

## Tamboran locks us out from visiting sacred waterway



In June, gas company Tamboran locked a gate on our chair, Johnny Wilson, blocking him from visiting sacred sites on Tanumbirini Station. He wanted to inspect the sacred waterway, Newcastle Creek, protected by NT sacred sites laws. Johnny feared damage from exploratory works. He said, *"Sweetpea has locked me out of my own country. I can't even go in to see my sacred sites, the country where they're going to work on Newcastle Creek, the cultural heritage, our songlines, our dreaming."* We made a detailed complaint to the sacred sites authority, AAPA, which visited the area to check up.

## Highlights of 2022

There's plenty to tell you, but here's some of what we did:

- **Built relationships with pastoralists**, meeting and working together, and asking them to keep us updated as well as to organise station visits.
- Lots of **media interviews** to spread the word about our interests and concerns, including with the ABC, NITV, The Guardian, and many other radio and TV news programs.
- Worked to make sure **sacred sites are protected**, meeting with the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority and issuing a **Sacred Sites Directive** which was sent to government.
- **Engaged with the Northern Land Council** to voice our concerns about how they consult.
- Worked on the **SREBA Project** which is designed to map country, water and culture now, before fracking begins in full.
- Made **submissions** about us and our country to inquiries and other government processes.
- **Met with politicians and other decision makers** in Darwin and Canberra to voice concerns.
- Held **several meetings of Nurrdalinji members and Directors** to map out the best strategy we can use to self-determine what happens on our country, protect water and sacred sites.



### Nurrdalinji now has a Website and Facebook page!

Our new website is now live at [www.nurrdalinji.org.au](http://www.nurrdalinji.org.au). Visit us online to sign up to become a member and follow our story. We also have a facebook page. We want to grow our network to make sure people have the latest information and news so everyone understands what's happening on country.

To get in touch send us an email: [contact@nurrdalinji.org.au](mailto:contact@nurrdalinji.org.au) or message us on facebook



## Nurrdalinji News

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Nurrdalinji Native Title Aboriginal Corporation  
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Tom Hume, Gillian Limmen, Josephine John, Naomi Wilfred, Alan Watson, Warwick Watson, Johnny Wilson

### VISIT TO TANUMBIRINI - TO SEE WHAT FRACKING IS DOING TO OUR COUNTRY

We went and visited fracking sites to get a sense of what many hundreds of flaring wells will actually look, feel and smell like if companies move to full production. NITV came along on one visit to a Santos site. They reported:

**Uncle Samuel Sandy** watches the flames shoot up in front of him. He's shocked, and struggles to comprehend the scene. He's sitting in a van in red dirt country, on a Northern Territory cattle station he used to visit as boy. There's a searing heat and a whooshing like the sound of fierce winds, from flames consuming excess gas from exploration wells, owned by gas giant Santos.

*"I have a crunch in my stomach, my tummy is really upset, crying for this Country. Right now I feel sorry for this Country, my family"*

### MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR JOHNNY WILSON

We have been very busy this year. Our members and Directors have been working hard to protect our country, water and sacred places.

One thing we did was travel to places where fracking exploration has started. We saw with our own eyes the flaring wells to better understand what a big impact it will have.

We worry about what will happen when full scale production begins.

We know that companies and the Territory government are doing everything they can to make sure fracking happens.

But we will keep speaking out so we protect what is important to us, for the sake of our families and their families.

We have a responsibility to protect country.

We have a right to our country, we have a right to say what we want to happen on our country. Fracking is not one of them. Please contact us if you'd like to join us.

Or have information about what you see happening on the ground.

I wish you and your families a merry christmas and safe holidays.

Johnny

## Santos walks away from sponsoring Darwin Festival



We and Traditional Owners from the Tiwi Islands met with the Board of the Darwin Festival to tell them we don't want Santos' name up in lights because their gas projects are hurting water and country. We were pleased that in October Santos said they would no longer sponsor the festival.

## Bush medicine

On the drive to visit her country with other Nurrdalindi women, Alawa woman and Director Gillian Limmen from Minyerri stopped to collect Dumbuyumbu, a much loved bush medicine which had been helpful against COVID sickness.



Loris Hume at the Old Homestead, Tanumbirini Station, which we visited in August.

## Returning home to old Tanumbirini homestead

In August some of us visited Tanumbirini Station and saw fracking wells flaring there and also visited the old homestead which used to be home.

Aunty Loris Hume, who now lives in Minyerri, was born at the old homestead and she had not been back.

"It's sad but I'm happy that I saw it. It bring back a lot of memory. It's really really nice to see this place," Loris said.

"We used to go this way fishing with my grandfather and grandma and this is where we'd come back and camp here."

## Water is life

We did lots of work with others this year, trying to protect our water. As Djingili elder and Director Elaine Sandy says:

*"The truth about what is happening with our water needs to be told. It's one of the most important issues. Our lives depend on water and we've a responsibility to protect it".*



## ORIGIN SELLS FRACKING INTERESTS TO TAMBORAN

In September Origin announced it would sell its fracking interests in the Beetaloo Basin to Tamboran Resources. Origin said its longer term plans are to "review its remaining exploration permits with a view to exiting them over time". Our chair, Johnny Wilson, said:

*"This is a big relief for Traditional Owners because it's clear that Origin doesn't see profits in an industry that will destroy our country. We hope this is the start of more companies turning their back on gas production where we live.*

*"Whether it's Origin, Tamboran, Santos or any other company, Traditional Owners will continue our opposition to fracking which we worry will damage our country, water, sacred sites and songlines which are passed down for us to look after.*

*"We will never agree to production. Some of our old people signed agreements many years ago and weren't told about the scale of production. We are looking at ways of challenging this arrangement. The government should give up backing the industry with taxpayers' money and invest in health, education and clean energy from the sun because that's what will keep our future strong".*



Senior Alawa man and member Alan Watson, when visiting his Country, said:

*"We don't want hundreds of wells across our country, or for sacred sites to be destroyed to do it. The government should back us up and stop fracking on this country. It's not good for us. It might pollute our water system and air. We want to keep the country the way it was through all the years with the old people. We want to keep it the same way".*