

MEDIA RELEASE

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SUE BRADLEY COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

TAKING THE *SELF* OUT OF *SELF* GOVERNMENT

The *Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bill* introduced into the Commonwealth Parliament this week intervenes directly into Northern Territory law making power and overrides the authority of Territory Government Ministers.

One does not have to read too far to see the first example of this.

On page 10 of the *Emergency Response Bill*, the new law directs the Northern Territory Licensing Commission to report directly to the Commonwealth Minister, bypassing the Northern Territory Government.

“Territorians need to realise that the Commonwealth is modifying laws that were made by the democratically elected members of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly.

“Commonwealth Government action to transfer powers from the Northern Territory to the Commonwealth demonstrates to all Australians the lack of democratic power where Australians live in Territories instead of States”. Statehood Steering Committee Co-Chair Sue Bradley said today.

Northern Territory laws debated and passed by the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly now have the Commonwealth Minister playing a direct role in the following Acts:

- *Associations Act*
- *Crown Lands Act*
- *Local Government Act*
- *Liquor Act*
- *Police Administration Act*
- *Special Purposes Leases Act*.

The Statehood Steering Committee is meeting in Darwin today and is considering the ramifications of the Commonwealth’s intervention for Self Government and also for eventual Statehood.

“Territorians must ask why the Northern Territory Government should not administer these powers and ask which Government is most accountable to those of us living here.”

Media inquiries Michael Tatham 040 111 9570

