



ADNYAMATHANHA

TRADITIONAL LANDS ASSOCIATION (ABORIGINAL CORPORATION)

(under special administration)
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Message from the Special Administrator

In my last community notice circulated on 26 November 2025, I said that I would provide a further update following the court hearing on 10 December 2025.

At the hearing on 10 December 2025, the Court was unfortunately not in a position to make orders about the release of the Inspector's interim report. This was because the leaders of the sub-groups of the Master Trust and the mining companies have said they want time to review it first and address the Court on any confidential or private or commercially sensitive information that they say should be blacked out from the report before it is shared with common law holders. The Court gave the subgroup leaders a further week to write submissions about this. During this time the mining companies informed the Court that they do not have any confidentiality concerns about distributing the interim report. Another hearing was listed for 18 December 2025.

10 December 2025 Hearing

At the hearing on 10 December 2025, the Chief Justice made an order that the leaders of the sub-groups of the Master Trust be joined as interested parties to the court proceedings. This is so that they can read the Inspector's interim report and make submissions to the Court on any confidential or private information within it. Seven of the eight sub-group leaders have engaged Tom Lovejoy as their lawyer. They are:

- Vincent Coulthard for the Vincent Coulthard (ATLA) Group
- Beverly Patterson for the Beltana / Stewart and Beverley Patterson Group
- Sandra Coultard for the Gordon Coulthard Group
- Virginia Stuart for the Villa Mulka (Angelina Stuart's) Group
- Michael McKenzie for the Kuyani Group
- Roger Johnson for the Aunty Gertie Johnson Group
- Lynlee Smans for the Vita Vita / Buzzacott / May's Group

The eighth sub-group leader, Geraldine Anderson, has engaged Tim Campbell as her lawyer.

All of the sub-group leaders are currently directors of Rangelea (except for Geraldine Anderson, who resigned as a director in June 2023).

All of the sub-group leaders (except Virginia Stuart, who became a director in October 2025 and Roger Johnson, who became a director in April 2024), have been directors of Rangelea since the start of the Court proceedings. That means that they have been involved in the proceeding all along.

The Court of Appeal has said that while each sub-group is to an extent independently managed, this is done “*under the umbrella of the [Master] Trust and the arrangements it established and which Rangelea as trustee supervised*” and that there was “*no sharp cleavage between the operation of the Sub-Groups and the Trust more generally*” and they “*are necessarily intertwined*” (paragraph 333 of the Court of Appeal’s judgment). This means the sub-groups and Rangelea are connected and together.

18 December 2025 Hearing

At the 18 December 2025 Hearing, we asked the Court for permission to release the Inspector’s interim report to the common law holders (with some minor redactions), consistent with the decisions of the Chief Justice and the Court of Appeal, who both decided that the common law holders were entitled to information about how their native title compensation has been managed. The Court of Appeal’s judgment delivered on 28 March 2025 concluded (at paragraph 365):

“It is clearly in the interests of the Adnyamathanha people, particularly the traditional owners and common law holders, that the management and distribution of trust monies received under the native title mining agreements be reviewed with the benefit of the production of trust documents and the appointment of an inspector.”

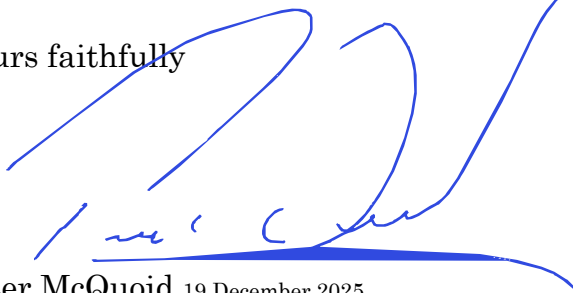
Geraldine Anderson agreed that the Inspector’s Interim report should be released to the common law holders, except for one of the Appendices (at this stage).

However, Rangelea and the other seven subgroup leaders argued that the Inspector’s interim report should not be released and that the information within it should not be shared with the common law holders.

The Chief Justice has reserved his decision on the release of the Inspector’s interim report, and the parties do not yet know when he will make his decision. I will keep you informed as soon as the decision is made.

Compensation money (85%) will remain with the SA Supreme Court until the investigation by the Inspector is completed.

Yours faithfully



Peter McQuoid 19 December 2025