

**Managers:**

Walter Kerinalua - Ngulu

Tel: (08) 8978 3755

Matthew Wonaeamirri - Millikapiti

Tel: (08) 8978 3711

Cyril Rioli - Pirlangimpi

Tel: (08) 8978 3788



All correspondence to:

The Chairman

PO Box 38548

Winnellie NT 0821

Tel: (08) 8981 4898

Fax: (08) 8981 4282

File: 27-1-2

Senator Nigel Scullion  
GPO Box 882,  
DARWIN. N.T. 0801.

FAX: 02.6277.3704  
8981.3022

Dear Nigel,

**Re: Island Exclusion areas for Illegal Entry to Australia.**

We regret our members were unable to attend at the Committee hearings of 11<sup>th</sup> September in Darwin. We had been earlier informed that these hearings were scheduled for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and our members had planned to be in Darwin on that day (today). They were unable to respond at short notice to the earlier day.

In the event we did further discuss the matter of the Commonwealth legislation at our Land Council meeting number 224 held at Ngulu, 12<sup>th</sup> September. Members expressed surprise that there could be any opposition to the Commonwealth legislation to assist in the protection of our coastal zone and deny access to foreign persons or vessels on the shores of Bathurst and Melville Island.

Our Member for Arafura, Marion Scrymgour MLA was also at our meeting and agreed that it was helpful for there to be such legislation but that it be accompanied by good information for Island residents of what the legislation intended. The CEO of Tiwi Islands Local Government advised, and members agreed, that he had briefed Tiwi leaders in early June of this legislation and that Tiwi leadership had been well informed of the legislation and were very supportive of it.

During the meeting our Manager, Cyril Rioli (Kalippa) was called to the phone to respond to a journalist from "Triple J" Darwin. Mr. Rioli reiterated to the journalist the opinions of the Land Council that we were very supportive of the "Exclusion area" legislation and understood very clearly what our Minister Ruddock intends with such legislation.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Wonaeamirri,  
Chairman.

13<sup>th</sup> September 2002.