



Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku Aboriginal Corporation

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Our Land from a long time ago

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Sent by Email: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a local Indigenous view on the proposed extension of Income Management so that the Family Responsibilities Commission can continue in Mossman Gorge after 30 June 2017. Bamanga Bubu Ngadimuku Inc (BBN) is the local representative leadership organisation in Mossman Gorge.

In Mossman Gorge we have seen most families go on a reform journey since Cape York Welfare Reform began in 2008. There are now only a few remaining households that have not taken that reform journey and Income Management is used by the FRC here to help people in these kinds of situations.

There is a board base of support in Mossman Gorge for the direction of the reform journey that we have been on and need to stay on. Welfare Reform has supported good progress but still there is still a lot to be done. The foundations are in place and opportunity is now emerging but it will be some years we think before the foundations are solid enough to remove support structures like FRC and the services that it refers people to for help.

When the time does come, the people of Mossman Gorge need to be empowered to drive what happens next so that we can stay on this road of positive change. The government can't just suddenly decide to end Income Management and the FRC, without letting us plan so that we keep going forwards and don't go backwards after making such hard won gains.

We ask government to work with us to build on the successes from welfare reform and our broader development journey that has been, and must continue to be, led by our own people.

Kind Regards,