyond the life of the mine and to ensure groceries are affordable and readily available to all.

I remain concerned about the ongoing cost of living crisis facing our communities, including already high fuel prices that may rise further in response to conflict overseas.

Next Parliament Sitting: 5-14 May

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With the Rio Tinto mine set to close in 2029, I've been urging the Government and the NLC to help support the transition and the return of the town lease to traditional owners. This is an important opportunity to bring all 13 clans of the Gove Peninsula together, so we can make the right decisions and build a strong foundation for land tenure that could guide the region for the next 100 years.

In March I met with the new Assistant Minister for Nhulunbuy Transition, Oly Carlson, and Louise McCormack from the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet, who recently became Chair of the Gove Future Reference Group. We all agreed that there is a lot of work that needs to be done, but I am concerned that there are still too many unanswered questions and my Office is being provided with very little information to pass on to the electorate.







Catching up with students and family from Dhupuma Barker School and Shepherdson College at Parliament in Darwin

Upon returning to Parliament this year, I put forward a motion about the urgent need to create genuine partnerships and shared decision-making across Aboriginal communities. It was encouraging to see the motion supported by all Members, who agreed that governments have not worked well with Aboriginal people and that there is a real need to do better. We are yet to see these commitments become action but I will keep holding government to account.

It was also great to see students from Dhupuma Barker School and Shepherdson College attend Parliament. I hope these young people will see me standing in the chamber and know that they can also take this path and continue the fight for remote and regional communities and Yolŋu rights.

In February, I was pleased to attend an ARDS board meeting about alcohol and kava management in East Arnhem communities. This is an important project being led by Yolŋu that will help raise awareness about the harms caused by these substances as well as gather opinions from across the region about how best to reduce harm from alcohol and kava in different communities.

The appointment of the new Northern Territory Administrator in February was a very disappointing episode. David Connolly was sworn into this leadership role despite a history of publicly expressing offensive and racist views.

For many of us, this reflects a growing sense that the environment in the NT is becoming more hostile towards Aboriginal people. It leaves people feeling tired and powerless in the face of increasing division.

I attended a protest outside Parliament House in Darwin, where I said that Mr Connolly must seek permission from elders before entering Yolŋu country – and we reserve the right to say no. I would like to see Mr Connolly take proper steps to begin learning about our culture.





Larrakia elder, Eric Fejo, speaking on Larrakia land



Law and Justice Forum - BDM from Ramingining, ARDS, Gandjarr Mala Leaders Group, and the Galiwin'ku Women's Space attended

In February I attended the NT Aboriginal Law & Justice Groups Forum in Darwin and I was glad to see leaders from across the Territory coming together to discuss how to get better justice outcomes through community-led solutions.

I also met with Attorney-General Marie-Clare Boothby to ask for support to establish more Aboriginal Law and Justice groups.

The Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA) commits to setting up 20 groups by 2027, but currently there are only four established groups and no funding commitment beyond June this year. The Government must back in these groups and deliver on the AJA. Their current position demonstrates a lack of care for our communities and for our solutions to reduce incarceration.

International Women's Day is a time to recognise and celebrate all the strong miyalk mala – these women are the leaders carrying knowledge, strength and leadership across generations. Thank you for your care, your protection, and your ongoing strength.

I'd also like to acknowledge two amazing miyalk leaders from the Gondarra family who recently passed away. Mrs R G Gondarra, the older sister of Rev Dr Gondarra, taught at Yolŋu homeland schools since the 1970s and was a former principal of Shepherdson College. We also lost my yapa, Mrs D B Gondarra, the eldest daughter of Rev Dr Gondarra and a long-term ARDS board member. We all saw each other as family and I promised I'd carry on their journey – to fight for Yolŋu rights and Yolŋu Rom Ŋurruŋu. It is an honour to continue that work in their names and in the names of all the great leaders who have passed.



The IWD lunch, hosted by Laynhapuy Homelands AC, recognised many incredible miyalk in our community

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I am always very happy to meet with people from the Mulka electorate to discuss your ideas, issues and concerns. I have a number of staff who are also happy to provide support.

At the beginning of this year, we sadly had to farewell Robyn Stockton from our team as the NT Remuneration Tribunal withdrew the entitlement for housing for her role. I've known Robyn for much of her life and her father was one of my mentors. I thank her for her ongoing support for all the Yolŋu community and within my office too. I am very happy to introduce Lee Robinson, who is based in Gove. Please drop into the Nhulunbuy office to say welcome.



Do you know this location in the Mulka electorate? Be the first to contact the Mulka electorate office with the right answer to win a prize!



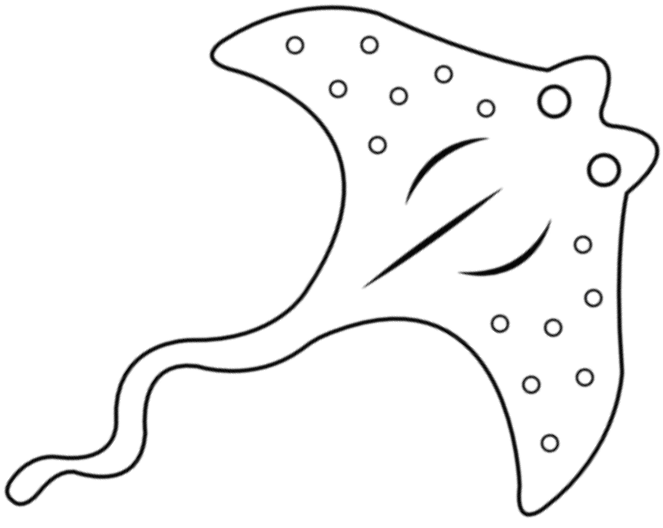


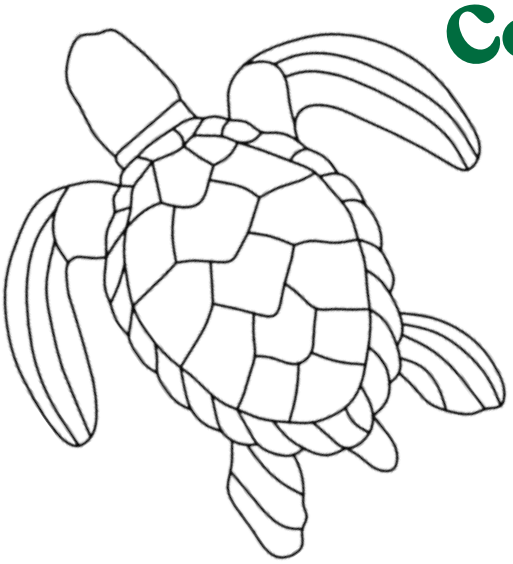
Visiting residents, including my wawa, at the Yutjuwala Djiwarr aged care centre



Speaking at Yabun Festival on Gadigal country on Australia Day

Colour it in!





As always, if you have something you would like to discuss please contact my office to make an appointment.

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