

ROUGH SUMMARY OF NEW LEGISLATION prepared by

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Stronger Futures NT bill (and the other one with transitional provisions)

Powers that will stay from 'first Intervention';

- "Star Chamber" powers held by the Australian Crime Commission for investigations in Aboriginal communities, including removal of the right to silence. This despite the ACC dismissing the disgraceful allegations that "paedophile rings" were operating in Indigenous communities, which led then Minister Mal Brough to legislate the powers.
- Prohibition of consideration of Aboriginal customary law and cultural practice in bail and sentencing. Chief Justice Riley of the NT Supreme Court has said this measure means "Aboriginal offenders do not enjoy the same rights as offenders from other sections of the community".
- Blanket bans on alcohol on Aboriginal Land, despite consistent opposition from the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT (APO NT) who have said, "The decision regarding alcohol restrictions should be for relevant residents to make... The principal effect of these widely flouted laws has been to further criminalise and alienate many residents". There are provisions for community-by-community 'alcohol management plans' as existed under Labor's 2009 legislation. But this requires considerable community initiative and resources. Macklin has also increased her powers to influence/veto these AMPs.
- Blanket bans on X18+ ("sexually explicit or very violent") material on Aboriginal land. These restrictions serve no purpose other than the perverse stigmatisation of Aboriginal men.
- Continued suspension of the operations of the permit system in Aboriginal townships, again in direct contradiction of APO NT who said "communities on Aboriginal land feel as though they have lost control... the flow-on effects are overwhelmingly seen as negative and counterproductive to community safety".
- Licensing of community stores. There are also some very stringent rules that will be applied to stores that are in or near communities, heavy licensing requirements that the NT Country Liberals are upset about (interferes with 'free enterprise'). (Haven't had time to look at these properly.)

Both the Human Rights Commission and visiting UN representatives have consistently rejected the characterisation of these measures as "special measures" under the Racial Discrimination Act.