

Media release

19 June 2015

Land Rights Legend Jim Wright passes on

The NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) sends its deepest sympathies to the family of Goori man Jim Wright who passed away this week.

NSWALC Chairman Craig Cromelin said Jim was a giant in the Land Rights network in the Sydney-Newcastle region and in New South Wales.

“A tireless fighter for justice who was actively involved in the Land Rights struggle in the 1970s, Jim would play an instrumental role in the establishment of Local Aboriginal Land Councils in the region.

“Outside the Land Rights network, Jim dedicated himself to helping set up a range of services including Aboriginal Medical Services and Aboriginal Legal Services.

“He was the first Administrator of the Awabakal Newcastle Aboriginal Co-op, founded Yarnteen ATSI Corporation as well as Youloe-ta Indigenous Development Association Incorporated.

“Jim was the Chairperson of the Sydney-Newcastle Regional Aboriginal Land Council and also represented the Eastern Zone as an ATSIC (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission) Commissioner.

“His contribution extended to numerous boards and committees including the Native Title Service Provider for Aboriginal Traditional Owners in NSW and the ACT (NTSCORP).

“Jim’s passion for rugby league saw his beloved Yowies win the Knockout on a number of occasions.

“He was also instrumental in the establishment of the NSW Aboriginal Rugby League Association.

“With family ties extending from the Newcastle, the Lower Hunter to Moree, Gunnedah, the New England tablelands, Kempsey and Sydney, Jim’s loss will be felt by many throughout the State.



New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council

Ground Floor 33 Argyle Street Parramatta NSW 2150

PO Box 1125 Parramatta NSW 2124

Tel: 02 9689 4444 • Fax: 02 9687 1234 • DX 28308 Parramatta 2150

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“Jim will be remembered by the Land Rights network as a tenacious and dedicated advocate who ensured the struggle of those who fought for Land Rights was realised through the establishment of strong and respected organisations to carry on their work.”

Media contact: Andrew Williams 0429 585 291



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