

From: Berenice Buckley

Sent: Friday, 10 August 2007 11:17 AM

To: Legal and Constitutional, Committee (SEN)

Subject: Inquiry into the Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bill 2007 & Related Bills

I am writing to you because of my concern at the legislation that is about to be enacted in relation to Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory. While I support resources being allocated to help these communities, have we not yet learned that without consultation our efforts will never really be successful.

Not only has there been failure to consult with Aboriginal Communities, the Aboriginal people themselves have produced excellent reports detailing how efforts should be directed and the dangers inherent in removing the need for permits to enter Aboriginal communities and the threat inherent in taking away hard won Aboriginal Land Rights. The proposed legislation so affronts the civil liberties of Aborigines that it causes suspicion that there is other motivation at play.

At the very least I implore you to consider ensuring the Government allows a proper time for consideration of legislation which proposes issues so important as the suspension of the Racial Discrimination Act, suspension of Native Title and the Permit System.

Berenice Buckley