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MEDIA RELEASE

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TANGENTYERE COUNCIL CONDEMNS THE PROVISION OF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS NORTHERN TERRITORY NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE BILL 2007

The Tangentyere Executive Meeting held in Alice Springs today discussed the Australian Governments Northern Territory National Emergency response Bill 2007.

The Tangentyere Executive represents the town campers living on 16 Special Purpose Leases held in perpetuity by the Housing Associations. The Executive condemns the provision in the bill as the most racist and retrograde measures ever considered by the Australian Parliament.

The Bill, sure to be rammed through the Federal Senate today to become law has been done without any meaningful consultation with the Aboriginal people in The Northern Territory. The Bill/Legislation in clause 47 gives the Federal Minister; Mal Brough the power to vest all Town Camp titles in the Commonwealth without notice to the lease holders.

The Legation clearly overlooks the historical plight of the town campers to acquire land for Aboriginal communal living. Permanent housing and related infrastructure was only able to be provided once land tenure was secured. All this is now at stake with Mal Brough having the same powers as the responsible Northern Territory Minister to resume these titles.

We call for a legal challenge to be mounted against this racist legislation, before it can be implemented. We reject the trampling of our rights and we will continue to stand against racism whenever we encounter it.

The Executive concluded that the Northern Territory National Emergency response Bill 2007 has failed in addressing any of the recommendations in the "The Little Children are Sacred Report".

Not only have our town campers been let down by the Prime Minister and Mal Brough but we have also been let down by Kevin Rudd and the ALP. Our property rights are not being respected and treated in the same way as they are for other Australians. This is a clear breach of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975.

We call on all fair minded Australians to support our call to have our private property rights treated on the same basis as theirs.

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