

## Response to the Aboriginal Lands Act Review 2022

I Malcolm Stokes a Tasmanian Aboriginal man, submit the following response to the proposed changes in the Aboriginal Lands Act Review 2022.

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

- The Tasmanian Aboriginal community does not want any revisions to the ALCT elections.
- I believe the current process is the fairest process & gives Tasmanian Aboriginal people the opportunity to challenge anyone applying to get on the roll who are not Tasmanian Aboriginal people. Anyone that is challenged must prove their eligibility through an Aboriginal Panel appointed by the Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner. This is the most appropriate, transparent, and fair process & should be maintained to ensure that Tasmanian Aboriginal Heritage & land is controlled & decisions made are made by the Tasmanian Aboriginal people.
- If anyone applies for anything else, such as employment benefits or getting a driver's licence, they must prove who they are. This process should not be any different.

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

- Aboriginal land managers who look after Aboriginal land, are experienced, and have the deep knowledge and expertise to care for our country and its resources.
- We should be following Aboriginal lore & the first rule of lore is to care for country, caring for country should be done in a united way, learning from our elders proper cultural practice to maintain cultural resources and access for all Aboriginal people.
- Land management responsibility must not be taken away from the current process through ALCT to ensure that Tasmanian Aboriginal Land is managed by the Tasmanian Aboriginal People in accordance with Tasmanian Aboriginal Cultural practises.

### 3. Identification of land suitable for transfer

- All lands across Lutruwita are equally important and significant to all Tasmanian Aboriginal communities. The Tasmanian Aboriginal community has said they want to see the return of any (preferably all) Crown Lands to Tasmanian Aboriginal people. The caring of all Tasmanian Aboriginal heritage should be preferably done by or in partnership with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community through the lense of Tasmanian Aboriginal People.

### 4. 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 & in some circumstances decisions that should be taken to the Tasmanian Aboriginal members on its membership list for discussion & voting on is just decided by the board which is not always Tasmanian Aboriginal people many members on boards are non Aboriginal people or Australian or Torres Strait Aboriginal people. It is exclusive and any transfer of land to these organisations will exclude free access to Aboriginal people across Tasmania.
- ALCT is open and transparent to the community, which is its role. Members attend Aboriginal community meetings and events, as well as host community discussions and forums regarding Aboriginal land management and use. This process is not conducted in this manner by all Tasmanian Aboriginal Organisations so true transparency would not be upheld to the standard it currently is if changes are made.

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

Malcolm Stokes