

Native squatters decide to stay

Aboriginal squatters in Sherbrooke Forest have decided to stay put until they get written assurances from the Government.

Their leader, Mr. Lin Onus, 22, said last night they would continue negotiations with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Mr. Meagher) about Aboriginal land rights.

The Aborigines, who had been living since February 6 in a timber roundhouse built by Mr. Onus, were to leave the forest at the weekend.

But last night Mr. Onus said: "We are going to stay in the forest. Mr. Meagher had agreed to consult and liaise with us".

"We are going to stay in the forest and get all the people involved in the

claim to submit concrete proposals on what can be done in the field of Aboriginal affairs."

He said he would ring Mr. Meagher today seeking talks for Monday, when he would present "firm proposals" to the Minister.

Mr. Meagher said last night: "I don't know what this is all about. Mr. Onus gave me his word he would be out at the weekend, and I expect him to be out."

Mr. Meagher said he had not offered Mr. Onus help to get a house as an inducement to get him out of the forest — as had been reported.

Mr. Meagher said that after Mr. Onus had agreed to leave, he had merely told Mr. Onus he was eligible for the State Government's \$1500 Aboriginal housing grant.