

I Kitana Mansell 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 community does not want any revisions to the ALCT elections.
- The current process gives 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 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 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.

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.

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.

The Aboriginal community must decide how land is returned and managed. The Tasmanian Aboriginal community has full ownership of our own native bush foods and plants, which all grow on these lands in Lutruwita/ Tasmania and if it's not managed by the Aboriginal community then we will not be able to educate our community and the wider community about our cultural food knowledge and cultural food resources. If you change the process of land management and land return you will be stopping Aboriginal people to reconnect with our cultural food harvesting practices and creating a more sustainable future for Tasmania again. We have lost 99% of our lands since invasion and we will not let non-Aboriginal people take over the bush foods industry and our lands for the benefit of themselves (to make profit). We as a community have been giving back to our community by being able to showcase new opportunities, jobs and experiences when land is returned back to Aboriginal people, because we are the owners of our lands, we know our traditional practices to look after our lands and especially what grows on our lands, our plants need protection before it's over consumed by non-Aboriginal people. By continuing the correct process of returning our land, this allows our people to tell our story of the oldest living food culture and cultural practices in the world and also allows us to take care of country like our ancestors once did. As a young 22-year-old I will not see or let my generation or my children have to fight another hard battle like my grandparents did to even get 1% of our lands handed back to our people. Enough is enough hear our VOICES and do what's right for OUR PEOPLE AND OUR LAND!

Kitana Mansell.