

## Call to Action on the NT [2019 Burial and Cremation Bill](#)

Thank you the bill has been withdrawn [‘for now’](#).

Yingiya Mark Guyula MLA, Independent Member for Nhulunbuy, and senior Yolngu leader and law man, says proposed new laws - 2019 NT Burial and Cremation Bill - is a **“a law that disrespects our culture, and our authority and criminalises our elders and leaders.”** This bill excludes the right to self-determination, denies local decision making and will breach human rights and other International agreements (ICERD, ICCPR, IESCR & UNDRIP). Fines of up to \$31,000.00 will be imposed and First Nations’ people (FNP) will face up to two years imprisonment! Australia already has the worst Indigenous incarceration in the world.

The 2019 Bill is set to be passed, without amendments, in late November. We urge that you email /phone the relevant NT ministers and request they reengage with clan leaders, FNP and Aboriginal organisations of the NT and *“initiate an immediate and sensitive re-examination of this bill.”* It is important that cultural processes are respected and that traditional burials are not criminalized.

When leaving a message at Ministers’ offices to reengage FNP on the 2019 burial bill, and if time allows, you may wish to raise additional concerns on the dismantling FNP land rights.

1. Reengage with Traditional owners (TO) and Aboriginal Organisations of the NT 2019 Burial & Cremation bill]
2. Traditional owners **say No to fracking**. More information click on [Fractured future: Water fears as drilling for gas begins in the NT](#)<sup>1</sup>. 98-99% of peoples within First Nation communities do not want their lands fracked. There have been no true consultations. Listen to three FNP speak-details in link<sup>2</sup>.
  - To sign the Petition to Protect Country click [here](#)<sup>3</sup>
3. TO/ [Native title owners' push for more negotiation rights shelved after cattle industry fights back](#)<sup>4</sup> Central Land Council [CLC] policy director ... [says] *"If rights co-exist and the Government is giving pastoralists the right to sub-divide native title land, it must give native title holders the right to negotiate."*

### Email

- Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development the Hon Gerry McCarthy MLA [minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au](mailto:minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au) (08) 8936 5553
- Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Selena Uibo [minister.uibo@nt.gov.au](mailto:minister.uibo@nt.gov.au) (08) 8936 5529
- CC the Chief Minister, Michael Gunner [chief.minister@nt.gov.au](mailto:chief.minister@nt.gov.au)

Follow up phone calls after emailing adds more emphasise to concerns expressed.

With Many Thanks

‘concerned Australians’

[info@concernedaustralians.org.au](mailto:info@concernedaustralians.org.au)

[www.concernedaustralians.com.au](http://www.concernedaustralians.com.au)

‘concerned Australians’ acknowledge the First Nations People, the Traditional Owners of this land and their many unique cultures and languages. We respect the knowledge and wisdom of Elders past and present. They have never ceded their sovereignty and we commit to walking with them in their quest for truth, justice and treaties.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.smh.com.au/national/fractured-future-water-fears-as-drilling-for-gas-begins-in-the-nt-20191003-p52xfj.html>

<sup>2</sup> Listen also to three NT First Nations’ men -Scott McDinny, Bradley Farrar and Nicholas Fitzpatrick <https://player.fm/series/989-fm-for-the-best-country/lets-talk-scott-mcdinny-bradley-farrar> \* More action at click on PROTECT COUNTRY at <https://nt.seedmob.org.au/>

<sup>3</sup> PROTECT COUNTRY: Stop Origin from Fracking the NT at <https://nt.seedmob.org.au/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-10-14/native-title-negotiation-right-shelved-nt-government/11600180>