

TOPIC 13 – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & NUCLEAR FACILITIES – ENGAGEMENT WITH ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

Monday, 16 November 2015

Conference Room, Nuclear Fuel Cycle Royal Commission
Level 5, 50 Grenfell Street, Adelaide SA 5000

Mr Keith Thomas, South Australian Native Title Service (SANTS) (12.30pm)

Mr Thomas is the CEO of SANTS, the native title service provider for South Australia. Since its establishment in 2008, SANTS has focused on delivering a range of services to secure sustainable social, cultural and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people, including the recognition of native title rights and interests. SANTS aims to work towards such outcomes by working cooperatively with all stakeholders, including through the negotiation of Indigenous Land Use Agreements and Consent Determinations and the facilitation of projects and partnerships.

Mr Andrew Collett AM, Counsel for Maralinga Tjarutja & Yalata Community Incorporated (2.15pm)

Maralinga Tjarutja is a corporation representing the Traditional Owners in relation to the management, use and control of the Maralinga Tjarutja lands in the far western region of South Australia. Yalata Community Incorporated is an association aimed at promoting the development of the Yalata community and their lands. Both bodies represent the people belonging to the same Western Desert cultural group. Andrew Collett AM is an independent barrister in Adelaide who has provided legal advice to the Maralinga people since 1984. This has included advising and acting for the Maralinga traditional owners in relation to the Royal Commission into British Nuclear Tests in Australia 1984 and all matters which arise from it including compensation claims, negotiating with the British and Australian governments over the clean-up of the contaminated lands, the establishment of a compensation trust fund and the hand back of the rehabilitated lands to the traditional owners.

Mr Christopher Larkin, Senior Public Service Administrator (retired) (2.15pm)

Mr Larkin is a Kokotha man with over 40 years of experience working in government departments and agencies delivering programs and services for community, housing, health and land management in South Australia, particularly those focused on Aboriginal interests and issues. He has worked closely with Maralinga Tjarutja and Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) communities over many years.

Mr Dennis Brown, Maralinga Tjarutja Project Officer (2.15pm)

Mr Brown is a Traditional Owner of the Maralinga lands and has worked as Project Officer for Maralinga Tjarutja since 1988. He worked closely with Dr Archie Barton AM, the Aboriginal leader of the Maralinga Tjarutja community, during negotiations with the Commonwealth and State Governments relating to the contamination and rehabilitation of land from the British nuclear tests.

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Dr Scott Cane, Consulting Anthropologist (2.15pm)

Mr Cane is a Consulting Anthropologist with over 35 years of experience working in the field with Aboriginal people around Australia. During the 1980s, Dr Cane performed anthropological work with the communities affected by the British nuclear tests at Maralinga. He assisted Maralinga Tjarutja during negotiations with the Commonwealth and State Governments regarding the clean-up, compensation and establishment of the Trust Fund to administer the compensation sum.

Mr Richard Preece, Maralinga Tjarutja Council General Manager (2.15pm)

Mr Preece has worked closely with Aboriginal communities in a number of roles within State and Commonwealth Government departments and agencies over the past 40 years. During the mid-1990s Mr Preece was involved in the Commonwealth and State working group which conducted negotiations with Maralinga Tjarutja regarding compensation for contamination resulting from the British nuclear tests. He served as General Manager of the APY Council in 2013 and is currently serving as General Manager for the Maralinga Tjarutja Council.

Mr Patrick Davoren, Senior Public Service Administrator (retired) (2.15pm)

Since the 1970s, Mr Davoren has held a number of positions in Commonwealth Government departments advising on nuclear related issues and strategies. Mr Davoren was the Secretary of the Technical Assessment Group established in 1986 to advise the Commonwealth Government on rehabilitation options for the lands contaminated by the British nuclear tests. He also served as Secretary of the government body established to plan and implement the clean-up at Maralinga and Emu. In these roles he worked closely with Maralinga Tjarutja throughout their negotiations with Government.

Topics to be addressed at this public session:

- ⊕ Lessons learned about developing and maintaining processes to create effective working relationships with Aboriginal communities in relation to the Maralinga clean-up;
- ⊕ Elements of communicating and negotiating with Aboriginal communities and supporting decision making on complex issues;
- ⊕ Developing long term sustainable relationships between government and Aboriginal communities.