Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Arnhem Land Lease agreement

Senator: Senator Nova Peris
Question reference number: 230
Type of Question: Written
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Number of pages: 3
Question:

Senator PERIS: Thanks for that. My questions are around the consultation bit. To go back to Gunbalanya: when you went out there recently, on your website you put a press release about their historic Arnhem Land lease agreement. Are we able to obtain who the signatories to that MOU are?

Mr Stacey: Yes.

Senator Scullion: Certainly. Perhaps I can clarify that this is a two-stage process. The first stage is to have some community understanding and agreement, so there should be no confusion between the memorandum of understanding between the community members and some traditional owners and the final document, which would obviously only include traditional owners and would be, effectively, a part of the Northern Land Council process. But I am certainly happy to make that document available.

Senator PERIS: Okay

Answer:

The Statement of Commitment to negotiate a township lease at Gunbalanya including its signatories is at Attachment A.

Statement of Commitment

Joint acknowledgement of agreement to township lease negotiations at Gunbalanya

Subject to the requirements of section 19A of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* the traditional owners of the township of Gunbalanya and the Australian Government ('the parties') acknowledge that they are committed to township lease negotiations for the community of Gunbalanya.

Commitment to Traditional Owners

The Australian Government is committed to township lease negotiations with Gunbalanya traditional owners in good faith and subject to the requirements of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*.

Commitment from Traditional Owners

Gunbalanya traditional owners commit to township lease negotiations in good faith and in full knowledge of the intent and purpose of a township lease. Gunbalanya traditional owners commit to consider the benefits of a township lease for the whole community in the course of negotiations.

Commitment to Economic Development and Home Ownership

The parties are committed to achieving greater opportunities for economic development and home ownership in Gunbalanya and are committed to land administration which leverages traditional owners' great land wealth to support greater economic opportunities for traditional owners and the community.

Commitment to Township Lease Negotiations

The parties agree that a ninety-nine year township lease is the most effective way of achieving economic and commercial development in Gunbalanya.

Gunbalanya traditional owners agree to consider a revised township lease proposal put forward by the Australian Government in the next month.

The parties agree to commence the process for the negotiation of a township lease.

The parties agree to finalise negotiations for a township lease and execute a township lease, if agreed to, prior to 30 June 2014.

Legal relationship

The parties acknowledge and agree that no binding legal relationship will arise between them unless and until all the details of the agreement are settled and the township lease is executed by the township lease entity and the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Land Trust under section 19A of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*.

SIGNED AS AN AGREEMENT BY

Senator the Honourable Nigel Scullion,
Minister for Indigenous Affairs,
on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia

AND

Gunbalanya traditional owners

Wed 16th Oct 2013