

Tom Petherick
Woolaning Community
C/- Post Office
NOONAMAH NT 0837

House of Representatives
Standing Committee
On Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Affairs

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO REEVES REPORT ON THE
ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHT. (N.T.) ACT.

James Catchpole
Inquiry Secretary

Dear Sir

I received your letter dated 20th January 1999, I did not get this letter till the 23rd of February as I am out bush and don't get to go to town, only once a month.

This does not give me much time to get all the documented evidence to show you in my submission, and not much time to get it typed up, if you agree with a handwritten submission this is the only way I can do it before the 12th of March 1999 as we have no phone and fax working or a typewriter and also my English spelling is not too good and I have enclosed a copy of my submission of the N.T. Land Right Review to Mr John Reeves QC. Its not a good one, is a copy of a draft but you should be able to read it. My good one is in town.

James, there is 6 points you are inquiring I noted it on the pamphlet you sent out, I have numbered them.

1. THE PROPOSED SYSTEM OF REGIONAL LAND COUNCILS

1. Yes we say implement John Reeves report (building on Land Rights for The Next Generation) and make it law, by passing it in Parliament
Of course it will provide a greater level of self-management and the role of traditional owners in decision making

1b. But first you would have to SQUASH all the land claims in our area Darwin, Daly, Finnis because its false and a fabrication. The Northern Land council have wrong owners in them. with their fictitious clans and start again, small Land Council away from the Northern Land Council is by far better way to go

We want a Land Council called the (Daly Riverland Council taking in the areas. For example up and middle of Darwin Harbour to Berry Spring, across and following the old railway line near South Port, turning at Rumjungle near Batchelor then heading South hitting Litchfield Park boundary and continue

along the Daly River road, passing the police station. Crossing the Daly River Crossing, following the road out to Pulumpa and out South hitting Fitzmuraze The new Daly River Land Council will include all the community in this area.

- 1 Belyuen
- 2 Woolaning
- 3 Wagait Land Trust
- 4 Bulgul
- 5 Daly River Mission
- 6 Finnis River
- 7 Reynolds River
- 8 Litch Field National Park
- 9 Daly River Land Trust
- 10 Peppermarnatiy
- 11 Pulumpa
- 12 Port Keats from here along the coast to Darwin and all the out station in these area be included.

We want to be away from the urban Aboriginal the part Aborigine

We want our own Land Council

The reason we want a new Land Council for this area

Because we have been robbed of our land and money

Because of these urban part Aboriginal, (ritual imposters) claiming to be traditional owners of our areas, and country.

We can make our own decision when we get our new Land Council

All we want is bit of help from a trusted lawyer, anthropologist, accountant.

On part time, a manager for the first five year

1.We don't want anything to do with ATSIC

2.Northern Land Council.

3. Aboriginal Legal Aid

The staff is the same going back and forth out of these offices

2. THE PROPOSED STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY ABORIGINAL COUNCIL

1. Yes implement it and pass it.

3. THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE ABORIGINALS BENEFITS RESERVE DISTRIBUTION OF MONIES FROM THE RESERVE

1. Yes it has to be equal for all the new Land Council. Taking in account the numbers of Aboriginal in the areas and what size of the areas of the council.

2. The monies from the benefit reserve

1. Should be left in the Reserve Bank of Australia and be distributed by them to the new Land Council.

2. ATSIC should not have anything to do with this

3. ATSIC has to be closed down.

4. ATSIC staff has to be investigated

- 5. Some of the ATSIC white do gooder are from the Northern Land Council
 - 6. The Aboriginal staff of ATSIC are making false claim to our land.
 - 7. It's no longer strange to us that the part Aboriginal that lives in Darwin, has got more money and grants than us that we living on our tribal land
 - 8. Any money coming from the federal Government should fly it direct to the new Land Council head office, for example to the Daly River Mission
- In this way urban Aboriginal can not get their fingers on it or for that matter smell of it. And by doing this you would be by passing all the red tape, cheats, and crooks. As mentioned before all we need is a well trusted accountant, lawyer, manager. An anthropologist part time when we need him

4. THE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE MINING PROVISIONS OF THE ACT INCLUDING THE CONTINUING ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THESE PROVISIONS

Yes implement and pass it

- 1. We are not anti mining
- 2. We are not Anti Development
- 3. We want mining
- 4. We want mining royalties to help run these new regional councils, and help develop our land
- 5. N.L.C does not want mining-why

5. PROPOSALS CONCERNING ACCESS TO ABORIGINAL LAND

We say yes implement it and pass it

- 1. Remove the permit system
- 2. Gates should not be locked on traditional owners land this apply with pastoral lease also
- 3. Movement on the Daly areas with the Aboriginal has been an on going thing for years every one knows ones estates. Still happens today one leaves a rocks piled up or broken bushes on one estates that can be seen when they travel through. Faraway Aboriginal normally ask for permission. And normally they get a head wetting ceremony. Nowadays every one hunts anywhere owners don't mind. We don't like any one selling traditional food to other Aboriginal in Darwin it has happen. What has and is happening one mob that on the wagait got all the gates locked. Unheard of before locking out

other Aboriginal from their estate and hunting grounds.

NLC. FAILED again they have NOT have a census (or recorded on file) all of the local descent groups in the area of Darwin, Coxpaninjurla, Finnis River, Wagaite Land Trust, Reynolds River, Daly River, Daly Land Trust, Moyal, Port Keats,

Bill Stanner although he came here 50 years after the Daly Massacre and all the Aboriginal were dispersed from South Port near Darwin and all over the place.

Bill Stanner did RECORD a vital informations of the Totem of a person where he found them when he was walking around on foot in the areas I just mention.

With this Totem (dreaming) the person has a site with the name that Stanner recorded way back in the 1930's

You just have to know where your Totem is

- 1.Its not where you are born
- 2.Its not where you are living now
- 3.Its not where Stanner found them, some are close, some, were living on it
- 4.Its not where your walking around
- 5.Its not where some false claimant says it is

Mr James Catchpole I am still on the subject on access on Aboriginal land , please have time to read this as this is important as it brings in a lot of issue on what has been happening in our area, and looking at the solution of resolving the problem. I am no lawyer by any way, this is what I mean Bush Aboriginal can not do a submission.

NLC Staff can see this that's why we have all been undermined by them and amongst all other things. The NLC has not been helping us, and turning up with wrong owners

This is one of the reasons we want our own Land Council.

OK I am going back to Stanners. The work of Stanner is important.

The persons Stanner took and recorded his Dreaming ALSO recorded his genealogy put the person way back in generation.

Of course we know our sites

Of course we know our estates

Of course we know our Dreamings

The Aboriginal of the Daly, Finnis, Port Keats, Reynolds, Moyal. knows his Dreaming

- 1.You cannot exclude a person of the land, that is land trust held by the group that the NLC made owner (in their opinion)
- 2.Because this happen to me in 1984 and also with another group in 1997, NLC second (opinion)

This is another reason we need the Daly River Regional Land Council.

- 1.The Daly R.L.C. can find the local descended groups.

2.The Daly R.L.C. can and knows every ones estates.

3.The Daly R.L.C. will have every one that has an estate will have a clan member representing his clan estates.

4.So there is no problem mining company, tourist, any one who wishes to come on one estate can contact the Daly Council. The Council will contact the owner of the estate.

5.Wipe the permit system

It's a NLC idea

One example a person was giving out permit and not giving out was not really an owner. For the country and as I just said that the wrong owner giving out permit, makes him think he has a TITLE to the land or authority over it wipe the permit system

Don't get me wrong I am not racist or prejudiced

I am not anti land rights

But white and black, community as a whole has to stamp out false claimants.

6. THE PROPOSED APPLICATION OF NORTHERN TERRITORY LAWS TO ABORIGINAL LAND

Yes PASS it

1.Areas protection authority should keep the records of sacred sites on all N.T. land including land trust areas and a map showing ALL clans estates

2.Regional Land Council should keep a public map showing all the local descent group estates and a census of all the patrelocal clans in their areas this should match the records of the A.A.P.A

Any body can ask these questions to an Aboriginal

1.Name the clan chief Totem that he gets his spiritual association to the land from (eg. Kangaroo, Emu, or Goose etc.)

2.Name the male ancestor the person gets his Totem from and showing this on a simple chart

3.Show on a map where the original Totemic area is

4.Who has the song, dance and ceremony for the clan area

Yours Sincerely

Tom Petherick
Woolaning

