

To whom it may concern,

I do not support any changes to the Aboriginal lands act. The proposed changes are tantamount to a second dispossession of land that our people fought to have returned for generations.

I agree with previous submissions made - especially those made by the family of Fanny Smith and the Aboriginal land council of Tasmania itself.

1. Revisions to Aboriginal Land Council Tasmania (ALCT) Elections

The existing Land council as elected by Aboriginal should be the only advisor if one is appointment to advise the electoral commission. The current system of Challenges needs to be maintained.

2. A land management role for local or regional Aboriginal community organisations

All Aboriginal people currently have access to Aboriginal Land so no changes are required.

The proposed changes would not increase access but would instead have the opposite effect.

All land is held by the land council on behalf of all Aboriginal people in Tasmania. Placing in the hands of regional organisations as opposed to the current system of management local Aboriginal people employed by the statewide organisation would result in only those regional people or members of those organisations having access to land that should be for all Aboriginal people.

3. Governance issues

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 and the current managing organisation of our land the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre provides more regular and detailed reports.

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.

We need a proper treaty process to enshrine our land rights and ensure any successive governments can not strip our land rights as this one intends to.

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

Nunami Sculthorpe-Green
Palawa and Warlpiri woman - Tasmanian Aboriginal Community
Member.