

**William Cooper, Honorary Secretary, Australian Aborigines' League, to the Minister for the Interior, John McEwen, 27 December 1937, National Archives of Australia, A659, 1940/1/858**

In the name of my people I have much pleasure in welcoming you to the position of responsibility for the Territories in aboriginal matters. I should have written earlier but certain press notices stated that Mr Hughes was taking care of aboriginal matters and I had to make enquiries as to the matter.

We have been blessed with kindly administrators for some time. Mr Perkins, first of all, showed an appreciation of his responsibility, and has since retained his interest. Mr Paterson followed and his administration has been so kindly that he has earned our utmost respect. We have told him and the Prime Minister how deeply appreciative we are of his genuine goodwill as he exercised his stewardship. We feel that under no previous minister was such advance made or foundations for the future more satisfactorily laid.

May we claim from you the same sympathy and goodwill? We have had a raw deal but we are ready to forget that in the better times ahead.