

TO WHOM IT CONCERNS

I wish to express my concerns regarding the 'Stronger Futures' in the NT bill of 2011.

It is my well informed view point that the newly proposed legislation still does not have the integral support of the communities which it seeks to 'help' and which it entirely effects.

To turn the tide on the way some of these communities are living, into positive and sustainable futures can only be achieved through self determined actions which are supported by the government. Not enacted upon by the government.

I believe now is the long overdue time for the Australian government to show some respect and allow for communities to do things their way, without the condescending top down approach that has so far been the way.

The way forward for Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory will only ever be from the decisions and problem solving methods coming from the community members themselves.

I feel that the Australian government needs to apply some genuine self reflection of the historical context to what it is proposing to do. Any legislation that appear to be yet another guise of 'protectionist' like policies are probably not going to be well received.

I also believe there is a real opportunity in Australia for the government to lead the world in the way it interacts with Indigenous Australians. For this to happen, can you please stop putting one foot forward and fifty back?

All in all, we share a commonality that can never be broken, that of a shared humanity. Please begin to behave like the responsible and caring leaders that you the elect government are meant to be.

I trust that the words of this letter have been heard and considered before another bill is passed that really isn't a step forward.

Thank you for your time. Best Wishes, Penny Hill. Student.

