

Subject: To the Senate Committee Stronger Futures Bill

Dear Senators

Here is a quote by Jenny Macklin, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs "But there is still much to be done and we know that governments cannot create stronger futures without community support and individual determination." Yet what the Aboriginal communities ask for is often ignored and Government policy is continuously put in place over what is wanted or needed by the communities.

"We will not succeed in tackling the priority issues that continue to contribute to Indigenous peoples' disadvantage". Macklin again. Why is there disadvantage in Aboriginal communities while billions of dollars in mineral wealth, from Aboriginal country, leaves these shores yearly. If the Aboriginal communities were put in control of their resources, which is reasonable since it's their country, they would be in a much better position to deal with their needs themselves without "help" from paternalistic government and interfering religious groups.

"The video must be watched to see quite clearly the brutal divide and rule tactics that are used by paying a break-away group to confound the traditional owners who want a fairer outcome for their people. The gross bullying tactics of the elders is quite evident and will shock you". Ray Jackson, President Indigenous Social Justice Association, Fortescue Metals Group - Great Native Title Swindle - Part 1 14 minutes Fortescue Metals Group - Great Native Title Swindle - Part 2 15 minutes.

"Likewise, governments must continue to shoulder our responsibility for delivering much needed investments, as well as ensuring laws and income and employment support encourages Aboriginal people to live strong independent lives". Why must governments "continue to shoulder our responsibility" when a proper share of royalties from mining etc would give the Aboriginal communities everything they need for a great future. As regards income and employment, if proper compensation were paid to members of the community would probably decide university more attractive than a job in the mine. Or perhaps Eco tourism. If they were wealthy they could just live as they like and enjoy their lives. Why do people like Fortescue Metals Group think by ripping off people like the Yindjibarndi, who have been offered \$6million a year between the whole community, which works out to just \$3 thousand dollars a year each, and jobs in the mine is a reasonable offer? This is for a mine that will net FMG over \$10 BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR. How is that fair? Forrest says his company "doesn't believe in mining welfare. If that's true why bother mining at all? I'm sure the FMG shareholders don't consider their shares "mining welfare".

Mining boom leaves Kalgoorlie's Aborigines out in the cold

Mining boom leaves Kalgoorlie's Aborigines out in the cold ... You're talking about a population of about 3000 (Aboriginal ... Gold Mines — which has 35 indigenous workers— said ... www.theage.com.au/news/national/mining-boom-leaves-kalgoorlies-aborigines-out-in-the... How are jobs in mining meant to help Aborigines when they are being paid only \$50 a day instead of award wages?

The United Nations issued a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with the intent to protect the collective rights of indigenous peoples to their culture, identity, language, employment, health, education and natural resources. The Australian Government, far from "helping the Aboriginal people" is committing genocide instead. In its greed for Aboriginal land and minerals it is displacing communities to move them off country so the mining companies can move in. This results in the loss of culture, community, destruction of ancient burial sites and culture sites. How is this helpful? Is "getting a job" the bottom line? The Aboriginal peoples have been the custodians of this land for thousands of thousands of years. They are custodians of the oldest, continuous line of culture on Earth. They must be respected as such and treated with respect. Aboriginals must have the right to self determination.

Susan Chalcroft