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**WARNING:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are warned this publication may contain images of deceased persons.

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**Cover image credit:**

Mr Burton, Australia, c.1939 – 2017, Pitjantjatjara people, South Australia, *Anumara Tjukurpa*, 2008, Amata, South Australia, synthetic polymer paint on linen, 120.0 x 101.5 cm; Lillemor Andersen Bequest Fund 2008, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide.  
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Premier’s Foreword

The Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands is a spectacular part of South Australia. It was a privilege for State Cabinet to visit the region and be welcomed to experience Anangu culture, visit amazing communities and be immersed in the stunning ancient landscape.

During the three day Country Cabinet visit from 30 April to 2 May 2017, my Cabinet Ministers and I visited communities across the vast APY Lands. We spoke to hundreds of people, met with community leaders and heard from service providers about the key issues facing Anangu. We gained valuable insights into the matters of importance for the whole APY Lands and also those issues impacting individual communities.

Anangu told us they want better roads, upgraded community infrastructure and services that are easier to access. We also heard that APY community leadership is strong and that the APY Executive Board has promising plans for the future.

We were impressed by the focus the community has on securing a positive future for Anangu. APY Lands communities want a secure, healthy future for their children and the State Government is committed to work with the community to achieve these goals together. There is more work to be done, but young Anangu are already achieving some very impressive results in the areas of education and training, as well as making significant contributions to land management and heritage preservation programs.

This report summarises the issues raised during Country Cabinet and outlines what the State Government will do to address them and create meaningful change for the APY Lands.

The South Australian Government strongly supports the communities that live on the APY Lands and will continue to work to secure new opportunities for Anangu and secure the future of this important part of South Australia.

Jay Weatherill
Premier of South Australia
Foreword by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

Wai Polya! (Hello)

I’ve had the privilege of visiting the APY Lands many times since I became Minister. On each visit, I am struck by the good humour and resilience of Anangu, the vibrancy and complexity of their culture and the beauty of their country.

Many of my Cabinet colleagues have also visited the Lands over recent years but this was the first time that we had all travelled together, visiting communities and listening (kulini) to the voice of Anangu.

In community meetings, we heard about government services – health, schools, jobs and community safety – and what we must do to make these services better; to build a strong future for Anangu children (tjitji).

We also heard from community about the importance of strong APY governance and leadership. In my view, this is the cornerstone for effective representation and advocacy.

The APY Executive Board represents all Anangu in conversations with government. I am pleased that – following the Board election in April 2017 – there is now gender balance on the Board. The State Government looks forward to working with the new members of the Board – tjilpis (men) and kungkas (women) – to ensure that the outcomes from the Country Cabinet visit are implemented.

Kyam Maher
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation
**Introduction**

The APY Lands is home to almost 2,500 Anangu who have a continuous and deep relationship with the land stretching back tens of thousands of years. The landscape of the APY Lands is spectacular and Anangu are proud custodians of their land.

The communities on the APY Lands are dynamic and unique. There is much for APY Lands communities to be very proud of: some excellent educational achievements by local students, flourishing art centres, innovative land management projects and many other successes.

There are some challenges and there is more work that needs to be done by governments working together with the community to achieve a healthier, more secure future for Anangu. Working together, we will achieve even more success for the APY Lands.

This report outlines our response to the issues raised by the community during our visit for the APY Lands Country Cabinet.

In addition to the actions detailed in this report, a number of issues have been referred for additional action to the APY Lands Steering Committee which comprises representatives from APY council and State and Commonwealth Government agencies. The Committee will be responsible for implementation of this response and continuing to progress these issues over the longer term. The Committee will provide a status report to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation every three months until all issues are resolved.

**Country Cabinet**

From 30 April to 2 May 2017, Premier Jay Weatherill and Cabinet Ministers visited the APY Lands. It was the second Country Cabinet held in 2017, as part of the Government’s Charter for Stronger Regional Policy.

There was a strong attendance at the Country Cabinet events across the three days, including more than 250 people attending the community barbecue and public forum held in Umuwa on Monday 1 May. Cabinet Ministers visited various communities in the APY Lands and Anangu had the opportunity to raise issues and ideas for the region directly with the Premier and Ministers.

Cabinet met with the APY Executive Board in Umuwa and with Community Councils across the APY Lands. Cabinet Ministers also met with community members and local service providers during visits to Pukatja, Pipalyatjara, Fregon, Amata, Mimili, Indulkana and Kenmore Park.

**Country Cabinet events included:**

- A cultural welcome in Umuwa for Ministers and government staff
- Meeting with the APY Executive Board
- Meeting with NPY Women’s Council
- Meeting with MoneyMob
- Meetings with Community Councils
- Meetings with service providers and community organisations
- A community barbecue and public forum in Umuwa attended by more than 250 people
- Visits to sacred sites
- Visits to land management projects
- Visits to schools, clinics, community stores and arts centres
Anangu raised a range of issues during Cabinet’s visit. These included road safety and maintenance, community and emergency services and environmental protection. The community asked for more work to be done to improve local health services and community safety, and wanted improved interpreter services so that Anangu could access government services more easily.

A major source of frustration and angst, from Anangu and service providers alike, was Mintabie and its effect on broader APY communities. We heard allegations that store owners took advantage of Anangu by charging exorbitant prices for goods, selling second-hand motor vehicles on book-up and engaging in other unscrupulous behaviours.

This report gives a snapshot of the State Government’s response. While it is not an exhaustive list of the State Government’s work in the APY Lands, it outlines our commitment to work with the APY Executive Board, local communities and service providers to build stronger, healthier and safer APY Lands communities.
Additional funding and services provided for the region

During the APY Lands Country Cabinet, the State Government announced funding for a range of projects and businesses across the Lands. Since our visit, the State Government has announced more projects and funding to better support the community in areas such as employment, housing, health services, transport and interpreting services.

This report details a range of measures the State Government has put in place to address the issues raised by the community during Country Cabinet. Some highlights include:

- **$770,000** for Nganampa Health Council to purchase seven ambulances for the APY Lands
- **$1 million** for NPY Women’s Council to deliver a two-year Domestic and Family Violence Program
- **A new 35 per cent** Anangu employment target for housing maintenance work on the APY Lands totalling almost $29 million
- **$2.3 million** to establish a South Australian Aboriginal Interpreter Service based in Port Augusta and Adelaide
- **$800,000** through a partnership with Telstra to upgrade internet services at APY Lands schools
- **$300,000** for MoneyMob Talkabout to expand their financial counselling services in the APY Lands
- **$320,000** to improve the security of accommodation for Art Centre Managers in seven communities across the APY Lands
- **$55,000** to replace damaged street lights
- **$121,000** for back-up generators for the Pipalyatjara and Pukatja stores
- **$100,000** for projects developed by secondary students at Anangu Education schools that will enhance community wellbeing
- **A range of training and employment programs** for Anangu in construction and community development and a 30 per cent Anangu employment target for the APY Lands Main Access Road Upgrade Project.

More detail on these announcements and our response to other issues raised during Country Cabinet is contained in this report.
The APY Lands has a range of training and employment support services locally, but unemployment rates are still very high. Employment and future employment opportunities, in particular for Anangu youth, were key issues raised by communities across the APY Lands. It was reported that it is difficult for Anangu to access employment after finishing training courses and that there are generally limited employment opportunities for Anangu on the APY Lands. The community was particularly concerned about examples in which young Anangu had completed their studies, but the jobs they were qualified for were being filled by non-Anangu.

**New job opportunities for Anangu**

The State Government is committed to working with the APY Executive Board and organisations on the APY Lands to provide training that leads to jobs for Anangu. The State and Federal Governments have allocated $106.25 million for the APY Main Access Road Upgrade Project. This project requires a minimum 30 per cent local Anangu employment. At the end of June 2017, the project had achieved 32 per cent Anangu employment. 75 Anangu jobs will be created over the life of the project. All tenderers for road contracts must submit an employment plan detailing how they will engage with local Anangu and businesses to meet the 30 per cent employment target. The State Government has also delivered two training programs to build Anangu skills and job readiness to support sustainable employment. 60 Anangu are undertaking Work Zone Traffic Management training and 75 Anangu are undertaking White Card Construction training.

To complement the Anangu employment and training targets of the APY Main Access Road Upgrade Project, the State Government has announced that the housing maintenance contract on the APY Lands will require 35 per cent minimum employment of Anangu. Almost $29 million has been allocated for housing maintenance on the APY Lands, making this a significant source of new jobs for Anangu. To assist Anangu employees in carrying out the required work, TAFE SA is working closely with employers to provide relevant training to support their employment. This includes completing workplace documents and meeting legislative requirements, such as manual handling and first aid. TAFE SA will also continue to employ local staff directly and support Anangu with work readiness, job application and recruitment process skills.

The State Government is also exploring employment opportunities for local Aboriginal people as part of the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The $10 million growth in funding for the NDIS will create approximately 100 new jobs across the far north of South Australia, including for Aboriginal people. This ranges from self-employment (with support), where local people are delivering direct support to Aboriginal NDIS clients, or employment with existing Aboriginal health or aged care providers. Training and work readiness supports would be available to local people to fill local jobs under NDIS service delivery.

**Improving pathways from training to employment**

The State Government’s Aboriginal Apprenticeship Program (AAP) supports the placement of Aboriginal people into apprenticeships, traineeships and school-based traineeships/apprenticeships across South Australia. AAP provides financial incentives, culturally appropriate support and advice to employers and industry on recruitment and retention strategies for Aboriginal people.
Local training support includes the Trade Training Centre at Umuwa on the APY Lands, which offers VET courses to school students and provides a range of courses to Anangu adults. The Trade Training Centre plays a large part in the completion of SACE for Anangu students. TAFE SA delivers work readiness programs on the APY Lands, including skills for applying for jobs. Community lecturers also promote employment vacancies, including positions with Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia. Support to pursue these employment opportunities include visits to Ayers Rock Resort and involvement by the Resort in the ‘Anangu Schools Cook Off’ competition. The Cook Off will be held at the APY Trade Training Centre on 1 November 2017.

Support for new businesses
During Country Cabinet it was suggested that with the State Government’s support, local people could pursue start-up and small business opportunities. The State Government will work with the community to determine the specific support needs and opportunities for people who are looking at starting up a new business. TAFE SA is also able to deliver small business training and parts of this can be incorporated into other training programs.

New accommodation to support students studying in Adelaide
Ninti Ngura will be a new accommodation facility in Adelaide for young Aboriginal people from remote South Australia who are undertaking tertiary study or vocational training. A site for the new 20 student facility is expected to be secured later this year, with construction to commence in April 2018. Funded through the National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing, Ninti Ngura will target students over the age of 18 and will provide a range of personal development and mentoring support services.

Training and Career Pathways for Land Management Staff
The State Government is exploring how Land Management programs can become a source of long-term employment for Anangu. State Government and APY Land Management staff are working with the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board to identify new opportunities for career pathways in the Land Management sector. TAFE SA is also working closely with APY Land Management to recognise the skills and knowledge of the Anangu rangers and promote training specifically relevant to women. As at 1 June 2017, there were nine rangers in the Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management and six rangers in the Certificate III. Having Anangu rangers with these qualifications provides a starting point for a career pathway.

Support for Arts Centres
To support the work of the APY Arts Centres, the State Government has committed a further $320,000 to undertake security upgrades to the Art Centres and the staff accommodation in seven communities across the APY Lands.

The Commonwealth Government’s Department of Communications and the Arts provides funding for APY Art Centres’ operational and administrative services and managers’ salaries. The State Government recommends that Tjala Arts write to the Commonwealth Government to request additional financial support and assistance to increase the size of their facility.
Services that support the health and wellbeing of Anangu are essential throughout the APY Lands. The remote location of the communities on the APY Lands presents a unique challenge for health and wellbeing services. The State Government is committed to working with APY communities and service providers to ensure a high standard of care is provided to all Anangu across the Lands. Community safety is an ongoing concern and some services’ staff have requested support to assess the safety of their accommodation.

Local communities raised the need for improved services at medical clinics. Amata and Mimili have requested additional services to assist people to stay healthy and regular visits by nurses have been requested for Kenmore Park. Disability access ramps over roadside gutters were requested in Amata to assist those people who use wheelchairs and mobility scooters. Local communities expressed the need for permanent Dialysis Treatment Facility and raised the question of whether a Suicide Prevention Network could be developed for the APY Lands. There are also challenges for people who need mental health services who regularly move between communities and across the Northern Territory border.

**New ambulances for the APY Lands**

The State Government is providing $770,000 to Nganampa Health Council to buy a fleet of seven new ambulances for the APY Lands. The new ambulances will be equipped to deal with the terrain across the region and all will have on-board GPS trackers. The fleet will be stationed in different communities across the APY Lands.

**Fund My Idea: engaging young Anangu to improve community wellbeing**

Fund My Idea is a grant program delivered in each region that hosts a Country Cabinet. Fund My Idea provides funding for projects that deliver benefit to the community. Through the APY Lands round of Fund My Idea $100,000 will be provided for projects that deliver economic or social benefit for APY Lands communities.

Secondary students from Anangu Education schools will work together to propose, develop and implement projects to improve wellbeing in the community. The students will develop 10 project proposals focusing on improving outcomes for children, young people and their communities. The $100,000 will be divided equally between 10 school sites: Amata, Indulkana, Kenmore Park, Pipalyatjara, Fregon, Mimili, Pukatja, Oak Valley, Yalata and Murputja.

**Supporting people with mental illness**

South Australia’s Chief Psychiatrist is working with APY Lands communities, Nganampa Health, SA Police, SA Ambulance Service and the Royal Flying Doctor Service to strengthen service coordination and collaboration for people subject to Mental Health Community Treatment Orders. Amendments to the Mental Health Act 2009 have enabled more effective management of people with mental illness who regularly move between South Australia and other states. The Mental Health and Emergency Services Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed shortly and will introduce new mental health protocols for the APY Lands.
Wesley LifeForce has been commissioned by the Federal Government to establish suicide prevention networks in the APY Lands within a two-year timeframe. The State Government is also exploring how the Aboriginal-specific network established in Mount Gambier might be linked to APY Lands networks to provide additional support.

**Improving health clinic services**

The State Government will continue to work with Nganampa Health Council to explore opportunities for improved services at the Amata Clinic and for regular visits by nurses to Kenmore Park. The State Government has advised the Federal Department of Health of the community’s request to replace or expand the health clinic at Mimili.

**Dialysis services for the APY Lands**

The Federal Government funded Western Desert Nganampa Walytija Palyantjaku Tjutaka Aboriginal Corporation (Purple House) to develop, build and operate a permanent dialysis facility for the APY Lands in Pukatja, which is due to be completed by June 2018. Purple House will fund the service for the first year. The State Government will continue funding it from July 2019.

**Supporting people with disability**

Bathrooms at the Independent Living Units in Amata will be upgraded to improve the accessibility for people with limited ability. The upgrades will commence in July 2017.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), has been working with APY communities since the commencement of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) trials in 2013 to ensure culturally appropriate service models are in place for APY communities. The State Government, Northern Territory Government and NDIA, will continue to work together to ensure joint action in the development of the Central Australian disability service market. This includes focusing on Indigenous economic participation and employment.

**Reducing domestic and family violence**

In May 2017 it was announced that the State Government would provide $1 million for NPY Women’s Council to deliver a two-year Domestic and Family Violence Program. The aim of the program is to reduce family violence in remote communities. It will also support families who need to navigate the justice system.

**Disability access ramps needed in community**

Skill Hire is installing ramps in Amata so that people in wheelchairs can access community venues such as the church, art centre and store. The construction of the ramps will provide an employment and training opportunity for Anangu under the Commonwealth’s Community Development Program.
Community Services

Community services are crucial for the health and wellbeing of Anangu. To support APY Lands communities effectively, service providers must coordinate their efforts to ensure people’s needs are met effectively. Some members of the community are seeking greater support for homelands, including how to access maintenance services for homelands housing. The community is seeking information about community housing maintenance programs, including for repairing and replacing housing. Cabinet was told by residents and service providers that many of the operations at Mintabie were detrimental to the wellbeing of Anangu, and that change was required. More support was also sought for financial literacy programs, including for car buyers, to provide Anangu with safe credit options.

Maintaining community housing

Investment in maintenance promotes healthy and safe living environments and extends the life of the house. The volume of maintenance completed at Housing SA properties on the APY Lands has increased since the commencement of the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH) in 2008. This financial year all six houses managed by Housing SA at Kenmore Park will have major refurbishment works carried out as part of the current NPARIH program, commencing in October 2017. It is anticipated that work on all properties will be completed by no later than March 2018.

Homelands housing maintenance

Funding for maintenance is prioritised for large overcrowded communities, with lease arrangements and tenancy agreements with Housing SA. Housing SA does not hold tenure on APY homelands, however a base level of emergency maintenance services (health and safety) is provided to APY Lands homelands dwellings that are located within 30 kilometres of a larger service community and maintain a permanent pattern of residency. Requests for maintenance of homelands housing can be made by calling the Umuwa office on 8954 8188 or 8954 8199.

Improving collaboration between service providers

The APY Lands Steering Committee is a forum where APY council and State and Commonwealth agencies work together to improve service delivery. The committee provides a forum for inter-agency collaboration and develops partnerships for improved service delivery. The APY communities of Pipalyatjara, Amata, Pukatja, Fregon, Mimili and Indulkana also have regular service provider meetings. An idea being considered to support better coordination is a new multidisciplinary approach, which would place a housing worker with a health worker, drug and alcohol, and other support services into a team within communities. This would amalgamate resources and provide a wraparound service.

The Child Safety and Wellbeing Sub-Committee is a strategic action group whose purpose is to oversee child safety and wellbeing on the APY Lands. The Sub-Committee provides advice and reporting on programs and activities to the APY Lands Steering Committee and promotes greater collaboration between agencies. This helps to improve the quality, efficiency and targeting of services that improve child safety and wellbeing in the APY Lands. There are also ongoing efforts to build Anangu governance capability to expand the community’s participation in service design and delivery. This includes multi-agency working and inter-agency guidelines around child protection.
New South Australian Interpreter Service

In June 2017 the State Government announced it will provide $2.3 million over four years to establish a South Australian Aboriginal Interpreter Service. This will build on the existing service already provided on the APY Lands. It will improve service delivery to Aboriginal South Australians by increasing the pool of interpreters across regional and metropolitan South Australia.

Review of the Mintabie Township Lease Agreement

In 2016, the Federal Court found that a Mintabie store owner (Mr Lindsay Kobelt) engaged in credit activity by selling vehicles by way of book-up without holding a licence and engaged in a system of conduct or pattern of behaviour that was unconscionable with respect to his book-up system.

In response, the State Government will review the Mintabie Township Lease Agreement in partnership with APY and the Federal Government, with a possible outcome of returning ownership and management to traditional owners.

A new commercial licence policy was publicly released on 1 June 2017 that introduces new requirements for licence applicants. The policy also prevents the use of book-up in any store in Mintabie.

More funding for MoneyMob programs

The State Government has announced a grant of $300,000 for MoneyMob Talkabout to expand their financial counselling services for Anangu. This is in addition to $58,000 already committed by the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion in 2017/18 and in 2018/19 to support this work. MoneyMob will now be able to deliver more extensive financial literacy education to Anangu and increase the number of low interest loans delivered on the APY Lands.

Financial literacy support for car buyers

On 6 August 2017 the State Government launched a state-wide campaign about buying a car. One of the new resources being distributed as part of this campaign is a checklist for consumers. The “Be Smart - Buy Smart” booklet for Aboriginal consumers also includes a chapter on buying a car. These resources will be distributed during the APY Lands Super Expo on 9 - 13 October 2017. The Expo will also provide information on other consumer issues including mobile phone contracts and births, deaths and marriages matters. Mai Wiru Regional Stores Aboriginal Corporation is also investigating the possibility of establishing an enterprise to enable Anangu to purchase affordable cars from places like Marla.
Anangu Education schools are highly valued by APY Lands communities. Schools support young people and their families with education and training, but also help to support community health and wellbeing.

The community wants to increase the attendance rate of children at school and would like to know if different approaches to behaviour management might help to keep more students in the classroom. The State Government is working with the Commonwealth Government to increase school attendance on the APY Lands. Further improvement in literacy and numeracy is also a priority. Anangu want more young people to complete their South Australian Certificate of Education and then be linked to training and employment opportunities after they leave school.

Local communities want more services and activities to be made available to young people outside of school hours, in particular for children under 12 years old. The Pukatja community has requested support to replace their Youth Shed which will allow for additional youth services to be delivered to the community. The State and Commonwealth Governments have collaborated to develop a proposal which is subject to funding approval. Service providers are also seeking a faster process for reporting child protection issues.

Better internet services for schools

The State Government is partnering with Telstra to deliver over $800,000 in upgrades to internet services in nine APY Lands schools. Schools will be equipped with fibre optic broadband to improve the speed and quality of their internet connection. These upgrades will enable schools to deliver better digital education practices for their students and participate in key initiatives, such as National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) Online and the rollout of information sharing systems. Once the upgraded services have been implemented, there is the opportunity to provide access to the school’s new high speed internet service to the broader community.

New traineeships for school students

A new school-based traineeship program is giving local high school students a head-start for a career in construction and community development through the APY Lands Main Access Road Upgrade Project. The first intake for the program has eight students who work one day a week on the project, undertaking practical work on-site that aligns with the competencies of either a Certificate II in Civil Construction or Certificate III in Community Development. Students undertaking Certificate III in Community Development complete practical work by working in the front office of their respective schools. The 12 to 18-month traineeship encourages students to remain at school and contributes to their South Australian Certificate of Education.

Supporting early years learning

The State Government works closely with schools on the APY Lands to put in place extra support for their students. The State Government is trialing a Families as First Teachers early learning program in the APY Lands for children aged 0-3 years and their families. Families as First Teachers has a focus on adult:child interactions and is based on similar programs in the Northern Territory and Queensland. The trial is being implemented through supported playgroups and aims to improve a range of learning outcomes, including literacy and numeracy skills, as well as transition to preschool.
**Improving schools’ behaviour management strategies**

The State Government supports a behaviour management strategy that assists students to be engaged in safe learning environments. The State Government is currently working with key stakeholders to update the current Behaviour Support policy and procedures. The aim is to ensure classrooms are safe, supportive learning spaces and keep more children engaged at school.

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**New Anangu Lands Education and Child Development Strategy**

The Anangu Lands Education and Child Development Strategy 2017-2020 is jointly managed by the Department for Education and Child Development and Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Education Committee (PYEC) (community representatives of each of the Anangu communities). The new strategy provides a strong focus on community/parent engagement with preschools and schools. Information about the new strategy has been provided to each of the Anangu communities.

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**Out of school hours activities for children**

Anangu Education Services, in partnership with the SANFL, are developing an out of hours coordinated activities program to be trialled in four locations across the APY Lands. The trial programs will commence in the second half of 2017 at Indulkana, Pukatja, Amata and Yalata. Following community consultation in 2016, the PYEC Strategic Plan has prioritised the need to deliver school holiday programs, starting with primary aged students. A strong hands-on learning program with a literacy and numeracy focus is currently being designed.

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**Faster reporting for child protection issues**

The Child Safety Pathway is aimed at implementing a new way of receiving calls to the Child Abuse Report Line (CARL) and where safe to do so, referring matters that don’t necessarily require investigation to a newly formed Multi-Agency Assessment Unit. The proposed model will use a dedicated call team, including Aboriginal Family Practitioners, to more efficiently receive reports of suspected child abuse to the appropriate area of the system and ultimately evaluate a streamlined process of providing an early response to incoming calls before they are abandoned. The model is proposed to commence early financial year 2017/18 and will be assessed over a 12 month trial.
APY Lands communities need well maintained roads to make sure people can travel safely. The community has asked for a number of roads to be upgraded to reduce flooding and damage after heavy rain. The community is concerned about safety and road conditions on numerous roads on the APY Lands, including from Amata to Pipalyatjara, Amata to Umuwa, Pukatja to Kenmore Park, Pukatja to Fregon and Pipalyatjara to Kalka. The community also wants to understand more about how the Main Access Road Upgrade Project will benefit the community. There are some concerns the project does not include Amata or other APY Lands communities further west.

**APY Lands Main Access Road Upgrade Project**

The main access road between the Stuart Highway and Pukatja is used by more than 60 per cent of the APY population and at times is flooded and inaccessible. The road upgrade will improve safety and travel times between the communities and will reduce the impacts of heavy rain in the region. The upgrade will assist with improved access to health services, training and employment opportunities, and increasing opportunities for tourism. As part of the project, a number of community access roads and watercourse crossings will also be reconstructed and sealed.

The APY Lands Main Access Road Upgrade Project is giving local high school students a head-start for a career in construction through a new school-based traineeship program. The project, which is upgrading more than 230 kilometres of roads in the APY Lands, gives students the opportunity to work one day a week on-site and undertake practical work that aligns with competencies of Certificate II in Civil Construction.

While the Main Access Road Upgrade Project is improving the main road on the eastern side of the APY Lands the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI)’s maintenance program (which usually covers the main road that spans the APY Lands from east to west) is concentrating on the sector of road from Amata to Pipalyatjara.

**Road maintenance and reconstruction**

The State Government works closely with the APY Executive Board to maintain APY Lands roads. There has recently been an increase in grading on the APY Lands Main Access Road between Pukatja and Umuwa due to construction traffic.

Approximately 40 kilometres of the Amata to Umuwa Road has been identified as requiring reconstruction. The State and Federal Governments are funding a project to reconstruct approximately 20 kilometres in the 2017/18 financial year. Construction is scheduled to commence in August 2017. 15 kilometres of reconstruction works has also commenced on the road between Pipalyatjara and Kalka, which is scheduled to be completed by September 2017.

Consent is also currently being sought to undertake works to repair a one kilometre section of the Pukatja to Kenmore Park Road that was damaged during severe weather.
Emergency Services

Emergency Services keep people safe and healthy. Living in remote South Australia can be challenging, as some services aren’t as readily available as they are in other areas. Anangu raised concerns about the availability of Police and requested Police stations for Pipalyatjara and Fregon. There is a desire to have more Community Constables on the APY Lands, with concerns raised that Police were sometimes unavailable or unable to support community members in times of emergency. There is a perception from some members of the community that Police need to more actively enforce APY Lands by-laws.

APY Lands Police stations and staffing
SA Police (SAPOL) maintains a constant police presence across the APY Lands with police stations located at Murpatja, Amata, Mimili and Pukatja. There are currently 23 full time Police officer positions and 10 Community Constable positions allocated for the APY Lands (including current vacancies). In addition, there are five Police officers based at Marla who are responsible for policing the Indulkana Aboriginal community and Mintabie township. The Commissioner of Police has no current plans to increase the number of Police officers on the APY Lands.

SAPOL are continuing to identify ways to increase the amount of time officers can spend policing in communities. This includes trying to reduce the amount of time Police have to spend doing other duties, such as transporting prisoners.

Recruiting for vacant Community Constable positions
As of June 2017 there are 10 traditional Community Constable (TCC) positions based on the APY Lands with three of the 10 filled. The SAPOL Aboriginal Community Constable Coordinator maintains a proactive strategy to recruit TCCs through regular personal visits to the APY Lands targeting potential employees. In addition, operational staff actively encourage potential community members to apply for positions as TCCs. SAPOL will continue to employ recruitment strategies to entice Aboriginal people into SAPOL employment including; client targeting, advertising locally through community stores and administrative offices, school visits and visits to other employment areas.

Police acting on by-laws
The by-laws are specific to the APY Lands and aim to protect the health, wellbeing and safety of the population. The most dominant by-laws offence relates to the possession and consumption of alcohol. Police consistently enforce the standard that possession and consumption of alcohol will not be tolerated in the APY Lands. Particular attention is paid to the purchasing and movement of alcohol from communities outside the APY Lands onto the APY Lands.

The by-law offence of gambling is an ongoing issue for APY Lands communities, causing a significant social impact with money used for gambling rather than for food for the family and children.

The Commonwealth Government supported APY Lands Gambling Treatment and Prevention Training, which took place from 24 July to 4 August 2017 in communities across the APY Lands. A team from Flinders University has been running the Aboriginal Problem Gambling project for 10 years in Adelaide and Ceduna, and recently adapted it for the APY Lands.
Policing in Fregon

Policing of Fregon is done by the Mimili-based Police officers, supported by officers from Umuwa. Officers from Mimili hold community safety meetings, undertake motor vehicle and licence enquires, and attempt to resolve any disputes between local community members through mediation and consultation. There is no police station complex or permanent police accommodation in Fregon, however, there is a “police shed” which provides basic amenities for visiting officers and provides a location for the taking of statements and meeting community members.

Availability of Police in Mimili

There is a perception within the Mimili community that if the police vehicle is in the police compound, the officers must be in the station. At times, members may be on patrol or attending to other calls for police service in another police vehicle. Police officers based in Mimili respond to calls for police services, however, these officers also respond to incidents in the Fregon community. Offenders who are remanded in custody for an offence that occurs on the APY Lands are required to be taken to the Coober Pedy Police Station for processing. At times, because of its location on the APY Lands, Mimili officers are involved in the transportation process of offenders and this can create some periods of absence from their home station.

The request for the provision of an alarm to be rung by community members would not enhance service delivery to the community, especially if the officers are absent from their station. Although community members are reluctant to call the designated police telephone numbers 131444 or 000, this is the most practical option for police attendance. The police communication centre or the Port Augusta police station can advise the Officer in Charge of the APY Lands and an assessment can be made in relation to police attendance. SAPOL will continue an education program with all APY Lands communities in relation to the use of 131444 or 000.
Governance and Land Rights

The State Government works closely with the APY Lands community to ensure that the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981 is upheld, whilst also assisting with development opportunities and services on the Lands.

During Cabinet’s visit concerns were raised by some community members about the current Land Rights Act and a perception that it doesn’t work towards increasing independence for Anangu. There are also concerns about the clauses in relation to mining activity and the role of the community in decision making. The community would like to see Community Councils more directly involved in decision making and allocating funding for community services.

Ensuring the APY Land Rights Act 1981 meets the community’s needs

The State Government is open to the APY Executive Board making suggestions about the operation of the Act. A major review was undertaken in 2013 and enacted by Parliament in 2016. Government is open to further changes or improvements to the Act, if suggestions arise, to continue strong governance across the Lands.

Process for approval of mining tenements

Under Section 21 of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981 the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy cannot grant a mining tenement unless the applicant has permission from the APY Executive Board to carry out mining operations on the APY Lands. Before granting permission, the APY Executive Board must consult with relevant traditional owners affected by the proposal. The Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy must give the APY Executive Board a reasonable opportunity to make submissions relating to whether the tenement should be granted, before granting a mining tenement in relation to the APY Lands.

Community services funding

The Commonwealth Government has responsibility for provision of municipal services in the APY Lands. The Commonwealth Government has funded Regional Anangu Services Aboriginal Corporation (RASAC) to provide these services and it is unlikely these arrangements will change in the near future. 2017/18 will see the continuation of the Community Administration Support Officer Program. This is a partnership between the State and Federal Governments with the purpose to provide administration support for Community Councils.
Technology is constantly evolving and becoming an essential part of day to day life across the APY Lands. Communities on the APY Lands raised the need for additional or upgraded communication services, such as better mobile coverage across the Lands. Improved mobile coverage will be of significant benefit for APY Lands communities. The roll-out of an expanded mobile network also needs to be supported by education about phone contracts and services.

Expanding mobile phone coverage across the APY Lands
The Commonwealth Government’s Mobile Black Spot Program will provide mobile phone coverage in Amata, Pipalyatjara, Umuwa, Fregon, Mimili and Indulkana with construction scheduled for completion by the end of 2017. Community members from other areas - particularly Kanpi and Nyapari - are also seeking coverage to be expanded to include their communities. The State Government understands the regional priority for the Mobile Black Spot Program on the APY Lands has been to service the larger APY communities. The State Government is not aware of any plans to include smaller communities and has raised this issue with the Commonwealth Government.

With expanded mobile phone coverage, many more Anangu will be likely to enter new mobile phone contracts. MoneyMob, with funding from Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC), will implement a "loans and phones" project during 2017/18 which will provide education and information to Anangu to support them to make an informed choice about mobile phone contracts. Should Anangu have a complaint about the conduct of a telecommunications provider, the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman deals with any disputes surrounding mobile phone contracts. Complaints can be directed to the Telecommunications Ombudsman at: 1800 062 058 or via www.tio.com.au.

Reducing cyber bullying
The State Government is committed to safe and supportive school communities, including Anangu schools to support cyber safety initiatives in 2017. Funding for this initiative is a part of an agreement with the Commonwealth Government to improve online safety amongst school communities. It is understood the Commonwealth Government will fund PY Media to deliver a Cyber Bullying Project targeting secondary school students and their families, as well as Anangu Education Workers and Anangu community leaders.

South Australia Police (SAPOL), in partnership with the Australian Federal Police, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Microsoft and Datacom have developed a ThinkUKnow program to reduce cyber bullying. SAPOL is delivering the ThinkUKnow program to parents/carers, teachers and students across the APY Lands.

Improving the reliability of electricity supply
The majority of blackouts on the APY Lands are caused by issues in the distribution network (poles and wires). In early 2017 an assessment was undertaken focussing on maintaining and improving the quality and reliability of the network. Cowell Electric have been engaged to repair and upgrade distribution equipment identified as faulty or needing repair. This work is underway and is scheduled to be completed during the second half of 2017. There is a need for an ongoing replacement program for generation and distribution equipment as they reach the end of their economic life and an ongoing maintenance program for all electricity infrastructure.

The State Government has provided $121,000 to Mai Wiru Regional Stores Council for the installation of back-up generators at the Pukatja Supermarket and the Pipalyatjara Patilpa Store. These generators will ensure that, in the event of a power outage, food remains refrigerated and the communities’ food security is ensured.
Environment and Water

The region’s spectacular and unique environment is extremely rare and incredibly valuable. A significant issue for Anangu is environmental damage caused by feral plants and animals on the APY Lands. There is also concern about safety issues for members of the community and damage to infrastructure caused by large feral animals (camels, horses and donkeys). Anangu have sought the Government’s assistance with how to better manage these animals and support for improved management of buffel grass. Concerns were also raised about water quality in some communities.

Better management of large feral animals
The Alintjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management (AW NRM) Board will continue to work with Anangu to manage the impacts of the large feral herbivores (LFH), such as camels, donkeys and horses. In 2017/18 the AW NRM Board will fund a LFH control project across the AW NRM region. The AW NRM Board has also committed funds for a Livestock and Land Management Centre, which will allow for the capture and removal of LFHs at strategic locations, such as water points.

AW NRM has discussed the issue of horses in and around Mimili with the APY Pastoral Manager. There is some infrastructure available to muster the horses, but further work is required including water infrastructure. The Pastoral Manager has discussed removal of horses with the APY General Manager. The matter is complex, due to some people claiming ownership of horses while others want them removed. It was agreed, however, that a local Anangu man will remove the horses.

Reducing the impact of feral plants and animals on sacred sites
In 2017/18, the AW NRM Board will fund a study of the cultural impacts of pest animals and weeds in the APY Lands, to get a better understanding of how these species affect cultural practices and sacred sites, thereby informing future sites for buffel grass control. AW NRM staff are currently liaising with APY Anthropology on the scope and design of the cultural impacts of pests and weeds study.

The AW NRM Board has recently made amendments to the Healthy Country Plan which came into effect from 1 July 2017. The plan places a strong emphasis on building capacity through on-ground works, working with communities on local projects, and building traditional authority and approvals into processes. Where possible, Elders are consulted to allow their cultural priorities and ideas to be included in projects. The plan is reviewed and updated each year.

Testing of water quality at Kanpi and Nyapari
Water quality testing commissioned by Nganampa Health on drinking water has indicated that infrastructure and maintenance improvements are required. SA Water is leading cross-government work to identify a long-term solution for addressing water quality concerns in these communities.
The APY Executive Board has a strong focus on building its cattle business across the APY Lands. The Board is seeking State Government support to increase pastoral activity on the APY Lands. There is a need for more water infrastructure and new technology to support industry growth, for example adopting new technology to assist with the movement of cattle into appropriate pastures.

North West Indigenous Pastoral Program
The State Government and the Indigenous Land Corporation are working with APY Pastoral through the North West Indigenous Pastoral Program, a project seeking to advance Indigenous pastoral industry development and pastoral worker employment. The North West Indigenous Pastoral Program has provided APY with $200,000 in pastoral worker wage subsidies to date.

Support to fast-track infrastructure development
The need for additional water infrastructure and new technologies to help with the movement of cattle to appropriate pastures is addressed in the APY Sustainable Pastoral Development Plan (2015). The Plan budgets for the establishment of 53 new bores, 18 dam upgrades and 60 Livestock and Land Management Centres (LLMC) during a 10 year budget period to 2024/25. Through management and operation of a series of LLMCs, the movement of cattle to appropriate pastures can be achieved.

An officer representing the North West Indigenous Pastoral Program (NWIPP) travelled to the APY Lands on June 20-21 to discuss options for fast-tracking required water and new technology infrastructure. The estimated cost for this required infrastructure ($3.75 million) is beyond the scope of the NWIPP budget. Discussions are ongoing between the State Government and APY Pastoral about alternative ways to attract the required investment.

Improving pastoral employment opportunities for young Anangu
Some community members raised issues about the current APY agistment model. The changes required to address these issues are detailed in the APY Sustainable Pastoral Development Plan (2015), which has been endorsed by the APY Executive Board. The Plan clearly says that the APY cattle business must continue as a 100 per cent agistment operation until at least 2024/25 and it also presents several key recommendations to address this issue.

The recommendations have been progressed by APY Pastoral over the last 12 months and these will greatly contribute to addressing the urgent need for improved land condition and more favorable employment opportunities for young Anangu. An officer representing NWIPP travelled to the APY Lands on June 20-21 to discuss this and other APY pastoral development related options. It was agreed that the NWIPP program will contribute $50,000 toward a Landscape and Livestock Management Centre (LLMC) at David’s Well. This LLMC is required for the purposes of developing an Anangu-friendly base of operations from which to introduce young Anangu into the pastoral industry. APY Pastoral will match this contribution with an additional $50,000 of their own funds.