



Submission to:

Inquiry into a Process to Review Bills for their Impact on First Nations Territorians

Civil Liberties Australia thanks the NT Parliament, and the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee (LACAC), for the opportunity to contribute to this important issue. CLA believes:

- a. the preferred body should be an NT 'Voice' to the NT Parliament, through the LACAC mechanism;
- b. the process of consultation and submission of an agreed position (or positions) of those comprising the NT Voice should be managed outside LACAC by an appropriate administrative mechanism;
- c. the NT 'Voice' as much as possible should be modeled on a similar proposed federal 'Voice' to the Australian Parliament;
- d. some or all of those comprising the NT 'Voice' may or may not be drawn from those comprising the federal 'Voice';
- e. appointment to the 'NT Voice' group should be by democratic election, effective for three to five years, with a lower age limit of 16 years;
- f. the NT 'Voice' should have three main tasks, in order of priority:
 - i. identifying, documenting and recommending how proposed Bills impacting on First Nations Territorians could be improved for the benefit of the entire community and/or for the First Nations community of the NT without deleterious effect on non-First Nations Territorians; and
 - ii. ensuring that Statement of Compatibility provisions, as outlined in the Terms of Reference for this inquiry, are considered and reported on as part of the consultation; and, optionally,
 - iii. recommending how proposed NT Acts, considered under this process, could be usefully applied to the laws of other states or territories, and/or of the Commonwealth of Australia, for reference by the NT government to the Commonwealth.

Yours truly,

Dr Kristine Klugman OAM
President

1 August 2023

Lead author: Bill Rowlings OAM, CEO