

Please see reasons below why I do not support the proposed changes to the Aboriginal Lands Act.

Aboriginal Community need to have control of Aboriginal returned land

To change or remove the way the lands are managed now will be retraumatizing an already traumatized population.

My family and community fought hard to have the lands returned to the community and managed by ALCT the way the community wanted, to change this now has triggered deep hurt and emotional loss, we feel like the white government is again trying to dispossess us from our lands.

You cannot say sorry and then continue to make the same mistakes white government have made in the past.

It is a small group of mainly non-Aboriginal people who are trying to change this ACT for their own selfish gains.

They were not there fighting for land rights with the community in the 70's and 80's now they want control of our returned lands.

If they wanted to have access to lands owned by the community they could prove their Aboriginality which is an easy process for Aboriginal Tasmanians due to the attempted genocide of our families by a former white government.

Surely it is obvious when the government amends acts to allow the government to choose who represents our community, it is not a fair or transparent act and does not allow the community the self-determination we deserve.

The Tasmania government talks the talk but walks the line of a dictatorship slyly hidden in the wording of acts they change to suit themselves and a few disgruntled white people claiming Aboriginal heritage in their family without any proof.

It is also completely culturally inappropriate to have Aboriginal people from other states representing Palawa community interests and land, this must stop.

- The community has already stated they do not want any revisions to the ALCT elections.
- The current process allows Aboriginal people to challenge anyone applying to get on the roll who is not Aboriginal. Anyone challenged must prove their eligibility through an Aboriginal Panel appointed by the Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner. This is the most appropriate, transparent, and fair process.
- If an 'advisory' panel is needed then the elected ALCT should act as this panel to the Electoral Commissioner – not another panel appointed by a Minister as this will undermine any confidence in the process.
- Alternatively, appointments could be made by the Commissioner themselves and be restricted to the existing members of the ALCT electoral roll.
- Current Aboriginal land managers who look after Aboriginal land (and who are local to these areas), are experienced, and have the deep knowledge and expertise to care for our country and its resources. They have restored extensive landscapes over the years and must continue as the land managers.
- We should be caring for country in a united way to maintain cultural resources and access for all Aboriginal people.
- All Aboriginal people currently have access to Aboriginal Land so no changes are required.
- ALCT is collective and inclusive ownership model and community members are part of its governance, unlike other organisations. In other organisations, rights are only given to

members on their list, it is exclusive and any transfer of land to these organisations will exclude Aboriginal people across Tasmania.

- ALCT already generates and publishes management plans via the Health Country Planning processes and is accountable to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community.
- ALCT does not receive appropriate funding to deliver the proposed significant reporting proposals, and is already meeting the requirements required by the Tasmanian Audit Office, which requires significant time and resources to achieve.

The Aboriginal community must decide how land is returned and managed.

Yours sincerely

Suzie Smith