

**From:** Bill South

**Sent:** Friday, 10 August 2007 10:00 AM

**To:** Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)

**Subject:** Sad news from Robinson River for Senate inquiry

The Robinson River women completed their fencing contract last week. The Mungoorbada Aboriginal Corporation Council was planning to purchase materials so they could continue with other houses around the community. The uncertainty hovering over Aboriginal Communities at the moment meant that Council has to hold off on further fencing. It was my responsibility to tell the women yesterday that they no longer have a proper job. Understandably they were shattered.

This afternoon I have learned that Territory Housing, who look after the three staff houses for the Education Department and the Health Department, are bringing in outside non indigenous contractors to erect new fences around the three houses they control. The fences they are renewing have only been up for around 5 years yet they are using the same design.

Max Klarenbeek, our accountant, has just shown me a disturbing document that has equally bad ramifications. The Federal Government, through FACSIA, has a Tender Document on the Government Tender web site calling for contractors to come in and repair our houses. Looks like our resident indigenous carpenter and his gang are also about to get the chop.

I wonder if the community will just stand by and watch “whitefellas” take their jobs from them.

Is there no justice left in this world?

Bill South

CEO