


[Nearly half of Kakadu National Park returned to traditional owners](#)

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Source: [Ministers Media Centre](#) 


Abstract:

The inalienable freehold title over four land claim areas totalling 9733 sq. kms in Kakadu National Park has been returned to indigenous hands. The land, which incorporates the Old Elsey Homestead, and the Urapunga Township amounts to almost half of the world heritage National Park and will be held by the Kakadu Aboriginal Land Trust, on behalf of the Traditional Owners. The land will be leased back to the Director of National Parks, with rent flowing in turn to the Traditional Owners of those lands. The land is the traditional country of the Limilngan/Minitja, Murumburr, Garndidjbal, Yurikmanj, Wurngomgu, Bolmo, Wurrkbarbar, Matjba, Uwinymil, Bunidj, Djindibi, Mirrar Gundjeihmi and Dadjaku people.

According to the Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians, the handbacks directly contribute to Target 15 of the [National Agreement of Closing the Gap](#)  which seeks to increase indigenous peoples' legal rights or interests in land and sea country by 15%.

Northern Land Council chairman Samuel Bush-Blanasi said "For too long there have been two classes of land in Kakadu National Park — Aboriginal land and other land subject to Aboriginal land claim ... Today that has been fixed once and for all time."

In a separate ceremony in the Roper River region, the deeds of title for both the Urapunga township near Ngukurr and the Old Elsey Homestead near Mataranka were also returned to traditional owners.

For more information about Closing the Gap, see [2022 Closing the Gap Report](#)  and [Release of Transforming Power: Voices for Generational Change Close The Gap Campaign Report 2022](#).