



Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Thursday 28 May 2020

### MINUTES

**Start time:** 10.33am.

**Location:** Umuwa and Various locations – all members on phone.

**Present on Phone:** Marita Baker (MB), Anton Baker (AB), Willy Pompey (WP) Sally Scales (SS) Chair, Murray George (MG), Bernard Singer (BS), Ebony DeRose (ED), Owen Burton (OB), Makinti Minutjukur (MM), Richard Kanari (RK), Julieanne Campbell (JC), Gary Lewis (GL), Rex Tjami (RT), Ebony DE-Rose (ED), Richard King (RKg), Tania King (TK), Mavis Welsh (MW) (minutes/recording).  
Michael Clinch (MC).

**Apologies:** Nyukana Norris

**Observer:** Chantelle Bala of DPCR.

SS welcomed members on the phone and said this meeting is a continuation of the last meeting from the 18 May, 2020.

#### **Resolution:**

That the Executive Board agrees to the request from DPC- AAR for Chantelle Bala to attend the meeting as an observer only.

**Moved Bernard Singer, seconded Anton Baker All agreed**

GL ask for a copy of the agenda to be sent to him. SS said it was emailed last week for the previous meeting.

SS today would like to go through the following:

RKg to do Covid update

Anthropology Update

Pastoral with Michael Clinch – Land Management Discussion.

DPTI – Warren Peterson.

Permits

Other business – as determined – G Lewis.

#### **Covid update**

RKg said Covid is reducing around Australia in particular the NT and SA.

He said many people are going to Adelaide – last week it was 54 people going down there; 6 this week. There is still border Bio-security and to come back you have to have 14 days isolation. Still need to be very careful. There is no cure.

Around the world there are millions of cases with 100's of thousand deaths.

OB joined the meeting.

At present the police are working with the Bio security and there is no access on the APY lands. The Emergency Committee is completing a review of the borders on the 18 June. RK gave recent problems the American Indians experienced, where after a church meeting, 51 contracted and people died of Covid.

APY are working with SA Health and Nganampa Health and if we get one case of the disease on the lands all movement will stop. There will be no fuel and roads will be closed. If it comes in, Nganampa Health will check the family of that person and any one associated with that person. Then they will be taken out of the community. If we get one case we have to stop it in one place.

On 18 June at the review we expect this might extend until September, 20.

If anyone goes out of the Bio-security area (APY is a Designated area), police will stop them on return.

OB asked about the sickness. RKg said it is a new sickness and there is no cure. OB asked how long will it be? RKg said experts say probably it will be about one year before a vaccine, but until then everyone is at risk.

OB spoke in language. He asked about medicine.

RKg said there is no medicine yet – it is expected to be 12 months or so away.

MG said he is passing to you people now – it is going to be hard for one year.

RKg said for isolation it can be 14 days at identified locations.

MG said he is talking about Executive member talking to their families.

OB responded to MG in language.

*10.55 Discussion in language.*

Talking about petrol and people travelling in and out of APY lands.

RKg said he has been talking to WA and NT where they have made the same rules. ATMs are closed over the border to stop people from driving over the borders for money. NT is to change rules on 5 June to relax Bio-security but border still closed. There is a fine of \$63,000 or 5 years jail if you sneak across the border.

GL said we have to act on that law. He spoke in language.

RKg said what Mr George and Mr Burton are saying that if you open up ATM for cash in Amata everyone will travel into Amata. He said the fine is if you travel to WA or NT.

MG spoke in language.

GL said we have got to support the community Council.

SS said Mr George if we don't do it properly everyone will die. We have to got to do it right. We have to be very careful. We are worried for people with lots of health problems.

MG said look at big picture. If one person dies then we will be blamed. You can go back to your community – you can talk to them.

11.15

RKanari joined the meeting

SS said if someone brings the disease in it is because they have done the wrong thing. They can't blame the Executive because we are doing the right thing. We are keeping the APY borders closed. If Anangu says that it is my problem or our problem those are the ones who do the wrong thing and bring it in.

RKanari spoke in language.

RKg said can I say something. At the moment we have no cases. Next few months may not have any cases in SA so we might be able to open, but not at the moment while there are still cases. If no cases we can open up – hopefully in the next couple of months.

GL said last week we talked about the same things. He spoke in language. I asked about stakeholders coming around to communities to talk to Council and explain – if they are still talking at Executive level nobody knows. It should be face to face meeting with stakeholders – what is happening with that?

RKg every meeting we meet with the community Council – every week and have done for the last 8 weeks. It is up to the community Council to let people know in their communities.

BS spoken in language. Thursday last week we had a community Council meeting and I raised all about the Covid information. The community meeting went well. I think it is just that the community Council and Executive member needs to make the call and let people know in their own communities.

SS said that is the last move, now on to next item. Need to know who is listening.  
MG said there are 14 people listening.

11.24 am. *Discussion in language.*

SS we have to move on to next agenda item.

IN LANGUAGE MEMBERS TALKING OVER EACH OTHER.

GL said that they are saying you can travel community to community but not out of APY lands.

### **8. Anthropology (CLHU) via phone.**

SS asked if Charmaine Jones was on the phone.

RKg said to listen to CLHU - Anthropology.

### **IN CONFIDENCE**

## 9. Pastoral via phone

MC said this is an update on what pastoral has been doing over the last few months and important things to talk about.

### IN CONFIDENCE

SS thanked Michael Clinch for attending the meeting.

Land Management – Neil Collins of Land Management thanked members for the welcome. His report is in 2 parts. One part is support for strong women, strong country project; and the second an overview of what Land Management has been up to this year. Or as NAIDOC said 'Because of her, we can'.

This is a project by women for young women to get out into country and improve women's lives. If we get funding we can take it to other areas. He said they are seeking Executive support to find project funding to support Land Management to work on the project and he asked for Executive to give the name of someone to be linked to the project and if funding approved they vow to come back to Executive with a proposal.

SS said so we can support all the young girls. What support would Land Management need.

Neil Collins said this is in 2 parts. (1) You are happy for us to put a project together and seek funding. (2) Nominate someone to work with Land Management on the project.

SS asked what can we do for funding of it.

RKg said that if you can put together a project plan and bring to next meeting so we can look at it.

SS asked is this just for young women?

RKg said it is important to bring it back so you can work out a plan.

NC said attached to this briefing document is a copy of a draft paper. It shows how many people working with other organisations and how to get best outcomes for women on the Lands. It is important we have strong women. Need a nomination of someone to help on the project.

ED said I think it should be taken to the Women's Council and be addressed by them. It should be addressed at those meetings because it is not for ladies from APY lands. It should be discussed at NPY Women's Council level.

SS said that is good, but I think it is important for the Executive to support Land Management who will work with Women's Council naturally. If we can have female executive member talk with the female Land Management people.

NC thank you for that, we will work with Tania King to get this organised. **ACTION**

Also to provide update on Land Management. Peter Hamnett (PH) displayed presentation on the screen to talk about that.

AUDIO Presentation

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BS spoke in language and translated.  
1.53 pm.

PH talked about the Warru program in last financial year. It has been a busy year and I can show the highlights including the emergency activity of moving 34 Warru. He is hoping for rain which will renew food plants. He displayed photos and talked through them and what they were.

He said that work has been done by rangers from Ernabella, Pukatja; engaged in survey for buffel grass; went to Indigenous Desert Alliance conference in Yulara last year and presented on the fox and cats program; have done some pitfall trapping; gone out spot light shooting foxes and cats; Warru are spreading into new areas which is good.

PH Thanked everyone.

Another slide from NC showing a quick overview of Land Management activities this year. He said he had visited IPA and is to continuing on it in 2021-2022.

SS thanked Mr Collins for coming along and updating the Executive Board on the incredible work being done. Let's make it a regular item to come to Executive Board meetings.

SS said there is something from Chantelle Bala. APY sent a letter to government about extending funding for Law and Culture. We have received a response which said okay to extend the money for one year. Now waiting for confirmation from SA Treasurer – we don't know. Might have to think about backup plan for spending that money.

BS translated in language.

## **6. DPTI**

SS welcomed Warren Peterson (WPe) to present on this item.

WPe advised that he had to suspend work, but now has continued to work in isolation which allows work on the roads to continue. Taking measures to avoid risks of contact. 8 weeks on camp and 2 weeks off.

Would ask if you know how much longer you think the Bio-Security will continue.

RKg said it looks like can be September. Just had a review and the next review may be 17 September. If it continues with no cases may open up sooner.

WP asked if there is scaled back grading of roads. WPe there is a plan to restart grading, but not grading roads going out to Borders, only to allow food trucks.

RKg said we may need a plan to fix up the roads around Umuwa to the dump. It is worse than normal. May be get that sorted as well.

WPe said he will catch up by the next time he visits APY.

AB spoke in language.

SS said Warren we know that the road between Pipalyatjara and Nyapari gets damaged and destroyed and AB is asking if grading can be maintained in this area.

WPe said yes, we started last week and will be grading main roads connecting communities. And if you know this is needed more often, we can do more.

SS said AB is asking about a certain area. WPe suggested that AB send me directions to the area. SS said it would be an area that gets boggy.

RKg asked if it is in a sensitive area?

AB spoke in language.

SS said it is within a 50km radius of the community. She said Anton can you ring and discuss. We will give WPe the exact area on the phone. WPe said yes, no problem.

RKg said just one from – maybe a couple of blocks near workers camp units.

SS asked if any other questions.

WPe said yes, a 4 bed room unit has been relocated to Marla and a 20ft container at Mimili camp for turn around of the road workers.

Discussion re road sealing.

RKg also the road to recovery – not done due to Covid.

WPe said he has prepared a plan but not costed it. We will have people coming for bitumen next year so we can tie in other areas.

SS Anything else? Thank you Warren.

BS spoke in language.

## **7. Smart Meters via phone**

SS welcomed Lynda Curtis (LC) from Remote Area Energy Supply (RAES) Future Sustainability Program.

LC said that RAES supply electricity to remote towns and communities through SA including APY. There is now a new program about reduced electricity to APY.

She introduced other members of the RAES team - Scott, Nathan and Money Mob person, Caroline who will lead the education program on the Lands.

She said she wants to give history of the program. She said Aborigines don't pay for electricity which is different to other communities where Aborigines do pay for their electricity.

In 2012 SA had a study done about how Aboriginal people use of electricity. Looking at how Anangu use electricity which is 2 to 4 times more. Basically it seems that if they don't pay for electricity then they don't care how much they use. So the government is looking at charging for electricity.

The education program is to help Anangu to look at how to use electricity. We want to make sure Anangu are supported. Extensive education program will introduce a low rate of cost and to support and slowly introduce the charges.

SHE PLAYED AN AUDIO PROMOTION ON THE PROGRAM IN PITITATJARA

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LC she said another study was done in 2017.

SS translated.

2.45 pm

LC said that was the translated script and now we will make an animated video. TO SEND COPY OF SCRIPT.

*Discussion in language.*

SS asked what if there are solar panels.

LC said solar should happen by next year. It is a separate project which is going through procurement for completion by the end of 2021. This will help to reduce diesel costs for generating electricity.

The aim for the whole program is to reduce all costs. Main part is to encourage Anangu to use less electricity, and the solar is to reduce the diesel generator costs.

She said the amount that Anangu will pay is a lot less than Anangu in other remote areas pay. It won't start for more than a year. It is due to start on 1 July 2021.

SS spoke in language. She said next year so the solar panel will operate in 2021, and electricity charging of Anangu will start from 1 July 2021.

SS - will be helping with education – do we know how Anangu will be charged.

LC hope it to be similar to the Northern Territory. Will be using power cards and a bit like topping up mobile phone cards. We will need to work it out with Anangu and also to talk to communities about how it will be rolled out. I hope to talk to communities and individuals in person, possibly October/November this year. Then start education for Anangu next year then putting smart meters into homes.

BS said it sounds good but this has always been an issue on the lands with our people. Spoke in language. They work to pay rent, but when they do cultural activities and are away on the lands, sometimes they are suspended from Centrelink – need to be working with people in communities. If it happens on 1 July 2021 at the earliest there will be some confusion.

SS said yes, Mr Singer I wonder how power cards will work.

LC said I just want to say that charging will not start until 1 July 2021. We know people will want to know what is happening and we will take into consideration all cultural activities so we can take that into consideration. The programme is still being developed and we want feedback to help with that.

ED said she has just one question – how will they be notified?

LC the smart meters will be installed first and will allow you to use power cards.

Caroline said also as part of the education program we hope to go door to door to speak with residents.

LC said that's where Caroline and the team from Money Mob will help to inform and assist communities. They will help them on how to not use too much power so not too excessive.

*Discussion in language.*

SS said it is frustrating that this was started in 2012 and now we are a year out from where it is to start - one year. No discussion since 2017 – will have massive impact – how it will be impacting them.

LC said from the government side there have been many things which have delayed the program.

SS said people are already disadvantaged – this will make them more disadvantaged.

LC said we are aware of hardship and the program start up is a 3 year program – there had been previous discussions. This is the start of the discussions about this. Want to take back feedback – I know we said charging starts in July, when it starts it will be a very small amount, with concessions. This is a 3 year program and we want to provide as much support as we can.

OB said if we start to pay by power card where is the money going to? Is that going to government?

Caroline spoke in language.

LC said you ask about where the money goes. At the moment the cost of electricity is very expensive about 80c per kilowatt hour and the program costs more each year, so we need to reduce the amount to pay. At present APY electricity costs are \$6m per year to APY Lands.

Caroline said Mr Burton was asking about rent for housing. Nathan said the money for housing goes to SA Housing.

LC said that rent and electricity are separate. OB said the new system is starting in July 2021.

Nathan said yes at the moment electricity is costing \$6m per year paid by APY and this program will reduce the cost of supplying electricity.

OB spoke in language and he asked will that include police and teachers.

LC said one of the things to look at is that anyone who has a concession card will reduce the amount they pay. The idea is to give people education because people are using too much electricity.

OB asked what about those people in Adelaide? He spoke in language. We are on Centrelink.

SS said I think that is a decision for later – not for today. We are talking about power today.

MG said we are the first Aboriginal people to have freehold land.

GL spoke in language. In 2012 – I do not know if Richard might know about the study on the APY lands. Does APY Administration have the report or not? Richard do you know about the study in 2012 or 2017?

RKg said he has not seen any study or report.

LC said in 2012 study the government decided to take this action, and in 2017 another study was done on welfare of people on APY and the implementation and education of the program.

They took time to discuss this in 2019 when meeting in Adelaide with APY. That was when the government announced the programme.

GL said the community will be suffering when the government puts it in. We want to feed back what the community is saying, to the government. Already done in 2012 and 2017. That doesn't give Anangu members much time to think about where they will go. He said SA Housing is collecting rent but no new houses coming. It is everything about it. Is it part of local government – do APY collect money from local government? We should negotiate with the prime minister and cabinet and discuss with them.

*Discussion in language.*

SS said the main vibe from the board is it is disappointed that it is such a short time – only 8 months to work with Anangu. You guys need to have conversations with Community Councils. I think you have got to work with them. It needed to start 3 years ago. People have all sort of housing issues – now have electric stoves – needs to go to the Board.

LC said they appreciated the time is a concern. We want to go to the community. It is a 3 year program and we want to get out and educate people as soon as possible. We will take your feedback to the RAES Board and will work to get information out as soon as we can.

SS we have had Executive Board members say there are issues – where multiple people are having to pay rent for each person in the house. Need to be aware that Anangu swap houses all the time.

LC said Housing SA is very separate to us; we understand that Anangu move around and we want to work with communities. The power card will be attached to the house, not the person. We want to talk with communities in person. The sooner we can do it the better – so that people can ask the questions they need to.

GL said that in the past SA Housing at Umuwa and SA Housing in Adelaide last year talked about housing for community and the waiting list. SA Housing has been putting people into houses without asking the Community Council. It has been a problem really I think with Anangu housing and Community councils. We need a proper agreement with the Councils. He wanted an answer from the money mob. He said we need legal agreement with SA housing for houses.

Caroline said that is the big story and much bigger than the Money Mob. We all have to talk to SA Housing and government.

GL said Anangu have to control our own life. Still talking about closing the gap – 2012. Anangu have to control own lives. We have responsibility to make decisions for the community and Council. Have to get Scott Morrison to talk to us.

SS said Nyunmuti has something to say.

3.49pm

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NB spoke in language.

SS said I think, LC and her team and Caroline, the main thing that NB was talking about how difficulty housing payment is if you are on Centrelink. We know how all houses have all lights on. I think you need to be talking next to the Community Councils.

LC said yes, thanks for that summary. And we are aware of the concerns expressed and for people to think about 'if I leave my lights on this is how much it will cost', and the Money Mob are aware.

SS suggested you get translators and invest in them and their services to talk in language and pay them as a real job. LC said part of this program is employment particularly for Anangu to get jobs for them to educate other Anangu.

SS asked if any other points you want to add Richard.

RKg said no not at this point – people will have to pay for their electricity like the rest of the world.

SS Maybe we need to discuss this at our meeting.

RKg asked how would that work if people put solar on their own roofs?

Nathan said at the moment the solar will reduce diesel fuel costs by \$1m.

RKg asked if we put solar on our roofs.

Nathan said you need to look at safety of solar on roofs, and capacity – if you put solar panel on roofs it would be very expensive and what you would save would not cover the costs of installation.

LC said she would send the script of the video to the Board and get feedback which will be circulated.

SS said to send this script and information to Bonnie for the Community Councils.

She thanked LC and her team for attending the meeting.

SS asked Mr Lewis if he still wants to talk. You are the last on the agenda.

GL spoke in language. If anyone wants to work with me on the job my door is always open. *In language.* To work with the community. Letter to Prime Minister and Cabinet in Canberra to talk about self determination. *In language.*

SS said Mr Lewis and Scott Morrison – *in language.*

GL spoke *in language.* Discussion around Scott Morris's announcements about jobs for Anangu and for Chairman to send letter to Scott Morrison and Cabinet after Covid.

SS said it is for you to make your decision Mr Lewis. It would not come from me it would have to come from the Executive Board who would have to have a meeting to discuss that.

GL said Scott Morrison said he is going forward – *in language.*

SS said from this room we leave – *spoke in language*.

Chairperson closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 4.17pm.

Next meeting: July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020