

Indigenous Affairs

Australia is the only Commonwealth nation that doesn't have a treaty with its Indigenous people. First Nations people lived regeneratively on this land for over 40,000 years, yet after 200 years of white settlement we are living well beyond our means. Rather than learning from and collaborating with first nations people we have sought to exclude and discriminate against them. A lot of environmental movements don't seek indigenous input.

Question: How can we constructively acknowledge the racist foundations of our society and improve our support of Canberra's indigenous communities?

Assets

- Allodial title exists here
- Ownership of knowledge
- First people – we have original people who have always lived here
- Microlenis – original grain food grown in this landscape
- Ngunnawal, Ngambri, and Ngarigu – language and identity
- Change name of highest mountain to Tagungal
- Stories from this landscape and first people that is valued and owned by first people

Make sure you get the right stories from the first peoples of the land, not just arbitrary groups. Also, be aware of 'interested authorities'. Ask critical questions. Real strength is in connections with people. 'Due diligence.'

Ideas

- Celebrate ACT as a grassland
- Address wealth structure
- Can we bring the Yam Daisy back?
- How can we be sustainable without respecting original owners?
- Original owner group that wanted to claim a travelling stock reserve because people were buried there? How do we get land back?
- Address pyramid economy
- Redistribution of wealth
- Recognise the ecological limits
- Teach indigenous history to new citizens
- Make this land prosperous again, for all
- Learn true sustainability from elders, not rampant consumption
- Acknowledge colonialism
- Have the decency for treaty (like NZ treaty and map)

- Acknowledgement of the frontier wars
- Recognise the natural limitations of our land
- Indigenous recognition to give a grounding in sustainability
- More recognition of white European settler colonialism as a basis for many problems
- Acknowledgement that we have apartheid in Australia – different laws based on race
- Treaty