



**SENATOR MEG LEES**

Australian Progressive Alliance  
Senator for South Australia

19 April 2005

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The Secretary  
Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs,  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

Thankyou for your invitation to provide the Committee with examples of positive economic developments in indigenous communities. I would like to draw your attention to a unique economic project in the Anangu lands in Central Australia.

In 2004 I was able to assist the Nyangatjatjara Aboriginal Corporation to successfully negotiate seed funding for a local industry, run out of Docker River in the Central Desert. The Wine Federation of Australia provided about \$50 000 to the Corporation to establish a camel mustering enterprise which exports meat to the Kingdom of Brunei and the Middle East.

This is a project which enables young people exiting the local secondary school to find work in the local area, contribute to the economic welfare of their community and reduce the numbers of camels in this fragile desert environment. It is an enterprise which is likely to have long term benefits for this remote area.

I enclose for your information exerpts from the business plan for this valuable endeavour, and invite the Committee to contact the Nyangatjatjara Aboriginal Corporation, as I believe it also provides an enterprise model for remote indigenous communities.

Sincerely

Senator Meg Lees  
Senator for South Australia