

To whom it may concern,

Back in February 2023 I, together with a group of people had the great fortune of being invited on Country by members of the TAC, direct descendants of Tasmanian Aboriginals.

We saw first-hand their valiant efforts in Land management, Conservation and Regeneration. Their in-depth knowledge of the land and their sincerity in protecting and guarding their cultural heritage was breath-taking to witness.

We were alerted by a member of the TAC that the State Government is seeking to revise the Aboriginal Land Council Tasmania Elections.

The TAC hold the following views:

- 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.
- 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.

Given by what we saw on country and the stories we shared, I tend to share the view that the current process adequately empowers the Tasmanian Aboriginals to manage and care for their country and for them to flourish. It should be in the hands of the Aboriginal community to decide how land is returned and managed.

kind regards,

Oli Scholz