

To whom it may concern

I, Ashlee Murray, write to respond to the proposed changes in the Aboriginal Lands Act Review 2022.

As a Tasmanian Aboriginal person and a board member on the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania, I have personally spoken to a great many Aboriginal people who have expressed satisfaction with the ALCT and have also expressed deep concern about revisions to the Aboriginal Lands Act and the future of Aboriginal Land in Tasmania.

Currently, Aboriginal people are able to question and challenge anyone applying to be on the ALCT roll whose Aboriginality is not known. Persons challenged must then prove their Aboriginality through a specialised Aboriginal panel. This process is fair and accepted by the Aboriginal community and provides the accountability expected of Aboriginal people. Questioning one's mob is a key part of Aboriginal culture nationwide and is not, as has been stated before, lateral violence.

To alter the ALCT and these processes would be allowing non Aboriginal people to determine the fate of Aboriginal Land. Our land that we and our elders fought for, that we have spent decades restoring, the tiny scrap that we have.

I've been involved in many Aboriginal Land managers all over lutruwita. What I have seen is extensive cultural and Country expertise and deep commitment to caring for Country on behalf of all Aboriginal people.

The current process wherein the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania is responsible for management of Aboriginal Land has worked for decades, with limited funding and resources to boot, and should remain into the future.

The ALCT and its directors are transparent community members who are accountable to the Aboriginal community. Not all so-called Aboriginal organisations in Tasmania can claim the same. Transfer of Aboriginal Land to these other questionable organisations will result in the exclusion of true Aboriginal people, which is deplorable.

The Aboriginal community must determine how Country is returned and managed.

Ashlee Murray