

Poll will be crucial for Aborigines

The Commonwealth Government has virtually abdicated its responsibility for Aboriginal rights and land rights.

Its present Minister (and his predecessors) have given way on practically all issues to State Governments such as Queensland and Western Australia, and is in the process of doing so to the Government of the Northern Territory.

The Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, condones and abets this betrayal of Aboriginal interests and Commonwealth responsibility.

Senator Neville Bonner, the only Aboriginal parliamentary representative, has chosen to stand as an Independent candidate after being downgraded to a nearly impossible position on a Senate ticket he headed for years. His downgrading is only an indication of the disregard of the coalition Government for all Aboriginal interests.

We have included in this election issue a survey of the land rights situation in the States to demonstrate what is happening in this one important matter, with the present Commonwealth Government's abject complaisance over state actions.

How should you vote to help Aborigines gain their rights?

We cannot tell you.

But we publish in this issue the platforms of the parties concerned.

And we ask you to continue to press your own Federal representatives, the Prime Minister and his Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, whoever these may be after the election, as well as to:

PUT PRESSURE DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN ON MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES AND WRITE TO NEWSPAPERS.

This election will mean hope or despair for Aborigines everywhere.

Aboriginal Treaty Committee Papers

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