

Review of the Aboriginal Lands Act 1995
NRE Tasmania
GPO Box 44
Hobart TAS 7001

To whom it may concern,

RE: Response to the Aboriginal Lands Act Review 2022

I have major concerns about the Aboriginal Lands Act Review 2022. The main proposed issues I can see to the Aboriginal Lands Act Review 2022 are as follows:

1. Revisions to Aboriginal Land Council Tasmania (ALCT) Elections
 - The community does not want any revisions to the ALCT elections.
 - The current process gives all Aboriginal people the opportunity to challenge anyone applying to get on the roll who are 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 anyone applies for Government funded services, such as employment benefits, Department of Veterans' payment, Anzac medal recipient 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 caring for country in a united way to maintain cultural resources and access for all Aboriginal people.
 - Land management responsibility must not be taken away from the current process through ALCT.
 - Groups of people who have a small membership in a particular region do not qualify to have land returned to them or have the right or expertise to manage land and sacred sites.
3. Identification of land suitable for transfer
 - All lands across lutruwita are equally important and significant to all Aboriginal land. The Tasmanian Aboriginal community has said they want to see the return of any (preferably all) Crown Lands to Tasmanian Aboriginal people. Not organisations.
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, it is exclusive and any transfer of land to these organisations will exclude 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.

We are disappointed with Minister Roger Jaensch handling on the matter. There had been no meaningful conversations with the Aboriginal community. The Aboriginal community must decide how land is returned and managed, this cannot be achieved if the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs is talking to groups of people rather than coming to the Aboriginal community directly.

Yours sincerely,

Jessica Matthews