

"LAND WITHOUT MONEY NO USE TO ABORIGINES"

MELBOURNE. (AUP).—The Victorian Government's decision to give Aborigines clear title to 4500 acres would do no good unless the State also gave cash to help them develop farms, an Aboriginal spokesman said yesterday.

The Victorian delegate to the National Tribal Council for Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, Mr. Stewart Murray, made this criticism of the plan yesterday.

"Land without money is as much use as land without water", he said.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Meagher, announced the Government's intention to give Aboriginal people full legal title to land reserved for them at Lake Tyers and Framlingham.

Mr. Meagher said Victoria was the first Government in Australian history to give land rights.

FRAMLINGHAM LAND

Departmental officers said the offer involved nearly 600 acres of land at Framlingham and 5,000 acres at Lake Tyers.

The land at Framlingham was suited to dairying and the land at Lake Tyers was suitable for beef-production, vegetables, and timber.

About 80 aborigines live at Lake Tyers and 60 live at Framlingham.

Mr. Meagher made the announcement at the opening of the Lionel Rose Centre at Morwell.

He said the Government's plan was to have the title to the land passed unconditionally to an all-Aboriginal trust legally incorporated in Victoria.

This meant the control of the land would be in the hands of the Trust and no longer in the hands of the State Government.

He said the Government would also make available professional and technical services to help the Aborigines develop the land to its full potential.

Mr. Murray said — "This is only a pittance for the land that has been lost to my people.

"We need more land in other areas throughout the State to help the 5,000 remaining Aborigines.

"And what about the Aborigines in Melbourne? They could do with some land for recreation, too".

FEDERAL GOVT. OFFERS FINANCE

CANBERRA (AUP). — The Federal Government has offered financial assistance to the Lake Tyers and Framlingham Aborigines who have been granted land rights.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Wentworth, said yesterday everything possible would be done to help Aborigines from the two settlements.

"If they can put up schemes that look like they are goers — we'll give them money to help them", he said.

"Although this is a dominant matter for Victoria in principle, I am very pleased that it is being brought to finality.

"If the Aborigines need further funds for the proper economic development of their property, the capital fund in the Federal Office of Aboriginal Affairs will be glad to consider their requests.

"And if they put forward a viable proposition the office will have the funds to help".

Mr. Wentworth said the Government would consider any scheme suitable to the position of the people concerned.

It could be a timber project or pasture improvement or something else.

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