Special General Meeting - UMUWA
1 December 2008

A register of members was kept and 97 Anangu members, representing 8 communities and 7 homelands attended the meeting.

Kawaki Thompson chaired the meeting. Trevor Adamson was the Interpreter.

The meeting opened at 2.35pm following a lunch bbq. Kawaki introduced the lawyer Peter Huntington who gave a report on what the Executive Board has been doing.

1. Housing

Peter Huntington, APY Legal Officer said that 12 months ago, Anangu said no to 99 year leases. The Commonwealth said no more money without leases. The Executive Board worked hard with the Government. The Executive Board got the leases down to 50 years. In August 2008, an SGM authorized the Executive to enter into 50 year leases with the Government. Lease documents were prepared for 11 houses at Amata.

The Executive Board said 11 houses was not enough because there is an urgent need for more houses. The Government was not going to build the houses quickly. The Executive Board said it must be as quick as possible. Last month some Executive Board members went to Adelaide to negotiate for more housing. They came away from Adelaide with 87 new houses and major upgrades to be built over the next 3 years, starting at Amata.

After Amata, it will be Mimili and Pukatja. Over the past year, housing people have been working on the Lands including Jude Allen and Dennis Colson. They have been looking at the housing, talking to Anangu and finding out what they think and where there is a greatest need on the Lands. The greatest need turned out to be Amata, then Mimili, then Pukatja. It has taken some time to get the best deal for Anangu.

Along the way, the Government has made certain threats, ie. Hurry up or we'll spend the money in the NT, $25 Million. Now there is a financial crisis in the world and Anangu need to grab money for housing on the Lands. A lease has been signed for 11 houses at Amata and the Executive Board has approved another lease for the extra houses.

In some places, it is clear where the houses will go because there is already power and water. Traditional Owners for Amata have agreed. TO's for Mimili meet tomorrow. TO's for Pukatja have agreed. In some places, consultations will have to continue about where new houses will go.

In addition to the leases there is an MOU between Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara and the State about housing and Anangu employment. The MOU will be changed and kept up to date all the time. Lots of time and effort has gone into this to make sure there is Anangu employment.

Anangu have a strong voice and the Executive Board has a Housing Advisory Committee under the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act. Nominations have been called for Anangu to be on the Committee. These will be paid positions and give Anangu a strong voice in all housing matters. There will be plenty of consultation on housing.

Peter Nyaningu was asking how many houses there would be as there are lots of old houses on the lands.

Owen Burton said that Amata Council had a meeting about the houses that will be built and they want them elsewhere. He also said the Government will own the houses not Anangu.

Peter Huntington said the MOU protects Anangu, not white people. The housing people are available to talk about specific matters.

Gary Lewis said the Minister came in August and said we had to lease the land for 50 years to get new houses and major upgrades. The State would run the housing like in Adelaide. He also said the MOU has not been discussed with Executive or with communities.

Rex Tjami, Director, explained the history of how the Executive has been fighting hard to get more houses for Anangu for health reasons and to get old houses fixed up. The land is leased to the State to build houses for Anangu.

Jude Allen of OAH, Umuwa gave a summary of where we are currently with housing on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands.

Gary Lewis talked about communities giving approval and discussions must include the community.

Dana Goodwin and **Donald Fraser** said they are traditional owners for Pukatja and they have given approval for 50 year leases. Dana Goodwin provided a list of names of Traditional owners who have agreed to the leases.

Mike Williams said he is not here to talk about housing but money he is missing out from mining distribution. He wants Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara administration to sit with him and discuss Tangkana homeland. **Donald Fraser** said this is an Anthropology matter.

Owen Burton talked about Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara staff interfering in the APY elections saying he was not a member of Murputja. He said his mother was from there.

Rex Tjami explained that each community has a constitution that talks about members of each community.

Nicholas Coulthard, Indulkana said they have a problem with their Executive Board Member who never gives a report on what the Executive discusses.

2. Services

Peter Huntington gave a summary of services on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands and how Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara has been criticized in the media about services. The *Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands Right Act* gave Anangu back a lot of land. The *Act* recognizes your ownership by Anangu law and gave you ownership under white fellow law. The idea that you can not talk about roads etc… is silly. The issue is not about power, but who has the money.

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara does not have the funding for services. There have been many complaints about services. The question is about funded agencies delivering those services on the lands and getting the money into services. How does Anangu get involved in delivery of services? Anangu employment?

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara is working on Contracts for service providers on how they will work on the lands. One of those contracts is for Bungala which had many problems earlier this year. After offering a contract, Bungala seems to have improved.

The Contract means that Anangu are treated like valued customers and gives Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara control over service providers. We are starting to work with Bungala as partners and how to build Anangu capacity with jobs.

Two areas that will improve service delivery are:
1) Resources - mining and oil exploration. Because it involves oil, we have to work out what happens if they find oil. So we have to look forward and plan ahead.

2) Local Government is another area that we have to look at. Local Government would set up a new Act all about delivery of services on the Lands.

These are big changes that could lead to a better deal for Anangu. But changes require consultation with communities to discuss those changes to work out a plan that will build the capacity of Anangu to run their own Lands.

Murray George asked questions about Bungala and how they manage the Christmas break. He also said that Bungala was taking people's tax money.

Witchety George was concerned that his generator was taken from his homeland, Mulga Bore.

Mike Williams asked where mining money goes. It was explained there is a meeting once a year run by the Anthropologist with Traditional Owners on how to divide up that money.

The lawyer said we now have to think about the future. If oil is found or mines go ahead then there would be big money, not just little money from miners having a look.

There was discussion about Bungala and CDEP. The lawyer explained the contract for NGO's is about how they work on the Lands with Anangu. The lawyer talked about the problems caused by Bungala in their first year until they destroyed the culturally significant tree down near Indulkana. That could have lead to prosecution under the *Heritage Act* but Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara worked with Bungala to make things better. The same kind of NGO contract has been offered to AP Services. The contract seems to be working with Bungala but there is still a long way to go.

Peter Nyaningu asked about small business opportunities for Anangu. The lawyer said this is very important to talk about and should be part of consultations in the New Year because there may not be Government funding one day in the future.

Other Business

3. Commonwealth Money

From next week, Anangu on pensions and with dependents will receive money in their accounts, approx $1000 per child over a 2 week period. Anangu need to be careful of stores that hold key cards and pin numbers or they may lose their money.

Gary Lewis said the money would be safe. The Legal Officer said we have letter from the Commonwealth and posters have been distributed to communities and we met recently in Adelaide with FaHCSIA about this matter. Anangu need to watch for this money.

4. Chairman – Bernard Singer

Donald Fraser talked about how the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Chairperson, Bernard Singer had a lot of problems including his health, because of the police charges that came after his confrontation with Bungala when they cut down the significant tree. He has suffered legal costs and his health has suffered. Donald wants Anangu-tjuta to pay money towards Bernard Singer's legal costs.

Ronnie Brumby said Bernard Singer has done a good job for the past 3 years although he had a lot of pressure put on him. He is not here today because of his health. Ronnie Brumby thanked the Chairman, Director, General Manager and Lawyer for the work they have been doing.

Donald Fraser said the costs of $13,000 for Bernard Singer would need a resolution to be passed in support of this.

Resolution
That Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara approves payment of $13,000 to the Chairman, Bernard Singer.

Moved: Donald Fraser
Second: Nicholas Coulthard
Carried: All

5. Anilayla Store

Peter Huntington said that Kawaki Thompson would like to build an Anilayla Store at Umuwa that would have groceries, dry goods, second hand clothes, white goods etc. at good prices. Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara would assist with sourcing funds, management etc. Mai Wiru has supported the idea.

Anangu were asked if they support an Anilayla store at Umuwa. **Everyone was in agreement.**

6. 5 NPY Radio

Trevor Adamson spoke about this matter and PY Media. After discussion it was decided not to put the details of his complaint in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Minutes but his matter should be referred to the next PY Media Committee meeting and it can be discussed there properly.

7. Homeland 22

George Kenmore said he would be coming to live at this homeland with his family. Donald Ferguson, who was looking after the homeland, is now in Alice Springs sick. George was asking Anangu if this is ok. **Everyone agreed**.

8. Airplane Homeland

Tjukaya Tapaya of Airplane homeland said she wants to see good things happen on homelands. She said everyone should plant gardens and Anilayla has materials money so you need to talk to Bungala.

Kawaki Thompson said a closing prayer and closed the meeting at 6.35pm

Minutes by Ken Newman