

To the Senate Community Affairs Committee

Re: Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011

Associate Professor Michael Adams
School of Earth and Environmental Sciences and Indigenous Studies Unit
University of Wollongong
NSW 2522

I wish to make a submission to the Committee to express my opposition to the proposed Stronger Futures legislation.

I concur with the concerns expressed by community groups and national organisations, that the legislation does not reflect the views expressed by communities during the Stronger Futures consultations, and that it will further embed the disempowerment and discrimination that was begun under the Northern Territory Intervention.

I ask that the legislation be withdrawn and that an alternative policy be developed, based on genuine consultation, community empowerment, respect for Aboriginal culture, lands and languages, and the fundamental right of Aboriginal people to be able to control their own lives.

I refer you to recent research at the University of Wollongong examining aspects of the intervention:

Ryan, E, 2010, *"We are refugees in our own Country": Alyawarr Walk-off versus the Northern Territory Intervention*, BSc Hons Class 1 Thesis.

I have attached the Abstract on the following page.

Yours sincerely,

Associate Professor Michael Adams
31.1.2012