

Government efforts on RDA breaks election promise

The CLC has told a Senate inquiry in March that the Government's Bill to restore the Racial Discrimination Act does nothing to improve the most draconian measures of the NTER and continues the spirit of bad faith embedded in that legislation.



Above: CLC Director David Ross talks to the press about the RDA after the Senate

CLC Director David Ross said the NTER legislation remains discriminatory despite the Government's Bill to remove clauses which exclude the operation of the RDA.

"Reinstating the Racial Discrimination Act was an election promise to the Aboriginal people of the Northern Territory. This Bill does nothing to keep that promise.

"Thanks to a good old smoke and mirrors approach to drafting legislation, because its newer, the NTER legislation still prevails over the Racial Discrimination Act and renders it impotent," he said.

"There was one very simple solution that the government has avoided while it has deliberated for two years – insert a simple clause to ensure the Racial Discrimination Act pre-

vails over the NTER. That is what we are asking for.

"Discriminatory measures including the retention of the business management area powers, controls on government funded computers on Aboriginal land, the retention of the Australian Crime Commission's additional powers and the removal of the permit system/creation of a public right of access to Aboriginal

"The Government's position on five year leases is one of the most hated elements of the NTER and the Government has sought to put them beyond the challenge of the RDA by calling them special measures." David Ross

land will continue to survive the Government Bill, and will not be open to challenge under the RDA.

"The Government's position on five year leases is one of the most hated elements



Above: Central Australian Aboriginal people talk to the Senate: l-r Valerie Martin, Raelene Silvertion, Barbara Shaw, Harry Nelson and Richard Downes

of the NTER and the Government has sought to put them beyond the challenge of the RDA by calling

them special measures.

"There continues to be no evidence of any benefit by acquiring the five year leases.

"Initially it was argued it would

improve the housing situation. After the dismal record in this area since then we now know that to be untrue.

"It has gone to extraordinary lengths to deliver a tricked up NTER that seeks to convince people it is something it's not.

In regard to other elements of the NTER before the committee the CLC believes that income management should be subjected to national public debate if it is to be enacted nationally rather than cloaked within this legislation.



A 1950 stamp featuring a Warlpiri man has been voted Australia's fourth most popular stamp since stamps were first issued by New South Wales in 1850.

Last year Australia Post invited the public to vote on their favourite stamps from 150 representing Australian culture and heritage, major events and significant achievements as 2009 marked 200 years of postal services in Australia.

Known as "8 1/2d Gwoya Jungarai, One Pound Jimmy", the stamp (pictured above) was fourth of the top five stamps behind "2 pound Kangaroo and Map (1913-38)", "5s Opening of Sydney Harbour Bridge (1932)" and "2 1/2d Peace and Victory (1946)". The fifth most popular stamp was "6d Kookaburra (1914)".

The Gwoya Jungarai stamp cost 8 1/2 pence, was designed by Frank Manley and based on a 1935 photograph that appeared in the Walkabout magazine.

Australia Post says Gwoya Jungarai's nickname, One Pound Jimmy, is said to have been given to him because of his reliable response of "one pound" when asked the price of boomerangs and other artefacts he had for sale.

He died in 1965 aged about 70. The Sun reported on April 28 that year that: "When his features first appeared on Australian stamps, mail began pouring in to him from philatelists (stamp collectors) all over the world."

The Sun report went on to say that many of the philatelists wanted Mr Jungarai's autograph, but he was unable to write.

"But with the help of native welfare officers, Jimmy answered his fan mail – signing his name with his thumb print," The Sun reported.

"One Pound Jimmy died on walkabout with relatives on Narwietooma cattle station, 120 miles west of Alice Springs.

"With few white-man's luxuries packed into the saddle bags of his three old camels, Jimmy preferred to wander and hunt through the country where he had no need of postage stamps," The Sun report concluded.

Land Rights News has attempted to find surviving relatives of Mr Jungarai without success so far.

We'd like to hear from any of his relatives or anyone with more detail on how he came to be on one of Australia's most famous stamps.