



Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

SPECIAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

MONDAY 29 June 2020

MINUTES

Start time: 11.00

Location: Various locations – all members on phone.

Present on Phone: Marita Baker (MB), Anton Baker (AB), Willy Pompey (WP) Sally Scales (SS) Chair, Murray George (MG), Bernard Singer (BS), Nyumati Burton (NB), Ebony DeRose (ED), Owen Burton (OB), Makinti Minutjukur (MM), Julieanne Campbell (JC), Richard Kanari (RK), Gary Lewis (GL), Rex Tjami (RT), Richard King (RKg), Tania King (TK), Mavis Welsh (MW) (minutes/recording).

SAPOL: Superintendent Paul Roberts, Sgt Bartlett.

SS welcomed members on the phone and said this special meeting is only to talk about Covid and decide the option of removing APY from the Bio-Security Legislation.

Covid update

She said we have SAPOL on the telephone to talk.

RKg said Superintendent Paul Roberts (PR) is on the phone. If we move away from Bio-security we have to put something else in place.

PR thanked the Executive Board for having this meeting. There are active cases in Victoria, however in South Australia there are no active cases. He said that many Anangu have come down to Adelaide and Port August to visit family and other reasons and they have now run out of money and so are sleeping rough.

He is asking Anangu on APY lands to open the borders to allow these people to move back. But he said that they could secure and close the borders quickly, within 1 or 2 hours, if necessary should active cases arise in South Australia.

SS translated.

RKg said this means if we move away from Federal Bio-security and move to SA State based laws means that PR can lock down quickly. It is more flexible with State laws. He said the Executive Board need to pass resolutions to move to new system.

RM said One of the things the CLC has said is for Land Trusts to open but not to everyone. BS translated.

CLC has said it wants to open up inside NT but not open borders to whole country. Is that message you want to say to South Australia Premier – open Anangu border but not open SA border.

SS translated – send message to Premier.

JC in language – should be able to travel in South Australia region.

SS the NPY lands could open up for funerals to take place and there are lots of funerals.

RM said and I believe that PR thinks that is a sensible approach.

PR said his concern is that the resolution needs to go across the legislation. His recommendation, through the Chair, would be to open Bio-Security region and support opening the borders in NPY region. But also suggests APY through the strong Executive Board and own legislation you can ask each employer to put in health risk assessment with permit and ask that they give a declaration that they have not been to NSW, Vic or overseas.

RM said:

Looking at resolution –

1. APY asks to lift the Bio security designated area.
2. That APY open border to the cross border NPY region.
3. That the Executive Board asks any permit application to provide health risk assessments and declaration that they have not been in NSW, Victoria or overseas and anyone re-entering APY lands.

Discussion in language.

SS said opening NPY region – CLC said McDonnell Shire ok to travel around.

RKg said be careful if we have funerals still have to follow social distancing rules.

BS said I think we need to hear from each community. He explained in language.

SS – Mr Lewis is talking we can hear you Mr Lewis.

GL said there is a letter from Minister for Health – can someone read it out. Spoke in language. NT Minister for Health can read it out.

RKg said there is no letter from the Minister for Health.

GL spoke in language – some people are still travelling.

SS said thank you Mr. Lewis – there is no Covid in South Australia – only in Victoria. This is so that Anangu can come home safely.

RKg that is currently no active cases.

SS said we are opening APY door so that they can come home, so don't have to stay in quarantine.

RKg said we now have a window of opportunity with no cases in South Australia – no letter from Health Dept. – because you are separate group, have to agree with PR to open up.

Discussion in language.

SS said if we open everyone can come home for funerals but social distancing rules still apply. I think Mr George has something to say.

MG spoke in language.

SS said funerals can go ahead – not holding any funerals up.

12.20

MG spoke in language. I was saying to go ahead – Adelaide to APY to Alice Springs.

RM said the answer is yes Adelaide to APY but not to Alice Springs yet until 17 July.

RKg said as long as we follow social distancing – we need people to come home.

OB suggests that at funerals, have 10 people come and go, then another 10 people come and go, and another 10.

RM said good thinking Mr Burton.

RKg we are moving to SA State based legislation – Police are staying – and this will make it easier to move.

Nganampa Health are involved and SA Health are still involved and APY still involved.

OB said good we can have funeral service at Amata.

SS said we have to plan to make funerals happen safe way.

OB said good.

Resolution 1:

That APY Executive Board wants to open its Bio-security border and work with SA state government on planning protection from Coronavirus.

Moved Anton Baker, seconded Owen Burton All agreed

GL spoke in language.

SS said Minister for Health is not going to write a letter. Richard is in all the meetings of the Emergency Planning Committee.

GL said there is Commonwealth Law and State Law.

RKg said government is not going to write a letter.

We need to open the border to let Anangu come back.

GL said need to fill out a form.

RKg said they will still have to fill out a form.

He said we write a letter saying we are moving forward – away from Bio-Security and then they will write letter back to us.

BS spoke in language. We can get our people back to community.

GL spoke in language.

SS said thank you Mr Lewis.

GL asked is it state government Police?

RKg said I would just remind people – I send a letter to Commonwealth to say APY is to move to SA State Legislation and Police because no active cases in South Australia – police can then say to Anangu OK he can go straight home.

If there are active cases then border will go up again, but because it was Federal legislation it takes a long time – it is quicker with SA State law.

Resolution 2:

The Executive Board move that anybody coming on to APY lands must show a Health Plan for Coronavirus and must say that they have not been to somewhere with active Coronavirus cases in the last 14 days.

Moved Ebony DeRose, seconded Richard Kanari. All agreed.

Resolution 3:

That the APY Executive Board supports cross-border NPY, WA/NT/SA tri-state movement for Anangu.

Moved Bernard Singer, seconded Anton Baker All agreed.

MM spoke in language. Asked how long before this takes place.

SS said it will take 3 weeks to go ahead.

BS translated – need to stop people going down to Adelaide.

RM asked MM if it she understands better. MM said yes.

GL spoke in language.

BS said we have a lawyer on the line who will work through with CLC and Northern Territory Chief Minister so that is what we are doing.

We are talking about the tri-state area. We have families from country who want to come to Finke for funeral – we have not discussed with Northern Territory government.

RKg said we can only make decision on South Australia not Northern Territory. That will be managed by PR – if any active case PR will manage the case.

ED asked so this resolution we passed, how long to open up?

RKg said might be able to do it pretty quickly.

SS said can come back to APY but Northern Territory still isolated.

RM said this will change in 3 weeks when Northern Territory opens border on 17 July.

Resolution 4:

That APY Executive Board writes to the SA Premier and asks him to keep SA Borders closed to Victoria and NSW.

Moved Ebony DeRose, seconded Richard Kanari one against, motion carried

SS said I do not think Mr Lewis is in favour.

GL spoke in language

RM said I understand Mr Lewis. APY can't make law for NT. This is a political decision for APY to take.

GL interrupted

RM said yes thank you Mr Lewis.

SS said the last resolution is just to say we ask the Premier to keep the State safe -that is all we are saying. It is like CLC saying this is to keep Northern Territory safe.

Important meeting, we want Anangu to be able to come home.

RM said just one more thing to say – these meetings are for Anangu only and if anyone is recording this meeting and taking this away to give to other people who are not Anangu, it is against the law.

SS said thank you, Ruth and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 1.15pm

RKg read out the names of Executive Board members present on the phone for this meeting. GL, ED, SS, MB, RK, AB, JC, BS, OB, MM, NB, MG, WP.