



Unity through Enterprise

THE ARNHEMLAND PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

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

PRESS RELEASE

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No Plastic Bags In ALPA Communities

Plastic bags were banned about twenty years ago in Arnhemland Progress Association member community stores.

Darwin NT, July 14, 2005 -- ALPA stores in Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, Galiwin'ku, Minjilang and Milingimbi communities provide only brown paper bags and boxes for customers, and have done so since the 1980s.

“As the third largest retailer in the Territory, ALPA leads the way in showing other retailers that it can be done,” said Alastair King, general manager for ALPA. “ALPA also provides the paper bags free of charge.”

ALPA's policy extends to stores they manage as Australian Retail Consultants, making twelve remote community stores across the Top End of Australia where plastic bags are banned.

Clean Up Australia have praised ALPA for their great achievement, and may look to ALPA for help in campaigning other remote communities stores to reduce the use of plastic bags, or find alternatives.

About ALPA:

The Arnhemland Progress Association is a successful, financially independent, Yolngu enterprise, established in 1972. ALPA's members are Yolngu who live in or are culturally connected to the Arnhemland communities of Minjilang, Milingimbi, Ramingining, Galiwin'ku and Gapuwiyak where our retail stores are located. Members are represented by a Yolngu Board of Directors. ALPA is a benevolent organisation, and our mission is the social and economic development of our members through benevolent activities and distribution of dividends. ALPA is one of the largest financially independent employers of Aboriginal people in Australia, and education and training are a primary focus. ALPA continuously works with government agencies and other service providers to enhance the quality of life and living standards of our members.

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