

SUBMISSION regarding THE SENATE INQUIRY INTO STRONGER FUTURES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY BILL; STRONGER FUTURES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY (CONSEQUENTIAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) BILL 2011; AND SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2011.

The Intervention has been a failure. Its implementation has breached the rights of Indigenous People and Communities which governments claimed would benefit.

Government interventions into the rights of it's own citizenry, or those in colonial possessions, have for hundreds of years been used as ruses to extend powers, deny rights and seize lands and assets.

It is worth commenting on the way in which this legislation has been framed and named: *the desired outcomes are diametrically opposite to the language used.* We could harken back to the Howard Government "**Work Choices**" Bill really meant "**No Choice Work Bill**". The Rudd and Gillard Government's "**Fair-Work Australia Bill**" really means "**Un-Fair Australian Work Bill**"...

1. **STRONGER FUTURES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY BILL** - really means: A stronger Northern Territory by **weakening Indigenous Communities.**

2. **STRONGER FUTURES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY (CONSEQUENTIAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) BILL 2011** means **Weaker Aboriginal Future in the Northern Territory.**

3. the **SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2011**, really means SOCIAL **IN-SECURITY** LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2011

In this the 21st Century, claims of economic, social, health and educational '**national emergencies**', impinging on quality of housing, access to services and employment opportunities, are used to

justify moving communities, dismembering families and positive cultural supports like the out-station movement, bilingual education.

This amounts to a long-term systematic program of the removal of rights of Indigenous Australians.

Australia in general appears to support International Conventions.

However, **twenty countries** made submissions at the **UN Periodic Review of Australia's Human Rights** record on treatment of Indigenous Australians.

We have been found wanting but, adding insult to previous injury, the "Strong Futures" legislation serves to increase the ways in which we breach the rights of indigenous Australians simply by weakening their futures as independent cultures with rich heritage of sustainable connection to their lands - lands which are now internationally recognised as being extremely resource rich.

The trouble is that these resources are wanted by both Balanda and Foreign interests who want the indigenous communities out of the way.

The proposed Strong Futures legislative instruments breach the Rights of Indigenous Australians, rights which governments are obligated to uphold by international treaty.

The evidence base for this legislation may or may not have credibility.

Nevertheless no emergency, perceived need, or belief by Government that its responsibility to any group or community ever warrants the removal of their civil, political, economic, social or cultural rights.

The "Stronger Futures" set of legislation should be cancelled.

The major initiatives in this legislation contravene the provisions of:

the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - Articles 22 to 28.

the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – Article 1.

the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women [CEDAW].

Looked at objectively from a distance, these abrogations of international law are a “**Head-In-The-Sand**” denial of the International Treaties we have signed and ratified in good faith.

We can see that such abrogations and denials are directly concerned with removing troublesome *Indigenous Communities* from their ancient lands because they are now of extreme international geo-strategic importance being rich in minerals, gas, oil, transport, or strategic military security.

All actions by our government must be with community consent, community support, and community cooperation.

Only then will rights be preserved and our international obligations upheld.

yours sincerely,

Carlo Canteri

Mob.

Submissions can be sent per the Senate Committee’s website:

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/clac_ctte/strong_future_nt_11/info.htm

by email to:
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or by mail to:
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