

Central Land Council
Council Meeting
Held at Docker River

10/11th May 2005

DAY ONE

(tape 1)

Meeting opened by Chairman 9.30am

Docker River Delegates – Welcome to Country

Mr Brown

Roll Call by Joe Clarke – Quorum 64

Chairman/Executive's Report

Director's report – David Ross

ATSIC report - Alison Anderson

Morning Tea

LUNCH

Meeting closed 5.15pm

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DAY TWO

(Tape 4, side A)

Meeting opened by Chairman

Roll call by Joe Clarke – Quorum 76

D Ross *Reading through the agenda.*

Mining Resolutions – Rodger Barnes

Morning Tea

Local Government visit – Minister AhKit and Minister Toyne

Mr Brown Thank you. We might break for lunch. Thank you Ministers for visiting and Elliot too.

JAK I would like to say thank you. It has been a pleasure working with people like Mr Ross, the CLC Chairmen over the years, Patrick Dodson. I'm the struggle will go on and the fight will be taken up to the Commonwealth Government. All the best.

Lunch

Variation to Native Title Funding – Greg Borchers

Next meeting

D Ross I just want to ask you about the next meeting location. Do you want to have a think about it or shall we just continue with what was said last meeting and go to Bookie's place?

Decision made to go to Bookie's place.

Legal resolutions – David Avery

D Avery There are three more matters I have to deal with. Two of them are to do with Santos, which is the operator of Mereenie Oil Field reorganising it's internal structure and the last one is an authorisation for money that was received for the sale of cattle of Willowra, for that money to come out of the royalty trust account as needed.

The first item is the assignment of the interest in the Mereenie Pipeline lease from a company called Farmout Drillers Pty Ltd to Santos Limited and another group of companies called Canso Resources Pty Ltd, Transoil Pty Ltd, Petromin Pty Ltd, Santos Exploration Pty Ltd, and Moonie Oil Pty Ltd to Santos QNT Pty Ltd.

All these companies are owned by Santos but have different names. This has no effect what so ever on the TOs of the pipeline lease. It won't affect the rent or the operation of the pipeline or anything else to do with the TOs. It is simply a company reorganisation but because their names are on the lease we have to pass our approval for it. It's the oil pipeline from Mereenie to Alice Springs, that's what we are talking about here, crossing the five land trusts.

We did no consultations as there is no affect on the TOs.

G Williams I just want to ask, all that time the pipeline came through our land trusts I'm just disappointed that the office of CLC didn't try to change it over so that we become owner of those pipelines. It would make me happy if Aboriginals became owners of that pipeline. Then wherever that pipeline, whose ever land that goes through north to Darwin, then they become owner of that. Even through Ti Tree, the people of Ti Tree own the pipeline where it goes through the trust.

Did the office ever think of that? Or is somebody going to say you never asked? All these changing of hands why not Aboriginal names? I know you're going to say the gas is going to run out soon to back us off. Centrecorp owns some of those pipelines, we want to take it off Centrecorp and we want to own it.

I know we have a lot of smart people in the office, but surely, maybe one day it will happen.

D Avery I can't comment on that. You would have to come up with a few million dollars to buy these things. If I could just go over the resolution Mr Chairman?

Resolution Read: Santos Corporate restructure – Assignment of interests in Mereenie Agreement, Palm Valley Agreement

The Council notes the terms of the proposed assignments of interests in the CLC Mereenie Agreement and the CLC Palm Valley Agreement from various subsidiary companies to Santos and to Santos QNT Pty Ltd and authorises the execution of the Deeds of Assumption concerning the respective CLC Agreements by the affixing of the Council's common seal by the Chairman and at least one Executive member to each Deed.

Chairman You got anymore questions?

G Williams What I was saying, but there was a very wise crack there, that we would have to have millions of dollars to get back on to owning the pipeline. I didn't want that answer, maybe he answered my question to back me off. Maybe Centrecorp can own the pipe surely, it's coming through our land. A few times the business has come up for renewal but the office of CLC didn't even come and ask the people of Ntaria, Roulpmaulpma and Wallace Rockhole from us three groups there. The lease has run out, it's up for renewal, what you family groups want to do? I think it stinks a bit. When that renewal contract comes up to ask us what we want to do.

D Ross Can I say a few things. Firstly it is the companies that trade in the shares themselves in the company. They swap and sell between themselves. It is one company that they have shares in that own all the pipelines. You couldn't say you wanted to own that part on your land trusts, it is owned by one company. You would need to say you'd like a share in that company.

Next week when you go to the ABA meeting, one of the issues on the agenda will be the pipeline from Port Keats, through Katherine across to Nhulunbuy. That top end mob will be looking for support. You say to them yes, if that's what you want and when we want support for our side we'll expect you in return to support us. You want to put forward a proposal to get shares in the pipeline.

G Williams You finished? I don't want you to embarrass me. I'm not talking about the NLC. I am only talking about our land, I don't want you to put obstacles in front of me. I'm only talking about our part, that short distance. We don't hear a lot about Centrecorp owning a bit of that pipeline. Centrecorp could be helping us out. I don't want to feel embarrassed, I want good advice. I'm just wishing that the Chairman doesn't sign that with the common seal. It's only one delegate me. My concern is that you people from the office, you don't advise us things are coming up. What else can I say when you got no money, we might have to go to the Warlpiri Nations for money to become shareholders of that pipeline.

Chairman We need a mover.

Raelene Silverton I want to find out about that too. I just heard everything come out just today. What is happening with the pipeline funding? Is it going to Centrecorp and what are they going to do? Are they going to look after TOs of all that Land Trust area? Is it going to Centrecorp.

D Avery This is the oil pipeline and has nothing to do with Centrecorp.

R Silverton Then what's this old man talking about Centrecorp.

D Avery There is a bit of confusion about this, we are talking about the oil pipeline, not gas. Centrecorp has nothing to do with this pipeline at all.

R Silverton Well that oil pipeline is coming through our country as well. Two pipes are coming. What's happening then? You mob have to make it clear and talk to TOs. Don't just sit there. I've never seen any staff members going to my place.

- M Ryan What Mr Williams is saying, all he is asking you, and Mr Ross did explain about the pipeline. But I read in the paper that there was some shares up. But I think he deserves an answer as it goes through your land. He is an elected member and has the right to be answered by anybody on this side here. You are the bosses. You are the ones who are elected. I say it all the time, you are the bosses. Your people vote you in and you are expected to be given a reply that satisfies you. They ask here for resolutions, is that want you want? And two people put up and you all vote for them. I agree that you should be given an answer and this lady over here. The answer has got to be given, I don't know what it is, but if someone asks a question over here, if it's possible for anybody to answer them, then answer them.
- D Avery Mr Ross gave you an answer but you didn't like it. The money that started Centrecorp was raised by the workers, the staff of the CLC. They held a fundraiser, they put on a show at the Totem Theatre. With this money they gave to Centrecorp and bought shares in NT Gas. It has nothing to do with royalties. It came from the workers of the CLC, there was nothing devious about it. A lot of people have forgotten how that started. I'm not being critical of Ntjalka about all this, people forget these things. They (Centrecorp) has a very tiny share of NT Gas that owns the pipeline. This has nothing to do with the oil pipeline resolution here today.
- G Williams Well that's the first I've heard that the staff of CLC raised funds to buy shares in that. All those things are coming out now. We need to be kept informed. Even if you don't like some of the people on the communities, like me for example, I still need to know. If I'm being radical against you people, you still gotta let me know. I know one or two people in the office, we don't see eye to eye. It's only fair that we know. Why weren't we asked, we could have helped raise money.
- Chairman You clear on that one Ntjalka? Raelene?
- R Silverton I'm sorry if I said wrong. Another thing, we're still waiting for that Urana Land native title. We've been waiting six years now. What's wrong with you staff members? I trust you people and what takes such a long time?

I'll just remind everyone. This resolution is about transferring of interests in the Mereenie Pipeline Lease.

Resolution Read again.

Land Management Conference update – Sandy Marty

Communal Leasing

Meeting closed.