

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS BY LIBERAL SENATORS

1.1 Liberal senators agree with the majority report's recommendations. However, Liberal senators wish to make some additional comments and recommendations in relation to template ILUAs and the 10-year sunset provision (proposed paragraph 24JAA(1)(d)).

Template ILUAs

1.2 Liberal senators support ILUAs as the preferred method for agreement-making with native title holders and claimants. The committee heard that ILUAs would not assist with the expeditious delivery of public housing and infrastructure in Indigenous communities, on the bases that negotiation and registration of such instruments is not timely and can take in excess of 12 months to complete.

1.3 Liberal senators note that template ILUAs would assist in overcoming the identified difficulties, and consider that it would be prudent for all governments concerned to develop template ILUAs as a means for expedited agreement-making in the future. Such agreements should be inclusive in nature and encompass a range of necessary services, not simply those related to public housing and infrastructure.

Recommendation 1

1.4 Liberal senators recommend that the Australian, state and territory governments take such measures as are necessary to develop template Indigenous Land Use Agreements for future service delivery.

Sunset clause

1.5 Liberal senators also express concern with the 10-year sunset clause contained in the Bill. Liberal senators strongly support the objectives of the Bill, and the substantial investment therein, and suggest that the Australian Government should aim to 'Close the Gap' within five years rather than 10 years. The effectiveness of the program could be reviewed after the first five years of operation, and if necessary, then be extended for a further five years to take advantage of the 10-year funding provided for in the National Partnership Agreements.

Recommendation 2

1.6 Liberal senators recommend that proposed paragraph 24JAA(1)(d) be amended to require the delivery of urgent public housing and infrastructure to Indigenous communities within five years.

Recommendation 3

1.7 Subject to the above recommendations, and the majority report Recommendation 1, Liberal senators recommend that the Senate pass the Bill.

**Senator Guy Barnett
Deputy Chair**

Senator Mary Jo Fisher