

To the Senate Community Affairs Committee  
Regarding the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011

Stuart William Elliott, Software Developer

I would like to express very clearly how I reacted when I first heard the name of this legislation. I immediately felt it was creating **stronger prisons** for aboriginal people on their own communities.

It is manifestly obvious that the continuing refusal of the Australian government to allow aboriginal people to decide for themselves what sort of future they want is undermining aboriginal communities all over the Northern Territory. All this wasted money spent on housing white bureaucrats who never stay on, on dismantling the CDEP program, it seems the Labour party is just rolling along down the same useless track started by John Howard and Mal Brough.

Please take the time to stop and rethink this whole mess. It is not a minor issue in the spectrum of issues facing government in this country. It is **the** issue, the one which brings more shame to our country than any other.

And it is not hard to see how the mining companies are very happy with your "Stronger Futures", as it allows them to exploit aboriginal lands with greater impunity. Land rights was one of the most significant contributions past Labour governments ever made to improving aboriginal life, and now even that is being threatened.

Thanks for reading this submission,

S. W. Elliott