

The proposed changes to the *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995* have been designed to strip Aboriginal people of our right to land, land management and self-determination.

Our people have an ancient history of land ownership and management prior to the invasion of our lands.

Since invasion we have fought for land return and have:

- Had a Treaty agreed to in 1831, brokered by George Augustus Robinson.
- Petitioned Queen Victoria in 1876 for our land to be returned.
- Proudly accepted 16 titles for areas of land through the present *Aboriginal Lands Act*.

In 2022 we find ourselves fighting to keep the *Aboriginal Lands Act* that our ancestors and elders negotiated.

This submission details the proposals that we, the Aboriginal community, oppose in the *Aboriginal Lands Act* review 2022.

Proposal 2: Revisions to ALCT elections

We oppose the proposals to revise the ALCT elections.

You are proposing to allow people who claim Aboriginality, who have no evidence of their Aboriginality, to be included on the roll without an objection process.

The current process gives Aboriginal people (us) 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.

We reject your statement that these proposals reflect the key findings within the *Pathway to Truth-Telling and Treaty* report.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal community live across lutruwita – the current process allows ANY Aboriginal person full access and connection to their lands at any location across the state.

Proposal 4: 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. To give land management responsibilities to people who have no knowledge and who do not understand heritage landscapes or management techniques would be irresponsible and see irrevocable damage to our country.

All Tasmanian Aboriginal people have access to Aboriginal land that is vested in ALCT. The suggestion that they don't is false.

Proposal 5: Identification of land suitable for transfer

All lands across lutruwita are equally important and significant to all Aboriginal land.

We see the return of any (preferably all) Crown Lands to Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

Proposal 6: 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 afforded to members on their list, it is exclusive and any transfer of land to these organisations will exclude Aboriginal people across Tasmania.

Tasmanian Aboriginal people have cared for and managed this country for thousands of years, we should not have to prove to anyone our cultural management techniques when it is since invasion that land and heritage have been damaged.

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

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