

Senate Inquiry into the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment (Economic Empowerment) Bill 2021

My name is Frank Baarda. I'm a non-Indigenous resident of Yuendumu and have worked and lived here with my family since 1973 (48 years).

I'm not aware of any consultations having taken place in Yuendumu regarding these amendments, nor have I met any Warlpiri person who is aware of the proposed amendments let alone comprehend the complex legalese English.

I attended the Warlpiri Land Claim in March of 1978. I have witnessed how from an era of great optimism whitefella bureaucracies have gradually usurped Aboriginal Land Rights so that presently very little real consultation and consent takes place.

The proposed amendments will only exacerbate the disconnect between the rightful owners and the controllers of the land.

The proposed amendments will further weaken the inalienability of Aboriginal Land. More money controlled by outsiders will be generated by sacrificing cultural integrity.

This bill will result in economic empowerment, but of the wrong people.

The Bill having such far reaching consequences deserves much more scrutiny than it presently has, and it is criminal to rush it through.

Frank Baarda, Yuendumu, 31st October 2021