



**House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Affairs**

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**Inquiry into the Reeves Report on the
Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act**

Terms of Reference

On 10 December 1998, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs agreed to a request by the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Senator the Hon John Herron, to review the report *Building on Land Rights for the Next Generation: The Review of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* by John Reeves QC. The terms of reference for the inquiry are:

The Committee shall inquire into and report on the views of people who have an interest in the possible implementation of recommendations made in the Reeves Report. In particular the Committee will seek views on:

- *the proposed system of Regional Land Councils, including*
 - *the extent to which they would provide a greater level of self-management for Aboriginal people, and*
 - *the role of traditional owners in decision making in relation to Aboriginal land under that system;*
- *the proposed structure and functions of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Council;*
- *the proposed changes to the operations of the Aboriginals Benefit Reserve including the distribution of monies from the Reserve;*
- *the proposed modifications to the mining provisions of the Act including the continuing role of government in the administration of these provisions;*
- *proposals concerning access to Aboriginal land including the removal of the permit system and access to such land by the Northern Territory government; and*
- *the proposed application of Northern Territory laws to Aboriginal land.*

The Committee shall make recommendations on any desirable changes to the proposals made in the Reeves Report in the light of the views obtained.