

Hi there,

Please see below for my feedback on the State Government's proposed Aboriginal Lands Act.

Having recently spent time in Tasmania with the TAC, I feel deeply that any decisions relating to land need to be made in close consultation with local Indigenous people.

Revisions to Aboriginal Land Council Tasmania (ALCT) Elections

Feedback:

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

Best,

Oliver Pelling