

## Special General Meeting 15 August 2007 – UMUWA

Executive Members Present

Bernard Singer  
Leonard Burton  
Max Kenny  
Kawaki Thompson  
Gary Lewis  
Anton Baker  
Sean Williamson

The meeting commenced at 12.10pm

Mr Leonard Burton chaired the first part of the meeting and Mr Tony Adamson acted as Interpreter for the meeting.

### 1. Commonwealth Housing Offer for APY Lands

Amanda Cattermole, Stephen Baz and Mark Tutton – FaCSIA.

**Ken Newman** (General Manager) gave some background information on this matter. It first came about when Tony Abbott, Minister for Health visited the APY Lands in 2006 and we told him we needed 100 houses. Since that time, nothing happened until the Commonwealth Government started talking to the SA Government in December 2006. APY was not involved in the talks until April 2007, less than 4 months ago.

At the first time we talked, the Commonwealth wanted APY to change the permit system and also wanted leases for non-Anangu.

APY sent some people in May to talk with FaCSIA in Canberra and then had some of them come to speak to the Executive Board at Umuwa in June. APY and Minister Weatherill got them to change their minds and the Commonwealth is no longer making it a requirement to change the APY permit system nor are they insisting on leases for non-Anangu people.

**Leonard Burton** introduced the staff from FaCSIA.

**Amanda** thanked people and said she is here to talk about the \$25M offer and wants to talk about the detail. She said Anangu will need time to think about the offer. (A handout was provided to members, a copy of which may be found at the end of these Minutes.)

Amanda said as an example the \$25M could be for up to 60 new houses, 45 major upgrades and maybe 200 houses being repaired. To get the money from Commonwealth, the Government wants some changes to the *APY Land Rights Act*. The Commonwealth knows Anangu have close relationship to the Land and this will not change.

The Commonwealth only wants to spend money if there is a long term lease on the bit of land where houses will be. The leasing means Anangu still own the Land but Government or some people would have leases over parcels of Land in the towns (communities).

A Map of Indulkana was used as an example to show how only a smaller area of the community would be leased for housing blocks. Amanda said they had maps of all communities if people wanted to see how it would work in their community.

Some of the leases the Commonwealth wants cannot happen unless there are some changes to the APY Land Rights Act. Some of the leases would be longer term for public housing, through the SA Government to be managed by the State Government housing mob.

Some leases may be for Individual Anangu if they want to buy their own home. The Government think these would need to be long leases, 99 years so family can pass the house along to their children. These leases are **not** for non-Anangu.

The long leases would also be 99 years for Government if they needed buildings like power and water, etc.

The Government wants 99 year leases for existing and new public (community) houses.

The Government also wants 30 year business (commercial) leases for Anangu or non-Anangu who might want to come and set up a business on the APY Lands.

Amanda said the Commonwealth wants the Executive Board to be able to decide on the long leases so they would not have to come to General Meetings. This would also require a change to the *APY Land Rights Act*.

Amanda asked for any questions.

**Mike Williams** thanked the Executive Board for the work they were doing but said the Commonwealth can keep their money because we want to keep the *APY Land Rights Act* strong. Amanda said the changes would not take the Land away from Anangu. She said there would be no change to the permit system after the Executive Board spoke to the Government.

**Mrs Ken** said she has a house at Pukatja which she has been in long time. The Government talk about new houses but her house has a lot of holes and is very old. Amanda said the Government wants to fix the houses.

**Kawaki Thompson** said his house is old on a homeland. He is happy like he is and doesn't think he'll ask for a new house because they don't fix his house now. The Government handed us the Land and permits and we want to keep it like it is. Amanda said the changes are not about taking away the Land but for people to lease the land in towns for homes and business and for the Government to build a road or something.

**Gary Lewis** said that at the 25 year Festival Mal Brough and Jay Weatherill said they would not change Land Rights. Now they are asking for changes to the *Act*. Politicians don't stick to their word and what is told is a little change turns out to be a big change. Gary said the main agenda is to bring in Mining on the APY Lands. The Government is already taking money off the Lands and giving it to outside Contractors, ie) CDEP, Municipal Services, etc. Now they want is to give up some of our land for 99 years. Anangu have no money to buy houses because they have no jobs.

Amanda said she agrees. There is no decision today and they would like to come back and discuss with communities. The Government also agrees there will be lots of jobs in building these houses and they want employment and training to be a big part of the housing offer.

**Mr Donald Fraser** said we need to be fair about what we are talking about. People need to listen carefully and see how we can work with the Government on this one as there is a lot of money at stake and jobs for our people. Mr Fraser asked where he fits in as Government can get a 99 year lease and he gets 5 year grazing licence. People are still waiting a long time to get a house. Some people on the Lands have never had a house. Mr Fraser said non-Anangu leases should only be 5 years.

Mr Fraser told people we are only hear to start talking today and there will be a roadshow later on. People are saying no and at the same time asking for money. Today has nothing to do with mining. It is about you. Today is about leasing to Anangu a house so that Anangu

can have one for their family. Mr Fraser said he would like to own his house and keep for his family.

**Mrs Mary Stevens** talked about housing at Shirley Wells.

**Mr Ken Pumani**, Mimili said white people should not control this land, but should be Anangu. Nothing new comes up from APY.

**Leonard Burton** brought people back to the agenda and the talk about leases on the APY Lands. Let's hear more from the Commonwealth on how the leases could work.

Amanda said that people asked questions about the leases and how the 99 year leases would work. She explained there are already leases for buildings on the Lands. There are leases for school areas and for the drug and alcohol facility. There is a lease over the powerline grid as well.

So the Government is talking about the same type of arrangement as already exists for those other buildings. The lease the Government is asking for is only in the community (town) areas.

Some people wanted to know if the leases were over a large part of the Lands and the answer is no. They are only like they are now. The leases might be over Government buildings or community houses in the towns, like marked on the map of Indulkana (Example only).

Anangu would own the APY Lands but there would be leases to the Government like those marked on the map for that part only. Anangu own but Government would be able to run those places like schools, etc.

Amanda asked if there were any more questions.

**Kawaki Thompson** said there is no money for homelands, only communities. Leonard Burton explained there are already many examples of leases on the APY Lands ie) Nganampa.

**Gary Lewis** said the Government has a hidden agenda and there should be an independent Lawyer for Traditional owners.

**Mr Fraser** reminded people there will be the time to talk about this in your community because there will be a roadshow. He said negotiate with the Government so they don't up the Land Rights Act.

**Graham Kulyuru** wanted to say 2 things about the \$25M and the leases. What is in that lease and why is it happening? Amanda said the \$25M is to fix houses and build new houses on the APY Lands. Graham said he thought the \$25M was going to let Government bring in controls over what Anangu currently control.

Amanda said the Government wants to work with Anangu to improve housing on the APY Lands. The Government wants Anangu to consider changes only to lease areas like those shown on the maps. There will be no change to the permit system and APY will determine who comes on the Lands.

Graham asked if the changes would be similar to what happened in the Old Testament and make people slaves to the Government. Amanda said people need to talk about these issues and they would like to come back to talk more with communities.

**Max Kenny** told the Commonwealth to be sure to talk with Community Councils and Communities properly on these matters.

**Gary Lewis** invited the Commonwealth to come back and discuss this further.

**Makinti Minutjukur** said the 99 year leases are for our children and their children. When Government bring ideas, people need to speak from their heart. This decision will be made by everyone not just one person. A 99 year lease is a long time, not 99 days.

**Sean Williamson**, Pipalyatjara, said that as a Council Chairperson he has to be careful and be sure to consult with his Council and his community. People were asked to be sure and discuss this in their community. We need to have our own Lawyer to explain there are no sneaky things being planned by the Government.

**Nicholas Coulthard**, Indulkana, asked about an Indulkana matter about training for young people.

**Kawaki Thompson** ended this agenda item by saying that Mr Tonkin told him 30 years ago to be careful that people will come along one day and ask people to take away their Land Rights.

Amanda thanked everyone for inviting the Commonwealth and the Anangu that asked questions. They look forward to coming back and talking further.

## 2. Mintabie Lease

**Joslene Mazel**, Dep't of Premier and Cabinet, provided an update on the current Mintabie negotiations.

Generally the big issues have been sorted out in the draft documents developed after the Mimili APY meeting earlier this year. These are

- a 25 year lease for Mintabie town
- changes to alcohol rules so that alcohol is available only at hotel and licensed functions (Mintabie residents cannot personally bring in alcohol)
- stores cannot sell second hand cars to Anangu and will not be allowed to operate a book-up system after a phase in time
- police checks as part of licence applications at Mintabie
- changes to the *APY Land Rights Act* including having an offence of residing at Mintabie without a licence

Further discussion occurred at Mintabie in June confirming the above points and covering some issues of detail.

Changes have been made to the town agreement document since the Mintabie meeting in June. Apart from some drafting issues the main changes include APY representatives having a veto on any new category of persons for right to have residential licence at Mintabie

There is still work to be done on agreement but outstanding issues should be resolved without too much difficulty. The agreement builds in flexibility to cover ongoing issues including implementation of store changes.

The main priority now is to get drafting work done on the Act via Cabinet submission. The SA Government should have drafted amendments for consultation with APY within 2 months.

Joslene also thanked Anangu for inviting the State Government to come along and hear about the Housing offer. Mr Lewis thanked the State Government for coming along and talking about Mintabie.

There were a few questions about Mintabie and Day One ended at 4.30pm

Attendance on Day One – 95 Anangu members, 20 Visitors – Total 115

### **Day 2 SGM Umuwa 15 – 16 August 2007**

The meeting commenced at 11.35am

### **3. Housing R & M**

**Bernard Singer** welcomed everyone to the meeting and said there would be a housing road show going around the Lands probably in October. He thanked Tony Adamson as being the Interpreter and Leonard Burton and Gary Lewis for helping chair the meeting yesterday.

Bernard introduced Olive Bennell, Trevor Buzzacott and Kevin Khan from OAH for coming along.

**Olive Bennell**, Director of OAH, thanked people for inviting her back and said she has been talking with APY and APS on how to make the Housing R & M program better.

OAH are still waiting for the Commonwealth to release funds for this year, so they are releasing State money to get the program started. The money to be released is the following;

- \$302K for R & M
- \$ 80K for Community Administration
- \$302K for Insurance on Anangu Housing
- \$200K to help with backlog of work not finished

When the Commonwealth releases funds, OAH will provide \$117K for Anangu wages and to fix the septic pump-out truck.

**Mrs Anjipa Ken** said people are living in run down houses and they need fixing. She has lived in her house a long time and it has lots of holes in it. She asked how soon the money will come through to APY. Anangu all want good houses with good toilets.

Olive said the funds would come through in the couple of weeks but there is not enough to do everything. OAH is talking to the Commonwealth about more money to do the R & M.

**Leonard Burton** said that the money we are talking about here is small. It will only fix up the little things. They need to talk to the Commonwealth to release the money they talked about yesterday so they can do some real good.

Olive said they are already talking to the Commonwealth Government about lots of money to do major upgrades.

**A Baker**, Indulkana, said the map of Indulkana yesterday showed the houses from DCW days and he still lives in the house his father lived in. He is happy to hear about what is going on with Housing.

**Mrs Timpunya Dunn**, Turkey Bore, said she has been listening. She has put in for repairs to her house which was burnt down. It needs to be re-built. When will this happen? Will the insurance cover a new house?

Olive said she would have to find out about the insurance claim.

**Mrs Tjunkaya Tapayla**, Pukatja, said she felt shame coming here and listening to the same stories and nothing is happening. Her son works as a Police Community Constable and he lives in an old house.

**Peter Nyaningu** said he was the Chairperson of APY in the old days when they got this land. The Government is taking things away from the Lands like CDEP has gone to Bungala. He said people need to be respected.

**Mr Donald Fraser** said he had two things to talk about. One is about the old asbestos houses where the young people have been breaking into. This is very dangerous to our young people. He asked that extra money should be found to fix the asbestos houses.

He also wanted one minutes silence for one of our past Executive Members who passed away recently. We could do this after lunch.

**Ronnie Brumby**, Chairperson of APY Services, said he wanted to talk about the housing R & M program money that comes to APY and is then passed through to APY Services. APY Services hire contractors to fix houses on Anangu Lands and he wants to know how some of that money can be used to train young people to work with the contractors. It is good to have APY Services put the money into fixing houses but how can we train our young people to work in the R & M program.

Olive said yes, that is something for Anangu to work through with APY Services to get them to employ Anangu. We could talk about that when we do the housing roadshow.

**Mr Teddy Edwards** said he would talk through the Chair so the Minutes would record what we talk about. His house is also falling apart. Even his furniture and cupboards are gone. Does R & M also include fixing up inside the house?

**Rex Tjami** talked about a number of meetings we have held to try and make the R & M program better.

A workshop was held in Alice Springs 18-19 July with APY, APS and OAH to look at ways of employing Anangu in the program. Charles Windeyer gave a good presentation on the money story for the R & M program and how it has been reduced over the past four years. There is not enough money to run the program to look after 400+ houses. Most of the R & M money has to go to electrical and plumbing contractors for **critical work**. Other **important work** like fixing leaking roofs, etc. is needed but not enough funds. **There needs to be more rent collected** to go into the R & M program.

Some communities are good but others are very poor at collecting rent. We need to have Anangu Housing Officers on each main community but there is not enough money to employ them plus have a coordinator and training available unless there is more money.

The Septic tank pump out truck needs \$30,000 to repair and OAH is going to provide this money. A funded position is needed to employ 2 x Anangu to operate the truck and OAH is going to provide \$87,000 for this to happen. APS say they have not got money to operate the truck and APY Services says it costs \$104,000 per year to run. Chairperson asked if APY could fund this to get Anangu working and we can try and find more money somewhere. APY

has written to APS and says we will pay them on a monthly basis to run the truck once it is fixed and Anangu are ready to work.

There was a lunch break at 12:55 pm and the meeting resumed at 2:00 pm.

**Bernard Singer** thanked OAH for coming along to talk about the Housing R & M program.

#### 4. Grazing Licences

**Bernard Singer** introduced Ken Newman, General Manager who gave the background to this matter.

APY has been working on fixing up the cattle business for over two years. Many people on the Lands receive some money for having cattle "Agisted" on their country but only a couple of these arrangements comply with the *APY Land Rights Act*. All the cattle companies were advised APY was fixing the cattle business and told they had to be on side or they would have to leave the Lands. Although some people had a grazing licence before, and some were still being carried over, they had never been done properly and not all Traditional owners agreed with them

It has been a big job to sort out because it has meant having talks with Traditional owners to ensure there is consent. This took time with the Anthropologists holding lots of meetings and then working with the lawyers to develop a good licence. Land Management had to GPS all the boundaries to make sure they were right and acceptable to Traditional owners. Land Management had to buy a cattle monitoring system that keeps track of all cattle coming in and off the Lands and then learn how to use it. All cattle had to be tagged so they could be kept track of electronically. The Executive Board heard how the consultations were going and that once the first one is granted, it will make it easier for other grazing licences to be sorted because the boundaries will be known to everyone.

At their May 2007 meeting the Executive Board agreed to grant a grazing licence to the Fraser Family in the Yunyarinyi community. At the June 2007 meeting, the Executive Board approved a grazing licence for the Hudson Lennon family in the Watinuma community. However, the Executive Board can only approve a 5 year licence and in order for the Fraser family to be able to get bank loans to help them improve their cattle business, they require a longer licence. Any longer than 5 years must be approved at a General Meeting

Following discussion, Rex Tjami again explained how and why we are here today. Troy Coe explained how Traditional Owners gave their approval and we are only here to talk about the Fraser Family licence. Any other Anangu that want a grazing licence will go through the same process and none will happen without the approval of Traditional Owners.

There was more discussion until the following resolution was read.

#### **Resolution**

*That Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara grants a 25 year grazing licence to the Fraser Family at Yunyarinyi.*

Moved: Colin Tjapiya  
Second: Arnie Franks  
Carried: All

#### 5. APY Sports League

**Gary Lewis** introduced **Alec Henry** and **Nookia** to talk about the Sports League. The football will start in a couple of weeks as a trial. The main sports, including the kids, will start next year.

For this year, for players only, Dept of Families and Communities (SA) will help out and pay fuel money for people to travel to where the games are being played. The trial competition starts on 1 September and the finals will be on 6 October 2007.

Gary Lewis thanked Alec and Nookia for coming along.

**Ian Liddy**, Community Development Officer for APY, said this competition is because Anangu has asked for this. It has taken a while to arrange but it is now a reality. It will need support from everyone to make it work well.

## **6. a. Land Management Matters**

**Rodney Edwards**, Coordinator said we have serious business to talk about but first we are going to get an update from some of the Warru (*Petrogale lateralis*) women to talk about their project. **Dora Haggie** and **Nunalka Stanley**, **Inpiti Winton** and **Nyinguta Edwards**, work in the Threatened Species Project with Thalie Partridge and they provided members with an update on the project.

## **b. Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) between APY and AW NRM**

**Rex Tjami** provided some background about this issue. **Donald Fraser** then provided some further information. He said the agenda was too big and the AW members need time to talk about this properly with Anangu.

**Bernard Singer** asked that the matter be deferred to the next Executive Board meeting on 5 September 2007.

## **Other Business**

## **7. Tourism**

**Peter Nyangu** said he has lots of tourists coming to his homeland to climb Mt Woodroffe. He only got paid \$300 for 30 tourists that come on a tour. He thinks he should get paid more. Another tour had 14 people come for three days and the people left without saying goodbye or without payment. He received no respect.

**Action: APY will have Land Management follow this up with Desert Tracks.**

**Bernard Singer** thanked everyone for coming along to this SGM and closed the meeting at 5pm

**Mr Adamson (Interpreter)** wished everyone a safe journey home and Johnny Wangin gave a short prayer.

Minutes by Ken Newman

Attendance on Day Two – 94 Anangu members, 14 Visitors – Total 108





Australian Government

Department of Families,  
Community Services  
and Indigenous Affairs

# Australian Government offer for more and better housing

## How are the Government and Anangu going to fix housing on the APY Lands?

There are not enough houses on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands.

The Australian Government has offered \$25 million to the South Australian Government to help fix the housing shortage.

## What benefits will Anangu get from the offer?

### New and Better housing

- New houses will be built.
- Existing houses will be upgraded.
- Houses won't be so overcrowded.
- Housing standards will improve.

### Jobs and training

- Anangu will help to build and upgrade the houses.
- There will be more jobs for Anangu.
- Anangu will get training.

### Benefits for the whole community

- People will get the chance to own their own homes or start businesses.

## How will this happen?

The Australian Government will provide the money only if certain things happen. It wants changes to some arrangements on the APY Lands.

### Housing standards

As housing gets better and there is less over-crowding:

- People renting houses will need to pay the sort of rents that people in public housing pay in other places in South Australia.

- People renting houses will have to do the things set out in their tenancy agreement. This means:
  - Looking after their house.
  - Paying rent on time.

## Leasing arrangements

The Australian Government wants to change leasing arrangements on the APY Lands so that they will allow:

- Anangu to have long-term leases (99 years) and take part in a lease/purchase scheme (like a mortgage) so that they can own their homes on the Lands.
- Anangu and non- Anangu to have shorter leases so they can set up businesses.
- Government to have long-term leases for its buildings on the Lands.

## Will the Land Rights Act be changed?

Some of the leasing arrangements are already possible.

Others are not possible without changes to the Land Rights Act.

## What does this mean for land rights?

The Australian Government knows that Anangu have a close relationship to the APY Lands. This **will not** change.

These changes will not take land rights away from Anangu. The changes only relate to small parcels of land in the major townships and **will not** include areas that Anangu use for ceremonial purposes or consider sacred.

## What are the next steps?

The Australian Government supports full consultation with the Anangu.

Before the Australian Government can commit to providing the \$25 million in funding, Anangu need to support changes by the South Australian Government to the Lands Right Act.

To help Anangu understand these changes and what they mean, people from the Government will be visiting major communities in the next few weeks to explain the changes and answer any questions you have.