



# Northern Land Council

All correspondence to:  
CHAIRMAN  
GPO Box 1222  
DARWIN NT 0801

ABN 56 327 515 336  
45 Mitchell Street, Darwin NT 0801  
Phone: (08) 8920 5100  
Fax: (08) 8945 2633  
Free Call: 1800 645 299

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Our ref: DS20

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Via Email: [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Honourable Senators

**RE: Questions on Notice – Inquiry into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Amendment (A Stronger Land Account) Bill 2014**

I write in relation to two Questions on Notice arising from Northern Land Council (NLC) evidence to the Inquiry into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Amendment (A Stronger Land Account) Bill 2014 on Friday 13 February.

The first question on notice, by Senator Raechel Siewert, seeks the views of the Northern Land Council about whether the NLC supports the potential inclusion in the Stronger Land Account Bill of historical factors leading to the creation of Native Title legislation and subsequently the Land Account.

By way of response, the Northern Land Council acknowledges the hard work by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people which led to the development of both Native Title and subsequently the Land Account. We further recognise that the historical and contemporary circumstances and objectives of both initiatives are distinctly different. As such, any proposed amendments or additions to the Stronger Land Account Bill should be drafted so it encourages strategically planned, cooperative outcomes between Native Title rights and activity by the Land Account.

The second question on notice, also by Senator Siewert, is whether the NLC supports proposed amendments to the Stronger Land Account Bill as stated in a submission by Professor Mick Dodson of the Australian National University.

While the NLC will not comment on specific amendments proposed by Professor Dodson at this stage, the broad objectives of the proposed amendments are:

- Stronger governance;
- Tighter Land Account usage controls; and
- Improved functionality for Native Title Holders

These objectives are consistent with the NLC's vision of Land Account operations.

BORROLOOLA  
PO Box 453  
Borroloola NT 0854  
Ph : (08) 8975 8848  
Fax: (08) 8975 8745

JABIRU  
PO Box 18  
Jabiru NT 0886  
Ph : (08) 8979 2410  
Fax: (08) 8979 2650

KATHERINE  
PO Box 396  
Katherine NT 0851  
Ph : (08) 8971 9899  
Fax: (08) 8972 2190

NGUKURR  
PMB 85  
via Katherine NT 0851  
Ph : (08) 8975 4755  
Fax: (08) 8975 4601

NHULUNBUY  
PO Box 820  
Nhulunbuy NT 0881  
Ph : (08) 8987 2602  
Fax: (08) 8987 1334

PALMERSTON  
PO Box 1249  
Palmerston NT 0831  
Ph : (08) 8931 1910  
Fax: (08) 8931 1875

TENNANT CREEK  
PO Box 55  
Tennant Creek NT 0861  
Ph : (08) 8962 1884  
Fax: (08) 8962 1636

TIMBER CREEK  
43 Wilson Street  
via Katherine NT 0852  
Ph : (08) 8975 0789  
Fax: (08) 8975 0664

I thank Committee members of this Inquiry for the opportunity to have input to the Stronger Land Account Bill.

I urge you to contact my office, via my Executive Assistant Ms Rachel Bates, or  
NLC Policy Advisor Mr Robert Dalton in regard to any further discussion on this  
matter.

Yours sincerely

**Joe Morrison**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**