



MEDIA RELEASE

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Call for Mayor to withdraw her call for the closure of Ilyperenya Town Camp

Tangentyere Council calls on the Mayor to withdraw her call for the closure of Ilyperenya Town Camp and talk with the Council and the Ilyperenya residents with her concern.

Tangentyere Council Executive Director, William Tilmouth says, "The Mayor's press release was a political stunt that displayed poor leadership and demonstrated that the Mayor has little understanding about Town Camps and their residents. This is very disappointing given the Town Camp Task Force that we are both part of and the memorandum of understanding between our two councils."

Tangentyere Council is concerned of the Mayor's poor understanding of Ilyperenya Town Camp. It is not a camp of Old People, it is a place where families live. These families have suffered from overcrowding caused by a lack of housing in Alice Springs and constant visitor problems that are difficult for everyone. The wardens program constantly patrolled to manage the visitor issues in town camps and public spaces prior to being defunded last year.

We are all very saddened by events at the Town Camp in the past few weeks. There is strong leadership at Ilyperenya and we must all work with them to improve their living situation. The mayor's plan of "kicking them out of their homes is not the solution."

How would you feel if you learnt through the media that the Mayor has decided that you should be moved from your home?

Tangentyere Council is concerned that the matters were not raised through the Town Camp Task Force or directly with the Council. The Task Force is charged with the responsibility to address issues of safety on all town camps.

Mr. Tilmouth says, "The Mayor is responding to the failure of all levels of Government to provide security and safety to town camps by calling for their closure. I ask her to take leadership and govern for the safety and security of all of her constituents. Make town camps safe - do not shut them down. Moving a problem is not fixing a problem. We can fix this if we are honest about working together."

For more information contact: William Tilmouth on 89514 212