

Hon Jeremy Rockliff

Premier Tasmanian Government

Hobart 7000

Dear Premier,

My family's involvement in our political struggle goes back to the early 1800s, and after such a long period we had moved Tasmania forward in addressing the 'unfinished business' of land rights and self-determination. Yet here we are once again being forced to manoeuvre in your government's political game to secure our pakana rights. The Tasmanian Aboriginal community has reached a clear, and most probable, decision to demand an end to these planned changes. The review raises major problems and issues that will not only undermine your expressed intention to engage with our community, and to reach for a formal agreement such as a domestic agreement, treaty if you like; but this new direction of working with our community is fraught with ongoing issues. There is no reconciliation in this direction, surely you can see this.

Mr Premier, you know right from wrong, and you know this is a 'hornet's nest' of political injustice, and as leader of your government I believe you know that you should seek another way to resolve such an unnecessary confrontation. I don't need to tell you the true history of Tasmania, it will be of not much use if you won't stand strong for justice. The political issues that will arise from allowing white pretenders to claim, unchallenged, to register as an Aboriginal member for ALCT elections, and perhaps much wider scope than this.

I include the following to my submission:

Aboriginal Lands Act Review 2022

There has been no impediment to the return of land to the Tasmanian Aboriginal community except for a lack of will of successive Governments to do so. This is in stark contrast to the efforts of Liberal Premiers Ray Groom and Tony Rundle and Labor Premiers Jim Bacon and Paul Lennon where commitment and leadership resulted in successful land returns. Much nonsense has been repeated about 'reasons' for the failure of governments to return land including purported difficulties with management of returned land and an alleged "vexed question" of white people expecting their ORIC registered organisations to be the recipient of management responsibilities even when they have not applied to be managers.

- The community has already stated they do 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 an 'advisory' panel is needed then the elected ALCT should act as this panel to the Electoral Commissioner – not another panel appointed by a Minister as this will undermine any confidence in the process.
- Alternatively, appointments could be made by the Commissioner themselves and be restricted to the existing members of the ALCT electoral roll.

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

Feedback:

- Current Aboriginal land managers who look after Aboriginal land (and who are local to these areas), are experienced, and have the deep knowledge and expertise to care for our country and its resources. They have restored extensive landscapes over the years and must continue as the land managers.
- We should be caring for country in a united way to maintain cultural resources and access for all Aboriginal people.
- All Aboriginal people currently have access to Aboriginal Land so no changes are required.

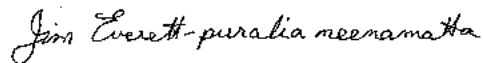
Governance issues

Feedback:

- 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.
- 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.

On the basis of the above outlined issues concerning the Aboriginal Lands Act 1995, and the negative affects on the Tasmanian Aboriginal people/community: I must state that the planned review actions are not acceptable to our community, and my submission is to demand the planned review actions are stopped, and that the Aboriginal Land Council (ALCT) submission is acknowledged as being from our community.

Regards,



Jim Everett-Puralia Meenamatta