



SECURING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS
through appropriate technology

Centre for Appropriate Technology
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Wednesday, 26 August 2009

Your Ref
Our Ref .



Mr Bill Bannear
Acting Senior Research Officer
Senate Select Committee on Regional and Remote Indigenous Communities
SG.60. Parliament House.
Canberra. ACT. 2600.
Australia

Attention: Mr Bill Bannear

RE: Kurungal Council Funding Issues in Regards to Rubbish Tip Maintenance and the Purchase of a Rural Fire Fighting Trailer.

Dear Sir,

I believe that during the Senate Committee meeting held in the Kimberley, issues regarding the condition of the Kurungal Council's community rubbish tips and the purchase of a fire fighting trailer were of items of discussion.

Rubbish Tips

Centre for Appropriate Technology (CAT) currently provide municipal services to 48 remote aboriginal communities in the Kimberley under a FaHCSIA funding agreement. CAT have provided a similar service for many years. Over the past two – three years, the FaHCSIA funded CHIPS program has been administered by the WA State's, Department of Housing and Works (DHW).

Funding for Rubbish Tip Maintenance, Internal Road Maintenance, Firebreaks Maintenance and Airstrip Maintenance from the CHIPS funding for the past few years through DHW has ceased. When questioned regarding the funding for the above maintenance activities the response has been that their focus is on **housing and essential services** (power, sewerage treatment and water supply) **only**.

These maintenance activities, which have not been funded, have resulted in the infrastructure coming into disrepair and requires considerable funding to restore them to a serviceable condition.

Additional funding was granted last year for some rubbish tips but the funding was used to refurbish rubbish tips with a health issue, (eg old sewerage evaporation ponds being used as a waste site, or rubbish tips that are submerged during the wet season).

The Kurungal Council's community rubbish tips were not refurbished but require refurbishment because the existing trenches are full and rubbish is deposited on the surface.



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Fire Fighting Trailers.

CAT has over the past year applied for funding from FESA and Lotteries West, for the purchase and maintenance of a fire fighting trailer. Unfortunately both applications were rejected.

FESA was not in a position to support the funding to supply fire fighting trailer maintenance, if training in fire fighting, and fire fighting safety clothing and personal safety equipment was not included. This is understandable, but the funding available would not stretch to include these items.

Lotteries West declined to fund these types of items (Fire fighting trailer), suggesting that these items should be funded from Local Government. Kurungal Council is not directly funded or supported financially in any way by Local Government.

No other funding agency is in a opposition to supply funds for such items. Therefore this item is to be funded by the community.

Please contact me if you require any further information regarding these items.

Yours Sincerely

Craig Dunster
Regional Technical Manager Kimberley
Centre for Appropriate Technology