

Question No: 13

Question: Lands Rights Changes, Traditional Ownership to Land

Date: 30/04/91
Member Mr COLLINS
To: CHIEF MINISTER

1. When did the Chief Minister or his government agree with the Commonwealth to change the right of Aboriginal people under the Commonwealth Land Rights Act to make claim for land from traditional ownership' to 'historic ownership'.
2. Why wasn't the matter debated in the Assembly.
3. How many new land rights claims have been made since the Northern Territory government agreed to change the wording of the act, up to the time of answering the question.

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory has not agreed with the Commonwealth to amend the Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976 such that the basis for land claims is 'historic' ownership.

2. Not applicable.

3. Not applicable.

4. The honourable member is referring to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory of the Granting of Community Living Areas in the Northern Territory Pastoral Districts where the eligibility criteria for application for pastoral lease excisions are to be -

. any group with the consent of the pastoral lessee;

. any group with a demonstrated need which was ordinarily resident on the pastoral lease at any time since 1968; and

. any other group with an historical residential association with a lease that can demonstrate it has a present need for a community living area.

These matters were debated in the Legislative Assembly with the passage of the Miscellaneous Acts Amendment (Aboriginal Community Living Areas) Act 1989 17 to 19 October 1989.