

June 9, 2012

To Whom it May Concern

We wish to join our voices with the many collective and individual voices petitioning with the Yolngu peoples, and all Homeland's Traditional Elders and communities who are currently facing further government implementation of the Stronger Futures Legislation. This legislation has been clearly detrimental and counterproductive to NT Aboriginal peoples' wellbeing and continues to remove their right to control their own circumstances on their own lands. It is clear that Traditional Owners' voices are not being listened to by government and Homelands communities are not being facilitated by positive and affirmative policies that improve their health and wellbeing within their existing communities. Instead NT Aboriginal peoples have found this legislation has increased negative impact in their living conditions and continues to ensure further socio-cultural erasure through dislocation of families and generalised wider community disconnection.

We ask all relevant government representatives to take immediate action to withdraw the current legislation, as petitioned by the Yolgnu Nations Assembly, and to begin a genuine partnership with all Aboriginal Peoples of the Northern Territory.

Aboriginal peoples must be given control over their own circumstances and have the right to determine their futures with genuine support of government in all their initiatives. This is the very least government can do concerning this country's First Peoples in light of the historical legacies of dispossession and oppressive regulation that continue to impact them inter-generationally, and which all Australian governments remain accountable for.

Dr Fiona McAllan
With endorsement from
Aunty Sandra Lee
Secretary
Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation