


THE PITJANTJATJARA LAND RIGHTS BILL, 1981 WHAT IT MEANS



MS 1867/20 
Item 195

The Parliament of South Australia has passed an important Bill of Land Rights for the Pitjantjatjara people. There is a lot in the Bill and it is hard to understand. This paper gives the main points that are in it.

THE PITJANTJATJARA LAND RIGHTS BILL, 1981

THE PITJANTJATJARA LAND RIGHTS BILL says the Pitjantjatjara people have control of their land and the right to say who can go on to it.

The Pitjantjatjara people will meet each year to elect a Council of 9 of their people to manage the land. They will be called the **Anangu Pitjantjatjaraku**. Other meetings can be held at any time if at least 10 of their people want one.

Anyone who wants to go on to their land will have to ask the **Anangu Pitjantjatjaraku** for a permit. The Council may give them a permit for as long as they wish for a short while, or not give one at all.



MINING ON PITJANTJATJARA LAND

THE MINTABIE PRECIOUS STONES FIELD (OPALS): The Government of South Australia will hold the land of the Mintabie Opal Field for 21 years. They will grant one-year leases to the opal miners who will have to apply each year for new ones. At the end of 21 years the land will go back to the Pitjantjatjara people.

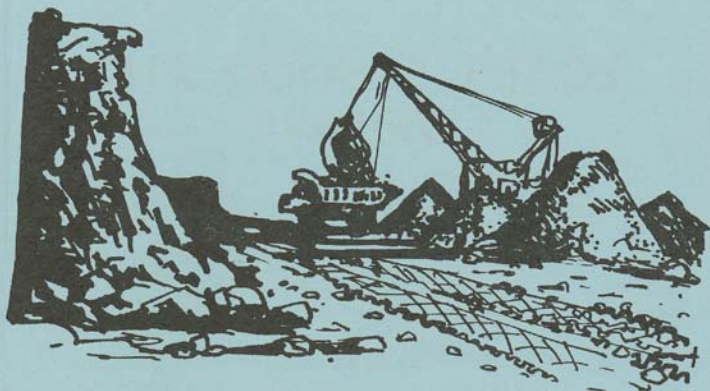


A **Mintabie Consultative Committee** will be set up. It will have on it 2 Pitjantjatjara, a policeman, someone named by the Minister for Mines and Energy, and a member of the Mintabie Progress Association. A Pitjantjatjara will be chairman. The Committee will give advice on the running of the Mintabie Field. It can ask a court to stop a person going onto the field or have them sent off.

OTHER MINING ON PITJANTJATJARA LAND

All other mining will be controlled by the **Anangu Pitjantjatjaraku**. Anyone who wants to look for or mine for oil or minerals will have to apply to them. The **Anangu Pitjantjatjaraku** can give or refuse permission and decide the conditions. Anyone trying to get a permit by giving people money will be fined.

If the **Anangu Pitjantjatjaraku** do not make a decision or if there is argument about permits the case can go to Court and be decided by a Judge who will take the way of life and culture of the Pitjantjatjara into account.



ROYALTIES

Royalties from mining will be divided into three parts:

- one part will go directly to the Pitjantjatjara people,
- one part will be used by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs for the health and welfare of all the Aboriginal people in South Australia,
- the third part will go to the State Government.

OTHER WHITE PEOPLE ON PITJANTJATJARA LAND

White people who have pastoral leases on the land can stay with their families and the people who work for them till the lease runs out. Then the lands go back to the Pitjantjatjara.

The only other white people who can go on to Pitjantjatjara land without permission are police or other officials on duty, a person given permission by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, a Member of Parliament or a politician at election time. Other people can enter only in emergencies.

Everyone else must get permission from the **Anangu Pitjantjatjaraku**.

People who break these rules can be fined.

ROADS, SCHOOLS AND WELFARE

Road building and repairs will be done with the approval of the **Anangu Pitjantjatjaraku**.

Land now used for schools, welfare and health services or to help the Pitjantjatjara people can be used in the same way for the next 50 years.

The Governor of South Australia may control stock grazing and stop anything being done which would harm the land.

There will be no land tax on Pitjantjatjara land.

ALCOHOL

The Governor of South Australia may limit or ban alcohol on Pitjantjatjara land but only if he is asked to by the **Anangu Pitjantjatjaraku**.

TRIBAL ASSESSOR

There will be a **Tribal Assessor** named by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and agreed to by the **Anangu Pitjantjatjaku**. If any Pitjantjatjara is not happy about a decision of the **Anangu Pitjantjatjaku** he can complain to the **Tribal Assessor** who will try to decide the matter by Pitjantjatjara law and custom.

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For a wider understanding of Aboriginal Land Rights.
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