

Stronger Futures Legislation is Discriminatory

Five years of Intervention in the Northern Territory has been devastating. Communities have been disempowered. The people have lost control over their community councils and most aspects of their lives through measures that have been imposed upon them without consultation or consent. Many, who had for years earned wages through the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) are now unemployed. The rate of self-harm and attempted suicide has dramatically increased. Fewer and fewer children attend school.

The Government thinks extending the Intervention through the Stronger Futures legislation for a further 10 years can solve these human problems.

This legislation will be voted on in the Senate around 18th June.

'concerned Australians' believe that the Government should respect Aboriginal leaders and listen to what they are saying to them -

END YOUR INTERVENTIONIST POLICIES AND AGENDAS, AND RETURN TO A MINDSET OF PARTNERSHIP BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF SELF - DETERMINATION

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Call the Office of the Prime Minister or a Victorian Senator.

Leave a message with your name and contact number.

Ask them to

**Abandon the Stronger Futures Legislation
Listen to the People
Start over again**

Prime Minister Julia Gillard 03 9742 5800 <http://www.pm.gov.au/contact-your-pm>

Senator Carr ALP (03) 9639 2798
Senator Collins ALP (03) 9890 7022
Steven Conroy ALP (03) 9391 4952
Senator Kroger Lib (03) 9888 0091
Senator Madigan DLP (03) 53312321
Senator Marshall ALP (03) 9348 9699

Senator Ronaldson Lib (03) 9650 0255
Senator Ryan Lib (03) 9326 1088
Senator McKenzie Nat (03) 5441 4251
Senator Fifield Lib (03) 9584 2455
Senator Feeney ALP (03) 9384 6077

Senator email addresses http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Senators

Yolŋuw Makarr Dhuni (Yolŋu Nations Assembly)

To the Leaders of the Australian Federal and Northern Territory Parliaments:

1. The Yolŋu Nations reject the Stronger Futures Bill (and those associated) and call on the Senate to discard these Bills in full. We have clearly informed you that we do not support the legislation.

The Australian Federal Government can achieve all its aims through partnership in our communities. They have no need to grant themselves the continued and new powers contained within these Bills.

2. Until the Stronger Futures Bill (and those associated) are thrown out of the Australian Federal Parliament, the Yolŋu Nations call on all traditional owners across the Northern Territory to refuse:
a) participation in land lease negotiations with the Australian Federal Government, and
b) approval for any exploration licenses

3. The traditional owners (T.Os) of prescribed community lands have been placed under extreme pressure from the Australian Federal Government to grant them head leases over these communities. T.Os want independently facilitated negotiations that can result in enhancing the interests of both the T.Os and the Australian Federal Government.

4. The Land Councils are increasingly being pressured by Government to act outside their roles and become agencies of Government. We want our Land Councils to advocate for our needs and not have their independence curtailed by Government funding arrangements and political interference.

The Yolŋu Nations call on the Australian Federal Parliament to ask the Auditor General for a review of the relationship between the Australian Federal Government and the Land Councils of the Northern Territory.

5. The Yolŋu Nations call on both the Australian Federal and Northern Territory Governments to end their interventionist policies and agendas, and return to a mindset of partnership based on the principles of Self-Determination.

6. The Yolŋu Nations call on the Northern Territory Government to reform the structures of local government (the Shires) to better reflect Yolŋu and 1st People's government structures which will provide a more locally based and accessible form of local government.

7. The Yolŋu Nations call for an end to the Northern Territory Government's Working Futures policy. For the sustainable social and economic development of our society Homelands need to be considered equal to communities that were former mission and government settlements.

8. The Yolŋu Nations call for an end to the Northern Territory Government's Compulsory Teaching in English for the First Four Hours of Each School Day policy. To be successful we need education with instruction in our Yolŋu languages through all levels of schooling.



24/4/12

Djirrkaymirr Rev. Dr. Djiniyini Gondarra
Spokesperson Yolŋuw Makarr Dhuni