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Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Impact Assessment (IA) Process

An Impact Assessment (IA) is required by Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) where any outside authority or individual requires access to the APY Lands for any purpose including, but not limited to, pastoral, mining, government developments and research. Its purpose is to ensure that Traditional owners understand and have an opportunity to discuss – and, if necessary, either modify or reject – any proposal that intrudes on, or otherwise affects, land within the purview of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981. The standard process for an IA is as follows:

- An IA notice (including detailed topographic map/s) is sent by the Applicant to the *Consultation, Land and Heritage* unit within the APY, regarding the proposed works on the nominated area/s or tenement/licence area/s. The data is recorded and passed on to the Project Officer (and/or Anthropologist) who assesses it to ensure that it complies with APY standards and guidelines. This notice is to be provided with sufficient lead time to enable the APY to commence the necessary preparations and resolve issues (if any) that may need addressing prior to the commencement of any fieldwork surveys.
- Please note that further details may need to be provided by the Applicant if the information in the IA notice is deemed to be insufficient.
- **The work will be scheduled only once the IA is assessed as containing satisfactory information.** At this point Anthropology commences the consultation process to identify the relevant traditional owners for the area and, where it is assessed as necessary, presents the work program to APY Executive and relevant Community Council/s. A community meeting of the traditional owners may also be required. In each case the Applicant may be called upon to present the proposal to the traditional owners.

- **The APY's Consultation, Land and Heritage unit does not receive funding from the Government** in relation to the IA process; consequently **the Applicant carries the above costs** associated with fieldwork consultations and meetings.
- At the above meeting/s the proposed work is presented to the traditional owners by the Applicant. Although staff from the APY can present on the Applicant's behalf, it is the APY's preference to have a representative of the Applicant attend, as questions can then be directly answered and any concerns addressed. A discussion then takes place amongst the traditional owners on how they would like to proceed with the proposed work program (e.g. go to the area where the proposed work is to take place; if an official anthropological and/or archaeological and/or environmental report is required; if a consultant is required to investigate potential impacts in the area; whether there are areas that specifically require a male or female consultant or both, and so on).
- The APY does not, in any way, influence any decisions made by Anangu Tjuta. The outcome of the meeting is decided by the traditional owners.
- If an IA survey is requested, the logistical work of programming, organising staff, hiring the consultants (if required), arranging vehicles, catering, etc, then commences. An IA survey quote is then created and submitted for the Applicant's approval. Almost all aspects of the IA survey are handled by the APY's Consultation, Land & Heritage Unit. However, if a helicopter is required, we do ask that the Applicant hires them direct.
- At the IA survey, the traditional owners identify areas of concern. Some areas which are to be cleared draw practical advice from the traditional owners. For example, there may be areas which are well known to be inaccessible at certain times of the year and may be unsuitable for the proposed activities.
- Following the IA survey, the consultant's report is generated, reviewed and published by the relevant specialist (anthropologist and/or archaeologist and/or ecologist) and the results presented to the Executive at the next available meeting for approval by resolution.
- Following Executive approval the report is then forwarded to the Applicant for their information. The initial IA survey quote is also reviewed upon completion of the survey and, acting on the advice APY receives back from the staff involved in the clearance, it is adjusted to reflect actual costs along with the APY IA clearance report.

APY sets out a schedule from the beginning of the year and meetings and IA surveys are carefully coordinated to fit in conjunction with the traditional owners' other interests and the availability of staff and consultants. **Thus we advise that you submit proposed development plans a minimum of 6 months in advance.**

All APY IA surveys need to be conducted between February and November. APY do not schedule any surveys outside this period (November-February) due to cultural Law Business, the difficulty in incumbent weather conditions and accounting for the health and safety of frequently elderly traditional owners. Please note this period is additional to the 6 month recommendation for the submission of proposed work plans.

For your information we have attached a copy of the IA Essential Criteria. The next step is for the Applicant to submit an IA request so that any potential meetings and/or field surveys can be scheduled accordingly.

Should you have any queries on this process please contact the Consultation, Land and Heritage Unit Manager on 08 89548111 or email Charmaine.Jones@anangu.com.au