

## **INFORMATION SHEET**

This sheet has been prepared solely to assist discussions during the Local Government/Aboriginal Service Agreement Project and is to be used only as a guide (updated March 2006)

### **ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST**

- The Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT) was established under the *Aboriginal Lands Trust Act, 1966*.
- Primary functions of the ALT are to receive, accept, hold, acquire by means of agreement or exchange, possess and dispose of property for and on behalf of the Aboriginal communities in South Australia.
- The ALT holds title to 63 properties throughout South Australia including former reserves (eg Koonibba, Point McLeay/Raukkan, Umoona, Point Pearce, Nepabunna, Gerard, Yalata, Davenport). The former reserves and many other properties are leased back to Aboriginal Community Councils, organisations or individuals to reside on, develop or manage.
- The ALT promotes the lease concept as an effective way to utilize land for the benefit of Aboriginal people, including development for business and commercial enterprises and cultural heritage aspects. It is the responsibility of the ALT to maintain the integrity of the titles and to negotiate and administer the leases.
- In recent years the ALT has received Commonwealth Government funds to undertake land care projects, which include the control of soil erosion, eradication of weeds, revegetation of Indigenous species and feral animal control.
- The ALT Board comprises a chairman and members who are of Aboriginal descent and reside on ALT land. Recommendations for membership are made by local Aboriginal Community Councils and appointments are for a three-year term.
- Staff are employed to administer statutory functions of the ALT and their salaries are funded by annual grants from the South Australian Government. Staff employed to manage land care projects are funded by Natural Heritage Trust grants on a project-by-project basis, negotiated annually in consultation with Aboriginal landholders.
- The ALT also receives funding for an Indigenous Land Management Facilitator through a joint partnership arrangement with the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage and the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The Facilitator's role is to provide land management advice to all Aboriginal communities, homelands and organisations throughout the State, including Maralinga Tjarutja and Anangu Pitjantjatjara.