

IAS submission on behalf of the Point Pearce Aboriginal Corporation

- Our application for IAS funding was rejected without proper consultation and we received only a phone call because we had good officers within the Department who we had dealings with.
- Our application was seeking to establish a Youth program for the young people on the Point Pearce Community.
- Along with our Youth Program we were seeking to re-engage with our Carbon Sequestration project and further this, which, along with the Youth Program would have created some jobs for older Community members.
- We are only a small Community and a lot of free time and effort was put into this application and it is very difficult for small Communities to gain free help, which we were fortunate to have, to assist in formulating an application.
- The information that was sought was conflicting in its desire and this for many others who we have spoken too found it very difficult to keep within those very stringent guidelines.
- The mere fact of the conflicting arguments to get an outcome it most daunting for even the best of application writers if we could have afforded to gain one. This fact alone has set Aboriginal Communities on a collision course with the IAS funders and there needs to be a complete overall of such funding applications in the future if there is to be a future IAS application round.
- PPAC has managed to have some small reserves but this will now be eroded because of lack of an IAS
- The Point Pearce Aboriginal Corporation(PPAC) have in the past 10 years set out to right many wrongs of the past and has seen get the following,
 - A Farm lease with now funds from that lease coming back into the Community. Whilst this is gratefully received it is not enough to further the employment of the Community residence.
 - Established an off Community Chartered Accountants to pay all accounts and keep all paid up with no waiting time.
 - Has undertaken an independent audit of its running cost and affairs and has complied with all ORIC requirements.
 - Has undertaken portfolio distribution to the nine Council members so that meetings and events are attended and reports back to Council meetings.

The prospect of jobs on the Community and off the Community is very difficult to obtain and I really think that the funders need to take heed of what is really going on in Regional Australia. The following is from my first hand information and can be backed up with other evidence.

Regional small business are not able to now borrow to either purchase existing businesses or gain loans to further existing ones in the regions because of the Banking sectors. Since the GFC we have seen a rural decline in small businesses in our region and most of regional Australia. This has nothing to do with the Mining sector which has now come off the boil.

Small business which for many years was the backbone of employment is now dried up.

I am appalled at the lack of understanding of the Commonwealth Government in this respect yet you continually preach that people (Aboriginal) need to get a job, “where o where” is that job in the regions if you do not have great mid management skills which most of us do not and are unable to achieve. Low paid and seasonal jobs have dried up as well and this is what did keep people in the regions. The Farming sector has now gone into the technology and large machine age and people are not needed seasonally anymore.

Drive through my home town shops shut, closed down and if there is to opportunity to purchase one in a regional town the value of the Banks place on these premises prohibits this from occurring, do you really understand.