

Dear Friend,

26th September

As you may know the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Native Title is holding an inquiry into the Native Title Amendment Bill 1997. Women for Wik has been present at all public hearings (in Canberra only the 16th and 16th remain) and in Broome 6th October, Alice Springs 7th October, and Cairns 8th October.

Women for Wik will also be officially presenting evidence to the Committee on Thursday 16th October at 2pm in Committee Room 2S1, Department of the Senate, Parliament House, a submission that will be endorsed by various national women's organisations

To mark this occasion there will be contingents of women from all over Australia including S.A, Queensland and Victoria to meet the Sydney women when they arrive in a convoy of cars in front of the Parliament at 12.30pm on that day. (The Sydney contingent will first group outside the National Exhibition centre which is on the highway on the outskirts of Canberra at 11.45am .) There will be media present and various high profile women under the banner for Women for Wik.

This is the last day of public hearings and so it is imperative that we impress upon this Committee that our concerns about the Wik 10 point plan are mainstream, widespread and they won't go away. Women for Wik is a phenomenal national grassroots movement which started with four women around a table - we are now justifiably a significant presence in the debate. It is clear that an extraordinary number of Australian women have heeded Lady Deane's call to women to bring the reconciliation process back on track; and politicians ignore this at their peril.

Please join us if you can,(or if you can't, support or endorse this event in any other way possible),by your presence indicating that a significant number of Australian women voters consider the Wik 10 point plan divisive, unjust, unworkable, unnecessary - and unacceptable.

With best wishes,

(Rosie Scott)