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Senate Community Affairs Committee

I attended your public hearing into the Emergency Response Consolidation Bill held in Alice Springs on 29 April.

May I please speak to the reinstatement of the permit system?

A new system of local government is being rolled out across the NT. Shires stretching in some cases from Queensland to WA will replace a myriad of local councils, and shire meetings will be held on a rotational basis in different townships. As the third tier of government these meetings must be open to the public with the usual confidential section as prescribed by the Act. At the very least any reinstated permit system would have to be lifted on the day of the Shire Meetings to allow access to the township and to the building hosting the public meeting.

Another concern with the new shires is the shires will levy rates and use some of that money to maintain public roads. Is there a conflict when publicly funded (rates funded) roads are submitted to a private permit system?

The town camps are small enough and urban enough that normal trespass laws can address their privacy concerns.

Sincerely
Hal Duell