



Unity Through Enterprise

**The Arnhem Land Progress
Aboriginal Corporation**

ICN:7137

Owned by the Yolngu residents of Minjilang, Milingimbi, Ramingining, Galiwin'ku and Gapuwiyak Communities NT

MEDIA RELEASE

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Opening of new ALPA store at Buthan on Elcho Island

ALPA is excited to announce the opening of a new purpose built store on Thursday 14th April at 1pm at the Buthan subdivision of Galiwin'ku on Elcho Island. Built without government or external funding at the direction of ALPA's Yolngu board members, this store will provide a much needed service to the Yolngu people living in Buthan.

This is the first shop in Buthan, allowing the 100 households of the suburb to avoid the 4 km round trip walk in tropical heat to do their grocery shopping at the main town, in a community where the majority don't have a car. The shop also provides jobs for 14 local Yolngu people.

The journey to create a new store began in 2012, at the request of local people and ALPA's Indigenous board of directors. Since that time it has involved negotiations with the NLC and traditional owners, as well as building and planning. Construction commenced in late 2015. The store product focus is on hardware, camping, fishing, automotive and essential groceries with the existing main store providing a more comprehensive grocery range along with electrical, clothing and white goods.

On the day of the opening, ALPA will also be launching a new nutrition promotion strategy in partnership with the Djuki Mala dance group, with a performance by the Djuki Mala to take place at the opening. Sample images are attached.

As part of its commitment to the local Indigenous community, 10% of net surplus goes back to the community along with access to the existing corporate benevolent programs in Galiwin'ku. Last financial year over \$1 million was returned by ALPA to the residents of Galiwin'ku, Milingimbi, Ramingining, Minjilang and Gapuwiyak through their benevolent programs.

The store will be opened by the Chairman of ALPA, Rev. Dr. Djiniyini Gondarra OAM at a special ceremony, with a performance by the Djuki Mala, as well as giveaways and prizes and a barbecue for the local community.

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