

MOMENTUM – SERIES 1

EPISODE 1

Duration: 42 mins

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| 00:01:30 | Opening titles |
| 00:02:00 | Julie Nimmo: In the Northern Territory it's a fact indigenous Australians do not have decent housing |
| 00:02:05 | Alison Anderson: By rights they should have built a house at least 26 months ago |
| 00:02:10 | Julie Nimmo: To solve the housing crisis the Federal Government is offering communities lease agreements but if communities don't sign they may take control anyway |
| 00:02:19 | Male: I mean it is fearful ah for us to have our land compulsory acquired |
| 00:02:29 | Julie Nimmo: We're in the heart of (Gulmach?) country in the Northern Territory and this house is testament to the fact that Aboriginal housing is achievable at an affordable cost. Sadly though throughout the Territory many indigenous Australians are wondering if they'll ever get a home |
| 00:02:47 | Alison Anderson: People can say oh you know indigenous people have got all this money but if you come down to the grass routes where communities are the services have not been delivered, people are still living in the 21 st century in humpies |
| 00:03:08 | Julie Nimmo: The Federal and Territory Government agree but when we approached the Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister to discuss the issue her office ignored our request. We can report politicians are keen to provide homes but they will only be delivered if |

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| | communities sign up to a Federal lease Agreement some as long as 99 years |
| 00:03:24 | Yananymul: Why should we sign lease agreement (?) why should we have to sign lease agreements for houses you know it's just it's, it's, it's a it's pro it's, it's a um there um housing proposal it doesn't meet our requirements no it doesn't |
| 00:03:45 | Julie Nimmo: Early in 2009 Marion Scrymgour was the Minister for Indigenous Policy her mission was to deliver homes and infrastructure to people who live on the homelands. Before anything took effect Scrymgour resigned from the Front Bench due to illness, her replacement Alison Anderson. Together with the Chief Minister Paul Henderson they launched a new policy Growth Towns seen my most as bad news for the homelands |
| 00:04:14 | Paul Henderson: What we're looking at with working futures and the 20 growth towns is delivering real quality services to indigenous people in those 20 growth towns... Today is a history making day for the Northern Territory. It's the day that we give Territorians in remote parts of the Northern Territory access to a working future |
| 00:04:38 | Alison Anderson: That day when I stood with Paul Henderson I was sincere as an indigenous woman to give him all the strength and um power to do good to do justice. When I said to this black woman and this white man we'll change the future of indigenous affairs I meant wholeheartedly from my heart to see things change for my people |
| 00:05:01 | Paul Henderson: In addition to new towns there will always be places known as communities' homelands and out stations. The Territory Government will not develop any new homelands or out stations however we will not reduce our existing funding effort to existing |

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| | <p>homelands and out stations, however to be funded an out station will have to be occupied for at least 8 months of the year</p> |
| 00:05:28 | <p>Marion Scrymgour: The 36 million dollars that's been in the pool for homelands has been there for 10 years. Um, even though their population has increased not one cent more</p> |
| 00:05:39 | <p>Alison Anderson: Only insects crawl around inside the house and the goannas often go in, in the ground as you can see and through the dust and there's no um human footprints and ah is that the good utilisation of tax payer money, no and this reform is about reforming all this bringing it back and concentrating on building the towns</p> |
| 00:05:59 | <p>Marion Scrymgour: When I watched that I just though oh my God you know how, how insulting how, how demeaning um to Aboriginal people, so I took that quite personally that ah um as, as an Aboriginal Minister I had lied that the Government lied that we had put together a policy that was blatantly discriminatory um for people living in homelands</p> |
| 00:06:26 | <p>Julie Nimmo: The Federal and Territory Government have deliberately tried to match together growth towns with communities earmarked for a lease agreement. It's here the 672 million will flow to improve housing</p> |
| 00:06:43 | <p>Alison Anderson: ABS told us that ah 85% of the population lived within 509 kilometre radius of one of these ah hub towns that Matlin and ourselves as the Territory Government had named so um the population had easy access to those um hub towns</p> |
| 00:07:04 | <p>Yananymul: They want to be able to move, move the people from, from um the homeland into the main communities so they can come and do whatever they like in the country there. All, all the area um covering where the homelands are its untouched land there is there, there is</p> |

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| | something there that they might know about |
| 00:07:27 | <p>Paul Henderson:</p> <p>Julie can I say I love a good conspiracy theory I do love a good conspiracy theory but ah people are barking up the wrong tree here. The growth towns are identified as growth towns because those populations are growing they are growing populations and they're probably growing at a faster rate than ah most other remote populations in Australia so from a public policy sense what we're saying is we've got to make quality investments in the 20 towns across the Northern Territory where 80% of the people live in or around those towns and have that as a focus for quality service delivery with the Australian Government. Now that's the only reason we're going down that path</p> |
| 00:08:21 | <p>Julie Nimmo:</p> <p>In the town camps of Alice Springs improved housing is desperately needed to meet Australian standards of living. For residents to get the improvements they need their landlord and service provider Tangertyere Council must sign a Federal Lease Agreement. Tangertyere Council manages 18 separate town camps in and around Alice Springs. According to Walter Shore what's on offer is a 40 year lease in exchange for 100 million, but the council has their own conditions they wanted key decision making powers over tenancy and they wanted their own pilot program the Affordable Housing Company to begin operating enabling renters to become home owners</p> |
| 00:09:13 | <p>Walter Shore:</p> <p>In regard to Tangertyere Council and the 10 campus um we declined Mal Bruff, um we've declined this Minister in terms of ah how much money she is putting in front of us, ah this is not about a matter about money it's always been a matter about principals and ah our terms of reference is put on the leases. Um, it's ah it's a matter about us seeing a future where we can work in true partnerships with Government. We had an opportunity to sign the</p> |

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| | <p>ah original lease on the 21st of May, um I sent a letter to the Minister um stating that ah in order for us to come to some sort of ah favourable outcome in terms of the lease ah we would like those two sticking points which was key decision making powers and a look into our ah housing company. Um, that letter was sent away on the 21st of May and um the 24th of May which was a Sunday ah I had one of the ah bureaucrats come out to my house at 9 o'clock in the morning and ah drop off a 10 page letter which stipulates that the Minister is going to move towards a notice of compulsory acquisition</p> |
| 00:10:27 | <p>News Reader: Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin for shadowed the takeover yesterday after the council refused the Governments 125 million dollar housing and infrastructure package</p> |
| 00:10:38 | <p>Reporter: Aboriginal residents of the Alice Springs Town Camps woke up to concerning news today, the Federal Government is taking their land Jenny Macklin: The conditions in these Town Camps are horrific, UI can't put it any more plainly Reporter: The problem according to the Minister is the Tangertyere Council Jenny Macklin: The time for negotiation is over</p> |
| 00:10:59 | <p>Jackie: I feel that um she clearly is not listening to us. Her consultation process is a farce it's unbelievable that she could be so arrogant and put stress and duress upon the tenants it's just unbelievable that somebody that's a Minister for Aboriginal Affairs she's, she's not protecting us she's actually harming us more</p> |
| 00:11:25 | <p>Walter Shore: I mean it is fearful ah for us to have our land compulsory acquired and um as a contingency plan we, we sign leases we sign the</p> |

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| | resolutions ah with the housing associations to have leases signed |
| 00:11:41 | <p>Jenny Macklin:</p> <p>They have decided to accept the offer, they've agreed to the 40 year leases they've agreed to proper tenancy management and we have agreed that we will make sure that we get on with the job of investing the 100 million dollars that we have available to improve the conditions of living in these town camps</p> |
| 00:12:02 | <p>Reporter:</p> <p>What Jenny Macklin didn't show the media was the letter from the Council explaining why it had backed down. NITV News has been told the letter explained to the Minister that the Tangertyere Council had agreed to the deal only because in the council's opinion there was a hovering threat of a forced takeover</p> |
| 00:12:21 | <p>Jackie:</p> <p>Forcibly she wants us to sign off on a 40 year lease. Well I say to jenny Macklin why doesn't she go to the Alice Springs Town Council find out where we've been paying rates for years and years and years, only 4 or 5 years ago we won a court case in the Supreme Court to stop paying rates because we weren't getting a service and now the Governments saying, oh sorry you know we're going to come in and we're going to protect you, but we are law abiding citizens we have been doing all the things so I just feel she's victimising us</p> |
| 00:13:25 | <p>Janice Palmer:</p> <p>Disgrace to the Aboriginal race that's all I can say, yeah. You know old Charles Perkins he fought for the rights of Aboriginal people, we're going back backwards again, it's a shame job really that they're going to do this to us</p> |
| 00:13:41 | <p>Paul Henderson:</p> <p>The housing in the Town Camps in Alice Springs is absolutely unacceptable in 2009, it should have been unacceptable in 1999 and we've got to change the model, what's happening now doesn't work, people living in abject poverty ah the social conditions in</p> |

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| | <p>those Town Camps are unacceptable the levels of crime abuse, alcohol abuse ah neglect of children in the Town Camps is unacceptable so we've got to step in significantly improve the housing build new housing put a public housing model in place and what we have said in 3 years time ah we are prepared to look at outsourcing the management of that housing ah on, on a tender basis and work with Tangertyere to build their capacity</p> |
| 00:14:27 | <p>Walter Shore: Alot of the Town Campers know all too well about the failed tertiary housing system in terms of housing Aboriginal people. Um, alot of Aboriginal people particularly with the urban drift and all so Town Campers have tied to make the transition from ah moving from a Town Camp into the public housing system framework, um it has failed Aboriginal people immensely</p> |
| 00:14:49 | <p>Jenny Macklin: We said to Tangertyere Council and to the Housing Associations that one issue that was non negotiable was that for the next 3 years the tenancy management would be done by Territory Housing. Ah there have been no further ah concessions given, I made it plain in May that no further concessions would be given, non have been given, the offer that we are made in May is the offer that has been agreed to</p> |
| 00:15:17 | <p>Janice Palmer: They've got to trust Tangertyere, Tangertyere's been um since houses been built, yeah been collecting rent and Aboriginal people do pay their rent oh naturally because it's coming out of Centrelink</p> |
| 00:15:31 | <p>Julie Nimmo: The Town Campers are also at odds with the Aranta traditional owner's representative body (Luratipa?). Darryl Pearce supports Minister Macklin in her attempt to extinguish the residents unique rights</p> |
| 00:15:44 | <p>Darryl Pearce: We have no problem with the idea that the Minister compulsory</p> |

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| | <p>acquire the camps at all, we completely support it. Everybody's kind of forgotten that there are actually traditional owners so we represent the three estate groups who make up the traditional owners of this country</p> |
| 00:15:57 | <p>Julie Nimmo: The difference between the two organisations is Tangertyere represents residents who live in Alice Springs as its historical owners, people who have lived there for generations. Luratipa represents traditional owners who culturally and legally have the greatest rights as the native title owners</p> |
| 00:16:22 | <p>Darryl Pearce: There's kind of been this view that we want the Town Council because we want to replace Tangertyere we want to you know get Government funding. Um, I hate to disappoint people and I kind of sound really egotistical about this but we're actually very wealthy we're incredibly wealthy, we're going to make um alot of money out of property development and I mean significant money Julie Nimmo: Around about what figure? Darryl Pearce: Um probably in excess of 15 million over the next 18 months. We have some land under native Title which we're developing into um a significant residential suburbs um probably housing some 70 to 80 lots probably build ah an apartment complex with around 50 to 70 apartments in it so in a strange way we're, we're doing the things for I guess the mainstream if you want as well as for um our own people who are living on the camps</p> |
| 00:17:10 | <p>Julie Nimmo: Marion Scrymgour suggests Lurapita could access more land to develop if Minister Macklin acquires the Town Camps</p> |
| 00:17:20 | <p>Marion Scrymgour: If she compulsory acquires and then reschedules those Town Camps um it means that the Native Title rights of the, the Native Title rights will kick in so the Native Title owners will be able to then control those Town Camps</p> |

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| 00:17:47 | <p>Julie Nimmo:</p> <p>Housing was all set to change back in 2007. Under John Howards' Prime Ministership the Federal Government dedicated 527 million to indigenous housing and infrastructure which the Territory Government was to match at 100 million. Under Labour leadership the fund was topped up with 45 million and renamed SIHIP creating a total pool of 672 million dollars to build and refurbish homes. The SIHIP fund was reviewed 16 months into its 5 year plan and found that 45 million had already been spent mainly on administration, consultancy and management</p> |
| 00:18:32 | <p>Alison Anderson:</p> <p>But it actually hasn't been one house built and if you have a look at the interest if the Northern Territory Government had this money sitting in its account for 2 years the normal interest would be about 4 to 5%, um how much of that interest has the Northern Territory Government taken on that money and ah one of the major concerns is that you've got 17 and a half thousand bureaucrats in the Northern Territory someone has to pay for these people and it's always the indigenous people. The reason why the Northern Territory Government puts so much money into the northern suburbs is that that's where they get elected, any Government gets elected in the northern suburbs. They, they know they can't get any seats in Alice Springs because it's held, the 3 seats held in Alice Springs are held by the country liberals and ah that's why we continuously say we have to break down the Berrimah line, even Alice Springs doesn't get all of the services that it should get</p> |
| 00:19:27 | <p>Julie Nimmo:</p> <p>Berrimah is an outer suburb of Darwin. Locals say Government funding and services don't go beyond that suburb hence the Berrimah line. They suspect funding stays in Darwin where Parliament sits as well as more than half the Territory's population</p> |
| 00:19:48 | <p>Paul Henderson:</p> <p>Oh look ah can I say I'm working in partnership with Jenny Macklin.</p> |

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| | <p>What Minister Macklin and myself both want to see is the outcomes, the houses on the ground. I am confident with the changes that we've made now to what is can I say this Julie, the biggest investments in remote indigenous housing in Australia's history ah nobody has done this before, the Australian Governments committed 572 million, the Northern Territory Government for the first time ever has committed 100 million dollars to ah remote indigenous housing, this is complicated and certainly I have a degree of frustration but we will deliver on what is the single biggest commitment ever to improving remote indigenous housing in the Territory and both Jenny Macklin and I are passionate that we will deliver on this</p> |
| 00:20:37 | <p>New Reader: The Federal Government found itself in hot water over a leaked document. It disclosed that the Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs was warned early last year that there was serious flaws in the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program of SIHIP as it's known</p> <p>Reporter: The leak is an embarrassment to the Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister. The document is private advice from Labour Senator Ursula Stephens who told the Minister that her SIHIP policy simply wouldn't work. It says building experts who attended a briefing session in Darwin last year thought the Governments approach was shoddy. The memorandum also explained to Jenny Macklin that the tender process would ensure the most costly outcomes and warned there'd not be a single home built for another 2 years</p> |
| 00:21:25 | <p>Alison Anderson: And ah by rights they should have build a house at least 16 months ago and they haven't and Jim Davidson's since come out and said that only 300 houses was ever going to build be built and it's a real shame to see both the Federal Minister and the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory continuously saying that there will be 750</p> |

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| | houses built |
| 00:21:48 | <p>Reporter:</p> <p>It was front page news across the country, the Australian said Miss Anderson was prepared to quit the Government over Federal Labour's handling of the 672 million dollar housing program that won't deliver a single house for another 2 years. The story was the NT Indigenous Affairs Minister was absolutely appalled only 300 homes would be built because of hefty administration costs. Chief Minister Paul Henderson was quick to set the record straight saying Minister Anderson became angry after receiving what he called incorrect information at a briefing</p> |
| 00:22:52 | <p>Alison Anderson:</p> <p>1, 2, 3, 4 were all 4 different briefings. 1 didn't match 2, 2 didn't match 3 and 3 didn't match 4 so it was 4 different briefings with 4 different figures. The first meeting that we had about SIHIP and the first briefing was always the right briefing. There was ever only going to be 300 houses built not 750</p> |
| 00:22:51 | <p>Paul Henderson:</p> <p>Look um Alison can say what Alison is going to say, what I can say with absolute conviction and commitment is that SIHIP will deliver 750 new homes, 230 rebuilt homes and 2 and a half thousand refurbished homes right across the Northern Territory. That's why Jenny Macklin and I commissioned the review with 2 senior public servants, they reported last week, their report last week confirms that with the changes that we're going to make SIHIP will deliver and I'm determined to deliver on those outcomes</p> |
| 00:23:27 | <p>Alison Anderson:</p> <p>They would um be looking at the language in that interim report and they're trying to water it down and take all the negativity out of it and ah I think Jim Davidson already said that one of the bureaucrats that come from Macklin's office is part of the process that has failed um SIHIP and she's one of the investigators and I think that if they're dead serious about um investigating um where</p> |

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| | <p>the money went to then they really need to have independent people looking into this</p> <p>Julie Nimmo: So you wouldn't believe anything that</p> <p>Alison Anderson: Oh look I wouldn't believe anything they tell you. They will spin their way out of a wet paper bag</p> |
| 00:24:20 | <p>Parliament session:</p> <p>I had great pleasure last week ah Madam Speaker of announcing ah 2 new medical...</p> |
| 00:24:27 | <p>Julie Nimmo:</p> <p>Anderson's eventual resignation only 3 months after the growth Towns announcement pushed the stability of the Northern Territory Government into free fall but for her there was no choice</p> |
| 00:24:40 | <p>Paul Henderson:</p> <p>Today ah Alison Anderson resigned for the Labour Party I accept that. Today I welcome back Marion Scrymgour to the Labour Party and to the Government</p> <p>Reporter: Chief Minister Paul Henderson's had probably the closest shave of his political career. Miss Anderson told the Chief Minister his time was well and truly up but Mr Henderson obviously had other ideas, he immediately began the courting process with his former deputy Marion Scrymgour who quit Labour only weeks ago over the botched Labour Homelands Policy</p> |
| 00:25:15 | <p>Marion Scrymgour:</p> <p>It was a hard decision but it was a decision that I made which I thought, and, and I know was in the best interest of my constituents. I would rather a Labour Government ah working with Aboriginal people than a CLP Liberal Government. I listen to these people every time when we're on the floor of parliament their views haven't changed one little bit, they say things differently when they're out there and they're talking with people, um not everybody gets access to the Hansard and listens to some of the racist um and demeaning comments that I've ever heard and it's not surprising what they say in relation to Aboriginal people. I think for</p> |

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| | <p>Aboriginal people it does need a Labour Government in here it needs the Labour Government to wake up though that they can't continually take Aboriginal people for granted</p> |
| 00:26:13 | <p>JULIE NIMMO: Debate about the viability of SIHIP to deliver houses continues meanwhile the Federal Government is still encouraging communities to sign a lease agreement as the only option to secure improved housing</p> |
| 00:26:26 | <p>Alison Anderson: I don't think that people should be signing off leases you know we fought long and hard um for our land and we just don't want to give it back willy-nilly just to have a house built on it. You know if someone says, a classic example of what I'm saying is Hermannsburg has been promised 9.6 million under SIHIP for houses. What they didn't take into um consideration is the land servicing so power, water and sewerage and the admin cost so instead of getting 17 houses they'll only get 9 after the um land servicing happens and the administration costs gets taken out. I mean why should Hermannsburg give over a 40 year lease or a 99 year lease for 7 houses</p> |
| 00:27:10 | <p>Paul Henderson: Well with all due respect to ah indigenous people nowhere else in Australia does the government ah build a house for somebody and gift you a house, so this is about a new housing model here in the Northern Territory where the house will be built but it will then be managed as a Territory housing house as like ah public housing for the benefit of people in, in the in these towns, so that's the difference and what's going to happen at the end of this program will be around three and a half thousand houses across the Northern Territory will be managed by Territory Housing in the same way that public housing in managed in Darwin, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine</p> |
| 00:27:56 | <p>Julie Nimmo:</p> |

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| | <p>Tennant Creek was one of the first regions to sign on to a lease agreement. In 2007 they pre-empted the politicians and approached the Federal Government with a concept for their own unique arrangement outlined in a memorandum of understanding and life for the indigenous residents is changing as a result</p> |
| 00:28:17 | <p>Joey Carter: There's some very positive outcomes you can see now. Um, it's taken some time through the consultations and all the visitors we've had in the, in the community but when you start seeing trainees and the local guys actually starting to develop some skill which will make them you know much more competitive in the, in years to come in the ah in the work force um it is it's very satisfying. You see here now they've actually got um doing some measuring up and they cutting some timber to put in the house here cause they are doing some of the internal stuff here</p> <p>Julie Nimmo: Ok what sort of things will they be building?</p> <p>Joey Carter: Up in the ceilings or on the skirting boards here where there are all the vermin gets in, the birds and stuff go and lay inside so they're actually putting the ah the skirting around so it prevents all that</p> |
| 00:29:11 | <p>Pat Brahim: So the difference between us um and all the other areas is that we've got a MOU with the NT and the Commonwealth Government. We haven't got a MOU or any sort of agreement with the alliance team the NT Governments got that. So that 30 million dollars and we're saying to them you cannot just tie us in to the bigger picture on where you are going so that um that relationship was really tested in getting them to understand where we fitted into that and so every time you think so this is our alliance these are our visions this is where we want to go and you've got to help us get there. Once we knew it was 30 million dollars it was civil construction and upgrades of houses and, and if there was money left over then we would build new houses. It was not to compromise and build new</p> |

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| | houses while we still had an infrastructure that was quite you know derelict |
| 00:30:12 | Male: 78 houses are finished and I go somewhere else hopefully these boys can do the maintenance fix the doors fix the skirting fix the tiles that will make me proud and be good that they learn some knowledge off me. This is one of the doors that we replaced pretty um... |
| 00:30:31 | Pat Brahim: There's a 60 year lease you know so 20 plus 20 but at the 40 um there's positions in there for review to see whether the NT Government and the Commonwealth Governments keeping their part of the bargain so and then at the 40 year mark then there's a review process again and you know so we, we don't know what it's going to look like in 20 years time but we've got to be able to put things in place so that whoever comes in after us has got that opportunity to review and to have that discussion |
| 00:31:08 | Julie Nimmo: Before residents can move into their newly refurbished homes they have to complete a life skills course where they learn the Northern Territory public housing standard requirements for pets, cleanliness and home maintenance |
| 00:31:34 | Julie Nimmo: Back in Alice Springs there's been no building progress for Town Camp residents. A Federal court injunction has stopped the execution of Tangertyere's signed lease agreement. The injunction has also blocked Minister Macklin's attempt to seize the communities as a compulsory acquisition. Janice Palmer lives on land her grandfather secured in a 99 year lease. Along with Barbara Shaw she's taking the Federal Government to court to stop the takeover |
| 00:32:07 | Janice Palmer: I'm fighting against it yeah, yes we don't really want to her to lease |

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| | our land or whatever... promises sweet promises. I sent it off to the lawyers with Barb yeah |
| 00:32:23 | <p>Reporter:</p> <p>Town Camp resident Barbara Shaw has asked the Federal Court to stop any agreement between the Government and Tangertyere saying she wasn't properly consulted about the takeover. The Federal Court action means the lease deal is off for the time being</p> |
| 00:32:39 | <p>Julie Nimmo:</p> <p>Janice took a stroll over to Barbara's house hoping for news of the court case</p> <p>Janice Palmer: What's going on now</p> <p>Jude K: Um, I think it's still in the courts at the moment</p> <p>Janice Palmer: Oh poo</p> <p>Jude K: Um, Barbara went up to ah I think it was Sydney and Melbourne to keep following it up</p> <p>Janice Palmer: yeah, yeah, yeah</p> <p>Jude K: So I think a decision comes in October but not sure properly, everything's still up in the air</p> <p>Janice Palmer: Yeah, yeah, yeah so we won't know until October what really gonna happen</p> <p>Jude K: Probably not unless someone gives in somehow or other not sure, not sure but it's a bit of a mess hey</p> <p>Janice Palmer: Yeah</p> <p>Jude K: a bit of a mess. Well yeah everyone doesn't know whether they're coming or staying or</p> <p>Janice Palmer: If we have to drag our swag out on the road yet or do we have to wait until after October</p> <p>Jude K: Oh don't think so don't know, oh I hope not</p> |
| 00:33:26 | <p>Walter Shore:</p> <p>Us 10 Campers and ah Tangertyere are waiting on baited breath ah to see what the outcome of the litigation is and that is where this ah this leasing agreement is at is in the foos of, of a courthouse</p> |
| 00:33:41 | Darryl Pearce: |

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| | <p>Basically the Minister's going to wait until after the court case to see exactly where it's up to but she's certainly is aware of the view that we want um at least 2 probably 3 more of the Town Camps to come under our control and out of that we want to develop them as ah basically a States under the Unna Titles Act northern Territory and what we mean by a States is that they will have strata committees that they will have each individual household will be able to be surveyed and people can purchase those houses. We want to cut straight to the chase now we want to provide people with opportunities now. Ah what Governments talking about is that you know we'll see in 40 years time, we're saying that we can do it now let's get on with it</p> |
| 00:34:20 | <p>Julie Nimmo: When communities consider signing on to a lease there are 2 types, a housing lease or a whole of township lease. This lease dictates an executive director of township leases will have powers over a community equal to a financial manager for the life of the lease. The office of township leases has a website which states an Indigenous consultancy forum is required to advise the executive. What's not clear on the website what happens if traditional owners and the executive director disagree about development</p> |
| 00:35:02 | <p>Walter Shaw: It's a loss of control of Aboriginal Affairs for us and ah as Aboriginal people um both our autonomous rights and our collective rights and ah I mean we won't have a voice in terms of ah how our Town Camps are run now under a communal construct, it will be um with Government policies a bureaucratic red tape. He'll be overseeing um the tenancy agreements tenancy management. Um, there are conditions within the leases that ah hold the executive director accountable, ah in the life of the lease um but the original offer that we are under an ultimatum to sign and under duress that is that we don't have too much legal protection or rights under it</p> |
| 00:35:56 | <p>JULIE NIMMO:</p> |

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| | <p>There are 2 township leases operational at the moment, one with Nguiu on the Tiwi Islands and the other with 3 communities on Groote Island</p> |
| 00:36:06 | <p>Julie Nimmo: The federal Government wants to have these leases in place before they build any housing because the Government feels they need security over the stock and they also want to know that the townships can be economically developed and inside this building is the man who will be in charge of deciding how those communities are economically developed his name is Pat Watson and even though he's a statutory officer and is able to speak to us he's decided that it's best not to and the Minister has also decided it's best not to speak to us even though the office of the executive director is funded with Aboriginal monies from the Aboriginal benefits account to the tune of 15 million over 5 years</p> |
| 00:36:51 | <p>Marion Scrymgour: Look I think it's a disgrace, I think that you know Aboriginal people the Aboriginal benefits account which is mining royalty or, or funds which have come from mining royalty which should be put back into Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal people to further develop ah their communities and their infrastructure and for um this Office of Township Leasing or the Executive Officers office to be funded out of that is a disgrace, that money should be coming out of consolidated revenue of the Federal Government</p> |
| 00:37:23 | <p>Yananymul: But really none of us had heard of this position or this man and this is new to me I didn't hear about this before</p> |
| 00:37:34 | <p>Julie Nimmo: I just wonder um about this Executive Director of Township Leasing and the fact that his office is being funded out of the Aboriginal benefit Account to the tune of 15 million I just wonder about how all that sits and particularly with you as the new Chairperson. Pat Brahim:</p> |

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| | <p>Um, I wasn't really aware of that sort of stuff and what I probably need to do is go back and have a look at it, um I'm not too sure on how long this has been in play but the other part of it is say from an advisory board you know we advise and make recommendations to the Minister. At the end of the day the Minister um you know agrees or disagrees with the decisions that have been made and sometimes they make decisions out, from what I can understand is that they make decisions outside of that so I'm not too sure whether that's been approved by the previous the ABA Board</p> |
| 00:38:40 | <p>Julie Nimmo: There's the office there Township and Leasing, so this is where the Executive Officer works on a part time basis in Darwin. 60 Smith Street in case anyone's interested but we're not allowed to go in seeing as though they've refused an interview but I thought it would be important people at least know where the office is</p> |
| 00:39:08 | <p>Marion Scrymgour: I've ah written to Jenny Macklin to seek some response, I've also written to the 2 Federal Labour Ministers seeking some response as to if I can't get any responses as a elected member for the Tiwi Islands or, or anywhere else where, where you know where this office holds those leases ah what chances do traditional owners</p> |
| 00:39:45 | <p>Julie Nimmo: In Arnhem land indigenous Australians are taking matters into their own hands. The Gulmach people have built their own 5 bedroom bunkhouse with local timber and local labour is proof it can be done. It's also cyclone proof and carbon neutral</p> |
| 00:40:04 | <p>Diapirri Muninggirtj: We would like ah better house built in communities but the cultural values of how (?) people stays the same</p> |
| 00:40:13 | <p>Julie Nimmo: We travel to the house with Diapirri Muninggirtj a very proud traditional owner. This bunk house was built for less than 200,000 about half the cost predicted by the Federal and Territory</p> |

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| | Governments SIHIP managers |
| 00:40:27 | <p>Diapirri Muninggirtj:</p> <p>The long terms visions that the younger people had and now it's becoming a reality</p> <p>Male: and local jobs for local people</p> <p>Diapirri Muninggirtj: and local jobs for local people and a local economy for the future where this beautiful timber is going to be out in the market</p> <p>Julie Nimmo: You know your house is made out of block bricks</p> <p>Diapirri Muninggirtj: yeah</p> <p>Julie Nimmo: Which one do you think would be nicer to live in</p> <p>Diapirri Muninggirtj: Both, one for the wet season one for the dry season or one for the dry season like this one and one for the cyclone season would be the brick one</p> |
| 00:41:12 | <p>Julie Nimmo:</p> <p>The current thinking on Aboriginal disadvantage is now focussed on economic development. Designed by Government and implemented by bureaucrats. Some say it's social engineering others say it's the only way forward. We found one common point of agreement consultation must start with respect</p> |
| 00:41:36 | <p>Lady:</p> <p>If we come together it doesn't matter what tribe you come from it doesn't matter what language you speak you know I think we should come together all as one Aboriginal people, one voice one heart and then we can we can fight this court battle you know</p> |
| 00:41:57 | <p>Julie Nimmo:</p> <p>At the time of production the Alice Springs Town Camps case was still being considered by the Federal Court effectively stopping any Government takeover</p> |
| 00:42:06 | <p>Walter Shaw:</p> <p>I think we should reflect back to the 1972 um Self Determination Act where Aboriginal people ah should have a choice of self managements, self sufficiency and the choice not to assimilate. Um,</p> |

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| | alot of my Town Campers here in Alice Springs live a semi cultural existence um and they have to contend with um western ah westernised way of living. Um, I think we need to maintain our Aboriginality but also ah move forward towards a future but a better future for our children a better future for generations to come |
| 00:42:50 | Closing credits |
| 00:43:30 | End |