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MEDIA RELEASE

Tangentyere Council welcomes funding but calls for review of 'camping areas' announcement.

The Executive Director of Tangentyere Council, William Tilmouth, has welcomed the \$30 million Federal and Territory commitment to improve living conditions on Town Camps.

"This funding commitment recognises resource and service needs that Tangentyere have been fighting to secure for over twenty years" said Mr Tilmouth. "The Federal Minister has engaged sincerely with the issues facing Town Camp residents. Tangentyere is pleased both governments are focussed on achieving equal living standards for Town Camp residents and are supporting Aboriginal peoples right to live safely in communal land arrangements" he said.

But the government plan to establish 'remote area visitors' camping areas within Town Camp areas came as a surprise to Tangentyere. "Minister Brough has acknowledged the need to keep camps safe and put a stop to many of the issues that arise from the presence of visitors on camps" Mr Tilmouth said. "If the Northern Territory government and Alice Springs council are committed to the safety of Town Camp children and families, these visitor areas should be located on land elsewhere in the town."

"The Minister has publicly acknowledged the success of many programs run by Tangentyere. These programs work precisely because the residents of Town Camps are active in the decision making and implementation. The idea of placing camping areas on Town Camps has not been raised with the Town Camp residents and could jeopardise the positive initiatives announced today" Mr Tilmouth said.

"Tangentyere looks forward to maintaining its positive dialogue with the new Minister. To work properly, these initiatives will require appropriate discussions with all our residents. Tangentyere hopes that funding support will be provided to ensure our resources are not further stretched in accommodating the new arrangements"

William Tilmouth will be available for further comment on Monday 8th May. For further information please contact David Vadiveloo on 0418 355 441 or by email.

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