



**Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE: APY Secures Funding for Critical Security Enhancements**

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The \$234,437 will fund projects related to improved street lighting and roadside shelters, increasing safety for residents of the region in the remote north west of South Australia.

[Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara \(APY\)](#) has announced its recent acquisition of funding from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications' local roads and community infrastructure sector. The funding will provide much-needed capital for APY to begin working on a number of critical safety projects, with plans to complete all projects before the end of 2021.

In total, APY was awarded \$234,437 for projects related to street lighting improvements and the erection of roadside shelters with seating and clean water access.

As part of its lighting improvement projects, APY will partner with Cowell Electric to replace current street lighting with more energy-efficient options that can last up to 10 years. Target areas for improvements include Indulkana, Ernabella, Mimili, Watinuma, Amata, Kalka, Nyapari, Kanpi and Pipalyatjara. More than \$134,400 will be earmarked for lighting enhancements, increasing safety for those living in or traveling through the APY Lands.

The additional \$100,000 of APY's funding will be dedicated to creating roadside shelters across the region. The shelters will include seating and water tanks, giving travellers a safe place to stop if they need to rest or if they break down while travelling through the harsh and desolate terrain of the APY Lands.

The shelters will be constructed in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Onkaparinga, whose volunteers will help to erect the shelters. Rotary will partner with the Regional Anangu Services Aboriginal Corporation (RASAC), the biggest employer on the APY Lands.

New materials will be used for the shelter, seating and water tanks, with steel posts supporting heavy duty roof and wall cladding on the shelters. Work will be undertaken in consultation with APY's Anthropology Department to ensure heritage impact assessments are completed before any shelters are erected.

"We are grateful for the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications' recognition of the need for increased safety across the APY Lands through the awarding of these funds," said APY General Manager Richard King. "These resources will help us complete two critical projects that will benefit those living in and traveling through these areas, including improved street lighting with more energy-efficient LED options and new shelters with water tanks across the Lands. These funds will help APY in accomplishing its mission of providing safer roads and safer communities for all."

APY Chair Sally Scales echoed Mr King's sentiments: "The APY Executive Board and management have been discussing the possibility of shelters for over two years. Through meticulous planning and a lot of hard work, our vision has now become a reality thanks to this funding. We will now be able to ensure that the APY community's safety needs are met."

The Australian Government announced in May a new \$500 million Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program to support jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Federal Member for Grey Rowan Ramsey, whose vast outback electorate of Grey includes the APY Lands, said he was very pleased the government had allocated \$13 million to councils across his electorate.

“The Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Executive Board is the right body to make the decisions about where its share of this money will be spent,” Mr Ramsey said.

“I am very pleased these projects will bring benefits to the community and improve safety.”

**For further information please contact Richard King on 0401 124 876.**