

SGM UMUWA Day 1
20 August 2008

Sean Williamson, Acting Chairperson opened the meeting at 12.20pm with a prayer by Pepayi Carroll.

Tony Adamson was appointed Interpreter for the meeting.

1. Homelands

Kawaki Thompson spoke to this agenda item and said as this is Anangu Land, Anangu need to be in control of their homelands.

Gordon Ingkatji said AP Services are running homelands and they should be here. Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara does not have anything to do with homelands. He gave a history of what has been happening in the Bible, it talks about one leader but here on the Lands we have people running around saying they are the leaders but our leaders are at Umuwa. It is no good running around telling people they are going to fix things when we have an organisation already.

Ronnie Brumby said we should have AP Services here today. They run around and put diesel in generators and not much more. AP Services are not recognising people on the Homelands. They are not working with people but are controlled from outside. For homelands they only have white people passing through, no Anangu.

Owen Burton was concerned the Minutes are not being taken properly. He said that AP Services used to have a General Manager and based at Umuwa. Everyone knows he was told to go away and now they have a part-time General Manager. They have advertised for a new CEO but Umuwa won't give permits to come to the Lands to talk about homelands. Owen has been appointed to go around and talk to Anangu. AP Services belongs to Anangu. You cannot complain about staff because he is doing the job. This is the problem; they could not come to this meeting because they have no permit. AP Services is using the money to fix the roads from Indulkana to the border.

Owen said there is a new Structure and model for communities and homelands and the Government has said it is a good idea. Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara is only about the Land. AP Services is a service provider for the Lands.

Bernard Singer asked about meetings on communities where Anangu were asked to sign forms but Anangu have said they don't know what they are signing. Owen said he didn't want to talk about that. Bernard Singer asked him to tell why people were asked to sign something that was not explained to them. Owen Burton said he would only talk about that if it was on the agenda.

Bernard Singer said you cannot get people to sign things without properly explaining it to them. You are misleading people.

Rex Tjami said he wants to talk a little about the model Mr Burton has been talking about and the permits issue. There is a problem between Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara and AP Services.

They should have come and talked about consultations first, not just bring a model. This should have been done the right way.

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara is also fighting with the Government to protect our Land. We need to talk about this and sort out the differences once and for all.

Owen Burton said he does not want the Chairman and Director jump up and down about the model. That is his job to talk about it.

Ronnie Brumby said they were talking about the permits and the original committee said not to give permits. There is a problem because of the way the election was done. Ronnie Brumby said he is still the Chairman of AP Services and there should be elections but others are running around the Lands saying different things. He said problems started when the new committee went out and did their own new things without talking properly with people. This has nothing to do with staff at Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara it is with the Committee of AP Services that can only be sorted out with proper elections. I am the Chairman and we said no permits until the matter is sorted out.

Owen Burton said there was no structure before and that is why AP Services has been working with Government on a new model and structure.

Leonard Burton said you want to talk about homelands. You are sick and there has been no work on homelands. He said the old Committee are finished. They always argued but he doesn't want to argue. Let's not talk about the old committee. You are talking about me because I work for AP Services.

Kawaki Thompson said Anilayla had money and they want money put into the homelands. Kawaki Thompson said he spoke with the Accountants and Auditors and he wants to return and live on his homeland. He wants Bungala to continue CDEP on the homelands.

The meeting adjourned for Lunch and re-commenced at 3.45pm

2. Housing

Bernard Singer introduced Minister Jay Weatherill, Simon Stretton, Phil Fagon-Schmidt, Adrienne Gillam, Danny Bertossa

The Minister thanked people for inviting him and wanted to let people know about the \$25M housing offer so you can make a decision today.

The Minister said the \$25M was only a start and there would be more later to do more housing. It will begin in Amata and more to other communities. The state wants 50 years leases for the house blocks where the houses will be built. If the State does not build the houses, the land goes back to Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara. The houses must be for Anangu. The State must ensure the houses are properly maintained. The building and maintenance will be prepared by Anangu, as far as possible Anangu will get jobs and training. Anangu must pay rent and abide by the rules of housing Anangu who want to buy their houses, the State and Commonwealth will provide for this. Anangu were invited to ask questions or make comments.

Owen Burton, Amata asked who the \$25M will be paid to. The Commonwealth will provide the money to the State who will have a contract with a builder to construct the houses and employ Anangu. The Minister said the money would go first to building houses at Amata.

Nicholas Coulthard, Indulkana asked if money was also going to be put into maintenance. Yes, that is a condition of the money. There must be jobs for local Anangu to fix the houses. What about rent? Yes Anangu have to pay rent for houses lived in by Anangu. There will also be tenancy agreements. Nicholas Coulthard wanted to know what happened to our rent collected in the past. The Minister said what happened in the past did not work and that is why things are changing. The rent does not cover the cost of repairs.

Adrian Lewis, Pukatja asked if the Minister could explain what is behind the 50 year lease. The Minister explained it is to give better housing for Anangu to reduce over crowding. \$25M is not enough, but they will start at Amata and move to other communities. Adrian Lewis said he just wanted to get the proper story. Minister said Anangu will have control over their houses.

Jamie Nyangu, Pukatja / Umuwa said it is a big risk, this housing offer. Why are they giving us this money to build houses? The Minister said you deserve it as Government have let you down over the years. Jamie Nyangu said he wanted to say something about the money coming in and we should hear from administration about the offer. Bernard Singer said Jamie was talking about not coming through the right gate, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara. The Minister said he would talk to anyone to get more housing on the Lands. He would go to other communities. We want to resolve it today. Jamie Nyangu said there are problems where families have gone away from their families because of dialysis, etc. We need to also think about having dialysis on the Lands. Minister said he would take that back to the Health Minister.

Murray George, Kaltjiti said he can see what is inside this offer. He asked Anangu if they heard clear from the Minister. These houses are not really yours, they are public. It is up to Anangu to talk about this slowly. Anangu are on a low income and how can Anangu pay real rent. The Minister said rent will be affordable.

Sean Williamson, Pipalyatjara said he wanted to explain to the old people and have the Minister make clear to the old people. The Minister said the Land belongs to Anangu and the State will lease only. When the lease runs out it may come back to Anangu or the lease may be renewed.

Leonard Burton, Amata said they had meetings and put up their hands for this because of health our health. The houses were not proper for families. We can see how we go. We don't ask for money just for houses. Leonard Burton asked why the Minister is coming to Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara when the community is making an agreement with the Minister. He said this is community business and not up to traditional owners. There are already leases on the Lands for Government buildings and houses. The Minister said they have to talk to communities, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara and Traditional Owners.

Owen Burton, Amata said Government are giving \$25M but want 50 year leases and wanted to know if that was true. Yes. Owen Burton said we should not rush this through. These

people should agree not to bring outside people into the lands to mine secret areas. The Minister said this has nothing to do with Mining and there will be no mining on these house leases.

Kawaki Thompson, Black Hill, asked why the Minister brought this Commonwealth story to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands. The Minister said the Commonwealth gave the money to the State to build and manage the houses. Kawaki Thompson said they did the same thing in the NT but today they have nothing. Why is our Minister doing this to us? It is very different. The Minister rejected the Commonwealth's first offer. He told Mal Brough No to 99 year leases for everyone, including non-Anangu. The Minister also said no when they wanted to take away the permit system. Then there was a new Labor Government with Jenny Macklin. She wanted 50 year leases but not the other things. He wants people to listen carefully to the story and remember when we got our Land Rights in 1981. The money is not very important; it is the country that is important. The Minister said everything that they are asking for today can be done with the *Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act*. What happens after 50 years? The land goes back to Anangu. Kawaki Thompson said the Government can change the legislation after the old ones are gone.

Tony Adamson asked what the Minister meant about giving the land back after 50 years. The Minister said this was the land the houses are built upon and unless a new lease was granted the house lots would be given back to Anangu.

Dana Goodwin, Pukatja said the Government just want to get control of the Land again that they gave to Anangu. The Minister said it is only to build and look after houses for Anangu. Dana Goodwin said some old people asked for houses but they didn't care and some of these old people have passed away living in humpies. The Government should not be putting houses on communities but give us money instead to fix houses. The Minister said a plan can go around showing the Lots at Amata where houses will be built.

Kenneth Ken, Pukatja said it is good to have the Minister come and talk face to face and share our concerns. He has concerns with CDEP and money and asked the Minister to follow this up. The Minister said he would take it up with the Federal Minister but it is also on the agenda tomorrow. He said the rents will be affordable.

Adrian Dodd, Mimili said his community needs housing. He is a builder but has no certificate. He is a young leader and wants to say something. It's good to hear from young people, as well as old people.

Nicholas Coulthard, Indulkana talked about other non-agenda matters.

Owen Burton said the Government will own these houses not Anangu. The Minister said Anangu will have more control over their own houses then they have now. He was asked if the Government may break the agreement. The Minister said Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara and the Government would sign the lease agreement.

Gary Lewis, Pukatja said we should talk more about this as 50 year leases come in 2005 with amendments to the *Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act*.

Dennis Colson, Balfour's Well wanted to ask how rent will be worked out. The Minister said rents will be affordable. People on wages will pay more. At the moment it is capped at 20% of Centrelink payments – What happened if people cannot pay rent? Will they be kicked out to live in the creek? The Minister said he expects people to pay like the rest of Australia.

Mike Williams, Mimili said he was going to ask Anangu not to sign this agreement. This Land is ours and our property.

Makinti Minutjukur, Pukatja said we have heard a lot about the housing offer. We are happy to see new houses on the ground in the communities but for nearly 30 years, we have struggled to have new houses. Many houses are very old at Ernabella. Houses have come in small amounts over many years. Why not build lots of houses and fix houses before we talk about leases.

Yanyi Bandicha, Pukatja said NPY WC heard about this offer and the Government were told to take it back to Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara to deal with. She is worried about the leasing and what might happen. She is also worried about sniffers who use the old houses and would like the \$25M to come to Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara to use on communities. She is worried about 50 year leases. The Minister explained there are already leases for the substance misuse facility, police station, Nganampa Health etc.

The Minister read the resolutions:

Resolution 1

That this meeting resolves that the Executive Board grant a lease for 50 years between Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara and the State Government for the 11 sites identified in the site plan for Amata.

Resolution 2

That this meeting resolves that the Executive Board grant leases for 50 years between APY and the State Government for all the residential sites (for new and substantially upgraded houses) in the site plan for all communities subject to the Commonwealth government providing funding for the required new and upgraded houses. Additionally:

- The Housing will begin in Amata and then move to other communities;
- The State must build the houses within an agreed time frame or the land will go back to APY;
- The State will manage the social housing on the lands including, allocation, maintenance, and rent collection in accordance with a revised MOU;
- Houses must only be for Anangu;
- The State will ensure houses are maintained properly and insured;
- The building and maintenance will be, as far as practical, be performed by Anangu;
- Anangu must pay rent and abide by a tenancy agreement; and,
- Anangu want the opportunity for home ownership and the State and Commonwealth is prepared to provide for this.

Moved: Leonard Burton
Second: Nicholas Coulthard
Carried: All

Day One ended at about 6:40 pm.

SGM UMUWA Day 2 21 August 2008

Sean Williamson opened the meeting at 1.50pm

3. Review of 2005 Amendments to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act

John Thurtell gave an explanation of what he is doing, which is reviewing the changes made to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act in 2005. The review team are 3 people – 1 by Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Executive Board other 2 by Minister but acceptable to Board.

Mr Lewis, Mary Anderson and John Thurtell are the review team. The review team has to ask people about those changes about those changes. They have travelled to some of the bigger communities and are here to talk at a general meeting.

Mary Anderson explained which communities they have been to and discussed the review. So you need to listen and tell us what you want.

Mike Williams wanted to talk about mining matters and asked about money and where it was going into Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara.

Kawaki Thompson said under the Review, since 2005 homelands have changed and made people move back into communities.

Gordon Inkatji said since 1981 the old people not alive now fought for our land. Now young people have moved in and changed the Act. We talked to the Government a lot about getting our land back in 1981. Everyone talked the same story and we were one. The State Government said they would listen to you and then one day they gave back the land to traditional owners. We will keep the land forever. Our land rights are different now and things are bad. Our dreamtime is all mixed up. We need to have our young people work on the lands and not change the Act.

Mr Fraser, Kenmore asked if we are talking the right way. Everyone knows there is *Land Rights Act*. David Hope helped put it together with the old people, like Kawaki. He said Anangu are not giving the review team a chance to tell us what the changes were.

Gary Lewis said if Anangu have concerns with any of the changes made in 2005, you need to tell the review team.

The discussion continued with the review team advising of changes made and then asked for comments or questions. The review team recorded Anangu concerns.

Following this item, CDEP was to be next on the agenda. However, the meeting began to get disrupted.

Murray George spoke of doing things the old way under the *APY Land Rights Act*.

Owen Burton said that AP Services had a new model he wanted to talk about.

Leonard Burton said that there was fighting between Anangu because of the General Manager and senior staff.

Donald Fraser said that the problem was caused by three Anangu trying to overthrow the Governing Committee of AP Services and driving around in Toyotas.

Owen Burton wanted to put a petition on the agenda.

Sean Williamson called a halt and said that the agenda must be followed as there was important business.

Gary Lewis, Murray George, Leonard Burton and **Owen Burton** continued to interrupt and make allegations about the General Manager and senior staff. This had no support and many people asked them to stop.

Bernard Singer called for these allegations to stop and to return to the important business.

Gary Lewis said "We are going to wreck all of your meetings." Members continued to object and asked Burton, Lewis, George and Owen Burton to stop.

The CDEP discussion was postponed due to this argument and they were invited to the Executive Board Meeting on 22 August 2008.

Sean Williamson closed the meeting at 5.23pm

The two day meeting was attended by approximately 121 Anangu according to the record of attendance.

Minutes by Ken Newman