

to whom It may concern

My name is Suzanne lee Smith I am a Tasmanian Aboriginal community member , my great great grandmother Fanny Cochrane smith was an amazing advocate for her community and was the first Aboriginal person in Tasmania to own land in the white system .

Our community has been repeatedly traumatised at the hands of white home government deciding that they know what is best for our community . Over the past 40 years the community has been able to start to heal using our own traditional lands to heal our hearts our minds and our spirits . The returned lands need to be cared for be the community .

The proposal to give control of these lands to Aboriginal organisations, most who have not even had to prove their Aboriginality is re traumatising to our community and causing in fighting in an already delicate community .

Unfortunately there are non aboriginal community members in the organisation posing as aboriginal people and trying to gain access and power over aboriginal land and culture for their own gain.

Please stop calling the Aboriginal community an organisation.

My family and community are heart broken and feel helpless and hopeless once again , the fact that we are here again no just fighting for our already returned lands , but once again having to fight for our independence to make decisions that are best for our community .

How can the government think this is alright !

Please stop this Immediately and talk to our community about a treaty that could empower our community , to make our own decisions and allow us to heal .

please see more point below :

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

- The community does 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 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.

3. Identification of land suitable for transfer

- All lands across lutruwita are equally significant to all Aboriginal people. 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.

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

Yours sincerely,

suzanne smith

Aboriginal health practitioner

Aboriginal community member (with confirmation of Aboriginality)