

**William Cooper, Honorary Secretary, Australian Aborigines' League, to the Prime Minister, Joseph Lyons, 23 May 1938, National Archives of Australia, A461, A300/1, Part 3**

I am informed that some of the natives of Cumeroogunga, who previously voted at elections, were excluded on the last occasion, for reasons not known to them. We remember that this has been the experience of Western Australian natives and would request to be informed of there is any connection between these actions. Apart from Western Australia, of which state we are fully informed is there any exclusion of natives previously on the electoral roll from the exercise of the franchise. If so, what are the details. Will you also advise as to the men who were excluded at Cumeroogunga.

We stand, and desire, that all natives who are civilised whether they full blood or half-caste, should have all the privileges of community services, including the right to be enrolled as voters, and that those who are not yet in the condition that they can intelligently vote should have special representation in Parliament. Till we secure what we desire we are in definite protest against any withdrawal of rights now enjoyed.

Hoping to hear from you soon.