

Submission to the SC on the Native Title Amendment (Reform) Bill 2011

by Anne Jackson

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by Anne Goddard

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Dear Committee

It was recently brought to my attention that an unconstitutional meeting was held between miners and the Yindjibarndi people of WA. This meeting was purported to be a "Community Consultation", yet anyone can see that this is not consultation but rather, manipulation, bullying and at one point a microphone was violently removed from a speaker by representatives of the mining corporations who are clearly biased in favour of removing the rights of Native Title from the Yindjibarndi people for their own monetary gains.

The link to the videos which prove these points are posted below:

1. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6w_fB7e0WCY&feature=related
2. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xa1eX_E0p8&feature=related

The violent behaviour displayed at the end of Video 1 and the beginning of Video 2 (where a microphone was forcibly removed) shows clearly that nominated spokespeople representing the wishes of the Yindjibarndi people were not allowed to be heard prior to motions being forced through, clearly, against their wishes (and best interests).

I am sickened to watch these proceedings. It is clear to me that a thorough investigation needs to be undertaken into the behaviour of these mining executives. The videos prove this is a clear case of an abuse of the Yindjibarndi peoples' human rights.

The Yindjibarndi people should be compensated for their time and the distress they have been put through at the hands of these mining executives.

It is clear that the Yindjibarndi people refused to sign away their native title rights to these executives, and in fact refused to vote as they were disgusted with the proceedings. So disgusted and angered were they, that they walked out of the meeting. Walking away from said "community consultations" should NOT mean that mining companies can carry motions without further open and honest consultation without bullying, or stacked meetings and by abiding by due process, whilst upholding human rights. This, of course, includes the right to be heard without violent bullying.

The native title amendment act must be reformed so that these sorts of incredibly discriminatory practices end.

For further information see below.

Background info:

http://yindjibarndi.org.au/yindjibarndi/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+AboriginalSonglinesSiteFeed+%28%22Aboriginal+Songlines+site+feed%22%29