

Council of Blackburn North/Nunawading Uniting Church

The Honourable John Hogg, Leader of the Senate.

We, the Council of Blackburn North/Nunawading Uniting Church members, join with National bodies of the Uniting Church in Australia and innumerable persons and groups of high standing in the Australian community in condemning the “Stronger Futures” legislation currently before the Senate, as it

- * breaches the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (which Australia has ratified).
- * breaches the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (which Australia supports).
- * breaches the Racial Discrimination Act.
- * fails to deal with land reform issues.
- * represents a serious failure to consult with indigenous people in a manner appropriate to them.
- * fails to report accurately on such consultations as has been held, and
- * fails to recognize the inadequacy of a ‘broad brush’ approach when there is such wide variation in the nature of aboriginal communities and their specific problems.

We therefore request that you do not proceed with this legislation, but find ways to determine with aboriginal elders and leaders how these matter should be addressed.

Lin Morison and Jeff Randles

On behalf of the Council of Blackburn North/Nunawading Uniting Churches

2 June 2012