Dr Richard Lim  
Shadow Minister for Central Australia  

Media Release

18 May 2007

A Monumental Tragedy to Haunt the Future of Alice Springs.

The decision by Tangentyere Council to reject the Federal Government's offer to upgrade Alice Springs town camps has been condemned by the Opposition.

"It beggars belief that a genuine offer to upgrade the homes and municipal services of people living in third world conditions has been rejected," says Shadow Minister for Central Australia, Dr Richard Lim.

"I am so sad to learn of this decision.

"The Martin Government must use all its influence to get the town camps to see reason. We have until Wednesday of next week.

"It is not enough that the Minister for Central Australia simply puts out a media release requesting that the Tangentyere Council continue to work with the Federal Government.

"He needs to actively lobby for the acceptance of the Federal Government's offer.

"This is about people who live in third world ghetto conditions.

"This is about offering a solution to the extreme violence that plagues the camps.

"This is about children who live in endangered situations every day, akin to child abuse.

"The Minister must put in whatever effort it takes to ensure that the 'normalisation' of Alice Springs town camps occurs as soon as possible.

"Aboriginal town camp dwellers do not have the time to wait any longer. The people of Alice Springs do not have the time to wait any longer.

"This decision is such a denial of responsibility."
"No one can reasonably deny the need for the wholesale renovation of the camps; such conditions have no place in contemporary Australia.

"This decision not only affects the people who live in the camps, it is a blow to the town as a whole.

"The people of Alice Springs were prepared to support the expenditure of public funds to enable town camp dwellers to have a better life and to improve the community of Alice Springs."

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