

History and Background of the Anmatjere Region

Ti Tree township was established late last century as a watering point for cattle being driven overland to markets in Queensland and to other areas within the Northern Territory. Since this period, the town has changed from a simple refuelling stop during WW II, to an emerging regional centre which serves the needs of the outlying communities. There has been continued interest from local and interstate grape growers/horticulturalists in establishing new ventures within the region. The Anmatjere's peoples representatives are keen to negotiate with other interests and potential stakeholders to facilitate economic ventures that will stimulate the broad social development of the region⁹.

The community is continually growing, pastoralism, tourism and horticulture are the base for this growth - and much of the growth is from aboriginal owned projects¹⁰.

The most common form of title is pastoral lease. Lease terms limit tenure to pastoral activities only, so that any new significant venture on the land, could end the lease as it stands. The land around Ti Tree is Aboriginal freehold and is owned by the Ahakeye Land Trust. Two other areas are subject to native title claim; an area around Alcoota, and Pine Hill, an area south and adjoining the Ahakeye Land Trust¹¹.

There is currently one mine in the area at Mud Tank which produces vermiculite. Vermiculite is used in horticulture, fire retardant plasterboard, fire protection structures and refractory industries. Additional mining exploration leases were identified in the Anmatjere Regional Development Plan 2002-2012 (no page number) as having the potential to make significant contributions to economic development in the region.

The Goals and Vision for the Anmatjere Region 2002-2012¹²

The goals of the Anmatjere Community Government Council (as published on their website¹³) are:

- ▶ Increase tourism;
- ▶ Expand pastoral and horticulture;
- ▶ Improve infrastructure;
- ▶ Foster social harmony;
- ▶ Expand regional employment and training;
- ▶ Develop Ti Tree township as a regional centre; and
- ▶ Foster Aboriginal development.

These goals and vision (refer to Box 1) are described in more detail in the Anmatjere Regional Development Plan 2002-2012 (no page number).

⁹ <http://www.users.bigpond.com/anmatjere.library/default.htm> (downloaded 28-08-07)

¹⁰ http://www.anmatjere.nt.gov.au/home/our_community/regional_plan (downloaded 28-08-07)

¹¹ <http://www.users.bigpond.com/anmatjere.library/default.htm> (downloaded 28-08-07)

¹² http://www.users.bigpond.com/anmatjere.library/Comm_Plan.htm (downloaded 28-08-07)

¹³ http://www.anmatjere.nt.gov.au/home/about_us/goals (downloaded 28-08-07)