



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

COUNCIL OF TERRITORY CO-OPERATION

PUBLIC HEARING, TUESDAY 11 MAY 2010, SANTA TERESA

Attendees:

Ms Louise Cavanaugh, Santa Teresa HRG
Ms Mary Therese Mulladad, Santa Teresa HRG
Ms Imelda Palmer, Santa Teresa HRG
Ms Elaine Goring, Santa Teresa HRG
Ms Paula Turner, Santa Teresa HRG
Ms Annie Young, Santa Teresa HRG
Ms Analese Young, Santa Teresa HRG
Mr Justin Hayes, Santa Teresa HRG
Ms Wendy Brooks, Government Business Manager, FaHCSIA
Ms Diane Nona, Shire Services Manager, MacDonnell Shire
Mr Greg Crowe, Ltyentye Apurte Community Education Centre
Mr Will McDonnell, Northern Territory Police
Sister Liz Wiemers, Catholic Parish Santa Teresa
Ms Tamara Giles, Community Enterprises Australia Limited (CEA)
Ms Miriam Dieudonne, Community Member

Mr CHAIRMAN: This is a public hearing and I will just have to say a few words, they are formal words but I will change them a bit. I declare this meeting of the council of Territory cooperation open and welcome the people appearing today before the council. The hearing is open to the public and is being recorded. A transcript will be produced and will be available to the public. In certain circumstances we do not want what you say public, please let us know. So if there is something you want to say in confidence or in secret you can tell us and we will not publish it for the public to know about, just in case. So you understand not everything has to be in public. This committee also works under parliamentary privilege, as if you were in parliament. And for the purposes ... do we have any invited people as such ...

Ms SECRETARY: Yes we did, Mr Chair, invite a number of people, obviously the women from the housing reference group. Sr Liz is here. I cannot remember the name of the school principal, Greg Crowe, from ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: How about we just go around the room? Would that be easier?

Ms SECRETARY: We have listed most people down here, Mr Chair, if that (inaudible), and Tamara and Dianne and I from the council.

Mr CHAIRMAN: All right. Let's get everybody's name who is attending from the council. We have Mr Willem van Holthe member for Katherine, we have Ms Marion Scrymgour member for Arnhem, ah Arafura sorry! It starts with 'A' doesn't it. Lynne Walker, member for Nhulunbuy, and myself, Gerry Wood, member for Nelson. So, we very much welcome you coming back to this public meeting.

Basically today, throughout this morning, we were interested in and dealt with a fair bit of the housing issues. So if you have any other housing matters you would like to raise, but one of the areas we have not covered is certainly local government and we would be interested in what people have to say about local government since the big change came when you lost your own local government and it has been taken over by Macdonnell Shire. If you think that has been good we are happy to hear you, if you think it has improved, or if you think it is not as good. So perhaps we can start off now with Greg, as I know he has to go to a meeting. Greg, do you have anything you would like to put to the council before you have to rush off, anything in particular.

Mr CROWE: I think the school works towards, obviously, education, education in the bush. Schools have to get more meaning, and the meaning has to be in terms of employment. I think probably, but I do not want to sound too critical, but if the two governments, with the intervention and the shires could have planned stuff up, I think they have managed it. For example, last year when I came on as principal, there were several agencies here working in training and in trying to increase employment. Now they came basically as part of the intervention as the council was dismantled and other projects changed. In June/July last year all of the people involved in that, all the organisations involved in that, were changed. There was a gap of, say, 4 to 5 to 6 weeks before the new arrangements occurred so that local people first had a whole group of people coming in saying: 'We are going to help you with employment and training', but for some reason, unknown to them, that was all changed and a new group came in, and we have to get used to that all again. And that is all in the context of the way they feel about some of (inaudible).

An example is that over the past couple of years they had a horticultural program going with a lot of expensive help from the government. Last year – no, early this year, Power and Water came in and said: 'You are using too much water. It is costing too much money, so we are going to cut the water off'. The 10 young blokes going out there training to take over the horticulture basically were then told: 'Well, you can't work out here anymore, because

you can't pay the water bill'. And the same thing happened with the oval a few years ago. The oval was given water supplies, pumps and all the rest of it. This year, again, Power and Water came and said: 'You are not paying your bills so we will cut it off'.

So there is this government giving with one hand and taking away with the other. And this is over and over again. I just think that people are a bit sick of it because some of the people you were talking to this morning are on the staff and they talked to us a lot about that.

So, just in terms of trying to get the kids motivated, say when you finish your schooling, and there are a terrific bunch of teachers now, we have some advances in literacy and numeracy which are fairly significant, but you cannot say to them the government is going to do what they can to make sure you have stability in the workplace when you finish.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Could I just ask a question on the water cooler that was raised before. Now that water pipe is the old pipe from the Mission days

UNKNOWN: Yes.

Mr CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible) the water pipe to the oval has been there a long time. What I was asking, I mean, how did Power and Water get to own the water to do the orchard and do the oval. I would have thought they did not even put that bore down. They might maintain it. Did Power and Water have control of the water for a very long time or just a short time?

UNKNOWN: Short time. Yes.

Ms PALMER: Everything changed, you know. Everything changed.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: Was that before the community councils.

Ms PALMER: Yes.

Sr WIEMERS: The community council had (inaudible) ...

UNKNOWN: Community council had (inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: They did not charge themselves for the water.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: So it's not with the shire now?

Sr WIEMERS: No, it is with (inaudible).

UNKNOWN: Somehow Power and Water got it.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Well, that's interesting to know how they ...

Sr WIEMERS: I just know that in the parish last year when our water bills – we got huge water bills for each of the buildings and the (inaudible) was then 'Heavens above, where did these come from? We've never had them before' and they never told us they were coming. But I'm talking about for one house with two people in it and a water bill of \$800, and that came in, no notice, no nothing. Just the first we knew of it was we got the bill. So that was obviously when Power and Water took over from (inaudible).

Mr CROWE: I think that Council of Cooperation, like the collaboration between, you know, you talk about the silos and obviously I do not know all the details, but it seems to me that different groups are making unilateral decisions without telling other people. I think this of Power and Water a bit, but again a meeting late last year we had four or five different

people here talking to an (inaudible) in the (inaudible) in the community and every issue came up, probably three out of the five would say: 'Well, that is not my area. I am in Aboriginal employment'. 'Well, do you not do it out here?' 'No, I only do it in town', or 'I only do it here'. There was ducking and weaving the whole time because everyone had their own specific areas and there was no intersectable collaboration. It was the same for the 20 years since I have been around Alice Springs and intersectable collaboration does not happen and so the capacity building is another (inaudible) that is not happening because everyone up there own little area. It seems to me, I do not know for sure, but I think Power and Water seem to be an entity on their own.

I do not know whether they refer to the (inaudible) or to (inaudible) but certainly the people did not have any kind of feeling that there was any overall perspective to that early community.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Do you know who the people were that had those employment programs? Do you have any idea what the program was so we can say what happened?

Mr CROWE: It was just – I do not know why it was (inaudible). One of the positions here for the intervention was the government employment broker, a young bloke who was doing a terrific job here, but apparently was not going well elsewhere so they wiped all those missions across the Territory and so we lost that program and it took six weeks before they replaced them. I think that is where CAE came in. I am not sure about that – CPA.

UNKNOWN: CEA.

Mr CROWE: No, that was different again.

UNKNOWN: Yes, they (inaudible) ...

Mr CROWE: And the same with the CDEP. That was given to an Aboriginal organisation to run. So a whole bunch of new people came in, with new organisations, because it was sort of up for grabs again. They all tendered and so a different body were put in. Well, it all makes sense in our mind ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: It does not make sense in my mind.

Mr CROWE: Okay.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Because I think – well, in the sense that it is such an inefficient process, you waste so much money and people lose heart because one minute you have a job and next minute they have not and they start all over again and ...

Mr CROWE: I just want to say I am talking from the perspective of the kids going places as far as we can and we have just started a new program here for the senior kids who have not been engaged, about 30 young adults who have just come back to school on (inaudible) programs, but for what purpose? So I do not want to speak for the local people, but I just want to say from a school person coming in and trying to get the kids going somewhere it is (inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: We need consistency and (inaudible) employment at the other end.

Mr CROWE: Yes.

Mr CHAIRMAN: In relation to the water, is there only one bore? Does Power and Water run all the bores?

UNKNOWN: The bores were put in 1971, by the mission, I believe. There were four tanks up here, and that was pure water. Previous to that there was salty water (inaudible) the mission itself. That line was wiped and a new line was put in fairly recently.

Mr CHAIRMAN: I suppose why I am asking this, is because before Power and Water came (inaudible) community pump there was no water (inaudible) on the football field or out into the garden. Power and Water has come along and said: 'We will charge you for everything', and that means that the garden cannot pay the bills. Is there an opportunity for the shire or someone to drill a new bore and pump that water separate from Power and Water? You do not have to deal with them if you are pumping water as a private body. It is not drinking water. It is there for watering the trees. That is how it would have been before. There is no way that the garden here is going to make enough money to pay a water bill. It is just not viable.

UNKNOWN: There is a bore very close to where the orchard is. It is salty, but it has been trialled. I do not know whether ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: I think the council will be happy to take that up – not with Power and Water. But I think, what Greg said, about losing your jobs, everyone plays sport and so you want your oval as good as you can get it. On Bathurst Island it is the same. I used to look after the oval. Now they pay Power and Water \$2000 a year. (Inaudible) when they bring them in you have to be at least aware of the ramifications of that.

Sr WIEMERS: I think the other issue about the oval is that there is so much talk about health, fitness and only this morning I heard Robert de Castella saying we want these young men who are going to New York to be models in our community for fitness, and then we are going to end up with an oval that is (inaudible). I cannot see, there is some contradiction there. And that is a public facility. No one is paying the huge bills for the swimming pool. These are not options in a community. You have to have some things (inaudible)

Ms SCRYMGOUR: I think we need to follow that up. This is important. When did you say that the oval and the orchard had the water disconnected or stopped?

Mr CROWE: The orchard guys were going out at the beginning of this year. So, it has only really happened this year. In terms of the commercial side of it, they have had about 18 months of experimenting and they expanded it this year to almost semi-commercial in terms of food in the community. They had great success with it. Again the previous (inaudible) had big plans, and he has gone. But the possibility was that they could have at least covered the supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables for the community. It was almost there.

Ms GILES: The Macdonnell Shire came to me and said to me that we would have a water charge for the water, because I was responsible for the orchard and the employment program out there. The average cost of the water was going to be around \$10 000. I certainly do not have that as part of my CDEP budget, and I have not been to Power and Water but I have looked at other avenues, like exemption from [inaudible]. I have also looked at philanthropic organisations to be able to chip in and help out with the water, and the water situation, trying to get it off the ground again. The GBM has put out a local authority funding application in, and it was approved. The funding will come to my organisation for a drip irrigation system out there that I need to be able to have some insurance of, and exemption on the cost of water or something to be able to make sure that water bill will get paid. Because what will happen is that two years down the track I no longer have a contract here in this community, and what will happen then?

Ms SCRYMGOUR: So, rather than Power and Water, the shire has said you have to pay x amount of dollars ...

Ms GILES: Because they are being billed by Power and Water. And, on average, it was going to be approximately \$10 000. So it is \$40 000 a year over the next two years and \$80 000 that simply (inaudible) maybe I could get the money together, but what happens when I go or my organisation leaves and there is no more CDEP whatever. What, are we going to leave the orchard out there with a drip system and nothing; it is still, you know, (inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: How was that figure calculated?

Ms GILES: That is what they gave me.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Yes, in terms of (inaudible) – the shire cannot sell the water at a profit.

Ms GILES: No.

Mr CHAIRMAN: The shire is not – and (inaudible) ...

Ms GILES: It was based on what came out of that bore and they split it up. I am not too sure of exactly how it was ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: It is a lot of money.

Ms GILES: Yes.

Mr CROWE: No-one said how much per (inaudible) whatever?

Ms SCRYMGOUR: No, there was nothing on the usage, how much came out (inaudible) ...

Ms GILES: No.

Mr CROWE: There was no discussion about making it more effective to minimise the use of – no kind of (inaudible) about 'Let us get more effective with the use of water', it was just (inaudible) that is it.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: We will follow this up because it just does not – and that cost, I mean, you were saying, the water ...

Ms GILES: I know the shire gave me that as an estimated cost based on what their deal was from that particular pump. That was only a percent. The bill was something like \$40 000 for the oval, for the – there was a whole lot of things it covered and the – because the orchard does use a lot of water, that was a percent.

Mr CHAIRMAN: My suggestion would be instead of paying that bill put in a bore and pay the electricity.

Ms GILES: Yes.

Mr CHAIRMAN: (inaudible) the water is (inaudible).

Mr CROWE: Who owns the water?

Mr CHAIRMAN: Well, the community. That is what happens anywhere else in the Territory.

Mr CROWE: They did not talk to the community ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: I know. When I say they owned it, it is the Territory government owns it, but most people like on pastoral property, on a (inaudible) place out at Lambells Lagoon in the Top End, they do not pay for their water. They pay for electricity.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: That is changing (inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: But that will change, yes. There are a range of people out ...

Ms SCRYMGOUR: It will be, I am telling (inaudible) ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible) but anyway the option is to put your own bore in. For \$80 000 ...

Sr WIEMERS: Can I just ask a question on that though. I do not know whether it would be that simple here because only recently when we had the Work for the Dole people do some repairs to a church-owned building, you know the (inaudible) object to that on the grounds that everything in this community belongs – she should know what is happening in this community. So I wonder if you put a bore down I think we might have FASCHIA right on top of this. I am sorry, but that is my (inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: Well, you have to get approval for a bore to start with. You have to get a licence.

Sr WIEMERS: Yes.

UNKNOWN: We still (inaudible) ...

Sr WIEMERS: (Inaudible) lease (inaudible).

Ms SCRYMGOUR: The less problematic one, Mr Chairman, is for us to sort out with Power and Water and with the shire what the community service obligation is in terms of the shire and what is happening.

Sr WIEMERS: Swimming pool, sports oval.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: I do not think (inaudible), I think that that is probably a more (inaudible) ...

Sr WIEMERS: Can I ask another question though? Can you also find out what the unit price of water is, because I do not know of anyone in the town that pays the kind of bills and, you know, other people are not getting those bills but other people are (inaudible) getting huge bills for water that just do not add up. So if we find out what the unit price is and also how they are calculating it.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Has each block of land or has the church land got a meter?

Ms SCRYMGOUR: Who knows (inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: Or does someone just go (inaudible) like the water is pumping?

Ms SCRYMGOUR: Does someone come and read your meter or ...

Sr WIEMERS: Who knows, I have never seen anyone reading the water meter.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: But then they (inaudible) ...

Sr WIEMERS: We get billed. Well, we have someone up there at the moment. I have not looked at them lately, but usually in the vicinity. Each building – for the church it probably uses now a few buckets a week (inaudible) we would get a bill there for over \$200, \$300.

Mr CHAIRMAN: All right, well we will find that out for you.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: Are you able to – sorry.

Ms PALMER: And when they turned the water off at the orchard they can let the community know. There was no consultation with the shire and the CEA and the community. They did not let the community know until a few weeks later they knew and they are very upset about it.

Mr CHAIRMAN: So the council owns the orchard?

Ms PALMER: The community owns the orchard.

Mr CHAIRMAN: The community.

UNKNOWN: And shire.

Ms PALMER: And the shire.

Mr CHAIRMAN: The shire. The shire council owns ...

UNKNOWN: The shire does not want anything to do with the orchard (inaudible) ...

Ms PALMER: And the shire ...

Ms SCRYMGOUR: So it is out of the shire boundary, is it?

Ms PALMER: Yes, the shire does not want to have anything to do with the orchard, even the maintenance of the house that families are living in out there.

Mr CHAIRMAN: But is it one of the shire's core functions?

UNKNOWN: No.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: If it is (Inaudible) shire boundary it should be (inaudible).

Ms PALMER: No, the orchard is not.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Not (inaudible).

UNKNOWN: (Inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible) shire (inaudible)?

UNKNOWN: No, it makes no (inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: No.

UNKNOWN: I am just being (inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: Yes, well – yes, I was just saying ...

UNKNOWN: No, it is not one of their core things, the horticultural (inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: Well, actually ...

UNKNOWN: (Inaudible) local government should be doing the rates, roads and rubbish but they do not.

Mr CHAIRMAN: ... certain profile horticulture. Operate horticultural business that is the council. Undertake development and promotion of horticulture in communities.

Ms GILES: We do parks and gardens and we are going to do tree planting, but they have said we do not have an enterprise or (inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: Well that is Macdonnell Shire's service delivery report, and ISM. I am not saying that I think the shire should run the gardens, because (inaudible) I am saying it should have a garden, but I think it should not be run by the shire. But that is a different issue and we will not get into that.

Ms NONA: We only do what we are allowed to do.

Mr CHAIRMAN: We are talking about Macdonnell Shire, we are not blaming you. We are talking about Macdonnell Shire. It is just that government signed up all the shires for certain functions, (inaudible) horticulture, now we have on one hand Power and Water saying we are going to charge you so much for water; your horticulture cannot exist any more, (inaudible) one side over here, one side over there. We will follow that up and find out what is going on.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: I just want to make a comment that (inaudible) in the East Arnhem region where I live, that in the East Arnhem shire in Yirrkala, that the shire has taken over the running of a very successful banana farm. It was a well established business at the time it was handed over, but (inaudible). I can understand what you are saying, but we established a shire in Tiwi Shire (inaudible) effective and quite good (inaudible) supply fresh fruit and vegetables to all of the communities on the Tiwi Islands and also West Arnhem. And it is providing employment. It is working brilliantly with (inaudible).

So I think, Mr Chair, we need to ask some questions of Power and Water but also of the shire, as to those costs, and why isn't the orchard seen as employment and a core shire activity because it is an important function. I think it is an important function.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Anyway, not to worry. (Inaudible)

Ms NONA: Power and Water has made that decision of their own accord, because the amount of water being used by the orchard a day was higher than the whole community's consumption, which would indicate that the pipes and everything are all bugged, the underground irrigation is really old. And they have just said: 'We are going to cut it off'.

Mr CHAIRMAN: How many kilometres is the garden from the bore?

Ms NONA: The garden from the bore?

Mr CHAIRMAN: Yes, the water system from the bore.

Ms NONA: I do not know. I am sorry, I do not.

Mr CHAIRMAN: The reason I say that is because you would think someone, as a matter of (inaudible) would say first of all: 'We think you are losing water because the pipes are leaking, or we think you are using too much water for the trickle irrigation, or small sprinklers'. You think there would be some sort of worker at Power and Water who would say: 'We can help you'. Because they also have community service obligations as a business to provide water to the communities.

Ms NONA: Power and Water are a force unto themselves. They believe they call the shots. That is my view.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Because if a line had been broken, it is not that difficult to replace it, (inaudible) polypipe. So there would be solutions. But it seems that the solution was: you have got to pay up or (inaudible).

Ms NONA: Well, they still have to pay regardless of whether it is turned off or not. Because the consumption in the houses has gone up now, because the orchard has been cut off.

Mr CHAIRMAN: All right, we might ask a few questions about Power and Water about the water supply for this community as well, so that we can get the bigger picture.

Ms PALMER: Because the orchard was cut off and there are citrus trees planted already (inaudible). I work out there. I look after it, so that (inaudible) we are going to put a huge pipe down to the bottom end where the citrus were, and water them, to keep them alive, until something could be done. (inaudible)

UNKNOWN: Is it also true that you have been doing it by bucket?

Ms PALMER: Bucket, by bucket, carting water.

Ms CAVANAGH: Bucket to each tree.

Ms PALMER: Because the (inaudible) country mob have planted a lot of citrus trees, and they are growing very well out there, so that the families there have been watering trees with buckets of water. And also the family have been paying rent, and the shire can not help them in any way with their maintenance. So that is another thing I would like to follow.

Mr CHAIRMAN: That road out there does not have any maintenance, is that what you are saying?

Ms PALMER: No, the houses. The families are living in, they are not getting any support, you know.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Do they pay rent?

Ms PALMER: They pay rent.

Mr CHAIRMAN: They pay it to whom?

Ms PALMER: Shire.

Ms NONA: No, it does not, it does not. I looked into the debt because you do want to repair and maintain the house but it is not ours. It is not NT Housing, it. (inaudible) take this up with the shire with Mike Freeman the CEO, because, it has been a really (inaudible) because no one seems to want to know about it, it is there, but no one wants to know about it. And it makes it very difficult for me because my hands are tied.

Ms PALMER: Where is the rent money going to?

Ms NONA: Who is paying rent?

Ms PALMER: Rachael, the teacher who lives out there.

Ms NONA: Well, it is not coming to us.

Ms PALMER: Well, CEO Catholic Education is deducting all the rent money and paying who?

Ms NONA: Who is deducting it?

Ms PALMER: The Catholic Education.

Ms NONA: Well then it must be under Catholic care.

Ms PALMER: No. No, no, no. It says Shire Council on her pay slip. That rent money is going to the shire council.

Ms NONA: What is her name sorry?

Ms PALMER: Rachael Garner.

Ms NONA: Rachael Garner, where is she, at the school?

Ms PALMER: She is a teacher at the school. She lives out there.

Ms NONA: She needs to bring her payslip in because she is not our pay roll.

Ms PALMER: Of course she is not. She is working under the Catholic Education.

Ms NONA: Can you bring me one so I can take it up with the shire? I am unaware of that. I did not know that. Okay?

UNKNOWN: We have a regular meeting with (inaudible), yes, tomorrow. And we will raise some of these issues.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: I am waiting for them to get back to me on the Power and Water situation. So I will let you know.

Ms NONA: I would really like to talk about the road from here to Alice Springs. It is a horror story. I have known people to have three flat tyres in one day. And if you spoke to everyone in this room they would be able to attest to how many tyres, the people who came and graded it, instead of building the road up, they are digging it deeper so it becomes like a big swimming pool. Apparently three years ago it was promised that it would be a sealed road from here to Alice. Can that be looked up?

Ms SCRYMGOUR: I could check that promise. And I know it was an election promise in 2005. Not all of it was promised to be sealed, but there was a promise. I got an email about this, just bear with me; I was tracking down asking them to get me some information on ...

Ms GILES: The worst thing is that it is at a section that says Roads to Recovery!

Ms SCRYMGOUR: The department is going to check this out, because DPI or Roads, they are saying that in January 2007 to May 2009, over \$3m has been spent on that road. So the department, and the minister has now put an inquiry into what has happened to that bit because I said to him that is probably the worst road I have ever ridden on.

Sr WIEMERS: It is. Can I just say that Road to Recovery part, and I am going to (inaudible)- you should have been here in the Wet because they pinched Miriam's idea. In the Wet we had four alternative ways to recovery there. We had four side tracks as well as the main track, but (inaudible) is saying they came along at the beginning of this year, dug that all up and if you look at it, put all of the dirt on the side and they have never been back to finish it.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: Yes, I was looking at it.

UNKNOWN: And I am just wondering whether they got paid for doing that.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: Yes, well, they have. Well, as I said, January 2007 to May 2009, \$3m was spent on gravelling and resheeting – they said resheeting the entire length of the road. Stage 2 is worth \$1.1m and that is supposed to be due by June 2010. So I have given another analysis after driving that road with my colleague (inaudible) ...

UNKNOWN: Can I just also say, not only do they ...

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE: So would it be fair to say that that work has not taken place?

Mr CROWE: The same contractor is working on the Titjikala road or (inaudible) road at the moment.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: Has that gotten better?

Mr CROWE: Well, let us just say ...

Ms SCRYMGOUR: That is the worst road – I reckon that is worse than this road.

UNKNOWN: (Inaudible) it will get better.

Mr CROWE: In fairness, we had a fair bit of rain (inaudible) period where they did grade, then grade, then grade, so we did have a lot of water, and they have been fighting an uphill battle. I do not have a problem with that, but they did start on the Santa Teresa Road initially and that is when your first rains came in and that is when they took the grader past and they decided to do the Finke Road, Titjikala Road and (inaudible).

UNKNOWN: That is this one here.

Mr CROWE: Yes, and that is on the way (inaudible) back, so I mean they have not finished the Titjikala Road.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: We have been hearing stories of renal dialysis patients ...

UNKNOWN: Yes and they are going to get on that (inaudible).

Ms SCRYMGOUR: ... transported three times a week (inaudible).

Mr CROWE: You would not want to (inaudible) one of those (inaudible). One of my (inaudible) has got to be (inaudible) three times a week for dialysis. He goes through tyres like they are going out of fashion and I go through a set of work tyres in 6000 km. They are just replacing the tyres (inaudible) the rock, but he is doing it in his own car. I cannot help him (inaudible), the police car actually (inaudible) ...

Sr WIEMERS: I think you might find that between the school and the Brothers last year they went through something like 29 tyres. That is new tyres; that is not just blow outs.

UNKNOWN: People spend more money on repairs and (inaudible) ...

Sr WIEMERS: And I would like to put in a bid not only for that (inaudible) to recovery but the other side of the second (inaudible) from Alice Springs to that first bridge, I think it is a disgrace. You know that clay bath, that is just a shocker and the last time there was a grader over it, I do not know how long the grader driver – all he did was just shift some sand around and actually made it more dangerous because it was just all loose.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: Did the council used to have a grader driver or ...

UNKNOWN: Yes.

Mr CHAIRMAN: But did they do that road?

UNKNOWN: Yes.

Ms WALKER: All the way to Alice?

UNKNOWN: All the way. It was like we had our own local road crew here.

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE: Working for the council?

UNKNOWN: Working here.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Okay.

UNKNOWN: We have everything here.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Well, that is a bit unusual because usually the government is trying to give roads to the council. It looks like the council gave the road back to the government which is not normal.

UNKNOWN: No.

Mr CHAIRMAN: So the government owns the road now or is responsible for the road.

Ms NONA: We would have done it in days gone by because there are two big rollers up there, there is a grader, a dozer, a ...

Ms SCRYMGOUR: And what is happening, are they just sitting there?

Ms NONA: They used in civil works. The rollers just sit there.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Well, you need a water tank, of course, if you are going to have rollers.

UNKNOWN: (Inaudible) water tanks, everything.

Mr CHAIRMAN: We will have to have an investigation on the roads. Can you tell us about local roads then? Now, under the federal government system for roads you get a certain amount of money for roads and you have a certain amount of bitumen roads here.

Ms NONA: Yes.

Mr CHAIRMAN: And they get a higher value of money from the federal system – grants for roads.

Ms NONA: Yes.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Is that money coming through from the West MacDonnell Shire to actually repair these roads, the bitumen?

Ms NONA: Someone came out and had a look at the roads probably a few months back and they ordered two (inaudible), or I do not know what a (inaudible) road base to do the shoulders and the – down this end. They have not even looked up this end. I have been getting Easy Lay or something to fill the potholes because it is all ready to go, like it is just putting the seals.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Yes, you buy it in drums.

Ms NONA: It comes with some buckets and (inaudible). Yes, but to be honest we have not had a budget – like I do not have a budget to work on.

Mr CHAIRMAN: So you could not say how much money you can spend on the road. So the shire works all that out from Alice Springs.

Ms NONA: Well, I hope so.

Mr CHAIRMAN: I know you had a lot of rain, but were the roads in the condition they are before the rain, deep gutters and deep (inaudible) on the bitumen.

Ms NONA: Yes, there has been. It has been a while, like since – you know, the amount of rain we have had here since January has washed – like there has just been – it is just unreal what it has actually done. It probably was not as bad then as it is now.

Mr CHAIRMAN: When did the rain stop?

Ms NONA: The last lot of rain we had was in March.

Mr CHAIRMAN: And they did not send a grader out to do cattle station work ...?

UNKNOWN: No.

Mr CHAIRMAN: ... as soon as the ...

UNKNOWN: No.

Sr WIEMERS: Can I say the potholes, they were there long, and they have been there a long time. They are antiques.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Heritage.

Sr WIEMERS: Yes. No, they are kind of like a monument to who ever.

Mr CHAIRMAN: So what is your role ...

Sr WIEMERS: Long time.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Your role as the shire manager is to be what for here?

Ms NONA: Is to make sure that the – we do roads currently with very limited resources; rubbish – we do not have wheelie bins, I have ordered wheelie bins, but they are still lifting 44s, lifting them into the truck; the swimming pool; sport and recreation; the shire; civil housing; repairs and maintenance; parks and gardens and the store at the moment sits in the shire but they have promised to hand it back to community, the store; night patrol. Just the basic services aside from the clinic and the school and ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: Who will run the store?

Ms NONA: The school is ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: The store. Did you not say store?

Ms NONA: Outback. Outback run it because it is under the shire at the moment.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Might get them to (inaudible) too.

Ms WALKER: And through the chair, what about the art centre at ...

Ms NONA: Separate organisation.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Now, I have got ...

UNKNOWN: Exactly what it said, it is separate.

Ms NONA: Well, it is very hard to get someone to work there.

Mr CHAIRMAN: I have got the budget for this year 2009-10 and it says 'Expenditure – Shire Service Delivery allocation – Santa Teresa – \$254 660'. Does that sound about right?

Ms NONA: Well, that is what I have been given, but to be honest, and the shire will tell you the same thing, what they have got and what they really have got (inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: So you would not be given this amount of money for you, it would not come here, that in theory they could spend on Santa Teresa roads and rubbish and ...

Ms NONA: Possibly, but what I do, all I do is if something is required I get a quote and I do a purchase order through here. I can only go up to \$5000 that is my delegation anything over that I then have to get permission from the shire.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Do you have a workforce.

Ms NONA: Yes.

Mr CHAIRMAN: How many people would work for the council?

Ms NONA: Six provide the civil works, two with – one is an ESO and the other is housing and they work with the housing guys, so there are those three. We have got a sport and rec and a pool supervisor and they have got, I think, four or five people doing part-time work with sport and rec. Night patrol, we have got I think three guys at the moment.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Would your youth services budget come out of the youth services money?

Ms NONA: Yes, but the money – we do not even have – like we have probably got out of all the communities one of the largest amounts of children that actually attend the youth centre and our funding does not even cover to have two full-time sport and rec people.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Is that the \$1.4m for youth services in the whole shire?

Ms NONA: What? That would be through the 14 communities.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Yes, you are not (inaudible).

Ms NONA: Yes.

Mr CHAIRMAN: I mean this is to see whether the money has – now, who then would pick up things like rubbish and mow the oval?

Ms NONA: We do.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Yes, okay.

Ms NONA: Yes.

Mr CHAIRMAN: And you have got the equipment to do all that and ...

Ms NONA: Well, I am still waiting on (inaudible). We are held to ransom by the businesses in Alice because they say support local whatever, I could go to Queensland, where I come from, to the suppliers that I had there and get stuff landed here cheaper than I can get it in Alice and probably faster. I put in the slasher and other things in January; they are still sitting there not fixed.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Is anyone at Macdonnell Shire actually following it up for you?

Ms NONA: Yes, I have actually told (inaudible) that I am not dealing with them anymore, that I withdraw my business and I will be telling the whole 14 communities to do the same. He is trying very hard to be nice to me, but I am over it. We are held up constantly by Alice.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Do you ...

Ms NONA: Constantly waiting on staff, because they do it when they are ready. They have just got (inaudible), so it is not right at all.

Mr CHAIRMAN: What about things like planting trees, and (inaudible) nursery?

Ms NONA: No, no there is no nursery. I wanted and would love to have a nursery. That is something that I think the orchard should have, you know what I mean? As part of that

whole agricultural (inaudible). I wanted to have a farm, and I was told by DEEWR, “no, can’t have chickens”. I know, but that is what they told us when I was going down that road.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: Did DEEWR tell you that down here?

Ms NONA: In Docker River. She had a cowboy hat on, I cannot remember her name. And I thought, okay ...

Ms GILES: The policy surrounding what they use the money on, they do not do dogs and they do not do (inaudible), they do not do enterprises and they (inaudible)

Ms NONA: They have changed the whole - it is all jobs as an outcome now.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: So a farm is not a job outcome?

Ms NONA: Well, it should be but, it is an enterprise

Ms GILES: And you cannot make money off an enterprise developed from government funding.

Mr CHAIRMAN: That the argument, that is why we contribute to (inaudible)

Ms NONA: Well, I would love to have a nursery (inaudible) they actually take pride in their yards here and (inaudible)

Ms YOUNG: I have a question for you, Dianne, about Night Patrol. Under the shire as well?

Ms NONA: Yes.

Ms YOUNG: Is it just to go around in the community.

Ms NONA: Yes. It is not Night Patrol responsibility, they are not trained as policemen, they are not trained in (inaudible) combat, and we are not sending them out there to be put at risk. So, they should not be out there if they are.

Ms YOUNG: It is just a question about (inaudible) because a lot of people in this community (inaudible) and they are... how many kilometres from the boundary to here? 12 kilometres I think. There are a lot of people who come walking back here. There are a lot of people walking back, and are dehydrated and ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: What is the effective role of the Night Patrol?

Ms NONA: They are in Darwin right now having a meeting. They need to have clear roles as to what their responsibilities are and their roles. I have been told they are not a taxi, they are not a tow truck, and they are used for all those different things. They are actually supposed to make sure the community is safe and that if there are any problems to contact the police.

UNKNOWN: (inaudible)

Ms NONA: Yes, I know, but I do not make the rules.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Well it is interesting that you say they are not sure of their roles because they get \$3.4m, so you think some one would have made sure that the roles were set out pretty clearly before they gave over the \$3.4m.

Mr CROWE: I am actually supportive of (inaudible) pretty good job.

Mr CHAIRMAN: But there is no point asking what there role is, if (inaudible)

Ms NONA: I remember when it was done, they just came ... ad hoc ... here you go we need someone to do Night Patrol and the federal government (inaudible)

Ms WALKER: So, through the Chair can I just ask how many people are employed in Night Patrol?

Ms NONA: Three, we had five but two of them were just not turning up so...

UNKNOWN: And are they provided with any training?

Ms NONA: They have had basic training, they are not ... it is just basic training like work place health and safety, that sort of stuff. They are not trained in how to go out and assist the police if there is violence or ... they are not trained in that. If one of them gets injured we are in a lot of trouble. It is a very grey area and it needs to be specific as to what they can and can not do.

Ms WALKER: I know again, because I come from the east Arnhem area, that the East Arnhem shire Night Patrol has got a really strong program, there is a lot of training, and obviously they are dealing with people who have been drinking in Nhulunbuy and making sure those people get home safely. Those people in the service are given lots of training and I have been out with them on Night Patrol to see how those women work, and they are good at their job, they know what they are doing because they have had good training.

UNKNOWN: (inaudible) I think we need more women for community (inaudible)

Mr CHAIRMAN: Well that is an issue of course you have to work out (inaudible)

Ms SCRYMGOUR: That is some thing we can take up with the Attorney-General's department. It is a major issue, and I totally agree. A lot of the communities in my electorate and Lynne's electorate, we have got, not just male Night Patrols, who could go and look at (inaudible) camp and make sure people are safe, but women. I think it is really important because the women play that pivotal role, and kids are walking around at night, and making sure that the little ones are kept safe. So I am willing to take that up to the Attorney-General's department and have a chat with the, because I think it is really important to have a female Night Patrol. But those roles and responsibilities in Night Patrol are important because I think that they could, because it is about people's safety, probably not funded at the moment to do it, but ...

Ms GILES: We would probably only need to look at the contract that was given to (inaudible) shire for Night Patrol, and it would tell you what their responsibilities are, and the boundaries.

Ms WALKER We could chase some of this up with them tomorrow.

Ms YOUNG: Would the Night Patrols need training?

Ms SCRYMGOUR: A lot of training. The Night Patrols in Lynne's electorate, like my electorate, the women's Night Patrol at Maningrida they are going around to all the communities in my electorate to talk to other women to set up their Night Patrols, their training has just been phenomenal. They work with the police, and with police women. So we have been trying to get police women to work with them, rather than police men.

Ms WALKER: Certificate II and III in Community Services.

Ms CAVENAGH: We do have problems here when drunks come back, and the person who is on Night Patrol would need to, you know; they should have the control in themselves towards the drunken person in the community. They need to be strong, and not to be provoked. That drunken person might be coming back or runs amok, or what ever. Do they have that sort of training?

Ms SCRYMGOUR: All of that gets done. I know, and I can only talk about my electorate and Lyn's as well, but I think the training that those guys do up there ...

Ms WALKER: Talking about the anger management as well.

Sr WEIMERS: That might also have an impact on, as Dianne was saying, two fellows were not turning up, not getting any training and being asked to do a hard job, I suppose one of the question I would ask is: should that training not be right across the Territory? Why not? Why is it not happening?

Mr CHAIRMAN: Well, it needs to be followed up, that is for sure.

Ms NONA: Can I suggest this, and I do not know how the police feel about it, but to my way of thinking, Night Patrol should not sit directly under them, but should work with them, even if the Night Patrol were doing like a community liaison certification or some thing like that, where they will get that extra training, they will not be working in their pocket every day, but there would be – because really they are told to do Night Patrol, they drive around, there is no one to watch them or ...

Ms SCRYMGOUR: They should be getting put in this properly accredited training for Night Patrol. And the police actually – and again, I can only talk of my electorate where the police do play quite a big supporting role in this, not just in the training. But also you have got intoxicated people in the community, those Night Patrollers known where their boundaries are and where the police boundaries are and there is quite a good relationship between them. I know in my community, I am sure you have seen it in Katherine, which is a good example where that operates effectively as well. Maybe we need to ask some of these questions tomorrow, we could talk to (inaudible)

Sgt McDONNELL: If I could just say something about the Night Patrol. I suppose (inaudible) with the Night Patrol, because that is in my best interests and I think it is in the best interests of the community as well, and that is why they come to Gunbalanya they get to use one of our police radios which is (inaudible) also in the Santa Teresa area but it gives them (inaudible) and that is a decision that I have made.

I think given that the support structure that they have from (inaudible) organisation could probably be done better but I do not know how far (inaudible) they have only got very irregular visits out there so I think from a police officer they do get a fair bit of support.

Not being their employer I can not tell them what to do but I can only support them in their actions so you know they are so aware they cop a mouthful off some of the residents whether they are drunk or not but – or cross (inaudible) that they provide but I think the

support on night patrol itself I can not really comment on it but it is bit of a (inaudible) they do not have that – there probably needs to be more development of the supervisors I think much strong.

Sr WIEMERS: I just raise the question to you. We have fire truck here, was not much, was not much of a fire truck. I have grave concerns – we have not had a fire truck now here for what since last year and if there is a fire in this community we would just have to stand back and let it happen. After this huge rain the risk of a major grass fire here is very high.

Wendy (inaudible) told me she was going to put in a GBM and she was going to put in for a fire truck but then when she told me she was hoping to get \$25 000 well I thought what sort of fire truck is going ...

Ms NONA: It is a trailer, Liz. A fire trailer and we still have not had the ...

Sr WIEMERS: My concern is that this is going to go on and on and before we know it we are going to have a major fire here, grass fire at least and we have no, I just can not believe that we have a community with no facilities to fight a fire. If there is a fire in this building we will just have to stand by and say tata.

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE: Just a little question arising out of that. Who owns the fire truck and who is looking after it?

Sr WIEMERS: Well, it belonged to the community council and was taken over by the shire. The shire deemed that it probably was worn out and as I understand took it to town to sell it for scrap.

Ms PALMER: We had everything. All the trucks go missing to.

Sgt McDONNELL: I (inaudible) but obviously for those sort of things I have got to go through (inaudible) I am not saying more than that.

Ms WALKER: Can I just – because I have this in my electorates. It is unclear about where responsibility for fire fighting sits. It actually sits not with Police, Fire and Emergency services but with the Bushfire ...

Ms SCRYMGOUR: It also rescue, there is Maningrida. Maningrida has quite an active emergency rescue group which sits in the, I mean they sit within the police precinct, but like their two fire trucks there, all of their equipment has been years and years of fundraising let me tell you I mean even as I - them project money out of police minister and everyone else to try and help this group.

Sr WIEMERS: My point there is we had a fire truck, the shire deemed it that it had finished its life, took it away but did not replace it and we need one, we need it soon.

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE: I think Alice Springs Bushfires Council would be the people to approach to talk about that.

Ms NONA: To be honest I do not even know if the fire hydrant – like you know where the streets are, the water hydrant, I do not even know if they function.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Power and Water can come and check them.

Ms NONA: Well they should.

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE: And it is their responsibility.

Ms NONA: And that is why they should be organising for that to happen.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Can I just say we had (inaudible) exchange recently where they are the bush fires people, the Northern Territory Fire Brigade people and they are volunteers and I was talking to a gentleman called Dave, he is one of the high level managers of the fire brigade he actually spoke about the Maningrida fire brigade they are interested in seeing if they can start up a volunteer fire brigade in the communities.

So maybe through emergency services people, they combine the two say if there is a car accident or something, but they are certainly interested, he has been pushing it for a long time, so it may not be necessarily through the bush fires, it could be, if the NT Fire Service might be just looking at setting up in small towns a multi-skilled group of people who would be volunteers who can perhaps go to a car accident or ...

UNKNOWN: (Inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: That is right, but though I think he is looking for the money so that people will have some equipment, but I think the hard thing is, will people put their hand up to be volunteers, because they are not paid jobs.

Sr WIEMERS: Well, what happens – you see where there is a grass fire the men go out and fight, do they not.

UNKNOWN: Yes.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Yes, but you see, what comes with it – it is a bit like you were talking about night patrol – what comes with volunteers is a series of training, showing how to use equipment properly, how to – you know, who drives, who sprays, who maintains all the pumps and all of that sort of thing. So it is not a matter of just putting out the fire, it is making sure the equipment is ready and ready to go if there is a fire and you have got certain people on duty every day of the week. So it will require a community effort and I am happy to sort of talk to these blokes and say: 'Look, you want to come ...'

Ms NONA: Even SES, if it was formed, like an SES group?

Mr CHAIRMAN: Similar, they do not call (inaudible).

Ms CAMPBELL: Mr Chairman, if I could just give some background from the same department as the Brevet Sergeant does. There are basically a number of rangers and which Fire and Emergency and Rescue Services are actually provided in the Northern Territory and there, I think what David Pettit is talking about is what they call the third unit, which is the fire and emergency service units that stand both fire and rescue and emergency services and work under the local direction of police officers and depending on the nature of the community there would be a formal third unit or a local emergency service unit and in recent years both Fire and Rescue and Emergency Services got increased staff to provide regional training of the type that you were talking about.

I do not know that it will get expanded to smaller communities like Santa Teresa, but certainly we are happy to chase up, as a Secretariat, what the arrangements are for those fire and rescue units and emergency services units (inaudible) and training that might be available.

Sr WIEMERS: Can I just say, in the meantime, we have no fire truck, no water tank, if there is a fire it is that – I know, I understand about the training and I think that is a really

good thing and I know (inaudible) have a lovely maroon (inaudible), but I know of a young fellow who finished Year 12 and went into Emergency Services straight away in employment in his community. It is a great employment opportunity for them, too, but my issue is the shire took the fire truck away and we have neither the fire truck nor the water tank and we need them and we need them now.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Diane, you do not know why they were taken away.

Ms PALMER: It was probably (inaudible).

Ms NONA: It was before my ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: Before your time?

Ms NONA: I only came in October, so please do not shoot me.

Mr CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

Sr WIEMERS: So that is how long we have been without a water tank or a fire truck.

Ms PALMER: (Inaudible) fire truck.

Sr WIEMERS: And we need them and we need them not in six months time, we need them now, because there is going to be a major bushfire (inaudible).

Ms NONA: Wendy has said that they have put funding in for a water trailer and there is a water tank, like on a trailer, coming, that is part of the (inaudible) to put ...

Sr WIEMERS: When?

Ms NONA: Hey?

Sr WIEMERS: When?

Ms NONA: Well ...

Sr WIEMERS: It will be like the ...

Ms NONA: I have got the quote; the purchase order has been done it. It is Perry's, once again, Perry's, in town. They have to make the water trailer. I do not know about the fire trailer, who it is coming from, but because we have got the tree planting thing happening we need the water so that – yes, but as far as the fire truck, I do not know, I just think that – I will not say anymore, sorry.

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE: Well, is that an issue that you can push back through the shire through your hierarchy to maybe get some quicker action on it?

Ms NONA: Well, every time I do a report, which is every fortnight, I put it in there. I talk about it every shire meeting and a lot of it is the GBM needs to do the submissions to get the funding and that is (inaudible) on that.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Just on the question of fire hydrants, one of the service profiles for the Macdonnell Shire is power, water and sewerage. That is what is down here. Do you have an essential services officer first of all?

Ms NONA: Yes.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Is that person able to go, for instance, and find out where all the hydrants are (inaudible)?

Ms NONA: Yes.

Ms YOUNG: They are on – one is on right now.

Mr CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible) and check they are working. Do you have hoses to go with them?

Ms YOUNG: No.

Ms NONA: I would not have ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: That is all right I was just asking.

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE: I would not think so. It does not sound like it.

Mr CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible) ask a simple question ...

Sr WIEMERS: The fire truck has gone.

Mr CHAIRMAN: What is the point of a fire hydrant if you have got no hoses? You would have to put your finger over it and have a good (inaudible).

Ms SCRYMGOUR: What happens if a house goes on fire?

UNKNOWN: Well, that is (inaudible) ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: Why do we not then – I reckon that is a really sad state of affairs especially if someone's life (inaudible).

UNKNOWN: Yes, that is.

Ms NONA: Well, you will find that it is not just in this community.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Well, they should at least have hoses.

Sr WIEMERS: This community is going to stand up and say "not good enough".

UNKNOWN: This is where we need to raise all these things.

Mr CHAIRMAN: You were talking about relocating the tip. Which is a very important part of the ... well, I love tips.

UNKNOWN: Have you seen our tip?

Mr CHAIRMAN: Are we going to go out to the tip before we go?

Ms NONA: It is a 7 km sprawling landscape of rubbish. There are also some graves sites in there and some waterways. Okay. Now there has been money allocated by Catholic Care, they have allocated money, and an area has been identified behind the sewerage ponds, which is nice and flat, there are not rivers running through it. The community have

agreed that this is where they are (inaudible) to have it happen. CLC are holding up the whole process.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Did they say why?

Ms NONA: I do not know. They do not deal with me; they deal with the shire. But the bottom line is that we want to set up the new dump, and we are held up by CLC or who ever they are, and (inaudible) we need to identify graves, mark them out, and we would need a big metal thing to go through and remove it out of the community, and try to regenerate that area.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Do the traditional owners of the land you are selecting, have they given permission? Are they comfortable about it?

Many people: (inaudible)

Mr CHAIRMAN: And they live here?

UNKNOWN: Yes, they live here.

Mr CHAIRMAN: How long has this consultation period been going on?

Ms NONA: I have no idea. When I was moved here, I was told I (inaudible) so I have no involvement in that I just do what ever (inaudible)

Ms PALMER: Is it the CEA from Alice Springs? Some of the traditional owners are living in Alice Springs.

Mr CHAIRMAN: So, it should not be hard for the CLC to talk to them directly.

Ms PALMER: The elders are living in Alice.

Many people: (inaudible)

Sr WEIMERS: I think you will find, that where they are planning to put it, is actually flood (inaudible) this year, they are taking it out of one water way, they are putting it down beside the creek that is across down here. There is a really question about taking it out, yes it should go from where it is because it is on a waterway, but do you put it closer to the major water way?

Ms NONA: Is it not going at the back here?

Sr WEIMERS: No, it is down below the sewerage ponds, between the sewerage ponds and Yam Creek, and that flooded this year.

Ms NONA: It is from the back of the ponds down that way.

Ms PALMER: That flooded. That is a flood area.

Mr CHAIRMAN: The siting of it can be done with NRETAS, they actually should be looking at the site anyway, and most rubbish dumps have a licence today, if they are over a certain size. I would imagine NRETAS, if they are doing their job, would check the site regardless of permission, they would still be able to say, that site is suitable or not.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: But NRETAS would need to get an application from the shire of a notice of intent as to where they ought to place their dump. Now if they have not got the notice of intent from the shire, well it is a bit hard for NRETAS to come out and (inaudible)

Mr CHAIRMAN: No, I did not mean that. I meant that that is what will have to happen, regardless of where it goes.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: That is the process.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Yes, I understand the processes.

Ms NONA: Well, it is an issue, and we can not continue on the way it is, it is just ridiculous.

Mr CHAIRMAN: If I was the (inaudible) this is the book that comes out and tells me what the councils are supposed to do or the shire.

Do you look after aged or disabled people?

Ms NONA: Not here. In Docker we had an aged care, but there is not one here. The women's centre provides meals on wheels to the elderly. There is no actual ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: Who provides the money for meals on wheels? Who provides the funds?

Ms CAVENAGH: The women's centre.

Ms NONA: Whoever is funding the women's centre?

Mr CHAIRMAN: What about the art centre? Is that run by the shire?

UNKNOWN: That is an incorporated body.

Ms NONA: Yes.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Do you get much funding for it? I noticed that there is ...

Ms NONA: There is a schedule of rates. We have to make sure it is mowed and once again I am (inaudible) a slasher – I am still waiting for that. I sent the guys out with whipper snippers. We just have to make sure that the – it is a fair area to whipper snip.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Yes (inaudible) ...

Ms SCRYMGOUR: Is it a sealed airstrip?

Ms NONA: Hey?

Ms SCRYMGOUR: Sealed?

Ms NONA: No, it is gravel. We have to roll – we have to drag it, make sure that the planes can land on there.

Mr CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible)?

Ms NONA: We do not seem to have a big camel problem here which is good. At Docker they broke the fence continually, but we do not seem to have that problem here. Make sure that the sock is in good repair, just basic – there is a schedule, like every four months or something (inaudible) to make sure that all those things are done.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Do you have a cemetery? Do you look after the cemetery?

Ms NONA: Yes, we mow it. I do not know who picks the site to bury people.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Does anyone keep a register of what people are buried?

Ms NONA: The shire is supposed to have a register of – or they are supposed to be working on getting a register, because we need to know who is where and who ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: Well, would the Church (inaudible)?

Sr WIEMERS: Yes, Bill, who works up at the parish office is away on holidays at the moment. He seems to have known how – he told me anyway that while he was away he gave me the grave notes and told me where graves were vacant, so he must know.

Mr CHAIRMAN: I was just going to tell you (inaudible) the function of the council and ...

Ms NONA: I think it – yes.

Sr WIEMERS: But I do know for a fact that last year, early last year we had a funeral, there was nothing here to dig the graves with and those men dug it by hand.

Ms NONA: (Inaudible) when I arrived here there was no backhoe, there was – they were actually digging the graves with a bobcat. The backhoe has returned. I made sure of that.

Mr CHAIRMAN: All right.

Sr WIEMERS: But that was a fact, they dug the graves by hand.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Do you have any agencies here that you look after as a council, like Centrelink or the Post Office?

Ms NONA: Yes, but we (inaudible). A Centrelink agent here who is bored out of his brain (inaudible) because we have got (inaudible) just down the road here. It is like a duplicate - yes, I know. Why would you duplicate a service – no, no, it is okay. I go over this time and time again because when I got here and I saw the Centrelink agent there I thought ‘That is really great because having at Docker...’ – I will just keep referring to Docker River – it was like mayhem, because you would have a Centrelink (inaudible) and it was like a shopping mall. You would have people – it was just horrendous.

When I got here and saw it was separate I thought that is really progressive, that is really good, and then I am told it is only temporary, the one down here. They keep saying ‘We do not know how long that is going to be there for’. I mean it does not offer security for the people who actually work there and to my way of thinking why am I forced to have someone here when he either could be down there or why do we need to have it here and there.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Now, to get it simple, because I need it simple, but who is funding each one of these offices?

Ms NONA: Centrelink funds us or forces, as I would say, us to have an agent here.

Mr CHAIRMAN: And who is funding the one down (inaudible)?

Ms NONA: I have no idea.

UNKNOWN: Centrelink.

Ms CAVENAGH: Centrelink is operating.

Mr CHAIRMAN: So where do I go if I want my Centrelink payment, that office or this office.

UNKNOWN: Anyone.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Anyone?

UNKNOWN: Just choose one.

Mr CHAIRMAN: So the 900 people (inaudible) ...

Ms CAVENAGH: We are on a – we are under (inaudible). It is a remote kind of (inaudible) that we are doing through the intervention.

Mr CHAIRMAN: So you have got it as a core function or a function that is required by local government but at the same completely separate from you is another Centrelink agency?

Ms NONA: It is totally ridiculous.

UNKNOWN: (Inaudible) training (inaudible).

Ms WALKER: Gerry, can I ask a question about (inaudible)?

Mr CHAIRMAN: Yes, Lynne.

Ms WALKER: So, Diane, you would have the same arrangement, I know that East Arnhem and West Arnhem Shire do not have (inaudible). They receive a certain amount of money from Australia Post to operate but it is nowhere near what actually it costs for you to operate (inaudible) by the time you have (inaudible) ...

Ms NONA: Well, it is strange you should mention that because since I have been here, in my budget there is no actual budget amount for freight and I have been paying for freight, even the Crisco Christmas hampers, they all arrive at Christmas time, I paid all the – not me personally, but out of my budget – all the freight. It was just non-stop. Anyway, I went to the shire and I said 'I have had enough of this' because we get all the mail for the school and they get a lot of books and, you know, it is very heavy to drag around. Anyway, I said to the Post Office 'Why do I have to pay the freight for all the mail that comes to Santa Teresa?' And they said, 'You should not be'.

So now they pay solely to haulage to bring the mail out so we have been footing the bill for all that time and every time I ask the Shire they said, 'oh you will be getting nine grand a year or something'. Nine grand does not cover it by any stretch of the imagination so now everyone has got their own private mail bag, they all have their own bags, we just get our own bits of mail for the community and that is what we hand out.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Where is the post office money shown in the Macdonnell Shire's budget?

Ms NONA: Where is it shown? It is not. You try and find it?

Mr CHAIRMAN: I can not.

Ms NONA: That is right. You will not because it does not exist.

Sr WIEMERS: But on the other hand can I say prior to the Shire, there was a post office agency and see there is a bank agency here, you could go and cash a cheque, you could go and draw money, I know there is not a teller there, you could buy stamps, you could post a letter. We have no facility here for posting a letter; mail comes in one day a week. We in the parish have opted to go with the private mail bag we don't want to for the little bit of mail that we get.

Ms NONA: Yours is fine really it is the ...

Sr WIEMERS: We are dealing with that and the ridiculous thing we have actually opted not to have it delivered here at all we will pick up (inaudible) in town because one day a week, getting the mail one day a week when you are 80 kms from town and we have no facility to post a letter we are better off with a mail bag and put our own mail in the mail and take it but that costs us then really Australia Post have an obligation to service here and so why – at least we have a postal facility but one of these days (inaudible) wants to post a letter where does she post it, where does she buy a stamp ...

Ms NONA: It is the same thing where – you know we have not got any stamps or envelopes ...

Sr WIEMERS: Where is the post office ...?

Ms NONA: ... there is no allocation.

Sr WIEMERS: We had one; the sign is still there we had everything.

Ms PALMER: We had community council we had everything based here. When (inaudible) came in everything yesterday it collapsed. We had our own people working in the bank as well. We had our power (inaudible) taken away from us. Jack the ripper.

Mr CHAIRMAN: No, no, that is not the intention. We would like the system to work better.

Ms PALMER: We have the power and that was taken away from us we had power.

Mr CHAIRMAN: If we do not know what is wrong we have no way of fixing up or trying to chasing it.

Ms YOUNG: But we need to get these things (inaudible) for our committee (inaudible)

Sr WIEMERS: And saying today is that they are bored witless, like this is craziness and I really object to the fact that we have almost been pushed in the parish and the school to get into a private mail bag. Last week, Russell had six letters. Six letters from ...

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE: Just a question for the ladies in general but was there more employment through community government council.

ALL: Yes.

Ms PALMER: There was more employment, people were working, people had the power, people make their own decisions. Everything was working.

UNKNOWN: People were working now today there is nothing.

Ms PALMER: Everybody had jobs.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Could I ask you, did they ask you do you want to get rid of your Council or they just said it is going to go. Was there any consultation.

Ms PALMER: No consultation (inaudible) Australia in the community nothing, they just take it away.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: When the government like local government did the department and LGANT did those organisations come and sit down and talk to the community and say this ...

Ms PALMER: Not really, not to the community, no consultation.

Mr CHAIRMAN: That is a very good question. I like to know whether we could get some figures on how many people were employed perhaps before and how many people are employed now you said about six to ten is that about it.

Ms NONA: I have got 29 staff.

Mr CHAIRMAN: 29.

Ms YOUNG: When the Shire first came in there were about 72 maybe.

Ms NONA: There is 29 staff and there is myself the trade team leader, civil team leader oh and there is two sport recs, so there is five non Indigenous the rest are all Indigenous.

Mr CHAIRMAN: You do not mind me asking these question because they are important to see how – community pool.

Ms NONA: Yes. A horror story whoever built it honestly whoever built that pool. You do not slap a pool in the middle of the desert with no cover. Like it should have been a built maybe indoors with a roof on it or I do not know but and the plumbing is so old in it now, it is a similar story as the (inaudible) it is just springing leaks everywhere underneath it.

Sr WIEMERS: When did it get built?

Ms NONA: 30 years ago.

Sr WIEMERS: It was built by the church and where the church – it was built by the mission and then the mission abandoned it with some facilities over to the Council. So it is fine for (inaudible) to say that it should have been covered. I am not defending the church but I am saying 30 years ago people would never have thought of covering pools and it was probably one of the few communities in this neck of the Territory who had a pool so early.

Ms NONA: It is a good thing that we have got a pool but just the maintenance is a horror story and the water bill. Because of all the water leaks that are happening we have got some

of them repaired now but the piping is so old it just keeps breaking because the dirt washes away and it just got no foundation.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: You can appoint service fees.

Ms NONA: Service fees. We just pay humungous water bills (inaudible) a football oval.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: No, no I mean residents in the community so no one pays a service fee or no one pays rates.

Ms NONA: They are looking into that now like charging the school for their program and really they are looking at charging the kids to you know, who knows I am not making (inaudible) but they need to have something to recoup the cost of the chlorine, it is constant you know keeping the levels up and it is pretty (inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: So how many pools go over the Macdonnell Shire?

Ms NONA: Three I think.

Mr CHAIRMAN: And they ...

Ms GILES: Areyonga, Santa Teresa and (inaudible).

UNKNOWN: No, that is not the match ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: So you get the money for provision ...

Ms NONA: In this case a grant or something.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Preventative funds for swimming pool upgrades of \$50 000 so that would not go far.

Ms NONA: No.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Northern Territory government but that is spread over those pools.

Ms NONA: And that does not go far because being concrete around the outside you cut the dust levels down because it was just dust, dust it is just never ending.

Mr CHAIRMAN: The figures we have got do not show how much the cost to run the swimming pools.

Ms NONA: It is about ball park because I estimate – I had Barkly Shire rang me a month ago because they want to build a pool and they wanted a ball park figure. I rang the Shire and said you know like wages blah blah and they came out to about \$80 000 a year. That is just wages and chemicals and water costs.

Mr CHAIRMAN: That is a lot of money out of \$254 000. (inaudible)

Ms NONA: Recently like the last local Board meeting that was held with the Shire, like the Shire comes out and has a Board meeting, it was decided that they would bring in policy of two dogs per house and I have to say the community have been really cooperative but the last time the vet was here there was lots of females were needed to stop them coming on heat and there were a lot of dogs put down and I mean we are not here to murder dogs or whatever but the dog numbers have to be reduced because – just for health reasons there is a whole (inaudible) of reasons but the community as a whole I do believe are on board with it

and once they have got their fences fixed properly where they can keep the dogs in the yard you know and stuff like that it will make it better.

Because when the horses start foaling all the dogs go out and kill the baby horses and that creates quite a bit of distress. You know the horses are another issue because you can not really have horses wandering, you do not have them roaming around Alice Springs or you know there is a lot of horses out then the dog – most of the problematic houses have been targeted and they were actually fairly cooperative.

Ms YOUNG: It is not only dogs at the houses it is also the strays that you know hang around as well.

Ms NONA: Coming from other – yes. Well, see, and that is the thing, they cannot euthanase dogs that hang around the store because when they want to do it they will say 'That is my uncle's dog' or it belongs (inaudible) and actually you need an owner to say 'I own that dog. Yes, you can put it down', because they cannot just euthanase (inaudible) ...

Sr WIEMERS: What about the dogs at the dump. I have seen them out as far as (inaudible)?

Ms NONA: Well, they set traps the last time and that is really probably the only way that they can catch them.

Sr WIEMERS: Up here on the hill?

Ms NONA: Yes, I have got them up behind the hill.

Sr WIEMERS: Yes?

Ms NONA: Yes. I hear them barking and baying and things.

Ms YOUNG: But you have got to understand too that there are a lot of community people here who have got dogs and who can take care of them properly.

Ms NONA: And Louise is an exception. She does look after her dogs and they are desexed and whatever.

Ms YOUNG: And they do not come to the store or the clinic or the school.

Ms NONA: No. That is right, but there are a lot of problematic dogs, even though yours are well behaved, there are a lot that are not, and ...

Ms YOUNG: There are a lot of dogs at the school, too, and the clinic, the church, inside the church and what are people going to do about it?

Ms NONA: But the community, it has to be the community driving it, to say, yes, we want to get rid of the dog problem, because I do not want to be that (inaudible) ...

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE: Other than the resolution by the local board to have two dogs per house ...

Ms NONA: Yes.

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE: ... do you have a bylaw or something ...

Ms NONA: No, it is not actually – it has not – and that is what they are working on.

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE: Right.

Ms NONA: When they came, they said that the previous meetings they had been to, they had already – in some of the communities they are really adhering to it, but the shire has to sit down and actually make it a bylaw.

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE: Yes, right, and for problem animals, who is responsible for the enforcement, for the maintenance of that – who looks after problem dogs?

Ms NONA: Well ...

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE: Do you call upon the police to help you?

Ms NONA: Yes, I have ...

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE: As in the old days?

Ms NONA: If there is one that is really (inaudible) up and needs to put down, yes. If it was a group of dogs or something I could probably try and get the Vet out. The problem is they are booked out – we have got a Vet that comes from Tasmania who is actually cheaper than the Alice Springs Vet. He can fly in and he is cheaper, which once again says something Alice Springs. They are out to reef as much money out of people as possible, every service (inaudible). They do not give you a service, but they want you to pay big for it, for whatever they do.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Would you be able to give us the name of the Vet (inaudible) just an idea of what ...

Ms NONA: There is only one vet – Alice Springs Vet.

Ms YOUNG: There is only one vet in Alice Springs.

Ms NONA: Alice Springs Vet.

Ms YOUNG: I do not know why we cannot have our own local people working, trained here as a vet ...

Ms NONA: Environmental health ...

Ms YOUNG: ... where the money will stay in the community, not people coming from Tasmania.

Ms NONA: Sorry to interrupt (inaudible), but in Queensland where I come from environment health is funded – it was an actual funded position by Tropical Health in Cairns. They actually funded to have a full-time dog control environmental health person in each community and it worked really well, because you have got someone who can go in and check on those things, keep control ...

Ms YOUNG: And they do TAFE courses and ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible).

UNKNOWN: (Inaudible).

Ms NONA: They can be trained to do that.

UNKNOWN: Yes, they are trained to do the whole lot.

Ms NONA: I mean they could do the needle to stop the females coming on heat, but euthanasia has to go – it has either got to go into a (inaudible) straight through the ribcage into the heart, so there could be a few (inaudible) there.

Ms YOUNG: But they could do it, they could, they could find ...

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHER: I just want to make an observation and for what it is worth is you are not the only place to be suffering the animal problems and some of the shires have talked about needing \$2m over the next (inaudible) to build the infrastructure around (inaudible) control, animal control, because they are talking about a small pound where dogs can be taken and countered and kept until a Vet can come out here for those (inaudible) and all those sorts of things. So all the shires are in the same boat and I have to say it is an appalling situation.

Ms YOUNG: Another question through the Chair, why are they – I mean I know it is targeting the community here – why are they not looking into their own backyards in the Alice Springs town camps, because a lot of dogs killing people too?

Mr CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible) asking the (inaudible).

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHER: I think because those town camps are on SPL, special purpose leases, and Marion you might correct me if I am wrong, but they do not fall under the Alice Springs Town Councils, they can fall under Tangentyere, is that right, Marion?

UNKNOWN: (Inaudible).

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHER: So the Tangentyere need to – finds it needs to enforce their own ...

Ms SCRYMGOUR: But there is an agreement now between Alice Springs Town Council and Tangentyere to try and deal some of the problems. In the Top End, and I am not trying to say Top End versus the Centre, but in some places, you know because we have got to get rid of – I think there are lessons in a number of places like (inaudible) top end versus centre one of the things that local government has done is worked effectively with health services and if you are looking and it is in your region Willem the Katherine west and Katherine east region, those health services work quite effectively with those four - when it use to be small councils and they use to fund the environmental health workers to actually do you know work with the families because you know because the families did not let go of the twenty dogs you know it is such an attachment. There are some old people that use to live outside (inaudible). The health services did work and I do not know what it is like down here?

Sr WIEMERS: But I only have had experience on the Torres Strait. It is a prestigious it is a really highly respected position in the community there. They do not only deal with dogs, a real change to the environment does not reduce the dogs they deal with all kinds of things. It is seen as a real career path for young men (inaudible) exactly and if somebody has got a drainage problem and you know say (inaudible) ...

Ms SCRYMGOUR: I am not saying that they should only be doing dogs, sorry, there are environmental health workers that are multi skilled across the board.

Sr WIEMERS: But I am also saying there is another employment opportunity there are heaps of employment opportunities.

Mr CHAIRMAN: We might (inaudible) I think the one question we need to ask is about the local board. Local boards were meant to some extent replace, I say replace that is probably a bit harsh, but they were to do some of the work that community government council use to do. Have you a local board and does it work?

Ms NONA: It is not working and I am not picking on anyone in particular because the problem is some people work, some people are away like and it has to be driven by the local people. They have to say we want to have a meeting, I am happy to have a meeting any time they want to and that is something that really need to do is to get that working.

Ms YOUNG: I am one of the board members today. I went today and rang them and I tried to set up a board community meeting but every time I talk to someone, someone else has gone (inaudible) Board.

Mr CHAIRMAN: So would you say also that there is not much enthusiasm as well?

UNKNOWN: Not much, not much consultation of the community and we do not even who is on the Board.

Ms NONA: Well I do not even know to be honest and maybe we need to get a new board or you know I do not know but ...

Ms WALKER: Is there anyone from Santa Teresa who is elected on the Macdonnell Shire Council?

Ms YOUNG: Raymond Kiernan is on – he is a councillor of the school here.

Ms WALKER: Who is that sorry?

Ms YOUNG: Raymond Kiernan. He is the board councillor.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: So the local board does not – I mean there is nothing stopping – the time to get another group of people.

Ms NONA: Yes and that is right and also the other person who is supposed to work closely with local boards is (inaudible). That is probably a great thing.

Mr CHAIRMAN: And Marion made a point. You do not actually have to have a local board you can start up the Santa Teresa Progress Association. You do not have to come under that act, you can.

Sr WIEMERS: I think you will find that what is happening is that where the local community is in the process of setting up their own corporation (inaudible) and what I have heard from a couple of people on the board is that they have got – (inaudible) they have not got any power so (inaudible)

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE: And that is the problem with the board is that they are only an advisory group. At the end of the day the councillors can override any decisions the board makes or recommendations.

UNKNOWN: So maybe the incorporated bodies can be far more effective.

Ms YOUNG: Because I am a deputy chairperson on the local board and when it does come to meetings no one usually turns up. No one is interested.

Mr CHAIRMAN: How many meetings has the Macdonnell Shire had in Santa Teresa since it started?

Ms YOUNG: We have had one this year so far and the next one is in June.

Mr CHAIRMAN: So you coming? You make sure people come because I think that is the other important side of the equation. When you are having a meeting – when the Macdonnell Shire come here make sure as many people come, that is your chance to have your say straight up to the council.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: So you are the chair of the local board?

Ms YOUNG: Yes, (inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: (Inaudible).

Ms SCRYMGOUR: Let me just say how fantastic it is to see a young person involved with the local board.

UNKNOWN: I know she is very good.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: (Inaudible) communities and I think that it is something that we have not seen, is young people involved in it and that is what it needs.

Ms YOUNG: (Inaudible) training (inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: Look, I might just ask any of our members here if they have got any other questions and then I might ask if you have got any questions, but we would still like to go and see the tip (inaudible) but we would like to be able to see the tip and the orchard and perhaps the new tip site if that is possible and we are still trying to get to the Art Centre, but I do not know whether that is open or not.

Ms CAMPBELL: And you have an appointment at the Health Clinic.

Mr CHAIRMAN: The Health Clinic, yes. Well, (inaudible).

Ms YOUNG: Will there be more jobs in this community through the shire for local people, for instance, for the road, because we had locals working on the roads before and ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: And now you have not got them.

Ms YOUNG: No.

Mr CHAIRMAN: I think that is a really important question and I will tell you why. There is a document that came out when all this local government was changing it said the benefits of the new local government and one of those was more real jobs. What I want to test is done that really happen, because if it has not happened then to some extent people could be (inaudible) worse off. In some places it might be better. In Lynne's area employment might have increased, but we need to know what is the state of employment compared from the old days to the new local government.

Mr CHAIRMAN: And today we have heard that it is probably less than half of what it used to be.

Ms NONA: It is a lot less.

Ms YOUNG: Yes, that is right.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: And that is something that we need to look at because we are looking at all of that.

Ms YOUNG: That is right.

Ms NONA: It is the main roads, the roads are (inaudible) right up to the sealed near the airport with local guys who by the time they have (inaudible) (inaudible) full-time ongoing (inaudible) ...

Ms YOUNG: We have got roads now, people here who know (inaudible) how to make the roads, they have been doing it for years and years and years, before the shire came they have been working on the road.

Ms NONA: ... (inaudible) (inaudible) they need to replace it and they are talking about having a mobile unit that goes from community to community but (inaudible). They would be viable jobs.

Ms YOUNG: Through the chair, there are a lot of talented young men and women here in the community, but there are no jobs that they can go into.

Ms NONA: Yes.

Ms YOUNG: For example, I have got a nephew here who knows how to do welding a house or I mean knows welding, fixing plumbing and fix carpentry and all that, but where can he get a job?

Mr CHAIRMAN: Well, I must admit I ...

Ms SCRYMGOUR: Is he engaged with the shire – has the alliance mob picked him up at all?

Ms YOUNG: (Inaudible).

Ms SCRYMGOUR: Okay.

Mr CHAIRMAN: I do wonder whether he should go back to (inaudible) ...

Ms YOUNG: And he has done a lot of – he has (inaudible) as well.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Pity you cannot build your houses yourself. I mean you need a skilled person, but maybe if you made blocks.

Ms NONA: There is no reason why they cannot and that is one of my main beefs at the moment, that one of the employees that I have who (inaudible), I keep saying I want the community guys to do the repairs and maintenance in the houses. He just brings contractors in continually and I am sick of it, because our budget cannot cater ...

Mr CHAIRMAN: Who do you ring?

Ms NONA: I do not ring.

Mr CHAIRMAN: No, who do you ring to get the repairs and maintenance or who do you ask (inaudible) ...

Ms NONA: Our own employee who just rings tradesmen and when I bring it up he just says 'They do not have the skills'. Well, if they are not taught how they will ever get those skills.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Right.

Sr WIEMERS: As a matter of fact, that is another one, not so much – community council had their own electrician, carpenter, and plumber. If you had an electrical problem you called one through the community council. If you needed a carpenter or something, now, for people here, they have to wait – well, they can tell you how they have to wait ...

Ms PALMER: (Inaudible) waiting for a plumber to come out from town. Leaking taps or (inaudible).

Mr CHAIRMAN: All right. We better wind up. Lynne, have you got any other questions?

Ms YOUNG: Another question through the chair - the lights.

Ms NONA: Yes, (inaudible) they are doing work on the power lines for the next three (inaudible).

Ms YOUNG: No, in the community.

Ms NONA: Yes, I am getting to that, and the shire now has – apparently Power and Water have handed back the repairs of the lights to the shire. So there is an organisation I have told Jeff Clark to ring and they will be definitely coming out, because I am sick of writing these reports about (inaudible) street lights.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Yes. Street lights are actually a Macdonnell Shire function.

Ms NONA: Can you tell that to the Shire when you meet with them.

Mr CHAIRMAN: All right it is actually in here street lighting is a Shire function. (inaudible) So look Willem has got one more question.

Mr WESTRA van HOLTHE: I have got one question I would like to say I am sure the Chairman will say much the same thing as I but I want to say thank you very much, particularly to the ladies I see here who have come along all day, you have put in enormous effort and I personally really appreciate the fact that you have been so open and frank with us and told us what you really think. That helps us to do our job. We can not solve all of your problems today but what we can do is take the information that you have given us and take that and try and make something happen with that. So thank you very much.

Sgt McDONNELL: And I would like something on that feedback. (inaudible) valid points on their views this forum to do it.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Okay we have Helen here as our new full time Secretary and I am sure – first of all you will get a copy of the transcript for this meeting, anyone that is here will get a

copy and you can read it, you can tell us if it is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so we need to know whether you agree with it.

We will then sit down at a meeting after this one and work out what are the key issues that you have got and what we can do is will actually do another report with those key issues but we can also write back to you and say we think these are the key issues and so we will give feedback to the people who have been at this meeting and we will also work with Diana and make sure that (inaudible) feedback.

We do not just want to come down here and have nice day because it is a beautiful place I must admit so I have enjoyed it besides that it is a beautiful place. I say the same as Willem over there and Marion, we appreciate you coming and taking your time today, we appreciate it. Also the staff who have taken their time and there have been people here before and also the Future Alliance who have taken us around to all the houses so your hospitality we certainly appreciate just (inaudible) water bill so it will have to be set up otherwise I will not hear the end of it. We hope to come back one day we would like to see what changes there are. It is no good if we find pot holes still in the road and the dump still at the dump and the trees are dying. So thank you.

Ms SCRYMGOUR: Can I just, Mr Chair, Power and Water. In following up your water bill and so hopefully we will commence this (inaudible) you give us the number and we can ring them up. In relation to the community water there is a and it is on the Power and Water capital works – there is a tank, right that is 6km out. The capacity of that tank is what is causing a lot of the water problem and where they are cut off the orchard (inaudible) because when the usage of that tank there is rain it then takes a long time for the town water to then fill up which is why power and water pressure cut off or it just takes time.

There is on the forward works to get that upgraded for that tank that is 6km out so that they can reduce some of the problems with the – the water problems that you are having.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Sounds like you need some technical solutions for that. You can water at night, you can water with irrigation with a sprinkler (inaudible).

Ms SCRYMGOUR: No, no they are saying that the usage is actually quite high.

Ms NONA: There has been \$12 000 allocated to (inaudible)

Ms SCRYMGOUR: There needs to be – Daryl Day the guy in charge of Power and Water down here in Central Australia they will – the Ministers office has said that they will get Power and Water to come out and have a community meeting to discuss some of the water issues with you mob. So I will ring back to Diane when that is confirmed.

Mr CHAIRMAN: Thank you everybody and also Kim, Jan and Helen as well. We will finish the meeting now. I can say you only have three collections each Sunday: one for the priest, one for the upkeep, and one for the garden right. I will tell Father John I have seen you all.

HEARING ENDS.