Submission regarding "Stronger Futures in the NT" 2011 and two related bills.

I would like to register my objections to the so called Stronger Futures legislation which extends a paternalistic interventionist approach to the management of aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory. I am deeply saddened and disappointed that our parliament and legislators have not learnt from our shameful history with regards to the management of aboriginal affairs. Has due consideration been given to the long term impact this legislation will have on aboriginal communities drive to self determination and their ability to maintain their culture and connection to country?

Have parliamentarians and legislators reflected on the impact that this legislation will have on communities who thought they were being consulted about their basic right of self determination?

Why is legislation being considered which;

- undermines communities rights to self determination
- Focuses on all the negative aspects of aboriginal communities and is punitive in its approach.
- reinforces stereotypes of aboriginal communities
- lacks the support of Northern Territory elders and communities
- Is discriminatory and racist
- does not take into account differences in communities ?

I urge all parliamentarians, and in particular the Minister for Indigenous Affairs Jenny Macklin, to stop the NT Intervention and design policies that are truly consultative and are driven by the Aboriginal communities they are intending to help. White colonialisation has already helped to destroy much of aboriginal culture. We must learn from our mistakes to ensure legislation is enacted that empowers aboriginal right to self determination and values their culture.

Yours sincerely
Lois Denham