

***This is the Grassroots Aboriginal People's Address
to the Nation and Reply to Mr Howard and the
Forewarning to the Population of People of
Australia***

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Yaluritja***

We say this to the Population of people of Australia:

what is said here is what is going to happen if you go through with this 10 point Wik Plan and by that you dispossess us the Original Owners of our last bit of land, our last bit of Hope.

You must know these things because you can't see what we can see because we have lived through it for 200 years.

Let us the grassroots Aboriginal people, the Nation of Aboriginal people say unto you Mr Howard as the Prime Minister, and to Mr Minchin and Mr Fischer and to Senator Harradine and also to Mr Kim Beazley and all the Labor people and the Greens and the Democrats that:

- * you will create big stampedes into the towns of Aboriginal people forced away from their areas which is their Home
- * once they are deprived of their freedom of their land and it is locked away by the power and the greediness, and their hope is taken away and they are deprived of basic human rights you will have your capital cities and country towns packed with Aboriginal people.
- * the breathing space for the blackfella will get smaller and smaller.
- * they'll be starved away from the livinghood of their original homegrounds
- * you will create beggars on the streets.
- * the rich and the powerful who are behind the Government in this debate had better set aside money for extra numbers in the police force
- * will the Prime Minister set aside a lot of money for new gaols for the big stampede where our people will be put with the forcing into town of Aboriginal people?
- * there will be idleness, there will be crimes, this forcing the police to act against them. There will be deaths in custody
- * the teenagers will be out of control in the cities They cannot live without hope, without their culture.
- * your parks will be filled, your toilets will become sleeping places for Aboriginal men and women.
- * Black sportspeople are not going to help. It is no use talking about role models or ambassadors because there will be no land, no culture left.
- * we say unto Mr Howard and Tim Fischer and Mr Minchin and Mr Kim Beazley and Mr Harradine and all politicians who will be making a decision, we ask you to pool in extra money for soup kitchens because you're going to have 100's and 1000's of Aboriginal people on your doorsteps and on the streets.

This is not scaremongering. This is factually saying unto you and predicting what happens when people are dispossessed and what you Mr Howard and Mr Minchin and Mr Fischer can't see, and the rich and powerful people behind you can't see. Have you made any studies of the effects of this oncoming disaster worse than Maralinga.

This is what will happen.

The Keating government was forewarned and they didn't heed the warning and the situation deteriorated to what it is now. Now Mr Howard and his government are going down the same track: they are not and have not been talking to the roots people who are still closely attached to the Land and the Law who will help the Government come up with solutions to this problem.

The grassroots people have been denied the right to natural justice, the right to be heard. There has been no spoken words to them of what are their concerns. Their concerns and suggestions would be to find solutions to share between us the First people of the Land, and the Second people who came here, and never talk about Greed. The First People shared with the Second people up until now.

There is a better outcome by prolonging it

SCRAP THE NATIVE TITLE AMENDMENTS AND GO BACK TO THE CREEKBEDS.

PUT THE 10 POINTS BACK ON THE SHELF. GO BACK TO THE CREEK BEDS AND START AGAIN, CONSULTING WITH THE GRASSROOTS ABORIGINAL PEOPLE ACROSS THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE CONTINENT AS SENATOR RICHARDSON ONCE DID.

YOU WILL THEN FIND THE REAL SOLUTIONS TO YOUR PROBLEMS.

The real people of the land are out in the backblocks and the backlanes and creekbeds. They are Elders from the grassroots Aboriginal people upwards, not "leaders" downwards from the white Government's point of view.

THESE ARE THE PROPER DECISION-MAKERS.

Reply to Points of Mr Howard's Address to the Nation

Mr Howard's meaning was '*You let me dispossess you through the 10 Point Plan, then I'll recognise your Reconciliation*'. But where is the justice in that? We'll be landless. We'll have no culture.

Mr Howard was shouting loud and clear to the Nation that he's going to strip us of our last bit of ownership - waterways, sacred and religious rights, national parks, land in towns and cities, our own authority by our own Law in our own areas, our cultural ways of sharing and overlapping our Native Title.

How can Mr Howard turn around and say it is a fair and good deal? He has gone way beyond the Wik High Court decision and is ignoring the original Mabo High Court decision. Surely people can see he is contradicting himself?

Mr Howard claimed he has had '*a lot of discussion with all of the different groups*'. He has left completely out of the debate the people most affected, the

people from the creekbeds, on the fringes, in the communities, the roots people still attached to their land, to people who will die without their land and their culture.

In his address to the nation Mr Howard never acknowledged that we are the prior occupants and owners, the Original Owners of the Land. He has shifted away from prior ownership. He is going back to Terra Nullius. His Government have made it a race debate - politicians, rich and powerful against the blacks. Mr Howard is saying by his 10 Point Wik Plan *'We're here now, we've stolen the land off you and that's it'*. Does Mr Howard recognise white people who have prior occupancy? Would he dispossess them?

Mr Howard said that we have to look after the Aboriginal people, and spoke about health, education, housing, employment - his priorities, not ours. He didn't talk about the Foundation Stone of all that, our Religion and Culture in the Land itself, and our Law and Community living, which are our priorities.

Mr Howard talked about Fairness. He said it with pride that he took the Oath, and the oath was that he would look after everybody, but as soon as he was elected he started attacking us the blacks.

End

The benefit of the doubt is being given to you Mr Howard, Mr Minchin, Mr Beazley, Mr Harradine, the Greens, the Democrats and all the politicians.

We the grassroots Aboriginal people are predicting that what is said here is what is going to happen. When it does happen we say unto the Nation of White People who are responsible for putting the Government of people in power, you have no-one to blame but Mr John Howard and his Ministers, Mr

Kim Beazley and his Ministers and the Greens and the Democrats and all politicians linked up in Canberra.

It's the Parliament that governs the whole of Australia and they are responsible for the whole of the problem that is going to occur.

You have taken everything from us.

If John Howard's 10 Point Wik Plan succeeds and they wipe us from the Face of the Continent of Australia with our Basic Human Rights, then who will they turn round and attack when election time comes round again?

*Swan Valley Nyungah Community
on behalf of the Grassroots People*