



Desert Pea Media held workshops with Ntaria school kids last week.

Picture: SUPPLIED

Singing their own song

SATRIA DYER-DARMAWAN

SCHOOL kids from Ntaria have been collaborating with the Namatjira Legacy Trust to make a hip hop song and film clip as part of a week long workshop.

Desert Pea Media (DPM) have been helping the students through intensive music making workshops, and teaching them to develop an exhibition of works, write new songs in Western Arranda and create an original children's book.

Toby Finlayson, the CEO and Creator of DPM, said their organisation have worked closely with the community and have established a relationship with them to create a conversation about social change.

"We went out for a week about a month ago, building a relationship with the community in the school and with some local community



members to produce western Arranda nursery rhyme songs," Mr Finlayson told the *Centralian Advocate*.

"Last week we took our whole production team down and delivered a community media project and that's basically a collaboration between

elders, young people, young adults, service providers and DPM. We've only just finished it, it's like a funky hip hop pop song which is two thirds in Western Arranda languages.

"It's a collaborative process where young people



identify the language and the words and similarities and work together with DPM staff to turn them into song lyrics.

The project was written by both the local community and the organisation, and thanks to the help of a lin-

guist, DPM were able to translate and correctly pronounce each language section.

Mr Finlayson said creativity was inherent through first nations people, and the song was about looking after country.

"It's about connection to culture, and identity and making sure that young people in the future have a strong level of awareness of cultural education to carry on their stories and ideals and morals of their community and culture.

"The feedback from the community was that it was incredibly enjoyable. It's a huge opportunity for young people to speak their voice.

"It's not often that young Indigenous people can be heard in a mainstream way and this kind of process enables people to speak a language they are fluent in which is music, and it's a really joyful and rewarding experience for the community and also for our staff," he said.

A launch date for the project has not been confirmed, however, it is estimated that the songs will be made available in eight weeks.

Fracking 'no go zones' could infringe TO's rights

THE Northern Territory Government is preparing to reveal the final boundaries of its fracking "no go zones", but it could have a fight on its hands from land councils which want to maintain Traditional Owners' rights to determine what happens on their land.

The Gunner Government will release the finalised boundaries today.

They will cover about 48.4 per cent of the Territory's landmass.

HAYLEY SORENSEN

The no go zones will also cover some land which is held under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

The *Centralian Advocate* understands land councils have expressed concern that the imposition of no go zones over freehold Aboriginal land would take the decision whether to allow or disallow fracking out of the hands of Traditional Owners.

The ALRA gives Traditional Owners "absolute veto" over mining activity and other development on their land.

An NT Government spokesman said the Government was confident it did have the right to impose no go zones over Aboriginal-owned land.

One of the 135 recommendations of Justice Rachel Pepper's 15 month inquiry into fracking in the NT was to rule out exploration in national

parks, conservation areas, Indigenous Protected Areas, towns, residential and strategic assets and areas of significant cultural, environmental or tourism value.

Opposition Leader Gary Higgins said Traditional Owners should have a say in whether to allow fracking on their land.

"The resources and energy sectors present the best opportunity to secure long term, high paying, sustainable jobs

and Aboriginal people should be able to set the direction for their community and country," Mr Higgins said.

"We have always said that jobs on country is the number one priority and jobs in the bush enhance the capacity and capability of the people and the area."

Onshore gas exploration is expected to begin in the NT in July, allowing revenue to begin flowing into the NT's depleted coffers from 2023.



Chief Minister Michael Gunner