



Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

A.B.N. 77 261 612 162

PMB 227 Umuwa via Alice Springs NT 0872

Phone: (08) 8954 8132 Fax: (08) 8954 8110

Email: gmapy@anangu.com.au

To all communities Community Housing Update No. 6 27 August 2008

Following the visit of Minister Weatherill for the Special General Meeting on 20 - 21 August, Anangu granted 50 year leases to the State over 11 sites in Amata and over housing sites in other communities, once satisfied about funding to upgrade the existing houses or for new houses.

A lease is being finalised as well as a revised MOU to regulate the management of the housing in the interests of Anangu. In addition to houses being constructed under the CHIP scheme, the first 11 houses under the \$25 million package will be built at Amata.

There were to be 18 new houses built at Pukatja, however Pukatja Council disrupted Traditional Owner meetings on 12 and 14 August and Traditional Owners for Pukatja have not yet considered whether they will consent to the lease over the 18 sites.

The disruptions involved scheduling conflicting meetings, bullying and harassment and denying the use of facilities, such as the stage. The 2nd meeting was frustrated by threats (according to several traditional owners) that if Traditional Owners attended the meeting, they would not be allowed to collect their pension cheques.

Faced with these difficulties, Traditional Owners at Mimili approved the 50 year leases at their community and the Minister is considering first building new houses there.

Former Members of the Executive Board from Pukatja, Amata and Fregon disrupted Day Two of the Special General meeting by making baseless allegations against the General Manager and senior staff which was rejected by the meeting. In the result, the meeting was adjourned early without important business, such as CDEP, being discussed.

The Executive is very concerned about the welfare of the people at Pukatja and what appears to be a chronic breakdown in governance, subjecting people to control and a denial of basic freedoms and civil rights.

The Executive takes very, very seriously the disruption of Traditional Owner and other meetings and is taking strong measures to restrain this.

The Executive is particularly concerned about complaints from several communities that they have been forced to sign a petition by statements such as "this must be signed because of the housing"; This must be signed because of a new model"; or, "don't bother going to the store if you don't sign this".

This petition has nothing to do with APY, housing, municipal services and does not have to be signed to get housing, stores, fuel and municipal services.

We are seeing, as are the Ministers, the results of a circle of bullies and a failure of governance in some communities and AP Services. All of this is very damaging to the reputations of APY communities, AP Services, Anangu and the Lands.

Please report any concerns you have about petitions, bullying, threat making and disruption of meetings to the Director of Administration as APY is presently investigating these matters.

The Executive will ensure that the interests of Anangu and communities are protected and that the new housing and police stations are put on the ground as soon as possible.

Bernard Singer
Chairperson