



Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

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Media Release: Minister Approves New Contract For APY General Manager

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The conditions of an employment contract for Richard King to continue as general manager of APY has received ministerial approval.

In a letter to APY dated 21 August 2023, South Australian Attorney-General and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Kyam Maher said: "I confirm that I have determined to approve the conditions of (Mr King's) appointment."

This follows a meeting of the APY Executive Board in July 2023 that unanimously reaffirmed its appointment of Mr King as general manager until 31 March 2024, pending ministerial approval of the contract extension's conditions. The Board's decision to reappoint Mr King for a 12-month contract extension was initially reached in March 2023.

The reappointment of Mr King, the longest-serving and first Indigenous general manager of the APY Lands, followed a directive from the Attorney-General for the Board to hold a valid meeting by 17 March 2023 to resolve the position of APY General Manager.

As Minister, under the Act, Mr Maher is solely responsible for approving the conditions of the appointment. Since his first tenure as Aboriginal Affairs Minister under the Weatherill government, he has consistently stated that the appointment of APY's general manager is a decision for the APY executive alone.

With the Board's decision made and reaffirmed in July, Minister Maher's approval this month of the contract conditions allow APY and Mr King to proceed with certainty.

"In March, the APY Executive Board resolved the position of APY General Manager as directed by the Minister," an APY spokesman said. "This decision, made by the democratically elected board representing all APY communities, was unanimously reaffirmed in July.

"We are pleased to have now received official correspondence from the Minister approving the conditions of the contract, as required under the APY Land Rights Act. This will enable the Executive Board and the General Manager to commence to address outstanding business and undertake a proper recruitment process for a new general manager, in accordance with good governance."

APY will immediately begin a recruitment process for Mr King's successor. Mr King will assist with the period of orientation and transition once a suitable candidate has been successfully recruited. Mr King said he was pleased the Minister had listened to Anangu and respected their wishes.

"The appointment of a general manager was always a decision for the APY executive and I thank the Minister for acting accordingly to approve the conditions of my appointment," Mr King said. "I enjoy a strong working relationship with the APY Executive Board, and I look forward to that continuing as I assist in the transition to a new general manager after having spent nine years in this role working hard for the success of Anangu."



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