

Response to the Aboriginal Lands Act Review 2022

I *Fiona Maher* submit the following response to the proposed changes in the Aboriginal Lands Act Review 2022.

Revisions to Aboriginal Land Council Tasmania (ALCT) Elections

I do not want my sovereign Aboriginality consumed by unfair processes set up by government that allow non-Aboriginal to fraudulently claim our identity. We can trace the history of the theft of our Aboriginal land and the displacement of our people. We have the right to determine who is Aboriginal as we are related by blood, kinship, culture and land.

The community does not want any revisions to the ALCT elections.

We have had our land stolen and now our race is being stolen by non-Aboriginal people masquerading as Aborigines.

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.

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.

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.

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.

We are the true voice of our own people.