

Tangentyere Council Inc.

PO Box 8070
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Ph. (08) 8951 4222
Fax (08) 8952 8521
Email: tangentyere@tangentyere.org.au



MEDIA RELEASE

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TOWN CAMP RESIDENTS DETERMINED TO KEEP THEIR LAND

Minister for Families Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Mal Brough yesterday announced his decision to allow Town Camp Communities the opportunity to retain their perpetual leases over their Camps, in return for a further \$50 million dollars to upgrade the Communities, a decision cautiously welcomed by Tangentyere Council.

The Tangentyere General Council meeting held yesterday in the Alice Springs Todd passed a resolution rejecting the condition in the original offer put by the Australian Government that the Housing Associations give up their leases in exchange for access to basic services and housing.

"This is our land, and these are our homes. If we lose our land, we lose everything" an Anthepe Town Camp member said.

Tangentyere Council passed a further resolution at the General Council meeting urging both the Australian Government and the Northern Territory Government to negotiate in good faith with Tangentyere Council as equal partners, a set of arrangements that will;

- *Deliver adequate access to basic services such as power, water, sewerage, street lighting, telecommunications, roads and stormwater to all Town Camp residents.*
- *Deliver adequate housing to all Town Camp residents which will allow for privately owned and affordable rental housing.*
- *Allow Town Camp residents to maintain a key ongoing role in new housing management arrangements.*
- *Guarantee the ongoing funding of Tangentyere Council to provide municipal and housing management services until such time as new negotiated arrangements are put in place.*

Tangentyere Council are urging both governments to support the input and ongoing role of Town Camp residents, the Housing Associations and Tangentyere Council in any newly established arrangement, for the betterment of residents living conditions and the social cohesion of the greater Alice Springs community.

For any further information contact;
David Donald Ph: (08) 8951 4254 Mob: 0408 841 708