



To:

Legislative Council Sessional Committee Government Administration B  
Aboriginal Lands Amendment Bill (No. 27)

Dear Committee

**Re: Committee consideration of the Aboriginal Lands Amendment Bill 2012**

The Parrdarrama Pungenna Aboriginal Community - wish to make a written submission asking you take into account our thoughts and concerns when you as a Committee deliberate on the Aboriginal Lands Amendment Bill 2012.

Whilst we support and always will support the hand back of land to the Aboriginal Community in Tasmania we have a deepening concern that this hand back will only benefit a small portion of the community and will not benefit the majority of Aboriginal communities across Tasmania.

For too long - we as a community have sat back and watched the Tasmanian Government negotiate with certain members of the Aboriginal community who have indicated they speak for the whole community when in fact it is quite the opposite – contrary to popular belief the Aboriginal communities in Tasmania are just that - a number of communities and therefore should be recognised as such and be considered, negotiated and consulted with on an individual basis.

As a Community we would like to see the land handed to the Aboriginal community living on Country in the areas of hand back. Custodianship should lie with the community who connect, live, walk and breathe on that country on a daily basis - not a group who leave foot prints on an ad-hoc basis and without any real attempt to communicate with the local people.

If the land hand back is to be managed by one body or group then that group should reflect the number of Aboriginal Communities in this State - not controlled by larger - more powerful groups - a body that is reflective of all the Aboriginal communities and family groups in each area.

Please do not let this group be chosen or influenced by State Bureaucrats or Public Servants but nominated from each community - this should be enough without having to justify or pass scrutiny of a Public Service Department or Bureaucrat - as has happened too often in the past - each communities word should be enough for this process - we know who we are and who are our people.

As stated above current practices in land hand back to the Aboriginal Community are far too easily dominated by one or two groups - who through their squeaky wheel approach seek to intimidate decision makers in our State Parliament – we cannot stress enough that we need a body or group that is reflective of the whole communities in our state and the State Parliament needs to put in place arrangements or processes that will enable this to happen.

If you as a Committee look favourably at our request - please let us also look beyond the current secretariat arrangements for handling such processes as the current arrangements lends itself to recycling and talking to the same old people - doing things the old way and showing no effort to go beyond what has gone before – let us try and inject some new blood into this whole process and we just might be amazed by the outcome.

In closing can we say that we are aware of the difficulties of bringing such arrangements like whole of communities' approaches in this State but a decision needs to be made - can we ask that, that decision includes benefits for all Aboriginal People and Country - not just the chosen few.

Members of the Parrdarrama Pungenna Community are more than willing to sit and talk further with the committee should you wish us to do so.

We thank you for your time and the opportunity to provide this submission.

Yours sincerely

The Board of Directors  
Parrdarrama Pungenna Aboriginal Corporation  
27/6/2013