

Ingkerreke Outstations Resource Services

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

RE: Important Issues Raised in Alice Springs 20th July 2004

Dear Chairperson and Committee members.

The Chairperson Mathew Furber and Manager Gene Martin of the Ingkerreke Outstation Resource Services in Alice Springs would like to take this opportunity to clarify or add to the answers of the questions the committee asked the Combined Aboriginal Organisation representatives at the inquiry.

We are a member organisation of C.A.O and support the submission presented to the inquiry.

We feel maybe the committee didn't get a clear view of the geographical boundaries where Ingkerreke actually provide services too. We provide a range of services to some 12 small Outstations outside the town boundaries of Alice Springs. These Outstations are situated on traditional land of which the traditional Owners have land tenure. The furthest community is 90 Kilometers from Alice Springs with exception of one that we service being outside the Alice Springs Regional Council Boundary some 240 kilometers South East of Alice Springs near the edge of the Simpson Desert.

None of the Outstations have town water or power supplies or communications. Water is supplied by bores within the land trust of which 90% is unpotable and in dry times water needs to be carted from Alice Springs.

We think the committee may have been under the impression that the C.A.O. represented only urban aboriginal people when in fact both Ingkerreke and the Arrernte Council provide services to residence on land trust in non urban environments.

We would like to bring to the attention of the committee on some of the facts that effect every day operations of a small organisation like Ingkerreke. Firstly we like to say that it is a worrying thought what the abolishing of ATSIC /ATSIS will mean for the future of our organisation.

We say this because they have been our only source of funding as the Northern Territory Government flatly refuses to take any responsibility for services to small outstations as they see this a Commonwealth responsibility. These services are listed below.

Water

ATSIC /ATSIS provided funds for the capital infrastructure and maintenance of bores and associated reticulation. As mentioned before most of these water supplies are unpotable but can be used for domestic applications.

Power Supplies

Most outstations now have hybrid power supplies in service and ATSIC /ATSIS provided the funds for the installation and maintenance of the systems.

In the Alice Springs there have been 2 local companies who have built their business up around the supply and installation of these power supplies, but recently we believe ATSIC nationally have pooled all these funds into supporting the Bush light project associated with the Centre for Appropriate Technology. We are not convinced that the Bush light project is the way to go in Central Australia as we have been receiving second to none service from our suppliers over many years.

We believe the Bushlight project is using funds that could well be used on the ground in communities in need.

Education

Education is a urgent problem within the Ingkerreke serviced Outstations as we feel that probably only 10% of primary aged school children are attending any sort of schooling.

There is a indigenous education unit in Alice Springs who are frustrated with the bureaucracy that just don't listen to their recommendations.

We would hope that this unit would have some input into any regional authority model, as the current manager of that unit is well-respected local aboriginal public servant.

Central Land Council

The CLC has no influence or direct input in to any of the services Ingkerreke provides out on the Outstations.

The traditional Owners more than likely deal direct with the CLC if they have any issues connected to land agreements, as this is not in Ingkerreke charter of core functions. .

We hope this letter is received in good faith and the committee is clearer of what role Ingkerreke and the CAO plays in regard to service delivery in the Alice Springs district.

Yours sincerely

Chairperson

Matthew Furber

Manager



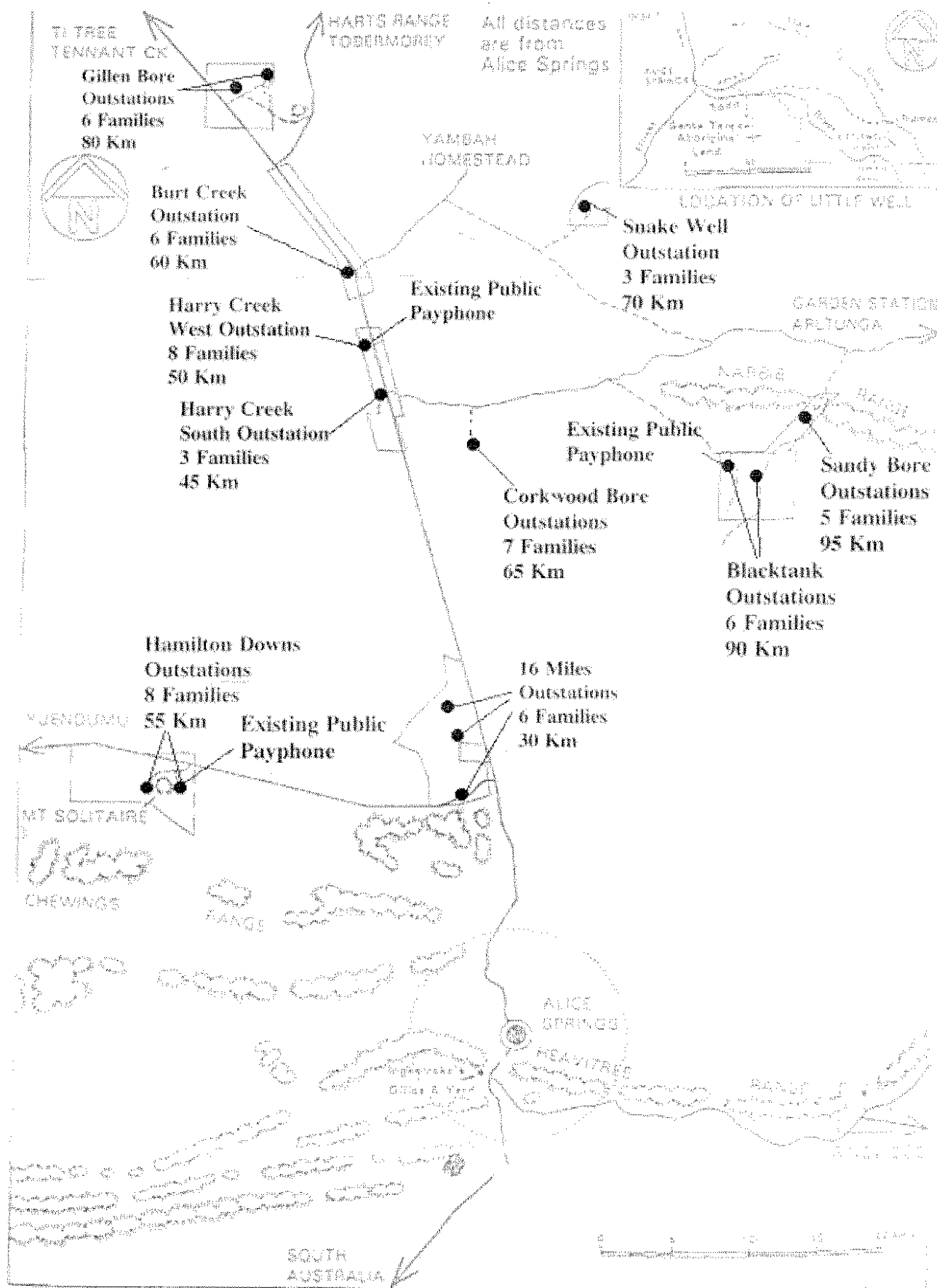


Figure 6 Ingham's Member Outstations (as opposed to diatribe)