

**From:** Duque-Portugal Afonso

**Sent:** Friday, 10 August 2007 12:15 PM

**To:** Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)

**Subject:** Inquiry into the Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bill 2007 & Related Bills

Dear Ms Morris,

I wish to express my horror, dismay and total opposition to the speed with which current government wishes to pass the legislation named above, without any consideration of its far reaching impact on both indigenous and non-indigenous communities (it makes me so ashamed). It is imperative that the Senate Committee recommends to government that appropriate and adequate time be put aside for a wider consultation and a proper consideration of the legislation.

In my view the following key aspects of the legislation should be discussed in depth:

- The suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act;
- The suspension of the Permit System;
- The creation of a number of new criminal offences with the potential to dramatically increase the rate of imprisonment of indigenous Australians; and
- The suspension of the Native Title with non-cash compensation in a manner which may lead to permanent extinguishment.

I vehemently urge the Committee to consider points above.

My most respectful greetings.

Yours faithfully,

Afonso A. Duque-Portugal