

5 YEAR LEASES



Central Land
Council
Alice Springs

WHAT IS THE MEASURE?

The National Emergency Response Act 2007 (Cth) grants 5 year leases to the Australian Government over major Aboriginal communities. No negotiation or lease document is required.

All existing leases and other interests in communities are protected.

The leases give the Australian Government rights to exclusive possession, to repair or demolish any existing buildings and infrastructure, and to terminate the lease at any time.

No rights are noted in favour of residents or traditional landowners.

The Government may pay rent to traditional landowners but it is not required. Compensation may be payable, but it is not guaranteed.

WHICH COMMUNITIES HAVE LEASES?

The leases apply to:

- Group 1 communities: Ali Curung, Alpurrurulam, Amoonguna, Ampilatwatja, Areyonga, Atitjere, Daguragu, Hermmansburg, Kalkukatjara, Kintore, Nyirripi, Papunya, Pmara Jutunta, Santa Teresa, Titjikala, Wallace Rockhole, Wutunugurra, Yuen-dumu
- Group 2 communities: Canteen Creek, Engawala, Haasts Bluff, Imangara, Im- anpa, Lajamanu, Laramba, Mt Liebig, Nturiya, Tara, Willowra, Wilora, Yuelamu
- Any of the following land decided by the Government: other Aboriginal land, other community living areas, land at Finke held by Aputula Social Club or Aputula Housing Association, land at Kalkarindji held by Daguragu Community Government Council.

WHEN DO THE LEASES START?

Group 1 communities – 18 August 2007

Group 2 – on a date to be decided by the Government

[note: no reason is given for splitting the communities into two groups]

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE PROBLEMS?

The leases do not guarantee Aboriginal people right of residence in communities – it is not clear what rights Aboriginal people have and whether the Government could evict Aboriginal people from their own communities.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Northern Territory National Emergency Response Act 2007 Part 4