

29 June 1999

Hon Lou Leiberman  
Chairman  
HORSCATSIA  
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Chairman,

**NLC Women's Committee position on Reeves Report**

The NLC Women's Committee is a sub-committee of the Full Council of the NLC, and consists of all the women members of the NLC.

The Women's Committee held a special meeting on 15 & 16 May 1999 at Yirrkala at which we considered the Reeves Report. While a number of our members, including Mary Yarmirr, Nellie Camfoo, Roddy Friday and Audrey Bush have already attended hearings and provided you with oral submissions, we felt it was necessary to provide you with a formal submission on the Reeves Report.

The following resolution was passed unanimously by the Women's Committee:

**That the NLC Women's Committee completely rejects the Reeves Review of the Land Rights Act. The recommendations of the Review are against our law and will cause bloodshed and conflict for Aboriginal people because they are contrary to Aboriginal law. The land belongs to us and it is our lives, our songs, our stories and our dances. We will not accept any changes to our traditional land rights which are the basis of our culture and our lives.**

**We reject NTAC, the abolition of the permits system, and the breaking up of the Land Councils. We want to retain the decision-making system as it is.**

It is of great importance to Aboriginal women that the recommendations of the Reeves Report are not implemented. We are responsible for bringing up our children in our law and culture, and we cannot accept the destruction of our traditional rights which Reeves recommends.

Yours sincerely

(signed)

Dhuwarrwarr Marika  
Acting Chairperson  
NLC Women's Committee