

From: Megan Williams

Sent: Friday, 10 August 2007 3:57 PM

To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)

Subject: Northern Territory Bill

The Honorable Senators - members of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee.

Submission re Legislation to intervene in NT Indigenous community affairs

The Bill has serious implications for the Racial Discrimination Act and the Land Rights Act. Such legislation needs to be drafted and redrafted, assessed and debated over many months.

I believe that the removal of the Permit to enter community lands has nothing to do with keeping children safe and in fact has the potential to work against child protection and safety.

I see that the Bill will condemn Northern Territory Indigenous peoples to a future without their land, and without control over their own lives and the lives of their communities.

Long-term plans need to be developed, including comprehensive community and leader consultation.

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