

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

31 January, 2012-01-31

Dear Sir

I wish to state my objection to the Stronger Futures set of legislation firstly because it will extend for another ten years in NT communities, the discriminatory and punitive provisions first introduced through the NTER. All this has been done without the communities involved giving their consent, and has been shown to result in widespread disempowerment and hardship.

Secondly, it will further entrench Income Management which dismantles community control and worsen the conditions people living under the intervention are suffering. Communities deserve proper consultation in determining their futures. All government policies need to empower local governance structures, as in alcohol management plans, and not dismantle or override community councils.

Thirdly, the land reform section of the Stronger Futures Bill seeks to diminish Aboriginal control of land. Treating town camp land as crown land leaves open the possibility of leases being modified, and thus the potential to lose access, control and ownership of their land. This is a backward step for Land Rights. Community Living Areas and town camp land must remain Aboriginal land.

I call on the government to withdraw this discriminatory legislation immediately.

Yours sincerely,

Celestine Pooley