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Lanyuhapuy Homelands/
Yirrkala Community Elders and Traditional
Owners

SUBMISSION TO:
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON ATSIC AFFAIRS

“Inquiry into the Recommendations of the Reeves Report.”

We are disappointed to find that the recommendations of the Reeves Report are opposite to our requests as expressed to Mr Reeves on his visits.

Regional Land Councils

- We strongly support keeping the NLC in its present form.
- Our Regional voice will be heard through the NLC’s current program to set up Regional Councils.
- Land Council Representatives must continue to be elected. They should never be appointed by anybody.
- A peak body such as NTAC is not required.

Permits

- We want the current permit system to stay as it is.
- It is necessary to continue to have a representative Agency (The Land Council) to ensure appropriate written permission is given by the relevant landowners.
- Discussion regarding permission to enter land must occur before the trespass occurs.

ABR and Royalties

- The current system should continue.
ie. ABR is separate to Land Councils
- Traditional owner Royalty Recipients to continue to control Royalty expenditure.
- Non Mining Royalties to continue to go direct to the Traditional Land owners.

NT LAWS

- The Land Rights Act should remain as a Federal Act.
- All rights achieved over the life of the Land Rights Act to remain.
ie. Right of Decision for mining exploration and mining.

- Right of decision for release of land for Public Works.
- The 'Right of Decision' retains customary clan based decision making processes.