



NEW SOUTH WALES

## MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Our Ref: 05F/0163-1

Reverend the Hon. Dr G. K. Moyes AC MLC  
Chair, General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Dr Moyes

At the Estimates Committee hearing of General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2, in relation to Aboriginal Affairs on Friday, 23 September 2005, both myself and the Director General of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs took a number of Questions on Notice.

I am pleased to provide the answers to those questions, which are outlined on the attachment to this correspondence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Milton Orkopoulos'.

Milton Orkopoulos MP  
**Minister for Aboriginal Affairs**  
**Minister Assisting the Premier on Citizenship**

17 October, 2005

## **ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2

Friday 23 September 2005-10-05 Examination of proposed expenditure for the portfolio area of Aboriginal Affairs

**Question: How much money has been spent by the State Labor Government on engaging contractors and government agencies to support the development of the Pemulwuy project?**

**Answer:** The Pemulwuy Project is a proposal by the Aboriginal Housing Company to redevelop the Block in Redfern and as was indicated at the Estimates Hearing, responsibility for this matter falls under the portfolio area of my colleague, the Minister for Redfern Waterloo, the Hon Frank Sartor. The question relating to overall State Government expenditure on this project should be referred to the Minister for Redfern Waterloo.

I am advised that the Department of Aboriginal Affairs has not directly spent any money on engaging contractors to support the Pemulwuy Project. However in January 2004 as part of the Department's discretionary grants program a grant of \$44,000 including GST was made to the Aboriginal Housing Company Limited to assist in funding a project manager to complete a master plan and detailed risk assessment.

**Question: How much has been paid to consultants or any others engaged in the inquiry?**

**Answer:** Total payments to contractors and consultants engaged in the review of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act from the announcement of the review on 26 May 2004 to 30 September 2005 are \$117,965.

**Question: How much money will be available for community building in Baryulgil, particularly for families suffering the effects of asbestos-related illnesses?**

**Answer:** An amount of \$935,000 has been expended for the upgrade of the water and sewerage systems. These include two new bores, which will improve the quality of water; a storage reservoir which will improve the security of supply during breakdowns; a chlorinator which will make the water supply safe; repairs of leaking water supply pipe work; additional water supply pipe work; major maintenance overhaul of sewerage system, including new pumping machinery and other mechanical equipment. Also included is a treatment plant. This work is being carried out under the Aboriginal Communities Development Program (ACDP). An amount of \$112,500 has also been provided to carry out urgent health, safety repairs and maintenance to more than 17 homes, under the Housing for Health program that is also part of the ACDP.

**Question: Under the ACDP, 22 Aboriginal communities have been selected to receive assistance through the Aboriginal Communities Development Program. What are the**

***needs for these communities (which have been identified) that are not currently receiving assistance?***

**Answer:** The Department of Aboriginal Affairs is facilitating a process under its *Two Ways Together* strategy to assess the needs of all other Aboriginal communities across NSW. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs will also assist in the development of strategies in partnership with Aboriginal communities and government, to address those needs.

***Question: What are the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) administrator's [Mr Chapman] qualifications?***

**Answer:**

Mr Chapman is well qualified to be the Administrator of NSWALC. He is an Aboriginal person from NSW with a strong background in public sector administration particularly regarding programs, policies and improved governance directed to economic, social and cultural development of Aboriginal Communities. In particular, Mr Chapman has been:

- A Senior Executive Officer in the Commonwealth Public Service with responsibility for Native Title and Land Rights Policies and Programs;
- The first Aboriginal General Manager of the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) with responsibility for management of the ILC, development and Implementation of Land Purchase and Land Management programs and policies and for the \$1.3bn Land Fund; and
- A consultant on change management and capacity building initiatives for a number of Aboriginal Organisations.

***Question: What is the administrator [Mr Chapman] of the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council's (NSWALC) total remuneration package?***

**Answer:**

When the Administrator was extended for his second year the Instrument detailed that the remuneration was to be \$1,200 per day plus GST, plus reasonable disbursements, which is the same as applied for the third year, recognising that it is not a full time position.

***Question: How much has been paid out to Aboriginal people through the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment (ATFR) Scheme?  
Has anybody been repaid their stolen wages since 2001?***

**Answer:** The role of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs is limited to the provision of the historical family records related to the claimant.

Responsibility for the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme does not reside within my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. It is suggested that this question be referred to the special Minister of State.

**Question:** *Did you raise the issue of taxation of compensation payments with the Commonwealth Government in 2001?*

*On what date was this issue raised with the Commonwealth?*

*Could you submit a copy of that correspondence?*

**Answer:** Please refer to my response to the previous question.

**Question: What are the short-term and long-term effects of ACDP in each of the 22 locations?**

**Answer:**

**PRIORITY COMMUNITIES (22 in total)**

**Emergency works on houses**

- Houses completed 256  
(30 Armidale, 5 Bourke, 1 Brewarrina, 39 Collarenebri, 10 Condobolin, 10 Coonamble, 2 Dareton, 7 Goodooga, 12 Gulargambone, 71 Kempsey, 65 Lightning Ridge, 3 Moree, 1 Tabulam)
- Currently underway 42  
(5 Tabulam, 37 Kempsey)

**House refurbishments**

- Houses completed 488  
(37 Armidale, 19 Bourke, 64 Brewarrina, 34 Cabbage Tree Island, 3 Collarenebri, 36 Coonamble, 35 Dareton, 24 Enngonia, 18 Goodooga, 30 Gulargambone, 72 Kempsey, 3 Lightning Ridge, 39 Moree, 5 Muli Muli, 8 Tabulam, 9 Toomelah-Boggabilla, 10 Wilcannia, 41 Walgett, 1 Weilmoringle)
- Currently underway 76  
(2 Armidale, 21 Collarenebri, 5 Coonamble, 2 Enngonia, 4 Goodooga, 12 Kempsey, 5 Lightning Ridge, 4 Muli Muli, 1 Tabulam, 4 Toomelah-Boggabilla, 16 Weilmoringle)

**Spot purchase houses**

- Houses purchased 85  
(8 Armidale, 5 Brewarrina, 8 Cabbage Tree Island, 2 Collarenebri, 6 Coonamble, 2 Goodooga, 4 Gulargambone, 28 Kempsey, 8 Moree, 3 Toomelah-Boggabilla, 10 Walgett, 1 Wilcannia)
- Currently underway 3  
(3 Moree)

**Build new houses**

- Houses built 74  
(5 Armidale, 5 Bourke, 12 Brewarrina, 6 Cabbage Tree Island, 10 Coonamble, 2 Dareton, 5 Gulargambone, 3 Moree, 2 Murrin Bridge, 2 Walgett, 22 Wilcannia)
- Currently underway 63  
(6 Armidale, 4 Bourke, 11 Brewarrina, 4 Cabbage Tree Island, 7 Coonamble, 3 Gulargambone, 4 Moree, 2 Murrin Bridge, 1 Muli Muli, 2 Tabulam, 8 Toomelah Boggabilla, 5 Weilmoringle, 6 Wilcannia)

**Estimate of people housed (New & Spot purchase houses)<sup>1</sup>**

Total Housed 636

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<sup>1</sup> Assumed 4 people per house.

**WATER & SEWERAGE (56 Schemes at the following communities)**

Completed Water Supply Projects (Range of projects from partial community extensions to full community facilities)

- Communities received to date 27  
(Armidale, Bellbrook, Bennelong Haven, 2 Brewarrina , Brungle, Dareton, Cabbage Tree Island Emergency and Main Works, Coffs Harbour, Collarenebri emergency, Corindi Beach, Cumeragunja Stages 1 & 2, Figtree Estate, 3 Kempsey, Loftus Road, Stuarts Point, 2 Moree, Murrays Flat, Pilliga, Tibooburra, Walcha – Summervale, Walhollow)

Completed Sewerage Projects (Range of projects from partial community extensions to full community facilities)

- Communities received to date 29  
(Armidale, Balranald, 2 Bellbrook, Bennelong Haven – Kinchella, Bilong House (Nowra), Brungle, Cabbage Tree Island Emergency and Main Works, Collarenebri emergency, Condobolin, Corindi, Cumeragunja, Cowra- Erambie, Fig Tree Estate, Grong Grong, Karuah, Loftus Road, Malabugilmah emergency, 2 Moree, Murrays Flat, Murrin Bridge emergency, Purfleet, Wellington, Stuarts Point, Tingha, Wallaga Lake, Wanaaring)

**APPRENTICES (The 22 Priority communities)**

- Construction Trades previously started 198
  - Landscapers previously started 24
- Total 222

***Question: Has the builder constructing new homes and renovations in Wilcannia gone broke?***

***How many of the 27 new homes have been finished?***

***On what date were people living in that part of Wilcannia relocated into caravans and out of town?***

***How many people in Wilcannia still have no permanent accommodation?***

**Answer:**

I am advised that the contractor is still active on site. 18 new homes have been finished. Residents of the houses being replaced were progressively moved to temporary accommodation between September 2003 and February 2004 in full consultation with those affected.

***Question: When did Jody Broun [director-general] visit Wilcannia? Was it in the past 12 months?***

**Answer:** Ms Broun last visited Wilcannia on 26 and 27 November 2003, accompanying the former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon Andrew Refshuage. However, representatives from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs visit Wilcannia on a regular basis. Maurice Stewart, Project Officer, Statewide Services, within the department's Communities and Programs division, has visited Wilcannia seven times in the past year and provides briefings to the Director General.

***Question: When has the director-general visited the Block? What were the purposes of those visits?***

**Answer:** The Director General has visited the Block on four occasions over the past twelve months to attend community forums.