



Yinjiya Guyula

MEMBER FOR MULKA



19 August 2026

Statement from Yinjiya Guyula MLA, Member for Mulka

Today I have notified the Speaker of the NT Legislative Assembly of my decision to step down as the Member for Mulka, effective from today.

It's time for me to return to my family and my people on country to provide the leadership for the next generation as my full focus without the enormous workload that comes with being an Independent Member of Parliament. I need to focus on the next generation of Yolŋu and give the guidance on what it means to be a strong Yolŋu leader on our country, for our people, and across two worlds.

This has not been an easy decision to make. I have served the Mulka Electorate for the past 10 years and I have worked hard over this decade to be the voice of the Mulka Electorate and support all remote communities across the NT. I have been very proud to be an Independent Member, accountable directly to the people and speaking for the people.

It has been my aim to come to Parliament to try and work with government to fix problems and make things better. I have been sent by my people to work with the Government but their answer has always been, "we know what is best for you", rather than working in partnership with us. What I have discovered is that Aboriginal communities are the political football that gets passed around with no real intention of working with our people to bring positive change for our communities.

We are willing. We have called for partnership. We have called for Treaty. We are saying, "come and work together". But successive governments are not listening and are unwilling to do so.

Last month, the CLP Government changed the child protection laws with no consultation with our communities. I appealed to the Government to withdraw the Bill and work with communities to bring real changes that will work. Since their election, the CLP have introduced too many laws that are dehumanising, oppressing and destroying our communities and our people. They have significantly failed Aboriginal people and their ongoing actions are contributing to the breakdown of our culture and people, in what is now becoming a slow genocide.

I no longer feel that I can be a part of the NT Parliament and sit opposite a government who are not willing to listen or form partnerships. We are sovereign people and the only way things will improve is when the Government recognise that and come and sit with



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us respectfully. We are kindly offering partnership, but instead of diplomacy the Government are walking all over us.

This is very serious business because people are dying. I buried a younger brother earlier this month and on Friday the funeral for my older brother will begin. We have people dying avoidable deaths every day. We are physically, mentally and spiritually struggling because of the frequent loss of family members as we move from one funeral to the next.

As I too get older, and have also had health concerns, I need to return my focus to community-led solutions on country and make space for someone else to come in with new energy to serve the electorate and continue to hold the Government to account.

It has been an honour to serve the people of Mulka for 10 years. I will continue to serve the people as a Yolŋu leader for as long as I have left, and I will continue to seek genuine partnerships and advocate for our homelands and community-led solutions that are desperately needed on country.

I would like to thank the people of Mulka across all clans, Yolŋu and Balanda, my family, my staff and all the Yolŋu elders of our lands. Thank you for your hard work to make things better and thank you for electing me with a vision of hope for Yolŋu communities. We will continue to hold this hope and vision of a better future. No one thought a Yolŋu person could be elected as an Independent Member of Parliament but we did it three times. We showed the world that we are united by a vision of Yolŋu rom ŋurruŋu (our way first) and we must continue to be united through Yolŋu rom ŋurruŋu as we work to protect our people, land and culture.

ENDS

Additional information

Mr Guyula is unavailable for further comment at this time.



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